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Florida International University

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Students keep banned pets in housing

JOSE PAGUERY
Contributing Writer

When freshman Dawn Marquis realized she could not take her pet snake, a three-foot long ball python, into Panther Hall with her, she was forced to leave it behind at a pet store back home in Lake-land, Fl.

“I considered her my baby,” Marquis said. “I wouldn’t be letting her out, roaming the halls.”

Her case is not rare and happens to many students with pets that move into the residence halls on campus. The rule, cited as Section I of the Resident Handbook, prohibits the possession of all pets except fish, although some students ignore the rules.

Murray Moss, a recent FIU graduate who lived at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Bay Vista residence hall, kept his three pet ferrets secret throughout the three years he lived in housing.

“The administration found out but couldn’t prove that I had them because I kept the place spotless,” he said. “They had a cage, where I’d put them during inspections and drills.”

Following Moss’ example, a number of current students may be doing the same, but Joseph Mattachione, director of the office of residential life, urges students not to, explaining that the main reasons for the strict regulation are the health and safety of the students.

“Anything other than fish can crawl out of an aquarium,” Mattachione said. “It can get into somebody else’s room or get into some place where it can’t get back out and it’ll die. At that point it causes different issues with bugs and stuff in the rooms.”

Because most dorms on campus are densely-populated, the rule also seeks to avoid other health concerns, such as spreading germs. "We don’t want the whole floor to be sick," said Rosenkranz.

BIG FISH: Sophomore Mikana Maeda comtemplates Nemo, her betta fish, in her room at Everglades Hall.

FIU aims to raise $70,000 to treat, prevent cancer

MARTHA CASTILLO
Contributing Writer

Hope for cancer survivors and remembrance for those who lost their lives to the disease are some of the reasons that bring together FIU and The American Cancer Society for the annual Relay for Life campaign.

This year’s campaign, which attempts to raise $70,000, kicked off Nov. 13 at Gracie’s Grill in the Graham Center with a party to avoid other health concerns, such as spreading germs. "We don’t want the whole floor to be sick," said Rosenkranz.

The Relay for Life campaign consists of a series of events to raise funds to find a cure for the disease.

The main annual event is an 18 hour celebration that will take place Feb. 9 at the University Park football stadium. The event will begin with cancer survivors walking along what is called the Survivor’s Victory Lap. At sunset, a Luminary, which is a ceremony in which candles will be lit in honor or in memory of those who have been touched by cancer, will be held. The Luminary symbolizes the hope and determination of the community in fighting this disease.

Also during the event, participating organizations, faculty, students, community members and families will decorate their tents according to this year’s theme, which is Cirque Du Relay! A winner will be chosen.

“The main purpose of Relay is to represent the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten and that those who face cancer will never be forgotten and that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated,” said Vanessa Collado, marketing and publicity chair for the Relay For Life committee.

This year’s $70,000 goal is set higher than last year’s $60,000, and the funds will be used to treat and prevent the disease.

In previous years the event gathered 96,000 participants in Florida and 3 million worldwide.

This year, Relay will bring a new event: Miss Relay for Life 2007, which will be held Jan. 16. Tickets will be sold for $3 and the contest winner will be chosen by the audience’s votes.

The first meeting for Miss Relay 2007 will be Jan. 8.

“This will not be a beauty pageant; everyone can come and participate. The winner will win not by beauty but by heart” said Carmen Murphy, entertainment and activities chair.

The concept of Relay For Life began in 1985 when a doctor walked 83 miles on a local track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

He raised $27,000.

By the following year, he had 340 followers who walked with him during his overnight cancer walk.

Statistics show that one in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.

The American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life is a nationwide signature activity, the single largest non-profit event in the world, and a community developed and volunteer driven team event.

For more information and to give a donation, visit www.acsev- ents.org/relay/fl/usouth or www. fiu.edu/~rfl.
FIU

University names Rock first College of Medicine dean

After months of searching and endorsements from FIU President Modesto Maidique and Interim Provost Ronald Berkman, the University announced Nov. 14 John Rock as its first medical school dean.

John Rock is a former chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and will begin at FIU in January 2007.

The Board of Governors approved the new college in March.

One of the major steps the University has to take will be 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.

FIU hopes to enroll its first class by 2009.

Provost announces Joyce J. Elam as Vice Provost for FIU Online

Interim Provost Ronald Berkman announced Nov. 14, the appointment of Joyce J. Elam, as vice provost for FIU Online.

Elam launched an initial, pioneering pilot project, consisting of ten online courses in the College of Business Administration, in 1999.

And in addition to her new position, she will also continue to serve students as the executive dean of the College of Business Administration.

No further incidents of BBC’s “peeking tom” reported

FIU police released a safety bulletin on Nov. 3 in reference to the Beacon article about a man peeking into women’s bathrooms in BBC’s Academic I restrooms.

Recently, FIU police received another report filed on Halloween. However, since that last report filed Oct. 31 2006, no other reports have been filed.

“We have not received further complaints or reports about this individual; however, we will continue investigating the situation,” Wright said.

The last sighting listed the peeping tom as a black male, approximately 5’11” with low cut black hair and medium body weight.

Clothing description has been blue-jean shorts, black shirt and low top Nike tennis shoes, according to Captain Michael Wright.

Should you see or experience any suspicious behavior or incident, please contact Public Safety immediately at 305-919-5911 or 6-5911 from a campus phone.

The event is being sponsored by the Middle East Society and FIU’s Department of International Relations.

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PETs, page 1

Health regulations prohibit certain pets

Any policies we have about fire safety, noise and others are not meant to be a hindrance. It’s meant to respect the rights and responsibilities of everybody in the building.

“Now we are considering new regulations that would require roommates to have pets that are quiet and do not require much care,” Marquis said, questioning why students are not living in housing often have televisions much larger than the largest fish tank allowed.

However, Mattachione explains that the issue is not the size, but the water.

“If a 30 gallon tank falls over, it could soak down, maybe go into the wall, drop into the room below, and impact more people at the end of the hallway,” he said.

Mbachiche believes that the ultimate goal of the policy is to try to make the environment safe and secure for as many people as possible.

“Any policies we have about fire safety, noise and impurities are not meant to be a hindrance. It’s meant to respect the rights and responsibilities of everybody in the building,” Mattachione said.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Nov. 13, David Parker should have been referred to as chairman of the Board of Trustees in the “Donor revokes $20 million gift” story.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

 Nailho Gonzalez Staff Writer

FIU football fans will see action in the sky as well as on the field during the Nov. 18 Homecoming game. Fifteen minutes before kickoff, the Army’s renowned Golden Knights Parachute Team will sky dive out of an airplane onto the FIU football field.

The idea to bring the Golden Knights to FIU came to Captain Oscar Rubis, an instructor for the FIU ROTC program, when he learned that the group would be coming to Miami to entertain crowds at the NASCAR Ford 400 race Nov. 19.

Cadet Evelyn Vasquez in the FIU ROTC program has helped organize the effort to bring the Golden Knights to FIU.

“The Golden Knights do all sorts of jumps using things like flares and sparkles, which is probably what we’ll be seeing at the game since it’s going to be dark,” she said.

According to the Golden Knights website, the group first formed in 1959 to represent the U.S. Army in international skydiving competitions.

Vasquez called the Golden Knights one of the best parachuting teams in the nation.

The group, which is comprised of the most talented jumpers in the Army, has won 400 national championships and over 60 international championships.

They perform various aerial demonstrations, including tandem jumps, in groups of eight or fourteen. Tandem jumps join divers mid-air in a variety of shapes, such as stars and circles, with flags, banners, lights and colored smoke.

GET SPIRITUAL

Joseph Mattachione, director of residential life

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AWAKENING: Five-time Grammy Award winner Gloria Estefan speaks at the Graham Center Ballroom

Gloria Estefan is coming to Miami to entertain an instructor for the FIU ROTC program has helped organize the effort to bring the Golden Knights to FIU.

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FIU Florida International University (AM, FLA, FLORIDA)

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NewsFlash

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Former U.S. Senator Bob Graham to speak at BBC

Former U.S. Senator Bob Graham will tackle the topic of what will happen after the war in Iraq in a speech that will be held on Nov. 18.

It is asked of all attendees, however, to give a $5 donation to benefit the programs of the Departments of International Relations.

The event is being sponsored by the Middle East Society and FIU’s Department of International Relations.

Dealing with an infestation of fleas, ticks or parasites

However, other health concerns not considered by the office also arise, such as emotional and mental health.

“There are lots of problems that come about when you lose a loved one, and it can be a dog, a cat, a mother, a wife or a child; it makes long-term changes which we’re not familiar with,” said Jacob Gewirtz, director of Behavioral Analysis Program.

It is possible that allowing students to keep pets may improve their well-being, and the University of Florida is one of the few state universities that keeps that in mind.

According to UF’s handbook, residents may keep certain pets including fish, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, frogs, geckos and lizards so long as they use a Pet Policy Agreement form, in which they acquire the approval of their fellow roommates and hallway staff.

This rule is quite flexible in comparison to other universities across the state, but the effects may be disastrous. UF ranks number seven on Princeton Review’s “Dorms like Dungeons list.

On the other hand, Florida State University and the University of Miami are not as lenient — neither university allows any pets whatsoever.

Still, some will bend the rules, and this may explain why UM ranks in at number 15 on the list.

“People have other [pets] and just don’t tell [their hallway managers],” said John Dietz, a sophomore at UM.

He is not the only student at either UM or FIU to admit keeping someone who owns a cat or dog, secretly keeping the animal in their room at all times.

Matbachiche also addresses the possible lack of responsibility.

“I’ve been at camps where they had a huge cat issue because somebody had cats that bred with the local cats and now they have cats everywhere,” Mattachione said.

Although FIU’s pet regulation may already seem strict, it also imposes a restriction on the size of the fish tank itself, limiting it to 10 gallons or less.

“Magazines and aquariums are the ultimate goal of the policy is to try to make the environment safe and secure for as many people as possible.

Any policies we have about fire safety, noise and others are not meant to be a hindrance. It’s meant to respect the rights and responsibilities of everybody in the building.

Joseph Mattachione, director of residential life

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Students can opt for faculty/staff parking spaces

PLATES, page 1

fund, a University-wide pool of general need-based scholarship funds.

According to Terry Withrell, associate vice-president of external relations, FIU has been selling specialty license plates since 1987 and had brought in an average of $40,000 in annual scholarship money. That figure jumped to $50,000 with the release of the existing design in 2003, and it has gradually increased to $60,000.

"Everybody liked the new design, and with FIU's prominence on the rise, people are more willing to display affinity," Withrell said.

According to Withrell, the new incentives were developed in conjunction with Parking and Transportation over the summer to boost license plate sales.

Parking and Transportation Director Bill Foster praised the program, saying that it benefits FIU, not just by raising scholarship money but also by providing advertising for the University.

However, the new incentives have created controversy. Already frustrated by insufficient parking spaces on campus, faculty members are not happy that students are being allowed to purchase faculty decals.

"As it is, faculty are unable to find proper parking," said Fatma Huffman of the public health department.

Huffman also believes that it may harm students just as much as faculty.

She said that if student parking is converted into faculty parking to accommodate the students who buy the specialty plates, that this will hurt them. Our intent isn't to hurt the faculty," Kramer said.

According to Kramer, the service is only going to be offered to a limited number of students and if it begins to hurt the faculty and staff, it will be capped.

"When we came up with this and talked it over with Parking and Traffic, we discussed all the consequences; we weren't cavalier about it," Withrell said. "They have a very good handle on the parking situation, and if enough students choose this option it begins to take spots from the faculty, they could easily paint a row of blue spots."

While Foster is open to the idea of allocating more faculty spaces as demand for the specialty plates increases, he doesn't think capping the decal upgrade incentive is likely.

"We look out for what's in the best interest of FIU, and I can't imagine it happening," he said. "I'd like to see a member of the faculty come up to the administration and say, 'I want to stop selling these plates that raise funds for scholarship money because now it's harder for me to park.'"

Ultimately, selling the specialty plates is a matter of giving FIU a visible presence in the community, according to Foster. "UM has 10,000 students and you see Hurricanes all over the place. FIU has, what, 38,000 students? I don't see why we can't have three times as many license plates on the road as they do," Foster said.

ROTC celebrates 10th anniversary

Students can opt for faculty/staff parking spaces

ABANDONED

PUPPY POWER: Public Safety staff members Jeannie Charles (right) and Yadira Lopez (left) try to find a home for five puppies abandoned close to the University Park Towers Nov. 13. After not being able to find students to take them, the five puppies were kept by Public Safety staff.

S O Y O U K N O W

Obtaining Faculty/Staff parking

• Purchase an FIU Golden Panther specialty license plate ($27, Parking and Traffic, Gold Garage or www.fi u.edu/fi uplate)

• Be a member of the Student Alumni Association ($10, www.fialumni.com, Alumni Relations Office, MARC 510)

The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during the Summer. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.
Some Homecoming events made just for BBC students

**EVER CRUZ**

*Contributing Writer*

For Shaunia Stokes, Homecoming means something more than just a week of festivities. A senior from Rembert, South Carolina, sought a career path as a graduate assistant for the Office of International Student & Scholars Services, a part of the international office at Biscayne Bay Campus. Homecoming was an opportunity for her to meet new people and to connect with the international students, faculty, and staff at the Bay Campus.

"It's a huge deal for everybody living on this campus or up to [UIP]," Stokes said. "We get to come together, meet new people, and have fun."

**BEÑOGE CAZALIS**

*Staff Writer*

A job strategies workshop directed to international students will take place Nov. 16 at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. as part of the International Education Week. The event, which is sponsored and organized by the International Students & Scholars Services, the International Students Club, and the Student Government Association, will help students find opportunities for working and studying abroad, as well as strategies for locating international internships. Hernandez will also answer particular questions relating specifically to visas, the guidelines and the students' opportunities as employees.

"I think international students will know them to use as a tourist attraction. It took almost 19 months and $1.5 million dollars to put the monastery back together. About 23 men spent 90 days opening all the boxes and sorting through more than 35,000 stones, some weighing more than one and a half tons, that came to be known at that time as the greatest jigsaw puzzle in history. The monastery was called The Mission of St. John the Divine for about one year from 1963 to 1964 and was changed to its current name in honor of the saint who had been an influence among the Cistercians. Visitors can see the process of putting the monastery back together through photographs hanging on the walls.

In the patio, paved paths swirl around Banyan trees, through the Savor's Garden, along the Loggia and into the cloisters. The open-aired hallways house a prayer well in the center carved out of a second-century Roman temple column.

"It's very peaceful and serene here," said St. John's University students who had not considered studying or working abroad will... see things in a global perspective.
In the glorious aftermath of the 2006 midterm elections, people are looking to this new Congress to take action and restore balance to their government. Although the Democrats have bold plans, the question is will Bush be willing to compromise?

The Democrats have an ambitious agenda, and the first order of business will be to raise the minimum wage. The new and improved Democratic congress plans to pass legislation to expand college tuition assistance, increase port security, repeal tax breaks for oil companies and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices — and that’s just the plan for the first 100 hours. Of course, George W. Bush can still obstruct these long overdue measures and veto every one.

Of course, George W. Bush can repeal tax breaks for oil companies and raise the minimum wage. The new and improved Democratic congress plans to pass legislation to expand college tuition assistance, increase port security, repeal tax breaks for oil companies and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices — and that’s just the plan for the first 100 hours. Of course, George W. Bush can still obstruct these long overdue measures and veto every one.

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Mr. Bush, if you were a day-trader, you’d be listening to your broker’s lunchtime rant. The Democrats have a similar agenda, and the first order of business will be to raise the minimum wage. The new and improved Democratic congress plans to pass legislation to expand college tuition assistance, increase port security, repeal tax breaks for oil companies and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices — and that’s just the plan for the first 100 hours. Of course, George W. Bush can still obstruct these long overdue measures and veto every one.

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change the Democrats try to make. These next two years will either be the dawn of a new era of bipartisan cooperation, or they will be a last testament to the President’s stubbornness. It’s entirely up to him.

He could either choose to work with the current majority and make some concessions and compromises in the wake of his party’s recent defeat, or he can go down with the sinking ship of his failed presidency. President Bush has pledged to bring both parties together before he leaves office. He has promised to treat those with whom he disagrees with respect, though throughout his presidency, these words have amounted to nothing more than hollow gestures. The Democrats will get to make their counter-relentless, no-holds-barred members of his administration, will push him to veto every bill that arrives at his desk. That way, they won’t allow the Democrats to get much done and they can tar him with the same “do-nothing” brush with which his Republican comrades in Congress were painted failures.

They could submit far-right proposals that the Democrats know the President will veto. One such proposal is to repeal tax breaks to big oil. Americans know where modern Republican priorities lie. Of course, if Bush vetoes the minimum wage increase, it will hurt businesses and corporations. Americans will know where modern G.O.P. priorities lie.

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ONE-NIGHT STANDS, page 9

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life! Editor

Junior Alex Rodriguez recalled a party he recently attended where he met up with a female high school friend who he hadn’t seen in years. They talked about high school memories and caught up on each other’s current lives. By the time the party was finished, the two friends had caught up in more ways than one.

“I hadn’t seen my friend in years, and she looked completely different and better than the last time that I had seen her,” Rodriguez said. “We talked a little, and one thing led to another before we ended up hooking up. I had no idea that it would have happened.”

For students like Rodriguez, “hooking up” is a spontaneous occurrence—something that impulsively happens at a party or another sort of social gathering. For other students like junior Daniel Cruz, however, hooking up is an alternative to a traditional relationship.

“I’ve given committed relationships a chance, and they really take a lot out of you, especially if and when the relationship ends,” said Cruz. “With hooking up or a one-night stand, I don’t feel much of an emotional connection, so it’s less of a hassle.”

According to Sex, Etc., a sexuality education website hosted by the Rutgers University Center for Applied Psychology, the definition of hooking up is different depending on whom you ask. However, the website does offer a simple definition: sexual activity that includes kissing, touching or sexual intercourse between two people or more.

Rodriguez’s and Cruz’s hookup encounters aren’t sporadic incidents. Such encounters have been the focus of magazines such as Seventeen, www.seventeen.com recently held a hookup survey that received more than 10,000 responses. According to the website’s survey, 30% of the people who responded hooked up with someone on the same day they had met for the first time. Also, 64% of the respondents hooked up with someone they considered a friend.

Some students such as sophomore Jackie Gadea are surprised at the revealing responses.

“The statistics are definitely shocking to me,” she said. “I am aware that most girls are more sexually active than before, but it’s kind of appalling to get these statistics from a magazine whose target audience is teenage girls.”

Other media not directly marketed to teenagers also focus on non-committal sexual activity. Both AskMen.com and Fivillage.com, two general interest websites aimed at males and females respectively, have entire sections dedicated to one-night stands.

A one-night stand article on AskMen.com includes a step-by-step guide to having one with steps such as “Spot your Prey” and “Close the Deal.”

According to Psychology Professor Martha Montgomery, it’s not unusual for college students to have casual sex, but such an activity could have negative psychological consequences.

“It is not abnormal for young adults, both men and women, to engage in one-night stands or casual sex (i.e. sex within 48 hours of meeting) at some point,” Montgomery said in an e-mail interview with The Beacon. “That said, any person who continually engages in casual sex without establishing contact beyond the one-night stand is depriving themselves of intimacy or commitment involved in close, personal relationships.”

Working on a political campaign is fun, if you like that sort of thing. Of course, you probably already know if you’d enjoy a job with a political cause or campaign. Do you find yourself already wondering who’ll be elected president in 2008? Are you one of the 37 people who actually watch C-SPAN? Do you know the names of more Congressmen than American Idol contestants? If you answer yes to any of these questions, then congratulations, you’re a political junkie – the worst kind.

As a political junkie and progressive Democrat, I’ve spent the last two election cycles working for political causes. In 2004, I spent my days hitting people up for money in the street to raise funds for the Democratic National Committee. I greeted everyone with the phrase, “Hi, would you like to help defeat George W. Bush?” Those who shared our goals most often responded with “Yes!” although others replied, “Hell, yes,” and I did get the occasional, “Who? George Bush? I hate that guy! F— him!” Unfortunately, others were not so sympathetic but were equally vulgar. “F— you!” was a common response, but I received the whole range of insults often levied at Democrats. I was called a terrorist, ugly and an idiot.

A seemingly kind old lady once approached me and asked in broken English how old I was. I told her I was 17. She yelled at me and told me I was not old enough to vote and therefore I was “anti-constitutional.”

On another occasion, a pack of roaring Bush loyalists began cursing at me from their skateboards. They regaled me with all sorts of various insights, including the assertion that John Kerry was a “stupid gay idiot.” They were about 10 years old.

This year I worked for Dave Patlak, who sought to defeat incumbent congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a 16-year incumbent with more than $1.5 million in her war chest. I was motivated by her support for the Iraq war and her loyalty to Bush. I wanted to work for whoever decided to run against her. To my pleasant surprise, I was offered an internship by her opponent, and he turned out to be a very good guy. He spent much of his time calling potential donors to raise money. That’s how most grassroots candidates raise money.

Of course, if you’re an incumbent, people call you to give you money. That’s part of the reason why incumbents have a 95% re-election rate. Yet, we strove to defeat her against all odds.

It sounds dramatic, but you see, in campaigns the actual process is a lot more mundane.
Like a Virgo

Students question astrological accuracy

BOBBY JOE BRACY
Staff Writer

The Scorpion, the Scales, the Water Bearer, the Goat – no, these are not tantric positions, but they are the familiar symbols of the zodiac. In all, 12 celestial symbols make up the creatures of the zodiac, a word whose Greek origin aptly means “little animals.” Well, little animals and that pesky scale – a ridiculous inclusion if you ask me. But then again, isn’t the whole notion of astrology ridiculous as it is? Maybe it’s a pseudo-science, or like another bad episode of “Charmed.”

Our experiences with the zodiac vary – for me it was Walter Mercado, a man who shattered conventional gender norms for me at such a tender age – but where’s the truth? Do all Gemini’s have split personalities? Are all Cancers just commonly crabby crustaceans? And more importantly, are all Scorpios really good lays?

“I don’t believe it… I see the zodiac as a money-making scheme based on ancient pagan symbols,” said junior Ryan Capiro. “I think it’s all a crock of s---,” he said.

Capiro is a Taurus, by the way.

The Babylonians developed the first known system of celestial coordinates and dubbed the moon and the naked-eye planets (Mercury, Mars, Venus, Saturn and Jupiter) the “wandering stars.” To the Babylonians, these roving lights represented the gods they worshipped from down here on Earth. Since then, the practice of correlating relationships between celestial bodies and us mortals has been passed through the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, and through the minds of modern thinkers like Carl Jung, who once said “astrology is assured of recognition from psychology, without further restrictions, because astrology represents the summation of all the psychological knowledge of antiquity.”

A controversial use of the zodiac, invented by Michel Guaquelin, is the “Mars Effect.” The Mars Effect argues that the location of the planet Mars has a causal relationship with the birth of sports champions and super-athletes. Multi-Wimbledon champion Venus Williams is said to be affected by the Effect, but not little sister Serena.

Today, the zodiac, a poster child of astrology, has occupied the pages of many fashion magazines – even longer than airbrushing. The advent of the Internet age means you can now get your horoscope, or an astrological prediction of the future, to your e-mail. Many times, however, people feel these horoscopes can be as vague as a drunken uncle.

“It’s all so vague … people want to read themselves into it because it makes them feel like there’s something bigger guiding everything,” said senior Richard Garcia, who is double majoring in women’s studies and psychology. “Besides, studying psychology made me way too empirical to believe in stuff like that,” Garcia said.

Can the zodiac be a good way to analyze your date? Or whether he or she will be good in the sack? Is it worth asking the age-old question, “Hey baby, what’s your sign?”

“I think it might be on to something sometimes, but that’s just coincidental. It’s not something I really ask about or cared to know,” said sophomore Ivana Vento.

As college students, we’re trained to put a lot of trust into tests, texts and theories by men who probably aren’t alive anymore. As a critical thinker, you become less likely to believe things that have no concrete foundation as truth.

However, regardless of whether you believe in astrology or not, there is an important point to keep in mind.

“What experiment could ever be done to prove, or disprove, that it’s possible to tell the future? Historically, for example, Freud argued that parapsychological or paranormal phenomena such as astrology has no validity, while Jung argued it is premature to rule out its validity because it is possible that we just haven’t discovered a way to test it,” said William Kurtines, professor of psychology.

“The idea that the continents moved was not too long ago considered to be Looney Tunes geology, but now we have geologists who not only study the movement of continents, but do so using very complex and sophisticated empirical and mathematical models,” Kurtines said. “We don’t have enough evidence to say it’s not true, or enough evidence to say that it is.”

So it just may be that, like all good things in life, there is no absolute certainty. It’s entirely possible that astrology could be just as bogus as Kevin Federline’s rap debut, or a very advanced theory of tectonics that operates on a celestial and psycho-social level; we may never be able to say with complete certainty.

And the world may never know if Scorpios do really make excellent lovers – although that’s far less difficult to test.

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CAMPUS VISIT

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THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 16
WHAT: FIU Homecoming Court Voting
WHERE: Graham Center Computer Lab
WHEN: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Ice Cream Social with Homecoming Court
WHERE: Graham Center Forum
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 17
WHAT: Homecoming Block Party
WHERE: Between the Blue & Gold Garages
WHEN: 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Wertheim International Organ Series
Featuring Todd Wilson
WHERE: Wertheim Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 18
WHAT: Homecoming Parade
WHERE: Starts at Engineering Campus
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Homecoming Tailgate
WHERE: The Cage (FIU Football Stadium)
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

On-Campus Comedy

KNOCK KNOCK: Comedians Bill Bellamy (above right) and Pablo Francisco (above) performed Nov. 13 in the Pharmed Arena. Mascot Roary Rage (right) threw t-shirts into the crowd before the event.

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira
Casual intercourse lacks commitment, intimacy

ONE-NIGHT STANDS, page 6

Montgomery advises that students know what they are getting into before having a one-night stand. “Know that the goal of a one-night stand is to have sex without establishing a strong emotional connection with the sexual partner,” Montgomery said. “When you engage in a one-night stand, it does not matter what the person’s background is, what their interests are, or whether or not their parents will like you. You can only hope that the person is ‘good in bed.’”

Despite the lack of an emotional connection when hooking up, a casual sexual encounter could result into something significant, but it more than likely won’t. “It is definitely possible for a one-night stand to develop into a long-term meaningful relationship, but this is not the norm,” she said.

Montgomery cited a survey conducted in the early 90s concerning sexual behavior in America by John Gagnon, Edward Laumann and colleagues. While the data is fairly old, she still uses the material in lectures because of the large sample and detailed measures. According to the survey’s results, only 1.4% of married couples had sex within 2 days of meeting.

“Whatever benefits exist with one-night stands, the best sex of your life will most likely be within the context of a meaningful, long-term relationship,” Montgomery said. “A sexual partner whom you trust and know intimately is one with whom you can experiment safely and comfortably, and one who truly knows how to please you sexually.”

Campaigner out to save world one stamp at a time

CAMPAIGN, page 6

We fought the power – by sending letters. We struck a blow to the Republican empire – by licking stamps all day. Our struggle to move America forward was often fought in the streets, but mostly from the confines of a cramped office.

If you ever work for a campaign, you’re going to have to do some things that you may consider boring. Just remind yourself: You’re not just inputting data in a computer, you’re helping America. You’re not just handing out flyers, you’re spreading the truth. Once you’ve learned to maintain that perspective, the job becomes enjoyable. After all, some one has to do this stuff.

In the end, I learned much from the experience, and I met some pretty cool people. Dave Patlak was a great candidate, but his opponent had more than 10 times as much money, and she spent it. If this were a T.V. movie, our underdog candidate would have beaten the odds and triumphed in the face of adversity. It would have been a real David vs. Goliath story. But this was politics. And in politics, usually Goliath wins. By 22 percentage points.
Past and present Golden Panthers garner attention

XAVIER VILLABARZO
Sports Editor

With the induction of the first class of the FIU Hall of Fame looming, it is fitting to have three other Golden Panthers receive some kind of national attention:

• Former soccer standout Bobby Boswell was named to Major League Soccer’s Radio Shack Best XI. The best 11 players in the MLS are determined by voting from the MLS players, MLS coaches and general managers, and media.

The current D.C. United defender was also named 2006 MLS Defensive Player of the Year three weeks ago in just his second year in the league.

Boswell, who has played every minute in 30 games for D.C. this season, was also selected to the start MLS All-Star game this past August.

Boswell joins Robin Fraser, Steve Ralston and Greg Vanney as one of four former Golden Panthers to be named to the team the MLS Best XI.

• Former safety Nick Turnbull became the first FIU football player to play in an NFL game.

The undrafted rookie free agent was promoted from the Atlanta Falcons’ practice squad and played on special teams for their Nov. 12 showdown against the Cleveland Browns.

Turnbull holds the football team’s all-time interceptions record with 16. His five interceptions in 2004 is the single-season school record.

• Freshman Olga Vergun was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week for the week ending Nov. 12. The native of Ukraine becomes the third women’s volleyball player to receive the honor this season, joining freshman Yarimar Rosa and junior Keila Oliveira.

Vergun recorded 16 kills, with a season-high .786 hitting percentage, in a win against Troy Nov. 10. She then added 10 more kills in win against South Alabama Nov. 12.

Volleyball in three way tie for top seed in Sun Belt eastern division

FIU 3, SA 0

On senior day at FIU, the Golden Panthers appeared to be a much more experienced team as they picked apart South Alabama. Rosa and Guerra led the way with 12 kills each, and Vergun added 10 in the season ending victory.

Principal setter Keila Oliveira had 18 assists, and senior Dyonna Smith had a match high 20 assists along with 8 digs and 5 kills at .833 hitting. Lauren Robins had 7 kills, and Kalyn Hundley had just 7 digs for South Alabama who the Golden Panthers held to a dismal .071 hitting percentage. With their 14-3 Sun Belt mark, the Golden Panthers ended up in a three way tie for first place with Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky and will be the third seed when the Sun Belt tournament gets underway Thursday at North Texas.

“I told the team not to underestimate anybody. We want to go into the tournament with a lot of confidence and do well,” said Tomic.
ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

For the Golden Panthers the Nov. 11 meeting with Louisiana-Monroe was the game that was circled on the schedule. That was the game that would end the eight-game losing streak and give the Division I-A newcomers their first win as a full-fledged program.

Coach Charlie Weatherbie and his 1-7 Warhawk squad had other ideas.

In front of 15,009 eager fans, FIU (0-9, 0-4) was dominated from the start and fell for the ninth time this season to a lowly Monroe (2-7, 1-3, 35-0 at FIU Stadium).

Coach Don Stock's team had started the season off well, with the possibility of many of the initial outcomes going their way. However, over the last three games the Golden Panthers have been outscored 108-3 including two shutouts. The game marked the first time the team had been shutout at home.

"We didn't do very well blocking people offenctively or tackling defensively," said Stock. "That's what I told them at the beginning of the game, halftime and after the game.

ULM dominated from the start, taking their initial drive 79 yards against a flaky FIU defensive unit and scoring on a 31-yard touchdown run from tailback Calvin Dawson.

With 5:19 to play in the first quarter things got worse for the Golden Panthers as quarterback Josh Padrick, who has struggled to find his way this season, was intercepted by defensive back Chaz Williams and the turnover was returned 26 yards to put the visitors up 14-0.

The Golden Panthers, despite having three players return from suspension and one from injury, including tailbacks Julian Reams, A'mod Ned and full back John Ellis, managed just 10 net yards rushing on the night and trailed 21-0 at the half thanks to a three-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Chance Payne to tight end Mitch Doyle with 5:43 to play in the first half.

FIU did not seem to use the break as inspiration and came out flat offensively to start the second half. Monroe took advantage and scoring on a 31-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Chance Payne to tight end Mitch Doyle with 5:43 to play in the first half.

FIU's offense was run by Payne, who managed just 10 net yards rushing on the night one of six for 21 yards.

Backup Paul McCall relieved Padrick late in the contest, finishing the night one of six for 21 yards.

The pitiful run game, which seemed to struggle from the Warhawk pressure on the offensive line and a lack of originality in play calling, was led by Ned with 4:23 to play in the third quarter with 4:23 to play in the third quarter with 4:23 to play in the third quarter.

FIU managed to convert just two of 12 third downs and were forced to go for it on fourth down on three occasions late in the game, all resulting in a turnover.

Along with Dawson, the ULM offense was run by Payne, who in relief for an injured Kinsomn Lancaster, passed for an economical 110 yards on 10 of 11 passing with a touchdown.

Following Stanford's shocking 20-3 win over Washington Nov. 11, FIU (0-9) and Duke (0-10) find themselves as the only Division I-A teams still looking for a win.

The Golden Panthers will look for their first victory of the season Nov. 18 as they square off with the University of Louisiana-Lafayette at FIU's homecoming. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. at FIU Stadium.
Women’s basketball starts off on the right foot

MAGALY ESTRELLA
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers are 21-10 in home openers and history was definitely on their side Nov. 12 at the Pharmed Arena. FIU crushed non-conference foe Barry University 69-36 and dominated the Buccaneers in every aspect, including field goals; 45.8 percent to 26.9 and out rebounded the Buccaneers 46-25. Junior LaQuetta Ferguson led FIU with a game high 16 points and also added six assists and steals. Ferguson covered the floor, scoring from beyond the arc and staying focused on fast break opportunities. In the first four minutes of the game, Ferguson scored six of her team’s eight points.

“I just let the game come to me; I stayed in the flow… I got a lot of steals and fast breaks; the coach told me to get in the pass lane and get easy buckets… and that’s what I did,” Ferguson said.

Sophomore Iva Ciglar went 5 for 9 from the floor and was 3 for 6 from the 3-point range. With four minutes left in the first half, FIU got its first comfortable lead of the game when Ciglar made a three pointer, helping FIU go up 26-10. After a foul by Ferguson on center Alexandra Fernandez, and steal and lay-up by the Barry center, the score was all of a sudden 26-19.

On FIU’s next possession, Ciglar scored another 3-pointer that put Barry away for good; the Golden Panthers didn’t look back as they pulled away further and farther.

Ciglar scored 13 points including five assists and a game-high seven steals. Second team preseason All-Sun Belt senior center Lasma Jekabsone led the game with 12 rebounds and four blocks. However, Jekabsone struggled offensively going 2 for 7 from the floor. In her first game as a starter, guard Monika Bosilj had four rebounds and three steals; the young freshman was seeing a lot of starting action this year.

“We put our best players on the floor, we’ve had a lot of injuries at her position and she is a very good player, I think she has earned that starting position for right now,” assistant coach Demi Thomas said.

It was a close game through most of the first half, until Bosilj scored a 3-pointer with 8:36 to go until halftime; her basket started a 10-2 run to put the Golden Panthers up 26-16.

At halftime, FIU enjoyed their first commanding lead of the game, 35-21. At the start of the second half, Barry had not lost their intensity.

Barry ran the court well, showing no signs of distraction or fatigue. Even after being down by as much as 30 points, Barry still hustled for the ball and played under control. However, FIU’s strong defense limited the Buccaneers to just one field goal over the final 10 minutes of the game; the three point basket came within the last 16 seconds of the game.

Bosilj started yet another fast break run when she scored off a lay-up with 9:45 left in the game; her basket turned into 15 unanswered points for FIU.

“We had a lot of steals and lay-ups… I think if we could count on those things, and we are aggressive on defense… we have a quick team, so if we can just get out on the floor and run, we’ll be very effective,” Thomas said.

This weekend the women’s basketball team will participate in the KCRG-TV9 Hawkeye Challenge in Iowa City, Iowa. FIU will play Florida A&M on Friday at 6 p.m.

“Florida A&M is a very athletic team… we are doing some good things; we’re getting better with our fast breaks and our plays but we need to work on our rebounding; we’re going to do a good job, we’re going to get them prepared to play Florida A&M,” Thomas said.