COMMUNITY Mourns LOSS

Officer’s death not forgotten

CHRISTINA VEGA
Asst. News Director

Thousands of people filled Pharmed Arena Sept. 18 to pay respect to slain Miami-Dade Police Officer and FIU alumus Jose Somohano.

Somohano, 37, married and father of two, died Sept. 13 after being shot by Shawn LaBreet who also injured three officers—one of them an FIU student. Somohano received a degree from FIU in criminal justice.

Attendees on the second story of the stadium with only enough room to stand against the railings and looking down into a pit of navy, black, brown, green and white-uniformed officers. According to Maydel Santana-Bravo, director of media relations at FIU, anywhere from 50 to 100 different police agencies from both inside and outside of Florida were in attendance at the service.

In anticipation of the additional 5,000 to 6,000 mourners expected to attend the ceremony, FIU announced the day before that morning classes at University Park would be canceled for the day of the ceremony. “I didn’t like canceling classes but, given the situation, I felt it was something we should do to give back to the community,” said Ronald Berkman, FIU provost, at a Faculty Senate meeting held the same day.

Closing the University was also a result of the overwhelming number of people who wanted to attend to the memorial service held the morning of Sept. 18. For more pictures, visit beaconnewspaper.com.

REMEMBERED: Police officers salute as the casket of slain Miami-Dade county police officer Jose Somohano arrives at the Pharmed Arena for the funeral service held the morning of Sept. 18. For more pictures, visit beaconnewspaper.com.

SOMOHANO, page 3

Student fees to be used to renovate Aquatic Center

NICOLE ACOSTA
Asst. News Director

The Biscayne Bay Campus’s Aquatic Center, which originally cost $1.4 million to build, will undergo an estimated $1.5 million in renovations this Fall, according to an e-mail Victor Citarella, Facilities Management’s associate vice president, sent to The Beacon July 25.

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, confirmed the left over activities and services fees from student tuition administrated by the Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs will fund a portion of the repairs.

According to Jones, these capital improvement funds or student fees, go toward the building and maintenance of non-academic buildings within a University, such as an Aquatic Center.

As of July, Marbely Hernandez, University Park’s Student Government Council president, only knew SGA’s funding contribution would be a “nice chunk of money,” from their accumulated cash balance account. She also did not know an exact dollar amount of the account, only that it had been controlled mostly by the Division of Student Affairs and had been accumulating over time since the council was not aware of it’s existence until last year.

“If we could assist the University in supporting this University pool, then it’s something that we’re going to look into. [Arthur “AJ” Meyer] and I want to have a lengthy meeting with Dr. Jones about what we could do because it’s student money,” Hernandez said in a July interview with The Beacon.

Katiana Sainable, BBC-SGC president, was unavailable for comment about the Aquatic Center repairs.

Elias Bardawil, associate director of campus recreation, said the Aquatic Center’s damages were due to natural elements surrounding the facility.

“The Aquatic Center is 25 years old. It runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and it is sur-

AQUATICS, page 4
Vanessa A. Alvarez
Staff Writer

It is 8 a.m. on a Wednesday summer morning. Most college students are deep in sleep, but for Marbely Hernandez, University Park Student Government Association president, sleep is simply not an option.

As a peer mentor in last summer’s FIU mentoring program, Hernandez was not just up bright and early, but also ready to contribute as much as she could to the freshmen experience she helped lead.

“My purpose as a peer mentor was to be there for the students and give them someone that they could relate to,” Hernandez said.

The SGC-UP president, who plans to attend FIU Law School after she earns her bachelor’s in political science, has excelled in every arena upper divisions in 2005 and 2006, man year in Fall 2004 and moved science, has excelled in every arena, and a fourth goal will be up and running sometime this semester.

The administration wants to open its doors to students and create an atmosphere of school spirit and campus involvement.

“My biggest goal is to see many people running next year and wanting to be involved in SGA,” Hernandez said.

Katie McGee, the staff director for the 2007 Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant and assistant director for the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution, describes Hernandez as a “trooper” and “beyond dedicated.”

“She just goes above and beyond. I don’t think people realize how much she cares. She’s very dedicated to improving students’ lives here; she works tirelessly to give students opportunities and be the students’ voices heard,” McGee said.

Both Hernandez and McGee helped put together the 2007 Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant by jointly organizing paperwork and making sure that winners were awarded scholarship funds. Hernandez was the student director of the event.

“Marbely was adamant to see the scholarship money was set aside for each of the top three winners,” McGee said, “What was most important to her was to see that FIU was represented at Miss Florida.”

The first in her family to attend college, Hernandez opted to dedicate herself to the students and to improving FIU.

Besides becoming involved in SGA, she rushed for the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, where she held the position of scholarship and academic achievement chair.

“That’s the thing about Marbely, she is always willing to help,” said Catalina Gonzalez, president of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Outside academics, Hernandez, who danced since the age of four, also participated as both a dancer and Morale Captain for Dance Marathon, the largest on-campus student-run philanthropic event—whose proceeds benefit Miami Children’s Hospital year after year.

“Marbely, I think, excels at everything she does. I would say she’s extremely committed to all her causes,” Gonzalez said. “She’s a very passionate person and her passion reflects in all she does.”

Hernandez, who spends most of her time in the SGA office between classes, also helps her parents with their family-run company.

Her parents are her biggest supporters. Alba Hernandez, her mother, says that when Hernandez won the SGA presidency, the family got together and threw Hernandez a small party at the Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah.

“We are very happy with all her choices,” Hernandez said. “She’s an amazing daughter and both her father and I are very proud. She deserves it all.”

After she is done with Law School, Hernandez says she wants to become a lobbyist for higher education and work as a representative for state of Florida. And when referred back to FIU, she says she’d like to leave behind excellence.

“I hope to be remembered as a hard worker, an achiever; someone who knows the value of an organization and uses it to the benefit of the student,” she said. “SGA is not Marbely Hernandez, it is everyone who holds each and every position; it is the students voicing their concerns and us taking action; it’s everyone getting together and achieving success.”

The first in her family to attend college and create change for SGA,” Hernandez said.

Marbely Hernandez, University Park Student Government Association president, is everyone who

The highly anticipated new thriller from the director of a History of Violence

“THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW THRILLER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE”

“A MESMERIZING POWER-PUNCH OF A THRILLER,”

David Cronenberg is a visionary, brilliant filmmaker, celebrated director, a true icon of the horror genre. “Eastern Promises” is Viggo Mortensen’s tour de force. Naomi Watts is extraordinary.

— Rolling Stone

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Muslim students invite others to embrace culture

ANDREW LEINS
Staff Writer

Ramadan—the time of the year when Muslims fast for an entire month, eating only after the sun goes down—is celebrated this year from the sunset of Sept. 13 to Oct. 12. FIU’s Muslim Student Association, which gives Muslim students the chance to connect with one another on campus and reach out to the community, has several events planned to celebrate the month.

Members will be meeting for prayers every weekday in the Graham Center, room 343 and will have a meet daily for the breaking of fast at sunset in GC 241.

As well, MSA wants to expand the awareness of the unique religious traditions in the FIU community and will be having an event to give non-Muslim traditions in the FIU community to learn more about Ramadan.

On Sept 26 at 6 p.m., MSA will host Fast-a-Thon in the GRA hall where afterwards, there will be a lecture on the end of the day and then have dinner with us. Said Vice-President of the MSA Ismael Bahr, 23, who is majoring in international administration. “We’ll have all kinds of food, no pork though, we invite students to fast for one day and then come and have dinner with us.”

“Everybody always try to show people that we are not what they see on television. Some people use Islam for political purposes, which is against what Islam is.”

For Bahr, the club’s focus is to “lead by example.”

“We try to educate people about Islam and show a positive image of the Muslim community. We want to show people that we are not what they see on television. Some people use Islam for political purposes, which is against what Islam is,” Bahr said.

Ramadan is the name of the ninth month of the year in the Islamic calendar and celebrates the time when the Holy Qur’an was sent down from heaven and revealed.

During this month, Muslims concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of their every daily lives. It is a time of worship, reflection and gratitude.

The MSA has been in existence for about 20 years according to Lynda Rahme, faculty advisor for MSA and assistant dean at the College of Business Administration.

“The MSA was started with the idea of helping Muslims who came from abroad to adjust to life in this country and also to provide non-Muslims a chance to learn more about Islam.,” Rahme said.

Muslim student Nasim Ahmed, who sits as sister activities coordinator for the MSA and is majoring in accounting enjoys the lectures on Islam MSA organizes, which helped her understand more about her religion.

“I want to learn more about my faith before, I came to college I never knew why we prayed five times a day or why we fasted, till I did research and learned more about my faith. It makes my actions make more meaningful,” Ahmed said.

Throughout the year, MSA meets on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. for Jum’aah prayers in GC 343. This kind of prayer is shorter than the daily prayers and is usually followed by a sermon or a communal prayer led by an Imam, the officiating priest of a mosque.

This Fall, MSA also plans to have an inter-faith seminar where Muslim, Christian and Jewish scholars will be invited to attend and speak on religious issues.

MSA organizes several lectures throughout the year, usually featuring Muslim scholars.

Prayer and meeting hours vary each day depending on the sun’s position and are available at MSA’s website www.msafi.u.com.

So you know...

Daily prayers take place in GC 343.
Sundown breaking of fast takes place daily in GC 241.
Fast-a-Thon will take place Sept 26, 6 p.m., in the GC Ballrooms.
Weekly Jum’aah prayers take place every Friday at 1:30 p.m. in GC 343.
For prayer times and more information visit, www.msafi.u.com.

Artist looks for potential nude models for next art installation

DANIELIA BACIGALUPO
Contributing Writer

A press release has been circulating around the FIU Honors College and Art Department asking students to take their clothes off and stand next to other naked people... in the name of art.

“For me, [being part of] it would all depend. If I didn’t know anyone there and there’s a lot of people doing it then you kind of lose your identity,” Perry Narcisse, an MSA alumnus majoring in business, said.

Narcisse refers to Spencer Tunick’s latest installation that will take place at the Sagamore Hotel in Miami Beach Oct. 8.

Tunick, the world renowned American installation artist, began photographing nude people and since then hasretched the worlds’, but most markedly, American society’s boundaries on nudity and its acceptance.

“Every artist always try to find a uniqueness to their work,” Martin Z. Margulies, a Miami art collector, said. The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse photography gallery and owner of various sculptures around the University Park campus, said.

Tunick’s uniqueness comes from the massive number of nude people that compose his artwork: his largest group figure 18,000 people in Mexico City.

Several arrests and a lawsuit from current Senator and Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, underlie the discomfort and censorship tendencies that American society has toward nudity.

Despite the criticism and society’s inhibitions, thousands of people have participated in Tunick’s work which is against American cities; the appeal seems to originate from the break that Tunick’s art, intentionally or unintentionally, causes in the inclination to associate nudity with sexuality.

“There is one photograph of his where there are thousands of bodies lying down on the ground, and you look at some of those bodies and they resemble a congregation camp. It has a real macabre feeling to it. There are just many dimensions to his work,” Margulies said.

But for Margulies, the significance in Tunick’s work does not lie solely on the innovative use of nude bodies.

“This is not just a piece of art, there is a process involved: scouting locations, ads in newspapers for volunteers, government approval, permits, police security and lining up people. He has a lot of logistics involved,” Margulies said.

MSU art students can benefit from watching Tunick orchestrate this massive process.

“Art school is very much about making a name for yourself rather than participating and collaborating as a whole. But art does not have to be artsy or individual. [By participating], art students can learn about the infrastructure on how something happens, dealing with large amounts of people and watching the whole picture. They can be a part of something and then see it materialize in an exhibition,” Tunick said.

To register, students can log onto Tunick’s website, http://www.spencertunick.com, and click on the “Miami Installation” link. Participants must be 18 or older and will only be needed for a short period of time. There is no deadline to register, up to publication date.

Memorial at UP remembers officer

SOMOHANO, page 1

front of the stage. “I stand before you with a heavy heart,” said Robert Parker, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, at the opening of the ceremony. The ceremony continued with many speakers from them Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez, who spoke on behalf of the FIU community.

“I know that no words will heal your pain,” Alvarez said to the Somohano family. “No–it will bring to life your father, your husband and your son.”

Alvarez likened Somohano to heroes for his ultimate sacrifice.

“He is an American hero because he laid down his life for what he believed in,” Alvarez said.

FIU President Modesto Maidique also spoke on behalf of the FIU community.

“FIU is in mourning today because our family has lost one of their’s,” Maidique said.

Maidique also called Somohano’s children full heroes for their father’s coming of age. The crowd gave a standing ovation in response to Maidique’s offer.

Offering scholarships to the children of Officer Jose Somohano is one of the few tangible things we can do as a university community for this grieving and upstanding family,” Maidique told the Office of Media Relations.

Lieutenant Denise Bernhard delivered an intimate, yet bitter-sweet, account of what it was like to know Somohano. He described his actions through the lives of other people, including officers, friends and family members.

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FAMILY GREIF:

The family of Miami-Dade Officer Somohano looks on the memorial service that took place at UP.

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Priest overcomes city, high school to find calling

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

While arguing before the United States Supreme Court, the City of Hialeah presented several reasons to ban priest Ernesto Pichardo’s religion, Lukumí-Yoruba, also known as Cuban santeria.

The city tried to prove the religion’s animal sacrifice rituals were an unnecessary cruelty to animals, a hazard to public safety and psychologically traumatic to children.

A unanimous decision ended in favor of the Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye in 1993 allowing humane animal sacrifices.

“I live in a Judeo-Christian society where Jesus was the ultimate, last sacrifice,” Pichardo said. “Religious perception associates Cuban santeria with Africa, then primitive people, then tribal and evil people.”

During the trial, Pichardo presented the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, which requires that animals being sacrificed die instantly, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

This proved the animal offerings involved in Cuban santeria were instantaneous deaths and not cruel and unusual.

“[Most Americans] live in rural America, take the lives of animals everyday,” Pichardo said.

According to The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, people are required to obtain a hunting license.

He stood before the courts and spoke about the religion he has practiced since he was ordained at 16, when he witnessed his first animal offering.

Pichardo now imparts his knowledge to students at the Biscayne Bay Campus as he teaches about santeria in his Transnational Perspectives class.

“I invite students to learn about our treatment of animals [which is in compartments] for food, for the environment that is connected to God,” Pichardo said.

He uses his experiences to repeat what he has explained to thousands of people for more than 20 years: santeria is not a savagely diabolical religion.

“It’s a faith that believes in one God, sub-deities with creative attributes, ancestor and nature worship with no hell or devil,” Pichardo said.

“Animal offerings seem to be the integral part of our faith, but it is the least thing that we do,” Akin Ogundiran, African New World Studies director, is responsible for convincing the longtime practitioner and scholar of santeria to teach at FIU.

“[For him to bring that experience, history with religion, with the First Amendment case and with his unique perspective is amazing.] Ogundiran said.

Pichardo came to the United States as a Cuban exile at the age of six. He spent 10 years in the public school system until he was expelled for missing 30 days of school, following his formal ordination into the priesthood.

“You certainly would have done it, but your’s was just more cruel and evil,” Pichardo said.

“My ordination was something that had been destined for me, it was already foretold,” Pichardo said. “At the age of 16, I encountered Cuban santeria to be something real and true to me.”

The majority of the absences were not a result of his ordination, but because, according to Pichardo, the assistant principal of Hialeah High School used him as an informant to blow the whistle on his fellow classmates regarding drug deals and any other activity against school policy.

“I never did get it; I shouldn’t have been yanked out of a classroom and given an ‘F’ for the day,” Pichardo said.

Following his expulsion, he concentrated on his religious training in a program at the University of Miami and what was then Miami-Dade Community College.

Pichardo later used his training years to protect the religion.

“Fellow santeria priest Jesus Suarez defended Cuban santeria during the First Amendment trial with Pichardo. Suarez recalls the trial as a moment when Pichardo used some of his defining characteristics as a professor and person.

“He has the extraordinary ability to keep cool,” Suarez said.

Currently, Pichardo is not scheduled to return next year, but Ogundiran hopes to convince him otherwise.

Bay’s salt air, water led to Aquatics Center damages

AQUATICS, page 1

rounded by the beautiful Biscayne Bay [which] has taken a toll on the open-air facility, [such as] the salt air and salt water,” Bardawil said.

Citrarella said the Facilities Management had noticed “abnormally high invoices for water consumption for that facility.”

That led to an inspection by the department staff that discovered a number of discrepancies, including structural damages. That required the intervention of the FIU’s Building Official (a unit within PFM’s organization), to close the facility until repairs are completed,” Citarella said via e-mail.

These structural damages made the Aquatics Center’s filtration system, plumbing and spilling, or the expansion and subsequent cracking of the support within the building throughout the facility, Bardawil said.

“The picture has been fairly bleak in a sense that the figures and the initial estimates that we have gotten are significant because the pool is several years old. Due to the nature of the construction and because of how the pool’s constructed, it’s pillars and where it’s sitting, there appears to be a need for significant repairs,” Jones said.

Citrarella said the Aquatic Center will be repaired and not demolished and rebuilt due to economic reasons.

“It would be significantly more expensive to demolish the existing facility and construct a new similar facility at an estimated cost of $2.7 million. It is cheaper to repair and upgrade to ‘like-new condition’ the existing facility for about a little more than one-half of that amount,” he said.

The Facilities Management construction staff, together with architectural and engineering consultant CORZIO Castella Carballo Thompson Salma (CCTS), and contractor, Dooley MacK Constructors, has been evaluating the extent of the construction document and by mid to late October and should contain a guaranteed maximum cost for the project, according to a Beacon interview with Akens held Sept. 18.

“The scope of the project is so large, there has to be an assessment of issues about the way to carry out the project. The costs, the budget and the construction documents will give us a final plan on how the project’s timeline will be carried out,” Akens said.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**There are traitors among us**

FIU vs. University of Miami...You would think FIU students would support and take pride in their school. But this seems too much to ask when playing a nationally recognized school such as UM.

Now while I cannot provide any direct proof, there have been many rumors and I have been told by many people that at this past Saturday’s game, there were many FIU students dressed and actively supporting the opposition and can be seen in the many pictures taken at the pre-game tailgates. Furthermore, I have been informed that many of these pictures of traitors are of, our otherwise very spirited, Greek community at FIU.

Regardless of whom these traitors are they should be ashamed of their actions. To me these actions are of cowards who are some losers and do not deserve to be part of our institution and if ever found these individuals should be publicly denounced. Those of us who have worked hard to help develop the University and contribute to its spirit, feel let down and I suggest that if you know any of these traitors you should make it public.

By doing this we can purge the filthy traitors from our University and begin again with students who are truly Golden Panthers.

Joe Vazquez
Alumnus, 2007
Political Science

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**SGA shows gratitude to UM**

Dear Danny,

On behalf of the entire student body of FIU, I would like to thank you and your staff for your hard work and determination in helping our students get tickets for the football game played by our schools this past Saturday. I look forward to collaborating with you and your staff in the near future and hope that through these efforts our students get to enjoy a close relationship of friendship and respect.

Go Panthers and Go Canes!

Letter from SGC-UP
President Marbely Hernandez
to University of Miami SGA
President Danny Carbajal

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**Show breaches legal boundaries**

**ERIC FELDMAN**
Contributing Writer

The issue of child predators has been continually addressed in the media over the past few years, and law enforcement agencies have been focusing on using the Internet to find predators using the Web in hopes of soliciting sex from minors. By posing as children, officers arrange to meet with predators who are subsequently arrested.

These stings have been very profitable to outlets such as NBC who regularly air them on the investigative series “To Catch a Predator.”

Some students from the Miami area probably remember WSVN-7 meteorologist Bill Kamal, who was arrested for meeting a fictional “young boy” he met via the Internet.

Many parents became alarmed when the Broward Sheriff’s Office launched a Web site where one could search for registered sex offenders in their area, and The New York Times recently reported that various agencies are using the popular website Craigslist.org in order to weed out individuals soliciting sex.

One of the fears caused by the aforementioned have acted as a catalyst for “Dateline” NBC to capitalize on the situation and you have to question the motives of the show’s investigations.

The fact that the program makes no attempt to conceal the identity of these men but rather aims to humiliate them from being turned into cheap entertainment, and this is one of them.

In no situation is it all right for the media to nationally crucify an innocent person.

How can I call these “perverts” innocent? Because at the time of the airing of the show they have not been convicted in a court of law.

In addition to the moral boundaries possibly violated by NBC, officials who participate with the show may be shooting themselves in the foot when it comes to protecting children.

According to WFAA, a news affiliate based in Texas where one episode was based, the district attorney will not even prosecute the 23 men arrested on the show due to concerns over whether the arrests were even legal due to them being orchestrated by private companies who are earning a profit from the operations.

NBC may want you to think that they are doing a public service by exposing these criminals but they are really only humiliating the potentially innocent, and possibly sending actual threats back onto the street because their shoddy work can’t even get a conviction.

The most important lesson here is do not buy into the paranoia sold to you without investigating for yourself.

The media is an expert at taking advantage of insecurities and they will continue to do so as long as there is a buck to be had.

Every situation, no matter how straightforward it may seem, leaves room for intellectual distortion and shows like Hansen’s aims to undermine this through sensationalism.

FIU students are above this, their cognitive level and should be able to tackle social problems through logic and reason rather than fear mongering propaganda.
**LUCIA SASTRE**  
** Contributing Writer**

This season, the FIU Theatre Department has scheduled several plays that, according to Phillip Church, associate theatre professor, will be relevant to students living in this idle saturation of society.

"It is important to note that we live in a world portrayed by violence and materialism. These productions are released in order to remind us of that fault, and perhaps change them as time moves on," Church said.

After returning from the war, Tommy's father who was thought to be missing war, Tommy's father who is currently working "as Bees in Honey Drown," which is a comedy dealing with the quest to find fame and fortune.

"I think we all need to laugh once in a while. School definitely gets you stressed out with all the classes and having an outlet like this play is definitely alleviating," said Marian Carrasquel, a sophomore in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Oct. 18-28. This Fall, students can also expect to see the play as "As Bees in Honey Drown," which is a comedy dealing with the quest to find fame and fortune.

After witnessing the story of a pinball prodigy struggling to survive among dysfunctional family members while dealing with his own disabilities, the play is scheduled to make its FIU debut Oct. 18 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.
FINANCIAL AID FACTS

- 85% of students received their aid within 3 days of disbursement
- 32% more students completed their FAFSA by the March 1st priority deadline
- Over 10,000 refunds have been sent as of 9/10/07

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

Learn how you can be!

Please Join Us

9.25.07 @ 10am
UP-GL 100b
AND
BBC-WUC 100
(via Teleconference)
Blogging makes late-breaking news available faster

**ELYSIE COLEMAN**  
Contributing Writer

With the ability to be updated much faster than print and broadcast news, the blog, a site that serves as an online journal, is becoming increasingly popular among writers and news junkies alike.

Technorati, a blog search engine, is currently tracking more than 104 million blogs and estimates that 175,000 blogs are created each day and updated over 1.6 million times per day.

LiveJournal, a popular blogging site, reports 1.7 million active accounts with a majority of users between the ages of 16 and 23, 19 being the peak age.

“I’ve been a member of LiveJournal for six years and I love the wealth of information and community that I can find on there,” said EJ. Greaves, a senior.

**Independent online news journals received national attention in 1998 when Matt Drudge, proprietor of the Drudge Report, was the first to report on the President Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal.** However, it wasn’t until the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that blogging really came into the public eye. “After 9/11, the Bush administration made it very clear to watch what you say,” said professor Allan Richard, who teaches a course on online journalism. “And they were very careful as evidenced by the newspapers at the time. If journalists couldn’t write something on their blogs [at a certain time], they would write something on their blog sites.”

On Aug. 17, celebrity gossip blogger Mario Armando Lavandeira Jr., aka Perez Hilton, posted a rumor that dictator Fidel Castro had died, followed by two posts on Aug. 31 where Lavandeira falsely confirmed that Castro was dead.

The entries spread like wildfire on the Internet, creating hysteria in South Florida. “Perez Hilton is not a journalist. He’s a blogger,” said Leslie Gray Streeter, a writer for the Palm Beach Post who writes the entertainment blog, The Pop Shop. “The difference is that he doesn’t have a journalistic background. As a critic, my opinions are based on things that are factual. I can’t put up unsubstantiated rumors on my blog.”

Lavandeira has yet to apologize or retract his statements and the entries can still be seen on perezhilton.com. Personal blogs are also not without controversy either.

Currently, Meедedia lists more than 15,000. However, blogging doesn’t owe its rising popularity to blogging as much as it does to podcasts and the Apple iPod.

According to Wired magazine, blogging began its rise to popularity with the video iPod.

Podcasts were initially audio-only records of professional or amateur broadcasts created to be downloaded to the iPod, though an iPod is not required to listen to them.

Once the video iPod was released, podcasts began to turn to video as well.

“I see [blogging] continuing to grow,” said David Houlle, proprietor of future-center blog Evolution Shift. “I myself will be starting to do some video before the year is out. I believe that we have become more image-driven as a culture, and 2005-2007 will be looked at as the explosive initial age of the bloggersphere.”

**Popular Bloggers and Blogs**

**Breaking News:** Huffington Post huffingtonpost.com  
**Humor:** Dave Barry blogs.herald.com/dave_barrys_blog  
**Commentary:** Mark Cuban blogmaverick.com

**Celebrity Gossip:** Perez Hilton perezhilton.com  
**Politics:** Daily Kos dailykos.com

**Humor:**  
Business 2.0  
Wired  
**Evolution Shift**

I can say with certainty that had I not found the right medication to remedy the problem, I would most likely not have even made it to college.

Some of the more awkward aspects of my life, however, have been the interactions I have had with my family members, many of whom are also afflicted with ADHD.

One of the moments I dread the most is having to sit in the passenger seat of my father’s car, hoping and praying he knows where he’s going and what his surroundings are like.

I remember instances where my dad would spend a whole 20 seconds stopped at a traffic light, unaware that it had changed from red to green.

Other times, he would fall asleep while driving and have to shake his head spasmodically to regain his focus.

This includes a perfect example of what happens to an individual suffering from a severe case of ADHD.

He often tells me in the time we spend together that he could never focus quite on his usual tasks due to my distractions to pay more attention to my mind from wandering.

He always emphasizes the importance of me continuing my studies, and I could see why.

For my father, work was the only way to expend the incessant energy he possessed.

“Had my first job by the time I was ten-years-old,” he told me.

To this day, my dad works feverishly despite being 60-years-old – in construction, a line of work that would normally break most men his age.

My aunt also suffers from the very same disorder. She has totaled more cars than even the most inexperienced driver of her age.

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For my father, work was the only way to exped...
Adaptation of Greek play brings Sophocles to L.A.

Critics Circle Award and an Obie Award, will be performed from Nov. 8-18.

Another production, “Electricidad” is set to be performed in the Spring semester.

Based on playwright Luis Alfaro’s creation, the work is derived from classic tales of vengeance by Sophocles and Euripides featuring the character of Electra, but updated and set in the barrios of east Los Angeles.

“This play deals with family issues, history, fate and revenge,” Robinson said, who is the director of this show. “It portrays a sense of life and death as almost being around the corner; a quest for survival.”

Some students, such as sophomore Tania Santiago, are already excited about witnessing the play unfold on stage because of the Hispanic-theme surrounding it.

“I can’t wait to see this play, not only because I’m Hispanic, but because it’s very cultural based, and it shows the crude reality of our world,” Santiago said.

Performance times are Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the musicals are $18 for general admission and $15 for FIU students & alumni.

Tickets for the other shows are $12 for general admission and $10 for FIU students & alumni. All shows take place on the University Park Campus in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Theatre.

The Beacon is also available online at www.beaconnewspaper.com. Visit the site to read extra stories, see more photos and leave your own comments.
Rushing improves, but offense comes up short

FOOTBALL, page 12

perfect example of kicking a “coffin corner” punt which happens when a kicker aims for the corner of the field rather then just kick- ing the ball out of the end zone.

UM did most of its damage with its passing game, which was capped off by an 80-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Wright to Lance Leggett in the third quarter. Passing was also a problem when FIU was on offense as Younger completed six passes. After the game, Head coach Mario Cristobal was quick to address the need to improve the passing game. “I think we have to do a better job of throwing the football when we have to,” Cristobal said. “I mean, our running game is capable of doing that. Our offensive line held up relatively well against a team that can really rush the passer.”

FIU is making some strides and performing pretty well against some strong teams, but they will need to become more consistent across the board if they want to become a winning team.

With Duke winning on Sept. 15, FIU now has the longest active losing streak in division I-A football with 15 consecutive losses. Hopefully this pathetic stat will motivate the team to have a very short stay on this record list.

On a positive note, the Golden Panthers did not have any players suspended indefinitely after this meeting with UM.

The players behaved as if NFL commissioner Roger Goodell would handle any misconduct and it led to a clean game on the field. However, there were numerous fights in the stands and some fans were arrested.

It is unclear whether FIU and UM will play next year. Hopefully, the conduct of the teams on Saturday showed that they can play a clean game.

Without a doubt the fans would love to have another backyard bowl. Because several players and coaches on both teams have play and coached together in other teams in the past, it’s always extra special when cross-town teams play against each other.

For example, Randy Shannon coached against his son Xavier and against Cristobal, his former teammate. Several siblings were on opposite sidelines like Um’s Kenny Phillips and FIU’s Alphonso Peterson. Also, FIU’s Lloyd Moss is the brother of former hurricanes Santana and Smacce Moss.

FIU has gone into every game this season as a major underdog with odds makers thinking the team will be beaten by large margins every game. However, in FIU’s last two games, the odds-makers have been proven wrong as FIU has managed to keep its games close.

KANSAS NOTEBOOK

Number one priority against Jayhawks is stopping passing

In order to win, FIU will need to stop Reesing’s passing attack and find a way to score on the jay- hawks defense. Amod Ned gained 87 rushing yards against UM and will look to put up more big numbers on Kansas.

“We just have to execute better and practice; that’s about it,” Ned said following the UM game. “We need to shut down the Jayhawk’s unit and execute better. That’s all it is, execution.”

Quarterback Wayne Younger will need to use his feet and arm equally well to compete with Reesing offen- sively. FIU’s next three games against Kansas and Sun Belt Conference rivals Middle Tennessee State and UT Martin offer strong offenses, so the defense will need to make a statement.

In FIU’s last two games, the defense has played well when faced with a limited opponent. However, both of those offenses relied more on their running games, unlike Penn State who passed for almost 300 yards as FIU suffered its worst loss ever in the season opener.

It will all come down to passing at Kansas. The Golden Panthers will need to shut down the Jayhawk’s passing game and get their passing game in sync if they are to pull the upset at Kansas.

Big Arm: Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing has averaged over 270 yards and 3 touchdowns per game this season.

DARREN COLLETTE

Staff Writer

Following last week’s loss to the University of Miami, FIU will hope to rebound against yet another tough out of conference opponent, the Uni- versity of Kansas Jayhawks.

So far this season, Kansas has burst out of the gate to a 3-0 start, winning all of its games by a com- bined 139 points. The Kansas team is led by quarter- back Todd Reesing, who has passed for 831 yards and 10 touchdowns in only three games.

The Jayhawks also have a formi- dable defense that has only allowed 20 points all season.

Women’s Soccer Notebook

Golden Panthers attempt to build on first victory

After picking up its first win of the season at home, the women’s soccer team (1-1-1) continues its home stand against the Murray State Racers (3-3-0) and Stetson University Hatters (2-2-1) Sept. 21 and 23, respectively.

The team will have a whole week to recover, but they will only have one day of rest between the two games. Due to the team’s style of play, the Golden Panthers have to make sure not to wear themselves down in the first game against the Racers’ offensive prowess.

The Racers embarrassed the Bacon College squad with a 9-0 slaughter Sept. 16, as freshman goalkeeper Andrea Gravaglia recorded her first collegiate shutout. The Golden Panthers offense will try to take advantage of the inexperience of the opposing goalkeeper by pressing the defenders.

Much like the Racers, the Hatters have one main offensive scoring threat, senior forward Sarah Stock. She has scored half of the team’s goals this season and has done it using her ball handling skills and shooting accuracy. FIU defenders and team captains Kristin Hurst and Kay Rigsby will be instrumental in containing Stock.

Hurst’s and Rigby’s defense shut down Binghamton after scoring in the first five minutes. They blocked scoring lines and shut down Binghamton’s time of possession.

FIU coach Thomas Chestnut finally relieved the pressure of obtaining the first win of the season last week and he will look to continue his winning ways against the offensively gifted clubs.
AS AN AMERICAN
YOU CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT.
FULFILL A COMMITMENT.
BREAK A COMMITMENT.
THERE ARE BIG COMMITMENTS.
SMALL COMMITMENTS.
COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU CAN EITHER FEAR COMMITMENT OR EMBRACE IT.

AS AN AMERICAN AND A MARINE CORPS OFFICER
YOUR COMMITMENT WILL IMPACT THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.
FEW CAN BE MARINES. EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM. CAN YOU?
The Golden Panthers return to the field this weekend to face the Stony Brook Seawolves on Friday, Sept. 18. The game will be played at 7 p.m. at the Coastal Living Field at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Golden Panthers are currently 2-0-1 on the season after winning their first two games against the University of Illinois-Chicago and Miami (Ohio).

**New assistant looks to help shape team for future**

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Sports Editor

Men’s basketball coach Sergio Rouco announced Kevin Fricke as the newest member of the Golden Panthers coaching staff on Sept. 14. Fricke has been coaching against FIU as an assistant coach for the University of Nebraska. He helped UALR post players Darius Eason and Ryan Moss towards gaining numerous offensive and defensive accolades. Fricke also helped Montrelle Dibbons win the 2007 Sun Belt Player of the Year honors. Fricke will be working with new FIU big men Russell Hicks and Badara Ndiaye to help them learn to dominate the paint and develop a strong inside presence.

In addition to working at UALR, he was also the interim head coach at Moberly Area Community College where he led the team to a 15-12 record despite taking the job two weeks prior to the 1994-95 season opener. Fricke has also worked at Texas Christian University and the University of Nebraska. During his coaching tenure at his alma-mater of Nebraska, he was an integral part of the coaching staff that guided the Cornhusker team to their very first NCAA tournament appearance. During his time with the team they also reached the NIT Final Four, and made the NIT four times.

Fricke will be replacing former assistant coach Beau Archibald, who left the team in the offseason to take an assistant coaching position at his alma mater, the University of Connecticut.

**Men’s Soccer**

Losing streak extends to five as team drops two in Michigan

**LUCA MESSINA**  
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers (0-5-1) dropped two consecutive road games for the second time this season. In what is now a five-game losing streak, FIU lost to No. 18 Michigan Wolverines (6-0) and Michigan State Spartans (5-0) Sept. 14 and 16, respectively, at the Michigan Invitational.

These two games were polar opposites as FIU played Michigan State till the end while struggling against the Michigan powerhouse.

**MICHIGAN ST. 1, FIU 0**

In what was a defensive struggle, FIU played Michigan State very competitively despite an insignificant offensive effort. Junior goalkeeper Kyle Thomas made eight saves and kept the Golden Panthers in the game until second overtime when the Spartans finally broke through.

At the 104th minute, MSU’s Raushwan McKenzie netted a shot that was just out of the reach of Thomas’ hands, scoring the game’s lone tally.

The Golden Panthers faced two disadvantages throughout the game.

The Spartans not only outshot FIU 25-16 but at the 68th minute, junior defender Corey Kendall received a red card, which hurt FIU late at a crucial juncture of the game. The Spartans are now 5-0 for the first time since 2004 and third time in 31 years under head coach Jim Baum.

**MICHIGAN 5, FIU 1**

The encouraging vibes from the Michigan State loss proved to be insignificant as the University of Michigan pounded the Golden Panthers.

Sophomore goalkeeper Michael Anderson replaced Thomas and was overwhelmed by the Wolverines’ offense. FIU couldn’t compete early as Michigan’s Matt Schmidt netted a header three minutes into the game.

After that it was all downhill for the Golden Panthers as they trailed 3-0 at the half. A Michigan mistake led to an own goal in the 78th minute which made it 3-1, but they responded only eight seconds later with a goal by Cameron Mich.

Michigan would add another score at the 88th minute to put the game at 5-1 and even more out of reach.

The Golden Panthers return home Sept. 21 against the University of Illinois-Chicago University Park.