**FIU students victims of hate crimes**

CHARLIE GRAU  
Editor in Chief

Four teens were charged with a hate crime and are accused of beating up FIU freshmen Stephen Barnett, Daniel Cabezas and Chris Eden at Haulover Beach Park Marina on Sunday, Sept. 23, around 2 a.m.

The three Panther Hall residents were on the way back from a keg party when they ran across an abandoned island in the middle of the Intracoastal Waterway when racial slurs were hurled at Barnett, a black student.

According to Miami-Dade police reports, the three friends were boarding an overcrowded boat to head back to the marina, one teen told Barnett “to get off the boat, mi—.”

Heated words were exchanged but the three friends got off the boat and waited for the next trip to shore.

“The party was kind of boring so we decided to head to shore. When I got up I noticed someone approached and told him about the fight,” Miami-Dade, Sunny Isles and Surfside police arrived on scene.

“All happened so fast.”

Bail Harbor police officer Steve Goldberg was issuing a traffic ticket when someone approached and told him about the fight.

“First I saw the guy go toward Daniel to hit him with baseball bats while I grabbed it, all of sudden I was on the ground getting punched and kicked,” Eden said. “When I got up I didn’t see any of them ... it all happened so fast.”

Bail Harbor police officer Steve Goldberg was issuing a traffic ticket when someone approached and told him about the fight.

Chatting with Barnett about the incident, Cabezas told The Beacon.

Upon their arrival at the dock, about 25 men were awaiting the three friends with baseball bats where they were attacked.

“It was wrong, because he was the only black kid on the island and I’m his friend,” Cabezas told The Beacon.

The suspects did not return phone calls despite several attempts.

CHRISTINA VEIGA  Asst. News Director

Daniel Jordan, a freshman at FIU knows what it’s like to be affected by suicide. Jordan had never even met his uncle Wayne before he committed suicide, but the event affected him nonetheless since his family is still coping with the tragedy.

“You don’t realize, you think you’re, an individual, but you have to realize that there are other people who care about you,” Jordan said.

All of the trends that FIU’s Counseling and Psychological Services Center, with the help of organizations such as the Suicide Awareness Voices of Education and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will be hosting the first ever Suicide Awareness Walkathon Sept. 29.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 10.4 percent, or over 4,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24, committed suicide in 2004, which is a higher rate than those between the ages of 15 and 24.

According to Grossman, who is helping to plan the event, the walkathon is a response to a "crisis on campus" across the nation in regards to suicide rates, adding that "we’re pretty lucky" to not have had that problem at FIU.

The Suicide Awareness Walkathon will kick off on Saturday, Sept. 29 in front of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at 10 a.m.

The event will begin with speaking...
Iran plans to achieve nuclear program legally

UNITED NATIONS—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that the issue of Iran’s disputed nuclear program is closed as a political issue, and said Tehran will disregard U.N. Security Council resolutions imposed by “arrogant powers” to curb its nuclear program.

Instead, he told world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday that Iran has decided to pursue the monitoring of its nuclear program “through its appropriate legal path,” the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the U.N.’s nuclear weapons watchdog.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei and Iranian officials agreed in July that Iran would answer questions from agency experts of it secret until revealed more than four years ago.

IAEA technical officials returned to Tehran this week to start probing outstanding questions, some with possible weapons applications.

When Ahmadinejad was ushered to the General Assembly podium to speak, the U.S. delegation walked, leaving only a low-ranking note-taker to listen to his speech which indirectly accused the U.S. and Israel of human rights violations. Gonzalo Gallegos, a State Department spokesman, said the U.S. wanted “to send him a powerful message.”

The Iranian leader spoke after French President Nicolas Sarkozy warned the assembly that allowing Iran to arm itself with nuclear weapons would be an “unacceptable risk to stability in the region and in the world.”

Iran insists that its nuclear program is purely peaceful and aimed solely at producing nuclear energy. But the United States and key European nations believe the program is a cover for Iran’s real ambition — producing nuclear weapons.

Ahmadinejad has defied two U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding that it suspend its uranium enrichment program and imposing escalating sanctions against key figures and organizations involved in the nuclear program. He made clear in his speech that Iran does not intend to comply with them now.

“Last the two years, abusing the Security Council, the arrogant powers have repeatedly accused Iran and even made unilateral threats of imposing illegal sanctions against it,” the Iranian leader said.

Previously, they illegally insisted on politicizing the Iranian nation’s nuclear case, but today, because of the resistance of the Iranian nation, the issue is back to the agency, and I officially announce that in our opinion the nuclear issue is now closed and has turned into an ordinary agency matter,” Ahmadinejad said.

Iran has decided “to pursue the issue through its appropriate legal path … and to disregard unlawful and political impositions by the arrogant powers,” he said.

Speaking to reporters later, Ahmadinejad attempted to clarify Tehran’s stance.

“It’s closed as a political issue,” he said, stressing that it is a legal issue “and therefore should have been examined solely within the framework of the IAEA.”

“However, certain big powers … have made every effort to turn a simple legal issue into a very loud, controversial, political issue,” he said.

While Iran is allowing the IAEA to inspect its known nuclear facilities, it no longer allows inspectors freedom to probe deeper and look for suspicious activities on short notice anywhere in the country as it once did.

The U.S. initially opposed the ElBaradei plan, fearing it could draw attention away from Iran’s defiance of the Security Council. It later endorsed the plan while emphasizing that Iran must heed the council’s demands.

“There will not be peace in the world if the international community failers in the face of the proliferation of nuclear arms,” Sarkozy said in his speech Tuesday.

Urging the international community to remain united in responding to “Iran’s provocations,” she said.

“The world does not have to prove to Iran that Iran is building a nuclear bomb. Iran has to convince the world that it is not striving towards such a bomb.”

In an angry defense of Iran, Nicaraguan’s leftist President Daniel Ortega chastised the U.S. for seeking to restrict the right to enrich uranium, which is allowed under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Ortega said the United States, as “the only country in the world to have dropped nuclear bombs on innocent people,” had no right to question the right of Iran and North Korea to pursue nuclear technology for “peaceful purposes.”

“And even if they want nuclear power for purposes that are not peaceful, with what right does (the U.S.) question it?” he told the world leaders.
GOING STRONG

Suicide awareness walkathon to create dialogue

AWARNESS, page 1

Suicide awareness walkathon to create dialogue

EVELYN DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Students get on it every semester, with hopes of seeing their grades, picking their classes or paying for their courses. At FIU, student life revolves around PantherSoft. So one has to wonder, who are the masterminds behind PantherSoft and what do they have in store for students?

One can find them near ROTC, hidden in a couple of portals, away from the madness of looking for parking or crowds of students.

Within the PantherSoft facility, 10 developers are FIU students. One of those full-time workers is Developer Eduardo Monteiro, a student working toward his master's degree in computer science. Monteiro was the lead developer for the MyFIU portal.

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The focus that the developers at PantherSoft had in mind for MyFIU was to bring everything that is important in PantherSoft into one single page.

The story behind the portal is fascinating. Just this month, according to Application Manager John Duran, 44,738 students were on the system, setting a new record.

However, the most common complaint students have called for PantherSoft support for is remembering their passwords. The students are required to change their password every three months.

"It is annoying that they make you change your password," said Emicie Inguez.

According to an email from Sean Bossinger, a call center manager with PantherSoft, between July 23 to Aug. 23, which is the lead-up to Fall term, PantherSoft received 9,225 calls. Of these, 3,930, or 42 percent, were requests for password resets.

The developers believe the MyFIU or PantherSoft for this problem, but the fact is that PantherSoft is not responsible; it is done for security reason, which the state requires.

Students will soon have to get used to an updated version of MyFIU. The upgrade will take place by fall of 2008. The company that owns PantherSoft, Oracle, requires the update.

"MyFIU is a function of the PantherSoft system; we introduced it to students in January 2007 and nothing is changing there," said Yoo. "One of the major hurdles of the most important reasons for the upgrade is to maintain support from our vendors," said Yoo.

According to Duran, students can expect more updates to the system in the future, which will include improvements for higher education and financial aid. Executive Student Government and FIU executives, according to Division of Student Affairs Melissa Sabatier, will be involved with the update, which is planned to test and provide feedback.

"We are not going to stand for a while, so students should just make sure to remember their passwords as PantherSoft keeps evolving.

Student PantherSoft crew behind MyFIU site

EVELYN DIAZ
Contributing Writer

"I wanted to work on large-scale systems, that serve thousands of people, but I didn't want to work off-campus because I needed to concentrate on my education," said Monteiro. Monteiro said he had a love for technology and that was the base to be perfect.

The forum is meant to educate the public about suicide by discussing suicide signs, suicide prevention and suicide intervention strategies. The forum will also highlight the resources available both on campus and throughout the community for help with dealing with problems.

Events will continue into the week with a “Journey into the Wild Divine” — a computer relaxation training technique based on bio-feedback. The event is free and open for all FIU students. It will take place on Monday Oct. 1 in the University Health Services Community building. According to Grossman, participants will watch a computer animated journey that changes based on the feedback obtained through their vital signs, such as heart rate.

On Tuesday Oct. 2, students can learn to unwind with Anita Sahgal, a university representative. This number will only grow as eligibility requirements, specifically the Expected Family Contribution, will expand to include additional students.

Middle-class income students will not be neglected; there are major points in the act that will benefit them too.

The act will come at no additional cost to taxpayers through a move that will cut subsidy to federal and state governments to lenders. As a result, students who took out loans after July 1, 2006 will see their interest rates decline to 6.8 percent.

Loans that students take out every subsequent year will have interest rates reduced to 3.4 percent by July 2012.

For FIU students like Laura Gonzalez, both a Pell Grant recipient and a loan borrower, the Act will make life easier by allowing her to focus on academics. "[The act] will allow me to use time efficiently. Students need time to study physically and full-time students can. Unfortunately people working full time or part time have less time to concentrate on studies, it's impossible to study at work," Gonzalez said.

Other important points tied to the legislation include: loan forgiveness for graduates in social sector employment like early childhood educators, law-enforcement, librarians and nurses; income base repayment of loans; a teaching grant that will disburse money to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in education areas of national need, and the containment of college cost through university incentives.

Promoted by Congress as the "largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill," the College Cost Reduction Act has the potential to become the college generation's most influential act, perhaps to the extent that the GI Bill was to the war veterans of World War II.

The Act's importance lies in that it will allow "a universal, not only for quality as well as accessibility. A quality university has to have their need base covered and financed should not impede students from going to a quality university," said Marka Hernandez.

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Cost Reduction Act to lower loan interest rates

AID, page 1

the next five years to a total of $5,200 dollars for the 2012-2013 academic year.

"The most exciting [aspect of the act] is for the Pell Grant recipients, because this means that more direct money will be given to these students," Francisco Valines, the director of financial aid, said.

FIU will be heavily affected by the act since a total of 38 percent of the student body are Pell Grant recipients. This number will only grow as eligibility requirements, specifically the Expected Family Contribution, will expand to include additional students.

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The Student Programming Council at University Park has a new president—20-year-old Sophia Del Zoppo. Del Zoppo is a senior majoring in advertising, minoring in photography and sister of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority.

Del Zoppo plans to revolutionize SPC by solidifying its new image of leadership development, quality programming and restructuring admissions while in the process.

"SPC will start being viewed as an organization anyone that wants the experience and the leadership can join," Del Zoppo said.

SPC has changed the admission process so that SPC can reach out to more students to get them involved, thus helping them gain more leadership experience through event organizing.

Del Zoppo also wants to accommodate to FIU students who want to be a part of events they’d like to attend; a goal she is willing to conduct extensive research for.

"I ran for the SPC presidency because I truly love the SPC and what it stands for and does," Del Zoppo said. "I love being able to work for FIU students and bring them good quality fun events.

This year, Del Zoppo was chosen to be the SPC president by its board members, with the normal elections process being forgone. According to SPC advisor "Chinie" Camargo, a taskforce of students from various organizations held a conference to revise and improve the structure of the SPC in May 2007.

Del Zoppo was the last person to be voted into office as the Special Elections Chair April 2007 and also served as the Films Chair from April 2005 to April 2006. "I think she is doing an amazing job as SPC president. She really knows how to run it," Camargo said.

Del Zoppo is quickly making a big impression on her fellow SPC members, like Sheska Ocasio. "I have never had a president be so caring toward her members and be so involved in their perspective organizations," Ocasio said.

Interested students need to fill out an application with at least one letter of recommendation. Resumes are also recommended, though not required.

The applicant will then be interviewed and, if accepted, are to attend the weekly general meetings at UP.

Those interested in becoming involved with the SPC should visit their office in GC 2304 or visit their website at www.yourspc.com.
Librarian still helping others after 29 years

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

An author and painter, Susan Weiss has also become the Biscayne Bay Campus’s South Florida encyclopedia becoming a librarian on June 1, 1978, according to Scott Kass, the BBC Head of Reader Services Department.

“She developed a true interest of South Florida,” Kass said, “When we have a question we go to her.”

Kass said he has never regretted the decision to hire Weiss. She does not regret accepting the job, either.

“Weiss’s current project is a very interesting,” said Jonathan Widrowicz, a BBC library technical assistant.

Therese O’Connell, a senior catalog director at H2G in Aventura, also plans activities to give Jewish college students the opportunity to express themselves in their culture.

“Weiss develops her artwork similar to those of Henri Matisse, a French painter from 1900’s who was known for his use of colors and draughtsmanship. She describes her style as being modernistic. Weiss’ work’s been showcased in the Luna Star Café in North Miami and her paintings adorn the walls of the BBC library.

“You never say you can’t do it,” Weiss said. "But I’m not going to quit my day job.”

It’s a very interesting job,” Weiss said. “I get to help people with many different subjects. As the campus has grown, it’s being more interesting.”

Weiss received her undergraduate degree in History from New York University in 1971, a Master’s in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University in 1975 and a Doctorate of Public Administration from FIU in 1986.

When she was approached by FIU for a possible job, Weiss had a flight from her home state of New York to Miami where Kass greeted her.

“Weiss herself takes a very interesting,” said Jonathan Widrowicz, a BBC library technical assistant.

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State funds should not finance religion

ERIC FELDMAN
Staff Writer

Two publicly-funded schools that recently began operating are causing controversy and forcing a review of the separation of church and state.

The Ben Gamla Charter School in South Florida and the Khalil Gibran International Academy in New York City have a very unique purpose for schools funded with tax dollars – the study of religion.

The key component of this debate is the actual restrictions placed on the interactions of government and religion by the Constitution.

A common misconception is that the Constitution provides for the “separation of church and state.”

In reality, the document only specifies that the Legislature cannot pass a law in favor of a specific religion, or condemning another.

Despite the fact that the school’s official purpose is to teach religion, rather than endorse it, this very thin line has been challenged by critics of both institutions.

And it is no surprise that the critics of the Arab school and the critics of the Hebrew school are not necessarily from the same end of the political spectrum.

According to the South Flori- da Sun Sentinel, Ben Gamla Charter School was forced to suspend teaching the Hebrew language, due to its inherent ties to religion.

While this argument is quite indicative, as public schools are certainly allowed to teach religion, other points of contention, such as the fact that students had to translate phrases such as “Our Holy Torah is dear to us,” may cause concern.

Despite these rifts, however, the public school system needs to maintain a mostly unified curriculum and theme which aims to benefit the public good rather than attempting to appease individual groups with divergent interests.

Ben Gamla Charter School and Khalil Gibran International Academy may not be technically endorsing religions or prohibited by the Constitution, but it is inherent that the leaders of these schools will have certain biases towards the culture studied, that the controversy caused by these schools are detracting from the quality and reputation of public education, and that culture is a virtue best studied at home.

These schools are better left out of the equation.

JOSEPH MARHEE
Contributing Writer

If there’s one thing the Bush Administration is good at, it’s opening a can of worms before they finish the other. According to CNN.com, recent talks with President George W. Bush have hinted that an invasion of Iran is imminent, if time allows, before Bush leaves office.

According to former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, Bush’s prattling about Iran’s nuclear ambitions echo the unfounded accusations made of Iraq four years ago.

“I think the administration, the president and the vice president particularly, are trying to hype the atmosphere, and that is remi- niscent of what preceded the war in Iraq,” Brzezinski told CNN’s “Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer,” on Sept. 23.

Back in 2002, Bush told the press that Saddam Hussein’s aspirations of procuring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) had to be thwarted before “final proof, the smoking gun — that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud.”

While his argument would have been sound, had Bush had any real evidence on the matter, it was all speculation without the supporting intelligence to justify such drastic measures.

Bush elaborated on his con- cerns about Iran earlier this month during a televised news confer- ence alluding to Iran’s purported motives in 2002. “Iran would benefit from the chaos and would be encouraged in its efforts to gain nuclear weapons and dominate the region.”

While one could assume that these invasion plans are the result of many months of painstaking research and military intelligence, but many members of the Senate are outspokenly opposed to even planning any sort of action towards Iran before Bush removes the troops from Iraq.

The most outspoken being 2008 presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton.

According to a CNN report, Clinton has been adamant about her stand on Iran and Iraq. “I don’t believe we should continue to vote for funding that has an open-ended commitment, that has no pressure on the Iraqi government to make the tough political decisions they have to make or which really gives any urgency to the Bush adminis- tration’s diplomatic efforts.”

Clinton has outlined a plan for removing troops from Iraq pending her election. She has also publicly spoken of her plans to “responsibly end the war” within the year, if she is elected.

Bush continues to speak favor- ably of the United State’s work in Iraq and of a “preventative” invasion of Iran which has been complemented by the testimo- nies of Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker.

With any luck in the upcoming election, a withdrawal plan will go into effect and allow us to finish this war and bring our troops home with at least a little less blood on our hands.

Both Petraeus and Crocker have claimed that progress has and will continue to the American emancipation initiative in Iraq and hinted that the time spent there is just the beginning of more growth, seemingly trying to put a good spin on the U.S. occupation.

While the newly emancipated provinces are certainly improve- ments from four years ago, it doesn’t nearly justify the amount of time the operation has taken.

We became involved over such a trivial issue, which ended up not being entirely valid, that we almost “forgot” to finish the seem- ingly legitimate war we started in Afghanistan, reverberating the protests to invading Iran while still occupying both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The administration has oppo- sitions coming from all sides and they still appear to be steadfastly supportive of this war, but one could make the assumption that the administration is afraid to admit either that they were wrong or that they have no idea what to do now besides bring in more and more troops in a fruitless attempt at “liberating” Iranians.

With any luck in the upcoming election, a withdrawal plan will go into effect and allow us to finish this war with at least a little less blood on our hands.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off at GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or e-mailed to letters@beaconnewspaper.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.
As the temperature outside begins dropping and the days get shorter as summer gives way to fall, the movies that hit theaters this time of year seem to reflect the somber tone of autumn. While summer counterparts generally consist of more generally light-hearted fare, the movies that will make way into the multiplexes across America in the coming months will be more serious, as studios look to that coveted Oscar.

That does not mean there isn't going to be a little something for every type of moviegoer, as there are films for everyone this fall.

**THE DARJEELING LIMITED** *(OCT. 5)*

Although another comedy being released on the same day, *The Heartbreak Kid*, starring Ben Stiller, will likely garner bigger crowds, it is Wes Anderson's fifth film that is more likely to keep critics and audiences alike entertained from beginning to end. *The Darjeeling* stars Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody and Jason Schwartzman as three brothers who have grown apart and are brought together by the death of their father. They are joined in the cast by Bill Murray, Natalie Portman and Roman Coppola. The film centers on the brother's various attempts at growing closer amidst an array of unexpected events. Expect Anderson's trademark wit and subtle humor to make this one of the best comedies of the season.

**ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE** *(OCT. 12)*

Revisiting the role that gave her an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe Award, Cate Blanchett returns as Elizabeth, who has to fight a war abroad, as well as a war at home with the threat of Mary, Queen of the Scots, trying to take her throne.

The previous Elizabeth film gave way to seven Academy award nominations, and this one may reach that same level of success if the new additions to the cast can live up to their abilities. Harris plays one of two detectives who are investigating the mysterious disappearance of a little girl. As they delve deeper into the case, they find themselves risking everything in order to solve it.

**WE OWN THE NIGHT** *(OCT. 12)*

Joaquin Phoenix and Marc Wahlberg lead a stellar cast in this crime drama, based in New York City in the late 1980s. Phoenix plays the manager of a Russian nightclub, the center of a narcotics ring run by the Russian Mafia, and Wahlberg plays his brother, an NYPD officer who followed in their Deputy Chief father's footsteps in joining the force. When the brothers find out the mafia is planning on taking out their father, they join forces to protect him and take on a Russian gangster, played by Alex Veadov.

**GONE BABY GONE** *(OCT. 19)*

Another year, another Saw movie. Ever since the first in the grisly series debuted three years ago, audiences have been both mesmerized and terrorized, not to mention disgusted, by the films' usage of incredibly graphic scenes of gore and violence, based around various painful and potentially deadly traps designed to test the victim's worth. While the last film ended with main antagonist Jigsaw apparently dead from his own designs, don't expect that to be the last you see of him, as there's an all new series of traps waiting for a few unlucky people.

Also, don't expect a neat ending, as the directors have signed on for two more films following this one. The Beacon will feature a movie roundup at the end of each month showcasing the next month's films.
**THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 27**

**WHAT:** Strung Out  
**WHERE:** Studio A  
60 NE 11 Street  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $15

**WHAT:** Chris Porter  
**WHERE:** Palm Beach Improv, 580 S. Rosemary Ave.  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $16

**WHAT:** Art Jam  
**WHERE:** Shoppes at Village Pointe  
6006 SW 18th St.  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 6 – 10 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $35 - $60

**WHAT:** Open Mike Night  
**WHERE:** New York Comedy Club  
8221 Glades Road  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 6 - 10 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $35 - $60

**WHAT:** The Apples in Stereo  
**WHERE:** Culture Room, 3045 N. Federal Hwy  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 6 - 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $20 - $50

**WHAT:** Slackers  
**WHERE:** Grass Restaurant & Lounge, 28 NE 40 St.  
**1040 Lincoln Rd.**  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $15

**WHAT:** Drumming Circle  
**WHERE:** Fern Forest Nature Center  
201 Lyons Road S.  
**MIAMI, FL**  
**WHEN:** 4 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Stomp  
**WHERE:** Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd.  
**WHEN:** 5 & 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $20 - $50

**WHAT:** Auditions for the Next Pop Star  
**WHERE:** Jazziz Bistro & Live Music, 5751 Seminole Way  
**WHEN:** Begins at 9 a.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Viva La Bands  
**WHERE:** Revolution  
200 West Broward Blvd.  
**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $24

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**FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 28**

**WHAT:** Barbeque Buffet  
**WHERE:** Grass Restaurant & Lounge, 28 NE 40 St.  
**1040 Lincoln Rd.**  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 6 - 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $20

**WHAT:** The Apples in Stereo  
**WHERE:** Colony Theatre, 1040 Lincoln Rd.  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $20

**WHAT:** Slackers  
**WHERE:** Studio A, 60 NE 11 Street  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $12

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**SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 29**

**WHAT:** Universes  
**WHERE:** Colony Theatre, 1040 Lincoln Rd.  
**Boca Raton, Fl 33433**  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $12

**WHAT:** Drumming Circle  
**WHERE:** Fern Forest Nature Center  
201 Lyons Road S.  
**MIAMI, FL**  
**WHEN:** 4 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

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**SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 30**

**WHAT:** Stomp  
**WHERE:** Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd.  
**WHEN:** 5 & 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $20 - $50

**WHAT:** Auditions for the Next Pop Star  
**WHERE:** Jazziz Bistro & Live Music, 5751 Seminole Way  
**WHEN:** Begins at 9 a.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Viva La Bands  
**WHERE:** Revolution  
200 West Broward Blvd.  
**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** $24

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**– Compiled by Kassandra Pool**

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**THE CATWALK:**  
The Paul Frank fashion show held at Mansion nightclub Sept. 19 debuted many casual pieces for the spring/summer seasons. Frank’s well-known monkey character, “Julius the Monkey” appeared on much of the clothes and some models carried him as a plush toy down the runway.

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**LEONCIO ALVAREZ**  
Staff Writer

Throwing some of the biggest parties in Miami is like clockwork for Mansion nightclub personnel. Along with catering to the needs of many of Miami’s most exclusive, the party epicenter also serves as a venue for designers to show off their latest fashions.

Monkey enthusiast Paul Frank did just that on Sept. 19, when he unveiled his Spring/Summer 2008 line.

The show began roughly at 1:30 a.m. when the lights went down on a small runway that had been set up in the center of the main dance floor. Even though the music and dancing briefly stopped to start the show, the music choice throughout seemed to make people forget what they had been doing for hours and get into the mood for a fashion show.

Whether as a pattern on the actual clothing or as a plush toy carried by the models, Frank’s ever-popular “Julius the Monkey” character made an appearance on many of the ensembles showcased down the catwalk.

Less is more was a theme noted from outfit to outfit, regardless of gender. One male model appeared simply wearing a bluish beach towel below his waist and that was it.

“I was surprised to see a guy wearing nothing but a towel and being considered trendy,” said Isabel Moreno, a Mansion regular who had no idea the show was planned for that night. “I had never been there on a Wednesday before. I was not planning on attending a fashion show.”

Another male model went back to a time when men were not too scared to show a little leg with his khaki, above-the-knee board shorts.

Bright, Spring-inspired colors meshed with darker earther tones as a common ground among models. This combination proved effective, especially since the collection is supposed to satisfy two different seasons.

Mixing the seasons was a hit, but Frank missed when it came to his idea of layering for the beach. Hoodies atop bikinis and tank tops are not good combinations in Miami’s hot, humid summer.

And it’s because of that same treacherous summer that Frank’s idea of layers for a hot day - as adorable as a hoodie might be - should have stayed as just that: an idea.

The Capri was a highlight of the night, or so Frank thought. The calf-level pant with a pattern of different monkey faces dubbed as both a pajama pant and as a casual piece.

If casual fashion is what you look for to fit your needs, then Frank’s fresh line could be perfect for you.

A night of fashion yes and no’s came to an end when all models took one last walk down the runway, some kissing and cuddling with a loveable “Julius” stuffed animal, proving that despite not doing anything out of the ordinary for fashion, Frank’s memorable monkey is what keeps people interested.

“I think I would buy anything with that cute little monkey on it,” said Jessica Berntein, an ex-model who believes Frank’s “Julius” cannot and will not do any harm.
There was one player who went out the biggest message on the field Sept. 23 as the women’s soccer team took on Stetson University. She was on the bench most of the second half.

She didn’t score, assist or even suggest a formation change. Nor did she even speak English when she challenged her team. Despite all of that, senior midfielder Francesca Chong gave her team the ultimate boost in the 52nd minute of the game when she made an ill-advised challenge, went down, and couldn’t even come back up under her own power several minutes later.

The language she was speaking? It was a language athletes hope they never learn to speak: pure pain. No matter what sport you may play that translates loud and clear to everybody and the fans even cringed as she lay there on the pitch.

As she screamed in agony, her teammates were taking a water break and wondering what was going to happen to their teammate. One question most likely ran through all of their minds: “How are we going to respond to this?”

Good question, because when a teammate gets taken out of the game there must be some kind of renewed vigor when you step onto the field. So it’s about 12 minutes later, the Golden Panthers are taking the field once again.

For about the next 12-15 minutes of the game, the team was playing decent soccer, but it wasn’t really flowing much at all. There was a stretch where much of the passing was of the one-touch, spastic nature, which gave Stetson some opportunities.

The defense regained its composition first and provided a strong moment, while the attacking third overcame the mental hump from Chong’s injury.

After this brief lapse, the talking became louder, passing was cleaner and the spacing was spreading the Stetson defense — providing multiple chances and making this a game to really watch once again.

Of course, Stetson did what all good teams should do — they fought back. With both teams slugging it out, the midfield became a battlefield (which certainly didn’t really do well for the pitch; the wing right above the midfield was worn out by rain). At the 82nd minute Stetson broke through, tied the game and put the Golden Panthers in another difficult position.

This time though there was no room for thinking, but there was enough time for another goal.

Freshman forward Claudia Cardenas stepped up in the 87th minute and made a picture-perfect goal, which wasn’t the flashy bullet into the upper 90, but a lopsided shot that sailed into the back of the net.

That was enough to seal the game.

So everything worked out well in the end, right? On paper everything did. Winning is the best deodorant. It covers a multitude of short-comings and can give pride to even the ugliest wins.

However, Chong’s injury will require season-ending surgery and end her career as a Golden Panther.

The game could’ve definitely gone the other way because up until that 52nd minute, FIU didn’t look like it was attacking for that all-important insurance policy and missed many chances throughout the game.

If I had to give a rating through the first five games of the season, I would definitely give this team a “good.” Responding in a very positive fashion and having a freshman with her first multi-goal game in her college career all merits a “good,” for sure.

With more efforts like this, fans can be sure that this team won’t be called “the best team you’ve never heard of.”

The weekend ended with Brito and Petruskaite again overpowering their opponents, this time over USF’s Liz Cruz and Iczi Rai, by a score of 8-3. In showing their dominance this weekend, the pair moved up to the No. 41 ranking in the country.

The Golden Panthers split six matches with UNF later on in the day, finishing up a solid weekend for the squad overall.

The men’s basketball team released their 2007-08 schedule Sept. 25 with one of the highlights being a seven-game home stand to open the season.

Beginning on Nov. 12 against Florida Tech, the team will take on Kennesaw State, South Florida, Robert Morris, Florida Gulf Coast, Buffalo and Miami in front of the home crowd at Pharad Arena.

Following the final game of the home stand Dec. 8, the team will have a week off for fall semester exams before opening conference play on the road at Arkansas-Little Rock and Middle Tennessee State.

After that short road swing, they return home to take on 2006 NCAA Final Four participant George Mason before taking on Purdue and Kentucky in back-to-back road games.

The season features 17 home games for the team, the most in school history.

With Miami, USF, and George Mason traveling to Pharad, the team expects good crowds to turn out to watch the Golden Panthers take on these competitive teams.

Compiled by Chris Towers

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The women’s tennis team started off the season successfully with a strong showing at the Gator Fall Classic in Gainesville, Sept. 21-23. The team locked strong, as they took matches from the North Florida, South Florida, and No. 7 Florida.

The weekend began with freshman Liset Brito, the 2006 4A Florida individual State Champion as a senior at Miami Senior High School, making an impressive debut.

She teamed with senior Egle Petrauskaite to take down North Florida’s team of Natalia Sanchez and Victoria Krook by a score of 8-2.

Brito then took down the No. 106 collegian, Whitney Benik of Florida. Brito fell behind in the first game, but rallied back to defeat Benik 5-7, 6-2, 1-0 (11-9).

FIU also received a doubles victory from the sophomore team of Priscilla Castro and Maria Pazo, who defeated North Florida’s Maria Melihova and Vanessa Sanchez.

In singles, however, the team was not as successful as they dropped 4 out of 5 matches on Friday, with Brito being the only player who was able to grab victory.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, Brito and Petruskaite again had a good day, upsetting UF’s 7th ranked team of Csilla Borsanyi and Diana Srebryovic by a score of 8-5.

Unfortunately, the Golden Panthers other doubles teams did not fair as well against UF’s powerful squad as Castro and Pazo fell to the 52nd ranked pair in the nation and senior Marijana Cutuk and sophomore Maria Jose Vallasciani lost to the 31st ranked pair.

In singles, FIU took 3-0 of matches from USF.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

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Compiled by Chris Towers

SUPPORT SYSTEM

HELPING HANDS: Student athletes help their academic advisor Liz Burrell through an even in the challenge course during a leadership training course on August 15th.

WEBMASTER

Small local company needs assistance with maintaining and updating website. Need to do newsletters, postings, and edits. Work from home, Mega flexible schedule, and few hours each week. Top $5 for the right person. Contact Tom @ 727-480-3215.

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Thank you for reading Every Monday and Thursday
Middle Tennessee and FIU are both 0-4 and someone will leave the field with their first win. Both 0-4 and someone will leave the field with a losing record. The Golden Panthers' season was doomed by offensive struggles and a weak rushing attack. For the first game.

The Golden Panthers are facing the Blue Raiders. They have a strong rushing attack with running back Joe Craddock who has passed for 548 yards this season. This season, the Golden Panther defense has given up an average of 40.7 points per game. They've been hurt mostly in the secondary by teams with high-powered passing games.

Middle Tennessee has a good passing game led by junior quarterback, Joe Craddock who has passed for 48 yards this season. The Blue Raiders also have a strong rushing attack with running backs DeMarco McNair and Phillip Tanner, who have combined to rush for 282 yards and six touchdowns this season.

Middle Tennessee will be the first Sun Belt Conference team FIU plays with the exception of Oct. 27 meeting with the Arkansas Razorbacks. All of the Golden Panthers remaining games will be against SBC opponents. If FIU can win the Sun Belt Conference, they will receive a bid in a bowl game at the end of the year. "They are an excellent football team and always trying for the conference championship and we got a heck of a challenge," said head coach Chris Schneider, who made the goal outside the penalty box. In the 29th minute of play, Steven Jair Cabas crossed the ball behind the goal, junior midfielder Levi Coleman deep in the penalty box as he hit the game winner. With less than five minutes left in the match, the Golden Panthers were threatening in Midshipmen territory. Cabas fired a cannon shot from the left side of the field that wouldn't've tied the game but Jenkins made another critical save. With the Golden Panther defenders pushed forward Navy crossed the ball behind them to Andrew Garcia, who ended the game 2-1 lead.

The Golden Panthers are facing a team that put up 42 points against No. 8 Louisville on national television. They allowed 58 points, but this season, the Golden Panthers have hurt the defense. Three-and-outs and three-and-out punting so frequently has exhausted the defense to the point where they are drained by the third quarter -- the quarter they have given up the most points this season. In addition, the lack of offense has also given opponents good field position to start their drives. Quarterback Wayne Younger has struggled, despite his ability to run. His offensive line has not provided enough protection to the inexperienced quarterback. The running attack of A'mod Ned has been formidable, but not enough to relieve pressure off Younger. But, again, the first four games against the best opponents FIU has ever faced are over.

Now, the Golden Panthers' season truly begins against Sun Belt Conference opponents. Up to this point, by just looking at statistics and scores, the Golden Panthers are at best just as bad as last year's team. However, fans have yet to see a game that truly gauges the difference between the 2006 and 2007 teams. If the Golden Panthers would've played Penn State and Kansas last year, chances are the results would've been almost exactly the same. Playing the same conference teams they saw in 2006 allows fans to see if the team has changed from last year. More importantly, playing SBC opponents will not pressure the players playing against schools with decades of history and excellence. They will not be facing any crowds of excess of 100,000.

There were playing teams out of their league and now will be playing teams they can match up against. The SBC is the only chance FIU has of breaking the longest active streak in Division 1-A football. The remaining seven games will prove if the Golden Panthers' season was doomed by the first game. These games will also prove if the Golden Panthers have learned anything from their defeats this season. This is the most critical juncture of the season. If the Golden Panthers manage to rectify their season by winning against SBC opponents, then it will be the first tangible sign that FIU has a chance of turning around the program in the next few years. However, if the Golden Panthers continue to struggle, then the immense losses were for naught and they will have trouble convincing fans they will be improving in the upcoming years.

For men's soccer, the two-game home series Sept. 21 and 23 at University Park was marred by rain and the inability to record the output against the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames (3-1-2) produced their best offensive performance this season. During the first seven minutes of the game, Florida International played against Navy Midshipmen (4-1-1) in the second game of the series in which it lost 3-1 despite nearly tying the game in the last five minutes of the game. FIU had a few positives it will need to expand upon in order to beat the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders. They allowed 58 points, but the Florida International defense has given up an average of 40.7 points per game. They've been hurt mostly in the secondary by teams with high-powered passing games.

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Football travels to take on Blue Raiders.
The Beacon – September 27, 2007

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

On the other hand, the Golden Panthers saw little chances because of their inability to control the ball. The Racers physically bullied the Golden Panthers on offense and defense.

Freshman forward Claudia Cardenas had a chance to tie the game when she had just one Racer defender behind her. She dribbled the ball towards the penalty box as the goalkeeper began to run towards her. The small window of opportunity to score closed on Cardenas when she hesitated just enough to have the defender and goalie converge on her as they took the ball away.

Murray State would score again when Katie Wilson passed defenders and doubled the score with a shot past goalkeeper Madeline Gammon.

The only offensive score for the Golden Panthers would come late in the contest when freshman midfielder Kassandra Sorzano softly kicked the ball over the head of the Racers goalkeeper.

With only ten minutes left in the game, the Racers defense shut down the Golden Panthers to seal the 2-1 victory.

FIU 2 STETSON 1

Unlike the previous game, the Golden Panthers were the aggressors and played physically against the Hatters from the start. Cardenas, who did not capitalize in a one-on-one matchup with the goalie the previous game, put the Golden Panthers up with a shot from outside the penalty box in the 17th minute.

The rest of the half consisted of defensive struggle and the Golden Panthers led 1-0 to begin the second half.

In the 58th minute of play, junior midfielder Maria Gauldron passed an accurately placed ball at the feet of Cardenas as she ran toward the goal.

However, Hatters goalkeeper Andrea Garavgil dove on the ball before Cardenas could shoot. Freshman midfielder Kaley Durrance was passing the ball well throughout the game causing problems for the Hatters defense.

The defense denied the Hatters deep entry into Golden Panther territory throughout most of the game. Then, the Hatters’ Natalie Simon, who had barely played in the game, scored from the outside in the 82nd minute of play.

In the second half, the Golden Panthers lost senior midfielder Francesca Chong to a knee injury. With eight minutes left to play, sophomore midfielder Michelle Casadevall crossed the ball to Cardenas as she chipped the ball over the goalkeeper and into the net for her second score of the match.

Golden Panthers overcome injury to salvage home win

SOCCER, page 12

Club dominates three teams in three days on the road

The only offensive score of the match.

In the opener to their weekend, the Golden Panthers made easy work of Louisiana-Monroe with a 3-0 (30-19, 30-14, 30-27) landslide. The always consistent Rosa pounded 13 kills and eight digs.

Verger added 11 kills, making good on half of her attempts. Drumeva put her stamp on the game with four aces and a team assist. The three-set game over the weekend, the Golden Panthers came out and set the tone early in the first set, an easy way to stagger the opponents. Early in the season at the Cal Molten Classic in California, it appeared as though some inconsistency from last season had trickled over onto this campaign. But after the team’s performance in a tough three-game stretch in three days, it looks like the team is well past the mindset of taking any opponent for granted.

Tomic certainly hopes that is indeed the case and is looking forward to the team’s home opener Sept. 28 against Troy.

“Last year, we always started slow and I thought it took us a while to get in the rhythm of our offense, but so far this year we struggle a bit in the second game,” she said. “It seems as if when we win the first set rather easily, we let the team get back in the second game. We are still not as consistent as we would like to be, but it is the first weekend of conference play and we have a long way to go.

“I can tell you that I am excited and I know our players are excited for the first game at home. It has been a while and I know our fans are excited and can’t wait for us to play. I think we have built a nice fan base and we expect a good crowd. The girls work really hard and they get motivated when people come to support them.”

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Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
FOOTBALL

No problem opening conference play

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

Despite the heightened expectations, the tight-knit squad looked more than comfortable sporting the bull’s eye on its back Sept. 21-23 in New Orleans.

The team’s 3-0 (30-20, 30-27, 30-12) win over the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin Cajuns on Sept. 23 was the finale to a string of strong performances to open this season’s Sun Belt Conference schedule.

“I am very proud of the team, because this was easily one of the toughest weekends in the conference,” said coach Daniela Tomic. “To be able to win three games in three days in the fashion that we won them shows that we are physically were we want to be and also that we are mentally tough. We took two matches 3-0, and another one 3-1 so that was impressive.”

Golden Panthers finish tough stretch, prepare for conference opponents

Mental lapses have become routine during the 16-game losing streak, but they have not been able to hold off sound passing attacks.

Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing is the latest passer to dissect the Golden Panthers’ secondary, as he set the single-game passing record for a sophomore Jayhawk with 368 yards in the 55-3 stomping Sept. 22.

It is OK, Golden Panther fans. You can look now.

The four-game, out-of-conference massacre that began the season is finally over.

FIU wasn’t expected to win any of their first four games before the 2007 campaign started, but few people expected to see the Golden Panthers give up more than 50 points in half of those games. The Golden Panthers defense is what keeps games competitive, but they have not been able to hold off sound passing attacks.

“Kans” was in explosive form and another one 3-1 so that was impressive.”

SERIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The Golden Panthers (2-2-1) played two well-contested matches against Murray State (5-3) and Stetson (2-3-1) Sept. 21 and 23, respectively, at University Park.

The first game featured little offensive firepower from the Golden Panthers as Murray State defeated FIU 2-1. A change of game plan in the second game led to more productive offense as the Golden Panthers beat Stetson 2-1 due to more aggressive play.

Francesca Chong injured her right knee against Stetson when a collision led Chong to awkwardly twist her knee. She was helped off the field and remained on the bench as she was later taken away by paramedics.

The next two games are away against Sun Belt Conference opponents Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee.

“We just have to start playing complete games,” said coach Thomas Chestnutt. “We’re getting back to rhythm after we had huge layoffs, but Stetson was one of the toughest opponents for us this year.”

MURRAY STATE 2 FIU 1

A defensive miscue by the Golden Panthers led to the Racers Jen Nowak to strike first with a shot from the top of the penalty box for the first score of the game. Nowak was able to separate herself from the defender and had a clear view of the goal.

Throughout the whole game, the Racers applied pressure to the Golden Panthers defense. They were controlling the ball for extended periods of time. As a result of a time possession advantage, the Racers had more opportunities to score.

Early in the game, the Racers’ Renata Figara launched a free kick that missed the goal and hit the crossbar. Opportunities to score were available to the Racers.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Team splits two-game home series

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The full game story can be found at beaconnewspaper.com.

FOOTBALL, page 10

VOLLEYBALL, page 11

SOCCER, page 11