More Writing
Writing Center undergoes updates

Clean Access
Where is our information going?

Opinion

Horror Nights?
Theme park short on scares

Sports
Volleyball, football continue streaks

Ethanol

First local ethanol pump introduced

JESSICA ARISTE
Contributing Writer

The first E85 Ethanol pump in Miami opened Sept. 13, a day FIU and General Motors organized a forum to emphasize its importance.

The first E85 pump is located in the U Gas station at 210 NW 79 Ave owned by Willie Urbieta, an alumnus of FIU’s College of Business Administration.

“FIU’s Energy Business Forum is promoting fuel diversification,” Urbieta said. “Biofuels, such as ethanol, are a key component of this strategy. For consumers to be able to use E85 they need to have an FFV manufactured by companies such as GM. Hence the common interest in ethanol between FIU and GM.”

Due to their common interests, FIU in developing new technology to make ethanol more abundant while GM continues producing flex-fuel vehicles, the University and GM organized the forum to announce the opening of the pump.

According to Francisco Rivas, vice president of sales and marketing of Urbeta Oil Inc., and also an FIU graduate, FIU offered the University as the location to celebrate the forum in company of GM as a way to expose the necessity of ethanol and its benefits.

Although there is no direct connection between Urbieta and FIU, he is a former alumnus who has helped in the collaboration between the two, Rivas said.

The change in the U Gas station did not come cheap. Urbieta told The Miami Herald that it is costing him a total of $50,000 to change all the valves, hoses, nozzles and meters. Still, he plans to add E85 ethanol pumps to six of his 12 South Florida stations by the end of 2008.

The location for the next pump is currently under study because Urbieta wants to put it in a station by a zone where there are a substantial number of E85-compatible vehicles.

The first pump was installed in the Mall of the Americas area because it has a lot of flex-fuel vehicle owners as well as federal flex-fuel fleets, which are required to use ethanol when it is accessible.

Urbieta decided to make these changes both because he cares about the environment and sees a future in ethanol and because it will bring him financial compensation, said Rivas.

According to Rivas, the first ethanol pump in Miami is generating significant income because there are many people using ethanol since it is so much healthier.
Groups host ‘coming out’ day

Full day of events celebrate sexual diversity

AMANDA MASSA
Contributing Writer

Every year the world remembers the struggle for equality and acceptance by having a day observing and recognizing gay rights. Celebrated every year during Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender history month, Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day serves as a way for individuals to “come out” to loved ones, friends and family in order to openly and freely with their sexuality.

“It’s a day to celebrate who we are as people as opposed to differences that exist among people,” said Suzanne Onorato, associate director for the Women’s Center.

Despite budget cutbacks, Multicultural Programs and Services LGBT initiatives have planned an array of events for this year’s celebration.

Coming Out Day is important because 364 days out of the year some people who LGBTQQ feel like they are unable to be honest with the world about who they really are, Onorato said.

The day-long events will begin at 9 a.m. in the Graham Center Pit, where students will have the opportunity to decorate a swath of material for the Coming Out Day Quilt. Each swatch can be decorated however the individual wishes to represent themselves. Once completed, the quilt will be displayed at FIU in remembrance for the support shown for the LGBT community.

A butterfly release and poetry reading is scheduled for noon at the fountain outside of GC. Two students will read poetry while an estimated 125 butterflies will be freed into the sky.

Nadia Williams, graduate assistant for LGBT initiatives, told The Beacon that the butterfly release is “symbolic in how the butterfly goes through metamorphosis before it is able to fly.”

Following the butterfly release, there will be a reading of “coming out” monologues in the MPAS office, GC 216.

The monologues will be presented by the members of Delta Lamda Phi, the only gay fraternity in all of Florida.

A discussion on “coming out of the closet” will take place afterward.

Along with MPAS, Student Programming Council, Resident Hall Association, Stonewall Pride Alliance, Delta Lamda Phi and the Women’s Center have all joined as co-sponsors for these events. Stonewall Alliance is scheduled to present a motivational speaker and an evening event set to take place through RHA, but details on these are to be announced.

The event is open to the public, regardless of sexual orientation.

This year marks the 20-year anniversary since the Gay and Lesbian March in 1987, where over half a million gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally demonstrators stood for equality in D.C. That day was also the first time the NAMES Quilt was displayed, listing names of people who have died from AIDS.

Since then, the Human Rights Campaign has continued to work for equality by managing National Coming Out Day every year.

The day is celebrated around the world. More information on LGBT initiatives and these events can be found in GC 216 at the University Park Campus and e-mails can be sent to lgbt@fiu.edu.
FIU collaborates to find efficient energy source

FIU is helping to meet increasing energy demands.

Edward Glad, FIU professor of business, and Director of the Knight-Riddler Center for Excellence in Management, founded FIU’s Energy and Business Forum in order to find different means of producing energy and therefore more autonomy for the American consumer.

Also, in February 2007, FIU’s ARC and Florida’s Crystal Corporation received a $1 million grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in order to develop cellulosic ethanol technology. Florida provided the grant so that FIU and the FCC could collaborate in finding a pretreatment process that can transform sugarcane bagasse into ethanol at a low cost.

Currently, more than 1,200 stations provide ethanol fuel in the United States, according to the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition and now Miami will join in the effort.

With E85 coming to South Florida, it’s the opportunity to take one of the largest consuming states and start to reduce gasoline consumption and lower greenhouse gases,” said Dr. Mary Beth Staneck, the director of Energy and Environment at GM, to The Miami Herald.
Feeling like an athlete without the workout

Fresh Food Co. provides exclusive option to public

DAVID X. RODRIGUEZ
Contributing writer

Mick Smith, one of FIU's head strength and conditioning coaches, knows when an athlete hasn't been eating right not only from the athlete's honesty, but also from their strictly monitored weight.

According to Smith, if an athlete is found to be overweight, his or her workout program will be intensified.

For this reason, athletes' diet is an important part of their daily lives.

But to make sure that FIU athletes meet their daily vitamin, protein and energy needs, the Fresh Food Company, in cooperation with Smith and other strength and conditioning coaches, created last summer the Performance Corner, a place in the cafeteria where athletes can find the food they need.

Athletes are expected to stick close to this meal plan so that they can stay physically fit and are often carefully watched by strength and conditioning coaches roaming the cafeteria.

This meal plan was drafted to stick close to this meal plan so that they can stay physically fit and are often carefully watched by strength and conditioning coaches roaming the cafeteria.

This meal plan was drafted by Aramark and then sent to the FIU Athletics Department to be analyzed by coaches. After adjusting and modifying it, the final meal plan was sent back to Aramark and it was finally implemented last summer.

The main adjustments made to the initial proposal from Aramark were to cut fatty foods out of the diet and to have at least 55 to 60 percent of the nutritional content be carbohydrates.

"It needed to be a little more energy efficient," Smith said.

The high-protein diet stresses the importance of having just the right amount of nutrients.

"We try to provide a balance," said Jonathan Garcia, resident district manager of Aramark.

Not an athlete? Starting this Fall, the Performance Corner will be providing its alternative diet to everyone, allowing non-athletes to taste the carefully-carved athlete meal without having to go through the rigorous training.

Most of the transition to healthy food was pricey, but Aramark felt that it was necessary, Garcia said.

Because the majority of food transitions took place in the past month, Aramark has not received a statement on costs yet, he added.

Garcia did assure, however, that although the implementation of the program cost Aramark money, the price for students has remained the same.

The Performance Corner isn't the only place for special appetites at Fresh Food: vegans and vegetarians have a section that offers fresh tofu and soy products, while lactose-intolerants can enjoy lactose-free ice cream.

According to Garcia, Aramark is also offering healthier options for food already available at The Fresh Food Company, such as lean turkey bacon versus high-fat pork bacon.

To help students determine the difference between what is healthy and what is not, Aramark has also included food scripts, located at every food station, enabling consumers to know exactly what they're eating and its nutritional value.

Some describe what functions and roles vitamins and minerals in the meal serve.

"We educate customers as well," said Roger Clegg, director of operations with Panther Dining.

In an attempt to receive more student input, Aramark will be sending dining surveys to student's FIU e-mail next month.

For more information and to see the weekly menu visit www.pantherdining.com.
Writing center brings out the ‘Write’ stuff

KASSANDRA ELIZEE
Contributing Writer

Because she is a journalism major, Janice Vilchez decided it was important to improve her grammar. As a result, she has utilized the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Scripps Howard Writing Center twice.

“I’d rather come in here and have my assignments reviewed by my professor [Jane Daugherty], the ones I work with,” Vilchez said.

Vilchez believes that students will get more out of the center, located in Academic II, room 303, of the Biscayne Bay Campus, if they come on a regular basis to work on their writing and grammar rather than use it as a last resort.

The center first opened in March 2007 in order to help students improve their writing. Poor writing is a nationwide epidemic because students graduate from high school without knowing how to write or apply grammar rules properly, according to Kate MacMillin, professor and director of the center.

“Students are not coming to school with the skills they should have to write. The reason why students have these writing issues is because people are ignoring this problem. What is wonderful is IFU saying ‘we’re not going to let this go, we’re not going to let students graduate from high school without knowing how to write, we’re taking this on aggressively,’” MacMillin said.

MacMillin adds that, as a result of visiting all SJMC courses that were offered during the summer in which Richards without knowing how to write, “we’re doing with the money,” MacMillin said.

“We offer what we find the most valuable and that’s time and a lasting impression for future SP-Council,” Francois said.

Francois’ motivation for the job comes from her love for event planning, which she discovered while preparing for a fashion show during her sophomore year at Flanagan High in Broward County.

“I still would like to be a well-known designer for curvy-figured women and hope to make it big one day,” Francois said.

She considers herself to be dedicated to the betterment of SPC-BBC by attracting more students through more programming at BBC. Francois said she and the council do this by promoting campus life events via word of mouth, Facebook.com, MySpace.com, flyers, the electronic board and radio for major events.

Francois feels that as president, she has kept SPC-BBC organized by managing their yearly budget of $231,196.80 effectively.

“We go as far as possible and we don’t need to cut down events because of budget,” Francois said.

She is now focusing on getting students and the North Miami community more involved through a variety of SPC-BBC events, such as the AIDS Walk this Fall.

In addition, SPC-BBC is sponsoring Dancin’ with the Wolves, which is a variety of weekly dancing lessons, such as Ballroom, Salsa, Hip-Hop and Belly dancing classes.

Movie Series is a weekly event that features box office hits every Thursday. Ocean’s Thirteen will be featured on Oct. 18 and Transformers on Nov. 1.

Francois also works 32 hours a week during the school’s operating hours.

“An office has a very positive atmosphere and I enjoy working with her because she is a big influencer of the motto ‘work hard, play hard,’” Gachette said. “She promotes passion and dedication within her co-workers, and ensures we don’t let our commitments to the organization affect negatively our personal or academic lives.”

Johnnita Hatcher, SPC-BBC treasurer, said Francois is always willing to help SPC-BBC members out.

“Janice is always the last one to leave from an event and contributes mostly by making sure the council brings great programs that students will enjoy,” Hatcher said.

WILMA HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Although she works more hours than required of a Student Programming Council president, Janette Francois finds that she gets most of her work done when the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Campus Life office is empty. Francois, a junior and Elementary Education major, was elected to be SPC-BBC president for the second term as SPC-BBC president, and is currently serving her final term.

Her schedule next year as a senior will include the Student Programming Council, her job as an employee for cell phone carrier T-Mobile, and making picture collages. Francois said she is currently at the Army base in Ft. Stewart, Ga.

“Her, [at the office], it’s always busy: that’s why today I have the lights off, so I can get work done,” said Francois, a junior and Elementary Education major.

Francois was selected to be the second term as SPC-BBC president, and is currently serving her final term. Her schedule next year as a senior will include the Student Programming Council, her job as an employee for cell phone carrier T-Mobile, and making picture collages. Francois said she is currently at the Army base in Ft. Stewart, Ga.

“Despite her many activities, she finds time to SP-Council,” Francois said.

“Janette Francois, SPC-BBC president

I [did] my best to be here for the council whenever they needed me, whether or not it dealt with SPC or personal things.

Francois feels she has made good friends through SPC-BBC, such as secretary Leatrice Gachette, who shares an office with her.

Gachette portrays Francois as someone very dynamic, a hard worker who loves SPC-BBC and strives to uphold its legacy of programming excellence.

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“Janice is always the last one to leave from an event and contributes mostly by making sure the council brings great programs that students will enjoy,” Hatcher said.

MacMillin emphasized that, during operating hours. According to the scheduling posted on the center’s door, Daugherty is there on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Tuesdays, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The sign at the center’s door also says that students may drop in or e-mail Daugherty at daughte@fi u.edu, or MacMillin, at kate.macmillin@fi u.edu for an appointment.

Students may also e-mail MacMillin to set up a personal appointment.
THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

DIIONNE STEPHANS
Special to the Beacon

I am writing this letter to document an incident that occurred today at 11 a.m. in Lot 8 on FIU. I was driving looking for a spot when I saw a student in a black Toyota Four Runner exiting his car. As I have done several times in the past, I asked the student: Are you a faculty or staff? And if not, this spot is for faculty and staff. The student told me he was not leaving and sat back in his car.

As this was occurring, I saw my colleague Gordon Finley, circling the lot; after waving at him several times I realized he was not having any more luck than me.

I decided to stay where I was as it was the entrance to several rows of Faculty/Staff parking; I couldn’t find my spot. Due to the spot from this vantage if one became available. After about 10 minutes the student came out of his vehicle and approached my half open window.

He proceeded to tell me in a combative tone how I was wasting time waiting for him (although I was not). I told the student that this is a faculty and staff spot that I pay over $40 a month to use. More importantly, were the recipient of an aggressive student. I was informed by one victim that when she went to see the videos of her incident, only cameras facing the elevator and exits worked. FIU’s parking and safety offices need to address this issue. Believe the fact we are here in a totally different part than students to park, this has become a real safety problem.

As I hear more and more stories from my own fear of retaliation from this student. The campus police both in terms of physical attack or damage to my vehicle.

I hope that FIU’s parking and safety offices begin to take serious steps to address this serious safety issue. Aggressive students particularly toward women, should not be part of the campus community.

Every Friday, The Beacon invites members of the FIU community to address students on issues of importance.

This guest column’s author is not a member of The Beacon’s staff. This week’s guest is Dionne Stephens, who is FIU’s Associate Chairperson.

UNETHICAL PROFITS

JOSEPH MARHEE
Staff Writer

Ask yourself this question: What does FIU and the Chinese Government have in common? The answer is that they both have ties to Cisco Systems, a multinational networking corporation and the largest provider of networking tools to the Communist Party of China. FIU students may recall seeing advertisements for a network connection client called Clean Access Agent which is a mandatory requirement to use any FIU Internet services. As such, I explained, it is also a safety issue as I always park my car close to my building on Tuesdays; further is one of the best lots on campus. He continued to tell me that he does not care, there are no other student spots available and he will not move as long as I am waiting there. This student also said he didn’t care what I had to do at night it was not his problem there were not enough spots.

I was on the phone with a friend who heard his rant. She implored me to call campus police citing that no one at Virginia Tech expected that student to go off. At no point before he approached me had I left my car or said anything threatening to this student. The campus police arrived in minutes. They took my card that indicates my faculty status. The student greeted the African American officer with “What’s up bro,” without exiting the car. He left the spot after a short conversation, drove around to another row and held up his middle finger.

I finally arrived in my office and told my staff what had happened. All shared similar stories of students not only parking in Faculty/Staff spots, but more importantly, were the recipient of aggressive and aggressive students.

I was informed by one victim that when she went to see the videos of her incident, only cameras facing the elevator and exits worked. FIU’s parking and safety offices need to address this issue. Believe the fact we are here in a totally different part than students to park, this has become a real safety problem.

As I hear more and more stories from my own fear of retaliation from this student. The campus police both in terms of physical attack or damage to my vehicle.

I hope that FIU’s parking and safety offices begin to take serious steps to address this serious safety issue. Aggressive students particularly toward women, should not be part of the campus community.
FEARLESS FASHION

FIU community shows disdain towards form of self-expression

NICOLE GABBER
Opinion Editor

For the first day of school, I decided to be less eccentric in what I wore. I put on my popular Lolita-style shoes, called Rocking Horse shoes. Almost three and a half inches in height, the shoe is a Mary Jane with a wooden platform and a block taken out from the back heel.

These shoes, as I expected, gathered every glare from the Graham Center as I walked through it’s doors. It does not help that I’m a staggering 5’11” while wearing them either.

It was almost like a scene from Alfred Hitchcock’s The Birds. First one stare, then another, then and another, until every person walked by peeked at me with a glazed wide-eye filled with shock.

Then came the snickering; but that was anticipated. What wasn’t expected though, were the rude stares and malicious remarks from some students.

And then I thought, although I have the freedom to wear whatever I want, everyone around me makes me feel uncomfortable and unwelcomed.

But why the anger—it is just clothing. To make matters worse, I dress in the Lolita style, a fashion sub-culture developed in Japan, where girls (and guys) assume a doll-like appearance. Lolita, bearing the same name as Vladimir Nabokov’s deviant tale of romance between a young girl and an older man, is very far from what this fashion is really. Is do not get the two confused.

Wearing Lolita in school is like being completely naked in front of 1,000 people. Everyone stares. Dirty looks, clusters of laughter, and distasteful comments thus ensue.

The students who don’t respond negatively either compliment me or stare in bewilderment.

Andres Bryan-Tamez, a friend of mine at FIU, doesn’t understand the big deal.

“It’s just fancy, that’s all.”

When I explained to him the negative criticism I had received, he was stunned. “Are we still in high school or something? Who does that?”

When it comes to fashion, not everyone is as open-minded. As I witnessed first hand, my experiences led me to believe that many FIU students do not tolerate a person’s personal choice of clothing.

Acceptance through fashion is a major reason why trends become trends.

By dressing alike, a certain bond and familiarity is developed between virtual strangers. However, by deviating from the current fashion trend, people become pariahs. Isn’t it odd though how most of the FIU population dresses somewhat similar? Skinny leg jeans and a t-shirt, jean skirts and a sweater, muted colors with attractive models on their billboards. And if you were given the choice to wear whatever you wanted to wear without fear of ridicule, would you?

I am not the only Lolita in college. Hundreds of girls around the world—Belgium, Germany, Finland, Brazil, Spain, and of course America—wear Lolita. And because we walk out the door, we brace ourselves for the worst.

And the worst is what we get. Stories include girls being assaulted and harassed verbally and sexually.

Nonetheless, wearing something completely different from the norm does not entitle students nor anyone to become offensive. Staring is acceptable to a certain degree—we all stare at things we’ve never seen before.

There needs to be a more open-minded approach to personal choices in clothing. Either way, regardless of how many students find my style ridiculous and worthy of ridicule, I persevere, fearlessly.
The haunted houses at Halloween Horror Nights aren’t exactly horrifying, unless you’re frightened of long lines and over priced concessions. That doesn’t mean you won’t have a good time, though.

In its seventeenth year, Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios has rolled out some new themes and features, including three houses based on well known horror movie characters Leather Face (Texas Chainsaw Massacre), Jason Voorhees (Friday the 13th) and Freddy (A Nightmare on Elm Street).

The event sports a carnival theme this year, with eerie circus music constantly blaring from speakers, and even a Ferris wheel.

So the combination of three iconic horror characters and a spooky carnival theme is bound to be scary, right? Right?

The organizers once again promise an evening of terror, yet as you walk through the park and enjoy the many haunted houses, don’t be too disappointed if you feel like leaving early. Universal Studios might have put forth a nice amount of effort, but the finished product will terrify only those who are easily frightened.

You may be startled by the occasional actor popping out of nowhere in one of the eight houses, but if you’re like me, you’ll be more interested in the women who parade through the streets of Universal selling Jell-O shots.

Despite the somewhat disappointing haunted houses, the ubiquitous fog machines and cast of actors wandering through the streets make for a cool, somewhat creepy atmosphere. Nowhere is the ambience more impressive than in the “scare zones,” walkways in the park that are so clouded with fog that you’ll barely be able to notice the actors waiting to sneak up on you.

In one area, people dressed like demonic nineteenth-century English gentlemen and women will come so close to you that you can feel their breath on your neck. You’ll want to check your pockets and—

PHOTOS BY FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

HORROR, page 12
AT&T PRESENTS “THE WORLD’S LOUDEST PEP RALLY” FEATURING

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**Drama club embraces all majors**

Matthew Mur, Dramatic Paws president

There's this quote from Sam Sheppard that goes, 'Theatre is a safe place to do unsafe things' and that's what this club is: it's a safe environment to express yourself creatively.

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**Enrica Rymer**
Contributing Writer

When one thinks about a dramatic production – whether it's a movie, a television show or a play – “Lights, Camera, Action!” is a phrase that commonly comes to mind.

The same phrase can be affiliated with Dramatic Paws, an FIU drama club comprised of students and faculty and is part of the Student Organizations Council.

“There have been members who have long since graduated and faculty members who have come and gone who were in the group,” said Dramatic Paws current president Matthew Mur.

Mur, who is a senior, is beginning his first year as president of the organization and hopes to increase the club's exposure by appealing to people majoring outside of theatre.

“This year is a little different and going to be a lot of footwork,” he said. “We're trying to branch out to the rest of the school and include individuals of all majors, not just those belonging to theatre.”

One of Mur's goals this year is to keep Dramatic Paws strong and an active part of the FIU community and he's “trying to raise the Dramatic Paws like a phoenix from the ashes.”

In his plans for a more diverse Dramatic Paws, Mur talks about an interworking world of drama, where architectural majors are helping with set design, engineering majors are helping with the technical aspects and business majors are having their first screenplay put into motion by the club.

When the club first started, it was mainly used as a means for members to gain experience in play readings.

“They began by reading the works of local Hispanic artists and have since expanded to the works of local students,” Mur said.

Members of the club gain experience in play reading, but there’s also another aspect to the readings: those interested in play writing could gain constructive criticism on their works and, after having submitted a proposal as to why their play should be considered, could have their works performed onstage.

This year, the club is trying to see whether it can have Tony-nominated actor John Cariani come teach a workshop and share his knowledge of the business with members.

Cariani has been in numerous television and movie roles and written several plays such as Almost Maine, but he is best known for his role in the Fiddler on the Roof on Broadway.

Aside from the potential workshop, the club also has its longest standing tradition happening this semester, “Wacky Winter.”

“Wacky Winter” is a cabaret of sorts,” said Mur.

The show is a mash-up of loosely based Christmas themes and family values, with singing and dancing.

Each year, the show is written by the students and the proceeds from the event go toward Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, which raises money for AIDS-related causes: according to its web site www.broadwaycares.org, the organization has raised over $130 million since 1998.

Past President Mike Lioune, a senior, has been in Dramatic Paws ever since his freshman year.

He fondly remembers Wacky Winter, which takes place during Finals week, as an escape from the burdens of finals.

“After studying for finals, it was a nice way to release the tension and forget about everything else,” he said.

Mur stresses the importance of keeping Dramatic Paws an outlet for expression without censorship.

“There’s this quote from Sam Sheppard that goes, ‘Theatre is a safe place to do unsafe things’ and that’s what this club is: it’s a safe environment to express yourself creatively,” said Mur.

After hearing about the Dramatic Paws, Joy Dietrich, a junior, feels it would help people looking to find a start in the theatre business.

“The club sounds kind of cool, and it seems like a way to get your foot in the door with the acting thing, while gaining theatrical experience,” she said.

The club meets monthly in Deuxieme Maison 150, where productions are also held.

For more information about the club, visit the theatre department in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center or contact Mur at matthew.c.mur@gmail.com.
Different stages allow mourner to move on

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

Four years ago, a childhood friend of Lyzette Blanco, a junior in marketing, was murdered by a family member. She remembers sitting at home when her father called the house bearing the bad news of her friend’s death.

“I was in disbelief even though I was seeing him on the news,” she said. “It wasn’t until the next day when it was announced over the morning announcements at school that I began to cry over his death.”

The death of a friend or a relative leaves the heart pounding in pain and to a rhythm only its carrier can understand and heal with time.

“There is no wrong way to deal with grief, death or anything like that. Everybody goes at their own pace,” stated University Psychologist Seth Grossman from the department of Counseling/Psychological Services. “The problem is when the denial continues for three to four years, that’s when it becomes unhealthy.”

According to author Dr. Elisabeth Kubler Ross, there are five stages of grief:

STAGE 1: SHOCK AND DENIAL

“This can’t be happening to me” is a common reaction after the death of a love one. Grossman stated that this is one of the most important stages when it comes to grieving: the person must be able to feel that they can continue living. It is an adaptive process that the person goes through. Some may feel guilt and shame for way they feel, but it is fine to feel that way. As a result, a person may be less effective in other aspects to life such as being distracted, depression and mood disorders.

“The best way to be is direct about it – sometimes it is too much to handle,” Grossman said. “It is okay to cry and say that you are sad.”

STAGE 2: ANGER

This is a stage where one might say that it’s not fair this person was taken away from me, thus expressing anger about the death. The person might be angry with the deceased because he or she wants to fight back for being left behind.

Not everyone may feel this way, though. Some people may feel less angry when it comes to the loss of a grandparent or someone who has lived a long, healthy life. Other people might feel the sadness but not be angry.

STAGE 3: DEPRESSION

By being left alone, frustration, bitterness, self pity and suicidal thoughts can occur to a person. At this point, it is recommended for the person to seek help by either speaking to a psychologist or going to bereavement groups such as the one at Kendall Community Church of God, located at 7879 SW 112 Street. The group meets on Sundays at 10 a.m. During a meeting, people are allowed to emote.

“Involvement helps,” said facilitator Karen Weitman. “They are able to speak about the memory of their lost one and not keep it inside. The more family is involved the more, the person is able to speak about it and have a better recovery.”

STAGE 4: BARGAINING

Bargaining often takes place before the loss: the person attempts to make deals with God or with themselves that they don’t share with others. If a person does it after the loss, he or she tries to make as if nothing really happen.

According to Grossman, it is an unconscious process because the person can’t do anything to make the situation better. Bargaining is the last attempt for them to make it right before they get to point of acceptance. This doesn’t mean there’s no sadness involved, but instead the griever comes to the point where he or she can move on.

STAGE 5: ACCEPTANCE

Realizing that the person is gone and that it was not their fault they left you is the final stage for grieving.

“It’s hard but everybody deals with it in a different way,” said Grossman. “It’s just knowing what makes you at peace, especially with the situation. You are the only one who knows how to deal with it the best way. I talked it over with my family. It helped me by accepting that he is always around me, not only spiritually but in my mind.

My final memory of my father is an unsettling one. This makes perfect sense, seeing that my father was an unsettling person.

He was standing shirtless in the kitchen, looking through our empty refrigerator for some scraps to feed his dying mother. He was 45 then. I think 65 fit him best.

He took out a plastic container with some leftover Chinese food from a few nights ago and continued to heat it in the microwave. He put three minutes on the timer and proceeded to feed Sally, our black Labrador.

Gloveless, he reached for the container once the timer went off and dropped it after realizing how hot it was. I instantly fell to my knees to help clean the mess and take the soggy rice to the garbage. He told me to pick up the rice and to put it back on the plate; she was going to die so soon it was okay to feed her food off the floor.

I looked up at his distraught eyes and that’s when I first noticed it. He had lost his masculine appeal, the same appeal I admired him for having when I was younger. The body he once kept toned and in shape had disintegrated itself into an excess of skin, fat and hair. His stomach now plummeted toward his feet and the hairs on his head had gone from jet-black curls to balding at all sides. The dark circles under his eyes reached an area of descented skin by his cheekbones. What was once a tanned and muscular body was now a burden of pale blotches; as if he had recently washed himself with bleach. It was also then when I realized that something could actually be emptier than our refrigerator: my father’s heart.

I remember being picked on at school since the moment charac- ter began forming on my little bones. People began catching on to certain things I did or said that perhaps the ‘normal’ boy would not do or say. My father was no exception to those people. I learned quickly that coming home with tears just proved to him how much less of a man I was.

He said having an effeminate son was his punishment for his past, but his mind was set on hating a gay child from the moment he thought it to be a possibility.

He allowed superstition and supposed friends to scare him into thinking that I would be gay because his ex-wife’s brother was. He was too blinded by his own ignorance to realize he was given a healthy little boy; a little boy he later treated like a castaway just because he was different from the rest.

For a while I remember wanting to please him; if he wouldn’t love me, then he would love the me I created.

I never enjoyed soccer – only played because I got to spend time with him. It was obvious that he made it a point to aim for my stomach whenever I would play goalie, though.

His mother has not talked much since his unexpected death. When I told her he had died her screams lasted for a good hour; they still haunt me when I’m having a restless night.

She confuses me for him a lot. She has his high school gradua- tion picture alongside her bed, and I have to agree that the resem- blance is uncanny. I moved into his room when he died. I slept in his bed, hung my clothing in his closet and looked out his windows. I dealt with his mother’s and his daughter’s tears, all while hold- ing in my own. I sold his dogs and his business and helped carry his coffin. If that’s not brave, I don’t know what it is.

My father was right all along: I am gay. But having him as a constant reminder of what my mind was too young to piece together is evidently what led me to understanding who I am. I tried to make my father happy for a long time, now all I can do is attempt the same for myself.
Q: What spawned the idea for the DVD?
A: Well, the amount of touring that I do nowadays is a little bit limited.

Q: noticed the DVD doesn’t include any material from your last solo album. Is there any reason for this?
A: Well, the songs that I really like on my other solo albums are the ones which seem to have lost their relevance a little bit right at the moment.

Q: as an artist, what type of quality control do you exert on your work, particularly for the DVD?
A: I’m afraid I’m a bit anal about that. I keep my hand in on everything - nothing gets on there that I haven’t seen and approved thoroughly.

Q: “Echoes” is considered one of the greatest songs ever written. Why did it take so long for another live, filmed version?
A: Well, Pink Floyd through the seventies, after a while, had a lot of other things we were concentrating on, so we didn’t play it.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: Well, you know, I do it for me more than anyone. I’ve had to go in for the color-correction and the grading of the DVD. The sound mixing, I did it myself with my team of people and I think we did a pretty good job. The editing and the vision I’ve revised several times.

Q: “Remember That Night - Live at the Royal Albert Hall” tour for the Momentary Lapse of Reason?
A: I didn’t bother.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: I’m hoping to cover a number of the places I didn’t actually get to, and this DVD is the next best thing to going to a gig.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: Well, it seemed like singing about the Cold War and the nuclear proliferation that was going on at the time and the threat to peace in the West by the Soviet bloc.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: It just tried to make a list of all the songs that were relevant to me – from my albums, from Syd’s albums and Pink Floyd albums – and basically cross off everything that didn’t feel right and everything that was written almost entirely by Roger [Waters]. Those songs that were left, I practiced a little bit with my band, and those that I still wanted to play after 15 or so, we kept.

Q: As an artist, what type of quality control do you exert on your work, particularly for the DVD?
A: It’s very hard to keep tabs on absolutely everything, I can tell you, but I do my very best to do so.

Q: “Echoes” is considered one of the greatest songs ever written. Why did it take so long for another live, filmed version?
A: Well, Pink Floyd through the seventies, after a while, had a lot of other things we were concentrating on, so we didn’t play it.

Q: As an artist, what type of quality control do you exert on your work, particularly for the DVD?
A: The artistic control is the artists’ control. I think that’s the reason for this.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: I’m afraid I just can’t let it be, I have to keep my hand in on everything.

Q: As an artist, what type of quality control do you exert on your work, particularly for the DVD?
A: The answer: Scantily clad female vampires. It’s just something that happens.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: Some of the younger musicians that were with us on that tour didn’t seem to quite get it and treat it with the sort of respect that I would want.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: So we thought we’d try it again this time.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: We rehearsed it, and everyone seemed to get it immediately. Something had changed, and the musicians I was playing it with, I’ve been playing with for a long time and it just worked this time. Rather hard to pin down exactly why.

Q: What is the reaction you wish your fans to have when they watch the DVD?
A: I had a ball doing it every night, though. It comes out how it comes out. It’s just something that happens to you, and you just hope that other people can enjoy what you’ve created.
The Beacon – October 4, 2007

ROAD, short roster lead women’s soccer to winless weekend

As a former player, I know the mindset changes completely after falling behind that quickly. The class becomes nearly empty and the goal seems much smaller and farther away than before. When the referee whistled a 5-0 loss, coach Thomas Chestnutt followed by saying Western Ken- tucky will be a tough conference. In the second game, the women’s soccer team seemed more focused and had a scoreless tie going into halftime. Whatever halftime adjustments Middle Tennessee made it was more than enough as two Lady Toppers scored their first goals of the season, as well as a third goal, leaving FIU with another scoreless loss and a very bad taste in its mouth. This also gave Middle Ten- nessee a weekend sweep in both football and women’s soccer. It’s obvious that some things went wrong during this road trip, and when things go wrong, everybody decides to do one of two things: assign blame or give the benefit of the doubt. This team can be given the benefit of the doubt. Despite how bad things may look right now, all these problems have happened on the road. Once they can overcome their road troubles, this season will become much more productive. Playing on the road has its challenges and the learning curve for this young team is pretty steep. Also, opening conference play with two road games in three days is never an ideal situation. The schedule has not been

WINNING STREAK REACHES FIVE

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that dragged their feet around the court and watched as the Golden Panthers started an early celebration looked like a completely different team in the second set. The Trojans jumped out to a 10-7 lead, landing a jab to the Golden Panthers’ confidence. Anchored by their most potent offensive weapon, Meagan Gilroy, the Trojans never looked back as they locked the match at a set apiece. After the second set, the Golden Panthers reverted to the team that opened the game. With the anxiety of an eager fan base looming over the arena, the team bonded together to save its supporters the disappointment. With the score locked at 19 in the third set, Vergun exploded off the ground to rescue a ball heading out of bounds – spik- ing it to the floor between two stagnant Trojan players. That play ignited a 9-3 run for the Golden Panthers en route to winning the set. Even with momentum against them, Trojan coach Sony Kirkpatrick simply would not allow his team to quit with- out a fight. But, once again, the Golden Panthers would find an answer. Caught in another tight set, this time Rosa would deliver the dagger. With her team up 29-26, and the Golden Panther faithful on their feet, a floating Rosa pounded the ball to the ground, forcing the referee to send fresh legs onto the pitch and leaving the Golden Panthers with a 30-26, 30-27, 30-12 win. Once again, the team dominated a weaker opponent, setting the Jaguars down in straight games. The first two games were competitive, with both the Golden Panthers just barely defeating the Jaguars, but they defeated them in a rout in the third game to finish off the win. Their weekend dominance continued with their win over Northern Kentucky. The team had five substitutes, with all of them in a goalkeeper, so a reality at this point, there are just four available field players for substitution. This presents another problem because opponents are not afraid to send fresh legs onto the pitch and wear FIU down. There are multiple solutions for this one of which are at coach Chestnutt’s disposal. There should be no worries about where that is concerned; he’ll make the necessary adjustments. It’s funny because many people think that giving the benefit of the doubt is essentially making excuses for why things are the way they are right now. But these are just the facts of the current situation. Every coaching circumstances here and there – some of them are out of the team’s control. Yet it is the great teams that can

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Burden of loss falls on coaching staff's shoulders

FOOTBALL, page 16

As expected, but this team has shown they can at least play with some of the big boys, keeping things close against Miami and Maryland earlier on in the season. But against a team that had failed to win a game so far, the Golden Panthers came out and gave a lackluster performance.

At this juncture in the season, is it a question of talent that is holding this team back or is there something else? It is the coaching staff’s responsibility to make sure the players are mentally and physically ready to perform and it was apparent they weren’t prepared for the onslaught the Blue Raiders brought.

If they ever hope to build the strong foundation for the program they have promised, it has to start with changing player’s attitudes. Once they fell behind, the team showed very little fire to catch up and the blame for that has to lie with the coaches.

The team has the talent to compete in the Sun Belt, but the coaches have a responsibility to the players to make sure they are prepared.

The struggles continued for men’s soccer (0-7-2, 0-1-0) as it couldn’t find a dose of luck in their Sun Belt Conference opener against Marshall (6-3-0, 1-0-0) Sept. 28. Another tough defensive showing was yet again unimportant as the offense continued to struggle in a close, one-goal loss.

“The story of the season is that we can’t score,” said coach Munga Eketebi. “Mental lapses have hurt us more than anything.”

Marshall wasted no time in getting ahead as forward Kolby LaCrone was left right in front of the net unscathed to tap in what was the only score of the contest in the 12th minute.

“We let a forward get behind us and he tapped it in,” Eketebi said.

That was all Marshall needed in coming out victorious. Several FIU players put out strong efforts in trying to tie the score in the second half. Midfielder Juan Guerra let loose a strong shot just outside the penalty area but Marshall’s goalkeeper Craig Ratanamorn was in good position to prevent a score. FIU forward Steven Cabas also had a good opportunity as he got fed a nice pass in the air from fellow forward Levi Cole- man but his header sailed wide.

The final true chance came in the 87th minute when Juan Guerra was denied by Ratanamorn again after a free kick off a Marshall foul.

Ratanamorn would finish the game with seven saves. FIU’s defense truly has been the bright spot for what has been a deep struggle to start the year. Defender Brian Haisley made a few key plays and goalkeeper Kyle Thomas put forth a tough effort with five saves.

“We just can’t score goals,” Eketebi said. “Unfortunately, there are no points for looking good. There are no points for defending well.”

FOOTBALL, page 16

The Golden Panthers have now lost four times by a 1-0 margin and have been shut out for the sixth time this season. They have also scored only five goals in nine games.

Their next contest comes Oct. 7 at 1:00 p.m. against South Carolina in Columbia. The Golden Panthers home game. USC (6-3-0) represents another daunting task for FIU, as past games have proven, if the offense can score and the defense can hold up, the team can upset a good team.

Sports Replay

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Two top-sided losses greeted the Golden Panthers women’s soccer team (2-4-1) to open Sun Belt Conference play against the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers at Bowling Green, Ken- tucky, and the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Sept. 28 and 30, respectively.

WKU 5 FIU 0

The Lady Toppers put away the Golden Panthers early as they scored four goals before halftime. All it took was two minutes for the Lady Topper to take the lead thanks to Kellie Walker and Kristin Cocchiarella setting up Amanda Buechel for the first score of the game.

The Lady Toppers doubled their lead two minutes later as Walker would tack on an unassisted goal.

Even though the Golden Panthers defense halted the Lady Toppers By the second half, the 4-0 lead was insur- mountable for the weak FIU offense. In the 84th minute, the Lady Toppers recorded their final goal of the game to complete the offensive onslaught and defeat the Golden Panthers 5-0.

MUSS 3 FIU 0

Unlike the first match of the road trip, the Golden Panthers contained their opponent, the Blue Raiders, throughout the first half.

However, less than two minutes into the second half, the Blue Raiders’ Kala Morgen scored her fourth goal of the season to put her team up 1-0.

Kaley Forrest doubled the Blue Raiders’ lead with a chip shot five yards from the goal in the 60th minute.

One more goal in the 87th minute finished the scoring for the Blue Raid- ers as they shut out the Golden Panthers 3-0.

CROSS COUNTRY

The sixth annual Greater Louisville Classic featured FIU seniors Paula Reategui and Dierdre Witherspoon, who finished among the top-50 runners Sept 29. The top male performer for FIU was junior Alvin Charles.

More than 110 teams from 50 col- leges and universities and 14 states competed on the same Louisville course that will be the site of the NCAA Regional Nov. 10.

Reategui ran the women’s 5K course in 18:07.55 to record 26th place. The Golden Panthers team finished No. 15 in a 28 team field competing in the women’s A Division.

Host No. 15 ranked Louisville, the defending Classic champion, won the team title with a low 58 points.

The Golden Panthers return to com- petition Oct. 6 at the Walt Disney World Classic in Kissimmee.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The men’s basketball team will be holding open tryouts for walk-on ath- letes on Monday, Oct. 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the Pharmed Arena. All students wishing to walk on must complete the required forms, including personal, eligibility and medical information and return them to assistant coach Ken Huber in Pharmed room 267 by 5:00 p.m. that day.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla
Coming off a brutal 47-6 loss at Middle Tennessee State on Sept. 29, the 0-5 FIU Golden Panthers will be back at the Orange Bowl on Oct. 6 to take on the Troy Trojans. In the MTSU game, FIU went into halftime having given up a team record 47 points for a half. However, FIU did manage to outscore Middle Tennessee 6-0 in the second half, thanks to running back Chance Attaway’s recovery of a fumble in the endzone when MTSU’s punter missed the snap.

FIU’s Wayne Younger and A’mod Ned were each held to some of their lowest numbers this season with Younger passing for 72 yards and Ned rushing for just 33.

Troy is a formidable 3-2 team, with their only losses coming to Florida and Arkansas. Even in those losses, Troy managed to put up 31 points at Florida and 26 points at Arkansas.

The Trojans are lead by senior quarterback Omar Haugabook, who has passed for at least 200 yards in every game this season to go along with eight touchdowns. Haugabook is also a mobile threat with 219 yards, tallying five touchdowns on ground.

The same problems the Golden Panthers have faced in the first four games consistently seem to be hurting FIU. Offensively, FIU ranks last in Division I-A football in first downs, third- and fourth-down conversions and scoring. The same problems the Golden Panthers have faced in the first four games consistently seem to be hurting FIU. Offensively, FIU ranks last in Division I-A football in first downs, third- and fourth-down conversions and scoring.

On defense, none of the stats place FIU in last place, however in many key stats the team is hovering around the bottom 100, a real drop from last year’s No. 28 rank.

With the way the team is currently performing, an end to FIU’s nation-long, 17-game losing streak may not be in sight this season. The offense will need to protect the ball better, as Troy’s offense will take advantage of every opportunity. This will be an extremely tough test for the defense, as Troy is the defending Sun Belt Co-Champion with arguably the strongest offensive attack in the conference.

Following the Troy game, FIU will have its first bye week this season, giving the team a much needed break and a chance to strategize and rest injured players.

However, the season is far from over. FIU still has seven games remaining on its schedule, six against Sun Belt teams and four of those games will be played at home in the Orange Bowl.
The team breezes through first home series

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

After a long five-week stretch on the road, a hungry women’s volleyball team feasted on much anticipated home cooking at Pharmed Arena.

They dismantled their main course, the Troy University Trojans, with a 3-1 (30-24, 30-23, 30-25, 30-26) win in front of a trucked home crowd Sept. 28.

For the fourth time this season, sophomores Olga Vergun and Yarimar Rosa both eclipsed the 20 kill mark – leading the Golden Panthers to their fourth consecutive win over the Trojans.

After the game, Rosa talked about having the Trojans’ number and feeding off the home crowd.

“I think that we have more good players,” she said. “We have good outside hitters, middle blockers, and we have defense. The other team only has two or three players that hit the ball hard, and we have like four or five that can really put the ball down.

“I was really excited because the crowd was full and we were really happy to see that. Last year it wasn’t like that for the first time, so it felt really good to see that strong support from our fans.”

Feeding off the home crowd, the Golden Panthers roared out of the gates jumping out to a 10-1 lead in the first set.

Vergun appeared to have an extra pep in her step and her aggressive play may have caught the Trojans off guard early.

Between kills from Vergun, Rosa and freshman Ines Medved, the team looked poised to put the match away early – but that wasn’t the case at all.

All it took was a first set stomping to awaken the Trojans. The same squad that wasn’t the case at all.

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