FACULTY RECOGNIZED

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

FACULTY PRIDE: Faculty from different departments stand barring banners from their different colleges at the 2007 Faculty Convocation Awards Ceremony. Oct. 5 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Event recognizes, awards faculty

Adopt-a-Player program funded

Ben F. Badger Jr.
Asst. News Director

In order to foster student involvement with the community, the Student Government Council of the University Park campus approved $1,500 to fund the Adopt-a-Player Program. The goal of the program is to promote panther pride at FIU and the surrounding community.

“This is a program I wanted to start,” said Jennifer Ruiz, speaker of the house for SGC-UP and founder of the Adopt-a-Player program. “I wanted it to be an NCAA event.”

The SGC-UP is funding 100 percent of the program with Athletics essentially donating the time and commitment of the football players.

The program involves 20 FIU organizations adopting one of 20 FIU football team players by showing their support for that player during the next home game Nov. 17.

“All they’re really looking for is support,” Ruiz said.

Any FIU organization can participate.

A meet-and-greet pep rally is being planned for various FIU organizations to meet the players and make a choice as to who they want to sponsor.

Once a player has been adopted, the organization would be responsible for having at least 10 of their members root for that player.

“It will boost moral and build partnerships,” Cristobal said.

In return for attending the home games and rooting for the players, each adopted player will attend two events a semester hosted by or involving the organization that adopted them.

Mario Cristobal head coach of the FIU football team is enthusiastic over the possibilities the program may lead to.

According to Cristobal, all of the players have reacted well to the program.

“They do not have much time to interact with the student body,” Cristobal said.

Cristobal hopes that the Adopt-a-Player program will grow beyond the 20 initial players. Details regarding the exact implementation are still being determined, but Ruiz is confident the program will be a success for the Louisiana-Lafayette match Nov. 17.

“Bottom line is that everyone will generate support,” Cristobal said.
Officer speaks about life, job

Maidique addresses issues, faculty

AWARDS, page 1
recent budget cuts and tuition increases in the state of Florida. "I speak of you today with a sense of relief," Maidique said. "With the help of our friends in legislators and elsewhere, we have beaten back the ignoble goals that were made relative to our budget." Maidique assured the audience that the FIU budget goal would not be affected by the proposed budget cuts, while at the same time warning of hard times to come.

Bruce Haupl, Faculty Senate chair

Our University is a vibrant academic community because of your collective efforts and accomplishments. "This is not to say that we don’t have a bumpy road ahead," Maidique said. To combat the cuts, Maidique said FIU will have to secure more funding from the private sector.

SGC UP Notes

Oct. 4
Call to order 4:08 p.m.; Adjournment 5 p.m.

President’s Report (Markel Hernandez):
- Board of Governors recommended funding for the New College of Medicine not be cut.
- A 3.9 percent budget cut was suggested.
- The new College of Medicine not be cut.

Student Programming Council:
- Hispanic Heritage coming in October.
- Golf carts designated for the Panther Safety Tram are back from being repaired.

Chair’s Report (Anthony Rionda):
- Student organizations will be held at Florida Atlantic University.
- Voter registration drive Oct. 17.

Student Elections:
- SFU’s first-ever online survey on a text messaging service.

New Business:
- FIU Counseling & Psychological Services Suicide Awareness Program passed for $1805 to retroactively reimburse CPSC for the September event.
- Keep S.O.B.E.R. fund passed for $1500.
- Funds will be contributed to the Night for Molly on Oct. 17.

NEWSFLASH

FIU’s athletic training program evaluated

FIU could become the first University in Florida to have an accredited entry-level master’s program in athletic training if it’s approved by two representatives from the Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education who will visit the University Oct. 17 through Oct. 19.

Athletic trainers specialize in the prevention and rehabilitation of injuries in physically-active individuals. If the program is accredited, FIU will join the universities in the country already offering the program.

During the three-day visit, CAATE representatives will inspect both the school’s on and off campus facilities to make sure they meet compliance and accreditation standards; they will also interview deans, faculty, students, as well as the medical director and athletic trainers involved in the program.

"Accreditation is key because students have to graduate from an accredited program to be eligible to sit for the board of certification exam," said Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, athletic training chair and program director.

CAATE will announce its decision by next Feb-

-Compiled by Vanessa Alvarez, Beacon staff

Maidique also assured the cuts would not affect the opening of the new University medical school slated to open in.

"Our University is a vibrant academic community because of your collective efforts and accomplishments," Haupl said.
New fitness center to enhance workouts

PATRICIA GONZALEZ Contributing Writer

Senior Kenid Joseph will be one of many students who will have a chance to utilize the Biscayne Bay Campus's new state-of-the-art fitness center, scheduled to open on Oct. 12.

For the past year, Joseph had been working out at BBC's former fitness center, located on the third floor of the Wolfe University Center.

She agreed BBC needed an upgraded fitness facility. “The old gym felt cramped. There was such a small amount of equipment that I had to wait in line for people to finish using the machines,” Joseph said.

The fitness center’s open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m.

Students with less experience working out will have the opportunity to schedule appointments with on-staff trainers.

In addition to helping students become better associated with the equipment, trainers will also make sure their work out regimen reaches its full potential.

Construction on the new fitness center began in spring 2006. Stobbs Brothers Construction is the company that built the 1.8 million facility.

The money to build the new fitness center was provided by Capital Improvement Trust Funds so this project did not affect student tuition.

The new fitness center will have a passage that leads to the new closed Aquatic Center.

Although no date has been set for the reopening of the Aquatic Center, it is anticipated to be a very important asset to the fitness center.

Together, the Fitness and Aquatic Centers will form a combined 70,000 square foot mega recreational complex, Bardawil said.

“The Aquatic Center is going to provide an optimal balance of recreational programs, academic classes, and varsity athletics,” Bardawil said, in reference to swimming, lifeguard and scuba diving classes that will be offered at the Aquatic Center in the future.

James Wassenaar, executive director of student affairs operations and auxiliary services, feels that the new facility will improve the quality of life for students living on campus.

“The fitness center is an important amenity for resident students. They spend 24 hours a day, and seven days on campus.”

“I hope that it is seen as another wonderful facility for students to utilize,” Wassenaar said.

Religious club caters to Witnesses

CATHARINE KAJMAN Contributing Writer

When a traveling Jehovah’s Witnesses club overseas suggested to Anthony Muthra, a construction management major, to start a club chapter at FIU in December 2006, Muthra thought it was a great idea.

A month later, the Jehovah’s Witnesses club was formed at the Biscayne Bay Campus and it currently has 10 members.

“I really enjoy being a part of this organization because we help clear up misconceptions about what [Jehovah’s] Witnesses are,” Muthra said.

The club’s mission statement, written by Lyons, is “Our religious instruction and education are inseparable. This was the conclusion of [Russian author and philosopher] Leo Tolstoy’s life of religion and experience. The purpose of the student organization is to distribute literature that helps one to appreciate that there needs to be the [teaching] of moral values if education is to be beneficial.”

Club members provide any student who is interested in becoming a Jehovah’s Witness with home Bible studies, free of charge. These individual lessons teach the religion’s interpretations and analyze particular passages of the Bible.

The club recruits members through tabling, which is set up in the Wolfe University Center at various times during the week.

Students can pick up information on the religion and the club as well as talk to club members.

The club meets once a month at BBC at varied times and locations. When it is difficult to organize the group, meetings are conducted over the phone to discuss club issues. To ensure that everyone has a chance to read the material, accommodations are made for the visually or hearing impaired.

“I enjoy the meetings because everyone is friendly and I love that we take the time to study the Bible and discuss it as a group, rather than everyone having their own analysis,” said Wade Charlestant, a senior majoring in education and a club member.

The club is still a work in progress, Muthra said. He and the club members hope to schedule events for students to watch videos on the religion’s beliefs and history.

Although the clubs has not set any events yet, Muthra said that students would be made aware when there are special guest speakers and lecturers, such as prominent Jehovah’s Witnesses, in any of the South Florida congregations.

The club does not have its own Web site, but anyone interested in learning more about the religion should visit The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society’s Web site, www.watchtower.org, according to Lyons. All Jehovah’s Witnesses congregations fall under the Watchtower Society, an organization that distributes all literature and books to its followers.

For information, e-mail Muthra at modenaa9@gmail.com.
The stories were mostly about exotic countries, interesting places... Diament said, "Writing and journalism seemed like something I'd really like to do, to have the opportunity to see interesting things, and to fight for causes I believe in."

Diament went on to work as a journalist in Argentina during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Working under a military dictatorship there, he and other journalists were subject to various degrees of censorship and violence. At the time, Diament said that reporters in Argentina had to be careful with what they wrote because not only was the government watching the press, but a lot of reporters were killed by the military. Diament said this did not stop him from covering what he thought needed to be covered. "I wrote to denounce morally wrong and illegal acts of the government, and to fight for freedom and justice, and to defend those who I thought should be defended," Diament said.

Argentina was not the only place where Diament faced censorship. As a foreign correspondent, he was once jailed in Yugoslavia in the 1970s when he was assigned to cover a story on Josip Broz Tito. Tito was the president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1953 to 1980.

"These experiences give you a better understanding of the importance of your profession as a journalist. It is your responsibility to tell people what’s happening," Diament said. In addition to his journalistic experience, Diament has been his experience, Diament has written nine plays as well as a screenplay, Blind Date, a play Diament wrote in 2004, is one he considers his favorite. It is about a chance encounter amongst five people in various situations and coincidentally happens at a single place in the world. Diament wrote Blind Date in order to show that daily events can change a person’s life without the people involved being aware of it.

"This was a difficult play, because there was minimal action. Normally, in theatre, things are about action, but in Blind Date, the characters tell the stories to the audience, so the language is very important to keep the audience’s attention," Diament said. Blind Date is now in the process of being made into a film, which is being co-produced in Argentina and Spain, and will be released in 2008. Diament went on to enroll into the master’s program at Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The University of the School of Journalism offered Diament the option of allowing him to enter directly into their masters’ program based on his career experience, even though he did not have a bachelor of arts degree. Diament graduated from the program in 1995.

Diament was asked by FIU staff to do research on the state of the Spanish language press in the U.S. He was asked to stay in order to develop SJMC’s Spanish Language masters program.

"He wanted us to talk about our mothers as if they were characters, and events were episodes. "This one girl mentioned [in her paper] something about her mother liking orchids and [Diament] took that and showed her how to do her whole story based on that one little thing about her mom liking flowers. And he did that with everyone’s [story]. He would get an idea on that one little thing about..."

You can’t enter into [journalism] if you don’t have curiosity and passion for the truth. Without those things, you’ll never be a good writer or journalist.

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"An Evening of Jalaldin Rumi" Faruk Celebi Efendi world-wide head of the Mevlevi Sufi Order Sufi chanting, whirling, discourse Poetry reading: Peter Rogen Oct. 9, 2007 7:30 p.m. GC 140 (University Park) Co-sponsors: Center for the Study of Spirituality (http://cas.fiu.edu/SpiritualityCenter) and Islamic Studies Program in conjunction with International Year of Rumi (UNESCO)

“Thinking Like a Journalist” Allan Richards, SJMC chair, said he has sat in on Diament’s classes and believes that Diament has the ability to guide his students into becoming better writers and journalists. “Not only is he charming, but he knows how to zero in on what a student is doing or not doing in a story,” Richards said.

Diament said he likes to give his students tools and tips to help them become better journalists. “You can’t enter into [journalism] if you don’t have curiosity and passion for the truth. Without those things, you’ll never be a good writer or journalist,” Diament said.
Tuition increase lightens wallets

NICHOLE GABRER
Opinion Editor

Many students at FIU pay out of their own pocket for tuition. Their parents have their own financial responsibilities and so they must provide for themselves. In that sense, the proposed 5 percent tuition increase is a cost that would greatly affect the residential student population.

Now 5 percent doesn’t seem like a lot, but let us say you are taking 15 credits and you are an in-state, undergraduate student. Each credit is approximately $113, so 5 percent of $113 is $5.67. Now multiply that by 15, and you get about $85. That is an extra $85 you would have to pay every semester—about two books for an English major and half a book for medical students.

The implementation of a 5 percent increase would bring in about $9 million to FIU. But that projection may not be correct if some students aren’t able to produce the extra $85. Students who quit their jobs to attend FIU and pay out of pocket will also face a greater difficulty. With no funds from a weekly job, they will have to take out more loans. For students who have little or no financial aid, have no weekly income from a job, and rely solely on loans to attend school will definitely feel the strain of the increase. And students who have no job, no work-study, and no car to find a job will have to eat Ramen every day instead of every other day.

Sure, $85 may seem insignificant but let us expand upon what $85 can buy. With the $85 you can buy a $50 and $20 bus ticket to the Biscayne Bay Campus. It can buy a George Foreman Grill for students who cannot afford a meal plan. The $85 can buy two boxes of color print paper for a photography student.

Money.

The Supreme Court, in the case of Rumsfeld v. FAIR, upheld the Solomon Amendment, stating that the federal government could deny funds to schools that do not allow ROTC and the Armed Forces to recruit on campus.

Therefore, by allowing ROTC and the Armed Forces on campus FIU only advances homophobia and discrimination, and indirectly endorses them both.

So what allows a military recruitment presence at FIU?

Money.

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Television, Web sites aim to disprove urban legends

SARAH RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Kidney thieves, alligators in sewers, evil spirits responding to chants of “Bloody Mary” – the term “urban legend” refers to a widely-circulating story that is usually untrue, at least impossible to prove. Often, they begin with some small element of truth, but become increasingly exaggerated as they get passed through the grapevine.

Some are merely amusing, and could be fun to pass on to others even if one did not truly believe them. Others appeal to our sense of adventure.

Here, visitors can browse through dozens of stories that were once based on real events while yellow refers to claims with insufficient evidence. Red is used for stories determined too improbable, stories that would have been all over the news if they had actually occurred.

Freshman Katherine Benzaquen believes that, in spite of the evidence, “I think it’s pretty entertaining, and they have good facts,” Nelson said. "The last one I saw was one with Coke, whether it can clean the [car] engine better than water. It worked..." Nelson also points to a deeper reason for our fascination with shows that test our assumptions.

"Our society and culture is so based on tradition and these urban legends that we want to know if our basis is true or not," Nelson said. "We rely so much on media, tradition and these urban legends that we need to know." Nelson noted that Bob has been well-liked because it piques viewers’ curiosity, and simultaneously offers useful information.

"I think it’s pretty entertaining, and they have good facts," Nelson said. "The last one I saw was one with Coke, whether it can clean the [car] engine better than water. It worked about the same as water."


Son plans trip to find lost father

Dan Levinson is planning a trip. It’s going to be a long trip, so he’s been prepping for it all summer, even teaching himself a foreign language during the hour-long commute to his current school.

Dan, 59, left Dubai at 10:45 a.m. on March 8 and arrived at Kish Island, Iran, that same day. He checked into a hotel that afternoon. He hasn’t been heard from since.

"I was in Japan when my mom sent me an E-mail and asked me to call home. That’s when she told me my dad was missing," Dan said. "I was the last to know.

The Levinsons are a large family: the parents, Christine and Bob, plus seven children; Dan is the middle child.

"We’re close. We’re just a traditional family, I guess," Dan said.

A Facebook group dedicated to the family shows the siblings huddled in front of the camera, all hugs and smiles.

Dan and his siblings share what he calls a typical Levinson trait: optimism, which he attributes to their tight bond.

They bristle when anyone asks what kind of man Bob was – he’s still alive, they say, so they refuse to answer in the past tense.

The Iranian government has said there’s no evidence Bob is in the country, though reports given to the Swiss embassy in Tehran the day he arrived in Kish and took a taxi from his hotel.

These are the family’s only leads.

Dan Levinson is planning a trip.

"They’re going to help me find him," Dan said. "This is the last thing they want to happen to me with my dad gone... they’re going to help me find him..."

But there are days when Dan can’t help feeling bored in class.

"I never thought I’d be one of those kids who’s going to look for his dad. I never thought it would happen to me, but I’m going to do my best and try..."

Comments left on Internet message boards have called it a stupid decision and a suicide mission.

The messages distress Dan, but he says he’s going to keep looking for his dad.

MEANING, page 8
AT&T PRESENTS “THE WORLD’S LOUDEST PEP RALLY” FEATURING

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‘A Pair of Nuts’ to perform

Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco, former FIU students, will perform their comedy show at the Improv in Coconut Grove on Oct. 10.

FUNNY FELLOWS: Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco, former FIU students, will perform their comedy show at the Improv in Coconut Grove on Oct. 10.

Despite tragedy, family stays hopeful

The actor/comedian has showed off his TV spots, Piedra does not consider any one of his appearances a “big break” and is still waiting for it to happen. Until then, he has his routines and a degree in theatre from FIU to fall back on.

The other “nut” is Trabanco, who is in radio sales during the day, but by night, is a self-proclaimed “sketch comedy genius of South Florida.”

“We play off each other,” Trabanco said. Trabanco said that his comedy career does not provide him much monetary support, but money is not the reason he does it. “I get a high off people laughing,” Trabanco said. “If I can get a big group of people laughing, it’s worth it.”


The comedians won “Best South Florida Performance” at the 2007 Miami Improv Festival and were featured on BET’s “We’ve Got to Do Better.” The duo has been acting together since they joined FIU’s Improv Oct. 10 at 8:30 p.m.

The show will consist of loosely improvised sketches and several videos in between the sketches.

Both comedians described the show as being similar to late night comedy shows, but with only two people. “I’ve been watching “Saturday Night Live” since I was little,” Piedra said. “Our show has a very SNL feel to it.”

“A Pair of Nuts” to perform up on television a few times in various roles on shows such as “Boston Legal,” “Las Vegas” and “Last Comic Standing.”

Despite his TV spots, Piedra does not consider any one of his appearances a “big break” and is still waiting for it to happen. Until then, he has his routines and a degree in theatre from FIU to fall back on.

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For a preview of what to expect at their show, visit www.myspace.com/pairofnuts. Several filmed sketches such as “Gayo” and “Flavor Farts” are posted on the site for viewing.

The cost for admission is $10 and if the show is successful enough, Trabanco said that the Miami Improv might pick up the show for several months. So, naturally the “nuts” are hopeful that Oct. 10 will be a big success.

“We’re very excited about performing on the same stage as so many great comics,” Piedra said in a press release. “It’s an all new show that’s gonna kick ass on all levels.”

Those interested in attending must be at least 18 years old to attend and 21 to drink.

For more information on the Levinsons and their mission, visit Helpboblevinson.com.

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**GAME** Heavenly Sword

**Epics full of rich details**

**Luís García**
Staff Writer

Heavenly Sword has been watched very closely by many Sony PlayStation 3 owners since the system’s launch. Sony and developer Ninja Theory’s tale of revenge is finally here to captivate thrill-seekers with its martial arts finesse and fury.

The game is told through a series of flashbacks that chronicle the main character Nariko’s path of vengeance against King Bohan after her people were ravaged and enslaved in his quest to claim the Heavenly Sword for power.

Nariko’s clan has long guarded the sword. Nariko, against the clan leader and her father’s wishes, takes up the sword to save her clan, even at the cost of her own life.

Heavenly Sword’s control is easy to pick up and play from the beginning.

Two attack buttons and quick access to Nariko’s different fighting styles by holding the L1 and R1 buttons allow for easy combinations and quick adapting for fighting enemies.

Also at Nariko’s disposal are super styles that instantly devastate one or multiple opponents. Defensive maneuvers such as evasive rolling, controlled through the left analog stick and countering oncoming attacks with a well-timed press of the Triangle button are simple to execute.

At some points in the game, Heavenly Sword will change focus to Kai, a cross-bow wielding young orphan aiding Nariko in her quest with her skills. In these portions, use of the motion-sensing ‘SIXAXIS controls’ and the projectile view of the camera allow players to give the appropriate after touch to their aim for added precision. Nariko also has this skill when throwing objects in the environment, including prone-bodies.

Although the game is exhilarating and will keep players interested with its characters, six chapters leave it very short-lived. While challenging, determined players can finish the game within six or seven hours, perhaps less.

There is a nice wealth of content to discover, such as added combat moves, concept art, interviews with developers and the extra difficulty hell mode.

Heavenly Sword is a grand showcase of the PS3’s power. Much detail went into crafting the characters that inhabit the cinema-influenced landscape.

Whether its facial expressions, waterfalls or Nariko’s flowing hair, the game spares no expense in visual presentation.

Much of the beauty of it is watching the action as Nariko dispatches foe after foe with grace, fluidity and pain.

The sounds and music of the game contribute to the visual flair. Adding further to the experience is superb scripting of the story and acting that bring the characters to life. Andy Serkis (Gollum of the Lord of the Rings trilogy) in the role of King Bohan, in particular, is a sight to behold.

Heavenly Sword is meant to be savored for every moment and shows that short stories can captivate as much as an expansive epic.

**REVIEWS**

**MUSIC**

Bruce Springsteen - Magic

Album shows rock can still deliver a profound message

**EVER CRUZ**
Staff Writer

With Magic, Bruce Springsteen’s first album in five years with the E Street Band, he has created one of the most honest and important records in the last few years.

The album opens with the thunderous, riff-heavy, “Radio Nowhere,” in which Springsteen bluntly takes aim at the current and sad state of music invading the airwaves. In the chorus, he growls, “This is radio nowhere, is there anybody alive out there?”

Magic is more aggressive than his previous release, the Sept. 11 m ountful The Rising. On “Living In The Future,” Springsteen sings about the dark times ahead: he addresses issues such as lovers being separated by war as well as the global warming issue.

Interestingly enough, the track is as upbeat as one of the band’s 80’s tracks, driven by an infectious saxophone and pounding drums. He’s worried about the future but nonetheless, he still has hope that things can turn around for the better.

“Heartland Bridge” is a sad track about a family member lost at war and the effects it has on family. Then, in “I’ll Work For Your Love,” Springsteen sings about trying hard to become a citizen for God.

The title track beautifully employs acoustic guitar, mandolin and a synth keyboard for a song that mixes lyrics about illusion and death.

The violin, driving drums and desperate-sounding vocals scream for attention as Springsteen sings, “Who’s blood will spill, whose heart will break...Who’ll be the last to die, for a mistake.”

For those familiar with Springsteen’s work, the album is a combination of 70’s Springsteen, in the style of Born To Run and Born In The USA. Just like those classic albums, this release uses the “wall-of-sound” approach, in which layers of instruments are used in songs; instruments that range from the war in Iraq, to decisions the government makes and how it affects the people.

Ultimately, this is a solid album that speaks about the harsh realities of today – songs that are relevant for today’s generation. For those who still believe in rock ‘n roll and think about what’s going on in the world, this album is for you.

**POOL PARTY:**

Marian Brigh of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars jumps into the Panther Hall Pool during the honors society’s Wahoo Splish Splash Pool Party. The party, held on Oct. 4, was open to members and non-members.

**DIVING IN**

**GAME** Heavenly Sword

**EPIC full of rich details**

**MUSIC**

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Ultimately, this is a solid album that speaks about the harsh realities of today – songs that are relevant for today’s generation. For those who still believe in rock ‘n roll and think about what’s going on in the world, this album is for you.
Volleyball continues winning ways in dominating fashion

always find something that their team can improve on and that’s the way I am.” Tomic said. “Looking at our winning streak, I think it is nice but the main thing for us is to not focus on records.

Midway through season, team still looking for offense

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

SOCcer, page 12

For an offense to gel together, the whole offense needs to understand each other. Besides Guerra and Coleman, there has not been another team member who has exhibited consistent team chemistry.

Guerra is the best ball handler on the team and he breaks down defenses better than any one. However, teams have taken note of this and have begun to double-team him. When he is double-teamed, other players should come help him and make themselves available to receive the ball. Instead, they have left him out to dry too many times this season.

Scoring chances for the men’s club have not been excessive, but there have been enough to score more than the four total goals scored this year, the fifth was an own goal by the University of Connecticut.

Nine games mark the mid-way point of the regular season. Considering they have not won, the regular season is probably as far as they’ll go 2007. The change in head coaches from Karl Kremser to Eketebi has been rough so far. The mild-mannered Eketebi does not show much emotion on the field, but there is no way he could be happy with his team’s offense and overall record.

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 conditioning, chemistry to blame for men’s soccer slow start

Tomic reaches milestone with win

The defense has kept the team in most games, averaging 1.8 goals allowed per game. But lack of conditioning, disoriented team chemistry and the inability to finish have fused to kill the Golden Panthers' offense.

Where's the beef? asked a line of fans during the 1980s. Dr. Judith Blucker’s advertisement made famous the little old lady from the Wendi-ene’s program’s first coach, had the such a feat. Dr. Judith Blucker, volleyball coach to ever achieve her the fastest Golden Panther coveted 50 win mark, making the players looked out of shape. Coach Munga Eketebi made several substitutions early because of his players’ fatigue. This resulted in less scoring opportu-nities and a disadvantage in time of possession.

Opposing defenders had no trouble tackling and stripping the ball from the slow Golden Pan-ther midfielders and forwards. Their stamina improved after a few games, but the rust wouldn’t rub off as their lack of communication led to several spoiled scoring chances, causing crosses out of players’ reach and passes to opposing defenders. On several occasions, a player passed the ball to absolutely no one, hoping that a teammate was going to appear. Plays like that always ended with a loss of possession rather than a scoring attack.

The best offensive game of the season so far was against Illinois-Chicago in which mid-fielder Juan Guerra scored two goals with the help of forward Levi Coleman.

For a two-game stretch, Guerra and Coleman showed signs of life for the Golden Panthers’ offense, but Coleman’s playing time was cut down significantly because of an injury he sustained against Marshall.

Guerra was overwhelmed in that game by numerous defend-ers.

RENALOD SMITH
Staff Writer

Daniela Tomic, the brains behind the Sun Belt Conference powerhouse that is the Golden Panthers women’s volleyball team, picked up her 50th career victory in a win over conference foe Florida Atlantic Oct. 2 at Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers cruised to a dominant 3-0 (30-20, 30-23, 30-22) win, giving Tomic’s resume a slight facelift in the process. In just seven games Tomic hit the coveted 50 win mark, making her the fastest Golden Panther volleyball coach to ever achieve such a feat. Dr. Judith Blucker, the program’s first coach, had the previous record as she made it to 50 wins in 93 matches in 1975.

After the game, the always humble Tomic downplayed her achievement.

“I am happy and I am hum-bled,” Tomic said. “I don’t do my job to break records or to put my name in the record books. I am just trying to coach these kids and make a difference and I think that when you do things the right way, the results will come.”

Understandably overshadowed by Tomic’s milestone was an excellent overall performance by the Golden Panthers. Sophomore All-American Yarimar Rosa continued to impress as she delivered a match-high 14 kills on a .360 hitting clip. The second half of the team’s 1-2 punch, sophomore Olga Vergun, had 12 kills, and senior Anita Szmanska had 11 kills on a scorching .786 clip.

Senior setter Natalia Val-entin continued to get more comfortable orchestrating the Golden Panther offense as she posted her fourth double-double of the season with a match-high 46 assists to go along with 10 digs. Freshman power hitter Ines Medved added eight kills in the victory.

The win was the ninth in a row for the Golden Panthers, who maintained their perfect SBC record at 6-0 and improved to 11-2 on the season overall. Meanwhile, the Owls seem to still be asleep so far this season. The loss dropped them four games below the .500 mark at 6-10 and dropped them to 3-3 in the SBC.

Despite the win streak, Tomic says there is always room for improvement and wants the team to stay focused.

“I am pleased with the prog-ress we are making in different areas, but most coaches will...