**SGC-UP FORUM**

**Issues still addressed despite low turnout**

NATALIEE GIL-DEL RIO  
Staff Writer

It was noon on Oct. 8 and the athletic pep rally was very unexpected and I’m sure many of [the] students who were coming to the forum stayed at the rally instead,” said Ben Badger Jr., press secretary for SGC-UP.

The SGC-UP forum once again saw a low turnout in an event intended to address student concerns and questions dealing with the University, such as tuition increases, budget cuts and textbook affordability. “We came because we’re concerned students and we would like some of our questions answered,” said Tau Kappa Epsilon President Jerry Campos.

Many of the same topics from the first forum were addressed, and centered on parking and public transportation, as well as Public Safety. Bill Foster, director of Parking and Transportation, began the forum by commenting that the department really hasn’t had the opportunity of communicating with students as effectively as it would like. He explained that only 400 students had signed up for the GreenRide Program, an effort that aims to reduce greenhouse gases, after several methods of promotion for the program had taken place.

“This program will increase convenience for students,” Foster said. “Students have been doing a lot of talking about the [GreenRide] program, but don’t do much about it.”

Police Chief Bill King updated students concerned with Public Safety, assuring that although he would like to increase the staffing level on campus, all the officers are well-trained and have gone through an active shooter training program in the event that a Virginia Tech-like incident were ever to take place at FIU.

“We are better prepared than a lot of the departments and areas in the country for situations such as these because of the plans we’ve already set in place,” King said.

Director of Emergency Management Charles Cyrille told students his department is heavily focusing on implementing new technologies around all the FIU campuses.

He spoke about a program brought up in the first forum that would like to increase the staff-

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Public Safety

SGA FORUM, page 2

### New club fights for democracy in Cuba

ELIZABETH M. NICKERSON  
Contributing writer

Gorki Aguila, a Cuban punk rocker and lead singer of the band Porno Para Ricardo, was arrested on Aug. 25 in Cuba because of 13 words. “El comandante wants me to work, paying me a miserable salary... No, comandante!”

These lyrics, sung in Spanish, led Aguila to be charged with peligrosidad—a law in which individuals are incarcerated for being seen as dangerous to Fidel Castro’s regime, even if they haven’t committed a crime.

Aguila was later freed thanks to international pressure and moral support from organizations like the Cuban American National Foundation.

Now, a newly launched club wants to push for freedom of expression inside Cuba with university students from different campuses around the U.S. have already played a critical role in Cuba and to bring about democratic change on the island.

The FIU chapter, founded by freshman and business major Robert Fernandez, hopes to replicate the success of CANF within the older generation, according to Fernandez.

“There are a lot of on-campus movements, so I believe this will attract a lot of members for more support for the conditions in Cuba,” Fernandez said.

University students from different campuses around the U.S. have already played a critical role by raising awareness of the conditions in Cuba, according to Gigi Sopo, one of the founders of the new UC-CANF chapter.

“It is important to know human rights issues in Cuba. The club will be a vehicle for activism,” Sopo said.

The project-oriented movement has open communications with each chapter, with a monthly conference call that enables the newUC-CANF chapter.

The University Council of the Cuban American National Foundation has expanded to include FIU as its newest chapter, which promotes human rights activism in Cuba.

Funded by Jorge Mas Canosa, known for his leadership of CANF in the 1980s, UC-CANF looks to continue spreading throughout universities nationwide to bring to light the issue of human rights in Cuba and to bring about democratic change on the island.

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UC-CANF opens new chapter

THE BEACON

Joey Knollers/THE BEACON

O&A focuses on safety, parking

The proceeds will go not only to underground artists on the island, but also Cuban families and political prisoners as the chapter continues to promote freedom and human rights.

Sopo has been an active member in both the Department of Human Rights and CANF in Miami, which guided her to continue the awareness of human rights activism through the "great campus life" at FIU.

According to Sopo, members don’t have to be Cuban-American to join the club, only a shared sense of commitment to the principles of "freedom, representative democracy and respect for civil liberties."

Recently, Fernandez and Sopo were part of CANF’s hurricane relief drive, which exceeded expectations by raising $250,000 for aid to the island.

UC-CANF, along with CANF staff and directors, also visit with legislators in Washington D.C. to give advice to lawmakers on occasion.

“We recently had a meeting with lawmakers in Miami-Dade, which was about the sanctions and policies [the U.S has against] Cuba,” Fernandez said. “But as of now, we do not have any trips to Washington planned.”

The Cuban Research Institute Latin American and Caribbean Center, in association with FIU’s College of Architecture and the Arts, will be presenting “Cuba hacia el modernismo: Los años 40s y 50s. Una experiencia personal.” The event will feature Architecture Professor Nicolás Quintana, who will discuss the traditions, events and people during the period before the Cuban Revolution that influenced his urbanism and architectural work.

The event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. in GC 243.

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-6994. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at www.fiu.com

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The event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 in the East Ballroom of the Graham Center. Quintana is currently a professor of architecture and urbanism with more than 50 years of architectural experience in countries like Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the United States. The event, which is being presented in Spanish, is free and open to the public. For more information contact the Cuban Research Institute at 305-348-1991 or e-mail cri@fiu.edu.

FIGURES

AIDS looks to increase presence in Afghanistan

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FIGURES
Writing center upgrade: new location, improved services

DANIELLE FREYRE Contributing Writer

Joshmar Garcia entered the new Center for Excellence in Writing excited and smiling. “I just came to thank her. I know I am going to get a very good grade on my paper,” said the junior double majoring in meteorology and broadcast journalism.

He’s had three appointments with Sarah Pearsall, one of the tutors in the new writing center. “A lot of students have a great fear of writing, and this is a place they can come to get extra help,” said Pearsall, an English graduate seeking a master’s degree in fiction. “We are here to support and encourage them.”

The Center for Excellence in Writing at the Biscayne Bay Campus has separated from the Learning Center at Academic I. It is now located on the first floor of the library, to the right of the main stairway.

Kimberly Harrison, the writing program director, and Jonathan Tubman, the associate vice president for research, made the plans for this separation, which occurred at the end of the summer term.

The relocation process is not yet complete, but construction will be finished and furniture will be moved in by the end of the fall semester, according to Cindy Chinelly, the interim director of the Center for Excellence in Writing.

“The provost’s office and the graduate school are providing the funds for this project, according to Chinelly.

“The graduate school is giving financial support by offering tutoring workshops to hire graduate students for the writing center,” Chinelly said.

The writing consultants at the new center go through extensive interviews, in addition to submitting writing samples, letters of recommendation and grades in writing classes, according to Chinelly.

The consultants also meet once a week for a professional development workshop. The newest feature of the writing center is that, instead of having to call to make an appointment, students can make them online through the center’s Web site.

“We also take walk-ins, but we book-up quickly, so it’s better to make an appointment,” Chinelly said.

The appointments are one hour long and consist of a 50-minute consultation, followed by a 10-minute evaluation, to ensure that students receive a quality meeting each time, according to Chinelly.

“She helped me out a lot,” Garcia said referring to his tutor, Pearsall. “The best thing I learned was that for the rough draft, it’s better to write the paper first, without the quotes. Then, we look at the paper and see which quotes fit better where. She also helped me with how to better cite sources.”

Another advantage of the new writing center is that tutors can seek the input of a librarian, in addition to their normal writing consultant.

Working closely with the library, students with research projects are referred to a specific research librarian who will help them find the information needed for their assignments.

Chinelly said that the most important things for students to remember are to come early in their writing process, and not “wait until the last minute that your paper is due, in order to allow a quality allotted time for the consultant to help you.

Students should come to their appointments with the assignment’s grading criteria, supporting materials and questions to ensure more involved personalized assistance.

“We encourage students to come early in the process, even if it is before actually start writing, just to brainstorm ideas,” Pearsall said.

“We want to help them in the whole process of writing, not editing, but collaborating with them on their papers, and help them learn.”

Tutors at the writing center help students not only with papers and essays for classes, but also in drafting internship letters and graduate school personal statements, and teaching proper methods of research and writing formats, according to Pearsall.

“We’re here to help students with the tools to make them better writers,” Pearsall said.

The Center for Excellence in Writing is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.
Students have been unfairly labeled with negative connotations for their political awareness, or lack thereof. Some consider young people politically incoherent and have labeled them as  ‘corrupt’ or ‘tool’ by the successions of political affairs. For years, most pandemics in the upper endorser of the political spectrum have stereotyped the young voter as an unreliable statistic. Let us take a look at all these ways. It’s possible that a legion of moodswings has infiltrated our lovely United States campus and disgraced our ‘corrupt’ peer to partake in the actualization of true democracy, but not to the point that has become common thought.

The general elections of 2008 and 2004 portray an evolving story. Studies by CIRCLE, a civic research department at Tufts University, have shown that youth voting has surged to 18 percent during the last two general elections. In addition, one can’t help to see the overwhelming number of young people across the nation surrounding the town hall meetings and campaign events of the 2008 presidential candidates. You can even take notice of this with our passionate change-driven Obamaanias and McCain followers at the Graham Center, vending for voter registration and attempting to outnumber the vote with bumper stickers and food. 

Whoever they support, there is a significant presence being displayed by some of the most sought after, but least respected, voters. According to CIRCLE, 47 percent of 18-24 year old citizens voted in the 2004 presidential election. According to CIRCLE, 47 percent of 18-24 year old citizens voted in the 2004 presidential election. 

“My experience in Miami has taught me that young people do not read nor are they intellectually con- scientious about how societies are struc- tured and governed,” said Vilanova. “I don’t know whether politics is not entertaining enough, or whether politics produces too much cognitive dissonance. For sure, though, young people in Miami seldom take educated, well informed possession of political issues that affect them directly. And that is tragic.” 

However, due to a slew of relevant issues such as the economy, the war in Iraq and the almost unanimous call for change, it’s unquestionable that young people will be more inclined to storm the polls. In an extensive post election study from CIRCLE, a survey showed that 72.4 percent of students, when asked if they spoke about politics and current events on a daily and/or weekly bases, said yes. This election year may bear more of the same competition. Can this minor but pivotal setback happen again? Some FIU students feel it won’t.

“I believe these diverse candi- dates will animate more turnout. They will clearly steer our country to a new direction,” said Andrew Cassidy, a sophomore and interna- tional relations major. It is particularly frustrating for students living in the states who are not allowed to vote to see this right wasted.

“It’s not vote because I’m not a citizen, but many out there are citi- zens and don’t vote,” said Carlos Aponte, a sophomore studying sociology. Scholars also voice their opinion on the issue.

“Youths are distrustful of gov- ernment and feel shut out of the process,” said Casey A. Klofstad, professor of political science at University of Miami. The real benefit of all of those deaths is not from the deaths of un- sung martyrs, but the millions of jobs created from their deaths and medi- cal treatments in life. It is the tobacco consumers who fly to the tobacco, like a moth attracted to the flame, that allow the creation of plentiful jobs.

According to the CDCP, the cost of treating lung cancer in the U.S. in 2004 was about $9.6 billion per year in the U.S. alone. Imagine how much it would cost globally.

So without a significant number of deaths, there is a possibility that mass starvation will occur worldwide. The question is not if this will happen but when.

We have already begun to see the root of overpopulation take place. If we are to see a similar increase in population then by 2000 there will be 12.5 billion people in the world. By then, overpopulation would have seized the world faster than a hobo on a ham sandwich.

Don’t think that 2000 is too far away. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average life expectancy of a U.S.citizen is 77.8 years. So techni- cally, there is a good chance your children will live to see and hopefully enjoy 2000 A.D. and your grandchil- dren certainly will.

All of those who died or will die from tobacco products will help us in the long run. The problem lies in that we think of ourselves and of the pres- ent time, we rarely think of how our actions today would affect the lives of our descendants. According to the WHO, at the cur- rent rate, the death toll from tobacco-related deaths is projected to reach more than 8 million annually by 2030 and a total of up to one billion deaths in the 21st century. By lowering the amount of people to share resources we can lower the burden, not on us, but on our grandchildren and their children.

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That is not all. Tobacco products also causes leukaemia, mouth sores and many other fascinating illnesses in our mouth and teeth. We should all thank the smokers who smoke an average 1.721 cigarettes per cap- ita, according to the Pan American Health Organization for all their hard work. Thank you, smokers. Smoke yourselves to death.

The world has more resources when smokers die
Hidden Mickeys have found their way onto the University’s campuses in the form of advertisements for the Disney College Program. These ads can be found everywhere from banners in Panther Square to fliers in the Graham Center. With all this exposure, some students still wonder what Disney’s college program provides networking opportunities such as communications, hospitality, business, finance and engineering.

Along with extensive networking possibilities, participants can make connections with a diverse range of students from all over the world and learn the communications and problem-solving skills needed in the real world.

First time participants begin an entry-level internship that includes working in different occupations in the parks and hotels within the Disney resorts. Interns can be anything from characters in a parade to merchants at a gift shop, all while learning and observing how Disney operates behind the scenes.

Karina Cossio, a student who attended the University in the spring of ‘08 and is currently one of FIU’s representatives for the Disney College Program, was an intern during the fall of ‘07 and loved her experience. Cossio, who worked in merchandising at Disney’s Hollywood Studios in Walt Disney World, was trained in 14 facets while networking with business professionals.

“I was able to network with media, government and public relations professionals [who] provided me with major opportunities,” Cossio said. A little over a month into her internship, Cossio was sent to work at Epcot during the Food and Wine Festival and had an opportunity to network with the festival’s event manager.

Disney offers its interns the possibility to take traditional college credit courses and non-credit courses, known as the Disney Exploration series. This series of exploration courses covers specific topics such as leadership skills and how to handle disgruntled guests.

According to the Disney College Program Web site, each class is highly interactive and encourages each participant to fully experience all aspects of the 47 square miles of the Walt Disney World Resort as a learning laboratory.

“An advantage to doing the Disney College Program is that once you have done it, you get priority in getting professional internships in the Walt Disney Company,” Scott explained. “This can be for ABC, ESPN, the Disney Studios, Disney Imagining or more opportunities in the parks such as a manager.”

Stephanie Loureiro, an ‘08 alumna who majored in hospitality management, described her spring ’07 Disney internship as “the most amazing time of her life.” She explained how she benefited from such perks as free admission to the parks and discounts on Disney merchandise, to getting behind the scenes tour of The Haunted Mansion at Disney’s Magic Kingdom.

Brianna Bellantoni, a senior studying broadcast at FIU and, currently, a representative for the Disney College Program, said her favorite part of the program was meeting so many diverse people while in the program and developing lasting friendships.

The Disney College Program will be at the University Park campus in room GC 239A on Oct. 14 and will be holding presentations at noon and 7 p.m. Interested students may visit disneycollegeprogram.com, fill out the application and attend a presentation session. During this session, questions and concerns will be answered and interviews will be held.

CHRISTIN ERAZO
Staff Writer

WEEKEND CALENDAR

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 10

WHAT: Violin Concert Co- Sponsored by the Chopin Foundation WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center – Concert Hall WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Panther Ful WHERE: GC 305 WHEN: 5:00 p.m

WHAT: Chinese Club General Meeting WHERE: GC 140 WHEN: 4:00 p.m

WHAT: Japan Club General Meeting WHERE: GC 543 WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Yoga Club Meditations WHERE: GC 140 WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Stonewall Pride Alliance Lecture WHERE: 9:00 p.m

WHAT: Mary J. Blige WHERE: Bank Atlantic Center WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Kamelot WHERE: Culture Room WHEN: 11:00 a.m

WHAT: Common and W. E. D. WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Muriel McBride Woking Up Laughing Tour WHERE: Coconut Grove Theatre WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: MTV Tru “TRIPASS” Concert WHERE: with Calle 13” WHERE: Lila Gorodetski WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Decodes WHERE: James L. Knight Center WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Everland WHERE: Culture Room WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Irish Albums Live Presents: “Hotel California” WHERE: Paradise Hotel WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: FIU vs. MSU WHERE: FIU Stadium WHEN: 7:00 p.m

WHAT: Zumba WHERE: Green’s Grill WHEN: 11:00 a.m

WHAT: Wynwood Gallery Walls WHERE: Wynwood Art Complex WHEN: 7:00 p.m

WHAT: Columbus Day Regatta WHERE: Coral Reef Yacht Club WHEN: 10:00 a.m

WHAT: UFC Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts WHERE: Miami Mist Airport WHEN: 7:00 p.m

WHAT: Festival Miami WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County WHEN: 7:00 p.m

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 11

WHAT: Old School Gospel Concert WHERE: No Memorial Auditorium WHEN: 6:00 p.m

WHAT: Shiny Toy Guns WHERE: Culture Room WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Indian Film Festival WHERE: Royal South Beach Cinema 18 WHEN: 7:00 p.m

WHAT: Miami Carnival Parade and Festival WHERE: Biscayne Park WHEN: Noon

WHAT: Halloween: Ghost Stories WHERE: Selma Studios WHEN: 7:00 p.m

WHAT: Oktoberfest WHERE: Fritz & Franz Bierhaus Austrian Bavarian Restaurant & Bar WHEN: 7:00 p.m

WHAT: A New Exhibition of Member Artists’ Works WHERE: The Heart of the Grove Art Gallery WHEN: Noon

WHAT: Clown Fos for a Cause WHERE: Danny’s Crab Restaurant WHEN: 1:00 p.m

WHAT: Avon WHERE: Willow Theatre WHEN: 8:00 p.m

WHAT: Dark Continents WHERE: Miriam Contemporary Art WHEN: 11:00 a.m

Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado
Atmosphere soars to new heights with performance

JONATHAN DAVILA
Life! Editor

“Atmosphere took the stage dressed in a Superman T-shirt and played songs that held a nice contrast to the previous act.”

While Rude’s performance was quite backpock and mellow, Blueprint gave the crowd some humor with songs like “Big Girls Need Love Too,” a song in which he raps about his affinity for large women, and “Neighborhood Weed Man,” an underground hit that, in a way, pokes fun at other hip-hop artists that brag about the quality of their marijuana. Slug waltzed onto the stage to “Trying to Find a Balance,” and played “Like the Rest of Us,” the first track from “Lemons.”

Atmosphere’s new touring band, who had not yet been seen in Florida, gave the hip-hop act a jazzy, improvised feel—a touch that fits well with producer Ant’s synthesized beats and Slug’s storytelling rhymes.

Although they boasted a varied set list, Atmosphere notably neglected songs from their first record, “Overcast.” After playing crowd favorites “God Loves Ugly” and “Shrapnel,” Slug rapped what he told the crowd was his favorite song: a slower, acoustic version of “Not Another Day” from the “Sad Clown Bad Spring” EP.

The show was an amazing experience—especially after Florida’s three year Atmosphere deprivation. Slug promised not to take so long next time the underground legends decide to visit South Florida.

DiCaprio, Crowe bring down terrorists in ‘Body of Lies’

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Double-crosses, plot twists, car chases, gun fights and explosions: What more could you want from a modern spy thriller?

Based on the 2007 novel by Ignatius, “Body of Lies” is about Roger Ferris (DiCaprio), a CIA operative who uncovers a major lead on a suspected terrorist leader responsible for recent bombings in Jordan. In order for Ferris to capture the terrorist, he must gain the trust of Ed Hoffman (Crowe), a CIA veteran, and Hani Salama (Mark Strong), the head of Jordanian intelligence. But can he trust these men enough to put his life in their hands?

The interaction between DiCaprio and Crowe is a highlight of this film. Ferris is “on the inside” in Jordan, doing jobs that have to be done in order to protect the homeland, no matter what it is. Hoffman is a laid-back bureaucrat with such a smooth southern accent that you would not be surprised if he said “I did not have sexual relations with that woman.”

These two men are complete opposites but they have one goal in mind: to bring down terrorists. Ferris and Hoffman do not like each other and the majority of their conversations are laced with profanity, whether it be Hoffman’s disapproval of Ferris’s romance with a Jordanian nurse (Golshifteh Farahani), or Ferris expressing how he does not like the way Hoffman gets things done.

“Body of Lies” is noticeably shorter than Scott’s last few movies, yet the director still had enough time to focus on what Hoffman and Ferris did when they were not out looking for terrorists. In Jordan, Ferris is getting through the final proceedings for his divorce from his first wife, andromanizing a local nurse. In the States, Hoffman attempts to balance his career with his life at home.

The cinematography makes this an excellent film from a technical standpoint. The only problem with the cinematography was that it did not focus on the action scenes most of the time. The camera will make audiences feel like they are on some sort of simulation ride.

The film has a good pace despite its running time of two hours and eight minutes. It keeps you engaged with all the developments surrounding Ferris’s mission. Amazing performances from DiCaprio and Crowe, great cinematography and Ridley Scott’s direction make this film a grade-A spy thriller.
Fantasy Five: Surprises at QB and RB in Week Six

Week Five of the NFL season was one of the more peculiar weeks football has seen in a while.

Spotty quarterback play haunted most fantasy participants, as no QB scored more than 30 points and only 6 notched over 20. Only 6 notched over 30 points and no QB scored more than 33 fantasy points a game to oppose running backs.

Kyle Orton, Quarterback Chicago Bears (vs. Atlanta Falcons): Aaron Rodgers, with a bum shoulder, torched the Falcons Defense for over 300 yards and 3 touchdowns. Orton solidified his fantasy startability last week against the Lions, and the Falcons Defense isn’t much better. Devin Hester is playing more at wide receiver, Marty Booker is back to his old reliable self, Greg Olsen and Desmond Clark are talented tight ends and rookie running back Matt Forte is an unbelievable talent teams have no film on.

Quarterbacks facing the Falcons average 18 points a game, and look for Orton to really propel himself into a solid second tier scorer in fantasy football with a good showing in a shootout with the Falcons.

Jason Campbell, Quarterback, Washington Redskins (vs. St. Louis Rams): Attention all readers and fantasy football degenerates: any player on your team playing the Rams needs to be in your starting lineup! Quarterbacks facing the Rams defense averaged over 21 points a game in the first five weeks of the season.

Jason Campbell makes smart decisions; he is yet to throw an interception this year. With the weapons he has at his disposal (i.e. Portis, Moss, Randle-El, Cooley, and the stellar offensive line of the Skins), look for Campbell to annihilate the Rams Defense.

Willis McGahee is rarely healthy and the Colts defense is soft against the run without Bob Sanders leading the charge. McClain is the same size or bigger than most of the linebacking corps of the Colts, who’s giving over 33 fantasy points a game to opposing running backs.

Steve Breaston, Wide Receiver Arizona Cardinals (vs. Dallas Cowboys): With Anquan out, Breaston has been thrust into the number two receiver role. Larry Fitzgerald is the obvious number one and will attract double teams the whole game against the Cowboys. Kurt Warner loves throwing the ball all over the field and has proved he trusts Breaston, throwing to him close to 10 times, completing seven passes for more yards than Fitzgerald gained.

If you are in need of an emergency wide receiver, Breaston should be at the top of your list because he most probably will find the end zone.

If you have any fantasy football questions, you can email me at Jonathan.Alpert@fiu.edu, and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live Tuesdays and Thursdays noon-1 on Radiate FM and streaming online at fiusm.com.

Perfect home record at stake

feast at the hands of Middle Tennessee on Oct. 3.

Setter Natalia Valentin is improving with every match played and assisted a season-high 58 kills against WKU.

She is averaging an efficient 10.45 assists per set. Yarimar Rosa continues to dominate, leading the team in kills (330, 5.32 per set) and Isadora Rangel (170 kills, 2.95 per set) and freshman sensation Sabrina Gonzalez (89 kills, 1.51 per set) continue to effectively pick up the scoring when necessary.

FIU will keep a close eye on Sun Belt East Division rivals Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee this weekend, as both teams are in action. Western Kentucky travels to Little Rock; Arkansas to take on UALR tonight and then to Jonesboro, Ark, to take on Arkansas State on Saturday afternoon.

MTSU faces off with the same two teams, facing Arkansas State on Friday and UALR on Sunday. Select volleyball games can now be heard on FIU Student Radio Radiate FM.
North Texas on Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. at FIU

Volleyball takes on SBC west foes Denver, North Texas

**MISSION: REDEMPTION**

FIU looks to avenge last seasons 47-6 loss to Middle Tenn.

**ANDREW JULIAN**
Sports Director

The FIU Golden Panthers (2-3, 1-0 Sun Belt Conference) return home, Oct. 11 to take on the Middle Tennessee St. Blue Raiders (2-3, 1-2), and FIU carries into this game the momentum of back-to-back wins for the first time in the program’s 6+ seasons.

The Blue Raiders are also entering this game riding high. Tuesday, Sept. 30, Middle Tennessee defeated FAU in Murfreesboro, Tenn. on a last second hail mary connection from Joe Craddock to Malcolm Beyak. MTSU also defeated Maryland this season.

Craddock, the senior Middle Tennessee quarterback took over for the incumbent starter Dwight Dasher to start this season, and has good success this season, leading the Sun Belt through, five games, in passing yardage per game, and completion percentage, and he has added his name to the early discussion for Sun Belt Player of the year.

On the FIU side of the ball, Paul McCall continues to progress in the new offense, and played his best football of the season on the road trip. In the two games McCall was a combined 17-of-32 for 332 yards and five touchdowns.

The most sparkling statistic he brings from the road trip is the zero interceptions in the two games, after throwing five over the first three games of the season.

McCall has also had the opportunity to leave each of the games with a relatively clean jersey, as the FIU offensive line allowed just one sack in each of the road contests, and paved the way for the FIU running backs to gain 236 yards and five touchdowns in the two games, and even while just averaging 3.5 yards per carry, the run game has added balance to the FIU offense in good scoring position with short fields.

Middle Tennessee has allowed eight sacks this season, but it’s having serious issues controlling the line of scrimmage on offense.

The Blue Raiders average just 2.0 yards per carry as a team, and leading rusher Phillip Tanner averages just 2.8 yards per catch. For MTSU to win on the road, it will take a more inspired performance from the run game to attempt to neutralize the FIU home crowd.

Defensively, both schools have been strong as of late, with Middle Tennessee holding the struggling FAU offense to just 13 points and BCS conference opponents Kentucky and Maryland to an average of 232.5 yards in the two games. MTSU is +4 in turnover ratio. Linebacker Ivan Hickmon is the leader of the Blue Raider defense, with 36 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss, a sack and an interception.

The FIU Defense, since returning from Iowa, has allowed 13.8 points per game, and has lived in their opponents’ backfields, with 12 tackles for loss in their last three contests.

FIU has also forced nine takeaways in the three games, and has played with tremendous defensive intensity, led by their speedy and deep linebacking corps, fronted by Scott Bryant, who leads the golden panthers in tackles with 42.

With two strong defenses, the game could be decided as a matter of field position, and that is where FIU has a decided advantage.

With freshman TY Hilton leading the Sun Belt in both kickoff return (23.6) and punt return (20.3) average, and punter Carlos Munera ranking second in the conference in punting average at 41.3 yards per punt, the FIU special teams has, and should continue to put its offense in good scoring position with short fields.

Couple that with one blocked kick in each of the last three games, and FIU has, thus far, the most effective special teams unit in the Sun Belt Conference.

**BEACON PREDICTION**

Expect a defensive contest early, as this is the type of game that matches up similarly to the Toledo contest, with a quality passing offense that has some trouble moving the ball on the ground. FIU should, through its opportunistic defense that will come out of the locker room with great intensity playing at home, be able to create some turnovers and big plays.

The special teams will also do its part, against an MTSU special teams unit allowing over 20 yards per kickoff return and 10 yards per punt return to set the offense up with good field position.

The Golden Panthers will have a strong stretch, like their second and third quarters over the past two weeks, and build a lead. Middle Tennessee will add a late score or two, but FIU will hold on for another double-digit victory.

**VOLLEYBALL, page 7**

**JONATHAN ALPERT**
Asst. Sports Director

The women’s volleyball team continues its conference play tonight at 7 p.m., hosting the Denver Pioneers and will then play North Texas on Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. at FIU Arena.

The Golden Panthers comes into the weekend leading the Sun Belt’s East Division with an impressive 13-4 overall record and a 3-1 conference record.

The Golden Panthers will be looking to hand the Pioneers (15-2, 4-0 SBC West) their first conference loss of the season.

FIU’s lethal group of outside hitters will be challenged by Pioneer libero Kaci Wikierak, who’s defensive prowess and balance to the FIU offense to just 13 points and BCS conference opponents Kentucky and Maryland to an average of 232.5 yards in the two games. MTSU is +4 in turnover ratio. Linebacker Ivan Hickmon is the leader of the Blue Raider defense, with 36 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss, a sack and an interception.

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**VOLLEYBALL, page 7**