Credit Union keeps funds protected during financial crisis

By definition, a recession occurs when there is a two-three month period of no growth in the economy, according to Nissen. So far, he said, the crisis is only in the nation’s banking system, as the credit market is drying up and loans are harder to come by. Nissen’s main concern, however, is how deep the problem will become.

“The question will be if the crisis is not abated, will it spread to other areas? It could lead to a vicious spiral downward, with more cutbacks in businesses, and lead us into a deeper recession,” Nissen said.

Nissen also heads the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy, which publishes a yearly report called the “State of Working” during the year. The report showed that as early as 2007, the state of Florida was already feeling the effects of a recession, with unemployment rising from 3.2 percent in 2006 to 4.1 percent in 2007.

Students also face the issue of housing for the semester, asking themselves if living on campus is more affordable than buying or renting a house or apartment.

“Most of the small things you can do that makes a big difference. I decided instead of wasting money on gas, I would move into a campus,” said sophomore Luis Nava, who currently lives in Lakeview North.

Students face other challenges if they want to live off campus.

“If you rent an apartment, it should be much more favorable than buying, since banks are not giving as many [home] loans and home owners are refusing to drop prices,” Nissen said.

Nissen explains that what homeowners will do with the houses they can’t sell is try to rent them out. The alternative, he said, is to wait until the housing market bottoms out, which he doesn’t expect to happen anytime soon.

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Dwindling economy affects all

ECONOMY, page 1

happening in the economy will not affect these loans and grants," said Ukenye, assistant director of the Office of Financial Aid. Ukenye also added that the amount of money for Pell Grants - grants for low-income students - increased from $3,410 in 2006-2007 to $4,731 in 2008-2009. However, the office has begun to see an increase of students who are in need of loans because either they or their parents have lost their job.

Banks have also become much stricter in giving out private loans to students. We have seen that some lenders for private loans have dropped from the student lending business," said Melissa Madrana, an employee of Enrollment Services in the Office of Financial Aid.

As students struggle through the rigor of a lagging economy, some remain optimistic about the current situation.

“I’m not worried. I have a money market account and $20,000 in savings with Bank of America. It is the only bank I trust," Navia said. However, some students are less positive.

“Everything is going to go up [like tuition] so soon enough we’re not going to be able to attend school and banks will not be able to give loans," said freshman Lilian Mendza, whose mother is disabled and receives aid from the government. “Financial aid just isn’t enough.”

College offers innovative curriculum

MEDICINE, page 1

has had the opportunity to rethink everything from the beginning to create a rational curriculum for the students. “Medical schools have a historical curriculum, something that has been there for 100 years and they’ve changed it a little bit at a time, but they haven’t gone in with the idea of rethinking it and retooling it,” he said.

One of the elements that will make the College of Medicine different from others is the way the curriculum will be taught. The most traditional way of medical education is to teach all the science courses in the first couple of years and all clinical applications in the following two years, with the idea that once the student learns the foundations they will then apply them to the clinical aspect, according to Dambach. “We’ve decided to integrate the two together from day one,” Dambach said. “We will talk about the science and the clinical condition simultaneously throughout all four years, progressively building the capabilities of the students to think critically and rationally.” The curriculum includes four chronological periods of study that will be covered in four years.

The first period will provide the foundations of medicine: core sciences and social sciences. An introduction to clinical skills will focus on patient-doctor communication and general physical exams. The second period will consist of eight courses and cover the major organ systems. Students will pursue out-patient and hospital simulation during the third period, and will have individual schedules with other students and a faculty member for their area of specialty. The last period will allow students to explore areas of specialty and be dedicated to research, among other things.

Throughout the four years, students will participate in Neighborhood Help, a program that will allow interdisciplinary groups of students to work in under served communities throughout South Florida.

Each student will be assigned to two fellow students and will monitor their health throughout the four years. “We thought it was very important for our students to get more intense hands-on personal experience with the real lives of real people,” Dambach said.

We will talk about the science and the clinical condition simultaneously... building the capabilities of the students to think critically and rationally.

George Dambach, Associate Dean
Ten years ago, not paying Greek fees meant suspension from events. Now, it means not being able to purchase a car.

When the Greek community changed its payment policy from manual collection to an online paying system, some students have found that it can affect their credit score.

“Three semesters ago, I used to get a receipt by hand from the chapter treasurer and [if you didn’t meet deadline] the only consequence was being suspended from an event,” said senior Christopher Hernandez, a Beta Omicron Pi member.

Not paying on time has a long-term effect on a student’s credit score and their ability to borrow money. Many Greek members have expressed concern for this current system in hopes for a change in policies.

According to Hernandez, Beta Omicron Pi dues alone are $450 a month. “I go to work twice a week earning $150; I use it for gasoline, car insurance and classes,” Hernandez said. This does not allow him much flexibility with his budget.

Different chapters have different amounts for dues and use different online payment systems, like GreekBill.com, but all still hold the same consequences if not paid on time.

The problem stems from chapters having their own payment plans separate from the online system. When members can’t pay due to financial difficulties, the chapters take this in consideration and extend their payment deadline.

“A year ago, we joined Omega financials and the system does not set the standards,” Pi Kappa Phi’s Treasurer Frady Bayona said. It is beneficial, according to Bayona, since a treasurer doesn’t have to find a collection agency because the Web site has it built in.

Members of each Greek organization receive three warnings before being reported to a collection agency.

“If you don’t pay your bill, you will be held accountable,” said Andrea Gaspardinov Kovachy, a Campus Life adviser.

According to Kovachy, the new online mechanism is a safety belt because it helps groups have a better collection rate and not be in financial trouble.

Freshman Gabrielle Winchester, an Alpha Xi Delta member, says she believes Greeks can erase human error with the viable online collection system, but it comes with strict guidelines which cause hardship for students.

“I’d rather go back to the ‘pen and paper ways’ and not get executed for a forgotten payment,” Hernandez said.

Calling quickly, calling immediately and not waiting, according to Kovachy, is the cure to the financial frenzy within the Greek community.

Charlene Collazo, president of the Phi Mu chapter and former Panhellenic Council president, said otherwise. “I’d rather go back to the ‘pen and paper ways’ and not get executed for a forgotten payment,” Hernandez said.

Calling quickly, calling immediately and not waiting, according to Kovachy, is the cure to the financial frenzy within the Greek community.

Charlene Collazo, president of the Phi Mu chapter and former Panhellenic Council president, said otherwise. “The money is sent to the national headquarters and is brought back to the chapter for scholarships and specific projects,” Collazo said.

In all, being unable to pay dues really affects the new member experience as time is spent making up past debt. “New members know from the beginning how much money they have to pay. Greek members should handle it as seriously as if you were handling a credit card,” Winchester said.

While accumulation of debt is a problem, Greek organizations are finding ways to help their members pay. “There is a scholarship system in the works for a sister in financial trouble and that has shown commitment and leadership within the chapter,” Collazo said.
Aquatic Center almost ready for general public use

The Division of Student Affairs allocated the money from the Student Government Association’s reserve account, which consists of money not spent from the yearly financial allocation to SGA that accumulates over the years, according to A man Maria Avalos, assistant director of the Student Government Council president.

The Aquatic Center is scheduled to open in January for students, staff, and faculty to enjoy.

The center will feature a swimming pool, a diving well, a separate diving facility for the diving team, and a digital scoreboard.

The center will also feature an electronic tiling system with touch-pads in all eight lanes.

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Halloween tricks, treats for your party festivities

The end of October is quickly approaching, and one of the best holidays is creeping up on us. Halloween is almost here, and sure our leaves are not orange or brown, and autumn is nowhere to be seen, but Mami does Halloween another way: the party way.

Put on your costumes and dance all night with someone dressed like Batman at an over-decorated, spooky club. But what if you’re throwing the party?

Here are some tricks and treats you can use to make your party one to die for. Are you really going to serve punch in a plain bowl at your party? Take that plain party favor and turn it into a spooky Halloween treat that is also your centerpiece. My witch’s cauldron recipe is definitely the trick for your party. How about the treats? Here are some you can make that will curb the hunger of the zombies at your party. No need to sacrifice your little sister this Halloween.

CANDY CORN RICE KRISPIES TREATS

Follow the recipe on the side of your favorite puffed rice cereal’s box and add your favorite Halloween candy to spice things up. If your favorite is to add the traditional candy corn. Not only does it give the treats an orange color and make this dessert more fun. But what if you’re throwing a party one to die for.

EDIBLE DIRT

More of a childhood favorite that we just can’t grow out of, edible dirt is the recipe that combines three things we love - ice cream, crushed Oreos and gummy worms. To give the illusion that you’re eating directly from the earth, take a scoop of softened ice cream and place it on wax paper to harden.

Halloween is fun, it’s our chance to channel our inner child and dress up like the Spice Girls - it’s the day where dressing in drag and being a Popsicle stick. In a pot, melt about 40 caramel squares with a tablespoon of water about halfway through with a sturdy stick, then cover the ice cream with one inch of crushed Oreos, which are equivalent to the dirt, then decorate with gummy worms to add color and make this dessert more fun.

THE CARAMEL APPLE

Take your favorite apple, whether it is Golden Delicious or Granny Smith - you’re in charge here - and wash it, removing all stickers. Make sure to use hot water - the hotter it is, the more smoke will spill out. Just be careful, and don’t let your skin get in direct contact with the dry ice. It is so cold, that it will burn you, so use tongs and be safe.

Finally, in a smaller bowl, mix your favorite punch together - usually your favorite fruit juice with copious amounts of your favorite liquor - and place the bowl inside of the cauldron.

To add an extra-creepy touch, add peeled green grapes to the punch, they will be slimy, round and cold - just like eyeballs.

There you have it - a spooky Halloween treat that is also your centerpiece.

CREEPY CAULDRON:

The makings of a perfect party decoration: combine dry ice, spider webs, and glow sticks to ensure a spooktacular night for your ghouls and ghosts.

Put on your costumes and make monetary donations to causes that student groups are supporting.

Here are some things you can serve at your party. No need to sacrifice your little sister this Halloween.

Blood center encourages students to get involved

For a little over a decade, FIU has worked with the state’s blood centers, partnering them with student groups and helping create themed blood drives to attract young donors.

The University works with two blood centers, Florida Blood Centers and the Community Centers of South Florida, to help them obtain blood supplies needed for patients. In turn, the blood centers reward student donors with gifts as well as donate money for the school’s general scholarship funds.

For the past two years, Florida Blood Centers has donated about $30,000 to the University, according to Dr. Robert Dollinger, assistant dean of Student Affairs, who has helped organize drives for the blood centers.

The money is presented to FIU via a check, and according to Dollinger, the amount is then disbursed through the Office of Financial Aid.

Blood Center of South Florida offers scholarships to community high school students who plan to attend FIU.

“The blood drive program is a great program that’s getting better and better, more student groups than ever are getting involved. Programs like this one help to create more value to the university,” Dollinger said. “The students are obtaining prizes like movie tickets, sub sandwiches, etc., as well as getting money they need for their club’s causes, some even possibly a scholarship. The blood centers are getting the blood they need to distribute to the ill, and the ill are getting the blood they need to survive.

By donating one pint of blood, students can not only help save three lives, but can also show their support of student club causes.

“We want students to come out and donate, so we will provide advertising materials for students wanting to hold a blood drive. We completely support student efforts,” said Lawrence Ganns, manager of Media Relations at Florida Blood Centers.

The blood centers cooperate with students in planning and creating special blood drives, and make monetary donations to causes that student groups are supporting.

Florida Blood Centers’ blood banks are non-profit, underwritten by hospitals that use the blood in emergencies, routine surgeries, and for cancer and leukemia patients, according to Ganns.

“The aim of the blood banks is to supply hospitals with blood and blood products needed for their patients,” Ganns said.

The Integrated Communications Council, a new club in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, held a special blood drive Oct. 9 with the help and support of Community Centers of South Florida.

“The money is helping us fund a fashion show that we’re holding at the south campus on Oct. 25,” said Paul A she, promotions chair of the ICC.

The ICC received a $10 donation from the blood center for each pint of usable blood obtained, according to A she.

For more info, go to floridasbloodcenters.org or call 1-888-9-DONATE.
First and foremost I'd like to apologize and take full responsibility for the unfortunate incident that occurred on Oct. 11 following FIU's football win over Middle Tennessee.

Everyone at FIU Athletics is excited about the recent incident that took place in the stadium. The new stadium, the tailgating, the overall collegiate atmosphere and most importantly, winning.

It's important to understand and adhere to these policies and regulations, we should encourage fan participation and we should always allow our players to gather in the student section after each game and to interact with their fellow students. In addition, plans are being developed to create even more fan interaction with our team.

Regarding the unfortunate incident that took place after the win over Middle Tennessee, Chief Bill King and FIU Public Safety, with complete cooperation from the Athletic Department, are thoroughly investigating the incident in order to ascertain exactly what happened. When the investigation is completed, appropriate action will be taken.

I look forward to many more exciting wins at the new FIU Football Stadium and hope that each and every one of you will continue to be a part of us for many years to come.

Pete Garcia is Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. The Soapbox is a forum for student leaders and University officials to voice concerns about FIU issues.

JASMYN ELIOT
Contributing Writer

Looking at the National Debt Clock in Times Square, it seems someone has neglected to pay the bills on time. According to the Associated Press and other news reports, the National Debt Clock has run out of digits in order to count the nation's current debt.

The dollar sign had to be removed to make room for the $1 in the $10.2 trillion dollars the U.S. Treasury owes to our government's creditors.

Some aren't worried about this event in the slightest. Ashley Benitez, a freshman and history major said, "There's no way we can fall into another depression."

On the other hand, such an achievement has struck passersby with shock, confusion and disappointment. Freshman Eric Allen, a broadcast journalism major, said, "I'm afraid for our country.

Andy Beall, a freshman and history major share the same sentiment, "I am afraid for our country too because we've been spending too much money that we don't have," Beall said.

This is not what Manhattan-based real estate tycoon Seymour Durst had in mind.

Durst set up the clock in 1989 to call attention to the $2.7 trillion debt incurred at the time, which would then prompt the nation to watch its spending habits and attempt to reduce its debt.

Freshman Alicia Vargas, a psychology major, remembers seeing lower digits in the past through her studies. "I remember being in the Intensive Care Unit in that hospital that shows the clock – the number was nowhere near 10.2 trillion dollars."

However, thanks to the increased government spending, most notably $500 billion a year since 2003, the National Debt Clock can count up to a quadrillion dollars in debt. Although this will alleviate the obvious issue at hand, I don't believe that's the true answer to the problem.

The addition of two more digit spaces put a very dismal fact in front of me: there may be a time where the national debt will exceed the national budget.

People are complaining about the economy and lack of monetary support available now to programs within the country. Imagine what it could be like if the national debt enters the quadrillion-dollar range. This would mean that financially, the government has spread themselves so thin that the point that they will more than likely have little money for our own needs as a nation, let alone the ability to start paying off the national debt.

"Hopefully, it sparks a movement to change our spending habits and stop the war that is extremely expensive," Vargas said.

As of now, the solution is to add two more digit spaces so that the National Debt Clock can count up to a quadrillion dollars in debt. Although this will alleviate the obvious issue at hand, I don't believe that's the true answer to the problem.

The Republican call for "Drill, baby, drill" received so much attention that Democrats such as Sen. Barack Obama began "to publicly support some amount of offshore drilling," according to an article in Time Magazine published Oct. 7. It's no denying that in our world, oil is king and the environment is a poor orphaned child.

Drowning in debt and resisting the unforgiving waves of an economic slowdown, the proposals for renewable energy projects such as wind and solar have taken a back seat.

"Time Magazine" also reported that new president Barack Obama of the 2003 "Pacific oil spill forced us to think about our dependence on oil," which makes clearer initiatives less attractive to businesses in America and abroad.

I can only hope that the economy will stabilize, corporations and international relations will improve, and the "green" I'm referring to is money, not the "green" we owe to our politicians.

"In the meantime, perhaps the government can somehow get started with some of the smaller debts owed, such as the interest on the national debt, what we owe to other nations, and what we owe to businesses and corporations," Beall said.

Before we take down the National Debt Clock to add spaces to it, perhaps we should work on getting our numbers down.

Eric Feldman
Opinion Editor
Country star reveals soft side in new children’s book

JOHN GEROME
AP Wire

As the father of three girls, Tim McGraw understands the challenges that face dads who want to please their daughters. So the children’s book he’s co-written with Tom Douglas has some simple advice: As long as you’re spending time with them, it doesn’t really matter what you do.

"My Little Girl," to be published Tuesday by Thomas Nelson, tells the story of a father — in a dark cowboy hat, of course — who spends a fun day with his little girl Katie doing ... nothing in particular.

They stop by the farm co-op, gaze up at the clouds and play on a tire swing.

The 41-year-old country singer said he enjoys spending time with his daughters — ages 11, 10 and 6 — but if he did what they liked doing, he’d be spending a lot of time shopping at the mall or getting pedicures.

"It’s something that as a father you kind of have to sacrifice what you want to do, because boys do what you want to do. If I want to go to the farm and shoot guns or ride four-wheelers in the mud when it’s 40 degrees ... the girls aren’t really interested in doing that," he said.

But McGraw said he’s found that his daughters like coming along while he does simple, everyday stuff, like running to the grocery store or stopping by the office.

"Do what you have to do in your regular routine and take them with you. It makes all the difference in the world," he said.

McGraw’s wife, Faith Hill, wrote in the forward: “I hope this story provides quality time for fathers and daughters to enjoy each other’s company and make memories reading together.”

While Hill loved the book, McGraw, his daughters were far less enthusiastic.

“If it doesn’t have Chris Brown or the Jonas Brothers involved, they don’t care," he joked.
character of Zooman and show the audience that the character is not so much a menacing criminal as he is a victim.

“I want him to be your son, nephew, cousin so that you may realize that he is, and or was, approachable and or recognize that there is still hope for him,” Gainey said. “(T)he show is not just about giving up and allow our community to continue to become more and more filled with young men who are forced to believe they live in a jungle and create a zoo in their own community to bring havoc.”

Both Gainey and Harrell believe this play deals with many issues that are relevant today and recall the death of a local young girl whose death mirrors the death of Jinny in the play.

“Two years ago, a little girl was murdered on her back porch due to gun violence,” Harrell said. “Her name was Sherdavia Jenkins. Ironically, she was burying her doll in the dirt when a stray bullet hit her in the Liberty Square Housing projects. I do believe that the character is not so much a menacing character of Zooman and show the audience will obtain an insight to his thoughts and feelings and the reasoning behind his senseless acts of violence.

“Communities are choosing to ignore the needs of troubled youths and just wait on the penal system or wait on them to self-genocide. If we are supposed to be able to evolve as humans, then we need to increase our communication skills” Gainey said.

Gainey emphasized the need for communities to get involved and to avoid becoming socially isolated, otherwise we will continue 2.5 p.m. to produce the show.

“Zooman and the Sign” will be showing at the Wendell Narcisse Theatre at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center at 6161 NW 22nd Avenue, from Oct. 22 through Nov. 16.

FAMILY PROBLEMS: The leads of “Zooman and the Sign” argue during a recent performance of the show. The show is based around a tragic family situation.

The week culminates on Friday, Oct. 24, with the “NOCHE DOMINICANA” the stage play. The week’s activities continue with a Business Etiquette Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 22, in GC 243 at noon. The luncheon will consist of a three-course meal and will teach women how to carry and present themselves during business lunches and dinners – a key component of successful careers and networking.

It is important to attend events such as the “Vixen Luncheon before entering the workforce to learn how to interact with others. Since there is no class offering practical skills, workshops such as these are beneficial,” freshman and international business major Deleen Pulido said.

Breast Cancer Walk. This walkathon is held annually to raise money for cancer research and is walked in over 15 cities across the country.

Monday, Oct. 20, was Health Initiative Day and Tuesday, Oct. 21 featured “Love Your Body,” a discussion panel held in the east Graham Center ballrooms.

“Women want to know they don’t need to be perfect and that we are all unique – a quality which makes us valuable. Our goal is to teach women they can set their own standards and raise their own bars,” said Teresita Feal, FIU’s Panhel Council president.

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It is important to attend events such as the “Vixen Luncheon before entering the workforce to learn how to interact with others. Since there is no class offering practical skills, workshops such as these are beneficial,” freshman and international business major Deleen Pulido said.

Oct. 23 will feature a State Farm Financial Seminar at 3 p.m. in GC 140 to discuss issues such as planning for retirement and 401ks. From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., a Voting Vixens Political Presentation will be held in the east GC ballrooms.

The week culminates on Friday, Oct. 24, with a celebration of feminism from noon to 2 p.m. in the GC pit and a “Girls Night Out” – a Sex & The City movie screening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in GC 140.
Lamppost brings spunk, spontaneity to Radiate FM

MONICA PUERTO
Staff Writer

Jennifer Mojena, also known as Lamppost, has been a DJ at Radiate FM for the past six years and was a program director for four years.

Coming a long way from listening to WVU, the college radio in her middle school years, she has left her mark with her Living End Show.

Yet she wishes she applied sooner to the station.

"I hope no one out there is under the impression that we here at Radiate FM are a bunch of music snobs and elitists... don't be afraid to apply and have an opportunity to express yourself here," she said.

Lamppost's Living End Show centers on rock music in the 80s and 90s, especially underground music, which consists of genres such as new wave, punk, post-punk, neo-psychedelia, grunge and more.

According to Mojena, "Sub Pop Records was on fire in the early 90s and you can't even begin to cover it all if you just play Nirvana or Soundgarden. I really just thrive on playing things people haven't been exposed to before. This is what really drives me."

Lamppost likes to keep her shows impromptu and spontaneous, and eases the songs' transitions live, playing songs from bands such as The Cure, Depeche Mode, Echo and the Bunnymen, which spark nostalgic high school memories for listeners.

When asked what she looked for in employees when she was a program director she said, "Since the DJ positions are volunteer, you really have to have a love for exposing people to good music to keep you doing it week after week."

One of the DJs interviewed by her, Rick Bikanco, states he is an inspiration to the music he plays as a DJ and how working with her has been a pleasure.

"I will never forget when Jennifer bought me the Electric Wizard's CD, and now I play it every chance I get on my show," Radiate FM has evolved over the years since Lamppost began. The most significant change she has noted is the addition of two new frequencies, 96.9 at Biscayne Bay and 95.3 in the main campus.

To Mojena, it is a big accomplishment, because not many universities have three signals, and with her addition of classical music from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m., Radiate FM is now a 24-hour operating station.

"I expect Radiate FM to continue playing music that people don't immediately have access or exposure to, making it a shining beacon in the sea of Miami radio, bogged down with repetition and vapidity. People have definitively noticed the change and in 2006, Radiate FM won the annual New Times Best in Miami, Best Radio Station."

Although the broadcasting world is competitive, Mojena's dream would be to work for a station such as Seattle's KEXP.
New backfield threat emerges for FIU

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

OWENS HAS CAREER GAME

Daunte Owens played high school football with University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow. Tebow has gone on to win a Heisman trophy and a national championship, Owens has lurked in the shadows during his FIU career. On Saturday, things changed for the Jacksonville native.

During the loss to Troy, Owens enjoyed career high statistics in every offensive category. The junior running back accounted for 90 total yards of offense and scored his first career touchdown. The performance included a 35-yard run.

"I feel good," Owens said. "I'm just playing my role. The offensive line blocks and I just respond to how they block."

Owens was given 14 carries on the game, as starter Julian Reams sat out the meeting with an injury. In addition, Owens caught two passes.

Through seven games, Owens has already surpassed his career rushing totals.

OFF THE STREETS

The Golden Panthers will have another bye week this weekend before their next game at Louisiana Lafayette on Saturday, Nov. 1. The off time is expected to give extra time to Reams and linebacker Matt Garris, both nursing injuries. Garris suffered a concussion during the game against Troy. It will be the second to last bye of the year.

SAFETIES

FIU’s first score against Troy was a safety in the first quarter. The two-point score was the second of its kind this season, and the total is more than the Golden Panthers converted last season. The last time was against the University of South Florida Sept. 20.
After a pair of wins over playoff teams, Dolphins coming back to Earth quickly

**STEVEN WINE**

The Miami Dolphins have beaten the past two weeks by a winless team and by the only team they defeated last year, which is why coach Tony Sparano needed a reason to smile Monday.

Then someone asked if he discouraged his players from talking politics in the locker room.

"I wouldn’t tell them anything like that," Sparano said. "They’re entitled to their own opinions, of course. We’ve got a couple of Ivy League guys in there and some guys from Stanford, so they’re pretty smart. They’re probably schooled up pretty well on the election.

"I’ve got to be honest with you: Me myself, I’ve got a little bit more of a one-track mind right now."

After a pause, Sparano added, "That was good. I appreciate you making me laugh today.

As has often been the case in recent years, times are tough in Dolphinland. Losses to Baltimore on Sunday and at Houston a week earlier took the show off实在是 earlier upset victories against New England and San Diego.

The going could get especially bumpy Sunday, when last-place Miami faces a F C E A E East leader Buffalo (5-1). The Bills have won seven of the past eight games in the series.

"We’re always going to be the underdog pretty much in every matchup we play this year," Miami receiver Davone Bess said. "We just need to focus on what we’re doing, and that will at least give us a shot."

The Dolphins also need to revive their ground game and run defense, because they’ve been second-best in rushing yards in every loss. Against the Ravens, Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams combined for only 43 yards on 17 carries, while Baltimore’s Willis McGahee ran for a season-high 105 yards.

Miami played the final three quarters without 305-pound nose tackle Jason Ferguson, who was sidelined after the catch with an injury to his ribs and still hurting Monday.

"He’s just really sore right now," Sparano said. "It’s just going to be day to day."

The Dolphins gave up a season-high 140 yards rushing, with Baltimore running unimpeded through a combination of only two of their past 11 games in the series.

"We’ve started to realize that playing hard in practice really pays off in the game," Sparano said. "Said senior defender Kia Rigsby. "We get put in the same exact situations at practice and if we can get it done in practice, it makes the game that much easier."

FIU has held their last three opponents to a combination of only two of their past 11 games in the series.

The team carries the momentum from their wins into their remaining games, which are all away: Arkansas-Little Rock, Arkansas State, and Florida Atlantic. Game time for FIU vs. Arkansas-Little Rock is set for Oct. 24 at 6 p.m.

"We’ve started to realize that playing hard in practice really pays off in the game," Sparano said. "We tackle pretty good in the box and played it steadily controlled the ball just outside the box and played it steadily down the middle of the field to Kadinaa Sorzano, a sophomore. From ten yards out, Sorzano scored the goal."

"We’ve executed that package pretty well; yesterday wasn’t one of those days," Sparano said. "Whatever or not we move on with it, we’ll see. It’s part of what we do, but it’s a small part of what we do."
Women’s soccer protects home turf for final home games, win streak at three

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Contributing Writer

FIU 4, USA 1

The FIU women’s soccer team captured its first win of the 2008 season against Louisiana-Monroe last week and they are coming off another win this past weekend. The Golden Panthers defeated South Alabama, 4-1, to move to 2-10-2 in the SBC and 2-3-2 in the SBC. The win was the first of the season for FIU, with a .205 attack percentage.

Still, the Golden Panthers have struggled to finish, but the win was a step in the right direction. "We’re building confidence," said Coach Chestnutt. "It’s a young team and they’re learning." The team had four goals on the night, all of which were scored by different players, including Maria Guadron, who scored two goals in the 65th minute of the game. The Golden Panthers defense held South Alabama to just 7 shots on goal and a lone goal off a corner kick, which was scored by Carly Williams.

"It’s a young team and they’re learning," said Coach Chestnutt. "We’ve had trouble finishing, but we had 4 goals tonight. That will give us a lot of confidence that we can do it."

Maria Guadron is one of two seniors on the FIU women’s soccer team. In regard to two straight wins she said, "It was exciting, and at the same time there were a lot of emotions going through because it is my last game here. I wanted to give it my all. I did my job and worked hard with the team so that we can keep going forward."

After defeating South Alabama, FIU moved to 2-10-2, and 2-3-2 in the SBC. The Golden Panthers’ final home game is Sunday against Troy. "Each game we’re building, regardless of a win or a loss; their work right now is coming together," said Coach Chestnutt.

Just 21 minutes into the game, midfielder Kassandra Sorzano, a sophomore, scored FIU’s first goal of the season in four sets, 25-17, 25-15, and 25-15. FIU won the previous year’s meeting between the schools, on Sept. 26, in a sweep at FIU Arena. "They played much tougher at home than they did in our final meeting," said Tomic, whose team had a solid .229 hitting percentage in the match.

Junior All-American Yarimar Rosalco collected a team-high double-double of the season, with 20 kills and 11 digs. Isadora Rangel and Sabrina Gonzalez added double-digit kills, with 11 and 10, respectively.

Leading the way for the Jaguars was Hirstina Markova and Juliana Almeida. The pair combined to amass 25 kills and led the way in USA’s lone set victory in which South Alabama had a .205 attack percentage.

FIU entered the fourth set leading 2-1, and took care of the Golden Panthers’ offense, with 17 kills and 15 assists in the final frame, while holding FIU to just 15 points and .083 hitting percentage while making just three errors.

LATE SEASON SWING

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers completed their second consecutive conference weekend sweep and third this season, collecting wins over South Alabama, Oct. 17 and Troy, Oct. 18, both on the road. FIU improved to 7-4 overall and holds a league-best mark in SBC conference record, with the only blemish being a close 3-4 loss at #4/5 Tennessee on Oct. 13.

FIU leads the Sun Belt east division over the Blue Raiders by a half game, and both clubs will have six more conference contests before meeting for the second time this season on Nov. 7 at FIU arena.

FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 1

FIU played what Coach Danieja Tomic called a "sloppy" game in Mobile, Ala., as they won their second road conference game of the season in four sets, 25-22, 25-23, 25-18, 25-15. FIU won the previous year’s meeting between the schools, on Sept. 26, in a sweep at FIU Arena. "They played much tougher at home than they did in our final meeting," said Tomic, whose team had a solid .229 hitting percentage in the match.

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WOMEN’S SOCCER, page 11

Road no issue for Volleyball

The Golden Panthers made short work of the Troy Trojans on Oct. 18 in Troy, Ala. FIU had a bit of a let down in the second set, but was able to control the first and third, to cruise to a three-set victory, 25-11, 25-21, 25-12. FIU was aided by an unlikely group of supporters. 14 FIU students made the trek up to Alabama for the Saturday’s FIU-Troy double feature that began with the FIU volleyball.

"It's awesome, to have our fans when we are on the road, it's awesome. I could see our players turn it up a little bit when they saw our fans coming in," Tomic said as her team rolled through most of the match, but had some trouble in the second set.

"I said a couple of weeks ago, that we have a tendency to play down to the level of our opponents if we're not challenged," Tomic said. Troy was able to hang tough as FIU went through a second set lull that saw the set bled for much of its duration, a total of 13 times. FIU took the lead for good, going on a 5-0 run to bring the score to 24-19.

Isadora Rangel had the most efficient hitting day of the season for FIU, with .688 percentage, and Yarimar Rosalco posted double-double number 13 on the year with 15 kills and 14 digs.

The Golden Panthers visit FAU on Oct. 21 for their last mid-week contest of the season, and this upcoming weekend FIU hits the road for its final conference weekend. It will be a visit to Arkansas, to take on UALR on Fri. Oct. 24, and Arkansas State on Sat. Oct. 25.