Revised U.S. Sugar buyout to cost $400 million less

JESSICA GRESKO  
AP Wire

Gov. Charlie Crist announced a revised plan for a historic Everglades restoration deal on Nov. 12.

The new plan comes on the eve of the 61st anniversary of President Harry Truman’s dedication of the Everglades National Park in December 1947.

“The government will step in to help buy the sugar land,” he said.

Though the State won’t have access to the land right away, it plans to use most of the 181,000 acres it is buying to restore the natural flow of water to the Everglades and create a system to clean the water being sent there.

The deal is expected to be approved next month by the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Sugar. But the earliest date available to take possession of any land is Dec. 2009, according to U.S. Sugar Vice President Robert Coker.

Crist did not set a number of the total acres that will eventually go to conservation. Some will likely be retained for farming.

Additional reporting by Danielle Baciagalupo.
Royal hopefuls disqualified after using the Web for campaigning

HOMECOMING, page 1

King for UP “Hopefully next year everyone will conduct themselves in a better manner and we can get back to the real reason for Homecoming, which is supporting FIU.” Rachel Olmedo, who was running for Homecoming Queen at UP, felt the same way, stating that she was in agreement with the Council’s decision. “The most disheartening part of last week was learning that people were cheating for the philanthropy portion of the court race,” Olmedo said. “By then a serious line had been crossed. I was shocked to see how low people would go in order to win.” The Homecoming voting was cancelled to stop the “angst and frustration” many students felt because of the cheating, according to Director of Campus Life Eric A. Arneson. “Several members of the court actually dropped out and withdrew their name from the competition,” Arneson said. “So the Homecoming committee decided that there was too much animosity between different student organization groups and clubs.” Many students were shocked about what happened. “Frankly, I’ve never seen anything like it,” Kovachy said. Kovachy went on to say that expectations for campaigning would most likely have to be adjusted, feeling that the election process should be more defined, as Student Government’s election process.

TICK TOCK: Students wait in line in the Graham Center to vote for Homecoming King and Queen on Nov. 6.

People wishing to participate in Homecoming Court were required to complete an application, have a minimum 2.74 GPA and be a full-time student. Candidates also had to attend several Homecoming Week events like Lip-Sync, the Box Tops for Education drive and the Homecoming football game and parade. Biscayne Bay Campus Homecoming Court elections went smoothly. Natalie Vela, director of Panther Prowl, and G.C. Murray were named Queen and King. Next year, students hope the UP Homecoming Court will replicate BCC’s elections. “We need to hold our community to a higher standard,” Olmedo said. “That’s exactly the message I believe the Homecoming Council is sending by canceling Homecoming Court this year.”

BOG to discuss increase in tuition

FEES, page 1

The BOG requests that the Legislature allocates the $5 million for the FIU Arena’s lobby, reception area and rest rooms; $1.5 million for the Wolfe University Center improvements on the second floor and projects for the playing fields and courts; $703,456 for Graham Center expansions and $5,703,456 for the UP stadium and student meeting rooms, according to the BOG Web site.

According to Kimley, the allotment received for the CITF is dispersed evenly “to each university, but not every year. Usually every two to three years.” However, at an upcoming meeting, the BOG will consider asking the Legislature for the flexibility to set CITF as a percentage of tuition.

On a June 26 newsletter, President Modesto A. Maidique stated that a state bill allows the University to raise tuition by a maximum of 15 percent a year. The BOG requests that the Legislature and Student Government Association approve individual projects.

“The allocation by law requires that SGA be consulted prior to the University requesting projects from the Board of Governors.” Kimsley said. “My impression is that what is requested is what SGA has approved.” According to Chris Ponce, SGC-UP senator, SGA works with both the Florida Legislature and Board of Governors to help fund restoration projects. “SGA gives opinion and feedback of how money should be allocated,” said Chief of Staff Anthony Rianda.

The amount of money that is given to each public state university depends on enrollment and per credit hours. Larger universities receive larger allocations of CITF money. According to Rianda, universities like the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida have a larger sum of money given to them by the state every two to four years because those universities have about 50,000 full-time students enrolled.

“Usually, FIU receives $4 million every four years, but their release of money depends on how long the state decides to hold the money,” Rianda said.

Usually, the building that receives most of the CITF money is the Graham Center. “The projects allocated by SGA are beneficial for students,” Rianda said.

According to SGA, there are some perks to building fees and CITF even though it makes up a percentage of student tuition.

According to Rianda, there are some perks to building fees and CITF even though it makes up a percentage of student tuition.

According to Rianda, there is no process for students to rent and for University activities like Relay for Life and the Miami-Dade Organic Market opening on campus in December

Stemple Public Health Association member Nancy Maideque is presenting the FIU Organic Farmer’s Market, set to kick off on Dec. 3 at the central fountain and the Green Library.

The Organic Farmer’s Market’s purpose is to educate the community to improve their eating behavior for a healthier option, said SPHA President Jesus Medina in an e-mail to The Beacon.

Also, it will support the local farmers for a constant production of organic vegetables and fruits to prevent diseases related to pesticides.

The market will be open to all the Miami-Dade County community.

United Way auction hoping to raise funds

The 2008 United Way auction will be held on Nov. 21 at the Marc Pavilion. The auction runs from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., but the live auction begins at 6:30 p.m.

Students can purchase tickets at MARC 430, CSC 350, Graham Center main office or Health Life Services Building II room 446 for $5, cash only. All proceeds benefit the FIU-United Way 2008 campaign, according to an e-mail sent to The Beacon by the office of University and Community Relations.

University names new Art Museum director

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum has recently named Carol Damian as its new director and chief curator.

Damian, a professor and curator of the Frost Museum since 2006, has been interim director since April.

The massive new building, which will house the museum’s permanent collection of 6,000 works, opens on Nov. 29 and includes five exhibitions with artwork not only from its permanent collection but also the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The center has grown a great deal from a simple art collection to a new massive 46,000 square foot complex.

Honors society holds raffle for ‘Twilight’ movie

The University chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, is raffling away two tickets for the midnight showing of the soon to be released hit movie “Twilight.”

The club will be tabling in the Graham Center on November 10, 12-14 and 17-18. The club will be raffling away tickets for the midnight showing in Kendall Village Mall on Thursday, Nov. 20 and Fri Nov. 21. For more information, contact Annette Estrada at aestrda0804@fiu.edu.

According to its Council of Student Organizations Web site, the society said it was raising money for its scholarship fund in order to improve its writing and reading abilities.

Compiled by Julio Menache
Tournament lets students unleash inner rock stars

SHERVIN BAIN
Staff Writer

Low E, middle C, high A and other notes have been replaced with green, red, yellow, blue and orange in the video game “Guitar Hero,” and students will now have the chance to showcase their hand-eye coordination in the “Guitar Hero” tournament.

The event will take place Nov. 10, 15 people have signed up, but students can still register on the day of the tournament.

“I play ‘Guitar Hero’ with my cousins sometimes, so I feel it would be fun to play with people my age,” said Natalie Vera, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice who already registered for the tournament. “I can only play an easy song, but we’ll see what happens.”

Aside from the tournament, “Mario Kart” and “Dance Dance Revolution” will be available for free play.

Free pizza and drinks will also be served to participants.

“I think it will be a good turnout just because a lot of people like to play ‘Guitar Hero,’” said Andrea Reynoso, a sophomore majoring in physical therapy. “It helps them get their minds off school.”

The BBC Recreation Center has a Xbox, Xbox 360, PlayStation 2, PlayStation 3 and Wii for students to use, according to Torres.

Available for all students, they are priced at $5 an hour and $8 for two hours per person using the system, which can be used in the acoustic room whenever the gym is open.

The winner of the tournament will get two free hours of any game on the game system of his or her choice.

“Beware other ‘Guitar Hero’ players. I’m going to beat everyone,” Vera said.

For more information about the “Guitar Hero” tournament and for registration information visit WUC room 160 or call (305) 919-5678.

Ideal spots for after-work blues complete with food, music

When I worked at Starbucks, my co-workers and I had a tradition of going to a sports bar to unwind after work. Some nights we would just sit in front of the store and relax with a cup oficed tea; anything to forget about the array of annoying customers that came into the store.

Now that I work at Victoria’s Secret, my co-workers and I don’t have any clock-out traditions, and I honestly miss it, but that doesn’t mean that I cannot recruit my friends to unwind with me.

For those who want to get their energy back after work, head over to Paquito’s Mexican restaurant, (16265 Biscayne Blvd.) This is a perfect place to unwind on a Saturday night.

The day I went, I had just finished a five-hour shift. My feet were killing me, and the last thing I wanted to do was to go out anywhere. But within seconds of walking into this restaurant, I got my energy back. It may sound odd, but stepping into Paquito’s transports you to Mexico.

The walls and the decorations are colorful, and the servers are dressed in traditional Mexican attire. Our server had on a light blue skirt, a white shirt and a blue scarf.

Sure the setting woke me up, but it was the music that helped me escape the stress of a long day of work. I don’t speak a word of Spanish, but the sounds of the band s drained all of the tedium out of me.

The live band plays in the bar area, which is only for patrons 21 and over. If you’re not of age, don’t worry; the music is loud enough that the sounds of the guitars can be heard perfectly if you sit in the front of the restaurant.

The yummy Mexican food and fun atmosphere makes Paquito’s a great, high-energy place to unwind after work and get your spirits back up. I had a vegetarian tal- male and nachos. The tamale was the best I’ve ever had, and for the first time ever, I didn’t have to ask for spicy salsa for my nachos.

But sometimes energy is not what you are looking for after work. Those times, I just want to relax and complain about work nights, so I headed over to Hiro Japanese restaurant (3007 N.E. 163rd St.) I took my friend Beth with me after she got off of an eight-hour shift, and I had just closed at Victoria’s Secret. Neither of us was in the mood to go out anywhere crazy; we just wanted a light meal, and I wanted to forget about the horrors of helping women try on bras.

The mood at Hiro is very mellow and tranquil, with soft jazz music playing in the background and warm colors around the restaurant.

There is a lounge for those who are not hungry but want to have some drinks. The flat-screen TVs hanging on the walls totally aid in the escape process everyone craves after work.

We both shared two sushi rolls. Beth had hers with one of the coolest drinks I have ever heard of: a green tea martini. She said the drink was interesting, and that it complemented the sushi perfectly.

We both left Hiro having forgotten about work and the stresses that came with it.

Paquito’s closes at midnight on weekends, and Hiro is open until 3:30 a.m. every night. So no mat- ter when your shift ends, there is no excuse not to head over there.

I know how annoying it can be when your friends bug you about going out when you have just gotten off of work. The only thing on your mind is to go home, get into your jammies and sleep. But fight the urge.

I used to go straight home from work after my shifts, with no time left to vent about the day. I had no time to relax, and it made me despise going to work even more.

Now that I have these places, there is no reason for my week- end shifts to end as poorly as they used to.
Dead bunnies cause literary uproar

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Contributing Writer

Can suicide be funny? The answer is no if you were to ask Taffey Anderson, a mother living in Halsey, Ore. According to an Oct. 20 Seattle Post-Intelligencer article, when her 13-year-old son brought home a copy of the comic book “The Bunny Suicides” from his school library, she forbade him to return it under the premise that she didn’t want any more children exposed to its content. As of now, the book has been returned and she is taking legal measures to have it banned from the library.

The book is a popular set of drawings showing a rabbit attempting suicide in peculiar and dark ways such as ironing itself, jumping through plane turbines and playing tether ball with a hand grenade.

The author, Andy Riley, started the series in 2003 as he was prompted by friends who said that these drawings were funny – to them, at least.

The book is meant to be tak- en as a harmless joke. However, Anderson claims the book could influence young children to act out the depictions in the book, which was not exposed to any imagery, didn’t display any violent behavior.

Additionally, a study in 2003 done by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 47 percent of children between the ages of four and six displayed violent behavior after watching violence displayed in cartoons.

Teenagers are also influenced by violence. In 2002, Jeffrey Johnson of Columbia University conducted an experiment that vided four groups of 100 pre- school-aged children and showed them varying degrees of violence taken out upon a doll. When the children were exposed to that same doll, the three experimental groups acted with hostility to- ward it while the control group, which was not exposed to any imagery, didn’t display any violent behavior.

Although we cannot say that “The Bunny Suicides” has pro- duced a pandemic of mass sui- cides, one thing is clear: despite the odd methods of self-injury, it did cause a few children to act irrationally.

Perhaps Anderson was wrong in removing the book vigilante style, but she did so because she realized the effect it could have on not only her son, but on other children who read it.

Getting a book removed from the library is one of those things that conjures images of a Bradley-esque or Orwellian era state of censorship, but just perhaps there are certain materi- als that should be kept out of the hands of easy public reach, for safety’s sake.

Millions of Americans could lose their jobs if General Motors and its competitors don’t manage their industry efficiently. Once again the automotive industry held its hands out to the United States Treasury asking for money, this time for a $50 bil- lion loan.

“The proposed loan can support the companies to bridge over hard-times,” said professor Mira Wilkins of the Economics department.

This loan raises several questions. First, why should we help the American automotive industry? Is it really in the best interest of the country and economy to continue to support their failing business model?

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, GM lost more than $5.6 billion on its North American automotive operations in 2005, while Ford dropped $5.5 billion on its North American au- tomobile operations. Their market shares have been declining for years. The total automotive employment in the United States in- creased by 8 percent from 1991 to 2005, rising from 1,054,000 jobs in 1991 to 1,138,000 jobs in 2005.

But the drop from the number of employees in 2000 to the ensuing five years to 2005’s levels represent a decline of 16 per- cent, with a total loss of 215,000 jobs.

Why don’t we allow the U.S. automobile industry to die? Simply, a massive amount of unemployment would occur. Not just the 1,098,000 that work for GM, Ford or Chrysler; but the millions of people who depend on the automobile industry, such as suppliers and dealers. The automotive parts industry would suffer immensely if any of the “Big Three” go down.

The U.S. Department of Commerce states that the foreign af- filiated assemblers and their associated parts companies now em- ploy 63,000 U.S. workers. This number has shown a steady in- crease (up 52 percent since 1995), but is far below the number of jobs already lost by the industry. This means that we cannot expect foreign automobile firms to replace the jobs left in the void by our companies.

Wilkins said, “We need to support this industry, but we need to support it in a responsible manner. The recipient company should be very clear as to how it is going to use the money.”

As long as the company uses the money responsibly, it should help the economy greatly, as to prevent massive unemployment. It is believed that these automobile giants are too big or too important to fail due to their massive labor force. But how massive is their labor force relative to other American companies? It may be surprising that the following companies employ a larger num- ber of workers than GM, Toyota, AT&T, General Electric, IBM, McDonald’s, Citigroup, Sears and Wal-Mart.

The big question is: “Once we cross the divide from finan- cial institutions to individual corporations, truly, where would you draw the line?” said Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama.

Should we bail out all of those 12 companies as well, if the need arises? If Wal-Mart, with 2 million plus employees, request- ed loans from the U.S. Treasury; would they receive as much at- tention and sympathy as the automotive industry? It is unethical for force taxpayers to pay billions of dollars in order to bail out a company with a failing business model. After all, they cannot even claim, as banks did, that it is an industry-wide problem. Because if it were industry-wide, Toyota, Hyundai, Honda, Volkswagen, etc. would all be asking for loans as well.

“The economy is very dependent on the automotive industry and has been for many years,” Wilkins said.

New automobile firms aren’t established overnight. It takes a very long time to get into the business. Thus we should not allow the automobile industry to fail.

Not every industry is the same; each one will react differently to a bankruptcy. Only if the industry is imperative to the U.S. econ- omy should we assist them.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, industry em- ployment is headed downward and is not likely to recover for sev- eral years, if ever.

Some declines are undoubtedly the result of improved worker efficiency and productivity, but most losses are the product of the declining fortunes of America’s two largest motor vehicle produc- ers and the supplier base that relies on them for business.
Flag football tournament supports the United Way

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

The University community will once again come together for a charitable cause on Nov. 15, at the FIU Stadium for a flag football tournament.

The event will be hosted by the Student Government Association and will kick off at 9 a.m.

This sporting event will be unlike others because the proceeds generated from the tournament will go to the United Way and all 139 programs it benefits.

The United Way concentrates its efforts on aiding underprivileged children and youth throughout the community by promoting financial stability, independence and health. Its goal is to gear youth in the right direction while providing the foundation for a successful life.

When addressing the underlying problems that occur everyday, the organization works to incorporate everyone in the community.

“I think FIU’s work with the United Way is important because it allows [students] an opportunity to work with a philanthropy,” said Valeska Rodriguez, a freshman business major. “By going to an event like the flag football tournament, I can have a good time with my friends while knowing I am making a difference in someone’s life.”

Through incorporating government officials, large business corporations, nonprofit organizations and ordinary citizens, advancing the common good is all in a day’s work for the United Way, which counts major National Corporate Leadership Companies such as Target, Allstate, Bank of America and Eastman Kodak Company among its sponsors.

The National Football League is also a sponsor, who has donated thousands of dollars and countless hours of community service as well.

“FIU’s affiliation with organizations such as the United Way is a winning situation for all,” said Natalia Santiago, a sophomore education major. “Since we are such a large institution, our students can definitely make a difference in the lives of others by simply participating in the upcoming flag football tournament.”

“The tournament’s starting donation per seven-person team will be $40. Teams are encouraged, however, to donate as much as possible and be sponsored by businesses or corporations, if possible. The games will be played with a seven-on-seven player set-up, although each team is allowed to carry ten players.

Standard intramural regulations will apply to the tournament with the exception of the size of the playing field and regulation timing.

Students are encouraged to bring friends from other schools to join a team but each team’s captain must be a FIU student currently enrolled in classes.

“Being able to bring people from outside the University was a good idea. This could have been a deterrent to some people and, in the end, the more people helping this cause, the better,” said Billy Gil, senior accounting major.

In addition, all players must sign a liability form and the team’s captain must assume all responsibility for his or her teammates.

Golden Panthers are encouraged to participate in any way possible either as players or as spectators.

“The United Way is a fantastic organization and giving a little bit of our pocket change will go a very long way for a lot of people who are not as fortunate as us,” says Helena Ramirez, Student Outreach director and member of the United Way Steering Committee.

“The FIU community will pull through and make this a great event like we always do,” says Carmen Sardary, a freshman psychology major.

With large anticipated donations and Panther enthusiasm, the event is expected to culminate as one of the highlights of this semester’s charitable events, making it a great way for FIU students to do their part for those in need while enjoying themselves.

Natalia Páicheiro, a psychology major, says, “Events like these bring our school together and give us an opportunity to aid a worthwhile cause. There are too many problems in the world for our generation to sit back and wait for others to create change.”

For more information, visit UnitedWay.FIU.edu.

Radiate FM hosts Animal Party

SHANNON FALLON
Staff Writer

Sporting a flannel shirt, sneakers and a small curly fro hailing in from a late dinner, Ryan Morejon is anything but your typical mainstream DJ.

His specialty show, Animal Party in Nautica, airs Tuesday nights with an array of electronic post-rock. When he’s not busy spinning to the sounds of electronic, you’ll find him busy as the music director for the University’s student radio station, Radiate FM (88.1, 95.3 and 96.9 FM).

“Try to keep it fresh, the most I’ll ever have anything on rotation is maybe two months, if not, it gets stale,” said Morejon.

As music director for the radio station, Morejon has his work cut out for him.

He spends his days critiquing music and artists from the many national distributors, coordinating pre-mixes for the station or picking the best of the best to air on rotation, even reporting to the College of Music’s journal of the station’s top records.

His almost shy demeanor vanished instantaneously when music was brought up. Starting at the station over a year ago as a rotation DJ, Morejon found his appreciation for the art of music.

His current favorites include lo-fi garage rock, poorly recorded rock and tropicalia, emerging from a Brazilian art movement of the ’60s, even ambient music which incorporates numerous elements of music such as Explosions in the Sky, a Texan instrumental group.

“Last year I really started to get into music. It was when I started working here,” he said. “I would only relate to a certain type of music and once you get in here you’re exposed to so many types of music, you have no idea.”

As music director, Morejon listens to countless CDs and artists, but finds that the least accessible of them has to be noise, an alternative form of sound art. Morejon says it’s something he enjoys.

“Noise is very Avant-garde,” he said.

As a journalism major, Morejon gets to put his studies to the test, but it isn’t something he believes he’ll continue with in the future, though he may get into music distribution and promotions with one of the labels, which takes on a different aspect of the music industry.

Listeners call in occasionally, requesting top 40 songs, but as a University radio station, Radiate “represents what’s not being played at the more popular commercial stations,” which is what makes the station unique and sets it apart from many of the mainstream stations.

When asked what he likes to talk about on the show, Morejon likes to keep it simple with music, TV or general topics that are accessible to everyone.

He strays away from the controversial issues of politics and religion, feeling that they aren’t appropriate to discuss on air.

For more information, visit RadiateFM.FIU.edu.
First-ever Bond sequel pays homage to its predecessors

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

His name is Bond. James Bond. As the sixth actor to fill the shoes of agent 007, Daniel Craig returns in his second outing as Bond in “Quantum of Solace”. As the first movie in the Bond franchise to become a direct sequel to accommodate its predecessors, “Quantum of Solace” picks up where “Casino Royale” left off.

The film opens with Bond being chased by a couple of thugs in a car chase that seems reminiscent of the car chases from the “Bourne” franchise.

After quickly dispatching them, it is revealed that he has Mr. White (Jesper Christensen), the man responsible for the death of Bond’s love, in the trunk of the car. Bond’s boss, M (Judi Dench), she tells Bond, “I think you’re so blinded by inconsolable rage that you don’t care who it hurts.”

He does balance himself between the fine line of duty and revenge, sometimes being pushed to the latter. The action scenes from “Quantum of Solace” can be easily compared to those from the Jason Bourne movies. There is a rooftop chase sequence that seems like it was ripped off from the other rooftop chase sequence that took place in “The Bourne Ultimatum”.

I respect this movie because it becomes a throwback to the previous Bond movies, such as “Goldfinger”. The opening title sequence to “Quantum of Solace” pays tribute to earlier Bond films by featuring silhouettes of nude women.

The organization that Bond is seeking information about in this film is known as QUANTUM. This becomes a throwback to SPECTRE, the organization that became responsible for villains like Dr. No, Rosa Klebb, Red Grant and Ernst Stavro Blofeld. Last, but not least, the dead body of a beautiful woman is found in Bond’s hotel covered in oil, a reference to a similar discovery in “Goldfinger”, in which both bodies were found in similar locations and positions.

“Quantum of Solace” has everything a fan of Bond can want in a Bond film: great action, an amazing performance from Daniel Craig and many direct homages to the earlier Bond films.

Hey you,

Yeah, you. Read these, and welcome back “My Cousin Tony” and his cousin with the weird accent. Then laugh. That’s right. You know you want to.

—Jonathan Davis, Life! Editor

REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

MOBILE

DANIEL CRAIG

My Cousin Tony
by Alex Perera

Delfi’s Broken Heart

REVIEWS

MOVIE

Quantum of Solace

First-ever Bond sequel pays homage to its predecessors

Steve Mesa

Staff Writer

This car.

of Bond’s love, in the trunk of the man responsible for the death

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picks up where “Casino Royale”

ing as Bond in “Quantum of

Craig returns in his second out-

Bond. As the sixth actor to fill

of agent 007, Daniel Craig

His name is Bond. James

From

Films

Homecoming reflects on high school days

Freshman reflects on Homecoming

Homecoming week back in high school was always eventful. We would have a different theme each day of the week where we would dress up.

At the end of the week, we would have a spirit day, in which everyone would show up to school all spangled. My high school’s colors were purple and white, so on that day, all you would see was a sea of purple and white.

The day would end with a large pep rally in the gym, followed by the Homecoming football game.

The week would culminate on Saturday with a semi-formal dance at a nice banquet hall.

Little did I know the University’s Homecoming would be nothing like that. Homecoming here runs on a much larger budget. The week was full of events that led up to the Homecoming football game, much like high school. This year’s theme was Hollywood movies.

At the Lip-sync event, several different groups performed dance numbers, making it a competition of some sort. The next event the following day was called Panther Prowl, a comedy show in which we had co-mediaths such as Tony Rock and Ralphie May perform. It had to be one of the most elaborate comedy shows I have ever been to in my life. When the University wants to do something, they do it big.

There was no event the next day because it was election day – for the King and Queen that is. The computer lab in QC was open for those who wanted to vote for their Homecoming King and Queen. Those who voted were given a sticker that read “I voted for Q&K,” which guaranteed a free pizza. I’ll take free food any day. Soon enough, I was wearing my very own “I voted for Q&K” sticker while munching on a pizza.

The parade was on Nov. 7. Every group that had performed at the Lip-sync had built a float fitting to the Homecoming theme. I had never seen homemade floats like the ones that were displayed at the parade. They were driven around the perimeter of the University, along with convertibles that were driving the Homecoming candidates around.

After the parade was FIU Ultra. I had never seen so many people dancing, socializing and having fun at the University until then.

Finally, on Saturday Nov. 8, came the last Homecoming event: the Golden Panthers’ football game. The stadium’s student section was packed. Everyone was decked out in their FIU gear and cheering on our team. The pride was overwhelming. With the students’ support and an amazingly lucky play by “T.Y. Goodbye,” the Golden Panthers went 22 to 21. This Homecoming showed that the University does have pride and knows how to have a good time.

EXPERIENCE
Loss prevents tournament hopes
JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

It was a disappointing Senior Day for the FIU men’s soccer team, on Nov. 7 at the University Park campus, as they took on the Southern Methodist University Mustangs.

The Golden Panthers needed a tie or win to shape a happy ending in their last regular season and home game, and qualify for the conference tournament.

The team was hoping to kick off another late season Cinderella story similar to last year’s when they beat then ranked No. 5 SMU in the first round of their C-USA tournament.

However, Golden Panthers’ senior duo, Korey Kendall and Phil Fisher, had their hopes of appearing in a final college tournament in the USA tournament.

No. 5 SMU in the first round of their C-USA tournament.

Although Fisher seemed frustrated with the team’s results, he did score the lone goal for FIU in the 17th minute, totalizing three for him this year. It was Diego Tamburro, a junior mid-fielder, who sent the ball in from the right side for the assist, marking his third of the season, which is just one away from Juan Guerra who led the team this season in goals with four.

The Mustangs seemed to scratch their way back into the game quite quickly, as it took just two minutes after FIU took the 1-0 lead for Leone Cruz of SMU to score a headed goal to tie the match. The assist came from Kekoa Oosato on a cross pass from just outside the box.

The Mustangs continued their momentum as they went on to score an unassisted goal, the game winner, early in the second half by SMU senior Jeff Harwell.

“Disappointing was the defining sense in that we were controlling our own destiny,” said head coach Munga Eketebi. “We had an opportunity and we didn’t grab it.”

FIU controlled its own destiny, however the question of effectiveness seemed doubtful and missed opportunities abounded.

FIU was whistled for total of 20 fouls and the Mustang defense held them to only 8 shots. The most surprising of the game was probably the total of six yellow cards, four on FIU and two red cards, one called on the home team, which created quite an intense, heated ambiance throughout the match. FIU would lose Dane Smith and Steven Jabar Cabais to the red, and that would turn out quite detrimental for a team that lacked precision when key players could not fill their normal duties.

FIU ended the night in farewell to Phil & Corey, both effective seniors. The Golden Panthers finished the season with a record of 4-11-2 and 2-6 in C-USA.

“We are a better team at the end of the year, definitely,” Eketebe said.

Johnson and Jones drew dissapoint
JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

The women’s basketball team opened the season against Barry University on Nov. 5 at the FIU Arena. It was the first and only exhibition game of the season for the Golden Panthers.

The Division II Buccaneers, under head coach Bill Sullivan, created enough offensive and defensive plays to pull out a 54-40 win. The Golden Panthers were held to only 19 points in the first half.

Although FIU held a 16-15 lead with only five minutes to play in the first half, Barry closed the opening half with a 19-3 run to take a 38-19 lead into halftime.

The Golden Panthers’ field goal percentage in the first half was 26.9 percent (7-for-26).

The Bucs moved into the second half, continuing their run by scoring the first five points.

Leading the Bucs was Lucy Martinez, who led all scorers with 17 points.

On the other side, junior forward Marquita Adley led FIU with 12 points.

The Golden Panthers trailed the Bucs 48-38 with less than three minutes in the game but second half steals prevented the panthers from scoring and minimizing the Bucs’ lead.

Barry finished with 12 steals and forced the Golden Panthers to turn over 18 times.

While some new players looked polished in their first college minutes, others made mistakes that gave the Bucs more opportunities to score.

Freshman guard Asia Wilson, a newcomer Michelle Gonzalez cruised up the court.

“Tomic said. “If we want to win this game we have to do more than she did tonight,” Tomic said.

“This was so below your level of play that we’re going to be in big trouble if they don’t wake up and step up [against FAU on Saturday],” Tomic added.

COMING UP
FIU will take on FAU at the FIU Arena on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. An FAU win propels them to the regular season Sun Belt Championship, and the number one seed in the conference tournament.

FIU leads the Sun Belt East Division with a 25-25 record, and is 14-11 in conference play. FAU enters the 12-game overall, 16-11 in conference, tied for eighth place in the Sun Belt with Louisiana Lafayette.

With an FAU win and South Alabama loss, FAU earns a spot in the Sun Belt tournament.

The top eight teams in record, in the conference earn a spot in the tournament. (November 20-22 at FAU Arena).

Despite the differences in record, Tomic expects a tough match because of what both sides will be playing for: FAU a conference title and number one seed, and FAU a spot in the tournament.
The volleyball team beat Middle Tennessee for the first time in head coach Danijela Tomic’s coaching career to gain at least a share of the Sun Belt title on Nov. 7. FIU then fell to Western Kentucky in four sets on Nov. 9, and swept Florida Gulf Coast in Ft. Myers on Nov. 11 to complete a busy weekend.

"If (in volleyball) was one of the best matches I’ve ever been a part of," Tomic said of the thrilling five-set marathon win over WKU. "We definitely felt FIU at least a piece of the Sun Belt title.

The letdown on Sunday afternoon was apparent as FIU came out flat and couldn’t quite clinch the SBC title, falling in four sets to third place Western Kentucky. "We didn’t play hard [against WKU] as we did against Middle Kentucky. "We didn’t play hard," Tomic said of the loss.

Tomic said the Golden Panthers gained momentum as they closed out the set and took it 25-21. The fourth set was a back and forth battle that saw six ties and four lead changes. FIU didn’t take its first lead of the set until 17-16. The Golden Panthers gained momentum as the match continued to culminate with setter Natalia Valentin and freshman Andrea Lakovic teaming up for a critical block to tie the set at 21.

"FIU couldn’t close out MTU, and the Blue Raiders took the match at 2 sets to 1 piece with a 25-23-23 fourth set win. "FIU fell behind in the fifth and deciding set early 7-3. Both teams traded points and FIU trailed 10-5. With MTSU 5 points away from handing FIU its first loss of the season, the Golden Panthers set the tone with a commanding 11-7, 25-13 set victory. "FIU Arena this season, the Golden Panthers set the tone with a commanding 11-7, 25-13 set victory. FIU opened up the third set with a 11-7 lead and dominated the rest of the set, taking it 25-15. "FIU bounced back in a competitive fourth set which saw ownership of eight ties and three lead changes, but FIU couldn’t close out the Hilltoppers. "FIU leading 17-15, WKU rallied and took the set 22-25.

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