SBC title

With a three-time All-American and coach who has led her team to four straight winning seasons, the Golden Panthers volleyball team has been selected to win the Sun Belt East Division by conference officials.

Coming off a regular-season Sun Belt Conference championship and an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, the players and coaches know that they need to surpass last year’s accomplishments to have a successful year.

Coach Daniela Tomic is entering her fifth season as head coach and expects even more from her team this year, given that they lost a few close

SPORTS PAGE 12

Athletics any happy about season opener

SPORTS PAGE 17

Volleyball may have the experience and returning players to make a run in the NCAA tournament.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Organic Farmers Market, August 28, 10-11 a.m. This popular event occurs every Wednesday, where you can stop by and get fresh organic smoothies or your morning produce. Located at the Graham Center.

The FIU Tail of the Torch, August 27, 4-7 p.m. This is for all the hard-hat fans in the housing quad and will trail for two miles. Located at the Graham Center.

READY FOR SENIOR SEASON: Senior outside hitter Yamaris Rosa is entering her last season as a Golden Panther. Will she make the most of it?

SGC-MMC

Proposal puts democratic process at stake

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus announced the creation of three new senatorial committees and a new structure in the cabinet at its first joint session on Aug. 26.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda asked the senate to create three committees to look into textbook prices, elections and Athletics. Textbook prices were a concern brought up by new University President Mark Rosenberg when he visited SGA.

“I’m not happy about the fact that they find here. But you can try calling after 7 p.m.”

“If I didn’t call her the next day. The place is called ‘The Vagabond’ after all. And I could hardly imagine a vagabond returning anything as useful as a watch to its rightful owner. Such is the spirit of the place even as the lights went on and the last few dance fests let the beat of ‘Lookout Weekend’ drift out of their minds. The motto is ‘You are no one, you are everyone.’ And everyone takes what they can find. If you’re not one to lose

Squad starts quest to win SBC title

LUIs ESTRADA
Staff Writer

With a three-time All-American and coach who has led her team to four straight winning seasons, the Golden Panthers volleyball team has been selected to win the Sun Belt East Division by conference officials.

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Coach Daniela Tomic is entering her fifth season as head coach and expects even more from her team this year, given that they lost a few close
**NEWS FLASH**

**FIU**

Rosenberg’s official induction held today

University President Mark Rosenberg will be officially inducted at a ceremony on Aug. 28. The ceremony will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Golden Panther Arena.

Rosenberg will participate in various events after that, including a luncheon and a campus tour.

Students will also be able to meet Rosenberg at an ice cream social in the Graham Center pit from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCAL**

Miami police officers accused of embezzlement

A Miami police officer was accused of stealing funds from the Crimestoppers, a department within the Miami-Dade Police Department that investigates anonymous tips about crimes from civilians.

Officer Wayne Fortella, along with two civilians, Kurt Burgess and Ainsworth Stanley, stole a total of $14,000 from the program combined.

According to WPLG, if convicted, Fortella, Burgess and Stanley could face up to 20 years in prison per charge.

**NATIONAL**

U.S. Airways raises luggage check-in fee

Starting Aug. 27, U.S. Airways will be raising their luggage check-in fee by $5. According to CNN, the fee for checking one bag per charge.

According to WPLG, if convicted, Fortella, Burgess and Stanley could face up to 20 years in prison per charge.

**COMPILATION BY JORGE VALOYAS**

**Correction**

In the issue dated Aug. 24, 2009, the story titled “Schools look for new deans” stated that the School of Law was also looking for a dean. The School of Law, however, has a new dean – Michael Acosta.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

**Game Football Turnout Rises to Rise**

“To save all that time on both the administrative side and the student who wants to get elected or reelected into the senate, we are looking for you as the UWC to adopt the idea to have students come in and reaffirmed by the senate,” Toscano said.

Rionda motioned to have the UWC eliminate special elections, but withdrew his motion when debate raised concerns of eliminating the democratic process from the student body. Rionda then motioned to create a committee to study special elections.

More specifics will be discussed as the UWC meets on Sept. 4 at MMC.

The purpose of the third committee is to work with Athletics to help communication between the Athletics department and the student body.

One goal SGA would like to reach is to help advertise sporting events. Rionda aims to get at least 6,000 students to every football game.

“Students want to go,” he said. “Our student dollars are funding these programs.”

Rionda also announced a change in the way cabinet members report their work.

The cabinet will be now broken down into four subsections, with each subsection having a head whom cabinet members will report to. The heads of each subsection will then report to Chief of Staff Andrew Sanchez. Vice President Myakki Figueredo, Deputy Chief of Staff Nick Astello and cabinet member Cheyey Flors will all be heads of subsections.

The meeting marked the first time the executive and legislative branches met together since the SGA summer retreat.

**Med Student Gets Award**

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

One of the 43 inaugural students of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Kaiilee Imperatore, has been chosen to receive a $25,000 scholarship.

The scholarship was donated by the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation and will cover the annual in-state tuition of approximately $25,000.

Out-of-state tuition is approximately $50,000 per year.

A graduate of the University of Florida and a Sarasota native, Imperatore applied for the scholarship when she first learned she had been accepted into college.

“I applied for a scholarship through the school in my initial packet of information I received when I was accepted,” she said. “The form was in

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**Med School, page 3**

**HIGH SCHOOL, page 1**

advanced placement classes in the afternoon. Their schedule runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By the time they finish the two years they will have approximately 70 to 80 college credits.

“They have the opportunity to mature in a way that cannot happen in high schools; they are going to grow up a lot faster,” said Dennis Lindsay, one of the counselors for the program.

“It is a very good and liberating experience, you get a lot of freedom and independence,” said Amena Payami, a junior from Miami Coral Park.

The college classes will be mostly University Core Curriculum requirements, but students will be able to take classes in areas of interest as well.

“It is a very demanding program for high level academic achievers, the program is not for everyone,” Lindsay said.

The high school students will be able to attend pep rallies, prom, grad night and other activities from their high school.

“They won’t lose attachment to their home schools,” Beesting said.

We “hope they will stay here for the final two years,” Beesting said.

Overall, the high school students are excited to be at the University, and said that most of their friends back in school were not so supportive of their decision to join the program.

“I like that you get to walk around school, and not see the same face twice a week you get to reinvent yourself,” said Kenneth Rich from Ronald Reagan.

Although most of the students see FIU as only a possibility after the two years are done, they said they might change their mind afterward.
Exchange program in Dubai delves into the Middle East

Students will now have the opportunity to obtain their degree while studying abroad in the Middle East, thanks to a partnership between FIU’s Middle East Studies Center and the American University in Dubai.

The Middle East Studies Center, an academic center that gives workshops, lectures and conferences pertinent to the Middle East, hosts the certificate in Middle East and Central Asian studies.

For one semester, eligible juniors can get dual certificates in Middle East studies at either campus. Students who participate will study in Dubai from Jan. 4 through April 19, 2010.

Students will take courses in Middle Eastern culture, politics, geography, history and language while students coming to the University will be taking courses that wouldn’t be offered in AUD, such as “U.S. National Security in terms of the Middle East.”

“The main purpose [of the exchange program] is to foster an understanding between the two areas and to give the students at both institutions a practical experience in their regions of interests,” said Francesco Ortoleva, the program coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center at the University. This exchange agreement will benefit both sides, Ortoleva said. FIU students will learn Arabic in a cultural, political and linguistic sense while AUD students will gain an American perspective on the Middle East.

The program’s cost is the same as FIU’s tuition. However, the exchange program does not cover housing, traveling and personal expenses. According to Liza Carbajo, director of OEA, students can apply for financial aid to pay the tuition.

“Now is the time for FIU students to go abroad with FIU’s initiative to turn our students into global citizens,” Carbajo said. Some students are already showing interest in the program.

“It’s a good opportunity for students interested in Middle Eastern studies,” said Sarah Young, international relations major.

Interested students may visit the Middle East Studies Center at DM 369-A or visit educationabroad.fiu.edu.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 15, 2009.
SJMC project spreads word about HIV/AIDS
Student-produced Web series to air on local television station

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Contributing Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication wants to remind the community about the social, emotional and medical consequences of HIV/AIDS.

They intend to do just that with a documentary about AIDS in Africa, a reality series about a woman living with HIV, and a Web site – all produced by students.

At the forefront of the entire project that focuses on HIV/AIDS are SJMC students, SJMC Interim Associate Dean Allan Richards, and Kate MacMillin, an SJMC adjunct professor of writing and multimedia.

Their work, a product of months of video recording and editing, will air on Channel 2 Oct. 15, the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

The one-hour show will air at 10 p.m.

“I didn’t expect all of this to evolve from that assignment,” Richards said.

In Spring 2008, Richards gave his multimedia journalism class an assignment to develop a Web site about HIV/AIDS.

“Because of media cutbacks and lack of public health and involvement, I thought it would be a good subject,” he said.

The Web site is now home to a trailer for “Lessons from South Africa,” a documentary made by Richards and two of his students, Jillian Simms and Tiffany Parkes.

Last year, the two students traveled with Richards to Africa. During the trip, which was paid for by different grants, they interviewed the media on their response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in that country.

One of the students said he learned the truth about African media, despite many misconceptions.

“South Africa’s media increasingly takes a strong stand against stigmas, taboos and the overall ignorance surrounding the pandemic – an approach that the American media could learn from,” Parkes said in an essay about her experience in the Fall 2008 issue of FIU Magazine.

After their 10-day trip, MacMillin reviewed the footage and thought it would be a good idea to continue spreading the word about the epidemic.

She then created a series of webisodes.

“I was deeply inspired by the footage that Richards took and the television production people he had interviewed,” she said. “They were trying to change behaviors and trying to educate people.”

Richards and two journalists from The Miami Herald, Rick Hirsch, the senior editor for multimedia, and Karen Burket, a multimedia manager, were responsible for finding a place where the webisodes could be posted.

The task of finding someone with HIV/AIDS and documenting his or her life was given to MacMillin and the 12 students in her class.

The students spent September 2008 going to different locations throughout the city looking for someone to follow, until they found Damaries Cruz, a 38-year-old Hispanic woman with HIV. Cruz, who was diagnosed 11 years ago, is an educator of HIV/AIDS at the Miami-Dade Health Department.

The students recorded her life for more than three months.

Once finished, it was published on

HIV, page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 28:
• Games at Panther Square All Day
• Kayaking at Biscayne Bay 12 p.m.

Saturday, August 29:
• Tour of Miami 12:30 p.m. at Bay Vista Hall
• Dance Cruise 6 p.m. at Bay Vista Hall

Monday, August 31:
• Fall Fest 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, contact (305) 919-5804

SEMESTER KICKOFF
Students eat, sing for free

FROM TOP: Sabrina Buxo, a junior photography major, samples nachos with cheese from Miller’s North Miami Beach Ale House, part of the Restaurant Expo in Panther Square on Aug. 25.

(From left) Jennifer Medina, a junior business management major, and Lorraine Henderson, SOC Event Coordinator, sings “Always Be My Baby” by Mariah Carey, part of the karaoke show in Panther Square on Aug. 26.

Yuliya Zhukova, a freshman hospitality major, makes a leather bracelet as part of the Welcome Week festivities in Panther Square on Aug. 26.
Summer break-in leaves faculty members alarmed
Unknown individual steals minor items from three offices

ERIKA PEREZ
Staff Writer

A break-in in the College of Arts and Sciences during the Summer semester has raised some concerns about the effectiveness of campus security cameras.

On Aug. 6, Camilla Samqua, office manager in the dean’s office of the College of Arts and Sciences, filed a police report after she noticed someone broke into the offices. The break-in is believed to have taken place the night of Aug. 5. She noticed someone had forced open her computer cabinet, according to the police report.

“But nothing was taken though,” she said.

The event caused the English department to take some precautionary measures. Before the break-in, the staff would leave at around 5 p.m., but the doors would be left open for adjunct professors to be able to enter, according to Campbell. Now, the staff will close back doors.

The dean’s office is also contemplating closing earlier, according to Samqua.

When Mercedes Kuper, a secretary in the Advising Office in College of Arts and Sciences, came to work on Aug. 6, she also noticed the door to her cabinet was completely torn off its hinges.

“They were very nice about it too, because they set the door to the side,” said Kuper. “They moved my key box around, but nothing is missing.”

Kuper believes that because this is a public university, everyone can walk in, jeopardizing safety on campus.

“I heard noise, like someone was going through things,” Craumer said. “I came out of my office and saw a suspicious man, but I don’t have any proof because I didn’t catch him doing anything illegal.”

“More than seven years ago when I worked for the business department, my credit cards were stolen and my checks; they took everything,” Kuper said.

The third victim of that night’s break-in was Terese Campbell, English department secretary. She noticed some loose change, gum and pretzels were stolen from her cabinet.

“I don’t have any proof and my checks; they took everything,” Kuper said.

The department is considering closely monitoring those who enter the offices, which might affect adjunct professors, some of whom don’t have keys.

“We’re not going to keep being as open, which could be a problem for people in Arts and Sciences who need access, especially adjuncts,” he said.

Although there are five security cameras installed throughout the college, no suspects have been determined in the case.

According to Captain Jesse Scott, Facilities Management already has staff members who are reviewing the cameras in each building, but future plans with the University involve installing more cameras and hiring additional personnel to review camera footage.

There is a plan in place with the police department by reporting any suspicious activity is essential to maintaining campus security, according to Scott, who also believes that “good community policing” could help reduce the chances people have to commit crimes.

“Crime equals motive plus opportunity,” Scott said.
THE SOAPBOX

Juanes concert sparks anger

JUZO MENACHE
Special to The Beacon

Thousands of young Cubans will be gathering in Havana, Cuba this September for the first time a major international concert series. According to Juanes, who will be performing, the concert looks to foster “peace” and “change” without the influence of politics.

“This is not about politics,” he told The Miami Herald. “Our only message is one of peace, of human- 
tarianism, of tolerance, a message of interacting with the people,” he said.

Juanes should have the right to express himself artistically, yet the reaction to the concert has brought out anything but peace.

When news of the concert broke, many within the Cuban-American community were outraged. Here was Juanes, a Grammy award-winning artist, playing in a location with massive political undertones (the image of Che Guevara will be visible during his concert from the Ministry of the Interior building).

Most within the Cuban-American community have aired their complaints peacefully, while some have taken it to the next level. One exiled group based in Miami, Vígilu Mambisa, smashed some of the singer’s CDs in protest. Juanes even claims he received death threats over Twitter because of this upcoming performance.

This is a major embarrassment for the Cuban-American community. While some may disagree with Juanes having the concert in Cuba, the destruction of Juanes’ CDs, as well as the death threats against him, reflect poorly on our community.

Juanes should not feel threatened in Miami, or in Havana, or any other part of the world. How will Juanes view the exile community after this mess?

The destruction of CDs, as well as the death threats being received, are tools rampant in dictatorships like Cuba’s and should have no place in Miami.

While Juanes has said his concert isn’t about politics, he has met with the youth group Raíces de Esperanza (Roots of Hope), which advocates human rights for Cuban youth, where they discussed his concert in Cuba. The group has asked that Juanes execute the concert in a socially acceptable manner, by including artists who are regularly harassed by Cuban government officials.

He even asked the Cuban Ministry of Culture if he could include the word “freedom” in his songs, which they allowed, indicating how rampant censorship is in Cuba. Yet the fact that he is conducting his performance in La Plaza de la Revolución, which contains the Cuban Communist Party headquarters, as well as the decision to sing with two ardent supporters of Fidel Castro, does make some in the Cuban-American community, including myself, wary.

Like it or not, Juanes will still play this September. He has the right to express himself without the fear of being threatened or censored. Sadly, the same can’t be said for the 11 million Cubans living on the island, still waiting for change.

Julio Menache is a junior majoring in political science. He also serves as co-president of the Free Cuba Foundation at FIU.

MARGARET CHEBAT
Contributing Writer

In a world where millions of individuals face oppression and devastation daily, people all around the world should feel blessed to have such valiant heroes like Juanes, a Colombian singer who is set to perform in the Havana’s Plaza de la Revolución, in Cuba on Sept. 20 this year.

Juanes, who believes he is doing Cuba a favor by performing a “peace” concert in the famous square, appears to be completely and strangely unaware of the trials that the Cuban population has faced under the regime for more than 50 years. Juanes should realize this and cancel his concert.

Under Fidel Castro’s reign, the Cuban people have witnessed many tragic events.

In the Plaza de la Revolución, Cuba’s most significant plaza, a memorial of Che Guevara, an Argentine revolutionary who worked with Castro to overthrow the original government, incontrovertibly illustrates the stubbornness of the Cuban government in opening its doors to the outside world. This concert raises many questions due to its rarity.

Why would a government that has controlled a country through dictatorship for over 50 years allow an outsider to advocate peace within its borders? It is apparent that this “Peace Without Borders” concert is simply another ploy for the Cuban government to strengthen itself and instill a toxic mixture of persuasion and fear within its people.

It serves as an instrument to manipulate and indoctrinate its population, proving that the government will protect and provide for the people.

This tour has caused controversy with many of the Cuban Americans living here. The visit is the first official visit of a famous Cuban singer, and the suffering of their family and friends in the early stages of the dictatorship.

Perhaps Juanes is set on breaking barriers and is taking steps to promote peace, however, it is ironic that he wishes to do this in the very place where many innocent people have lost their lives.

The Cuban people are looking for freedom, not a concert for an intangible peace that will ultimately help its government to justify its laws as well as its actions.

It is also odd that the government of Cuba should have no place, while forbidding Cuban artists from performing their music and advocating peace. Hidden agenda, anyone?

While the artist has received many threatening letters endangering his life, the concert will still take place, however, Juanes’ best bet in his “rescue mission” might be to abort.

OPINION/PIECE

700K

The number of animals killed under the U.S. Transportation Department’s “Cash for Clunkers” program, which ended Aug. 25.

QUOTATIONATION

“It’s quite remarkable for a person ... with no life.”

Author Stephanie Hase On Sen. Ted Kennedy, who died on Aug. 25

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Get a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiu.edu or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

THE BEACON – 6
The Big Cheese is usually just itself as a local hangout for a well worth the longer drive. The parlor specializes in serving up
pasta. This dish is loaded with shrimp, muscles and clams laid over linguini in a savory white cream sauce. Also, their take on the classic stuffed shells – three large pasta shells stuffed with a liberal amount of ricotta smothered in marinara – will be sure to satisfy your pasta craving. Additional offerings, such as lasagna, veal parmesan and even chicken marsala, are also available.

Apart from the pizza and pasta, The Big Cheese has a somewhat extensive sub menu. Although the Big Philly Cheese Steak was a miss (the slices of beef were a bit too thick for my taste, and I could do without the mayonnaise), they did manage to do well with their Italian Sub, which layers salami, ham, mozzarella and the ever-present lettuce and tomato with a spattering of Italian dressing (a welcome break from mayo and mustard). Their take on the Meatball Sub held much more savor than I was accustomed to, but perhaps the sub falling apart in my hands was part of the experience.

So, what about the prices? The individual entrées at The Big Cheese will rarely go over $15. In fact, a slice of pizza and a drink can be had for well under $10. If you’re purchasing a pie, non-specialty pies are $20.95 and under, while specialty pies may go up to around $30, but only if you order one with seafood items and, by then, you should be splitting the cost with a few friends.

All in all, The Big Cheese is a budget-friendly option with a high-energy ambiance and great food to be had.
THE SOUND UNDERGROUND

Campus radio station puts spotlight on the unknown

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Asst. News Director

Deep in the heart of the Graham Center, just past the student government office, lies the “Radioactive Underground.” Since 1987, Radiate FM has been FIU’s student-run radio station. Billing itself as the “Radioactive Underground,” Radiate provides music and news to students in a forum where they can call in, making it an interactive experience for listener and broadcaster alike.

The station can be found at 88.1 FM, 95.3 FM and 96.9 FM. Students can also tune in online at WRGP.org. The station plays 24/7 and has news, music and sports during the day and specialty programming starting at 7 p.m., with different music genres every afternoon. Musical categories include old school hip hop, metal, 80’s rock and world music, among others.

“Radiate FM plays a diverse blend of music not played on mainstream radio,” said Jorge Valens, Student Media assistant news director. “No matter what time you tune in you will find unique songs from both familiar and unfamiliar artists.”

Valens is the host of PantherWire, a campus news program about University, local and national news which runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon.

“The show is for the students, so I try to have guests and programming that will interest them,” Valens said.

According to Radiate FM General Manager Pablo Penton, the station’s name and motto is “Radiate FM, the radioactive underground.” He said it was a play on words because they are an active radio music station whose music “radiates” from listener’s speakers. For Penton, the radio is an essential part of the University because all major universities have one, which he said helps them develop their image.

“It is a university’s most immediate and visible liaison to the community,” Penton said. According to Penton, the radio is more than a communication outlet. It is an art form.

“A radio station is an integral part of developing a university’s personality and character,” Penton said.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is also a direct beneficiary of the station, according to Penton.

“It’s a good tool for students at the SIMC to learn how to really broadcast over the air so they can get an opportunity to learn before they get out into the world,” Penton said.

Students can also listen to the live broadcasts of many FIU sports games. According to Sergio Bonilla, sports director of Student Media, students can benefit from these broadcasts.

“If students want to know what’s going on with the game as it’s going on, we are the sole providers of that,” Bonilla said. While Bonilla admits the sports show, which runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., sometimes features heated discussions, he thinks it’s a good thing for the radio.

“People can get into arguments and playfully fight each other but at the same time have fun,” said Bonilla, adding that segments in the show like “Crossfire,” where two hosts role-play a coach and a player who get into arguments are an example of the kind of fun sports are for students.

Another show that is interactive with students is “The All Gravy Show” with Hikmat Kilzi – a.k.a. DJ Drastic X – which runs Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The show features new hip hop not usually heard on commercial radio stations where students can make live requests, while including guest appearances of artists like Rick Ross and Pitbull.

“I think that my show is an open door for artists to come in and showcase their music,” Kilzi said. “I open doors for people to come and make themselves known, whereas in a commercial station if you don’t have label backing they won’t even take you.”

Radiate FM is currently working on a brand new Web site which will allow listeners to request songs live, see playlists of previous shows and download podcasts of talk shows. Students can participate in all music and talk shows by calling in. The number to call in is (305) 348-3575.

Radiate FM Schedule

Monday nights: Hip Hop/Funk
Tuesday nights: Electronica
Wednesday: Metal/80’s Classic
Thursday nights: Classic Rock/Alternative
Friday nights: Industrial/Dance
Saturday nights: Street Hip Hop
Sunday nights: World Vibes

SUMMER, page 1

Wandering hearts may find a home in downtown

Ribbons and recreate the sounds of New York dance clubs in the ‘80s with modern electro remixes thrown in for a dance scene that will put rhythm into the stiffest of spines. And if that doesn’t work, there are always those drinks specials to get the sweat pumping.

My favorite night is Saturday night. The Vagabond hosts Backdoor Bambi, not a certain transsexual in the red light district, but an actual night of beat-driven moves.

This is the kind of place that welcomes a mix of crowds, and if you’re attracted to someone of the same sex you don’t have to worry about getting bashed: the people are generally tolerant and open-minded. Where else can a guy with teal pants do the running man to M.I.A?

If you get hungry, the outside bonfire is where you can sit and grab a hot dog or burger because the owners of this joint wouldn’t have you leave the venue to pay too much for food. They’d rather you stay and pay too much for food.

Friday nights and Tuesday nights are open to our friends under 21, but Backdoor Bambi is strictly for those who can pay for their own drinks. Although I don’t believe that you, our clear-minded readers, need lecturing, I would be a bad citizen of humanity if I did not point out that you should always have a designated driver.

Accepting the fact that my watch was probably off in someone else’s covering hands, I let myself believe the next owner would treat it better than I did. I walked back to the grass lot (where parking is $7) and noticed some of my friends had befriended a homeless man named “Al.”

My friends were just as interested in Al as he was interested in their change. While shouting Al away — and hoping he wouldn’t pull out a crack knife on me — I was happy that tonight was sufficiently eccentric to call it a good night.

Lace up your boots, or pour yourself into some brightly colored pipe jeans and be like everyone and no one. It doesn’t matter who you are when you come to the Vagabond. Here, you are part of a nation of dancers.
MOVIE REVIEW

A look back at August’s best and worst in film

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

If you were too busy during the summer to check in to your local cineplex, here are some highlights from the movies that were released in August. Most are still in theaters, for better or worse.

DISTRICT 9

One of the most original science fiction films since The Matrix, District 9 is set in Johannesburg, South Africa in an alternate reality in which aliens have been forced to live in a ghetto just outside the city. According to the film’s version of history, aliens landed in Johannesburg 28 years ago and the South African government moved them to a messy, crime-ridden slum known as District 9.

After the local community is fed up with living with these “prawns” as they’re called, an office drone (Shardul Chopra) is charged with the task of evicting the aliens so they can be moved to a camp farther away from the city. All seems to be going according to plan until a mysterious freak accident renders him an outlaw. Director Neill Blomkamp’s story reflects South Africa’s sad racial history while maintaining a gripping science fiction storyline.

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA

This movie is check full of action-packed scenes, but the bad news is that it’s also rife with choppy CGI scenes and bad acting. Based on the Hasbro action figure, TV cartoon series and comic book series, the film shows how Duke (Channing Tatum) and Ripcord (Marlon Wayans) joined the elite military team in film shows how Duke (Channing Tatum) and Ripcord (Marlon Wayans) joined the elite military team in

THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD

Unfortunately for Jeremy Piven, he does not have the goods. Piven gives his character an Art-Gold-like personality, as if he was afraid to lose his comfort zone. It is like he just walked right off the set of “Entourage,” and someone gave him a script and told him to do Art-Gold as a car salesman.

Though he is surrounded by a cast of hilarious actors, Piven is either not ready to take leading man roles or he’s just not trying. Produced by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, the movie is about a car salesman (Piven) and his group of associates hired to revamp a failing auto dealership. The movie has one silver lining in the form of a surprisingly funny performance from Ving Rhames as one of Piven’s associate who has never made “real love.”

THE MARC PEASE EXPERIENCE

This movie is bizarre – and not in a good way. Jason Schwartzman plays Marc Pease, a former high school musical star who embarrasses himself when he ran off stage crying and wailing in the middle of a high school production of “The Wiz.”

Eight years later, he stills drops by his old high school, has a successful limo service, bothers his former mentor (Ben Stiller) to produce his a cappella group’s demo and dates a high school student (Anna Kendrick). If it doesn’t sound very funny, that’s because it isn’t. Nearly every joke misses its mark.

For more movie reviews by Steve Mesa and friends, check out www.fiusm.com.


STAND-UP GUYS

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

WHAT: Various Movies + UP!
WHERE: various
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Jazz at MoCA
WHERE: MoCA
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Walkabout: Gas Comedy Improv Show
WHERE: Main St. Playhouse
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHAT: Mad Cat Theatre Company
WHERE: Churchills
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHAT: Progressive Vegetarian Potluck Social
WHERE: Wynwood Social Club
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHAT: Florida Project
WHERE: Blank Atlantic Center
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHAT: Comic Books
WHERE: South Beach
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Mixed Culture
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHAT: Riff Raff
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Jacksonien
WHERE: Van Dusen
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Super Smash Bros. Tour
WHERE: South Beach
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Fabolous
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHAT: The Harder They Come
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
WHEN: 9 p.m
WHAT: Mixed Culture
WHERE: Wynwood Social Club
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHAT: OAR
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHAT: Funk’d Up
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHAT: The Harder They Come
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHAT: Mixed Culture
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Golden Panthers went from underdogs to goats

TOWERS, page 12

fate left to the whims of an unquestioned authority, but threatening to back out of a tournament put together to raise funds for cancer research sends the wrong message.

Hiring Thomas was a brilliant opportunity to create hype and buzz about a school many feel is on the verge of becoming a more important player in the South Florida market, but this type of action creates the wrong type of publicity.

NO LEG TO STAND ON

FIU is making demands where they don’t have the authority or the influence, and it perpetuates a negative image of Thomas as egotistical and afraid to face high-level competition, fairly or not. Worse, Garcia’s signature is on the contract, so despite seeking legal advice (at the time of printing, Athletics declined to comment because they were seeking legal counsel), it isn’t clear they have any ground for their decision to attempt to opt out of the contract, and would unquestionably lose the home games they are hosting on Nov. 20, 22, and 23 for the tournament.

The inevitable end of this ordeal is FIU travelling to Chapel Hill and playing North Carolina anyway, but now nobody’s going to be looking for the upset. Any potential goodwill that could have been generated by this matchup is being erased by this.

If you are upset by how this was handled by the organizers, handle it in private. And if the plan is to pursue legal options, it might be best not to comment publicly in the first place.

While it was to be expected with the hiring of a controversial high-profile figure like Thomas, Athletics would do best to not create any extra negative publicity on their own.

Gazelle: Contract is with FIU, not Isiah Thomas

MEN’S BASKETBALL, page 12

FIU has the last 24 hours,” he said.

Giles left Thomas a few messages on Aug. 26 but did not receive any calls back.

The Gazelle Group’s decision to choose UNC and not Ohio State had nothing to do with Thomas being the Golden Panthers’ head coach, Giles said in the same interview with Student Media.

“We thought it would be great for FIU to open the season at UNC and have it broadcast on ESPN,” Giles said. “It’s our decision. We decide who plays who just like we decided Albany vs. Syracuse. The scheduling depends on what is best for the tournament.

“Our contract is with FIU, not Iiah.”

-The Associated Press contributed to this report.

GETTING READY: Defender Katrina Rose will face the Gators that managed to amass 13 shots on goal vs. the Miami Hurricanes.

Defense will face team with offensive firepower

SOCCER, page 12

PLAYERS IN HER COUNTRY, Jackson is hoping that the intensity of both camps will help her become an invaluable asset to the team.

“I’m trying to use what I learned and use it with the team this season so hopefully I can continue being a bit of an asset to the team,” Jackson said.

NO EASY TASK

The University of Florida team is ranked No. 10 in the nation, and is coming off a season opening 1-0 win over the University of Miami.

Even though the Gators were out-shot 15-13, goalkeeper Katie Fraine made five saves on route to her first shutout of the season.

For Coach Thomas Chestnut, the match vs. UF is a chance to show some of his mentors what he is made of.

“For me, it’s a little bit different experience because I’m a graduate student of UF and that’s where I first got involved with college women’s soccer,” said coach Chestnut. “I have a good relationship with Becky [Burleigh, UF women’s soccer head coach], Vicki [Campbell, assistant head coach], and Alan [Kirkup, assistant coach] there, and they have been great mentors to me as a coach and I have great respect for them.

For Jackson, there is only one goal, and that’s to enter the first home game of the season vs. Florida Gulf Coast University with a 2-0-0 record.

“We had a really strong first place, so hopefully our fitness levels will be at our peak when were playing UF and hopefully we can take it a step further.”

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Syracuse Regional

Nov. 9 Albany vs. Syracuse

Syracuse, N.Y.

7 p.m.

Syracuse Regional

Nov. 10 Robert Morris vs. Syracuse

Syracuse, N.Y.

7 p.m.

Chapel Hill Regional

Nov. 9 FIU vs. North Carolina

Chapel Hill, N.C.

7 p.m.

Chapel Hill Regional

Nov. 11 N.C. Central vs. North Carolina

Chapel Hill, N.C.

9 p.m.

Columbus Regional

Nov. 9 Alcorn State vs. Ohio State

Columbus, Ohio

7 p.m.

Nov. 12 James Madison vs. Ohio State

Columbus, Ohio

7 p.m.

Berkeley Regional

Nov. 9 Murray State vs. Cal

Berkeley, Calif.

11 p.m.

Nov. 11 Detroit vs. Cal

Berkeley, Calif.

11 p.m.

Albany Subregional

Nov. 20 Robert Morris vs. Detroit

Albany, N.Y.

6 p.m.

Nov. 21 Detroit vs. Alcorn State

Albany, N.Y.

4 p.m.

Nov. 21 Robert Morris vs. Albany

Albany, N.Y.

2 p.m.

Nov. 22 Alcorn State vs. Robert Morris

Albany, N.Y.

TBA

Miami Subregional

Nov. 20 James Madison vs. Murray State

Miami

5:30 p.m.

Nov. 20 N.C. Central vs. FIU

Miami

TBA

Nov. 22 Murray State vs. N.C. Central

Miami

5:30 p.m.

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Albany, N.Y.

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Nov. 22 Murray State vs. N.C. Central

Miami

5:30 p.m.

It’s Free!

Shuttle service that provides continuous transportation between:

Panther Garage and
Primera Casa

Starting August 24, 2009
Monday – Friday
9am – 6pm

http://parking.fiu.edu
matches to end last season. “I didn’t think we finished strong last season,” Tomic said. “We lost in the semifinals of the conference tournament, and even though we received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, we didn’t play well in that game. It left a bitter taste in our mouths.”

**HITTING AGAIN**

“Finish strong” has been the team’s motto all throughout the preseason practices and workouts, and the girls even have that hasn’t been said about the three-time All-American. Rosa led her nation of Puerto Rico in several tournaments this summer, including the Pan-Am Cup held in Miami. She has a chance to become FIU’s first four-time All-American selection in any sport, not to mention to go down statistically as the Golden Panthers’ most accomplished player in program history.

“I learned to be more calm out there, little details on hitting, to look for the block … just to play the game smarter, to be more mature on the court and show some attitude when I have to show it,” Rosa said. “It’s a different game at that level.”

Coach Tomic did not hold back when praising her superstar. “The sky is the limit for Yarimar. She’s just so talented, and the experience she has now after playing the best teams in the world is priceless. I’m looking forward to her having a truly stellar year.”

Coach Tomic said experience is valuable just as going to the NCAA tournament was last season. “None of our girls had been to the tournament before, and you cannot teach experience. You have to see the atmosphere for yourself. It will make a big difference now.”

**ADDED DEPTH**

For the Golden Panthers, it is a luxury to keep their best players and add more depth with five incoming freshmen.

The recruiting class is expected to be a factor this season, with several players ready to step in and contribute. One of those girls hoping to make a quick impact is libero Chenal Araujo. “The freshmen are really pushing the upperclassmen, and the more competition we have the better we’ll play,” Araujo said. “We have a very versatile freshman group, and we will be able to help at every position.”

The Golden Panthers start the season on Aug. 18 on the road. They won’t be home until Sept. 10 to face the University of Miami, but that won’t change their approach to the season. “I’m happy that it’s my senior year, but sad at the same time. Hopefully we’ll win the Sun Belt Conference this season,” Rosa said. “We always get to the finals, but could never get it. That’s the main goal; stay focused, play at the same high level we always play at and win a championship.”
POSSIBLE BOYCOTT

ATHLETICS THREATENING TO DROP OUT FROM CANCER CHARITY TOURNAMENT VS. UNC

JONATHAN DAVIDA
SERGIO BONILLA
Beacon Staff

The Golden Panthers men’s basketball team will commence their season against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels on Nov. 9, according to the NCAA champions schedule, which was released on Aug. 25 by the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But Athletics Director Pete Garcia feels the Golden Panthers were “bullied” into the matchup by the New Jersey-based Gazelle Group, the organizers of Coaches vs. Cancer, a tournament Garcia signed to be a part of in November 2008.

Garcia wants to play Ohio State instead. When contacted by Student Media, Athletics declined to comment. The department told Student Media it is seeking legal counsel before making any more comments.

“Would they do what they’re doing to us to Duke, or to North Carolina? No,” Garcia said yesterday to the Associated Press. “But they’ll do it to FIU!”

A school spokesman for UNC told the Associated Press the school is not involved with making the tournament’s schedule.

“We’re being bullied into that game. I’ve told them today, we’ll play Ohio State, we don’t want to play North Carolina,” Garcia said.

Garcia said the Golden Panthers are still committed to playing in the tournament, but they are still examining how to get out of the matchup with UNC.

The contract signed by Garcia stipulated the Golden Panthers would play Ohio State or North Carolina between Nov. 9-13. Gazelle Group President Rick Giles told the Associated Press that the contract gives the group “the sole authority” over sites, dates, times, teams and opponents in the tournament.

In a phone interview with Student Media, Giles said he contacted Garcia on Aug. 6, letting him know FIU was going to play UNC. Garcia told Giles on that day that he preferred the Golden Panthers play vs. Ohio State and that he would opt out of the contract if FIU played against, according to Giles.

“All of the teams are cooperative in adjusting to the time and scheduling,” Giles told Student Media.

If the Golden Panthers refuse to play against UNC and pull out themselves out of the tournament, they will also forfeit games vs. James Madison, Murray State and North Carolina Central.

Throughout his 15 years of working with Gazelle Group, Giles said no team has ever boycotted a scheduling decision.

“We’ve never had a team react the way the Golden Panthers react,” Giles said.

SPORTS

It’s Sweet 16 or bust for Golden Panthers’ season

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women’s soccer team wanted to start their season in a way no player on the roster had experienced at FIU.

“It was really upsetting going through so many losses so fast in the beginning of the year [in 2008], but it’s great to start off with our first win,” goalkeeper Melanie Raimo said.

Coming off their first opening game victory in over eight years against Stony on Aug. 21, the Golden Panthers are looking to carry their momentum onto a tough road game vs. the University of Florida Gators.

“We’re practicing really hard,” said freshman Thaisa Moreno. “It feels better [after the win] because we believe in ourselves.”

The Beacon – 12
www.fiu.edu
Friday, August 28, 2009

RISING INTENSITY

After only allowing one shot on goal during the game, the sophomore goalkeeper Raimo said that clear communication is key to the upcoming matches.

“If I can communicate with my defense and we’re on the same page, then nobody can get by us,” Raimo said.

Senior midfielder Mayara da Fonseca Bordin was able to communicate with her team to score the first goal of the year.

“Being a midfielder, you always expect that you’re serving people instead of scoring goals,” said Bordin. “I’m always there if they need me, so I land the opportunity and I did it.”

In addition to the intense preseason camp and exhibition schedule, FIU standout Amy Jackson received some top-level advice over the summer when she was invited to participate in the multi-day training camp with the Australian national team.

Being able to play with some of the greatest players in the world was an incredible experience for Jackson.

“Absolutely! I feel your pain, as does the head coach and athletic director of every single university in your situation. Kyle Whittingham has night terrors about this stuff. But this is absolutely not the right time or place to be taking a principled stand, despite having a legitimate gripe here.”

PICK YOUR BATTLES

Going to UNC was going to be a win-win scenario for FIU. The hiring of Isaiah Thomas as head coach has put some- what of a target on FIU now, as there are many people out there who would like to see him fail, and this was a rare opportunity for Thomas to play the lovable underdog in a high profile game.

Going in with some humility would have engendered the type of public support FIU and Thomas need here.

Instead, FIU is trying to throw around its insignificant weight and make demands they don’t have any place to make.

“I understand and sympathize with the sentiment expressed by Garcia on behalf of Athletics. Nobody wants to be jerked around. Nobody wants their type of public support FIU and Thomas need here.”

TOWERS, page 10

SPORTS

It’s Sweet 16 or bust for Golden Panthers’ season

CHRIS GREEN
Beacon Staff

It now seems like a distant memory, but the Golden Panthers women’s volleyball team could barely win a game in 2004. Their 3-23 season was harder to stomach than the opening scene from Saving Private Ryan.

Five years later, the same program is expected to not only be the Sun Belt Conference contenders, but to receive another NCAA Tournament bid.

Five years later, the team has a three-time All-American senior and a couch with a career 86-36 record.

Five years later, as the Golden Panthers open their 2009 season on the road today, anything other than an NCAA tournament run should be considered an absolute failure.

BONILLA, page 11

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Following season opener, team faces No. 10 UF

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

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COMING OFF THEIR FIRST OPENING GAME VICTORY IN OVER EIGHT YEARS AGAINST STONY ON AUG. 21.

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