FOOTBALL

Team looks for first win versus familiar rival

**JONATHAN RAMOS**
Asst Sports Director

When FIU played Toledo during the fourth weekend of the 2008 season, they came away with their first Football Bowl Subdivision victory ever against an out-of-conference opponent. On Sept. 26 at FIU Stadium, the Golden Panthers will look for their second.

The Golden Panthers (0-2) will host the Rockets (1-1), who are coming off a 38-0 loss to No. 11 Ohio State on Sept. 19. Even with the lopsided loss, Toledo is ranked No. 23 in the country in total offense (442.3) and is averaging 28.3 points per game. FIU will have to build off of a strong defensive performance at Rutgers to hold off Toledo’s firepower. “They’re very much in transition with a new coaching staff and they are playing phenomenal football. Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal said of the Rockets. “They are extremely big and athletic at wide receiver. [Stephen Williams] had 15 receptions against Purdue. Extremely capable off on offense.”

Cristobal said Toledo is different in many ways from last season, however, in part because new Toledo head coach Tim Beckman was one of the best defensive coordinators in the nation for Oklahoma State for the last two seasons.

**DEFENSIVE TEST**

Toledo features a strong aerial attack led by senior quarterback Aaron Opelt. The veteran signal caller has thrown 592 yards and seven touchdowns in just three games. Opelt’s main target is Williams, a 6-foot-5 All-American candidate. Freshman Eric Page has burst onto the scene as a weapon for the Rockets as well, and leads the team with 21 receptions.

Among Toledo’s slew of offensive weapons is running back DaJuane Collins, who has 209 rushing yards on the season. The Golden Panthers have allowed 435 rushing yards through two games. During last year’s 35-16 win for FIU, the Rockets were able to accumulate 302 offensive yards, but the Golden Panthers forced five turnovers and found success on the ground with 141 rushing yards. FIU took advantage and scored every time they were in the red zone that game.

FIU will need the running game that is ranked 119 out of 125 in the nation, and a defensive line that is ranked 111 out of 125 in the nation. The Golden Panthers are looking to repeat last season’s success, however, with four key players back on the field for them.


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Environment track a new alternative

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**
Staff Writer

The University’s environmental push continues with the opening of the School of Environment and Society.

The SEAS, founded in the beginning of the Fall semester as part of the College of Arts and Sciences, came from the college’s desire to put together like-minded faculty to increase opportunities for faculty and students to participate in environmental projects, according to Michael Heithaus, director of SEAS and associate professor of biological sciences.

“The faculty and the dean’s office have been thinking about how to highlight our strengths in environmental issues for a long time,” Heithaus said.

The idea for the SEAS came from Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, according to Suzanna Rose, senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“He had the idea to build around environmental issues because the University has a very strong marine science program,” Rose said.

The idea had been worked on since Furton came to the University three years ago, and now was the right time to have everything come together into a single school, Heithaus said.

“We already have a great faculty dealing with environmental issues, from the social and natural sciences to the humanities, so one of the things the school does is that it brings these great faculty and programs together, and helps package them and let people know what we do,” Heithaus said.

The first program of its kind in the state of Florida, the Campus Initiative has come to FIU. It is a branch of UNICEF that was founded on the belief that college students have a role in helping distressed children survive.

“Instead of listening to the United Nations Children’s Fund,” FIU student Laura Florez would not have had the means to go to school and might not have been able to receive a college degree.

When Florez, a senior majoring in biology, was a child in Colombia, she received school supplies from UNICEF, which was very involved in her hometown.

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“I believe that children are our future and many organizations deal with adult issues,” Florez said. “But the goal of UNICEF is to help children succeed in life.”

The initiative came to be when several FIU students with a history of working with UNICEF decided that the diverse city of Miami could use such an organization.

Florez is the first president of UNICEF at FIU and, along with the vice president, Annabel Pino, approached the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program Coordinator Aileen Landy with the idea of starting such a program on campus.

Landy agreed to become the organization’s advisor. With a child of her own, she understood how important the organization can be in any child’s life.

In a matter of months, Florez and Pino were able to complete the requirements to make UNICEF at FIU an official school organization and recognized partner of UNICEF.

The functions of the Campus Initiative are to educate, advocate and raise funds through community events.

UNICEF at FIU will be hosting lectures on women’s rights, advocating through letter-writing campaigns and a community news- letter, and culminating with several fundraising events throughout the semester.

Although still a young campus organization, UNICEF, page 2

Environmental track a new alternative

New club helps children

Initiative launches

**LAEBONY LIVINGSTON**
Contributing Writer

If it were not for donations from the United Nations Children’s Fund, FIU student Laura Florez would not have had the means to go to school and might not have been able to receive a college degree.

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Although still a young campus organization, UNICEF, page 2
Another culprit involved in Palm Beach Zoo theft arrested

Another teen has been arrested in association with an animal theft at the Palm Beach Zoo. According to WPLG, 18-year-old Jonathan Lopez was arrested on Sept. 24 for stealing four monkeys and one bird. Police believe his intention was to sell the animals on the black market. He faces charges on grand theft, burglary and cruelty to animals.

On Sept. 11, his accomplice, 17-year-old Sean Patrick Harrison, was arrested and charged with grand theft and burglary.

Man confesses the devil made him kill his family, wants death sentence

The man who fled to Haiti after he was charged with killing his wife and five children has confessed his motive.

According to WPLG, Messac Damas told Collier County Police that he believes the devil made him kill his family and he intended to turn himself in.

Damas told officials that he wants death “right away” and hopes the jury will deliver a death sentence.

Sheriffs caught playing Wii at drug dealer’s house

The Polk County Sheriff’s High Intensity Drug Traffic Area Task Force was caught on camera playing videogames at a crime scene.

After the HIDTA team entered the house of Michael DiFalco, a convicted drug dealer in the area, police officers discovered a Nintendo Wii game and a big screen TV and began to play. The officers, however, did not notice the hidden camera filming them.

“Certainly this was a case of bad judgment,” said Auburndale Police Chief Nolan McLeod in an interview with The Tampa Tribune. “We will handle it the right way.”

THE EVENT

FIU students hit the streets

For the first semester, UNICEF is planning community events in order to spread the word and begin their fundraising goals.

One such event is “Spooktacular” on Oct. 31 for children to participate in Halloween activities and donate food and a dollar for the cause and other humanitarian causes on campus.

“We need other clubs to get in touch with us if they would like to participate and have a table with members and activities for kids to enjoy a safe Halloween,” Florrez said.

Members of the organization said that donors will be able to see what impact their donations will have on children all over the world.

Some ideas are to have UNICEF at FIU adopt a child in another country so that donors could really see that the proceeds made at the University will go toward that child’s upkeep.

The next organization meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in GC 305.

For more information contact unicef@fiu.edu.
Club supports sexual diversity

Events to celebrate gay pride with guest speakers, games

**MELODY REGALADO**
Contributing Writer

There’s a place on campus for girls who like girls and boys who like boys, and for those who support them.

Stonewall 2 BBC, or S2B, a student organization at the Biscayne Bay Campus that supports the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, is speaking out about the issues their community faces.

“The goal is to raise more awareness for people to understand that it’s a part of everyday life, and provide a safe place for people with the same mindset to just hang out without any pressures,” said Daniel Anzueto, club president and a senior psychology major.

The club will host “Gay Day on the Bay,” a kickoff barbecue that is open to all students and will take place Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include football, a water balloon fight and Twister.

To celebrate “National Coming Out Day” on Oct. 11, the club is planning a variety of activities throughout the day on Oct. 7, featuring tables with representatives from local organizations, such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Aqua Foundation for Women, Equality Florida, Pridelines Youth Services, YES Institute, and SAVE Dade.

The club will also read and share coming-out stories, host a Gay Bingo, and hopes to bring a drag queen performance to the event.

The majority of the events will take place in Panther Square, but there will be a guest speaker, former North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns, at 12:30 p.m. in WUC 159.

The club also promotes a “Day of Silence” in the spring, when GLBT activists and allies wear red shirts and don’t speak for the entire day to bring attention to anti-GLBT sentiment.

With 20 to 30 current members, the club isn’t limited to just the GLBT community. Straight members who are supportive of the GLBT community are also part of S2B.

Its members aim to provide a venue for people to openly ask questions, share who they are and encourage people to come out. It is a place for the S2B students and their allies to make others more aware through educational opportunities.

“The club offers an opportunity for students to recognize the silenced voices of the GLBT community,” said Vicky Owles, associate director of Campus Life and Orientation.

Owles has served as advisor for S2B since it started, and this is her third semester teaching GLBT in America, a class that educates students about gay issues and promotes understanding.

The class is almost at full capacity, which is a sign that tolerance and acceptance has increased over the past few years, according to Owles.

The original Stonewall disintegrated at BBC more than five years ago, and Anzueto re-established it as Stonewall 2 BBC as a freshman three years ago.

Part of the club’s name, Stone-wall, is the name of a gay bar in New York City where riots took place in reaction to police offi cers violently raiding the bar. These demonstrations marked the beginning of the gay rights movement of the ’60s and ’70s.

“I think it’s great that the GLBT community has a place for support and that the club is promoting an understanding of its community,” said Brianna Bellan-toni, a senior journalism major.

Anzueto and Owles believe that the majority of the University population is accepting of the GLBT community because of the diversity in South Florida.

**MAKE A MOVE**

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON**

**IT TAKES TWO:** Oscar Caballero and Effy Pollogopez from the Tango Times Dance Company show students a tango dance in Panther Square, part of SPC-BBC’s Affair of the Arts week on Sept. 23.

New school focuses on studies of environment and society

SEAS, page 1

BBC will be used to form the base of the school because of its location by the Biscayne Bay, according to Heithaus, who joined the University in 2003. But the SEAS will involve the entire University, not just one campus.

“Don’t want people to get the feeling that this is just a Biscayne Bay school. It really is meant to integrate across the whole university,” Heithaus said.

The focus of the school will be to understand how environmental systems work and how human relationships work with those systems. It will encompass natural sciences, earth sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, social sciences and humanities.

“One of the cool things about this school is that it is an expanded sweep that you can look at similar issues from lots of different angles,” Heithaus said.

Although there isn’t a specific curriculum set yet because the school has many components to it, according to Heithaus, students pursuing any of the existing degree programs in the College of Arts and Sciences can have a concentration in environment and society. Students become part of the SEAS by taking environment and society-oriented classes.

Aside from these degrees, like bachelor’s in English, international relations, liberal studies, marine biology and psychology, a bachelor’s in environmental studies is being planned, along with more degrees for both undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. students.

At the graduate level, there are master’s degrees in creative writing and one as English, so students pursuing these degrees can also have a concentration in environment and society.

The classes that will be offered in the SEAS are the environmental courses that are currently offered within the department of natural sciences. Classes from the department of earth sciences, such as policy and environmental economics classes, will also be included in the school.

“At BBC, with the coastal initiative we’ve had for the last few years, there have been new courses for marine policy and literature of the sea, so we’re going to see continued development of new classes in some of these areas,” Heithaus said.

The school will invest in video conferencing equipment so that courses, particularly at the graduate level, can be offered at both campuses, according to Rose. Classes would take place at BBC, but students who are based at the Modesto Maidique Campus would be able to participate in the classes from there. The SEAS staff expects students to gravitate toward being enrolled full-time at BBC if they wish to concentrate on environment and society.

Unlike other schools, students do not have to apply to the SEAS to become part of it, according to Heithaus. Students will be involved with the school by simply taking classes on environment and society.

The school will not hire new professors, because the SEAS classes are already existing classes. These professors, however, are trying to develop new angles to their courses, or potentially new courses that fit the theme of the SEAS, according to Heithaus.

“Hopefully as we go forward, we’ll be able to hire new faculty that fit within this school, and help to bridge across some of the strengths we already have and build links across departments,” Heithaus said.

Although the SEAS has been officially created, there is no physical location for it yet. It is still in the organizational stage.

Rose said that although SEAS is a school, it is not quite the same as other schools that are currently at the University.

“SEAS is an umbrella for degrees that were plotted together thematically. At some point in the future, we will offer specific degrees for the school,” Rose said.

However, students will be able to get bachelor’s degrees in other areas and still be a part of the school.

“SEAS will enhance opportunities for everyone,” Heithaus said.

Bismark Asante, a senior biology major, thinks the SEAS is a very good idea.

“Everything around us is biology, so if we understand our environment better, we’ll know how to dispose of non-biodegradable substances,” said Asante. “Anything that is environmentally related is good.”
Young adults lose perspective in a world of debt

Consumerism traps students

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

The recession has done much to highlight the dangers of financial extravagance, bringing to light the importance of prudence in a society of legendary overindulgence.

SGC-MMC, in particular, has witnessed a notable rate of economic growth between rich and poor, one that can certainly give the grim impression that we’ve crossed the line in terms of consumption.

All this holds particular significance to the students and youth of America. It should come as no surprise that younger people are the largest and most voracious consumers in the nation. We’re the ones who embrace the Internet, engage in social networking, try out all the new gadgets and flock to movies in droves.

We drive the economy through our demand. Our consumption even defines our very era. The Information Age owes its prominence to our enthusiasm for new ideas and technology, and our tendency to spread them around like a wildfire.

Not surprisingly, we’re the focus of many corporations and advertisers seeking influence and tap into us as early as possible, so that we may carry on with spending for a lifetime.

As college students, we’re walking a particularly shaky tight rope. With tuition rising, the struggle between material temptation and demanding education gets more precarious.

As we can barely differentiate between luxuries and necessities or tell needs from wants. How many of us claim to be “broke” while maintaining the sort of lifestyle not truly impovished people would know?

Suddenly, our standards of comfort become skewed; not being able to eat out every day or get the latest widget on the market leaves us feeling frustrated. Why is it that the basic needs we take for granted – food, water, shelter – are luxuries to millions who can scarcely afford them, let alone anything too extra-ordinary?

No other demographic has the opportunities we have. And no other can so drastically squander them as easily either.

Indeed, enough by the demands of education, we’re driving ourselves into the escapism and hedonism of a consumerist society. Educational attainment was once something ascetic, achieved through hard work and diligence. Now the lines for things like credit and enticing mass commercialism, has left us unfocused.

A compilation of studies by Ben Wosley and Matt Schult gives a grim picture: 76 percent of undergraduates have credit cards, and are subsequently expected to continue using them for the rest of the time they graduate. Half of all undergraduates have a whopping four or more credit cards, a percentage that is increasing each year. Nearly 20 percent of all 18 to 24-year-olds are in debt.

Young adults have no idea of the implications of bankruptcy after middle-aged groups.

But if this needs to be a bad thing. After all, what’s wrong with a little bit of convenience to help make our stressful, studious lives more comfortable? Nothing at all, if we should measure restraint in our spending habits.

Without a doubt, we need to scale back our love of things and the culture of material dependence that has us more burdened than ever. It all comes down to us; spending is a product of our actions, dictated by our willpower and nothing else. We have to merely let go of look at the bigger picture. Yes, it’s easier said than done, but it’s also easier done than paying back debt for the rest of our lives.

Glenn Beck has sighted to be seen by everyone

CHRISTIAN BAUMAN
Contributing Writer

Protests swarm through the Washington streets on Sept. 12. The protests were not to condemn the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the eight year anniversory of the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of Americans, but rather to spawn a political movement. Fox News talk host Glenn Beck gave a name to this movement: the 9-12 Project. The objective: “Bring us together as Americans, standing united as Americans, standing together to protect values and principles of the greatest nation ever created,” according to the movement’s website.

Beck shows no intention of jokIng. For America, Sept. 12, 2001 was a very difficult time to be a citizen. But parties were put aside because the heart of our nation beat and bled with hurt, sorrow, anger – and worst of all, fear. It took pride in how far we’ve come eight years after the tragedy, especially in regard to the fear of flight and reliving with Muslims here in America. To me, the 9-12 Project is an attempt to create a label for the disorganized Obama protests.

These inspired by Beck’s 5 p.m. broadcast stormed the streets of our nation’s capital in support of their host, protesting with fists closing and an American flag waving in the Washington winds.

However the protests were not to end yet and war, not to make any new policies, not for any civil rights, but to voice disdain towards our nation, their host, protesting against a president’s impeachment. They carried hand-made signs while chanting a cry against a communist conspiracy, and an epic game including dozens of “Obama” jokes replacing “Yo Mama” jokes.

They called him a fascist and then a socialist. An atheist and then a satirical religious liberal and then an uncompassionate killer of grandmothers. But there is another demographic for Beck’s program who watch the 2 a.m. broadcast, like my hippie friend Chase. Beck is how late night fix.

When I first heard that he enjoyed watching Beck after work, I considered how.

“No, I asked.

“No Way. Less sober the better, man. It just happened one night after a grueling battle of wine pong, I tuned in. He’s funnier than Jimmy Fallon.”

Chase understands that some may find it weird how he kicks a smile when Beck’s emotions arrive at an ultra-left wing climax or when Beck calls his followers to preserve pious union. But to Chase, there is nothing wrong with watching something on television or on the radio.

“Did you know some of these people call themselves Tea partiers? They have continued. They have no idea what’s wrong with that, they’re more afraid of President Obama being president than anyone in the country today.”

At the end of the broadcast it all comes full-circle. The protesters walk through Washington with waving signs and cries of being oppressed. The 5 p.m. viewers voice their fear of America losing its direction, its identity – its freedom.

And then my friend Chase tunes in at 2 a.m. for a good laugh Chase – someone – has the freedom to tune in or not. I think if we were to ask our Founding Fathers, they’d say it’s free speech at its finest.

Beck is counter-culture’s counter-culture. The protesters are only trying to change to: so let them try.
Local cafe’s organic offerings won’t break the bank

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Special Tea Lounge, located at 10766 Coral Way, has set up shop to make its mark in the world of coffee shops. The neutral, pan-Asian, minimalist atmosphere of the restaurant is indicative of its relaxed cuisine but, unfortunately, the menu is lacking in seating options of two and four two-seat tables. The lounge tries its hand at 21st century menu display with their offerings being displayed on a plasma screen television but the location of the menu – right next to the door – could make it a possible crowd control hazard.

Furthermore, the constantly flickering screen and periodic ad interruption makes it somewhat difficult to choose a menu selection and retain the order mentally on the way to the register.

On a positive note, the interactive magnetic display of teas do offer the unique experience of seeing and smelling them before making a final decision.

Although a staff of one individual would be a frightening thought, the lone cashier was prompt, personable and maintained a pleasant attitude.

Special Tea continues to make up for what they’ve lost in aesthetics in the quality of their food, especially in their area of expertise. One tea variety that stands out is the Acerola Barbades Cherry, whose vivid red hue matches up with its robust, tart flavor. For those looking for a lighter tea, the Asian Pear tea is one to consider.

Coffee and espresso drinks are also available, which are aimed at “fine food” and organic. Although the coffee was bitter for my taste, it would appeal to one with a stronger palate.

If a hot beverage is not on the agenda, there are iced fruit, herbal, honeybush and rooibos tea varieties. They also have cold frappe drinks that are based off of various sweet treats such as ‘smores, cookies and candy bars. The chocolate cake batter frappe is a notable variety that could also suffice as a post-meal dessert. As of now, the only soda available is chilled Coca Cola served in a classic glass bottle.

Speaking of meals, the offerings are based off of five basic varieties that can each be prepared in three ways: a pressed wrap, a grilled panini and a salad.

Out of the ones I tried, the one that stood out the most was the Caribbean Mango Chicken Panini. The chicken was lightly seasoned with spicy Jamaican jerk seasoning which pleasantly contrasted with the sweet mango salsa topping.

Others that deserve an honorable mention are the I Heart New York wrap and the Ay Chihuahua Panini.

The I Heart New York wrap comprised peppered turkey pastrami with cream cheese, provolone, crunchy bacon and smoky, grain-riddled Dijon mustard for a highly savory experience.

The Ay Chihuahua Panini was a tour de force of chiptole-infused mayo with juicy chicken breast and fresh black and white bean salsa accented with corn.

One that I didn’t fall in love with was the Tour of Italy wrap. The saltiness of the salami and the olive tapenade was overwhelming. Perhaps this would have been better suited for a salad, not for a warm sandwich. They also have the Olive You, a vegetarian option accented with mozzarella cheese, baby greens and tomatoes.

The pricing at Special Tea Lounge is a pleasant surprise. Dishes that go for much more elsewhere can be had here for under $10 and the beverage options can be had for well under $5.

Special Tea Lounge is now developing additional offerings including pastries, sweet paninis and cookies. If my experience is indicative of any later developments, then I am eager to see what they come up with next.

Food for Thought is a weekly column reviewing local eateries. Beacon writers do not receive free food or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this column solely represent those of the author.
DIANA GALBAN
Staff Writer

Something about Brand New’s music makes you feel so helpless, like a child with no hand to hold while crossing the street.

The Long Island group’s music has always been dark, from their punk beginnings with Your Favorite Weapon to their most complex and obscure record up to now, The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me.

Three years from that release, the dark cloud that floats above their heads has gotten darker, resulting in their latest effort, Daisy.

Originally named And One Head Can Never Die – a much more appropriate title – Daisy is not a far stretch from the sound Brand New have developed with their recent records.

For those unfamiliar with their work, however, this new album may seem way too loud, insane, sloppy and unwelcoming.

“Vices” is the opening track, starts off as a sort of golden-age-Hollywood ballad performed by a woman and a piano before being jarringly interrupted by frantic screaming and loud feedback a minute and a half into the song.

“Bed” follows with the worst transition I’ve heard in a while, and is very out of character for Brand New.

The single “At the Bottom” transitions smoothly with a dramatic intro and is reminiscent of the days when you sang Modest Mouse’s “Float On” in your car.

“Gasoline” is the fourth track, which debuted acoustically during a solo show in Seattle a couple months back.

The mixed and produced version is much more chaotic and hysterical. “You Stole” follows as a breath of fresh air to their newer albums, Daisy’s main flaw seems to be its difficult transitions.

But by the end of the 40 minutes, it’s obvious that for the most part this transition problem is no flaw at all, but quite premeditated as the last track impeccably loops into the first, making it a closed circle of beautiful madness.

This record is definitely harder to get acquainted with than their earlier material, but if you know Brand New at all, you know you’ll have the next three years while they make their next one to get used to it.

Dedicated fans more likely to enjoy Brand New’s darkest album to date

**NEON NIGHTS**

**Drag queens break down traditional views on gender**

Driving down South Beach, those towers of color and grandeur to make me nervous – the drag queens I mean, the high-rise condos. Seeing them in women’s clothes and knee-high boots as they entertained bar patrons would fill me with a mix of anxiety and guilt. I felt bad if I stared but I couldn’t relax unless I could make sense of what I saw.

Why would a man put on a dress?

Drag queens must have the amazing power to sense fear or anxiety. It is as if years of growing up feeling like an outsider could grant one with incredible power once one is able to be free from social constraints and don a pink wig. My first experiences with drag queens almost always started like this: they spotted me staring in disbelief and caught me trying to look away when they made eye contact. Bad move.

“Hey little twink in the purple shirt, come here!”

That was me. Twink is gay slang for any boyish-looking young man. It’s not exactly what I like to be called, but I’ll enjoy references to my youth while I still get regular ones.

“Come up here baby, don’t think I don’t see you pup!”

Whether they are bringing you up on stage to enjoy a booby dance contest where there is no prize for first place, or just to crack a few jokes and possibly get you to show off your abs, drag queens are masters of the stage.

Sociologists and experts in queer theory have argued that gender in all social settings is simply a performance. When you get up in the morning, dressing up in the “appropriate” gender uniform is no different than an actor backstage getting ready for a scene.

The drag queens at Voodoo Lounge, located on 111 S.W. 2nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, have taken this concept and made Sunday nights the home for their weekly drag show, “Life’s a Drag.” This weekly show is a collection of some of the most talented drag performance artists you will find under one roof in South Florida. Daisy Deadpetals is the hostess with the grossest jokes, and when I saw her stage a few years ago at the now defunct Coliseum nightclub, she was the first drag queen to make me see that their only intention is to show us a good time.

TP Lords is another famous drag queen who performs at Voodoo Lounge but her act relies more on having the stage presence of a dragon and lip-syncing to intense choreography with her muscular troupe of backup dancers. Her outfits are usually a dazzling avant-garde toss-up of 80’s day-glo and punk, and she’s not afraid to go wigless.

My sister once approached her to shower her with compliments, to which she gracefully replied, “Darling, it’s beautiful women like you that inspire us to be the way we are.”

It’s clear to me now that drag queens do not simply try to become femininity – they incorporate it. By accepting the beauty in both genders, and in all its forms, drag queens redefine those traditional values that keep us from wearing and becoming what we really are.

I’m reminded of a powerful scene in the movie To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Miss Veda Boheme, Patrick Swayze’s most fabulous role, approaches Carol Ann, a small-town-wit, about how she feels about knowing that the “real” Ms. Veda Boheme is actually a man.

“Vida, do not think of you as a man and I do not think of you as a woman. I think of you as an angel.”

I think that’s healthy – not to mention a beautiful thing. Neon Nights is a weekly column about Miami nightlife. Beacon writers do not receive free food or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this column solely represent those of the author.
McCall to start game, has high expectations

FOOTBALL page 1
120 in the FBS to produce in order to have similar success to what they had against the Rockies in their last meeting.

Starting running back Darriet Perry leads the team with 50 rushing yards, but is getting just 2.5 yards per rush. The offensive line could set the tone for rushing success, but it is an area of needed improvement.

FIU is allowing the most sacks in the FBS. When quarterback Paul McCall has been given time, he has been efficient. The senior has completed 58 percent of his passes on the young season, but relentless pass rush from Alabama and Rutgers during the team’s first two games have put McCall in a tough position.

They are going to improve. I want to emphasize capability because they are capable.

Mario Cristobal, head coach

Football

“Protection was an issue last game and the second half of our first game, and a lot of that is attributed to us playing very mature defensive lines,” Cristobal said. “You work with your linemen at becoming technique maniacs at what they do to continue to increase your understanding of what’s going on.

They are going to improve. I want to emphasize capability because they are capable.”

MCCALL WILL PLAY

Despite a sprained knee sustained in the Rutgers contest, McCall will start against Toledo. McCall said the 2008 Toledo game was the turning point, paving the way for the Golden Panthers to win five of their last nine games.

The Rockets are in the bottom five in the FBS in scoring defense, so the possibility of a high scoring game is realistic.

“It brings a smile to my face,” McCall said. “But if we win 7-6 I’ll be happy, and that’s what we’re hoping for from our defense.”

Team chemistry will help erase last season’s meltdown

BONILLA, page 8
Panthers win three consecutive games without losing one set. Freshman Jovana Bjelica also helped alleviate some of the weight off of Rosa’s shoulders by recording 96 kills in eight games.

Besides senior experience, Vergun understands the frustration of missing playing time because of injuries.

She did not play one game last season due to injuries. Rosa needs a teammate to relate to, this season more than ever.

This is Rosa’s senior year and last chance to make an impact in the NCAA tournament. Last season’s early exit in the Sun Belt Conference tournament was a disappointment for a team that crushed opponents during the regular season. Rosa’s main concern should be healing her pinky and making sure she comes back with the same intensity she’s played with the last three seasons.

Hey Jude, don’t make it bad. Take a sad song and make it better.

The season is almost halfway done. There is no time to dwell.

Work on getting back at full strength to make the team’s season more successful.

FOOTBALL page 1

Last season’s episode is unlikely to recurr because this squad has proven it does not need to rely on one player to win.

The team is 11-2 without Rosa this season with both losses against teams that were ranked No. 22 in the nation at the time. Even without Rosa, FIU gave then-No. 22 FSU a 3-1 dogfight of a match.

Setter Natalia Valentin will have three senior outside hitters to jolt the offense once Rosa does return.

With freshman libero Chanel Araujo playing every game as well, this team has improved the roster to once again claim the SBC title.

These 17 conference games ahead will allow this unit to discover its identity and learn to play together for a string of consecutive games.

Rosa may have missed more than one-third of the season, but her return should not be rushed. The Golden Panthers have more than enough time to find out the best way to assimilate the senior back into the team.

For though they may be parted there is still a chance that they will see, there will be an answer. Let it be.

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

South Beach based father seeks part-time nanny/helper for 13 yr old son. Light cooking, errands, help son with homework. Non-smoker, English speaking, hours are late afternoon and early evenings. Must be able to live in when father is away on occasion. Send CV and recent photo to: DSL, APT 3001, Miami Beach, FL 33139

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Hurricanes in the third set to win the Golden Panthers took care of the during the team’s home match on Sept. 10. "It’s just a matter of her getting her timing back. It’s going to take her one or two more practices, and she’ll be fine," Tomic said. Rosa dislocated the pinky finger on her non-hitting hand on Sept. 10 against the University of Miami after a block attempt and has not played since that game. She had the stitches from her hand removed on Sept. 21 and played since that game. "With the splint, my hand doesn’t hurt at all," Rosa said. "I’m still afraid of blocking, but everything else is going pretty well so far."