Conference discusses political instability, economy

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

Power players from the Latin American and Caribbean region convened for the 13th annual Americas Conference “After the Crisis: Emerging Challenges and Political Stability” on Sept. 29, at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. The University, the state of Florida, the World Bank and The Miami Herald sponsored the conference, which will conclude on Sept. 30.

Long considered by its leaders to have been excluded from the global agenda in the past, the region now finds itself on the center stage, given it will see seven presidential elections within the next year, including the much-debated Honduran election in November.

Although the region has recently seen its fair share of tumult and instability, the conference’s general tone was twofold. While neither optimism nor uncertainty dominated, vice president of the World Bank’s Latin American and Caribbean region, Pamela Cox, suggested 2009 could prove to be a coin toss.

“This year may be remembered as the year that abruptly derailed Latin American growth, or it may be remembered as the year when the recession inspired smarter and more widespread development,” she said.

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Kenasha Paul, BSU’s current president, was one of the main sponsors of the move to become a council. Through the process of writing resolutions and working with students and faculty, the group gained approval months after they first began their attempt in November 2008.

Paul, who was the vice president of SGC-BBC at the time of the proposal, said that understanding the system helped making the process smoother.

BSU boasts 12 percent of African-American students and “such a percentage is larger than many schools in the nation,” according to the BSU Web site.

“Students felt that in order to provide the services and resources needed to sustain campus that falls under the jurisdiction and receives formal representation among the student body. As a group that promotes community service, BSU seeks to highlight the African-American culture not only among its members but throughout the campus. When you have an understanding of where you are from, you can understand who you are,” said Farrel Liger, a senior member majoring in biology.

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Argentina, Brazil and Chile are leading the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean,” he said. “[The region] is well positioned for recovery but will need to intensify its productivity-oriented agenda.”

A panel discussion, moderated by MIAMI Herald columnist Andres Oppenheimer followed and included addresses by and a question and answer session with Latin American leaders including Governor of Buenos Aires Daniel Scsido, and Mayor of Buenos Aires Mauricio Macri. Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Hubert Alexander Ingraham spoke to audience members as well. “While the Bahamas’ economy remains greatly strained, it is enduring.” He said. “One of the most important lessons that we and all the countries can take away from this current crisis is the importance of maintaining fiscal discipline.” Leaders and guests then gathered for Costa Rican Presidnet Oscar Arias’ luncheon address. Arias served as a mediator between ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya and De Facto President Roberto Micheletti since the coup d’état the country experienced on June 28. During his address, Arias announced he had spoken with Micheletti over the weekend and that the de facto president had promised to commence talks with the Honduran congress and courts to lift the measures, which up until this point, had impeded Honduran citizens’ rights to gather in political contexts.

This move, according to Arias, is imperative in order to facilitate free and open elections come Nov. 29, considering the country has been under substantial pressure to allow its former president back after what Arias calls a “definitive coup d’état.”

“A coup dressed in silk is still a coup,” he said. He also said he supports Zelaya’s reinstatement with limited powers, and that he would like to see the president finish out his term until the country’s elections in November. Micheletti, on the other hand, has said Zelaya would be accepted back into the country only as a defendant. In response to Arias’ address, various protesters gathered outside the hotel with Honduran flags and signs in hand on Sept. 28 to protest Arias’ support of Zelaya’s reinstatement.

According to those protesting the move to allow Zelaya to return to power until November, Micheletti’s government did not engage under a coup d’état, citing Zelaya’s government was the one to break the country’s constitution when he intended to run for a fourth term.

Some protesters, however, consider who is in the wrong a mere detail and are concentrating their efforts on their family’s safety back home.

“My mother and my brothers are in Honduras,” said Quinn Pelkey, a 21 year old protester. “All I can do here is protest while they can’t even go to sleep at night.”

Other panels such as Critical Policy Issues in the Region, moderated by FIU’s Latin American and Caribbean Studies director, Cristina Euguiziabal, and “The Business of Cuba: A Discussion,” moderated by El Nuevo Herald staff writer Juan Tamayo, were also presented throughout the day.

Since the change in position, the BSU has seen more students become interested. Their numbers have jumped from 150 to 200 students at each event, and according to Micheletti, the government was the one to change the rules.

“We have a lot of people here today,” said Eric Allen, a communications assistant to the students for that year.

“Many men’s basketball coach, was at the event to speak to students.

BSU remains a multicultural group that prides itself on being open to students of African backgrounds as well as those who just wish to learn more about the culture.

“Not all black students are comfortable in an institution that is so diverse,” Paul said. “Some students come from all-black schools and it’s important for them to have a place where they can talk to people.”

To join BSU, students must attend three consecutive meetings each semester and five within a semester and be an active member of at least one BSU committee.

People will still die because of the lack of basic outreach in primary health-care – the biggest impediment in saving lives,” he said. “This needs a lot more attention in the rural areas of Latin America and elsewhere.”

BSU, page 1

growth and sustainability, a change needed to be made,” states the Web site.

Some Florida universities, such as Florida State Univer- sity and University of Miami, already had a BSU organization among their councils. “When I saw that, I knew that we had to change,” Paul said.

As a club, the BSU received $1,055 in funds from SGA, yet as a council they will be handed $25,000 in the next fiscal year to use at their discretion.

According to Paul, they plan to expand their current events and projects rather than add new ones.

“This change makes us a more competitive institution and gives the campus a sense of integration,” Ligcr said. “If you address one of your weaknesses and make it one of your strengths, you’ll make a better university.”

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Students take part in news service with major papers

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

In January of this year, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication partnered with The Palm Beach Post, Sun-Sentinel and The Miami Herald to create a print and digital news service, in which students write articles published by one or all of these publications.

After a semester of the partnership being up and running, there were more than 20 published articles written by students, the University of Miami joined the service, and SIMC hired a news director, who is in charge of setting up a newsroom environment for the student participants.

Teresa Ponte, interim chair of the Department of Journalism and Broadcasting, hired Chris Delboni as the news director. Delboni is now the liaison between the three newspapers, its editors, and the students from both FIU and UM. Before joining the South Florida News Service she worked for UM's News Service.

“I was working at UM’s News Service, the U/Miami News Service, and I was teaching my classes as a newsroom, so that was a perfect fit,” Delboni said.

During the first months of the service, there weren’t enough funds to hire a news director because the partnership was considered an experiment that would be developed as it went along and they were still trying to figure out what works best for the service.

“We saw the need for a news director, and that’s why that came about,” Ponte said.

SPNS is set up primarily by two senior journalism classes: feature writing and online news Reporting. Students from other classes can sign up for the service, and by doing this, they are put on the news director’s mailing list, according to Delboni, who automatically gets in touch with them for assignments.

Once students write stories for their classes, Delboni evaluates them and decides whether they are publishable or not. If they are publishable, he pitches them to the editors at the three publications as potential articles.

According to Ponte, the criteria for choosing articles depends on whether the idea is feasible and whether the newspapers have published such articles.

Delboni said students need to understand that once they are done with the story for their class, that story might change before it’s published: the angle might change, or even the whole story needs to be rewritten.

She also said students that want to be reporters for the SPNS need to be committed to it. They not only can get the stories they write in class published in one of the papers, but they also get stories directly from the editors of the newspapers.

The editors from the three publications send story ideas to the students, who can pass them to the students, who can decide whether to take on the task of working on them.

From Delboni, Ponte coordinates the editing process between the students and the editors.

“It’s the best opportunity in the world for a student reporter because you are what you write,” said Delboni.

“And it’s your clips in mainstream publications that get you a job, not the degree.”

Although students write the stories, which are sent to the editors of the major newspapers through SIMC professors, through University alumnus print journalism major Nicolas Kasanzew said he wouldn’t like more interaction with the editors.

“I don’t know how it works in newspapers, but it would have been nice to have more involvement in the printing of the articles,” said Kasanzew, who was part of the service in Spring.

Students are paid $50 per published article. But there have been problems with students from the Spring term because the University went through a financial system overhaul, according to Ponte. Those students haven’t gotten paid yet.

“The appropriate paper-work and channels have to be gone through. It’s not like Professor Ponte and I can write a check,” said Allan Richards, interim associate dean of SIMC.

SIMC received a $30,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation last year, which the school uses to pay the students and the news director, who is the only paid staff in the service. One of the requirements to keep the grant is to pay students, according to Richards. Each of the three newspapers also gave SIMC $10,000 for the service.

Kasanzew, who had three articles published, said that he has not been paid yet.

“If I don’t get paid, that’s not the end of the world. I’m just happy I got some articles published,” he said.

Currently, there aren’t any requirements to join the service, but Delboni believes it’s important that the students have experience in journalism.

“I cannot be going through basic writing and basic grammar. You need to have a sense of journalism,” she said.

Delboni, students and professors in the service meet every Friday at 10 a.m. in ACI Room 242.

According to Delboni, it is not mandatory for SIMC students to participate in the service, but that could change in the future. Students like Kasanzew, however, don’t mind the extra work at school.

“I think it’s a good idea, but it needs some adjustments. I almost had an article on front page and that was really cool,” Kasanzew said.

Latin restaurant leaves much to be desired; pizza saves day

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Latin restaurant leaves much to be desired; pizza saves day

RESTAURANT INFO

Pochomama: 13448 Biscayne Blvd. North Miami 305-947-0304
Pizza Point II: 12581 Biscayne Blvd. North Miami 305-891-1112

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

LATIN RESTAURANT LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED; PIZZA SAVES DAY

Friday, October 2, 2009

I would be lying if I said I am never rushed. Almost from the moment I wake up, I need to eat. I have this ritual of eating breakfast, and I do it, like, three times a day. It’s not that I am obsessed with food; it’s just that I need the energy to keep going.

On a normal day, I end up eating lunch in my car or at my desk, and yes, I can do that. I can work and not worry about taking a half hour for lunch. I assumed I could take advantage of that.

But this week, I had an after busy day to do this little experiment: I had two deadlines, papers to write and work to finish in the office by the end of the day.

I wanted to work and not worry about lunch, but my stomach wasn’t letting me ignore its growls, so I told myself I would take a half hour for lunch. I was going to eat at a normal cheese pizza, nothing to rave about.

So I asked for the soup of the day instead, which was only $2.99, thinking it was a safe enough order that she would allow me to get it.

Well, I wasn’t allowed to order that either because according to her, I wouldn’t like it. She didn’t even tell me what the soup was.

At this point, I could have protested, but I am not one to demand food and then run out. I didn’t want to come off as the fat chick who was telling the server that I have to eat what I want, and then have them spit out food. Or the hungry, ravenous woman who was right and I wouldn’t like the food.

I figured it wasn’t worth the energy to bring up her ability to know what I do and don’t like to eat.

I just ordered rice and potato with cheese sauce. I assumed I was allowed to order that, and she apparently agreed.

This time, however, she should have warned me that I wouldn’t like this plate either. The rice, plain and white, was grossly soft, chewy and flavorless, and the potato was OK after I added some hot sauce and salt.

I ended up paying $2 for the rice and $5.99 for the cold baked potato with cheese, none of which I finished, nor enjoyed.

The place was surprisingly very crowded and decorated with wooden tables. It had a nice Latin American feel to it.

Still hungry, I allowed myself to get a cheap meal—a real one. I went over to Pizza Point II, located at 12581 Biscayne Blvd. and ordered one of their lunch specials.

For only $5.50, I got a medium pizza with one topping, two cans of soda and six rolls of garlic bread. I should have come here from the start.

I would recommend this place if you want to treat your co-workers to lunch and still manage to not waste time.

But the pizza isn’t that great. It was a normal cheese pizza, nothing to rave about. But hey, it was cheap and I got to share it with people at the office, so that was a perk.

After running around for what seemed like forever looking for a place to eat, I have made a resolution: never eat out again. Well, not really, because I still need to give you tips about places in the area, but at least not for lunch.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. The columnist pays for all food and experiences. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.afshar@fi usm.com.
Harvard Yard Oxford shirts represent the elitist stereotype of many of us already view Harvard to be.

“I licensed Harvard’s trademark phrase ‘Harvard Yard’ for 10 years in a deal made through Collegiate Licensing Company.’

The expensive clothing line is not meant for college students, not even those who attend Harvard. This isn’t surprising since the majority of college students, at least the ones who have barely have enough money after paying for classes and books to live off ramen noodles and pizza pies. Students like these can’t eat out let alone buy a shirt for $160 mark to sport jackets and trousers that many of us already view Harvard to be a place where Chuck Bass from “Gossip Girl” would easily fit in.

However, on a positive note, Trademark Program Director Rick Calixto, informed The Boston Globe that Harvard makes more than $1 million a year just from the royalties of their many endorsed products. Roughly $500,000 of that large amount finds its ways to the financial aid department.

Besides the line bringing in a substantial amount of money to the school and causing a bit of drama, the line itself isn’t half bad. Yes, there is way too much-plaid for my taste and personally I wouldn’t dress my boyfriend in it – but pink shorts and blue striped shirts are your style, good for you.

Unfortunately, I don’t think that the idea seemed to Harvard Yard would take us in a city as eccentric as Miami City.

Have something to say? Join the conversation today at FIUSCM.com.

"Something’s ‘fishy’: Marlins gain more cash than expected"

Although the dough is not going to be made through our fees, the Florida Marlins, in addition to the over million dollars going to the construction of the stadium, would also be awarded tax funds earmarked for public art, and about $2.5 million of it at that, according to The Miami Herald.

The idea is that the money would be used to create a “home-run entertainment feature.” Basically, some of gimmick in the stadium that occurs every time the Marlines score a home run, whether it be fireworks shooting from the scoreboard or a train that chugs around the rim of the stadium, to name two examples from Chicago and Houston’s baseball stadiums, respectively.

As a fiscally conservative, two things have always bugged me: using tax dollars for sports teams, and using tax dollars for art, and thanks to Miami-Dade commissioners, the two have been rolled into one.

According to a proposal, the Florida Marlines, in addition to the over million dollars going to the construction of the stadium, would also be awarded tax funds earmarked for public art, and about $2.5 million of it at that, according to The Miami Herald.

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Sub shop offers standard subs

There is only so much one can expect from a sandwich, right? Although Subrageous, located at 1553 S.W. 107th Ave., strives to bring those areas manage to turn out hoagies their contemporary archetypes in the fridge and open kitchen are a nod to ordinary beverage the red and white paint and wooden furniture seemed very home and relinquished of any kind of love, Sonia (played by Victoria Collado) is now a mother of two. When she was only 13 her parents decided to send her to America to escape communist oppression during what became known as Operation Peter Pan.

It was the beginning of the end for many Cubans and some parents were faced with a tough decision: wait it out together or try to save who they can. More than 13,000 children—including Sonia—were sent over to America in the aftermath of the revolution, some never to be reunited with their families again.

Sonia Flew

Play follows the saga of a family torn by tragedy

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Nerves seemed shaky as the actors settled into their roles, but that made sense. This was the final dress rehearsal before the official opening night of Sonia Flew.

The audience was warned that technical difficulties might arise and that these would be fixed as the play went on, and if they did they were very minimal because the night flowed as if the on-stage families had been living there for years.

The Wertheim Main Stage hosts many emotions as Melinda Lopez’s play attempts to bring families, especially Cuban-American families, closer together this season. Both history and life lessons are learned as the audience gets a sense of what it is like for an immigrant woman to focus on her present while constantly being struck by her dark past.

Immigration is a touchy subject. It shouldn’t be, considering this country’s past, but it is.

Cubans, however, have usually taken the immigration issue a little too close to heart. Many different people chose to leave their homelands behind, enduring so much hardship that it’s impossible to tell whose way out was the hardest.

But let’s leave those stories for the Domino Park. This is about Sonia.

Once a child separated from her home, Sonia (Kat Moreno) is now a mother of two.

The audience enters a realm of unity with the audience, forgetting her family members and speaking directly to us.

She shares very personal tidbits about her past that she refuses to share with others. Though painful at times to watch, the connection that is gained between Sonia and the audience is strong and lasts through the end.

Because Sonia lost her parents she refuses to allow her children to leave. This is why she feels so powerless when her son shares some very important news about what he wants to do with his own life.

Her powerlessness eventually begins to get the best of her and turns into rage, slowly breaking apart her family.

After a short intermission, the stage changes as the lay veers back to Sonia’s childhood in Cuba. The audience erupted into applause as soon as eyes were laid on the wondrous new set.

It’s hard to pay attention to the dialogue at this point because so much of it was filled with very precise detail of the impressive set.

Authenticity was key during the second half; mesmerizing colored floor tiles, scattered pots and pans and wooden furniture seemed very genuine and true to its time.

The entire stage could have once belonged to the cast of Que Pasa USA! before they got to the USA.

A new family is soon shown that quickly picks up the tempo of the play. Sonia Flew is a drama, but various hearty one-liners occasionally break the silence.

Sonia Flew, directed by Jennifer Smith De Castro Verde, Oct. 1-3, 7 p.m. and Oct. 4, 2 p.m. Tickets are $8 for students, alumni, faculty/staff and seniors. All other tickets are $10.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sub shop offers standard subs

Take, for example, their American Cold Cuts sub special. I was expecting a much more substantial sandwich that was so full of deli meat that I’d have to struggle to take a bite. Instead, I found that it could almost pass for a vegetarian option, as my request for yellow American cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayo, mustard, oil, vinegar, salt and pepper was much more apparent.

Even so, the deli meat that they did use, which resembled bologna, wasn’t all too memorable in terms of taste.

I commend them on offering mostly complimentary toppings and a choice of sub or wrap, but I was taken aback by the 47 cent relief.

With such an unimpressive dining atmosphere, Subrageous is in no position to charge for extra fountain soda. Besides, who will ever have such an odd amount of change in their possession? They also charge extra for condiments such as honey mustard, barbecue sauce and green peppers, citing them as “side orders,” which I find to be insulting.

Despite my disappointment, I must give them some points for innovation.

The breakfast sub is a fairly novel concept in modern sub shops and they do make a gallant attempt at incorporating them into their menu, with the added perk of omelet subs being available for purchase throughout the day. Also, their take on the cheese steak was decent.

Although they got some of the elements of this iconic Philadelphia staple correct—thinly sliced beef, creamy provolone, savoury mushroom rooms and onions—the lack of an authentic hoagie roll left something to be desired. Other hot sub offers...

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IS IT WORTH IT?

Dear Tony Scott:

your movie is bad

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Dear Tony Scott,

I just saw your most recent film, Taking of Pelham 1-2-3.

I was not pleased with it. It’s an improvement over your last films, Déjà Vu and Domino. But then again, it’s not hard to improve upon trash when given decent material.

Enter Mr. Brian Helgeland and his screenplay adaptation of the 1974 film of the same title about a team of armed men, led by a man named Ryder (John Travolta) who hijack a New York subway car and hold it for ransom, causing a really bad day for MTA dispatcher Walter Garber (Denzel Washington) and NYPD Detective Camonetti.

I will not evangelize for the earlier version of this film starring Walter Matthau and Robert Shaw; it was certainly not a classic by any respect. It was however a fully enthralling film with reliable performances by the cast.

The tension in that film was genuine as was the great wit and humor involved. It has not aged magnificently but it’s a great film about a hijacking and with some great social commentary about America after Watergate and its hatred of politicians.

MOvie, page 6
Despite low prices, eatery disappoints

FOOD, page 5

They offer a daily special in which the order of any $2.89 sub special with a 20-ounce fountain drink only costs $3.74, plus tax, and the addition of a 20 ounce drink and a bag of chips to your sub order only adds $2.29 to the final tab. Their legitimate side dish offerings are the usual suspects: french fries (regular or seasoned), macaroni salad and potato salad being among them.

Granted, Subrangeous offers a quick meal with a low price point. But, even at such modest prices, I don’t feel like I really got my money’s worth. The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free meals or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.
Golden Panthers look for back-to-back wins

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

For the Golden Panthers women’s soccer team, a back-to-back wins would be greatly welcomed. The team has not been able to record back-to-back victories so far, and the Golden Panthers (3-5-2) are hoping to gain some momentum on Oct. 2.

Coming off a thrilling overtime win vs. Sun Belt powerhouse Western Kentucky, a game that single-handedly showed why freshman Kaitlyn Savage is competing for the starting goalkeeper spot, the team hopes to have success heading into a four-game home stand.

The first game on the list is vs. Denver, a team that is 7-3-1 heading into Friday night’s matchup.

Senior midfielder Marina Pappas hopes to have a large fan turnout for the first conference game of 2009. “It always helps when there is a big crowd, especially when you’re at home,” said Pappas. “It creates so much momentum. Marina Pappas, midfielder

Women’s soccer

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After totaling just four wins last season, FIU is one victory away from equaling that mark. However, heading into the weekend, FIU is still without defensive midfielder Mayara da Fonseca Bordin, out due to an ankle injury sustained in the Golden Panthers 3-1 loss to Cal Poly on Sept. 11.

“We just need to stay focused on the court. If we stay focused we’ll find a way to win.”

The Blue Raiders will welcome the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders to the U.S. Century Bank Arena hoping to end the weekend on a high note on Oct. 4.

VOLLEYBALL, page 8

The Blue Raiders started their season on a five-game winning streak before losing six straight. But going into this weekend, they are back in the win column with three consecutive wins on their way to an 8-6 record.

“We are a team that talks a lot; they try and take you out of the game,” said Bordin about not being able to participate in practice. “For now, I just want to get back as soon as possible and be in my best shape possible.”

The Blue Raiders are allowing over 30 points per game, and FIU will look to continue to establish a running attack that had a season best 148 yards against Toledo.

FIU is 0-4 All-time against ULM including a 31-27 loss at home last season.

• Tight end Eric Kirchenberg will not play vs. ULM with an abdominal/groin strain. He will miss an additional three-four weeks, according to Cristobal.

• Wide receiver Marquis Rolle is expected to miss the ULM game with a deep knee bruise.

Rosa: Golden Panthers ‘can’t wait’ to face Raiders

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The Golden Panthers go on to face North Texas, an offensive powerhouse that has outscored its opponents 6-0 in the past two games. “Getting the win on Sunday is going to build the momentum,” said senior midfielder Amy Jackson. “Hopefully that will continue and we can get some more wins in conference.”

The defensive star, and two-time Beacon Performer of the Week Savage, has been stellar at goal, netting her first career shutout victory against Western Kentucky.

“It’s good to see Kaitlyn and Casey Thames are stepping up on the field,” said Jackson. “They are both great assets to the team.”

The Golden Panthers split the series with the Blue Raiders in 2008 with a win at home and a loss on the road. They hope to be able to take both meetings this season as well as dominate other Sun Belt opponents, and Tomic is confident they will be able to do that.

“If we play our game, I believe no one can beat us in the Sun Belt,” Tomic said.
HOME COOKING
Golden Panthers face two conference rivals

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK
Safety out for season; defender awarded

FOOTBALL
Freshman receiver tries to make plays like Hilton

When Wayne Times watched FIU football games during his recruitment, he wondered how much of an impact he could make as a true freshman for the Golden Panthers.

T.Y. Hilton, Times' former teammate as a youth, was a dynamic first year playmaker that proved Times' vision was possible. Three games into his college career, the speedy receiver is now making that possibility a reality.

"He has shown when he touches the ball that not only is he elusive but he's strong enough to come out of a lot of tackles," Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal said. "T.Y. last year didn’t break out until game four. Wayne Times has now been effective in games two and three."

Times has had two catches in each of the last few contests, and is growing into a big play threat for the offense, averaging 19.5 yards per catch. Times, mostly a quarterback during his senior season at Miami Northwestern, was also a dynamic receiver for the Bulls.

Working out of the slot role, Cristobal said the freshman has been very mentally sharp in his assignments. "It feels real good," Times said of Cristobal's comments. "I'm not going to say it's a compliment but it's a sign that I'm working hard and doing what I'm supposed to do."

The Golden Panthers will need Times to continue to display his growth on the field in order to bring balance to a passing offense that has relied heavily on Hilton so far.

Last season, FIU did not win a contest in which Hilton did not score. Greg Ellingson had five receptions for 206 yards in that span.

The Golden Panthers lost the game opening loss to Kansas last season, and Western Kentucky came to Miami last November, faced a Golden Panthers team on a 12- game winning streak, undefeated at home and leading the Sun Belt East Division.

That didn’t stop the Hilltoppers from winning 3-1 and serving the Golden Panthers their first defeat since losing to the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders over a month before.

Now, both teams return to Miami to try and send a message to FIU and the rest of the Sun Belt while the Golden Panthers will try to prove why they were the preseason favorites to win the East Division.

"It's going to be our first real challenge in the conference," Golden Panthers coach Danjelica Tomic said. "We'll see where we are in the conference after this weekend. But it's not going to be easy."

NEW-LOOK HILLTOPPERS
The Golden Panthers will take on Western Kentucky on Oct. 2, Tomic knows the two teams facing off are not the same teams that took the court last season.

"Western Kentucky lost a lot from last year," she said. "They lost their two leaders, Megan Argabright and Julia Nee. They are known for good defense; they’ve been playing well."

The Hilltoppers got off to a slow start but have won seven of their past nine to improve their record to 11-5. Their lone conference game heading into this weekend's action was a thrilling five-set loss to Middle Tennessee on the road.

Yarimar Rosa, who led the team in kills in both conference matches last weekend, is excited for the weekend, glad to be facing the team’s two biggest conference rivals at home this early in conference play.

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ZOMBIE KILLERS: Jesse Eisenberg, left, and Woody Harrelson in Zombieland.

BEACON TALKS WITH 'ZOMBIELAND’ ACTORS HARRELSON, EISENBERG

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Turns out comedy isn’t dead. In fact, it’s un-dead. Zombieland brings laughs to the silver screen with a veteran actor and Oscar nominee, and an up-and-coming young actor. The Beacon had the chance to talk to Woody Harrelson (Natural Born Killers) and Jesse Eisenberg (Adventureland) at the Shore Club on South Beach for the Zombieland press day. Not only do these men manage to share chemistry on the big screen, but they also manage to carry it over off-screen.

The Beacon: How much fun was it filming this movie?

Jesse Eisenberg: It was pretty fun, but all the things that are fun to watch are often a tedious process because it takes hours to set up those scenes. The fun I found was improvising with Woody in the dialogue scenes, which was more acting-intensive than holding-a-hammer-intensive.

Woody Harrelson: It was very cathartic killing zombies. It is a nice way to release your inner rage.

The Beacon: How much improvisation did you two do in the movie?

Jesse Eisenberg: Every dialogue scene we did, we would probably improvise for 20 minutes at a time for each of our takes.

Woody Harrelson: It is nice to be able to wing it sometimes because you get cool spontaneous things you might not get otherwise. Sometimes it might be absolute crap but, for the few jewels that are in the take, it is well worth it.

The Beacon: When you guys got the script, what were your first thoughts?

Jeff: When I saw the title page, I thought, “I cannot imagine a good part there could be for an actor.”

Woody: You thought it was going to be stupid.

Jeff: Well, within the first line of the script, I realize this is great because it is funny and witty. The characters are good and everything is well defined. It is actually the first script I read over a period of several months of reading scripts. This one stood out as the cleverest character-driven script, even though it is a zombie comedy.

Woody Harrelson: This club’s presence will be

The Beacon: What was your favorite zombie kill to film?

Jeff: There is one where Woody uses two chainsaws.

Woody Harrelson: How about the one with the butter knife?

Jeff: Which one was with a butter knife?

Woody Harrelson: No, I just thought it would have been funny. The supermarket scene might have been my favorite to shoot. It made me laugh because it was funny how I had to wait for Jesse to tell me to swing, so I can hit the zombie with a but instead of Jesse himself.

Jeff: Do you have a favorite zombie film?

Woody Harrelson: I liked Shaun of the Dead, but to me, zombie movies really scare the crap out of me. The one movie with Will Smith [I Am Legend] was so terrifying, and so was 28 Days Later. Those movies can really give you sleepless nights. I just prefer comedy.

Jeff: Can you two relate to your characters?

Woody Harrelson: My character has an obsession to stay alive and I do not like to walk on cracks on the sidewalk.

Jeff: I have OCD in a lot of different things that I am trying to work on with my dialectical behavior therapist. He is also trying to survive in a world overrun by zombies and if you meet my family ... (laughs). No, it is just a joke. Woody met them yesterday.

Woody Harrelson: They were sweet, sweet zombiotic kind of people.

Jeff: Do you pull any pranks on the set of Zombieland?

Woody Harrelson: It was the director’s (Ruben Fleischer) first movie so he was secretive with us and he wanted his actors to be happy and to take care of us. We used Abigail Breslin to pretend that her last take was too traumatizing for her that she could not do another one. She would go to him in hysterics and because she is one of the best actresses in the world, she would turn it on like that. We did this to him for like half a dozen times and he would say, “We do not have to do another one, I am so sorry.” Fifteen minutes later, she would be fine.

Jeff: How was working with Abigail?

Woody Harrelson: She is the smartest one in the room compared to both of us.

Jeff: She is incredible. You forget that she is 12 years old and she seems more mature than the rest of us. She is also an incredible actress. There is a scene where she has to cry. Not only does she do it beautifully in front of the cameras but, when the camera was on us, she is still crying. That is an incredible ability to access emotions.

Jeff: Is there a lot of action throughout the movie, but do you actually hit any zombie by accident?

Jeff: Emma Stone did at the time of shooting, but she did not know until we found out while promoting the movie. She actually hit a guy, who was 60 feet off the ground and on a wire, with the gun so hard that he instantly fell down. He had to go to the hospital to get stitches, but he is fine now. He is an incredible stunt man who was actually Toby Maguire’s stunt double in the Spider-Man movies as Spider-Man.

Jeff: Are you sure he was the Spider-Man guy? Because I met another guy who said he was the Spider-Man guy, huh.

Woody Harrelson: Did you guys have any funny bloopers during the shoot?

Jeff: I do not remember that thing, do you?

Woody Harrelson: I try to forget them immediately. We would improvise so much that, inevitably, you say things that you immediately regret. I said something about the Incans and I felt embarrassed. Hopefully, it is not going to be on the blooper reel because we might get a defamation lawsuit or something.

For more interviews and film reviews, check out www.fiusm.com. All the quotes from the preceding article were compiled by the author.