SPOTLIGHT

PRETTY IN PINK

Volleyball team really ‘digs’ helping cancer foundation

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

The women’s volleyball team will “dig pink” this Friday by helping raise money for breast cancer awareness during the match against Arkansas.

“Dig Pink” is a national effort held throughout October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, by professional, high school and college sports teams in an effort to raise funds for the cause.

The initiative began with volleyball teams but today even soccer and tennis teams are joining.

The team’s coach, Danjula Tomic, said she is excited with this opportunity and can’t wait to see fans support both the team and the cause.

“It’s a great cause and inspiring to the volleyball world,” Tomic said.

This initiative was made possible by the Office of External Relations, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the College of Engineering and the Student Government Association.

Terry Witherell, associate vice president of University and Community Relations, was the arbitrator of the partnership. Both the dean of the College of Medicine and the dean of the College of Engineering donated money to the cause. These funds will be used to buy pink T-shirts and arm bands to be sold at the game.

SCG-MMC
Resolution calling for restructure of SGA passes

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate at the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus voted with opinions on Monday concerning the restructuring of student government, the smoke-free campus initiative, a pilot program to bring Kindles to the University and human trafficking.

Campus bylaws were also tweaked.

The resolution calling for a consideration to restructure student government for the sake of unity passed the senate with a vote of 20 for, six against and seven abstentions.

Once again, the focus of the document was presented by its sponsoring senators as a call to look into alternatives, and not as an endorsement of any set avenue.

“A system with one unified student body leader can help fix such issues, while representing all FIU students,” states the resolution.

When Senator for Arts and Sciences Altease compared his proposal to fairly represent Biscayne Bay Campus if he or she were exclusively located at MMC, sponsoring Senator for the Honors College Vignesh Doraiswamy said the mention of the central president was only one of “different options that could help.”

Responding to reports that SCG-MMC President Anthony Rionda would not sign anything he deemed divisive, Doraiswamy stated he did not find the resolution to be divisive.

Rionda had previously told Student Media that now is not the time, nor is the resolution the way, to address the concerns brought up.

The senate also took a stance on the smoke-free campus initiative and decided that the current smoking policies are more favorable to the new one.

According to the resolution “students have voiced their concerns through a town hall and Internet forum in opposition of the smoke-free campus initiative, and would rather see implementation and enforcement of current policy.”

Under a smoke-free campus policy, there would be no designated smoking area on campus.

Currently there is no smoking within 20-feet of any building’s entrance. It passed unanimously.

The senate also passed a resolution urging the University and Aramark to take action against human trafficking.

Aramark is a food supplier at the University, and has been linked to business with a company that allegedly uses sweatshops.

The resolution, which was suggested to the senate by another state university student government, calls for “University officials to pressure Aramark to advertise that W&D Apparel end their...
Researchers find 32 new planets outside our solar system

A consortium of international researchers, led by the Geneva Observatory, has announced the discovery of 32 new planets outside our solar system.

Using the High Accuracy Radical Velocity Planet Searcher, or HARPS, the consortium increased the number of planets confirmed to 75.

According to CNN, scientists believe there are up to 400 that have yet to be confirmed.

Apple's computer sales at record high

Apple, Inc. posted higher than expected quarterly numbers. According to CNN Money, the computer company posted a 47 percent increase in quarterly profit of $2.8 billion, 1.2 percent higher than the national average.

The number of unemployed people in the state has reached one million.

According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the September job report showed that the amount of unemployed people in the state has reached one million.

Alumnus praised by Hispanics

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Republican Party recognized FIU alumnus Ariel Fernandez for speaking out on Hispanic issues in South Florida.

Along with a group of 77 Hispanic Republicans, some of which work for the White House, Miami-based Fernandez received this recognition for his work in the Hispanic Leadership Council for the Republican Party of South Florida.

He graduated from FIU with a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in international relations in 2006.

"From the political arena, I can effect a positive change for those who need it the most," Fernandez said.

Right after graduating from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in 1999, he went to work as a congressional aide for Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, where he has worked for the past 10 years.

There, he handles issues regarding health care, education and disaster relief efforts.

He also worked as a link to state and local governments. Recently, he handled the visa case of Anais Cruz, mother of Juan Carlos Rivero, the recent stabbing victim at Coral Gables Senior High.

"Ariel has been a tireless and dedicated aide in my Miami office, responding to the needs of the community and briefing me on the important local issues he deals with. He has always demonstrated his capacity to be a great team player," Ros-Lehtinen said.

Fernandez also worked as a surrogate in the McCain-Palin campaign by bringing their issues to Hispanic Republicans and conducting post-debate analyses for local Spanish media.

Ariel Fernandez, who hosts a Spanish radio program on 830 AM, discusses politics and the economy on Thursday nights with Fernandez.

"Ariel is an excellent friend and citizen. I met him years ago when he hosted a weekly radio show for youth called 'Sobre la Mesa.' On my show, 'Compartiendo Contigo,' his commentary is well-received by the community," he said.

Fernandez has also brought the issues of Hispanic South Florida to the leadership of the Republican Party.

Last year, Fernandez started the Rising Republicans Youth of South Florida. The club hopes to increase the number of Hispanic young people who vote during elections in South Florida.

"One of the ways we've failed, as a Hispanic community, for many years is that we've been a silent voice here in South Florida," Fernandez said. "In a democratic system, which many of us don't have in the countries in which we or our parents originate from, we have the opportunity to speak out on the issues that are important to us and participate in the democratic process."

Fernandez's parents, who migrated from Cuba, were always involved in community service, he said, teaching him the importance of community involvement. His father, who was a teacher at Belen Jesuit and an active voter, always engaged Fernandez in political discourse.

Born and raised in Miami, Fernandez has been involved in community service from an early age including food drives and beach clean-ups.

"Since I was a child, my parents always taught me that one of our goals should always be to serve others," he said.

Along with his parents and sister, Fernandez volunteered and participated in a local youth group called Encuentros Juveniles. The youth group, a part of the Archdiocese of Miami, teaches youth to reach out to the community and serve others. The Fernandez family volunteered and gave its service in Encuentros five yearly retreats and annual Thanksgiving food drive. Fernandez later served as the youth group's coordinator for two years where he observed its operation.

"We got into politics, we would call him 'Mr. President,'" said Alexandria Morales, an Encuentros alumnus.

Fernandez is currently running for state representative in District 116, just west of FIU.

If elected, he would be one of 120 legislators in Tallahassee who represent their districts' citizens when making laws. There, he would be able to make laws that affect people statewide, while representing the constituents of the 116th district in the state legislature.

Fernandez is running in the platform of health care and education. He believes both should be affordable to everyone.

-- Compiled by Jorge Valens

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Florida unemployment rate at highest since 1975

The Florida unemployment rate has risen to 11 percent for the month of September, the highest it has been since 1975.

According to The Miami Herald, the September job report showed that the amount of unemployed people in the state has reached one million.

The rate is up from August’s 10.8 percent and is 1.2 percent higher than the national average.

NATIONAL

Researchers find 32 new planets outside our solar system

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FERNANDEZ, page 3

BILLY VARGAS/STAFF PHOTO
Volleyball game attendants can help fight breast cancer

PINK, page 1

sold. The price has yet to be determined.

The University’s women’s volleyball team now ranks 16th in the nation in the NCAA Ranking Percentage Index poll.

RPI is a method of ranking teams based on the percentage of opponents that a team plays. It is a type of computer ranking systems that factors team’s strength of schedule.

Wittrell said that the coach has been “amazing” and has done a tremendous job.

Tomic said that moving up from 16th to 16th place on the NCAA’s RPI is a great recognition of the team’s hard work.

The College of Engineering recently invented the first hand-held optical device capable of 3-D tumor detection. This device shows early promise in improving the diagnosis of breast cancer, according to researchers associated with the project.

“Every eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer, according to the American Accreditation Healthcare Commission. Mammography is the most effective way of detecting breast cancer early. All FIU Athletic events are free for students. Faculty and staff pay $3 for the volleyball game and non-FIU students pay $5.

The game will be held Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

“If students come once, they will come back,” Tomic said. “It's a great cause, come help raise awareness and see the team. We will do some great things.”

McDemmond’s biggest challenge: ‘not enough time’

MCDEMMOND, page 1

education.

“I think we’ve thought about higher education not run as a business; not always looking at the bottom line,” McDemmond said. “What we’ve been criticized for nationally is that we have been increasing the cost of higher education. We have to really examine all of our costs to see why colleges and universities are becoming more and more expensive.”

McDemmond began her education career in 1968 as a public school teacher in New Orleans.

“I started teaching seventh and eighth grade social studies in the Ninth ward,” she said.

The same ward that received a lot of attention as one of the most affected areas in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

McDemmond credits her parents for influencing her to become a teacher. Both passed away before she was 7 years old.

“My mom and dad were both school teachers. I come from a long line of educators – aunts and uncles who were school teachers – and I decided that if it was good enough for them, it was good enough for me. There weren’t many opportunities in the ‘60s for a black woman in the south either.”

She received her bachelor’s degree at Xavier University and earned a master’s degree from the University of New Orleans, as well as a doctorate in higher education administration and finance from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In 1987 she became the first female president of Norfolk State University, as well as the first African-American woman to serve as president of a university in Virginia.

She was appointed by former President George W. Bush to the President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

“President’s Board was a big honor too,” McDemmond said. “We looked at how the federal government could support more HBCUs. The board was appointed by the president to work to see how the federal government could assist these unique colleges to survive and offer the best quality education to the students who choose to attend them.”

She retired as president of Norfolk State in January of 2006 due to illness.

“I came down with leukemia,” McDemmond said, while adding that her health is currently “in good condition.”

After retiring from Norfolk State, she decided to move back to South Florida; which was already familiar to her, having previously served as Florida Atlantic University’s vice president for Finance, CFO and chief operating officer from 1988 to 1997.

McDemmond is committed to bringing financial responsibility and transparent management to the College of Education, which along with other programs at FIU, has undergone several budget cuts recently.

The College of Education’s programs were some of the hardest hit.

When asked what her biggest challenge would be as interim dean of the College of Education, she said, “Not enough time.”

Hopeful state representative sides with students’ pockets

FERNANDEZ, page 2

“That was a big mistake by our legislature,” he said of the 15 percent tuition hike.

Tommy, who had to pay for his FIU tuition, understands what it means to work one’s way through college. He attended evening classes while working full-time for Ros-Lehtinen.

“I am against these increases that might keep people like me away from achieving their dreams of a college education,” he said.

Fernandez’s fondest memory of FIU was his graduation ceremony.

“It was a long-awaited moment I worked hard to reach,” he said.

“As a Hispanic in the community, lead by example,” Fernandez said to fellow Golden Panthers.

“We all have the opportunity to work for our community, even in the smallest ways: helping a neighbor, helping our own schools. There are so many activities you can do through FIU or a church. Speak out about the issues that are important to you.”

Senate passes resolution against smoke-free initiative

SGC-MMC, page 1

immoral business practices.”

W&D Apparel has been accused of using sweatshops, and Aramark of purchasing uniforms from them.

The resolution states: “W&D Apparel continues to practice a policy of human trafficking and labor exploitation between Vietnam and Jordan while distributing its products from this facility to major U.S. corporations, including Aramark.”

It passed with a vote of 24 for, four against and zero abstentions.

Similar resolutions have been passed by other student governments, like the University of Florida.

The senate also passed a resolution in support of a proposed pilot program that would bring Kindles to the University.

The initial sample size would be that of 500 students. The plan was presented to the senate a week ago by a representative from a group referring to themselves as FIU Kindle. One of the proposed benefits would be that of lower textbook costs.

The resolution says that “many students cannot afford the high cost of textbooks.”

It passed with a vote of 24 yes, zero nays and three abstentions.

The three that abstained were due to a conflict with serving on a committee that will tackle the use of the technology fee.

“It's a great way to go green and bring technology to the classroom,” said sponsoring Senator from Engineering and Computing William-Jose Velez.

Students have voiced their concerns ... and would rather see implementation and enforcement of current policy.

Resolution concerning smoke-free initiative SGC-MMC senate

According to Velez, the FIU Kindle group has said that of the 500 students 200 of them would get free Kindles.

Negotiations, however, are still in the primary stages and it has not been decided if the pilot program is initiated what courses would be included.

In addition to voicing their opinions, members of the senate did some internal housekeeping.

A council bill was passed to eliminate references to secret ballot voting in the campus bylaws.

Another council bill also passed requiring committees to elect a vice-chairperson.

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www.buriedalive2009.com
Forum spuces up dating, cheating, sex debates

LAToya BURGESS  Contributing Writer

Vivian Medina, a junior Hospitality and Tourism Management major, wants to know why men who check are considered “pimps,” but women who cheat are called “sluts.”

Senor HTM major Pedro Phillips tried to give her a possible answer dating “Wild Succulent Women,” a series of forums hosted by The Women’s Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus. “I think a lot of men grow up with the mentality that [cheating] is a good thing, and that can piss off a lot of women, then get them,” he said. “I couldn’t live like this, but every man decides for himself based on his beliefs.”

“Wild Succulent Women” is a forum where students meet once a month in the community room at Bay Vista Housing to discuss different topics, which range from unprotected sex to failed marriages. “We developed it to be an opportunity to discuss controversial topics like sexuality, body image and love vs. lust,” said Bronwen Barres, assistant director of The Women’s Center and Center for Leadership and Service at BBC. “We wanted to create an environment so people can speak freely, so we can learn.”

Barres came up with the name for the forum after reading the book, Succulent Women, published in the U.S. in 1997 by Susan Ariel Rainbow Kenneth (SARK). Now in its third year, “Wild Succulent Women” is also hosted by the Women’s Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus and is open to both men and women.

“Of course,” Walcott says, “there are just as many women that are these fabulous, succulent creatures, and it’s up to us to see that in ourselves,” Barres said.

Rebecca Joseph, a senior psychology major and Barres’ student assistant, came up with the catch phrase for “Wild Succulent Women” while looking at iPod ads on the Internet, and now the theme for every forum has an “I” before its name. For example, if the topic of the month is about abstinence, the theme would be “i-abstinence,” according to Joseph.

The theme of this month’s forum, which took place Oct. 13, was “i-cheat.” It was led by Arista Sidrey, a junior English major; Donna Walcott, assistant director of The Wellness Center; Joseph and Barres.

Walcott opened up the discussion with a comfort speech to help the participants feel safe. About 20 students were present.

“Don’t tell outsiders about the personal issues heard here because what goes on here stays here,” she said.

Joseph reminded students that they could talk about whatever they wanted, even if they didn’t feel comfortable admitting that they were talking about their own experiences.

“If you don’t have the ba— to say your name, then say ‘I have a friend who…’,” said Joseph while blushing. “I am allowed to say that!”

“Of course,” Walcott said. “This is a special interest group.”

Confidentiality is one word that is taken seriously in the forum, according to Joseph, which is why students have to write down their secrets on a folded sheet of paper and drop them into a bell-shaped, bronze bowl known as the Honesty Bin.

Students’ secrets are then read out loud by Joseph, but students have the choice to either remain anonymous or identify themselves.

Cheating was a heated debate in the room, in which men and women expressed their frustrations about the opposite sex.

Medina’s concerns were not only about the different treatment women get when they cheat as opposed to men. She also hates when the line is blurred between being friends and being “girlfriend and boyfriend.”

This past weekend the temperature dropped giving us native Miamians permission to order hot chocolate. But the climate change also gave us another dish to add to our menu.

I went to eat at a Spanish restaurant Coral Gables called Por Fin. I tried many of their tapas, but what stood out to me was their lentil soup. In Spain, a bowl of Lentejas con Chorizo – a type of Spanish paprika – is one of the most comforting, homemade grandma dishes. The bowl I had almost brought tears to my eyes. I lost my grandmother in 2007, and I found it absolutely overwhelming that one bowl of soup could transport me to a time of comfort, right in the middle of the weekend in the kitchen with her by my side.

That’s why the first thing I did when I came home was make a pot of this Spanish classic. This soup, or as it is known in Spain, potaje – a stew of meats and vegetables thick – is tradition- ally served as a first course all over Spain, especially enjoyed during the winter because it sticks to your ribs. You can feed your family with literally five ingredients if you had to, but my version carries a whopping 13 ingredients that are still easy on college students’ wallets.

• First, you will need to prepare 2-onions, a bunch of green lentils, and carefully sift through it taking out any small rocks you may find. Then soak them in cold water for an hour. This allows the lentils to hydrate and become moist and soft during the cooking process. This is also what allows the lentil soup to thicken in the traditional manner.

• While your lentils soak, chop one medium-sized onion, a carrot and two celery stalks into small cubes, and place them in a bowl with two to three slices of garlic by slicing the garlic instead of mincing it, you are adding texture to this dish.

• Next, dice three medium-sized red skin potatoes into bite-sized cubes. Make sure that once you cut your potatoes, you place them in a bowl with cold water. If you leave them out in the air, they will begin to oxidize and eventually turn black. If this happens to you, the potato is still edible, but it is just not pretty.

• Finally, slice your chorizo into thin rounds, leaving the natural casing on. Feel free to leave the meat out if you’re a vegetarian or looking for a healthy, meat-less option.

Lentils are low in fat and high in protein and fiber, making this meal a healthy option regardless of the chorizo. By this time, your lentils should be done soaking, so make sure to strain out any extra water and give them a quick rinse. It is now time to start your soup:

• Place a medium-sized soup pot on the stove on medium heat. With a little bit of Spanish olive oil, like Goya, sauté all the vegetables, except for the potatoes, until they start to become soft and transparent. If your onions and garlic begin to caramelize, which is when they turn brown and stick to the bottom of the pot, deglaze the pan with what you have on hand – a splash of wine, white or red, or even water.

• Once the base of your soup is ready, add the lentils, giving them a quick stir to equally distribute the vegetables, and then add one quart of stock. Once again, you may use whatever you have-on-hand situation. I used chicken stock because I had some in my pantry. You can use water, vegetable stock or even bone-in cubes with water.

• Once the soup comes to a boil, add the potatoes and chorizo. Bring the temperature down to a simmer, and set your timer for one hour.

That’s it. The soup is done.

All you have to do now is walk by every once in a while to give it a quick stir, maybe add a little water if it gets too thick, but that’s it. Now you can spend the rest of your time in the kitchen preparing some Spanish Pan con Tomate (Spain’s version of the Italian bruschetta). You can find this recipe on FIUSM.com.

Eat this dish in the traditional Spanish way – poured over a bed of white rice with a drizzle of cold olive oil and a glass of fruity red wine, such as Columbia Crest Merlot priced at $8 – for a classy, cold weather foodgasm.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or “Foodgasm” ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com.
Grading the president's progress
Obama still has much to do

JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ 
Staff Writer

Ten months since his inauguration, President Barack Obama has stirred debate across the nation concerning health-care, the economy and his foreign policy tactics. Despite his immense efforts to achieve his campaign promises, he has been accused of achieving very little.

Let’s take an in-depth look at his achievements and incomplete tasks.

ECONOMY: C

The economy has started to gain momentum in housing and the stock market. The “Cash for Clunkers” program did help the market within the automobile industry improve and draw customers. However, there has been accused of achieving very little.

There are few services that everyone should have equal access to, and news is one of them.

According to a recent Associated Press announce-
ment, AP is considering selling “news stories to some online customers exclusively for a certain period.”

AP wants to start selling its articles to news agreg-
ators like Google or Yahoo. Currently, AP licenses its products, such as photo-
graphs, articles and video to news organizations equally. They all get news at the same time.

With the proposed system, certain Internet news sites like MSN, Google and Yahoo will have the option to pay to get AP's product a half hour before anyone else. So, if Google pays for this, Yahoo will get content from AP later it has been posted on Google.

There is something ques-
tionable about such an
action, because it’s the same
with withholding information from the people, of the opposite
what journalism is meant to
accomplish.

In news, there should be
no VIPs who get exclu-
sive access to information before everyone else. It’s
like being in line at a club and seeing people jumping
over the velvet rope to get in
first when there is a line. This practice should be
brought into the news world; it should be an equal-
playing field.

And yes, from a money-
making standpoint it makes
sense. Charging for news can make a major difference
when the same story
will be made available to each
news outlet within a period of
time.

Don’t forget: Most major
news outlets use AP and its
content is meant to be shared and printed in various news-
papers because it doesn’t
have a physical publication of its
own.

The downside is the
consumer will be greatly
affected when they enforce
the proposal. In the case of
feature stories, these are usually not as time sensitive
before release, but not when it comes to breaking news.

The news world is fast paced and news is a
breaking story, such as a major political event or a
natural disaster a half hour behind the news is
impossible in its timeliness. Imagine a half hour behind on
a developing story because
the Web site you visit is still waiting for clearance in
order to publish an AP story.

I don’t think there should be a special class when it comes to the media. No one, no matter what, should have more access to news. The same information should be made to everyone at once.

There are no VIPs when it comes to news

WINNER

Florida students may find themselves at a little bit of a new
advantage this week. Under the previous state of Florida’s
content law, which was a part of the original Florida
constitution on file in 1968, citizens had no right to know
the names of either party’s candidates or run for state office.

Florida’s constitution was written in 1838, but some major
changes were made to the state’s constitution in 1968. One of
the changes states that the names of candidates and run for state office.

COLUMNS

OPINIONPIECE

The number of people who have left the U.S. or are in the country but not in the country is not just a small number. It is a large number.

Richard and Michelle Obama — the parents of Michelle Obama, the first lady — are the other parents of Chicago. They decided to change the law to include the names of the candidates or run for state office.

OPINIONPIECE

Quotation

“He will be a priority to use federal
resources to prosecute patients
with serious illnesses who are
complying with a state law on medical mari-
juana.”

Eric Holder
U.S. Attorney General
Weezer’s ‘jokes’ not funny anymore, mostly forgettable

Rivers Cuomo’s idea of a joke. I didn’t laugh for a few days that it was just lead singer Rivers Cuomo who released, I convinced myself for a few weeks that it was just lead singer Rivers Cuomo. I was wrong. I did this in the spring of ’08. I heard a couple of the leaked tracks from The Red Album and there were actually some surprises. The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived got repeated about five times in a row and “Dreamin’,” being a Blue Album-era song, earned high marks from me.

I wasn’t high on the lead single, “Pork & Beans,” the bastard love child of “Beverly Hills,” one of Weezer’s worst songs ever, and “El Scorcho,” one of the band’s best. But it wasn’t terrible. I should have known better. I should always know better. Weezer’s worst songs ever, and “El Scorcho,” one of the band’s best. But it wasn’t terrible. I should have known better.

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Weezer’s next album, earned high marks from me.

It centers around an eccentric character by the name of Dr. Frank N. Furter. He is a transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania, who wears next to nothing and creates a Franken-stein-like monster/playmate “Rocky.” There will be four performances of The Rocky Horror Picture Show and two actors, Doug Reilly and Gerald Young, will be playing Dr. Frank N. Furter. Young will perform the first and last shows and Reilly will perform the other two.

I’ve been wearing heels at rehearsal for the past three weeks. I wear them as often as I can. It’s actually kind of embarrassing. For me, this is a whole new thing about being allowed to play football. It’s 2:30 in the morning and I’m trying to convince myself Weezer’s next album will live up to the expectations my inner seventh grade is putting on it.

I know. It’s stupid. I did this in the spring of ’08. I heard a couple of the leaked tracks from The Red Album and there were actually some surprises. The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived got repeated about five times in a row and “Dreamin’,” being a Blue Album-era song, earned high marks from me.

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When “Beverly Hills” was released, I convinced myself for a few days that it was just lead singer Rivers Cuomo’s idea of a joke. I enjoyed it as it would a Weird Al parody song. Sure, it felt dirty, but at least I could pretend it was supposed to be some sort of perverse witticism. It’s the same way I feel every time I look at the cover of Weezer’s seventh studio album, Raditude, set for a Nov. 3 release date.

It’s one of the most god-awful album titles I’ve ever heard, but hey, Rain Wilson of “The Office” suggested it, and he’s a funny guy, so maybe it’s supposed to be a joke. I know it’s supposed to be. Rivers’ cowboy hat and mustache were supposed to be a joke on the last album.

Rivers has always been a funny guy.

Back in the 90’s, when he was locking himself in closets for weeks at a time and dropping out of Harvard every few months, he seemed to have a great sense of humor about himself and it showed in his music.

Sure, he might have been personally miserable, but out of that grew songs like “Why Better” and “In the Garage.” These were songs that had jokes without being jokes. Superficially, Weezer hasn’t changed over the years. Rivers still sings about his insecurities over big, power-pop choruses with distorted guitars. This isn’t a question of a band moving away from a style and alienating a fan base. It was 24 and singing about being uncool. He wore terrible sweaters and sang about dungeons and dragons and masturbation.

But when you are 24, you can get away with that stuff. A nerdy 24-year-old virgin with terrible fashion sense isn’t really that weird. That’s the guy sitting next to you in class or living next door to you in the dorms. Believe it or not, that guy has friends.

But that same guy is creepy when he’s 39 and hanging out at Hot Topic in the mall. Maybe it’s a case of Rivers trying too hard to recapture some of the magic of that bygone era.

I’m sure I’ll listen to Raditude. Hell, I may even buy a copy. It does have a pretty sweet dog on the cover.

And I’ll probably spend hours listening to it, ignoring the occasional inevitably embarrassing couplet, focusing only on the positives.

Weezer’s ‘jokes’ not funny anymore, mostly forgettable.

‘Rocky Horror Picture Show’ aims for light-hearted fun

ROCKY IN HEELS

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

The Theatre Department will put on several productions this year, but only one will feature a cross-dressing mad scientist, men in heels and a monster wearing short-shorts. “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” based on the 1970s British musical that parodies science fiction and horror films, will be running from Oct. 22-24.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a 1970s British musical that parodies science fiction and horror films. The movie itself was a flop, but over 30 years later it is still being performed.

It centers around an eccentric character by the name of Dr. Frank N. Furter. He is a transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania, who wears next to nothing and creates a Franken-stein-like monster/playmate “Rocky.” There will be four performances of The Rocky Horror Picture Show and two actors, Doug Reilly and Gerald Young, will be playing Dr. Frank N. Furter. Young will perform the first and last shows and Reilly will perform the other two.

The show is not to be taken seriously. If you do then you are going to get the wrong impression. Have fun, enjoy yourself. It’s Halloween. You get to see and hear a lot of things you may not always hear in a classroom setting. It’s an opportunity for people of all ages to just sit back, relax and be entertained,” said Young, a senior theater major who has previously played Dr. Frank N. Furter.

Those in the audience are not just spectators. The audience is encouraged to participate.

Weezer’s ‘jokes’ not funny anymore, mostly forgettable
Golden Idol competition to raise funds for hospital

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Today 12 students will compete to become FIU’s “Golden Idol.”

This year’s Golden Idol event aims to give the University a taste of its best singers. It is being organized by Dance Marathon, an on-campus philanthropy which organizes several events a year culminating in the Dance Marathon fundraiser – an annual 24-hour dance competition.

The proceeds will go to Miami Children’s Hospital. The Oct. 21 show will consist of performances from 12 students, with the winner being dubbed the “Golden Idol.” Faculty members will take the place of Ellen, Kara, Randy and Simon as judges in the American Idol-inspired competition.

The mystery judges come from different schools at the University but share a musical background. The finalists were chosen after participating in auditions that took place on Oct. 6, 8 and 14.

The first round of the night will consist of each contestant singing a song of a length of four minutes or less. Judges will then make their first round of cuts, narrowing the competition down to just five people. From there, contestants will perform a one-minute excerpt of a song of their choice showcasing their range and style.

“This is when they’ll be battling it out for the prize;” said Shannonlee Rodriguez, a senior political science major and events coordinator for Dance Marathon.

With the help of the audience, judges will choose the winner and bestow one lucky guy or girl with the title of Golden Idol.

The winner will have the chance to perform at next year’s Dance Marathon on Jan. 30 and 31 and at several other FIU events. The winner will also take home a $500 book scholarship. Finalists from the top three will receive gift certificates from Dance Marathon’s affiliates.

This year’s list of finalists includes at least one familiar face.

“Brian Osipina is a finalist for the second year in a row and an all around fan-favorite,” Rodriguez said.

Osipina, a senior psychology major, says he auditioned this year and last because “I love music and heard about the competition and decided to just give it a try. It’s a great opportunity to show people a little bit of what I can do.”

Not discouraged from last year’s loss, Osipina says he plans on making a comeback this year by incorporating some of his piano skills into his performance and “adding a dab of confidence.”

Another competitor is Patrick Rodriguez, a freshman vocal performance major. Rodriguez’s first audition didn’t go so well because he was sick but because of the audience’s overwhelming positive reaction to his talent he was given a second chance, according to Rodriguez. The second time around, he secured himself a spot in the top 12.

The freshman, who has been singing since the third grade, says he is the “only one who has taken a more classical approach to his performances. I think people really enjoy listening. I try to make my performances as special as possible so people can really connect.”

Golden Idol is one of four pre-events for Dance Marathon. DM is an organization on campus that works to raise money for the Miami Children’s Hospital division of the Children’s Miracle Network. CMN is an international non-profit organization that raises money for children’s hospitals, medical research and community awareness of children’s health issues. Since its inception in 1997, Dance Marathon has raised more than $500,000 for CMN.

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DM’s decision to use a singing competition was a way to get people involved in the organization.

“It is something different that keeps people interested in DM itself and it raises awareness for CMN. It is a really entertaining event as well,” said Francis Ortiz, a senior psychology and sports management major and director of planning for DM.

Wednesday’s show is at the GC Ballrooms at 9 p.m. Admission is $5 at the door. All proceeds will go toward the 2010 Dance Marathon event which will in turn raise funds for Miami Children’s Hospital.

“I love music and heard about the competition and decided to just give it a try. It’s a great opportunity to show people a little bit of what I can do.”

Brian Osipina
Psychology major, senior

Gucci Mane a sub-par rapper, does not deserve accolades

Every year, MTV releases a list of what they believe to be the “Hottest MC’s.” The list comes and goes each time around with a controversy over the listing but, for the most part, MTV gets it right considering their criteria. They consider microphone skills but also incorporate an artist’s buzz, impact and business savvy.

That is why it can be understood why Drake has soared to No. 3 on the list. Overall, I’d say the list is pretty sound.

There are some questions, however, that come to mind when you see a list like this. At what point does skill not matter?

Understood, artists who have attained a level of commercial success with guest appearances and stunts deserve to get their due attention.

Understood, apparently making more records than anybody else, regardless of quality, is enough to warrant the “hot” label. That is why most of this list makes sense to me, because it’s about who is “hot” right now. But shouldn’t skill still be the most important factor?

The one glaring flaw this list has is the placing of Gucci Mane sixth, ahead of Fabolous and Raekwon, among others. Eminem is notably absent, despite going platinum with his latest release Relapse.

Although that album is only average in my opinion, it certainly has had commercial success and comes from one of the best ever.

“That makes me the hottest MC right now is that I got that flavor,” Gucci boasted to MTV News. “It ain’t all about your swag. I’m seasoning it real well for these folk. I won’t say I’m the best rapper in the game – I’m not even my favorite rapper in the game. But I say I am probably one of the hardest-working people in the music business. That’s what I pride myself on [and am] having success on: just being consistent.”

That’s fine, Gucci. And it’s nice to see a guy works hard get his due and make his money. Gucci Mane is doing a lot for himself right now – except deserving a nod on this list.

If you have ever heard Gucci rap, it is far from exceptional despite its spurs of entertainment. Let me just say that it is atrocious lyrically and his flow offers nothing next to nothing.

“No baby girl done dumped me, she no longer wants me. I’m no longer hired, she says that I’ve been fired/ Onto the next one, more fish in the sea.”

Lines like that one from pop hit “Break Up” are much too common for Gucci Mane, and discussing him possibly being included in the back end of the list is acceptable, but he is far from being that high because his lack of actual ability holds him back that much.

Music is in large part entertainment and flash, and the move in that direction is inevitable.

But skills should still be the main determinant when judging people on any list.

On this particular list, skills were supposedly considered, but MTV forgot that proficiency with words is largely absent from Gucci Mane’s repertoire.

“Moments of Clarity” is a bi-weekly column on hip-hop music and culture by Assistant Sports Director Jonathan Ramos. Check out the Life! section next week for a special edition of “Clarity.”
Bradford Cox has evolved. His evolution from bedroom-rock pessimist to extroverted noise-popper was one that never saw the light of privacy. His blog – dedicated to the Atlas Sound moniker as well as his proper band Deerhunter – and Deerhunter guitarist Lockett Pundt’s solo project, Lotus Plaza, is loaded with posts about Rainwater Cassette (the latest Deerhunter EP), YouTube videos and миксого (one of which contained a pretty awesome “Badlands” score intro). Dude really put himself out there.

To make matters even more public, Cox made a record that acts as his ethereal music diary: Let The Blind Lead Those Who Can See But Cannot Feel. It was a lighthearted, sunny record that never saw the light of day. It’s a prototype Kranky record: a lush, smiley, loop-heavy album – you can’t expect anything less than high praise for positive reviews.

THE BEACON – Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Bradford Cox

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

**RYAN MOREJON**

The album begins with “The Light That Failed”, a folk song at heart laced with glitches and ticks that result in a pretty soft electro-acoustic track, followed by “An Orchid”, which sounds like a post-Microcastle Deerhunter song. So far, the songs seem like typical Coxian noisy doo-wop.

But the standout third track, “Walhalla”, contains the much-talked about collaboration with Animal Collective wonder-voice Panda Bear, who’s credited on the album as Noah Lennox. The song was officially released for online streaming mid-August and acted as the best solution to summertime boredom.

It’s a lighthearted, sunny song that builds upward from a Dovers sample and can stand on its own as being one of the best songs of the year. But I guess when you’re working with someone like Lennox who produced Passion Pitch – alush, smilly, loop-heavy album – you can’t expect anything less than high spirits.

“Sheila” reaffirms Cox’s transition from the obscure to the poppy with a chorus that’ll stick to your head: “Sheila! You’ll be my wife! You’ll share my life.”

“Quick Canal,” the album’s mid-hump clocking in at eight minutes, has Laetitia Sadier of Stereolab fame contributing main vocals and doing her best Thom Yorke croon, while Cox stands in the back.

It’s really the album’s core track with a long minimal sound wave looping over Sadier’s indescribable voice. The rest of the album goes through different rhythms with a slow acoustic recovery from the Sadier track (“My Halo”) to ambient-microhouse (“Washington School”), and to songs where Cox alters his voice to sound eerily similar to Kevin Drew of Broken Social Scene (“Kid Klimax” and “Logos”).

Logos is some kind of brilliant mixtape without actually being a mixtape. It’s an album that has really traveled around the community, an album that is above Cox’s personal and physical quarantines and under his new-found comfort. The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews.

**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**

**October 22-24, DM 150**

Monday, 8 PM on the 24th

Price: $5 for tickets, $2 for prop bag

“It’s so awesome to work on a completely student-run production. It teaches you so much more than a regular production. Sometimes we would argue about stuff but, in the end, we made this by ourselves.

It’s such a fun show and it’s basically just getting everyone involved. I think that’s a big thing that’s missing in other shows,” Skrande said.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show will run Oct. 22-24 at midnight with an additional performance on the 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 at the door and an additional $2 for a prop bag.

All the money raised from this production will go toward the graduating seniors’ end-of-year showcases.

**ROCKY, page 7**

by dressing up, yelling along with the cast and dancing to the infamous “Time Warp.”

Bags filled with props will be sold at the entrance so that anyone can act along with the cast. There will be cues telling the audience what to pull out of the bag and what to do with it.

For Carina Skrande, a sophomore majoring in theater who is playing one of the Transylvanians – also referred to in the show as Transies – it is her first performance at FIU and she could not be more excited that it is The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

“It’s so awesome to work on a completely student-run production.

**FIU Theatre Presents**

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

October 22-24, DM 150

Midnight, 8 PM on the 24th

Price: $5 for tickets, $2 for prop bag

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Garcia brought winning attitude with him to FIU

We can’t ignore the negatives, but when putting his time in perspective, the positives do outweigh the negatives. The next few years will be key...

ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS FIU has had to deal with in Garcia’s time is the improvement of APR scores, which were allowed to slip under Mello’s time as the head of Athletics.

Garcia’s coaches have dealt with less scholarships because of NCAA sanctions. In the last few seasons, APR scores have improved under Garcia, who has put a renewed emphasis on player eligibility and success in the classroom, hiring an APR specialist to focus on improving the scores.

The focus on eligibility and improving scores has helped FIU dig out of major holes from the last administration.

LOOKING AT BOTH SIDES

This isn’t to say his administration hasn’t been without flaws. There have been a number of missteps over the three year period that Garcia has been at the helm.

Garcia said that he has no regrets about his time so far, but there have been obvious problems that have led to major criticisms of the school in the media, as well as some that have fallen through the cracks that are perhaps more indicative of his time.

Most recently, FIU created a firestorm in the sports world when Garcia was reportedly angry and insulted by the way the organizers of the Coaches for Cancer basketball tournament handled their scheduling of FIU.

Garcia threatened to pull the team out of the tournament before backing off. Ultimately, nothing changed for the program, but along with the hiring of Thomas, which created some criticism and backlash already, it painted FIU as afraid to go up against the big schools to protect their prized acquisition.

In April 2009, Garcia was forced to attend a human resources seminar after several Athletics employees alleged that he used inappropriate language and misused his power to make his secretary do personal favors for him.

This didn’t quite get the press coverage the Coaches for Cancer incident did, but it shows a brazen abuse of power that tarnishes his reputation.

There have been some issues with player conduct in his time as well, but frankly when compared to what goes on at some other schools, FIU’s student athletes are relatively well behaved.

We can’t ignore the negatives, but when putting his time in perspective, the positives do outweigh the negatives.

The next few years will be key, as the APR four-year averages will begin to reflect Garcia’s work and the players on the field will begin to be recruited by his coaches, so it’s time for that next step to see if he’s the guy for the long run.

A Friend Dies. Who Cares?

Toxic drinking is an epidemic on campuses all across America.

It means consuming so much alcohol the drinker passes out. But while “sleeping it off,” the victim may be quietly dying.

When you come right down to it, students themselves are the best ones to tackle this problem. So, in growing numbers, Stony Brook students have joined together in the Red Watch Band movement.

Working with experts, they fine-tuned a course in techniques to handle these alcohol emergencies. Red Watch Band members can act fast, when every second counts. They know the quick steps they can take to rescue a passed-out student from a drinking death, and can immediately summon professional help. Everyone completing the course is given the distinctive red watch for identification.

Since its inception at Stony Brook University in March 2009, approximately 40 schools across the country have signed on to implement this lifesaving program.

To prevent toxic drinking deaths, go to redwatchband.org
Athletic director talks about fondest memories

GARCIA, page 12

are now graduating. We went from being totally broken as far as APR (Academic Progress Rate) and compliance with the NCAA braging about us and using us as an example of how to fix the APR.

Q: What are some of your fondest memories?

A: The first win in Mario’s (Cristobal) career in football at the Orange Bowl, which happened to be the last Division I football win of a local school in the Orange Bowl. We were able to accomplish something for the Orange Bowl and its legacy.

Q: Which of the coaches do you feel is your best hire?

A: That’s something that as an organization gives us satisfaction in knowing that we were able to hire a guy like Turtle Thomas and that he was able to turn the football program around. And not only that but what he’s been able to do with student-athletes as far as GPA.

He’s combined both: the classroom and winning.

What Mario Cristobal is doing with the football program in terms of building it and building it the right way.

All these coaches were handcuffed because of the NCAA issues, because they were all short on scholarships—because they were taken away due to things going to be successful.

I said that from day one when I got hired that I was going to focus on hiring coaches who are excellent recruiters.

Q: How difficult was it to transition from Modesto A. Maidique to current President Mark Rosenberg?

A: Being able to hire somebody like Dr. Rosenberg has made the transition a lot smoother for everyone because this is his school.

It’s not an outsider that was brought in.

Dr. Rosenberg is going to do things differently than former President Maidique, but his vision for this University as far as continuing to really focus on the quality and focus on the student is something that is going to help the Athletics Department.

Q: What’s something you’ve learned as athletic director?

A: You always learn from your experiences. You would be foolish not to.

The biggest challenge here is not only building this program, but building it from where we started.

I said that from day one when I got hired that I was going to focus on hiring coaches who are excellent recruiters.

There really is no model and this is why I really thoroughly love this job. I love to build. This is really something that we’re building.

There are hundreds of athletic programs around the country, but most of them have been in existence for over 100 years. So they are different because they are managing an Athletic Department. This is actually building a program. We are not being the building the program; we are building the facilities.

One of the biggest challenges is educating everyone associated with the program into what it takes to have a top-notch Division I program.

Q: Do you have any regrets during your time as athletic director?

A: The only thing I really regret is how much I underestimated what it takes to build a championship program.

And that is what we are striving for—not just conference championships, but national championships.

Two years ago, the baseball team defeated the University of Miami which was No. 1 at the time.

This year, football is playing the two teams that played in the national championship—Alabama and Florida.

And now the basketball team is going to play the defending champions, so we are playing some big-time competition.

Jackson’s late goal extends winning streak to four

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

It had been a year since Golden Panthers women’s soccer senior Amy Jackson scored a goal. However vs. the Troy Trojans, Jackson connected when it counted.

In overtime, she scored the game-winning goal to extend the team’s winning streak to four.

“It was great to finally get a goal,” said Jackson. “It was a great team effort.”

After a solid victory over South Alabama, the women’s soccer team took to the field in Troy, Ala. and defeated Troy 2-1 in overtime on Oct. 18.

The Golden Panthers made 12 shots on goal for the game, the team’s single biggest offensive output of the year, and it didn’t take long for the score to change in FIU’s favor.

At the 12:27 mark, Troy made a mistake in front of the net, resulting in an own goal to give the Golden Panthers a 1-0 lead. Throughout the remainder of the game, neither side was able to gain an edge.

FIU’s April Perry, Casey Thamines, Kassandra Sorzano, Katina Rose, Thaisa Moreno and Cortney Bergin all had looks at the net, but none were able to give the team an edge.

Rose’s shot with nine minutes remaining in the game hit the post, and the rebounded attempt went above the net. Rose had another chance with six minutes left but was again unable to score.

Freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage faced 13 shots by the Troy Trojans, and was successful in stopping all but one which Bridgette Deke scored on a penalty kick with 65 seconds to go.

At the end of the regulation, the score was tied 1-1, sending FIU into their fifth overtime this season.

After shots by Sorzano and Moreno missed their targets, Savage faced a shot by the Trojans, but was able to come up with a save to keep the Golden Panthers alive.

Moreno sent a ball in from the left side of how to fix the APR.

THE REPLACEMENT: Filling in for T.Y. Hilton in the return game, Ty Frierson was said as he returned three punts for 73 yards. He also caught four passes for 28 yards and a touchdown in the Golden Panthers’ 42-33 loss to Troy at home.

THE BEACON – Wednesday, October 21, 2009www.fiusm.com

SPORTS

Jackson was able to capitalize, giving the Golden Panthers the 2-1 overtime victory.

“The team is entering the ending portion of their season game plan, and we’re changing a few things up,” said Golden Panthers’ coach Thomas. “We think the girls were really well prepared for the game this weekend and it showed.”

The Golden Panthers are now tied for the most conference wins in program history with six. FIU now sits third in the Sun Belt Conference with an overall record of 8-5-3, 6-1-1 in SBC play.

The Golden Panthers will take the field vs. University of Arkansas-Little Rock on Oct. 23 to open parent’s weekend at FIU.

Women’s soccer: FIU 2, Troy 1 (OT)

Jackson’s late goal extends winning streak to four

PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK

THE REPLACEMENT: Filling in for T.Y. Hilton in the return game, Ty Frierson was said as he returned three punts for 73 yards. He also caught four passes for 28 yards and a touchdown in the Golden Panthers’ 42-33 loss to Troy at home.

The All-American continues to dominate as she secured a double-double, recording a team-high 19 kills and a season-high 16 digs during the Golden Panthers’ win over South Alabama. She also led the team in kills (12) in their 3-0 over Troy on Oct. 16.

The senior leads the team in kills and helped the Golden Panthers record their 12th straight win. She recorded 11 kills during the Golden Panthers’ 3-0 win over Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama.

The women’s soccer captain carried her team to victory on Oct. 18 as she scored the winning goal in overtime to help the Golden Panthers beat Troy 2-1. It was her first goal in her past 23 shot attempts.

At the Florida State Quad Tournament in Tallahassee, led the Golden Panthers tennis team winning all three doubles matches and two-of-three singles contests.

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not snap the Golden Panthers a strong fight in the park for the Golden Panthers (19-2, 9-0) as the victory as it jumped out to win their 12th consecutive season.

Rosa, Valentin lead Golden Panthers past Jaguars for 12th straight victory

Three years ago the man that lured Thomas to FIU, Pete Garcia, took on the even more daunting task of rebuilding an athletic program that had hit rock bottom. Garcia was officially hired as athletic director on Oct. 10, 2006.

On Oct. 14, 2006, FIU’s football team was involved in an embarrasing brawl between cross-town rival University of Miami.

The Golden Panthers came out firing in the first set, but the Jaguars came roaring back, putting a scare in the crowd assembled at the arena. But the Golden Panthers managed to hang on with a 28-26 first set victory, thwarting potential disaster.

“Their defense was very good, their serve was very good, their team chemistry is very good. It’s a very good team,” Olga Vergun said.

The Jaguars came out strong in the second set and stayed right on the Golden Panthers, but FIU outlasted South Alabama to take the set.

“It was a good thing our bench came out and played well,” Olga Vergun said. “That’s what helped us to win the match.”

The Golden Panthers would finish the resilient Jaguars in the third set to earn the sweep.

Yarimar Rosa led the Golden Panther offense with 19 kills and also contributed on defense with a team-high 13 digs. Valentin recorded 34 assists for the match.