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, Daniela 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.

Interim dean ready to work
McDemmond to bring unique leadership policy

Gabriel Arrarás
Contributing Writer

Dr. Marie McDemmond is committed to bringing her brand of “servant leadership” to the position of interim dean of the College of Education.

The University announced that McDemmond accepted the position of interim dean of the College of Education while a nationwide search for a permanent dean is performed.

Interim provost and executive vice president, Douglas Wartewok, thanked the previous interim dean, Kingsley Imanyaa “for stepping into this role, making hard decisions, communicating effectively and serving admirably over the past year.”

McDemmond addressed the budget cuts that the University has been enduring for the last couple of years. The College of Education’s budget had almost $3.2 million in cuts.

“Even though the budget cuts already happened, they were three years in phases,” she said. “The last year, which is next year, is roughly $688,000 more.”

One of McDemmond’s main goals is to bring good management to the College of Education.

“I think that’s one of the things that all schools and the University as a whole need, to be well managed, particularly with budget cuts as they are,” she said. “We have to make sure that the budget and the services are delivered to students in the most expedient ways.”

She also wishes to provide faculty, staff and students the kind of leadership she believes in; which she describes as “servant leadership.”

“It’s leadership where we are here for the benefit of the students, and we all work together as a team. Providing that transparency to management [is something] I think is important,” McDemmond said.

McDemmond argues that financial management is a critical component of higher education.
Florida unemployment rate at highest since 1975

The Florida unemployment rate has rose 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

A consortium of international researchers, led by the Georgia Conservatory, has announced the discovery of 32 new planets outside our solar system. Using the High Accuracy Radial Velocity Planet Searcher, or HARPS, the consortium increased the number of planets confirmed to 75. According to CNN, scientists believe that 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 on sales this quarter. Computers made up 8.8 percent of all computer sales, with phones, tablet computers, and iPhones.

According to CNN Money, the computer company has demonstrated its capacity to be a great local issue and briefly me on the important local issues it deals with. The company has always demonstrated its 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.

Dariel Fernandez, who hosts a weekly radio show for youth and beach clean-ups.

Apple’s stock rose 7 percent, hitting a record high, after the announcement.

Alumni praised by Hispanics

BLANCA MORALES
Staff Writer

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Republican Party recognized FIU alums Dariel 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 Congressman William Lacy Clay. He has worked for the past 10 years.

Then, 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 Rivera, the recent stabbing victim at Coral Gables Senior High.

“He 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.

Dariel 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 Opiniones,’ his comments were 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, Hernandez started the Rising Republicans Youth of South Florida. The club hopes to increase the number of Hispanic young people who vote in 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, Hernandez 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 oversaw its operations.

When he was so into politics, we would call him ‘Mr. President,’” said Alexandra Morales, an Encuentros alumna.

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 state-wide, 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.
Volleyball game attendants can help fight breast cancer

**PINK, page 1**

Volleyball game attendants can help fight breast cancer.

**MCDERMOND, page 1**

“McDemmond’s biggest challenge: ‘not enough time’

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 had been public school teachers.

“My mom and dad were both school teachers. I come from a long line of educators – aunts and uncles who were school teachers,” she said. “So 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 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.”

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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 also 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.

Moreover, 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 Rss-Lehtinen.

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

Can you feel the walls closing in? Is it hard to breathe? Will you ever escape? Or were you too afraid to even enter?

Don’t miss Buried Alive, a chilling new nightmare at this year’s Monster Splash. Only at Miami Seaquarium. Getting in is easy. Getting out is horrifying.

Plus, scream some more on our carnival thrill rides! Show your College ID and get half off admission after 9 pm!

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 cheat are considered “pimps,” but women who cheat are called “shrews.”

Senior HTM major Pedro Phillips tried to give her a possible answer during “Wild Succulent Women,” a series of forums hosted by The Women’s Center at the Santa Cruz Bay Campus.

“I think a lot of men grow up with the mentality that [cheating] is a good thing, and that can happen to 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 Brownen 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 Wild 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.

“SARK says that women 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.”

It’s like when you’re at a party with a guy and he will introduce you to everyone as his friend. But when he introduces you to a hot Spaniard, then you are his girlfriend,” Medina said.

Phillips told Medina he could explain that situation for her as well.

“Men do this when they really like a woman, but still want to keep the door open, so he will introduce you as his girlfriend, which tells the hot Spaniard to back off.”

Students also received pamphlets about rape and women’s advocacy, and could pick up free chocolate-flavored condoms and Astroglide.

Ana Perez, a sophomore journalism major, said the forum was a little risky.

“But that’s what makes it fun and different. You’ve got to spice it up sometimes,” she said. “It’s a good way of getting both genders to talk about taboo subjects and hear the story from both sides.”

The forums take place once a month at 8 p.m. in the community room at Bay Vista. The next forum has yet to be announced.

For more information, contact Barres at 305-919-5360.

Spanish classic: lentil soup warms up the heart and soul

Spanish food is well known for its rich, aromatic flavors and hearty, comforting dishes. One such dish is Lentejas con Chorizo, a Spanish classic: lentil soup warms up the heart and soul

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 warm up with. I went to eat at a Spanish restaurant called Por Fin. I tried many of their tapas, but what stood out the most was their lentil soup. In Spain, a Lentejas con Chorizo – a type of Spanish food that is well known throughout the country – is often served 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 comes with whoppin’ thick – is traditional as a first course all over Spain, especially 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 comes with whipped cream that are still easy on college students’ wallets.

• First, you will need to toast 2-ounce package 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 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, you can strain out any extraneous 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 evenly distribute the vegetables, and then add one quart of stock. Once again, 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 bonito 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.

• You all 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 soup accompanying dishes like the Spanish Pan con Tomate (Spain’s version of the Italian bruschetta). You can find the recipe on FIUSM.

Eat this dish in the traditional Spanish way – pour 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.

FOODGASM

Spanish classic: lentil soup warms up the heart and soul

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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, the country 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, even though the amount of cash that was disbursed has been accused of achieving very little.

However, unemployment is still at a 9.8 percent national average, a stagnating rate that is expected to climb up to more than 10 percent, according to USA Today.

To put things into perspective, when Obama came into office in January 2009 the rate was 8.5 percent.

The president should increase tariffs on products that are being manufactured overseas. This would make American companies start to invest in the home-land. This strategy could also be used to force nations to comply with our demands, like Iran dropping its nuclear proliferation programs or Russia and China aiming to condemn that country. If they refuse, then it could increase its tariffs on the goods they produce.

FOREIGN POLICY: B+

Despite shortcomings with the economy, Obama has been successful at getting Israel and Palestine to meet and discuss peace.

For the first time in over 30 years the United States and Iran met. Obama has also been successful at garnering Russia’s support in the effort to condemn Iran for its pursuit of nuclear proliferation and impose economic sanctions. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that the deal is not for nuclear bombs but for energy.

Thanks to the economic pressure, he finally caved in and said he would allow inspections from the International Energy Agency inspectors to investigate their initiatives, although no date has been set.

The most upsetting stance this administration has taken was the opposition of Roberto Micheletti, the Honduran president who was constitu-tionally placed after Manuel Zelaya broke the nation’s law and was ousted. Zelaya is notorious in Latin America for his ties with the despotistic Veneze-ulian president Hugo Chavez.

Zelaya wanted to extend his time in power and presumably ignore Honduras’ constitution on term limits. Although the U.N. and the European Union condemned Micheletti, the leader of the free world should have backed up democracy, not illegitimate regimes.

Health care seems to be this admin-istrator’s leverage to use in Congress and around the globe. It is just a matter of how he will implement it and what reaction it may cause.

The economy seems to be recover-ing, but the unemployment rates are killing enthusiasm. Obama’s foreign policy has yielded limited success, despite his approval around the globe. Health care reform has been in need for quite some time, and if drafted properly will benefit all Americans.

If successful, the coveted legislation for the middle class will help win him reelection in 2012.

There are no VIPs when it comes to news

PARADISE AFSHAR  
Staff Writer

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, the AP is considering selling “news stories to some online customers exclusively for a certain period.”

AP wants to start selling its articles to news aggrega-tors 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 after it has been posted on Google.

There is something ques-tionable about such an action, because it’s the same as withholding information from the people, the opposite of 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 not 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 may generate more money for Google and Yahoo because of ad revenue related to traffic on their sites; the AP wants to make their stories more valuable by controlling who gets the material first.

However, there is no point in giving anyone exclusive rights when the same story will be made available to each news outlet within a period of time.

Don’t forget: News is news. Most major news outlets use AP and its content is meant to be shared and printed in various news-outlets 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, there are often not as much as time sensitive to release, but not when it comes to breaking news.

The news world is fast paced and for students, especially in a breaking story, such as a major political event or a natural disaster a half hour later is too long a difference in its timeliness. Imagine being a half hour behind on a developing story because the Web site you visit is just 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 is a group of writers who are often overlooked: The students at FIU. These students are often not given the opportunity to publish work. They cannot afford the time or the money to purchase a subscription to an AP news outlet, so they are often overlooked by the larger news outlets.

Students are often omitted from the news because they are not part of a larger political group. Students are often seen as the future, however, and are not given the opportunity to challenge the news world that we are currently living in.

This is where the AP comes in. Each of the 80 daily newspapers that use the AP service is able to publish news that is not only newsworthy, but also important to the students who read it.

So, the next time you see a news story in the paper, consider who is behind it. The AP has a special class of students who are being overlooked by the news world: The students at FIU. There are no VIPs when it comes to news.
ROCKY IN HEELS

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

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 fi lm of the same name, will be running from Oct. 22-24.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a 1970s British musical that parodies science fiction and horror fi lms. 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 fi rst 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 wearing heels and getting into this character.”

The cast not only acts along with the movie but makes fun of it as well. There is a general script but it is constantly rewritten and updated with what is new in pop culture.

Among the many references this show will feature are FIU and “Jon and Kate Plus 8.”

“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 class-

room setting. It’s an opportunity for people of all ages to just sit back, relax and be enter-
tained,” said Young, a senior theater major who has previously played Dr. Frank N. Furter.

Those in the audience are not just spec-
tators. The audience is encouraged to participate.

THE HORROR: Dixon Gutierrez [left] and Doug Reilly [right] rehearse for “Rocky Hor-
ror Picture Show,” the upcoming student run production by FIU theatre.

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

I’ve been here before. This is a very familiar position for me to be in. I’ve relived this moment so many times I can’t keep track anymore.

It’s 2:30 in the morning and I’m trying to convince myself Weezer’s next album will live up to the expec-
tations my inner seventh

torant, my self Weezer’s next album track anymore.

But it wasn’t terrible.

Scorcho,” one of the band’s best.

But whereas Cuomo’s wry self-deprecation was charming when he was 24 and singing about being alone in his basement with Kitty Pryde and Ace Frehley, something has changed.

On The Red Album, Cuomo sang about blowing up mailboxes and playing with ninja swords and not being allowed to play football. It’s not all that different from 15 years ago, but it just isn’t the same.

When he hit the big time, Rivers was 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 occa-
sional inevitably embarrassing couplet, focusing only on the positives.

And then I’ll forget it.

I’ll forget everything I’ve learned.

And when summer of 2011 rolls around and Weezer is getting set to release The Mauve Album or Super-califragilisticexpialidocious, you know where I’ll be.

Right where I am now. I guess Rivers isn’t the only one who can’t let go of the past.

POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE is a bi-
weekly column discussing all things pop music.

Weezer

‘The Garage.” These were songs that were supposed to be a joke on the album-era song, earned high marks from

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived” were actually some surprises. “The

Greatest Man Who Ever Lived” were supposed to be a joke on the cover of Weezer’s seventh studio album, Raditude, set for a Nov. 3 release date.

It’s one of the most god-

away album titles I’ve ever heard, but hey, Rainer 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 person-

ally miserable, but out of that grew songs like “Why Bother” and “In The Garage.” Those were songs that had jokes without being jokes.

Superﬁ cially, 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.

If I were to try to deﬁ ne the 1994 version of Weezer, that deﬁ nition wouldn’t be much different, if at all, from the one I would deﬁ ne Weezer in 2009.

But whereas Cuomo’s wry self-

deprecation was charming when he was 24 and singing about being alone in his basement with Kitty Pryde and Ace Frehley, something has changed.

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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 proceedings 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 Shannon Lee 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 Ospina is a finalist for the second year in a row and an all around fan-favorite,” Rodriguez said.

Ospina, 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, Ospina 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.

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 8 p.m. Admission is $5 and tickets are sold 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 Ospina
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.

Understanding the criteria. They consider 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.

“What 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 got them spices. 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 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 to the game.

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

Lines like that 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.

“Moment 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.”
**Album a musical ‘diary’ for Cox**

**RYAN MOREJON Contributing Writer**

Bradford Cox has evolved. His evolution from bedroom-rock pessimist to extra-verted 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 micromixes (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’s a prototype Kranky record: a noise-rock troubadour. Cox stated in a recent Pitchfork interview that most of Cox’s friends and as a diary, it would belong to Kevin Drew of Broken Social Scene (“Kid Klimax” to Animal Collective fame contributing main vocals and doing her best Thom Yorke croon, while Cox stands in the back. It’s really the album’s core song with a long minimal loop-heavy album – you can’t expect anything less than high spirits. “Sheila” reaffirms Cox’s love for positive reviews. Reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews.

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, “Walkabout”, 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 midsummer 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 Fences Pitch – a lush, smiley, loop-heavy album – you can’t expect anything less than high spirits. “Sheila” realfims 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-tempo 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 a prototype Kranky record: a noise-rock troubadour.

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**Theatre show to feature ‘Transies’**

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 fan 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.
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...
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.

At the end of regulation, the score was tied 1-1, sending FIU into their fifth overtime in a row. 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.

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

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.

Freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage was successful in stopping all but one when Bridgeg Deke scored on a penalty kick with 65 seconds to go. At the end of regulation, the score was tied 1-1, sending FIU into their fifth overtime in a row.

Jackson’s late goal extends winning streak to four
Rosa, Valentin lead Golden Panthers past Jaguars for 12th straight victory

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

It appeared that the Golden Panthers volleyball team was poised to easily win their 12th consecutive victory as it jumped out to an early lead. But it wasn’t the way I envisioned beginning the job, but it’s something that happened. We learned from it; we grew form it. Those instances as an organization make you better. Where we started and where we are today – it’s like two different organizations.

That was Garcia’s first day on the job. His first act as athletic director was to suspend 18 players, including the dismissal of two scholarship athletes from the team. In the next few months he would have to deal with NCAA sanctions due to poor Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores from Miami scholarship athletes.

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 Century Bank Arena. But the Golden Panthers managed to hang on with a 28-26 first set victory, thwarting potential disaster.

“It was ourselves,” Tomic said when asked to identify what allowed South Alabama to take the set. “We made five service errors in the first set. Our hitters didn’t use the chances they were given, they weren’t being as smart as we should be. We made it harder than it should have been.”

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.

“Lack of focus,” said junior setter Natalia Valentin after the match. “We just laid back and we can’t do that with any team. We have to play our game and we didn’t do that in the first set.”

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.

Garcia has done an admirable job of building FIU somewhat into respectability.