Rionda vetoes resolution to restructure SGA

Student Government Council at Modesto Maid-igne Campus President Anthony Rionda vetoed the senate’s resolution that calls for the restructure of student government in the name of better unity.

In the University-wide Council meeting held at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Oct. 23, Rionda called the resolution “a piece of s--t,” and ripped it up in front of the chair of the UWC.

Rionda had told Student Media that he would not sign anything that was divisive. In an interview with Student Media, SGC at Biscayne Bay Campus President Sholom Neissein called the resolution “unequivocally threatening” to the BBC government.

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TUESDAY

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LIFE: Libertarian FAU DJ Drastic X unearths LIFE!

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Students bring up quality of teaching

Faculty advises students to be active in classes

MEET YOUR DEAN, page 1

at Modesto Maidique Campus Senator Cristina Loreto, a junior in international relations, and her fellow CAS senators, organized the event in order to bring leaders and students together.

During two hours, students were encouraged to stop by and participate in discussions with their dean, Kenneth Furton, along with other faculty members, about the new programs and changes that are coming to the college.

Senator Altanes Pheneius said that 94 students attended.

Due to class and other time commitments, not many students stayed for the entire event but many did come in to ask questions.

Furton told students that there will be changes and it is the faculty's intention for those changes to have a positive effect on the college.

One of the most noticeable changes, he said, was the combination of CAS with the College of Education.

There was also the creation of three new schools within the college: School of International and Public Affairs, School of Environment and Society and the School of Integrated Life Sciences.

Furton said that University's President Mark Rosenberg "is committed to education and that other programs may be created as well."

Students expressed their concerns about budget cuts and the quality of their education.

One student stated that the college needs to ensure that they not only hire those who know the subject, but also those who know how to teach.

The dean and faculty members talked to students in attendance about their own college experience, assuring the students that they understand what they are going through and they want to make the learning process as beneficial as possible.

Faculty also offered advice to students on how they could make the college experience more beneficial.

They encouraged students to be active in class and extracurricular activities along with talking to their professors. Students should also, according to them, build a portfolio of their materials and have them prepared when they come to professors asking them for letters of recommendation.

“Students are very concerned,” Furton said. “It helps the staff and me in terms of developing services for students.”

The SGC-MMC CAS senators tried to get as many students as possible to know about the event.

Pheneius said they advertised the event on Facebook and used posters and a table in the Graham Center.

They also encouraged teachers and advisors to tell their students about the event.

The senators hope to turn this into an annual event and also plan similar events throughout the year.

They said they believe...
Network of researchers from the U.S. and Latin America who specialize on the relations between Latin America and the Middle East,” Narbona said.

The other key members working in the project are Professor Mohiaddin Mesbah, director of the Middle East Center at FIU, and Professor Mercedes Vigon, who is in charge of educating students through the Office of International Media.

LACC and the history department are currently working on several other activities in order to provide information about the role of Islam in Latin American societies.

According to Narbona, a Web page that contains expert information about Islam in Latin America will be launched. Also, a set of videos about the lives of Muslims in South America will be produced.

“We are organizing a set of lectures and roundtables on this topic that we planned to film in video,” Narbona added.

The countries with the most Islamic immigrants are Venezuela and Argentina, according to The Associated Press. Islamic centers and mosques are being built constantly in order to accommodate the growing immigrant numbers.

According SSRC’s Web site, they have contributed with their research to better understand the questions related to Islam. For this reason, universities have organized a set of lectures, music and theater performances by students as well as student work, such as architectural designs.

They have awarded similar grants to other universities, such as Duke University and Princeton University.

SSRC notes that its networks have pioneered new approaches to understanding society and processes of social, cultural, economic and political change, and have profoundly influenced many fields of social inquiry.

“Since the attacks of Sep. 11 in 2001, U.S. society has felt the need to understand better some of the questions related to Islam. For this reason, universities have contributed with their research to the questions related to Islam,” Narbona said.

When released, the report stated that such an idea would not benefit the University at that time. “I feel they were misinformed to make such a claim,” Battle said.

Rionda responded that he would make the report available, but explained he can’t control what the senate presents.

“I can’t tell anyone not to pass a resolution,” he said.

Rionda agreed, however, that SGA could find ways to improve, but those changes would come within the current structure.

SSGA Advisor for MMC Jose Toscano told Student Media he supported some internal restructuring at the campus level over a University-wide one. However, one issue he would like addressed in a University-wide setting is better communication between the campuses.

Regular communication between the campuses becomes hard when SGA officers need to juggle school and work schedules, Toscano said.

“We struggle on a monthly basis on communication,” Toscano said.

Although SGA has video conference capabilities on both campuses, the systems aren’t linked, a problem which requires coordination between both campuses and University Technology Services.

The resolution’s sponsoring senators could not be reached for comment.

Communication issues need to be addressed

SGC-MMC, page 1

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The report was part of last year’s administration. A student government expert consultant was hired to analyze whether it would be better for the University to have different student government councils in each campus.

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Guest speaker to discuss conflicts in Middle East

SABRENA JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

In June 200, civil war broke out in the Gaza Strip between two rival Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, for control of the Palestinian government. Thousands of deaths have been reported on both sides. This issue has raised concerns among many political activists about the future of the region, and there’s an organization on campus that provides an open forum for students to discuss and understand these events.

The Middle East Society will kick off its lecture series Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. with guest speaker Jonathan Schanzer, deputy executive director of the Jewish Policy Center, a Washington-based, nonprofit organization founded in 1985 that provides scholarly perspectives on foreign and domestic policies that impact the Jewish community in the U.S.

The lecture will take place at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center, Room 155. MES is a component of the School of International and Public Affairs, and the organization is based at BCC. It provides its members with opportunities to discuss matters related to the Middle East with top experts from around the world.

The event is co-presented by the Judaic Studies Program, the Jewish Community Relations Council, Hillside Second Generation, and the Student Government Association.

“In addition to exposing students to a top speaker on the Middle East who is well known and respected, we hope to attract a large contingency of community members to our organization,” said Shlomi Dinar, director of MES.

According to Dinar, one of the most misunderstood aspects of current regional issues is the dynamic of the Palestinian society in the Middle East. Schanzer will discuss these issues, particularly as it relates to Hamas and Fatah, the two major political parties in the Palestinian territories.

Jonathan Schanzer is also an American author and scholar in Middle Eastern studies. Before he joined the Jewish Policy Center, he was a counter-terrorism analyst for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Schanzer has a master’s degree in Middle Eastern studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published numerous articles and magazine features, and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree at King’s College London.

His thesis will document the history of the U.S. Congress and its efforts to combat terrorism, according to the center’s Web site.

Schanzer is also the author of Al-Qaeda’s Armies: Middle East Affiliate Groups and the Next Generation of Terror, a book about his research of the Al-Qaeda armies in the Middle East. His latest book, Hamas vs Fatah: The Struggle for Palestine, is about the battle for the identity of Palestinian Arabs.

"Mr. Schanzer is not only a dynamic and engaging speaker. He is also an expert in his field," said Dinar. "Having studied the Middle East and extensively traveled to various countries, he has an astute understanding of the region."

This lecture is among a number of other lectures MES will be featuring throughout the year.

"MES prides itself on presenting a balanced view of a variety of issues related to the Middle East. Our speakers have included published scholars, regional activists, and world leaders," said Dinar.

Changing the government

Council discusses the need for two presidents

MAUREEN NINU  
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council once again discussed the resolution proposed by a Modesto Maidique Campus senator to restructure the University government.

The SGC-MMC senate’s resolution, which was passed Oct. 19 with 20 votes to 6, called for the restructuring of the Student Government Association. The resolution did not specify how the government SGAs, but during a senate meeting on Oct. 7, SGC-MMC Arts and Sciences Senator Adam Johnson discussed the possibility of eliminating SGC-BBC’s presidency.

SGC-BBC President Sholom Nenstein was present at the Oct. 21 meeting, but said he was “feeling under the weather,” so he told SGC-BBC Vice President Christian “Cici” Battle to chair the meeting.

Nenstein, however, tried to ease SGC-BBC’s concerns about the SGC-MMC resolution, letting them know that SGC-MMC President Anthony Ronia said he would not sign such resolution.

"Anthony assured me that everything is fine. It’s just politics," Nenstein said during the meeting.

He also said that although the resolution may not go anywhere, SGC-MMC is still allowed to work on it. But he thinks it is not a useful or effective way to spend time.

Battle continued the meeting and emphasized one of his objectives: unity.

She encouraged SGC-BBC members to work closer with SGC-MMC.

"Reach out to your counterparts, e-mail them, call them. We need to do our part," Battle said.

She explained the history behind the resolution and informed members about a University SGA structure report that former SGC-MMC President Arthur “AJ” Meyer requested last fiscal year.

The survey was submitted by American Student Government Association on March 19, 2009, and cost $5000, all of which came from the SGC-MMC’s discretionary funds.

The report was conducted by W.H. “Bud” Onsdin, Jr., the SG Consulting Group executive director of ASGA. whose objective included to review the executive structure between both campuses, determine if the proposed model of a single student government was plausible, and review the role of the University Wide Council. Once his analysis was done, he made a recommendation based on his findings.

Oxendine administered several extensive interviews throughout the months of February and March 2009, with student leaders, administrators, and MMC and BBC personnel.

After analyzing the University’s SGA structure of two different councils at each campus, each with its own president, ASGA made its final recommendation: the University needs two councils, each with its own president.

In his report he states, “this is easily answered in a single word: No.”

"It is apparent that BBC students and administrators already feel ignored because the UP campus students and administrators. Removing the SGC president position at BBC would be a symbolic hurt, but would also strip BBC’s SGC of its sovereignty, as determined structure developed 18 years ago,” Oxendine wrote in his report.

After reviewing ASGA’s report, Neistein explained at the meeting that with the current SGA structure, “this is the only way that the school can run effectively because the way MMC has treated this campus in the past.”

A separate analysis compiled on March 16, 2009 by Rasheed Ali Cromwell, also a consultant from ASGA, concluded that there are three primary concerns: 1) adequate student representation on both campuses of FIU (with a specific emphasis that the BBC students’ voices are heard), 2) united student representation to outside entities and individuals, and 3) effectiveness of communication between SGAs on each campus, “which also shows that, there is no feasible way that instituting a change from two student government systems to one student government system will sufficiently address internal representation, external representation, and effective communication.”

”ASGA found that the student structure was fine. Don’t worry,” said Battle. "The resolution happens every year, and it has been proven that we are here to stay"
Club lets ‘foodies’ share love of cooking and eating

Since its creation at the beginning of this semester, the club has already participated in two community outreach activities and plans on continuing to do so, Moran said. Members participated in the Annual Chocolate Festival hosted by Aventura Mall on Oct. 18, where the group decorated and sold cupcakes with little kids. All proceeds benefited the Children’s Craniofacial Association, a national nonprofit organization that aims to improve the lives of children with facial or cranial physical abnormalities.

They also visited Chef Allen’s restaurant in Aventura and participated in “Days of Taste,” a program that allows local elementary school children to interact with chefs at local restaurants and prepare healthy meals.

But the club is not just about eating for the sake of eating, said Reppert. Through every encounter they have with food, the club strives to educate its members about what they taste, how it is prepared, and what it goes well with, among other things.

Members also have the opportunity to meet industry leaders, participate in community events and gain invaluable experience, Reppert said.

Maria Leonova, who is in her first year of the master’s program in hospitality management, came back to the second meeting because she was impressed by the club’s recent activities. She plans to become a member.

“This is an opportunity to learn about the fun part of cooking,” she said. “It’s all about food, wine, great table conversation and great people full of passion and inspiration.”

The club plans to host different food and wine pairing dinners, and tastings throughout the semester. Members will also compete in a brisket cook-off Nov. 7 against other culinary students from different schools. The University placed first last year.

The club’s next meeting will take place Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. in the HTM building dining room. There will be a beer tasting and food pairing.

To join, students must register with AIWF and pay a $25 fee for the year. However, anyone can attend meetings and tastings without registering by paying $5 per tasting. Students from different schools and interests are welcome to join.

For more information, e-mail gourmetpresident@gmail.com, go to www.aiwf.org, or visit the club’s Facebook group, Gourmet Wine & Food Club.
**OPINION**

**ROMNEY MANASSA**
Staff Writer

**War in Afghanistan not a lost cause**

After nearly a decade of fighting, the war in Afghanistan continues to haunt us. Long overshadowed by the greater military, political and public focus in Iraq, the war continues to plague like a tumor from outside without merit, much is exaggerated or mistaken. Afghanistan’s scale of fighting is far smaller, and our fatalities (around 850) are considerably less than they had been in Vietnam (55,000), according to and 70’s – the war in Afghanistan is not solvable.

The Economist.

The threat from Afghani- stan, both past and present, is far more real than it had ever been for Vietnam. Numerous terrorist attacks have been linked to the Taliban in recent months. With relatively sound reasoning concerning a war and more ambivalence on our part about what the situation is – no mass anti-war protests as in the 60’s plots like the 9/11 attacks. Consider the greater regional implications. Most of the coun- tries bordering Afghanistan, namely Pakistan, can easily fall into destabilization and even become new havens for terrorism. American and Pakistani forces are already engaging extremist groups in the borderlands between Paki- stan and Afghanistan.

It’s not only about the tangible strategic aspects either. Think of the damage to our public and American military

**Ryan Manassa**

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"And if media is operating, basical- ly, as a talk radio format, then that's one thing. And if it's operating as a talk radio format, then that's another." - Jeff Jarvis, VirtualRadio.com

The Beacon agrees with the Council’s anti-smoking resolution. More importantly, The Beacon feels that the SGC-MMC has shown signs of progress in the way of effective policies.

Whether these signs point to prolonged success remains to be seen, and The Beacon will continue to monitor the council and report its progress.

The Beacon hopes that Oct. 19 is a sign of things to come.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Editorials are the stated view of the editorial board, which is composed of the current editor-in-chief, managing editor, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in support of the viewpoints expressed in this publication.

**DISCLAIMER**

The opinions expressed within these pages do not represent the views of The Beacon or Beacon Board. These views are those of our board members and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and members of the university community.

**QUOTEATION**

"And if media is operating, basical- ly, as a talk radio format, then that's one thing. And if it's operating as a news outlet, then that's another." - President Barack Obama, Fox News

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X MARKS THE SPOT

SERGIO BONILLA
Staff Writer

Before Pitbull and Rick Ross were platinum-selling artists, they were two local hip-hop talents looking for a means to promote their music and name.

DJ Drastic X brought the local rappers as guests on his show, "It’s All Gravy" and he knew those two would eventually go from sitting in the studio of FIU’s student radio, Radiate FM, to making $1 million dollars.

"I was certain Pitbull and Rick Ross were going to make it because you take one look at them and their presence, the way they speak, the way they carry themselves, their work ethic, the way they show love to everybody. They understand the business." DJ Drastic X said about the first time he had the two artists on his show. "I actually said on air, "This is our next superstar here, respect this man."

Since 2000, DJ Drastic X, Kilzi Kili, has hosted his show with the purpose of not only playing and mixing hip-hop music from all parts of the globe, but giving up-and-coming rappers an opportunity to receive local exposure.

“We named it ‘It’s All Gravy’ because we didn’t want to corner ourselves to playing one genre of hip-hop music. Everything goes, everything flies. We wanted to have an outlet for local artists to connect and showcase their music.”

PROVE ME WRONG

The 28-year-old Kili started rapping when he was 16 years old, but then decided DJing was a better way to connect with the Miami hip-hop audience.

“It’s cool to be a DJ because when you step out there and you rock the crowd or you are on the radio and people are calling you up while you’re treating it up, it feels good to give people that service,” he said. “I mix non-stop for three hours. Lots of DJs just press a button now. Here at Radiate we have real DJs.”

In 2004, Drastic graduated from the University with a degree in journalism and mass communications. Although not a student anymore, he continued to host his show. Though he’s been DJing for nine years, he didn’t always receive the approval from one of his biggest inspirations: his father.

Kili’s mother is Lebanese and his father was born in Syria. Kili’s father left to work in Venezuela with just a second grade education. His father was constantly moving to different countries to find work until he established himself in Miami and met Drastic’s mother.

"My dad is my hero," he said. "I think of everything I’ve been through in life and it’s not a tenth of what he’s been through."

Alfred Kili, Drastic’s 18-year-old brother, noted how Drastic has always admired their father, but he could never understand why he would want to be a DJ. He thought hip-hop was a vulgar genre of music with no purpose or value.

"He always told my brother, ‘You have to prove me wrong,'” Drastic X’s younger brother said. "Part of my brother’s success was that my dad never liked hip-hop music. The day came that my brother won an Emmy for a hip-hop production - it was something he was working toward to show my dad that it wasn’t just bad words; it was a passion.”

STAYING TRUE

Kili makes a living DJing at clubs occasionally and working as a TV producer for a major local station he asked to remain nameless due to a possible conflict of interest. Drastic airs his show on Saturdays from 7-10 p.m. He is always trying to bring guests to complement the missing he does. He’s had guests such as Akon, Mike Jones, Flo-rida, G-Unit and Lloyd Banks on the show.

He remains in contact with Pitbull and Rick Ross and has them as guests once a year either in person or via phone. They also keep in touch and send him their latest music, which Drastic appreciates.

“They are true to themselves and true to the people that helped them on their way up because they still holler at me as well as other DJs that helped them come up. Maybe it’s a Miami thing. We show love,” he said.

As of now, the next two artists he sees with potential to make it to the mainstream audience are Brisco and Ice Berg. Those are two rappers who will need to become popular on the local scene before reaching a national audience.

“If you don’t get love at home from every DJ in your city, then you can’t be crossing over to other places. You have to have a solid foundation,” Drastic said.

F.R.E.E.: FOR RIDICULOUSLY EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

Love takes center stage in innovative flash experience

Most of us have probably seen romance in films and wished that there was something more like that in our own lives.

Love is one of the most popular themes in film – and for good reason. Humans are inherently needy, social creatures who ultimately just want to love and be loved.

It’s curious, then, that more game developers haven’t made really great use of this in their products. Colour my Heart, a flash game created by Swallow, looks and feels like something Michel Gondry might put together with a pen and paper.

The animation is sketchy on purpose and the music feels sad and hopeful all at once. There’s just the right mix of sadness, happiness, quirk and charm to make the theme of love feel totally genuine.

In this extremely short flash experience you will simply traverse the black and white environment searching for your mate – the one who will restore color to your world.

Movement is done with the arrow keys and clicking on certain objects will let you interact with them in order to make your way throughout the level.

The whole game can be finished in less than a minute but, by doing so, you’ll miss out on what it’s really all about.

Taking the time to explore and interact with everything around will reveal a much greater meaning and will make the resolution so much sweeter.

I haven’t been so pleasantly surprised by anything in Flash for so long. It’s good to know that there is still hope for video games to become something much more than they are now.

I’d love to think that if we paid more attention to thoughtful games with interesting stories that really tried to reach us on a more personal, emotional level, the big names in the industry would have to take notice.

If you’re looking for something to kill some time between classes, this isn’t the game for you. But, if you’d like to see what interactive art can feel like, you’re going to want to give this a try.

I’m a sucker for a really great love story, particularly when I have a hand in telling it.


The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.

Brushless: Jonathan Pedigo finger paints a panda as his talent for Alpha Omicron Pi’s Alpha Male competition on Oct. 20.
Club fights for freedom, recognition of Tibet

ISABEL MAZA
Staff Writer

Students walking through GC may notice the many flags hanging from the walls representing the vast backgrounds and nationalities of the student body at FIU. However, one country’s flag they won’t find, despite the fact that it is represented by an FIU student, is Tibet’s.

Tibet, a country in East Asia, was invaded by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army in 1949 and remains, to this day, occupied by China.

More than 1.2 million people have died as a result of China’s occupation of Tibet, according to www.studentsforafreetibet.org.

The Chinese government is trying to wipe all traces of Tibetan culture and, as a result, basic human rights for the Tibetan people have been violated, according to the website.

The different chapters exist in universities, high schools and even elementary schools.

The FIU chapter of Students for a Free Tibet also works to inform the University community about the Tibetan issues.

“We want to raise awareness about what’s going on outside of our immediate environment. We feel that people should be sensitive to these human rights issues,” said Vice President Carol Rodriguez, a political science major.

Tenzin Gayden, the current FIU chapter president of Students for a Free Tibet who is seeking his Ph.D. in biology with a focus on genetics, is the only Tibetan student in the club. He has conducted research and published papers on the Tibetan genetic identity.

“It makes me sad that there is no Tibetan representation at FIU. It is a rich culture with a lot to offer,” Gayden said.

Political science major Mike Boan, started the club in the Fall of 2008.

“We take for granted the privileges we enjoy and forget we all have the ability to make a difference,” he said.

“We support the Tibetan people’s need for our help and Students for a Free Tibet at FIU is trying to make a difference in their lives.”

Since its inception, the club has had a goal of sponsoring a Tibetan child.

Last week, it accomplished this goal and officially sponsored a young orphaned boy from Tibet. Through the club’s donation, he was able to live in an orphanage in India and receive a full year’s worth of schooling, food, books and clothing.

Students for a Free Tibet at FIU aims to sponsor a Tibetan child every year.

“We raised $750 from the sale of club merchandise, and through the club’s donation, the boy is now able to live in an orphanage in India,” Gayden said.

The club also contributes by raising money for other causes. They have aired movies related to Tibet that show the plight of its citizens.

They have also hosted guest speakers, mainly members of the faculty, to educate and inform students of the cause.

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Students for a Free Tibet at FIU aims to sponsor a Tibetan child every year.

“Education is our best weapon,” Gayden said.

The organization also hosts different events on campus that are open to students.

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Those interested in joining Students for a Free Tibet at FIU can do so via www.orgsync.com.

The club holds biweekly meetings to plan events and discuss different topics relating to Tibet. The meetings are open to students and those who would like to join can attend.
Web site offers users the chance to express their hatred for others

LEONCIO ALVAREZ Staff Writer

There is absolutely nothing funny about feces. Oh wait, yes there is. Turning your number two into the number one gag gift is Poopiegram.com – a Web site dedicated to sending poopie grams to the owner of any vehicle, all we need is the tag number and state of issuance and we can send one to the address they have on record with the Department of Motor Vehicles,” he said.

There are three options when picking out your poop and all are $14.95. “Heart Poopie” is in the mail with your name on it. "Birdee Poopie" is a personalized memo comes from within the U.S. Miami drivers, based but ships internationally, for flies or gag reflexes.

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Poopiegram.com is Florida-based but ships internationally, with 99 percent of orders coming from within the U.S. Miami drivers, beware. Something long-deserved is in the mail with your name on it.

The show opened with the director Michelle Finolli in a sequined top, hot red corset, and matching high-heels, welcoming the audience with a colorful barrage of sexual references, “ground rules” and f-bombs. She explained, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadow Cast is the longest running interactive, audience participating show of all time... It’s a lot like sex; if you don’t interact you don’t come.”

The cast joked fun at everything from Disney and Nazis to ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ and the University of Miami. When the director hit the stage the audience yelled “Describe UMD!” The movie’s audio answered with “Some kind of hunting lure for rich weirdos.” Needless to say people laughed long and hard.

The show was over by the actors and “Transies” entered the spooky mansion a Transie with a poopic gram sent to the owner of any vehicle, all we need is the tag number and state of issuance and we can send one to the address they have on record with the Department of Motor Vehicles.”

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Late fumble hurts Panthers

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teams. The Golden Panthers committed 10 penalties and had just 32 rushing yards as a team.

BANGED UP

With McCall’s foot ailing from an injury he sustained in practice on Oct. 22, backup Wayne Younger took over the offense on two drives. McCall returned and played the rest of the game. Even so, McCall was not pleased with his overall performance. “The foot had nothing to do with it. I had the worst half of football I’ve ever played,” McCall said. “It feels bad as a senior, as the leader of this team not to be able to perform like we have been on offense.”

Heading into the game, the Golden Panthers were allowing 228 passing yards per game. They limited the Red Wolves to 154 yards and the air and defensive end Armond Willis sacked the quarterback twice.

Meanwhile, Hilton did not return punts or kickoffs because of a sprained knee he suffered vs. Western Kentucky two weeks ago.

Whether Hilton sees more playing time will be the coaching staff’s decision. But he said he is close to being back at full strength. “It feels pretty good probably about 92, 93 percent,” Hilton said.

Despite the defense’s improved play, senior linebacker Scotty Bryant said the team needs to focus on the fundamentals to have a chance next week vs. the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

“That was our goal to eliminate as many big plays as possible,” Bryant said. “They capitalized on our weaknesses. We have to be more alert for things like that. Defense, we came out; we played our heart out.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flip-flop.

Florida regained the top spot Sunday in The Associated Press poll—No. 1 LSU for a second consecutive week after the Tigers defeated Auburn 27-21 on Saturday, while Florida needed a field goal in the waning seconds to keep the Crimson Tide undefeated.

Like Texas, No. 4 Southern California round out the top 10, followed by No. 22 Oklahoma State. The Cowboys host rival BYU. LSU stayed at No. 1, while Alabama moved up three.

No. 9 and Oregon moved up two spots to No. 10. The Ducks host USC on Saturday in a game with huge Pac-10 championship implications.

Virginia Tech is 14th and Houston is 15th.

Pittsburgh moved up four spots to No. 16 after a 41-14 Big East victory against South Florida. The Panthers have their highest ranking since they were 15th in October 2003.

Virginia Tech starts the second 10, followed by Penn State and Oklahoma State. The Cowboys host Texas on Halloween night.

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Ohio State, Miami, Utah and West Virginia round out the top 20.

The final five includes three teams that were unranked last week. No. 21 South Carolina moved up two spots and No. 22 Oklahoma moved up three.

No. 23 Arizona is in the AP rankings for the first time since Oct. 22, 2000. No. 24 Mississippi and No. 25 Notre Dame re-entered the rankings.

BYU, Kansas and Texas Tech dropped out after losses.

Coach Edsall hopes funeral brings closure

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Connecticut football coach Randy Edsall says he’s concerned about how his players will react to the funeral of teammate Jasper Howard.

Edsall says he expects a wide range of emotions at Monday’s service, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. at New Birth Baptist Church in Miami. Howard’s hometown.

Howard, a 20-year-old cornerback, was fatally stabbed during an altercation outside a dance on Connecticut’s campus last early Sunday. UConn played Saturday, losing to West Virginia 28-24 in an emotionally charged game.

The entire team is flying to Florida together for the service. Edsall says he’s hoping the service will provide a bit of closure that will allow his players to continue to move forward with their lives, while remembering Howard in their own way.

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Win helps team build character

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

“We started feeling pressure and getting away from each other, but that’s when we have to stay together,” Rosa said. “We weren’t building character.”

Rosa had a team-high 19 kills along with Natalia Valentin’s 35 assists, helping push FIU over the top.

“Championship teams find a way to win,” Tomic said. “This is an opportunity for us to see how good we are, to see if we had what it takes to be a championship team, and we did it.”

COBREBACK Coach Dansyella Tomic (left) riles up her team for the win.

SLUGFEST: Sophomore Mike Martinez takes a swing in an exhibition game vs. British Columbia on Oct. 21 at home. The Golden Panthers defeated British Columbia 17-4. Martinez was one of many Golden Panthers with extra base hits. Tim Jabe hit two home runs and four runs batted in.

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Alabama’s All-American nose guard Terrence Cody blocked Daniel Lincoln’s 44-yard field-goal attempt on the final play Saturday to keep the Crimson Tide undefeated.

Florida led Mississippi State 16-13 in the fourth quarter, then scored two touchdowns 33 seconds apart to put the Bulldogs away.

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Pink Panthers dig deep

Team rallies late

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

Unlike the team’s previous match, the Golden Panthers cut the theatrics in the match against Arkansas State on Oct. 24. “It feels great, we did our job and we prepared mentally for that,” said Natalia Valentin, who had 40 assists for the match and is currently second in the nation in that category.

“We didn’t lay back.”

After a thrilling five-set match victory against UALR the night before, the Golden Panthers (21-2, 12-4) defeated the Red Wolves (17-9, 7-5) in three sets.

The Red Wolves hung with the Golden Panthers for the first two sets, in large part due to their ability to neutralize Jovana Bjelica, who was limited to a season-low five kills. But Arkansas State was unable to stop the rest of the offensive attack led by freshman Jovana Bjelica and her team-high 14 kills.

Outside hitter Yarimar Rosa, who was limited to a season-low five kills. He was a game-time decision. He threw for 173 yards.

“Winning this game is big for us. We’re trying to make a statement.”

In the second half, the defensive set was extended by Darriet Perry to make it 17-10. A key defensive stop gave FIU the point on its own six-yard line. Quarterback Paul McCall completed a pass to Hilton and his effort to obtain more yards led the sophomore to fumble.

The Golden Panthers had not lost a set since Oct. 4 against Middle Tennessee.

“We were too comfortable and we always do that,” said Isadora Rangel, who had 17 kills for the match. “Obviously they started playing better. We were just shocked.”

The fourth set picked up where the third one left off, with the Trojans riding on their momentum and building a lead going into the middle stages of a hard-fought set.

A 26-yard field goal made it a 17-10 game. FIU answered with a 36-yard field goal and a two-yard touchdown drive by Darriet Perry to make it 17-10.

A key defensive stop gave FIU the ball back, but the comeback ended in the fourth quarter with Hilton’s turnover.

“He’s playing hurt, and he’s trying hard but the ball came loose,” Cristobal said.

The crowd of 18,779 saw the Red Wolves go 7-0 in their last seven homecoming games. Six of those wins are vs. Sun Belt Conference