FOOTBALL

Students attending games can win prizes

Jorge Valens
Asst. News Director

The University will be giving students who attend the next football home game an opportunity to win a scholarship. During the game, three students will be chosen at random to win a $500 scholarship that can be applied toward college expenses. Students can attend the game for a free valid Panther ID. Friends and family accompanying students can purchase an end zone ticket for $15. Those interested in purchasing tickets can call 305-FIU-GAME or visit www.fiusports.com.

WANNA PLAY A GAME?

GET SCARED: Freshman Aj Mayungabe (left) graduate Joel Caldwell (center) and sophomore Keanna Angiquo (lying down) scare visitors inside the kitchen at the Fijji House during Fijji’s Haunted House Oct. 29. Proceeds raised at the event benefited the American Red Cross.

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY

What to do for Halloween on and around campus

PAGE 4

SPORTS

PAGE 12

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween: Captain Morgan’s Fantasyfest Parade, Oct. 31, 7:00 p.m.
Volleyball faces tough three games during a road trip.

LIFE

PAGE 9

FACEBOOK LIFELINE

PAGE 35

Isolated T-Storms

LOW: 75  HIGH: 85
Partly Cloudy

LOW: 76  HIGH: 87
Partly Cloudy

FRIDAY

Party Choir
LOW: 75  HIGH: 87
SUNDAY

Marching 5 Stars
LOW: 75  HIGH: 86
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O’BRIEN, page 3

WANT IT, page 8

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O’BRIEN, page 3

WANT IT, page 8

CNN anchor lectures about originality

Francisco Maradiaga
Staff Writer

Scolca O’Brien stressed how thinking differently can solve problems in the community and beyond during a lecture at the University. “Thinking differently can have massive, massive societal implications,” O’Brien said.

The CNN special correspondent spoke to a near-capacity crowd of around 300 students and faculty members in the Green Library auditorium on Oct. 28. O’Brien told stories from her experience as a reporter and while working on documentaries like “Black in America,” and the recently-released “Latino in America,” to illustrate her point on thinking differently.

In one example, African villages were experiencing a brain-drain when educated males would leave the village. Girls were typically taken out of school early on to help in domestic jobs. To help change the tide, students were all fed at school and offered food to take home for their family. This incentive was the different kind of thinking that allowed girls to be educated, addressing the brain-drain, and helping feed the populace.

“Almost over night all these kids became providers,” O’Brien said. “They were able to flip the value of the kids in society.”

Another example came by a Harvard professor featured in “Black in America,” that wants to pay kids to learn. The plan is to close the gap between minority graduation rates and those of Caucasians. Some kids have found
Traff ic delays plague city after Bay Bridge closure

NATIONAL

The span of the Bay Bridge affected had been under repair since Labor Day. According to CNN, the closure of the bridge has caused extensive delays for residents commuting to and from San Francisco and Oakland. In an attempt to alleviate traffic, officials have lengthened the schedule of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system.

Stocks fall after housing market concerns

The stock market went down on Oct. 28 after a less than favorable report indicated a weakness in the housing market. According to the Washington Post, new-home sales dropped 3.6 percent in September after rising for five consecutive months. The western U.S. in particular saw an 11 percent decrease in home sales during September. San Francisco’s Bay Bridge has been closed indefinitely after 5,000 pounds of the bridge’s infrastructure rained down on drivers on Oct. 27. According to The Miami Herald, Luke Petruschke beat Petruschke with a cinder block after Vega learned he was arrested on the scene. The victim’s father was booked on Oct. 28.

LOCAL

Traffic delays plague city after Bay Bridge closure

A man suspected of child molestation that was assaulted by the victim’s father was booked on Oct. 28. According to The Miami Herald, Luke Petruschke spent a week in a medically induced coma at Memorial Regional Hospital and was released to authorities and arrested on the scene. Police say two men, Kish Carter and Manuel Vega beat Petruschke with a cinder block after Vega learned that Petruschke fondled his son. The two men face attempted murder charges.

Sorority organizes fashion show

Event raises funds for carbon monoxide poisoning awareness

The ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority organized their eighth annual fashion show titled “Exotique” to raise awareness for carbon monoxide poisoning. They explained that the money from the event would go to raise awareness on carbon monoxide poisoning and give scholarships to high school as well as undergraduate college students.

The show carried an exotic theme, so many of the models had animal prints and markings painted on their bodies and faces. The décor of the Graham Center Ballrooms fit in with the exotic and jungle theme of the night.

“We have been here all day setting up decorations,” said Phi Sigma Sigma sister Jeanette Echavarria, a freshman biology major. “On hand was a mixture of FIU students and community members. Many students, especially other Greeks, came out to support the ladies in their work. Once the doors opened at 7 p.m., the crowd began to pour into the ballrooms and quickly filled up most of the 700 available seats.

Before the models started to do their run, guests were reminded of the real reason for the event.

Janelle’s mother, Barbara Bertot, and her best friend, Breny Deparre, opened the event by thanking the sorority for putting the fashion show together.

The ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority presented their eighth annual fashion show titled “Exotique” to raise awareness for carbon monoxide poisoning.

The event, held on Oct. 26, began in 2001, but since 2004, it has been dedicated to a fallen sister, Janelle Bertot who died of carbon monoxide five years ago.

The show’s theme was “Exotique” and the funds generated will go to carbon monoxide poisoning awareness and research.

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON

Staff Writer

They have been here all day setting up decorations,” said Phi Sigma Sigma sister Jeanette Echavarria, a freshman biology major. “We have spent a dime, and everything was donated,” said Stokes, who also participated in the first show that the sorority put up.


The president of Phi Sigma Sigma, Gabriela Vasquez, was happy with the help she got from her fellow sisters and the outcome of the event.

“All the sisters came out to help. We didn’t spend a dime, and everything was donated,” she said.

The event was sponsored entirely by both local and national donors.

The list of local businesses includes OhYeahMiami.com, Donut Divas, and Habit Boutique. Local clothing boutique Peace Love World donated its clothes to be showcased during the show.

National hair product producer and stylist Paul Mitchell, who sponsored the event for the second year in a row, and Coca-Cola also sponsored the Exotique Fashion Show.

Some of the sponsors had set up booths around the hallway promoting their products and work.

Paul Mitchell donated its stylists for the event to prepare the models for the catwalk.

Sigma Kappa Sister Lizmarie Rodriguez, a junior nursing major, auditioned to model along with the rest of her sorority. She modeled in the Peace Love World, Casual, Business Casual and Edgy scenes.

During the fashion show there were two intermissions that gave the guests a chance to partake on the food provided as well as look around the sponsor tables.

During the first intermission guests were treated to a performance by the Miami Sunset High School “Golden Girls.” In the second intermission, prizes were given away to those who had purchased winning raffle tickets.

Giveaways included a shirt designed by one of the sponsors as well as a $150 cash prize.

At the end of the fashion show all the models as well as the president of Phi Sigma Sigma and the fashion show director, Angie Solis Junior, came on stage to thank everyone for attending.

Yamil Pascual, a freshman in business, was in attendance.

“Everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves,” Pascual said. “It was amazing.”

According to eMedicine, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. This odorless, tasteless and colorless gas is known as the “Silent Killer.” The Centers for Disease Control estimates that carbon monoxide poisoning claims nearly 500 lives, and causes more than 15,000 visits to hospital emergency departments annually.

On the Runway

ON THE RUNWAY: Ladies of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority put together a fashion show on Oct. 26. The show’s theme was “Exotique” and the funds generated will go to carbon monoxide poisoning awareness and research.
Senate speaks out against universal health insurance

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

In another vocal session of the Student Government Senate at Modesto Maid-
ague Campus on Oct. 26, the senate came out against mandatory Health Insurance for
university students, in support of refur-
ishing a computer lab at the Engineering
Center, as well as in support of the Student
Legacy Campaign, and passed a council bill
that defines when a senator can abstain from a
vote.

The Mandatory Health Insurance Reso-
lution passed with a vote of 20 for and two
against, and promptly received a presidential
veto.

Enacted “In opposition of Manda-
tory Health Insurance for State University
Students,” the resolution calls for SGA to
oppose mandatory health insurance because
it will be an additional financial burden to
students, and deny registration to those who
cannot pay for it.

“The state Legislature has tried to enact
mandatory health insurance for all state
university students, without any financial
assistance, and denies class registration to
students who don’t have health insurance”
the resolution states.

The resolution also claims that 80 percent
of FIU students do not have health insur-
ance, and that one-third of FIU students are
depended on financial aid.

The inference in the resolution is that those
students solely dependent on financial aid
would not be able to register for classes, and
therefore not be able to receive the financial
aid they rely on. It also claims that University
Health Services would not be able to handle
the influx of paperwork caused by mandatory
health insurance.

“University Health Services has stated
that it does not have the capacity and the staff
to handle such paperwork and ensure that
more than 38,000 students have health insur-
ance before registration opens,” stated the
resolution.

Student Media was unable to contact
University Health Services at time of publi-
cation for verification.

“Where are you getting this information?”
asked Graduate Senator Loren Fraute during
the meeting. Fraute said he felt uncomfort-
able voting without knowing all the facts; he
was one of the few votes.

Cabinet member and coordinator of
Health Affairs, David Dial, was on hand to
confirm the resolution’s numbers. However
neither he nor the sponsoring senators could
add the specifics on prices for insurance plans
that would be offered to students if the state
Legislature imposes mandatory health insur-
ance on the university system.

The health care resolution’s sponsoring
senators stuck to the principle of being
government being denied to those who
can’t afford health insurance

“If even one student cannot pay for health
insurance, then we must be behind that one
student,” said senator of Arts and Sciences,
Altanese Phenelus.

Fraute was not convinced. Neither was
SGC-MMC President Anthony Riondo who
announced he vetoed the resolution during
the Oct. 28 cabinet meeting. He said the
nenate needed more discussion and informa-
tion on the subject.

“I disagree with some of the harsh lines
in the resolution,” Riondo said at the cabinet
meeting. Riondo also said he would like to see
the senate use both weeks, that are required in
the bylaws, to debate a topic instead of always
bypassing a vote for a new business. Last year,
the senate passed the “Senate Speed Pass
Act,” which lets them bypass a requirement
to read legislation at two meetings before
passing and enabled them to both present and
vote on new businesses during the same
meeting.

“It should be a personal decision,” said
sponsoring senator from the Engineering
and Computing, William-Jose Velez, on whether
students should get health insurance.

During the meeting the senate also called
for the refurbishment of a student computer
lab at the Engineering Center. The resolu-
tion called for the Technology Fee Advisory
Council to recommend using the fee’s money
to upgrade “older and obsolete computer
system” in the lab.

“The updated equipment will maximize
and improve students’ learning experience,”
stated the resolution.

It passed with a vote of 22 for, zero against
two abstentions. The two abstentions came from
senators Phenelus and Fraute who are both in
the tech for advisory council.

The senate also showed their support of
the Student Legacy Campaign by passing a
resolution unanimously.

According to the Division of Univer-
sity Advancement’s Web site, which the
campaign is under, the SLC is an initiative
that focuses on current students giving back
to the University.

“The aim … is to establish a feeling of
affinity among current students to contribute
financially and experience a sense of philan-
thropy,” states the resolution.

The senate also passed a council bill to
help clarify what constitutes a conflict of
interest in the SGC-MMC campus bylaws.

Entitled the “SGC-MMC Voting Process
Reform Act of 2009,” it states that “all
members must vote unless they have a clear
and direct conflict of interest.”

Those conflicts of interest include imme-
diate blood, by marriage, business or romantic
relationships. Or by being a member or a
board member of a commission or committee
that will vote on the issue at hand. In those
cases an abstention vote is allowed, but the
reason must be stated at the time of voting
and recorded.

During the summer and first part of the
Fall semester there were more than a few
abstention votes with no reason given.

According to SGC-MMC Advisor Jose
Toscano, members of SGA took it upon
themselves to vote without their attorney to find
the proper use of abstentions.

O’Brien tells students to think outside the box

O’BRIEN, page 1

this as an incentive to compete scholasti-
cally. According to O’Brien the New York
City graduation rates are 55 percent overall
and only 29 percent when only looking at
black males.

“I give this example because the
numbers are so dire, and you have to think
outside the box,” O’Brien said.

The most dramatic examples came from
time covering Hurricane Katrina in
New Orleans.

“Pictures do no justice,” O’Brien said
when talking about the ravaged city. “It
was absolutely shocking, it was like a war
/smorn city.”

The bleak setting had its successes in the
shadow of massive failure. Those fail-
ures were the lack of supplies delivered in
a timely manner to the city by the Federal
Emergency Management Agency, O’Brien
did. She referenced her time covering the
tsunami when supplies arrived two days
later. FEMA took longer while operating
within traditional thinking.

Thinking outside the traditional, O’Brien
shared the case of two released
convicts who were asked to help out in
rescue efforts, and without the ability to
swim would dive into deep waters to save
trapped seniors. They went on to consid-
ered top men in the efforts.

By letting circumstance dictate their
character and not the traditional way of
their troubled background, O’Brien said
a lot of good was accomplished.

Diversity can help with shaping out-of-
the-box thinking, she said.

“It casts a wider net,” O’Brien said.

If even one student cannot pay for health
insurance, then we must be behind that one
student.

Altanese Phenelus, senator of Arts and Sciences
SGC-MMC

students who don’t have health insurance”
the resolution states.

O’BRIEN, page 1
Miami hosts oldest book fair
University professors part of featured authors this year

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

Three professors from the English Department at the Biscayne Bay Campus will be part of the world’s oldest and largest book fair in the nation. The Miami International Book Fair, which is free to the public, will take place Nov. 8 to Nov. 15 at Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus, located at 401 N.E. 2nd Ave.

Les Standiford, director of the Creative Writing Program in the English Department at BBC, John Dufresne, professor of creative writing and Florida Book Award Winner, and Meri-Jane Rochelson, associate chair of the English Department, will be among the authors featured at this year’s book fair.

Standiford is the author of Last Train to Paradise, a biography published September 2006 about Henry Flagler, an oilman who helped establish Florida as a vacation destination and dream of building a railroad from Miami to Key West. The Labor Day hurricane of 1935 tampered that dream.

A winner of the Frank O’Connor Award for short fiction and mystery writer, Standiford will give fair-goers an in-depth look inside the novel he edited about crime and punishment, Miami Noir, published in November 2006.

Standiford was not available for comment despite several attempts. Dufresne will be reading Requiem, Mass, a novel published in July 2008 about an eighth grade boy who struggles to keep his family from falling apart.

Dufresne’s eighth book, set to be released in February 2010, is called Is Life Like This?, a workbook that teaches its readers how to write a novel.

Dufresne, who has had two of his novels named “notable books of the year” by The New York Times, said the Miami International Book Fair keeps students informed and exposed to the literary world.

“I think it’s important to know what is up in our contemporary and literary culture and with the stories people are telling,” he said. “Literature is alive and well and students will see some of the most important writers in the country.”

Rochelson said the book fair is not only exciting because there is food to eat and souvenirs to buy, but because people get the chance to become “immersed in the world of books”.

“In 26 years, the book fair has really grown to be an international event, it’s a stop for national event, it’s a stop for the writers, readers and aspiring writers,” Rochelson said. “It’s one of the most exciting things in Miami.”

Rochelson will be reading A Jew in the Public Arena: The Career of Israel Zangwill, page 5.

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HALLOWEEN PARTIES

ON CAMPUS

The Office of Campus Life and Orientation at the Biscayne Bay Campus will host “Monster Mash,” a Michael Jackson-themed costume party. It will take place in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms Oct. 30 from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Entry is free for students with valid Panther ID. The entry fee for the rest of the community is $3.

The party will feature a “costume contest” where the top three contestants will receive a Michael Jackson poster, and a Michael Jackson impersonation contest, the major event of the night, in which the winners will receive Michael Jackson CDs. The first prize includes a special Michael Jackson DVD.

There will also be a live DJ all night, as well as free food, drinks and giveaways.

NEAR CAMPUS

Many bars and lounges will be hosting Halloween parties, and they are all free.

• Billy’s Pub Too, 732 N.E. 125th St., North Miami. There will be a Halloween-themed party Oct. 30 and Oct. 31 until 5 a.m. Everybody gets in free, but students must be 21 and over.

Women of the costume contests will receive prizes, such as a house tab. Regular happy hour specials will be honored from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Specials include 56 pitchers of domestic beers.

For more information, call (305) 899-9986.

• Royal Lounge, 13750 W. Dixie Hwy, North Miami. A Halloween-themed party will take place Oct. 31, from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. Everyone gets in free, but students must be 21 and over.

There will be a costume contest, but prizes have yet to be announced.

Regular happy hour specials are drinks and $1 off beers will be honored. Free shots will be given away every night throughout the party.

For more information, call 305-893-8054.

• Miami Prime Grill, 16595 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach. Miami Prime Halloween Bash on Oct. 31 from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Everyone gets in free, but students must be 21 and over.

There will be a costume contest, beer pong tournament, ice luge and DJ entertainment. Cash prizes for the costume contest are $300 for first place, $150 for second place and $75 for third. The winner of the beer pong tournament will receive a $100 gift card for the winner.

Specials will include: $2 house shots; $3 jager shots; $4 Patron shots; $17 bucks and $5 drinks from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. Drinks include martinis, long islands, mojitos, and Hennessy and coke.

For more information, call 305-949-5101.

• Compiled by Pamela Duque and Charity Vergara

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WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Dress up and play as your favorite character

Halloween is tomorrow, and holy, the holiday is all about dressing up for a night, but refuse to think the fun should only be about the costume.

This year, I was deciding between dressing up as Sally Albright from When Harry Met Sally, or Kathleen Kelly from You’ve Got Mail.

I can easily impersonate someone who is denying that she is in love with a friend, like Sally, or a shop owner in love with someone she met online, like Kathleen, but there’s no fun in that unless you’re in that character. So I walk into a deli, I think of when Sally fakes an orgasm inside a deli, and small grocery stores reminisce of the scene from You’ve Got Mail when Joe Fox talks to the clipboard letting Kelly pay with credit in a cash-only line.

To kill two birds with one stone, I went to St. Petersburg Deli, 1780 Collins Ave., Sunny Isles, to help make my final decision about whom to impersonate on Halloween. This place is a Russian grocery store with a small deli, and it is adorable!

They sell Russian beer and food, and a variety of European chocolate. Since I have a weak spot for any chocolate from the brand Kinder, it was torture resisting the purchase.

I had mashed potatoes with veggies on the side and a slice of whole wheat toast for $5. And yes, I did my best to order with the same obsessive nature that Sally has.

The food was great. The potatoes were a bit chunky and the vegetables were cooked together in what looked like a stew. It had eggplant, tomatoes, tomatotes and other veggies. I did not recreate the famous scene when I ate there, but I did get to relive a scene from You’ve Got Mail.

There is a $10 minimum for credit, so my $5 purchase wasn’t enough. Sadly, I didn’t have anyone come and convince the woman behind the counter to let me pay with a credit card, but that incident did make my outfit choice easier. Since I lived out a scene from the movie, how could I not be Kathleen? I feel more connected to her character, except I still need to work on finding someone to fall in love with over the internet.

Let’s say for Halloween you want to be Leonardo, my favorite ninja turtle from “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.”

Sure, you could put on a green shell and call it a night, but where is the fun in that?

If you already know what you are going to be, there are no excuses not to think outside the box.

If you decide to be Leonardo, Miami-Dade County officials may not be OK with your hanging out in a sewer, and neither would your friends, but you can go out for a turtle’s favorite pizza!

I went to Venera Pizza and Cafe on 13452 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami. Unfortunately, I didn’t go wearing a costume to get a feel for where a crime-fighting teenage turtle would hang out. But I would totally recommend it. Venera Pizza is a great whole-in-the-wall pizza joint that will fit the theme perfectly – minus the rat.

There is something about a hole in the wall that is just attractive and spooky enough for Halloween.

I went to this place with my friends Victoria and Sergio, the Donello and Michelangelo to my Leonardo, and ordered a slice of tomato pizza for $3.73.

It usually freaks me out when I have to watch someone make my food, so when the guy making the pizza didn’t put on gloves as he reached for the tomatoes, I wanted to die.

God knows when he washed his hands last, and now his germs were on my pizza.

After I convinced myself that all the germs from his hands would burn off of the pizza, I ordered a slice of pepperoni.

The front area of the place is just bar stools. In the back, there is a dining area that is somewhat hidden from the outside, where a lack of privacy and help if you don’t want anyone to see you in a costume.

The pizza is nothing special until you eat the super doughy crust. I think the turtles would approve.

TOMORROW when you dress up as a mouse, Turtles block or ghost, go all out and place your character in the right scene.

Go to a restaurant and order something cheesy, play Tetris all day, but hang out in a grave yard. Halloween is about letting go and taking on a new character. Why not play around with it?

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area.

If you have any suggestions, e-mail pameladuque@fi usm.com. The columnist pays for all food and experiences.
Students can mingle with more than 300 authors

FAIR, page 4

will, a literary biography published in December 2008. "Zangwill was a part of the Women’s Suffrage movement, the Zionist movement and the Anti-War movement in the early 20th century," she said. "He is the first Jewish celebrity of the 20th century, he’s very famous and not a lot of people know about him, that is why I chose to write about this."

Rochelson is the co-editor of Transforming Genres and New Approaches to British Fiction, which she wrote with Nikki Lee Manos.

A buzz has already been circulating around BBC even for students who have never been to the Miami International Book Fair. "I’ve never been to any book fair, but I would love to see what kinds of authors are coming; I’m curious," I’m a firm believer that you are coming; I’m curious.

The book fair’s main attraction are the more than 300 national and international authors, who will conduct readings, discussions and answer questions from their readers. In its 26th year, Miami hosted its first two-day book fair called Books by the Bay in 1984.

As the fair attracted more book-lovers and authors, the event grew so large that by the 1980s it was renamed the Miami International Book Fair, becoming the largest literary festival in the country, according to the fair’s official Web site.

Several noted authors like Anne Rice, Tom Wolfe and Alice Walker among hundreds of other famous authors have presented their work at this annual fair. Rice is most famous for her first book, Interview with the Vampire, published in 1976, which was later turned into a motion picture: 1994’s Interview with the Vampire, starring Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise.

Wolfe’s first book, The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby, a collection of articles about life in the ’60s, was published in 1965. The book catapulted Wolfe’s career paving the way for him to become an established writer in mainstream media.

Wolfe is also known widely for his novel, A Man in Full, published in November 1998, about a 60-year-old Atlanta real estate developer facing bankruptcy and a 23-year-old manual laborer in California, who works in the freezer unit of a wholesale food store.

After many trials, both characters are faced with the question of what is a fulfilled human being.

A Man in Full was in The New York Times best seller list for 10 weeks and has sold nearly 1.4 million copies.


Many students are fans of the book fair and are looking forward to attending this year. Jorge Amador, a graduate student in public relations said he has been attending the fair since the seventh grade.

Amador said it was good to be exposed to the different points of views through the discussions at the fair. He remembered a discussion last year about how blacks and Hispanics are portrayed in the media. "It seems the only time minorities are in the newspapers it is to talk about something bad that has happened in an urban community," said Amador. "It was very exciting; the book fair keeps literature relevant."

DONATE TO WIN

SWEET VICTORY: Delio Morato, a graduate assistant in Campus Life (right), gives his contact information to Desiree Rodriguez, chief of staff for External Relations (left), after winning a raffle at the United Way Kick Off in Panther Square Oct. 28.

Published three times a week, the Beacon can be found all across FIU’s campus.

With both door-to-door and an rack distribution we can be found on the University Park, Biscayne Bay, Pines Center, and Engineering campuses as well as the UP and BBC dorms every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

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ASK ABOUT ARMY NURSE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND ARMY ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS!
Internet junkies: Time to get off Web

FAREED ISAAC
Contributing Writer

Undoubtedly, technology is constantly changing our society. It has altered the way we gather information, consume news and keep in touch with others. We use technological devices on a daily basis and it is a very common part of our lives – and perhaps, because of this constant use, these devices alter our own minds.

A growing number of scientists believe this is the case. Texting and even Facebook can definitely distract individuals from doing other tasks, but what researchers are more concerned about is if our own brains will eventually turn into what is being called “plastic brains.”

Perhaps this has something to do with how we express emotions. Songs that used to express love through actual words and feelings are now about sending text messages with smiley faces and abbreviations. Take the song by Trey Songz, called “LOL Smiley Face.”

The song illustrates the quintessential “guy likes girl” story, but technology permeates; throughout the song the girl sends the guy text messages about how she likes him. In return, the guy sends her text messages with the heartfelt word: LOL, and a digital smiley face.

Special guests, events give students an edge

When you live on campus, there are always perks and events to fill your schedule.

Living in a residential hall not only brings such benefits as being close to your classes and proximity to everything the University has to offer, but this also brings advantages such as having everything at an arms stretch while putting your own unique spin on Rocky Horror.

The production – complete with silhouetted fellatio, a Speedo-clad Aryan and a time warp dance – was a joy that culminated in a transsexual orgy that made me feel like both washing and clapping my hands.

It was a crowd-pleaser and made me wonder what other performances like Rocky Horror were put on by the very capable Theater Department. The answer was a little depressing: not soon.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show was produced by asking all “virgins” (those who haven’t seen the show before) on stage to mimic an orgasm, setting the tone for the rest of the night.

Acts performed alongside the film, which was shown on a screen (called shadow-casting), while putting their own unique spin on Rocky Horror.

An infusion of funds from the University could guarantee even more theater shows students could enjoy.

Money being as sparse as it is today’s society has it gotten to the point that one person cannot tell the other how they feel, whether it is romantic or not?

Gary Small, author of iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind, writes, “As the brain evolves and shifts its focus toward new technological skills, it drifts away from fundamental social skills.”

I have to say I agree with him. Computers and technology are not necessarily a terrible thing but before people begin social networking, they need to learn to make real relationships with people first – face to face, without Facebook.

Technology has gotten our society addicted to flashy screens and fuzzy buttons, and this change is progressively growing on us.

I have a laptop, a cell phone, Facebook account, surf the Web regularly, send electronic love letters and purchase socks online. But isn’t this part of an American’s normal lifestyle?

Americans are accustomed to having everything at an arms stretch and are practically connected to power outlets; but it wouldn’t be such a disaster if we disconnect ourselves and power off for a little while.

This is just more proof that technology permeates; throughout the song the girl sends the guy text messages about how she likes him. In return, the guy sends her text messages with the heartfelt word: LOL, and a digital smiley face.

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NIGHT O’ FRIGHT
Halloween festivities abound throughout Magic City

CHRISTOPHER NECULUE
Editor in Chief

In many ways, Halloween is the perfect night to live in Miami. It’s the one night a year locals take to the streets to let loose and be themselves — that is, by not being themselves.

This town has no shortage of excuses to don that costume you’ve been thinking of all month long; and because the haunted eye falls on a Saturday this year, you can rest assured that the parties will go to all hours and all weekend.

Here are a few haunts to keep in mind when you and some of your favorite ghosts and gals take on the night.

COCONUT GROVE

Those veterans of Halloween in Miami know that the biggest party is in the Grove. There are always excesses of food, alcohol and college students at this party; it’s so big, it spills into the streets into a full-fledged block party.

This year’s event is appropriately themed after the late King of Pop’s most well-known album, Thriller. Thriller Night in Coconut Grove promises to treat you to a fair share of prominent local DJs and Michael Jackson impersonators.

As expected, there will be the usual slew of costume contests around the various moon-walking competitions, with up to $3,500 up for grabs in cash prizes.

The festivities will go from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. Tickets are $30, but it gets you access to all the entertainment and an open bar compliments of Miller Beer and Kilo Kai Rum. All proceeds of this event will go to Shake-A-Leg Miami, a local charity for disabled and at-risk youth.

SOUTH BEACH

If salty ocean air is more your thing, head over to South Beach on All Hallow’s eve with Lincoln Road dialed into your GPS. The Van Dyke Cafe, located at 846 Lincoln Road will be having another Halloween block party, this one voodoo themed.

Guests can enjoy a live concert by New Orleans blues group Iko Iko in the upstairs lounge, which promises to take guests to the “origins of voodoo.”

One way or the other, Van Dyke’s has a lot to offer in terms of moderately priced brews, with domestic bottles for $4 and imports for $5. You can also enjoy one of Van Dyke’s signature cocktails, like the Mango Cosmo or the Orange Mojito, all promise to satisfy your sweet tooth.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Five blogs contain fantastic content for cooking fanatics

The blogosphere is home to many subjects, ranging from important social issues to the most frivolous of celebrity gossip. Thankfully for us foodies, recipe and entertaining blogs fall somewhere in the middle, offering a plethora of knowledge that can be used to our advantage.

Without further adieu, here’s a look at five food blogs that stand out.

COLLEGE FOOD EXPERIMENTS collapseofapartments.blogspot.com

College Food Experiments is written by Alyse, a busy biology/anthropology major with a penchant for dorm room dining. Content includes novice-friendly recipes, articles on topics such as the “Freshman 15” and a list of the supplies every college dorm resident needs in order to get cooking.

I recommend this blog for those who need inspiration for a quick, cheap, easy meal without going bankrupt in the process.

BAKERELLA www.bakerella.com

Along with cookie, cake and pastry recipes with bright step-by-step photographs to match, the tour-de-force of this blog is the on-going series of Cake Pop recipes.

Cake Pops – a mixture of cake and cream cheese to make them moldable – were first introduced as simple candy coated spheres, but clever ideas for them have been established for various occasions such as graduation, Christmas and the fast-approaching Halloween This is a blog that will offer fun, simple dessert options to satisfy your sweet tooth.

ALMOST VEGETARIAN almostvegetarian.blogspot.com

This blog covers all things healthy – namely vegetarian recipes, cookbooks reviews and articles regarding nutrition, diet and the benefits of organic living.

There are also some recipes for indulgent desserts made with vegetarian or vegan ingredients – all of the decadence, but half the calories.

If you’re thinking seriously about going green in terms of your eating habits, then you should think seriously about checking this blog regularly.

HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS (HWMT)

This blog is updated daily with food,
NEON NIGHTS

South Dade spots serve ambience along with liquor

W e have a saying here in Miami that I believe goes “Shots! Shots! Shots! Everybody!” and “Dale, que tu puedas!” Can there be a balance between having a comfortable place to knock back a few beers and a place to eat and converse without having to listen to...and...uhh...?” There’s an old saying in Madrid, “When you eat, you drink. When you drink, you eat.” I like that balance.

I usually try to stay away from the typical big load bars with bad food. My hearing is already suffering from the two-for-one drink specials anywhere always translates into More-for-Me. Tuesdays and nights attract the young, indie college-age crowd that enjoy an occasional guest DJ set. When it comes to gastronomy, Fox’s is all about the comfort food, but I like to come here when they have a special on lobster tails.

In the same neighborhood as Fox’s is The Irish Times, on 5850 Sunset Drive. I came here late one Monday and wasn’t too sure what the hype was about. OK, so it’s Irish. But Irish I never bothered with this place – no kisses from me. The fish and chips are just about the only thing I know that I would come back for. The location of this bar, however, is great because you can walk to nearby Sunset Place, or the sushi bar of this bar, however, is great because you can

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The interior design of this sushi is beautiful and the service is perfect. Certain dialogue falls flat, and how many times can you describe how good the food is? They can also offer outdoor seating.

For the beer lovers out there, there is Yardhouse in Merrick Park on 320 San Lorenzo Ave. Yardhouse is massive. I went there for the first time last week and while I was looking for my seated friends, I took note of the food being served. It is quintessentially American: big portions, mountains of mashed potatoes, alpha male burgers and pizza. I won’t pretend that I am an expert on beer, but I have never been so overwhelmed with a seemingly inexhaustible list of beers. I chose the beer that for some reason or another jumped out at me: the Snakebite.

Yes, Halloween is coming up. Zombie wannabes all across Miami will be moaning for brains and “paat-rick-ling.” Whatever your plans are for the weekend, I suggest that you keep your wits about you: drunken vampires and pretty puking sex bunnies will be on those slick black late night streets.

I can’t understand why someone would risk a DUI or death when just lying down and passing out in the backseat is so much safer. I’m no one to judge, but I do have advice: responsibly drink and eat a big meal. The Spanish were onto something clever when they realized it was better to serve tapas and food with the flavor than to serve a bland, flat, and flavorless meal.

“Sober Night” is a weekly column focusing on Miami nightlife. Look for it every Friday in The Beacon and on FIUSM.com.

Van Dyke’s. The band hits the stage at 9 p.m. Halloween night.

DOWNTOWN MIAMI

If driving to the beaches sounds too scary even for Halloween night, stay on the main land and head over to the downtown for a bevy of entertainment options.

For the real big party in downtown head to club Space, located at 34 NE 11th St. The Miami Herald voted club Space the No. 1 nightclub in Miami for 2009, just in case you needed convincing.

The party starts at 11 p.m. and goes – and goes. Just get ready to dance with DB Boonts, Clay Gerber and countless others going into the wee hours. Presale tickets are just $20 and available online at clubspace.com.

Want something a little more intimate? Visit the iconic club XS14 located at 28 NE 14th Street for the last time, as Halloween 2009 will be the last time this club opens its doors.

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**GANGSTER GORE**

**Hip-hop and horror collide to form underground genre**

Kidcrusher promotes the spirit of Halloween everyday. This horrorcore artist especially shows it in his popular YouTube video, “Meet The Monsters.”

Although Kidcrusher’s music has not gone mainstream, it is great to know that a grown man takes the foundation of Halloween so seriously that he has dedicated his life to shooting low-budget videos with his face painted while yelling obscenities into the camera.

Kidcrusher could just go trick-or-treating, but he gave up lollipops and Butterfingers for the thrill of promoting Halloween year-round. With a wild head of hair and a variety of face paint masks, KidCrusher’s favorite character to be is the clown. It looks like he is trying to be to Halloween what Santa Claus is to Christmas. Indeed, Kidcrusher is a lovable, bloodthirsty character that sprays his Halloween carols through violent death-oriented lyrics.

Truthfully, it is a fitting time to take a look at the hip-hop style that is horrorcore, not because of the subpar performances by Kidcrusher and others, but for what it is most of the time. The sub-genre, which can be classified under rap or metal, combines dark lyrics and violence into horror-themed music. It has found a niche and a good following. The reason the music has not been able to surface in the mainstream is obvious, due to its propriety for violent words and thoughts that can include suicide and murder, among other things.

Early versions of Three 6 Mafia’s and Eminem’s music can be described as horrorcore rap. Gravediggaz, a group that has had its propensity for violent words and sub-genre music has not been able to surface in the mainstream can be entertaining, as long as it is listened to for what it is. It is a form of entertainment with horror-themed lyrics, just like going to the movies to watch the latest fright flick.

“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.”

**The top five recipe blogs**

**FOOD, page 7**

Drink, and decor ideas for seasonal celebrations as well as other parties with kitchy themes such as “Alice in Wonderland” or “East Meets West.” It also contains how-to entries on planning a celebration from start to finish or picking out the right mood music. If you’re looking to throw the most elaborate celebration your dorm has ever seen, this blog is a formidable resource for ideas.

**ARABIC BITES**

**andrbites.blogspot.com**

Arabic Bites was created by two sisters from Saudi Arabia with a love for international cuisine as a whole. The entries include recipes for foreign favorites and many occasions, including Ramadan. This blog will allow food fans to travel without leaving their kitchen.

“Food for Thought” is a weekly column reviewing restaurants in the FIU area. Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

**Comic book hero tastes victory of a mystery solved**

**CHEW, page 7**

Evan’s finger, but Mason was the one who killed him. Evan Pepper came to Mason because he was threatened by a chicken smuggling operation, but Mason killed him because he thought Evan knew something about the cause of the bird flu pandemic. The real cause. But Evan didn’t know, and now it’s Tony’s job to go head-to-head with Mason and find out.

“Chew” has action, humor and characters you can really get attached to. In a time when comics are focusing on becoming more realistic, epic and cinematic, “Chew” remembers the most important thing about comics: they’re comics. It knows not to take itself too seriously and focuses on just being fun.

The art is playful, but gruesome when it needs to be. The story is ridiculous and obscene, but also well thought out and enticing. I’ll have as many portions as this series is willing to serve.

“Chew” is a new series from Image Comics. It is written by John Layman and drawn by Rob Guillory.
50% OFF regular admission with student ID after 9pm!

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.

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October 24th & 25th
October 26th & 27th
October 28th & 29th
October 30th
October 31st

5pm – 11pm
Closed at night
7pm – 11pm
5pm – 11pm
5pm – Midnight

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FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Senior D’Haiti finds his way into starting lineup

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

In his five years with the Golden Panthers, O’Darris D’Haiti has commuted from North Miami in order to be a member of the football team. A walk-on, his countless trips on the campus shuttle bus from Biscayne Bay Campus to make it organized team activities are starting to earn him more playing time as a senior.

D’Haiti will start his third consecutive game at cornerback when the Golden Panthers face Louisiana on Oct. 31 at FIU Stadium. Beyond special teams, D’Haiti has never assumed a major role on defense in his career. The senior is now stepping in for an injured Dez Johnson and playing solid coverage.

Proud of him. I think one day we will have all the chance to tell a great story about O’Darris and all the things that he has done and the sacrifices that he’s made to be a member of this football program,” said FIU coach Mario Cristobal. “To be able to be here on time, while at the same time maintaining a tremendously difficult academic load as well as helping out his family and everything else that he does with that.

D’Haiti, who has 21 tackles on the season, often has to find other means to stay up to date when he cannot be on time to OTA’s. Since the NCAA does not allow for the team to give him transportation outside of games, the staff overcomes that with constant communication.

STINGY SECONDARY

The Golden Panthers will need the offensive line to progress if they want to make a run to match last season’s wins, or win the next five contests and become bowl eligible with six victories. Against Louisiana, part of their responsibility will be to give quarterback Paul Paul some time so that he can make good decisions against a Ragin’ Cajun secondary that generates takeaways. UL is first in the conference with 10 interceptions as a team.

“They show a lot of different fronts, they move a lot,” McCall said of UL’s defense. “They do a lot of difficult things in the secondary that a lot of the teams that we play don’t usually do because of how complex they are.”

FIU lost at UL 49-20 last season.

• Cornerback O’Darris D’Haiti is probable to play against UL after injuring a shoulder vs. ASU.

• Cornerback Anthony Guitor is expected to play vs. UL after a shoulder injury be aggravated against ASU.

• Linebacker Winston Fraser will not play on Saturday.

Panthers looking for first ever win against UL

FOOTBALL, page 12

Cedric Mack, Kevin Van Kirk, Jistanch, Bryanna, and Alajajian have all played extensively for stretches and are competing to fill the last two spots on the unit.

“It is not up to our par,” Cristobal said. “Notup to what we have been doing as a team with the schemes that we have been doing. Cristobal added that freshman center Giancarlo Revilla is in the mix for playing time at guard as well, but is being developed especially at center after Serini, a Remington award finalist, recently battled injury.

Matchup with MTSU could settle East Division

FOOTBALL, page 12

Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee, both of whom will try and redeem themselves for their defeats by the hands of the Golden Panthers earlier this season. The match against Middle Tennessee could determine the winner of the East Division, with the Blue Raiders trailing FIU by one game.

“Think it’ll be a good test,” said freshman Chanel Araujo about the upcoming showdown with the Blue Raiders. “They’ll come out really strong because they think they can beat us. But I think that we are a stronger team and we’ll come out fighting just as strong as they will.”

For the team, these two weeks are about finishing what they set out to do from the start and to prepare for the Sun Belt tournament.

“Our whole theme this year is ‘Finish Strong’ and we want to peak at the right time and transfer that to a Sun Belt Championship,” Tomic said. “Our goal is to go undefeated in the conference, but we have to focus on the match we are playing next.”

Accountability, comedy keys to keeping things light

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

MEJIA OFFERS ADVICE

When T.Y. Hilton caught a pass in the first quarter at Arkansas State last Saturday, it was his 18th consecutive game with a reception. Despite a knee injury that knocked him out of most of the game against WKU on Oct. 10, Hilton has played every game since and kept the streak alive. The dynamic sophomore has been a catch in every game since his debut vs. Kansas in 2008.

BERRY GOOD

Wide receiver Kendall Berry is back from an anterior cruciate ligament injury, and he is starting to turn into the player Cristobal recruited in 2007. Over the last two games, his first two of the year, Berry has had six catches for 59 yards, including a touchdown vs. Troy on Oct. 17.

“Kendall was a special guy coming out of high school. He had a [ACL] injury last season, which was disappointing. We’re trying to play him at wide receiver, trying to be that spread guy you can move back into the backfield and can run the football as well. He’s up to 200 pounds, he’s running well.”

STRENGTHENING THE LINE

Senior D’Haiti finds his way into starting lineup

“With us not having a truck, I feel like I’m back in high school, not getting the recognition we should get. Even so the three runners do not say they are at a disadvantage. They are focused with what they must do to win the game. They said rest and eating right the week before helps. Mejia offered additional advice to prepare for the SBC tournament.

“Visualize the race mentally and know that it’s nothing that we haven’t done before,” said Mejia. “He always tells me to be on time, but that’s just him picking on me.”

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We have to do is race and we should receive the results we are expecting.”

The last two events of the season yielded good results. At the Walt Disney World Cross Country Classic on Oct. 9-10, Mejia led all FIU runners with a time of 26:10 in the 8k race, and Castillo finished with a time of 26:33.

The sophomores placed sixth and 11, respectively, out of 205 runners. Canady finished in 26th place out of 279 contestants with a 20:00.60 time.

At the Soderhe Eton Stotten Hatter Invitational Cross Country on Oct. 16, the men’s team finished in sixth place out of 18 teams and the women finished in ninth place out of 20.

MOVING ON UP

FIRST PLACE: The Golden Panthers women’s soccer team marched into first place in the conference following a pair of weekend wins, and moved into the top 10 in the NCAA South Region ranking, tied at 10 with three teams.

Getting Loose

To cope with the pressure from a big meet, Castillo reverts to comedy to relieve the tension.

“We definitely keep everyone relaxed,” said Canady. “Every time we lose a meet, Castillo reverts to comedy to relieve the tension.

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Golden Panthers look for push up front

Jonathan Ramos
Asst. Sports Director

In the first game of the season against Alabama, FIU coach Mario Cristobal comfortably started five upperclassmen on his offensive line. By the third contest, the comfort level stymied as Cristobal began to tinker with his starting unit. Now, heading into a home matchup with Louisiana (4-3, 2-1 Sun-Belt) on Oct. 31 for the first place volleyball team in the tournament but our team is different and their team is different this season because of individual’s responsible characters.

The most recent shakeup on the offensive line saw freshman Rupert Bryan inserted at tackle over senior Joe Alajajian at Arkansas State. Cristobal said Bryan, who played roughly 20 plays, graded out well. “He did well, Rupert is a very good football player,” Cristobal said. “He’s athletic. He’s explosive. He played against [SBC preseason Defensive Player of the Year Alex Carrington] and he was good.”

Cristobal added that against ASU the starting offensive line as a whole did not perform better the previous games, however, and that more lineup changes are possible. The third-year coach said that he inserted Bryan at tackle to challenge Alaja-}

FOOTBALL, page 11

Volleyball hoping to avoid late season meltdown to SBC foes

Joel Delgado
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers have rolled through their Sun Belt schedule so far, going undefeated and relatively unscathed by their conference opponents.

But as the wins continue to pile up, the target on their backs grows larger with five conference foes preparing for the opportunity to dash the Panthers’ hopes of a perfect Sun Belt West Division, will have their shot to take down the Golden Panthers on Saturday and Sunday. Playing three games in three days will be a challenge for the squad, but they feel prepared for it.

“It’s going to be a challenge for us,” said Coach Daniela Tomic. “The Louisiana trip is going to be tough because we have to play three matches in three days and travel from one city to another. But every team does that so we have to do the same. New Orleans beat us last year in the tournament but our team is different and their team is different so it’s a whole new ball game. It’s going to be a good test for us.”

The following weekend marks the conclusion of the Sun Belt regular season schedule, pitting the Golden Panthers against their two most formidable Sun Belt rivals.