Outdoor events

UPCOMING EVENTS
Organic Hippo, Nov. 29-30, 7 p.m. Enjoy a vegetarian feast with admission to this event, homemade bread, planter's polka, and community provided foods.

SNOWPOOLS
For all youtrue blue fans of the University of Florida's Blue Wave men's teams, join us as we bring you the first Snowpool for the season.

WINTER HOLIDAYS
Take a photo with our holiday-themed Photo Booth in the Student Union and share your photo with us on Facebook and Twitter.

SPORTS PAGE 1

Jorge Valens, Asst. News Director

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus conducted its annual Panther Safety Walk, an assessment of various security issues around Modesto Maidique Campus.

The walk, headed by SCC-MMC vice president, Mykaelle Figuereido, sought to address the security concerns SCC-MMC had with areas on campus, as well as discover new ones.

Both FIU Police Chief Bill King and Emergency Management Director Dorothy Miller participated in the walk, addressing questions and concerns as they walked along.

“We had great involvement from SGA,” King said in an interview with Student Media. “Students pointed out things that we may not be aware of and then it helps students and SGA see what we’re confronted with as far as public safety.”

Parking and Transportation representative, Lazaro Rodriguez, was also present to address any issues regarding parking.

During the walk, one of the problems King and others pointed out was poor lighting in some parts of campus.

Walk points out safety risks

Jorge Valens, Asst. News Director

FIU Police plans to attend the upcoming game versus the University of Florida on Nov. 21 should know certain regulations and information regarding the UF stadium and its surrounding area.

Driving directions to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium are as follows: Take the Florida Turnpike north until you run into I-75. Take the I-75 exit and continue northward on I-75 until you reach exit 76-387 (Newberry Rd./Rte. 26). Take the exit and turn right to head east on Newbury Road until you reach Gale Lemerand Drive. Turn right on Gale Lemerand Drive and you will find the stadium on your left. Expect to spend about 5 1/2 hours on the road.

Parking is limited at the stadium, so plan to arrive early as the spots are on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Another transportation option is a bus from Miami to Gainesville. Miami Bus Service is selling round trip tickets to the event for $50, which includes bus fare leaving at 3 p.m. on Friday and heading back to Miami at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

As far as a place to stay, Gainesville is far from short on lodging. According to www.hotel-guides.com, there are 35 hotels and motels in and around the UF campus, with per-night rates beginning as low as $64.95. In addition, numerous campgrounds can

FOOTBALL, page 2

David Barrios, Staff Writer

The systematic murder of six million people during World War II has fueled the life of Dr. Efraim Zuroff.

A native son of Brooklyn, New York, Zuroff, 61, is now the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem and has spent the last 30 years pushing for the investigation and prosecution of former Nazi war criminals worldwide.

“Many times, when I meet people, the reaction is ‘You mean to say that there are Nazi war criminals that are still alive?’ You mean there is someone still to chase?” Zuroff said.

Zuroff spoke to a crowd of hundreds on Nov. 17 in the Paul Cejas Architecture Building to discuss his work and his newest book, Operation: Last Chance, which discusses his work throughout the decades.

According to Zuroff, between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, 85 new cases against Nazi war criminals have been opened in seven countries. He also stated that during that same period there

Zuroff, page 2

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

FIU Police reported on Tuesday that student Tom Daniels, who has been missing since Nov. 2, called 911 three days after he disappeared, according to the University.

Daniels, a law student, was reported missing Nov. 11, nine days after he was last seen. He called Miami Beach Police Department on Nov. 5 and was transported by fire rescuers to Mount Sinai Medical Center. However, the hospital stated that there is no record of Daniels being treated or registered there, according to FIU Police Chief Bill King.

“It could be viewed as unusual that they didn’t have any contact with him or treated or registered him, but the assumptions may be that he just walked out once he got there,” King told Student Media.

FIU Police is investigating the case and working with Miami Beach Police Department, who was in contact with Daniels on Nov. 5.

King also said that Daniels has exchanged e-mails with a law professor a couple of days after he was last seen.

King told Student Media that people have called claiming possible sightings of Daniels.

Some of Daniels’ relatives who are in Miami are looking for him and have checked many locations; they have been in contact with some people who “thought that they saw Tommy within the past couple of days,” King said.

King told Student Media that officers asked people who were with Daniels before he disappeared why it took them nine days to report the case.

“We would have liked to have heard more information earlier and if we had that information, perhaps he would have been located earlier because we would have entered him in the system much sooner,” he told Student Media.

The people said they thought Daniels would show up, and they were looking for him on their own as well, according to King.

It is not the first time that FIU Police investigates missing person cases.

“We never had a person who has been gone this long after they were reported missing. It is not unusual on a college campus, but typically the person does show up,” King said. “We are just looking at any leads that would take us to him.”

He said that University President Mark Rosenberg and Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, have also been in contact with Daniels’ family.

Daniels is the FIJI house director and a third-year law student.

Daniels is 6-feet-5. He was last seen at Cici’s Pizza, near the University’s Modesto Maidique Campus. He was entered into both the National Crime Information Center and the Federal Citizen Information Center as a missing person on Nov. 11.

Any information about Daniels should be given to FIU Police. They can be reached at 305-348-2626.
Preparation for ‘The Swamp’

FOOTBALL, page 1

The Beacon – Friday, November 20, 2009

Zuroff discusses new book, most notable prosecutions

FOOTBALL, page 1

Preparing for ‘The Swamp’

Zuroff discusses new book, most notable prosecutions

FOOTBALL, page 1

Consultant to assess campus’ dim-lit areas

STILL HUNTING: Efraim Zuroff (left) came to FIU to speak about his new book and his most notable prosecutions in capturing the last remaining Nazi war criminals, who are now in their 80s and 90s.

Zuroff, page 1

U.S. military officers without noting their actions in the dozens of camps established during the Holocaust.

Zuroff acknowledges that most of the escapes he is currently searching for are in their 80s and 90s.

“We realized that time is running out and that we have to be more proactive in our search,” Zuroff said.

That is why Zuroff and his office in the Wiesenthal Center started “Operation: Last Chance,” a final attempt at searching for and prosecuting those escaping criminals who are still alive.

Financial rewards are offered to people who can offer information that can lead to prosecution and punishment of the war criminals.

Zuroff discussed some of the most notable cases he’s worked on, including the search for Sandor Kepiro, Dinko Šakić and Joseph Mengele.

After an American informant told authorities that Mengele was arrested and released in Vienna in 1946, suspicions were raised once again about the whereabouts of the former head physician at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

“I was the person asked to find him,” Zuroff said.

It was later discovered that Mengele had died in Brazil in 1979.

Šakić, a Croatian, was commander of the Jasenovac concentration camp during the war and ordered the hanging of 20 Jewish internes after they attempted escape in 1944.

“We found out that he was living in Argentina and we exposed him there and had him extradited to Croatia. It became a precedent. It changes the whole discussion among the public about this topic,” Zuroff said. He added that this led to the push for “Operation: Last Chance.”

Zuroff also spoke about his hunt for Arbeim Heim, a former Nazi doctor who operated on Jewish prisoners without anesthesia.

“At a certain point, we thought we had him. We were told that he lives on a very large island called Chiloe in Chile. About nine months ago, there was a report from The New York Times that Heim died in Cains,” Zuroff said.

According to the reports, sent by Heim’s son, Heim had converted to Islam and been buried in a mass grave.

“Six months he said he had lost touch with his father and he had no contact with him. Then he claimed he was in close contact,” Zuroff said.

Zuroff questions the truth of this report and has not closed the case.

“I think it great to bring somebody that is an expert on the subject and to make things aware to the FIU community of what’s happening and the effort that is being made to bring these Nazis into justice,” said Daleth Aronson, FIU alumn.

After a standing ovation from the audience, Zuroff signed copies of his book for the attendees.

He added that they were “expensive to maintain” and that the University was “locked in to it” as their removal would be hard to bring about and would cause criticism.

King said that the amount of money spent on the call boxes to maintain, repair and replace them if necessary, is “not really that cost effective.”

He also mentioned that the amount of officials patrolling campus fall victim to a diminishing budget.

He said that despite the department’s current staffing problem, he feels that the amount of officers employed by the University is “adequate.”

During the safety walk, King mentioned that there is an average of four officers patrolling campus at all times.

In the recently released 2009-10 Campus Crime Report, burglary and motor vehicle theft cases on campus have dropped slightly, from 121 cases in 2007 to 117 in 2008.

King said that the Panther Safety Walk went well, and she plans to follow up on all the issues that were discussed.

She added she thinks it is good that the University is bringing in a consultant to address the lighting issue on campus.

“We’re only students and we can only see what we see, a consultant can much better say what we really need,” Figureiro said.

Students with any concerns regarding security issues on campus can contact FIU Police at 305-348-2626 or can leave a comment on the SGC-MMC Web site at www.fiu.edu/~sga.
Campus observes full day to eliminate violence

Students learn to prevent abuse against women

**ASHELY SALAMANCA**  
Staff Writer

Some women at the Biscayne Bay Campus learned how to recognize violence against them, how to prevent it, and even how to fight it – literally.

The United Nations’ “Internation- 

day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women,” which is annually observed on Nov. 25, to bring awareness to the violence and oppression that women face worldwide, was observed at BBC on Nov. 18.

This is the first year that the University observes the day, which was originally ratified at the United Nations’ General Assembly on Dec. 17, 1999. This date marks the anniversary of the murder of three sisters in the Dominican Republic in 1960.

The Mirabal sisters, political activists against the Trujillo regime, were brutally murdered while on their way to visit their imprisoned husbands, who were also outspoken activists for human rights.

The observance on campus replaced “Take Back the Night!”, an event held in April during previous years as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It was held every year since 2005, but it didn’t draw much attention because it would take place at night, according to Rebecca Joseph, senior psychology major and part of the Women’s Center at the University.

The day-long events at BBC, which were co-sponsored by the Women’s Center, International Student and Scholar Services, the BBC Student Government Council, and the I-WEEK Committee, started with poetry readings about violence against women by members of On Point Poetry, a student club on campus. Ana Pierre-Louis, On Point Poetry president and senior hospitality major, was happy to be part of the day’s events.

She read one of her poems, which was based on her admiration for her mother’s strength.

“We always try to be a part of anything going on at school, and we’ve participated in the past when it was ‘Take Back the Night’,” Pierre-Louis said. “This is a topic that a lot of our poets have written about already.”

Students also took part in “Take Back the Night”, a chant with lyrics about women who are not controlled by fear and speak up against violence.

The chant took place at the Peace Pole, located between the Wolfe University Center and the Marine Science Building.

The day also included a presentation by guest speaker Ada Alvarez, a graduate student who spoke about her experience as a student journalist covering domestic violence in Puerto Rico.

Disturbed by her findings, Alvarez wrote _Lo Que No Dije_ (What I Didn’t Say) at age 16. The book was published when she was 19, making her the youngest published author in Puerto Rico.

“I was astonished to see that 55 to 57 percent of all victims of domestic violence reported to police were between 12 and 24 years old in Puerto Rico,” she said. “In Miami-Dade County, it is almost the same. Sixty-two percent of victims are between 12 and 29 years old.”

Alvarez said she wants students to learn how to prevent violent behaviors from occurring in a relationship, specifically with dating violence.

In Florida, dating violence needs to fulfill three characteristics in order to allow a victim to file for an injunction for protection against the offender: the couple must have been in a relationship for at least six months at the time of the crime, there must have been a romantic interest between the couple, and proof that the relationship wasn’t a one-time occurrence, such as a one-night-stand, according to Alvarez.

“Based on the law, you can ask for an injunction, but it becomes difficult because there needs to be proof that there was a relationship before you can get any protection,” Alvarez said.

She told the audience that one out of four college students has been involved in a violent relationship, and one out of two females has fallen victim to stalking.

She told students how to recognize signs of violent and abusive behavior in a partner.

In addition to physical abuse, she explained that throwing objects, being emotionally control-

ling and manipulative, and stalking are warning signs to look out for in a relationship.

After Alvarez’s presentation, about eight women went to the aero-

tics room in the Recreation Center to learn how to defend themselves against a violent aggressor that may try to forcibly grab, choke, or even stab them.

The defense exercise was led by Nicholson Geffrard, a law enforce-

ment officer from the University’s Police Department.

Speaking up: Ana Pierre-Louis, On Point Poetry Club president and senior hospitality major, recites a poem in honor of women’s struggles for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women at the Peace Pole on Nov. 18.

Recreation Center gives away turkeys to fastest runners

**SABRENA JOHNSON**  
Staff Writer

Students will run, walk and trot off pounds to get ready for the holiday season. But they will also run for a Thanksgiving turkey.

The Recreation Center will have its 22nd annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 25 at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The competition will start at 3 p.m. outside the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and is open to all students.

Both students and non-students can sign up for the event.

There will be two divisions for the competition. A group of competitors can run, and the other can walk to the finish line. The prize: a turkey.

The Recreation Center has hosted this event at BBC for the past 22 years to encourage students to exercise, according to Jonathan Torrey, recreation specialist.

“The purpose of the event is to promote health and fitness to the FIU students, faculty and staff by encouraging a healthy lifestyle,” he said. “It’s also a good way to invite people from the outside community to BBC.”

The first 10 runners from each division to cross the finish line will receive a free turkey.

“Even though it’s the day before Thanksgiving, we always have a big turnout,” said Jennifer Millon, also a recreation specialist.

Formal registration is not required. Participants can just show up the day of the race and sign the race waiver. They will receive numbers to wear on their T-shirts, which is how the winners will be identified.

“There are no special qualifications to participate, and we will accommodate special needs,” Torrey said.

The 3K walk/run, which equals about 1.86 miles, will start at the HTM patio. The participants will run or walk alongside the bay, then return down the same path back to the HTM building. The first person to cross the finish line will also receive a Thanksgiving basket along with the free turkey, Torrey said.

The event is free and open to the general public.

“A lot of the members of the Recreation Center come out and participate,” said Millon. “It’s a really nice event.”

For more information, contact Recreation Center at 305-919-5678.
Changes abound for Hulu

TV site considers forgetting free service

JUSTIN JANS
Contributing Writer

I am a TV show junkie. I am addicted to primetime shows such as “House,” “ Bones,” “CSI.” “Fringe” and anything else that is on around the 8 to 11 p.m. time slot on network television.

College takes up a lot of my time, so I try to get involved in extracurricular activities. So, whenever I miss an episode, I turn to the Internet and visit a nice site called Hulu to catch up.

When Hulu was launched in 2008, an amazing idea was struck. A media triumvirate decided to give viewers access to shows already online, but bring them together to one place. Best of all, it’s free and shows only limited commercials.

This is one of the things that attracted me to the site: the fact that I only have to watch five or six 30-second commercials, and can watch more of a show at a time.

They also include behind-the-scenes clips and interviews with the actors of popular programs. This extra content is provided by the contracted networks. Just as with cable television, we pay for access, while the shows are paid for by advertisements.

For but for Hulu, we pay for an Internet connection, and ads for the episodes we watch.

Unfortunately News Corp., the company that co-owns Hulu, announced considering implementing a fee system for the video Web site. Many viewers fear that once free Hulu will become subscription-only, and they will be charged to view content.

If Hulu goes this route they are most likely going to lose many viewers.

People expect content to be delivered to them for free, albeit with limited commercials, especially since networks place episodes on their own sites.

The only reason people turn to Hulu is due to the fact that the episodes are better in quality and they load much faster compared to other sites. Additionally, Hulu makes it possible to access multiple series at once.

News Corp.’s Chief Digital Officer Jonathan Miller described the situation best. “You have to figure out what are the right bundles that people buy and what’s contained in that bundle,” Miller said, in a Daily Finance article.

Hulu also includes retro and canceled shows that people can rediscover. Just recently I found this show called “The Pretender” from 1996. They also have old movies, such as Dracula and Robin.

Of course, they have the licenses for a limited time, but if they moved to an optional subscription system, those who pay could be allowed to have access to movies for a longer period of time.

If Hulu wants to make money, what it should do is make subscribing optional.

Jack Horner, spokesman for News Corp. said: “A free online video site supported by ads is still the model that will resuscitate most with its largest group of users.”

If someone chooses to pay, then they would view ad-free videos and other benefits like behind-the-scenes vignettes. Whatever they do, Hulu must remember their main audience, which are those who mainly watch their shows on TV, and only watch those episodes they miss out on Internet.

Miami DMVs in dire need of some Virginia influence

MICHAEL FARNHAMI
Contributing Writer

While standing in line at a Department of Motor Vehicles in Miami, I kept wondering why an office located in the middle of a huge city could be so understaffed. I can’t be the only one who feels this way.

Before I moved to Miami, I had been warned about some things I would have to adjust to, such as traffic, which was deemed fifth worst in the U.S. by a Texas A&M study. Another Miami warning was the drivers: atrocious is the single best way to describe the driving down here.

Unfortunately, the beaches of Miami would be enough to mask any blemish I’d encounter on its roads. But then my trip to the DMV happened.

The office was not really an office – it was a cubicle. The bonus was the line, about 35 people long. And as I was standing in it, I looked ahead and saw only one more attendant within this excuse for an office.

On top of this, I found out from this one sole attendant that she could not register my car after all, and that I needed to go to a different office to get my Florida driver’s license first. Then I had to return with it and $450 cash.

Why couldn’t I do all of that in the same office? At a Virginia DMV, I can walk in, step to a front desk and tell an attendant the purpose of my visit. I would be assigned a number and I would wait – sitting down.

Inside, I remember seeing people taking their drivers tests, signing over titles – all the paperwork behind the DMV glass at this said DMV.

As Sarah Palin so aptly pointed out to ABC News, this trial “will be an insult to the victims of 9/11, as Mohamad will... spew his hateful rhetoric in the same neighborhood in which he made his out loud the lies of so many Americans.”

She is so right. Let’s leave the hateful rhetoric where it belongs, in a land where they aren’t so concerned with human rights: Cuba.

Or else terrorists will kidnap your daughter.
The Design District’s monthly art walk gives beach-goers an early start

Driving to the Wynwood Design District to attend the monthly Art & Design Walk is an event itself: blightless buildings proudly bear the stamp of psychedelic graffiti, fire hydrants become undone and spew water into the streets, and just around the corner a pair of rich old ladies wearing heavy jewelry examine a brightly-colored painting inside a white-walled gallery.

Across the street, a guy is dancing with an expressive, possibly drug-induced, fervor to the music of the two-piece band situated inside. The surrealism of this neighborhood only makes it seem natural that this would be the nexus of artistic energy in Miami.

Every second Saturday of the month, the Design District buzzes with color, red wine and beautiful people. The galleries here show off works of art by local artists, and the art is distinct in Miami style with all the thick bold lines, electrified colors and an obsession with all things passionate and pleasurable. While many of the artists are Miami natives, galleries like the Art Fusion gallery or the Spinello gallery feature a variety of culture and art from all over Latin America.

We always dress to impress when we attend, and anyone can get away with dressing like a pop star because, really, you’re just being artsy.

Years ago when the Art & Design Walk first began, it was risky to wander these roads in this part of town from gallery to gallery without a big group. Now, thanks to the successful promotion of the Design District — and the free alcohol being served at most galleries — these streets are filled with people looking for an early jump on their night out. David Lombardi, a local investor, started a similar walk a couple years ago and called it “Roaming Fridays.”

When his Wynwood art walk merged with a similar event in the Design District, the current Art & Design Walk was born. The galleries remain open between 7 and 10 p.m. so, after a few hours of pretending to be able to afford such works of art, you’ll be minutes away from all the nightclubs and bars that are just starting to warm up.

Attending the Art Walk is a sure way to get a head start on the night scene while everyone is at home wondering what the hell they are going to wear or who in God’s name they are going to ride with.

At 10 p.m., my friends and I realized that the night was still young and we suddenly felt re-energized.

The Vagabond, White Room, Electric Pickle (formerly known as Circa 28) and Karaské are all just 10 minutes away, and getting there right after the art walk will make you feel as if you’re VIP with the ease of the bar staff.

The next Art & Design Walk is going to be on Dec. 12. Be sure to look your best and engage the artist: they are usually friendly and open to discussing their works with the observers.

One painting in particular was a bright and colorful underwater scene with a little mustached crab in the corner — presumably the artists’ trademark.

I began to mock the crab: “Bonjour, petit monsieur! C’est bien les poissons?”

At that point, a handsome man with slick-backed hair and beautiful eyes approached me. “Do you like my painting?”

“You’re funny. I makes me feel good to see such a happy crab.” I replied sheepishly. The artist smiled modestly, and cupid struck his arrow in me once again. Not everyone may find art exciting, but as the success behind the Art & Design Walk proves, beauty will always get a response.

“Neon Nights” is a weekly column focusing on Miami nightlife. Look for it every Friday in The Beacon and on FIUSM.com.
**IS IT WORTH IT?**

**Hilarity ensues with star-studded mock documentary starring Cohen**

Bruno is one of those movies that pushes the boundaries of accepted societal standards and decency. Nothing is to be expected except that Sasha Baron Cohen, in the title role, will find grotesque and awkward scenarios to put his subjects through — and that you will be in tears of laughter for 82 minutes.

Continuing in the same vein as his earlier film Borat, Cohen, along with documentary filmmaker Larry Charles, launches an assault on America in a faux-documentary form. Ironically, it becomes a documentary in the process.

The plot — and yes, believe it or not, there is a plot — is about Bruno, an openly gay Austrian fashionista and television host who is fired from his show after disrupting part of Milan Fashion Week. As a result, his lover leaves him and he is soon blacklisted from the fashion scene. So, Bruno embarks to America with his loyal assistant, Lutz (Gustaf Hammarstan) to become "the biggest Austrian superstar since Hitler."

Cohen sets up subjects into tremendous pranks, presenting himself as a documentary filmmaker. The people involved and examined may or may not be the victim.

Here are some key moments throughout the film:

- Bruno convinces former presidential candidate Ron Paul to interview with him only to try to seduce him and release a sex tape.
- Bruno tries to produce and host a television show in Hollywood. The highlights: his interview with Harrison Ford who tells Bruno to "**F** off," criticizing Jamie Lynn Spears's fetus along with the close-up of a talking penis swinging around on screen.
- Bruno goes to a swingers party after he decides to become straight, taking his example from Tom Cruise, Kevin Spacey and John Travolta.

The plot is paper thin, the laughs are huge, and the funny thing is that, out of the scenes I've listed, these aren't even close to the best moments in the film. There are other moments throughout when the film approaches levels of phenomenal hilarity.

The issue at hand is originality. When Borat was released in 2006, the brilliance of the film was the knowledge that most, if not all, of the people in the film were not in on the joke. Cohen was not a great celebrity but rather a cult, crowd favorite among fans who knew the character who originated on Da Ali G Show. There is something to be said about the sincerity of the responses in that film.

Bruno is a great success if only because Cohen finds new things to say with earlier methods, but there's a feeling that this film is too large. Questions abound as to how many celebrities were really set up or how many were just in on the joke.

What is there to say? If Borat was about raising questions about American stereotypes, xenophobia and attempts at hospitality following the World Trade Center attacks, Bruno is about raising questions about the fixation of celebrity in America and the lack of tolerance that persists in many areas of this country. Cohen does not play with satire or subtleties. He doesn't bring up resolutions to the issues. He is trying to bring the issues to light and laugh at them. It reminds me of a quote from Sunset Blvd director, Billy Wilder: "If you're going to tell people the truth, be funny or they'll kill you."

That is Cohen's power. Shaving all of his bodily hair and wearing the most outrageous clothing imaginable, he is great for a laugh and, just maybe, an interesting conversation about tolerance as you walk out of the theater toward your car.

"Is It Worth It?" is a weekly feature rating the relative quality of films screened by SPC. "Bruno" is playing in GC 140 Friday at 5 and 8 p.m.
Bench players solidify last season’s biggest concern

Thomas Collazo
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers volleyball team dominated the conference last season and showed no signs of stopping heading into the playoffs. Then in the first round of the playoffs, they were shut out on their home court against University of New Orleans 3-0.

Three-time All-American Yarimar Rosa had nine kills when she averaged over 19 in the season. Outside hitter Sabrina Gonzalez blames a lack of confidence. “We didn’t play to our highest level and we didn’t play as a team,” Gonzalez said. “We had four or five freshmen playing and it was a lack of experience in the spotlight.”

As the team participates in the 2009 Sun Belt Conference tournament, Coach Danijela Tomic is no longer concerned about the bench players. “I wouldn’t hesitate to put them in if the moment arises,” Tomic said. “We practice with Team A and Team B and they practice against each other, making our bench players almost as strong as our starters.”

Last season Tomic was not confident of the team’s depth. “They weren’t strong enough to play,” she said. In 2008, the Golden Panthers were No. 1 team in the Sun Belt Conference with a 15-2 record. The team broke school records of the most wins in a regular season (28) and highest-winning streak (12).

After the disheartening early exit from the tournament, the team was eager for another shot to win an SBC championship. The 2009 season included a 17-0 in the conference, 28-2 overall, and top spot in the Sun Belt for the second straight year.

Libero Nina Colon was a starter last season but is now rotating with freshman libero Chanel Araujo. Colon’s defense and Gonzalez’s offense is what encourages Tomic to give the two players more playing time.

“Sabrina and Nina are two hard-working players that strive to be better, and I’m confident with them,” Tomic said. But exiting the SBC tournament would mean two consecutive upsets for the Golden Panthers.

Colon said that without a strong bench, the team can’t get very far in the playoffs. “The team is only as strong as the weakest player,” Colon said. “If you don’t have a strong bench you don’t have a strong team.”

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL, page 8

This is our house and it always will be. Today we illustrated how good we really are.

Michelle Gonzalez, point guard
women’s basketball

Squad protects ‘house’ with rout

GAME NOTES

• This is the first time the Golden Panthers football team will face the No. 1 team in the nation.
• Cornerback O’Darris D’Haiti will play after an ankle injury sidelined him vs. North Texas last week.
• The game will be broadcast live on Radiate FM at 88.1, 95.3 and 96.9 and wrgp.org. Listen live to play-by-play calls from Chris Towers and color commentary by Chris Sanchez.

The Job Market Is Kind Of Tough Right Now, Isn’t It? Why Have A Job When You Can Start Your Own Business?

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VOLLEYBALL

A bit of a physical nature difficult to prepare for

Football, page 8

big bodies that aren’t only big but athletic and explosive. Sometimes the spread offense carries a tag with it. It spreads you out with finesse on offense. That imposing offense is led by Tebow, the SEC’s all-time leader in rushing yards. Tebow’s storied career is led by Tebow, the SEC’s offensive football team.”

Listen live to play-by-play calls from

Cornerback O’Darris D’Haiti will play after an ankle injury sidelined him vs. North Texas last week.

The game will be broadcast live on Radiate FM at 88.1, 95.3 and 96.9 and wrgp.org. Listen live to play-by-play calls from Chris Towers and color commentary by Chris Sanchez.
WRESTLING THE ‘CHAMPIONS’

Running back plays against former teammate turned Heisman winner

JOHNATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Golden Panthers running back Daunte Owens and Florida quarterback Tim Tebow led Nease High School to a state title in 2005. Owens, who shared a relationship off the field with Tebow as well, says the championship they won together was his best memory of their time as teammates.

“He led the team down the field with clutch runs and clutch passes,” Owens said of Tebow in the state championship. “Me and him played well and we came out with the win.”

When the Golden Panthers face the Gators at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium tomorrow at 12:30 p.m., Owens will be in the opposite locker room looking to stop Tebow from winning a championship. This time, Owens and the Golden Panthers will attempt to put a dent in Florida’s national title hopes with an upset victory.

But the gargantuan task of beating Florida, the No. 1 ranked team in the Bowl Championship Series standings, is arguably the toughest test the Golden Panthers have faced in their brief history. The defending national champion Gators have won 20 straight games.

“Huge week for our program with the upset victory,” said Gary Jr. in the post-game conference. “We’ve been working on the offensive affair.

The Golden Panthers had 21 turnovers, and it was definitely for Coach Thomas,” said Gary Jr. in the post-game conference.

FIU (3-7, 3-4 Sun Belt) will look to use that experience to their advantage. They’re similar and they are different. They’re similar in their athleticism and their size,” Cristobal said. “They have done a phenomenal job of recruiting the ball.”

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“We need him to do that every game,” said forward Marvin Roberts.

In addition to Gary Jr., forward J.C. Otero and the Golden Panthers played at No. 2 Alabama on Sept. 12, a game they lost 40-14 but led at one point in the second quarter. FIU (3-7, 3-4 Sun Belt) will look to use that experience to their advantage.

“We think it helps because it’s a stadium that’s extremely loud,” Cristobal said. “It’s a big place and they’ve seen it on TV growing up. It’s a dream game and dream opportunity for a lot of guys; you don’t usually get to play the No. 1 team in the country.”

Florida (10-0, 8-0 SEC) will feature some of the best athletes in college football; it resembles Alabama’s personnel.

“We’re going to have to be a point guard against the very best. The excitement is opportunity to play the No. 1 team in the country,” said Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal. “You always want to measure yourself against the very best. The excitement is high among our players and a lot of guys have come to FIU to be able to play among those big games and on that big stage.”

BEEN THERE

For FIU, a visit to Gainesville will not be the first time it has entered a hostile atmosphere against a Southeastern Conference team. The Golden Panthers played at No. 2 Alabama on Sept. 12, a game they lost 40-14 but led at one point in the second quarter. FIU (3-7, 3-4 Sun Belt) will look to use that experience to their advantage.

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Point guard leads team, Thomas to first victory of 2009 season

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

Having known Phil Gary Jr. since he was 11 years old, Coach Isaiah Thomas certainly knows what the starting point guard is capable of.

“Approximately nine years later, Thomas is mentoring and coaching Gary Jr., who scored a career-high 27 points to help Thomas achieve his first win as an NCAA head coach against Florida Memorial.”

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FIU (1-3) was certainly sweating against the crosstown opponent but managed to pull away with the 88-82 win over the Lions (0-2).

“He was in attack mode,” Thomas said. “Even though he was a little careless with the ball.”

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