Making a Difference

NY Times editor discusses foreign relations

GABRIEL ARRARÁS  Staff Writer

The New York Times foreign affairs editor, Carol Giacomo, visited FIU to discuss foreign policy issues that the nation currently faces, such as relations with Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus sponsored Giacomo’s visit to the University “in order to build a culture of reading and global awareness on campus,” said Nick Autiello, SGC- MMC chief of staff in his opening remarks.

Hilary Landorf, the director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, introduced Giacomo, noting her esteemed journalism career.

“It’s hard to imagine a more timely moment for the topic of her presentation, nor a journalist more qualified to discuss it,” Landorf said. “Whether the story was the escalating violence in Iraq, piracy from Somalia’s failed state, or the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, Ms. Giacomo was and is discussing it.”

Since the age of 12, Giacomo said she knew she wanted to spend her life as a journalist. “I loved politics and I loved to write and I thought this was a great way to combine them both,” Giacomo said. “I was always the editor of the paper in high school, the editor of the paper in college. I graduated when the Vietnam War was still going on and I couldn’t wait to go out and get a job in a paper.”

Giacomo worked as a diplomatic correspondent for Reuters in Washington, covering foreign policy for more than 20 years before joining The New York Times’ editorial board in August 2007. She has traveled more than a million miles to more than a hundred countries while following seven secretaries of state and other senior U.S. officials, reporting on every important international event during that period.

Throughout that time, Giacomo believed that some of the most challenging stories she covered were the Middle East peace process and the threat of nuclear proliferation. “I’ve done a lot of work over the years on nuclear proliferation, every aspect of it, and that has been a very challenging story because it

BITTERSWEET ENDING

ABOVE: Members of FIU’s volleyball team celebrate after their last home game victory over FAMU on Senior Day, Nov. 28.

RIGHT: Player Isadora Rangel, one of the four seniors on the team, is given a bouquet in honor of her last home game. The other seniors recognized were Gabby James, Yanimar Rosa and Olga Vergun.

Professor named for Grammy

BLANCA MORALES  Staff Writer

A small wind trio in Baltimore might have not predicted that some 20 years later, one of the students they visited at a public school would go on to make a name for himself in classical music.

Orlando Jacinto Garcia, music professor at FIU, recently had his work “Cuatro Asimetrías,” (Four Asymmetries) nominated for a 2009 Latin Grammy in the Best Classical Contemporary Composition category.

The work was written for and recorded by EntreQuatre, a Spain-based guitar quartet.

“I am extremely honored to know that the voting members of the Latin American Grammy Awards think so positively of my work,” Garcia said in a press release.

Born in Cuba in 1954, Garcia came to the U.S. at age 7. His family settled in Baltimore, MD where he lived until he was in his 20s. It was in Baltimore where Garcia realized his vocation.

When a trio of wind players came to perform at his public school, they left such an impact on him that he said he fell in
GIACOMO, page 1

is a difficult subject, and it is also a hugely important one,” she said.

Iran has been the focus point of the nuclear proliferation debate during the past couple of months, with President Obama looking to the United Nations to impose stricter sanctions on Iran.

Giacomo said she believes that the next sanction resolution will not be as tough as it needs to be.

“Tough as it needs to be. To move forward, Giacomo said, “Whatever way we can try to encourage a new generation of readers and a new generation of young people who are going to be involved in the world, it’s all for the good,” Giacomo said.

H1N1 vaccine offered on campus

JORGE VALENS
Asth. News Director

H1N1 vaccines will be made available to the University community, according to a press release from University Health Services.

The vaccines will be available starting Nov. 30 on both Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses. UHS suggested that those interested should make appointments and bring their informed consent forms filled out.

Forms can be found on the department’s Web site, studenthealth.fiu.edu.

WHERE TO GET IT

University Health Services
URSC 110
Monday through Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
305-348-3401 ext. 22

Health Care Network
URSC 154
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
305-440-0005

Student Health Center
Monday through Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
305-919-5620 ext. 2

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

Watch us take on FAU in the 2009 Shula Bowl!

Cheer us on Saturday December 5 at 7:00 PM FIU Stadium

Three one-semester scholarships (approximately $5,000 each), as well as four parking upgrades will be raffled at halftime during the 2nd half. Students must be inside the stadium by the end of halftime to be included in the raffle.

Game sponsored by

Doctors Hospital
Center for Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
Rosenberg: ‘Garcia makes us proud’

GARCIA, page 1

love with the oboe.

From that moment, he knew that playing music was what he wanted to do in life. He was 8 years old at the time.

He signed up for music lessons at the school in hopes of receiving the anticipated oboe. They gave him a clarinet instead. From there, he learned to play a variety of different instruments.

“I would improvise on the instruments I had at hand,” Garcia told Student Media.

It was not his first encounter with music, however. His grandmother, who was a concert pianist in Cuba, relinquished her career upon marrying.

Garcia remembered her playing traditional Cuban music, like son cubano, for the family.

“I didn’t know what it was back then. It wasn’t until I was older that I learned that she was playing traditional Cuban music,” Garcia said.

After studying music philosophy and Spanish literature at a Maryland college, Garcia moved to Miami in the 1970s to complete his studies at the newly funded FIU.

He completed his composition credits and received his doctoral academic degree in music composition from the University of Miami in 1985.

His big break was in 1988 at the Music of the Americas Festival.

When he began at FIU, Garcia saw the School of Music evolve from six faculty members to more than 20.

In 1987, Garcia founded the FIU New Music Ensemble that specializes in the performance of contemporary chamber, experimental and electronic music.

He is also the founder and artistic director of the NODUS Ensemble, which debuted in 1998 and is the contemporary professional chamber music ensemble specializing in the cutting edge art music.

This year, he released Sonidos Cubanos, a CD featuring the NODUS Ensemble performing music by Cuban composers with works by Tania Leon, Sergio Barroso, Beatriz Perez Velazquez and Garcia’s “Silencios Imaginados” and “Viento Nocturno.”

“Professor Garcia makes us all proud,” said University President Mark Rosenberg in a press release. “This nomination affirms what we already know about professor Garcia and FIU’s arts program: Our students are learning from internationally renowned artists who routinely make an impact on the global stage.”

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil will ban the sale of coconuts on its beaches starting Dec. 1.

The city, in preparation for the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament, will ban the sale of the fruit, citing the fruits’ husks as an “eye sore” on the beaches.

According to AutoBlog.com, loose floor mats can catch the accelerator pedal and cause the car to continue accelerating.

Models affected include the Avalon, the Prius, and the Lexus ES 350 and IS 250/350. Owners with cars that fall into the recall will be notified by letter.

INTERNATIONAL

Brazil bans coconut sale on beaches in preparation for 2014 World Cup

The University will be selling leftover tickets to this semester’s commencement ceremony.

According to the University, students who are graduating will be allowed to purchase two additional tickets for $5 each.

Tickets will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis in the FIU Bookstore and can only be purchased using a PantherCard.

Information can be found on the University’s commencement Web site, commencement.fiu.edu/CommencementDay.

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Aquatic Center gets extra revenue from community members

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

After more than $1 million were spent on the remodeling of the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Center, the new pools have piqued interest from students – and the community.

In October, 5,083 students entered the Recreation Center, according to said Elie ‘Ekas’ Bardawil, BBC director of Campus Recreation. It cannot be determined whether these students entered the Aquatic Center or the gym, but Bardawil said student usage of the pools has increased and is greater than that of the community and non-students, who also have access to the pools.

“The community membership is very small, in comparison to student usage. We are a student center first,” Bardawil said.

Students pay a $10 athletic fee per semester to have full access to the Recreation Center, which includes the gym, the pools, exercise classes, and special events.

Non-students, who include the outside community, faculty, staff and alumni, pay a fee ranging from $150 for a basic membership plan, to $340 for a platinum annual membership. With these plans, members have access to the same amenities as the students.

According to Bardawil, there are 89 members including outside community. Although the community has several aquatic and recreational centers around the area, such as the Victory Park pool in North Miami and the Miami Shores Aquatic Center, Bardawil believes the BBC Aquatic Center offers members “a world class facility.”

“We offer a fitness and aquatic center, group exercises and special events like paintball, kayaking and whitewater rafting,” Bardawil said.

The increase of non-students using the Aquatic Center has been noticed by both students and members of the Student Government Association.

“I think they should use our center if there are other pools available around the community,” said Giovanna Maselli, a junior journalism major. “As a student, I don’t want to pay for someone else. This is a commuter school. We should be able to fully enjoy what we have, and paid for.”

On the Oct. 23 University-wide SGA meeting, SGC-Minnesota Mandela Campus President Anthony Rionda questioned why SGA spends almost $450,000 annually to operate the Aquatic Center after $1 million was spent from the accumulated cash balance to renovate it last semester.

Since there was an increase in community usage of the pool, Rionda recommended that the revenue accumulated from community membership fees be used and distributed into funding pool operation.

“We should be completely funding the entire operation of a pool that’s used for athletic events? Should we be funding the entire operation of a pool that is used by the community? No,” Rionda said at the meeting. “The students pay for everything. If the students don’t use it, we shouldn’t fund it.”

SGA allocated $350,588 from Activities and Services fees to the Aquatic Center. But according to Bardawil, the Aquatic Center’s annual fixed expenses are $447,819, including utilities, chemicals, salaries and other fees.

Along with growing stronger ties with the community, membership also provides an increase in revenue. Bardawil said. He hopes to annually receive about $140,000, which includes membership fees, summer camp and $18,000 from the swim teams, who use the pool for training.

“One of the things we have found is that the expenses have gone up. Chlorine has gone up from 92 cents a gallon up to an approximate $1.82, while funding levels have decreased,” Bardawil said.

Due to the underfunding, Bardawil wrote a request to SGA last fall, saying that the 2010 costs for the Recreation Center would be a total of $871,280. He requested SGA allocate more funds to the Recreation Center, and that if any additional funding would be needed, “the department would have to go before the annual University-wide SGA Funding Committee to make the request.”

He wrote that the reason for the need of extra funds was a “rise in student population and to keep up with incremental and inflationary costs,” according to his letter request.

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein believes the revenue generated from non-students is benefiting to the Aquatic Center, but that it could affect students.

“There are both positives and negatives with this specific issue. While on the one hand we are generating revenue, we will be impeding FIU students from using the swimming pool,” Neistein said.

According to Bardawil, University students can use the pool during its regular operation hours, even when non-students and community swimming teams are using it.

The 50-meter by 25-yard swimming pool is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The diving well can be used Monday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

At the UWC meeting, Rionda suggested the Aquatic Center save money by hiring student lifeguards.

Lifeguard payroll amounts to $80,463 annually, with three lifeguards on duty at all times for safety.

Each lifeguard has a base salary of $11.10 per hour, except for the two head lifeguards, who get $12.50 per hour. According to Daniel Lopez, BBC aquatic supervisor, there are currently nine lifeguards, three of which are students enrolled at the University.

“This is where we can save money. Let’s give our students jobs,” said Rionda during the UWC meeting.

Although the main pool is busy with the community members, swim team and kids’ summer camp, students can still enjoy their solitude and relax at the diving well located on the top deck, which has less use.

“A lot of students don’t seem to know about the pool on the top deck. It’s very quiet, and students can enjoy it even when the main pool is busy,” Lopez said.

South Beach Wine and Food Festival seeks volunteers

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

In February, University students can attend a festival where they can taste wines from around the world and the foods of celebrity chefs, who will be cooking in front of their guests.

But the best part is that those same students can also be part of the action. The South Beach Wine and Food Festival, a student-run food and wine festival organized by the School of Hospitality Management, will take place Feb. 25 through Feb. 28, and students wanting to experience cooking with celebrity chefs can start signing up now.

Personalities and celebrity chefs scheduled to appear in the 2010 festival include Bobby Flay, Rachel Ray and Ming Tsai, in addition to hundreds of other chefs and spirits experts.

Students can register to volunteer at the event, where they will be assigned different positions, ranging from sous-chefs to the celebrity chefs, to event managers and team leaders.

According to Michael Moran, HTM chef instructor, student participation is always very strong.

“Last year, we had over 500 student volunteers to work in the event,” Moran said. “Some of them weren’t even hospitaltality students, so it’s not just limited to students in the school.”

Students who participate in the festival are compensated both with experience in the field, and those who qualify receive scholarship money.

The amount of scholarship money each student participant gets varies according to the amount of hours they work and the funds raised by the school, according to Caroline Karlberg, a student associate coordinator for the festival.

“They’ll have the experience of the festival, networking with lots of people and chefs from around the country,” said Karlberg. “It’s a large chance for exposure.”

Christian Poole, an HTM graduate student, hopes to network at next year’s event.

“I am looking forward to working this event because of the networking opportunities that will be made available to me,” Poole said. “The hospitality business is built upon making connections with various people.”

To this date, more than 50 events are scheduled for the festival, though plans aren’t fully finalized yet.

These events include the BubbleQ, Best of the Best, and the Whole Foods Grand Tasting Village.

SOBE, page 5
Students encouraged to participate for experience, scholarships

Run entirely by FIU students, the BubbleQ lets students work alongside celebrity chefs to prepare various dishes for attendees. This year’s BubbleQ will be hosted by celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse.

“The BubbleQ is in a tent behind the Delano Hotel,” Moran said, who is also in charge of the BubbleQ. “The students don’t have any support staff, not even from the hotel. It’s to show that we got a great school and team.”

The event is a tent behind the Delano Hotel.

Different stations will be set up, where the chefs and their student assistants will showcase their featured menus – all barbecue dishes.

These dishes are accompanied by champagne, which is where the Bubble part of the event comes in.

“From attending, you gain an understanding about the nuances between barbecue styles, like North Carolinian compared to Texan or St. Louis styles,” Moran said.

The event is one among many others that also explores various wines from around the world, so guests must be 21 years or older to attend.

The event started in 1996 at the Biscayne Bay Campus. It was a one-day festival known as the Florida Extravaganza.

For six years, the Florida Extravaganza showcased wines from national and international wineries, paired with food from local restaurants and chefs working with HTM students.

But when the event gained popularity and its guests went from hundreds to thousands, its organizers had to look for a different, bigger location. In 2002, Lee Brian Schranger, director of special events and media relations at Southern Wine & Spirits of America, relocated the event to South Beach and renamed it the Wine and Food Festival.

From 2002 to 2006, attendance rose sharply from 7,000 to 20,000, requiring the addition of more days to the festival and sponsorship from the Food Network in 2006.

Now in its ninth year, the event is a combined venture from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center, and it is sponsored by the Food Network and more than 100 other local, national and international sponsors, including Whole Foods, Amstel Light, Evian and Miami-Dade County.

According to the festival’s official Web site, the event has raised more than $8 million since its first year, with all proceeds benefitting HTM’s Teaching Restaurant and the Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center.

In 2009, the festival’s proceeds decreased when sponsors began to break away from the event due to the downturn of the economy.

Sponsors like Publix Supermarkets and Macy’s withdrew.

Despite initial woes, last year’s event garnered more than 50,000 guests, according to the Web site.

For students, it’s an experience that can lead to greater opportunities in culinary fields.

“Sobe Fest gives numerous individuals the opportunities to show off their culinary and professional skills,” said Poole. “I am very excited to be working with Chef Moran and the other instructors to make Sobe Fest a huge success.”

To purchase tickets to the event as well as more information on the Wine and Food Festival, visit http://www.sobefwineandfoodfest.com. Students interested in participating in the event can go to http://sobefest.fiu.edu/2010.
Don't put words in Darwin's mouth

KELESEA JONES Contributing Writer

Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species has come under scrutiny, yet again, by Christian creationists. Not all Christians – specifically, The Church of Mike Sevier from TV’s “Growing Pains” also known as Living Water Ministries.

Darwin’s most famous published work, The Origin of Species was a landmark scientific breakthrough that shed light on the issues of evolution and natural selection. Though most of the scientific world embraced evolutionary theory, creationists (those that believe in intelligent design) find it a hard and additional pill to swallow.

With courts overturning whether creationism should be taught alongside evolutionary theory, Kirk Cameron’s Living Water Ministry has published 70,000 copies of Darwin’s The Origin of Species and distributed them to college campuses nationwide. While this may seem like Christianity is offering science the proverbial olive branch, there’s a small caveat.

The text includes an introduction that describes Darwin as having a “misbegotten” Nazification of his work in hopes of diluting the scientific credibility. By saying that evolutionary theory provides the reasoning behind such horrific events as the Holocaust, Living Water Ministries hopes to “enlighten” college students. Gain of being bashed washed by atheistic evolution without hearing the alternative,” Cameron said of the book in a CNN video.

What if Americans complied and agreed to teach creationism in schools alongside evolutionary theory and added their own caveat? What if the creationist perspective they chose was not one of Christianity but in fact from The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster or from the ancient Greek goddess Miw?

“All I wanted to do is confront young people to think about what they believe … we believe in the free exchange of ideas and those that are open hearted will appreciate what we’ve done,” said Pastor Ray Comfort of Living Water Ministries.

It is difficult to be open-hearted to censorship. The edition that Living Waters Ministries published is an abridged, 280-page version from the over 600-page original. Editing out the laborious details of The Origin of Species is, arguably, degrading what made the book such a compelling addition to science in the first place.

What’s more, the 50-page introductio

GOP should stay out of net neutrality rules

ANDREW ZAMORA Contributing Writer

Imagine certain Web sites running slowly or being inaccessible to you just because your Internet service provider was in control of the Web sites you visit, the videos you watch and the files you download.

What you get is the inhibition of new investment and innovation into the Internet, a system which the world has come to depend on in one way or the other. The Internet should not be about companies profiteering at the expense of the benefit of Web surfers, although my sentiments are not shared at Capitol Hill.

The Communications Act of 1934 established the Federal Communications Commission and charged it with the responsibility of regulating non-federal use of the radio spectrum, telecommunications and international communications beginning or terminating within the states. Among these duties is regulation of the Internet and Internet neutrality.

The implementation of net neutrality regulations were aimed at making sure Internet service providers do not control what Web surfers are shown, leaving the Internet open to all to search for anything and everything. The FCC voted on Oct. 22 to begin taking the first steps toward adopting new Internet neutrality rules. Under the draft rules, Internet access may not prevent users from the lawful searching of content on, using or connecting to the network in a safe, unaffordable and would not deprive users from the enti
Video games of the decade: The top 10

The last decade has seen the rise of two console generations. Video games have truly come of age over the last ten years and narrowing down the list of the best games to just ten has been incredibly difficult, to say the least. In the end, these are the games that pushed boundaries and redefined their genres.

1) CALL OF DUTY 4: MODERN WARFARE (2007)
Relased as a follow up to Team Ico’s namesake game, Shadow of the Colossus maintains the breathtaking visuals that made Ico such a stand-out title upon its release.

2) GRAND THEFT AUTO III (2001)
Rockstar Games really stepped into the spotlight with the third chronological installment in the GTA series. It gave gamers their first real taste of sandbox games—a concept now hugely popular—and implemented flawless controls both on-foot and in-car.

3) RESIDENT EVIL 4 (2005)
Originally released for the Nintendo GameCube, Resident Evil 4 proved that Nintendo’s purple box was capable of amazing feats. Vastly improved controls and a new over-the-shoulder perspective helped revive the tired survival-horror genre and produced one of the most satisfying and suspenseful gaming experiences of all time.

4) WORLD OF WARCRAFT (2004)
Few understand addiction as well as those who have succumbed to the lure of World of Warcraft. With an incredible amount of quests unique to each combination of race, class and profession, WoW has kept it’s over 11 million subscribers busy throughout the years with several huge patches and two game-changing expansions. It is currently the most-played massively multiplayer online role-playing game.

5) PORTAL (2007)
Never has a game made me laugh out loud so much. From the very first moments of Portal, it felt like something completely new and different. This game seamlessly blends thought-provoking story with interesting puzzle solving and an incredibly refreshing sense of humor.

6) SHADOW OF THE COLOSSUS (2005)
Released as a follow up to Team Ico’s namesake game, Shadow of the Colossus maintains the breathtaking visuals that made Ico such a stand-out title upon its release.

7) SUPER MARIO GALAXY (2007)
Mario is probably the most easily recognizable figure in gaming. With dozens of games in the franchise, it’s difficult to imagine that Nintendo has anything new to bring to the table. Super Mario Galaxy reimagined the platforming genre and implemented the Wii’s motion controls perfectly.

BioWare’s break-out title on consoles introduced the conversation and decision-making elements of their later success with 2007’s Mass Effect. Aside from being one of the best games of the decade, KOTOR is easily the best Star Wars game of all time. Halo fans will disagree, but this game was the biggest reason to own an Xbox.

9) COUNTER-STRIKE (2000)
What began as a simple mod for Valve’s Half Life game, Counter-Strike became so popular that it was made into an entirely new and separate game. Counter-Strike really started the idea of a team-based, tactical shooter and is mostly responsible for defining a sub culture that exists among gamers who dedicate countless hours a week to online play.

10) THE SIMS (2000)
Will Wright forever changed the world of PC gaming with this twist on the ever-popular Sim City franchise. Published by EA games in 2000, the franchise has spawned countless expansions, spin-offs and sequels with over 100 million units sold in total.

Aside from the endlessly addictive gameplay, The Sims was also one of the first games to be incredibly popular among female audiences, finally reuniting the sexes in a world vastly dominated by men.
Decade of change grounded in revival of an American tradition: the ‘stache

Chris Green
Staff Writer

Over the past decade, a great many memorable things have happened. However, it is the resurgence of the mustache that tops them all.

When looking at the past 10 years, there have been many memorable appearances of the mighty ‘stache. From Jason Giambi’s extra-mustache, to the continuing legacy of Tom Selleck’s legendary facial hair, many mustaches have helped define this decade.

The following 10 examples stand out above the rest.

1. Robert Goulet

One of the pioneers of the mustache in modern American culture, the late Goulet’s ‘stache was so impressive that the American Mustache Institute dedicated its annual award for the best mustache in America to him.

2. Dale Earnhardt

NASCAR’s “Intimidator” nearly captured what would have been a record eighth Sprint Cup championship in 2000, but fell short to Bobby Labonte. His life was cut short in 2001 in a crash at the Daytona 500, but his legacy and iconic mustache will live on for many years to come.

3. New York City Detective

Detective Alvarez stole the show in the short running ABC comedy drama, “The Unusuals.” Alvarez sported a classic ‘stache that commanded the attention of his peers as well as its owner. It was not uncommon to see Alvarez conversing with his facial hair. His stache was a uniting force for all who sported hair below the nose. As he once stated to an inmate: “We mustaches gotta stick together.”

4. Bill Geist

Bringing a comedic view of life to CBS’s “Sunday Morning,” Geist recently covered the American Mustache Institute’s annual convention in 2009. Showing poise and professionalism all in his journalistic endeavors, Geist’s signature ‘stache proves that hard news is delivered best with proper facial hair.

5. Alex Trebek

At the beginning of the decade, legendary “Jeopardy” host Alex Trebek could be seen sporting a salt-and-pepper mustache and a bald head.
Great mustaches triumph in sports and on TV

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and pepper stache, but shaved it off in favor of a clean-cut look. Fans of the stache can still see it in action, however, at Disney’s EPCOT attraction, Ellen’s Energy Adventure.

4. RON BURGUNDY

Taking the world by storm for the first time since the 1970s, the professionalism and trustworthiness of news anchor Ron Burgundy and his magnificent mustache was highlighted in the 2004 inspiring documentary Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy. His stache, like his legend, defines greatness.

3. DANIEL PLAINVIEW

This oil prospector raised the ire of the residents of little Boston, but his mustache stole their hearts. Whether they were drilling for oil, or viciously beating clergyman, he and his stache always stuck together. And that’s what a man-mustache relationship is all about.

2. CLAY ZAVADA

The Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher earned the 2009 American Mustache Institute’s Robert Goulet award. Zavada instantly proved valuable to the Diamondbacks as he threw a perfect seventh inning in his MLB debut. His mustache finished seventh in voting for the Cy Young trophy this year.

1. 1ST LIEUTENANT ALDO RAINE

Hunting Nazis is not an easy task, but doing so with a mustache for the ages makes it much more fun. Breaking onto the scene in 2009, 1st Lieutenant Aldo Raine rose to prominence after heroically defending the United States and its interests in World War II by “slayin’ two things and two things only: killin’ Nazis and rockin’ a sweet lookin’ stache.”

Internet tops list of the decade’s tech progress

TECH, page 8

In the next 10 years, the Internet will go from accompanying our computers to becoming one itself. With the rise of cloud computing and our growing dependence on streaming media we will be storing less and less on our physical hard drives.

The Internet’s growth in the past 10 years is a forceful statement for what the next decade will have in store for us. Our lives are nowhere near as integrated with the Internet as they will be beyond 2010. I’m definitely cutting out this column and slipping it in to the nearest time capsule.


9. GPS TECHNOLOGY

8. HD AND BLU-RAY TECHNOLOGY

7. SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

6. APPLE IPOD

5. ONLINE VIDEO: YOUTUBE

4. MP3 MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

3. GOOGLE

2. APPLE IPHONE
Thomas shakes up lineup with Roberts slowed by injury

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

Playing through an injury when his team needed him the most did not end well for forward Marvin Roberts.

The Golden Panthers’ leading scorer went 0-for-10 with three turnovers in the 84-71 loss against Murray State on Nov. 23.

Coach Isiah Thomas stated in the post-game conference that Roberts played the game with an injured Achilles’ tendon as well as turf toe on the same foot.

“Marvin was pretty banged up,” Coach Thomas said. “He played as hard as he could, but with the injuries he’s just not the same.”

POOR FIRST HALF

The Golden Panthers opened the game on fire hitting five consecutive baskets, four of them being 3-pointers. After that, not much could be said about their ice-cold first half performance. The Golden Panthers shot 26 percent from the floor hitting only nine of 34 shots, compared to Murray State’s 60 percent first half performance.

The Murray State racers ended the first half on a 34-10 run leaving the score after the half 44-26, mainly due to Murray State guard Isacc Miles, who led the Racers with 16 points in the game.

Thomas tried to make a statement in the middle of the half by substituting the whole starting lineup for a complete line change.

“I was mad at my team,” Thomas said. “The only way we’re going to compete is by playing with energy and effort.”

STORMING SECOND HALF

FIU bounced back from their 18-point deficit in the first half and brought the game within five points late in the second. Starting guard Stephon Weaver was the main contributor to the run with 14 points in the second half and 23 points in the game.

“We keep getting better every game,” Weaver said. “We just have to keep asking Coach questions and the leaders like Marlon [Bright] and I have to keep everybody focused.”

The Golden Panthers outscored the Racers 45-40 in the second half, but it still wasn’t enough to close the deal against the bigger opponent. Murray State outscored FIU in the paint 54-24, as well as outscored the Golden Panthers weaker bench 25-6.

“We’re still trying to find our offensive identity,” Thomas said. “If we can start hitting our 3-point shots; it’ll be our saving grace.”

CAT FIGHT

PANTHER FACEOFF: On Nov. 24, Pete Garcia announced the signing of a contract to play a two-game series against the University of Pittsburgh Panthers in football, beginning at Heinz Field in 2010.

Personal bests set at Georgia Tech match

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The FIU swimming and diving team set school and personal records at the Georgia Tech Invitational on Nov. 20-22.

Freshman Kayla Derr swam a personal best time of 1:54.05 in the 200-meter freestyle finals on her way to a 26th place finish.

The 200-meter relay team finished in eighth place with a time of 1:50.19 for juniors Yesica Rojas and Danielle Sneir and freshman Kelly Grace.

Freshman Jamie Stinson finished in 16th on the 3-meter diving board on the second day of the match. On the third day, juniors Ely James and Sneir posted qualifying times in the 200-meter backstroke preliminary competition.

James went on to finish in 30th in the final, with Sneir ending up in 26th.

Freshmen Vicnan Torress and Derr both turned in more personal bests with times of 18:36.90 and 18:09.30 respectively in the 1650-meter freestyle competition.

FIU went on to finish a highly lauded eighth in the 400-meter freestyle with freshman Kelly Grace, sophomores Kariann Stevens and Caroline Foster, and junior Mariangela Macchiavello turning in a time of 3:37.74 in the final.

“I am very happy with the performance of the team at this very difficult and high-level competition where we swim against the best swimmers in the country,” Coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia told fiusports.com. “The girls are swimming fast against a very fast field of top national swimmers. It is great experience that will help their performances at the conference championships in February.”

FIU’s next meet is on Dec. 18 in the FAU Invitational in Boca Raton, Fla.
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Perfection is nearly impossible to maintain.

But the Golden Panthers volleyball team managed to be perfect from late September up to the Sun Belt Conference championship game.

Then the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders ruined the Golden Panthers’ perfect conference record.

For the second consecutive second season, the Golden Panthers were upset by an inferior team, but this time it was against a team they defeated twice during the regular season.

Now, the only thing that can salvage the team’s season from being another disappointment is a deep NCAA tournament run.

With soon-to-be four-time All-American Yarimar Rosa in her final season, this is the last chance for the Golden Panthers to garner national attention.

For the second consecutive season, the Golden Panthers are going to make the 2009 season memorable, they must first do something teams with strong mental fortitudes often do.

Forget. Forget. Forget. The Middle Tennessee game is over and dwelling over the season’s worst loss is not going to change anything. They should use the loss as a dose of reality, something strong squads often overlook: anybody could have an off night.

And that’s the best explanation for a pretty healthy team to lose while on a 23-game winning streak. Coach Danijela Tomic put it best in an interview with Student Media following the loss, “I said to them after the second set ‘Where is my team?’ This wasn’t the team that won 30 games this year. Our serving wasn’t very good, the tempo of our offense wasn’t fast, our hitters weren’t playing smart. Everything went wrong.”

They played completely out of character, but they still have one of the top 10 players in the country in Rosa, which gives them a chance to win nearly every time they play.

They have three senior outside hitters and a junior setter who orchestrates the offense with ease. Unlike last season’s upset, this season the squad has a stronger bench. Rosa was shut out in last season’s upset loss to New Orleans and no one could carry the offense. Olga Vergun and Jovana Bjelica complement Rosa’s offensive prowess.

More importantly, the team now understands how to deal with failure and bring upset earlier than expected.

Tomic’s guidance will have to lead the Golden Panthers as they face ranked competition in the NCAA tournament.

Besides redemption, the Golden Panthers have another reason to advance far in the NCAA tournament: the seniors. Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun and Isadora Rangel have one last opportunity to win against top competition.

Most notably, every game Rosa plays may be her last as a Golden Panther.

She is arguably the best athlete at FIU of the last five years and will be remembered as one of the school’s best overall athletes ever. When Rosa arrived to the University, she was one of the pieces that turned the program’s misfortunes. In 2004, the volleyball team was one of the worst teams in the country with a 3-23 record.

Since she arrived at FIU, the team has won at least 19 games each season and won two Sun Belt Conference titles.

The last two seasons have not yielded conference championships, but Rosa’s career elevated the program’s national recognition.

Meanwhile, Olga Vergun who did not play a game all of last season due to an injury, played alongside Rosa as a freshman during those SBC championships.

If there was ever a time for these two players to relive their first two seasons of winning postseason games, it is the next few weeks during the NCAA tournament.

WHAT’S AHEAD

The NCAA championship game is now a dream. The Golden Panthers will not reach the finals unless they return the favor and upset several teams in the tournament.

However, there is one team that every squad in the nation is dreading to face and that is Penn State University.

Penn State currently has a 94-game winning streak, which overpowers the Golden Panthers’ 23-game streak that spanned nearly two months. The Golden Panthers missed their chance to win an easy championship. The perfect Sun Belt season is over as well and from now on they will have a daunting task.

No team is perfect, but the Golden Panthers will have to surpass a near perfect team to gain the ultimate redemption.