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# PantherSoft 'freeze' makes way for upgrade

MILVIONNE CHERY  
Staff Writer

Starting Oct. 18, the PantherSoft system will undergo a system "freeze" in which students will only be able to view their profile, but not be able to change or upgrade it.

This system freeze is performed in preparation of an upgrading PeopleSoft Student Administration System version 8.0 to Campus Solutions 9.0.

During the freeze period, which will take place between Oct. 18 - 27, students may not complete any online transactions on PantherSoft or update any information.

The information or transactions students will be able to view on PantherSoft will only reflect those made or changed as of Friday, Oct. 17.

If students need to make a payment, they will have to go to the Cashier's Office at either campus.

However, the current balance after the transaction cannot be seen on PantherSoft until the freeze period is over.

The Student Financials Office

and the Enrollment Services Office is recommending that all students hold on to their receipts in order to make sure that payments are properly credited to their account.

According to an e-mail sent to

said it was alright," said Carlos Suris, director of Student Services at BBC campus.

According to Suris, while the new server has added and taken out some features from the previ-

I have tried it out and I've talked to several faculty members who have gotten the chance to try out the new PantherSoft, and they said it was alright.

Carlos Suris, Director  
BBC Student Services

all students from Vice President for Student Affairs & Undergraduate Education Rosa Jones, students will also not be able to order transcripts over the system.

Amid all the restrictions, students can still send and receive e-mails on PantherMail, which will not be affected by the freeze.

Some faculty members have been able to get a small preview of the Campus Solutions 9.0.

"I have tried it out and I've talked to several faculty members who have gotten the chance to try out the new PantherSoft, and they

ous program, it is still very similar to the system the University has now.

"The PantherSoft [software] that we currently have is perfectly fine. Why fix it, if it is not broken?" Suris said.

However, Jones believes this new version will be beneficial to both students and faculty.

Currently, when a student visits an academic adviser, the adviser does not see the same page that the student sees on their own

PANTHERSOFT, page 2

# Affordable flu shots to be available at UP, BBC

DAIANA KUCAWCA  
Staff Writer

Flu season is just around the corner, but concerned students need not worry about catching the bug.

From October to January, the health centers at both the Biscayne Bay and University Park campuses will be offering flu vaccines at a reduced price for students, faculty and staff, who can take advantage of the offer by making an appointment with their campus' Health Center.

Influenza, most commonly known as the flu, is an airborne virus that causes respiratory infections. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people who get the flu may experience fever, chills, dry cough, muscle aches and headache, among other symptoms.

Not to be confused with

the common cold, the flu can be prevented through yearly vaccination, as the different strands of the virus that affect people may change from year to year, according to Donna Weidema, advanced registered nurse practitioner at the BBC Health Center.

The cost is \$16 for students and \$20 for faculty and staff.

The campaign against flu contagion has been a staple at FIU's health centers since their openings.

"The flu is so prevalent that the offer for the vaccine stands every year," Weidema said.

The campaign is meant to target anyone who wants to prevent the flu, but is primarily aimed at "people with weak immune systems, older men and women and people in confined spaces," where it's easier for the flu to get around, according to Weidema.

While other viruses spread

year-round, the flu has a determined peak time.

"After October, the risk [of contracting the flu] increases markedly," said Elvira Velez, ARNP and health administration director at BBC.

Because the virus changes every year, disease surveillance is used in order to detect which strands of the virus are most prevalent. As a result, the vaccine changes every year.

"We use herd immunity in order to prevent the virus from spreading out because different viruses become more popular each year," said Velez.

The flu can be spread by coughing, sneezing or nasal secretions, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Health Center recommends avoiding close contact with infected people, con-

FLU, page 3

## TIME FOR CHANGE



ISAAC SORIA/THE BEACON

**REFLECTIONS:** Junior Christina Nielsen (front left), Freshman Jacqueline Lugo (right), Freshman Daniel Stokes (middle left), and Senior Angie Castillo (middle far back) write down their how they feel after walking through Lakeview South GLBT Awareness Program.

# Senator McCain to hold rally at FIU Arena

JULIO MENACHE  
Asst. News Director

Republican presidential nominee John McCain will be holding a rally inside the FIU Arena on Oct. 17.

The doors to the arena will open at 11 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public, but there

The College Republicans and Students for McCain were giving out tickets throughout the week in the Graham Center.

Tickets were also available at local Republican Victory Offices located throughout the Miami, Broward, and Monroe counties.

Those in attendance are asked to

wear 'Republican red'. Guests were asked to arrive early, but some will be subjected to security screenings to make sure that guests do not have any prohibited items such as oversized bags, food and beverages of any kind, weapons, and signs.



MCCAIN

Before arriving in Miami, Sen. McCain visited Chester County, Pennsylvania for his "Road to Victory" rally, in which both McCain and his running mate Sarah Palin are

taking part in a city-by-city rally to gain voters. The tour has taken the candidates through key states such as Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York.

# Senate addresses increase in tuition

**NATALEE GIL-DELRIO**  
Contributing writer

Representatives from each University college were present at a Faculty Senate meeting held Tuesday Oct. 14 in the Wertheim Conservatory.

The meeting went over several issues such as tuition increases, the new Campus Solutions 9.0 program and the upcoming Southern Association of Colleges and Schools review in 2010.

During his time on the floor, Provost Ronald M. Berkman stressed to the faculty how important the next two days were for both staff and students to get things done before the new PantherSoft 9.0 program would be implemented.

He told the council to advise their staff and students about the 10-day grace period beginning Oct. 17, and how difficult changes to a student's record would be if they were not made before then.

He advised faculty and staff to train with the new software once it's out in order to be on track with the new version and have no confusions between the two programs.

"If you don't train, you don't complain," Berkman said.

Tuition was another subject Berkman addressed. He commented that the new tuition increases that would affect the incoming freshmen were now at nearly 15 percent from the original 6 percent increase plan estimated.

"People are beginning to understand education is important to advance in, [with] the way conditions are nowadays, and they've begun to realize that investing \$5,000 in education outweighs those of a \$50,000 education investment," Berkman said to present the logic behind the increase.

He explained that the increase would be beneficial because it would provide greater income to the University without creating more cuts to the budget.

Another topic raised at the meeting was the issue of the SACS Review.

"We're up for SACS Review in 2010, but we have to begin preparing for it now," said Jaime Canaves, a professor for the School of Architecture.

SACS is a council that provides accreditation to schools and colleges around the South.

With FIU's current ranking as a fourth-tier university (the lowest for ranked schools), the faculty present at the meeting look to create programs and agendas that will hopefully help boost the University to a higher ranking.

Also present at the meeting was Student Government Association President Arthur "AJ" Meyer.

He spoke to faculty members about a new project plan he and his committee are working on called "Panther TV," which he hopes to have finished by December or the first week of January.

**People are beginning to understand education is important to advance in, the way conditions are nowadays, and they've begun to realize that investing \$5,000 in education outweighs those of a \$50,000 education investment**

Ronald M. Berkman, Provost  
FIU

# Improved software adds new features to help students

**PANTHERSOFT, page 1**

PantherSoft.

"Now with 9.0, advisors are able to see what students see," Jones said.

Students have also expressed relief with some of the new changes.

"If I have a problem and went to an adviser, they would say that they could not see it

[on their page]," said Michelle Cordova, a student at FIU. "I hope this would make it easier."

Another part of the upgrade is Grad Express, which according to Jones will make it easier for students to understand the requirements they will need for graduation.

"This program is much better than SASS [Student Academic Support System],"

Jones said.

The new version will also allow professors to have a picture ID of each student on their class roster. Most professors would find this useful for attendance, testing and security purposes.

"One of my professors did that, and it helped him remember our names," said sophomore Melissa Prieto.

The switch to Campus Solutions 9.0 will take place on Oct. 27.

## CHECK MATE



WEN-JU CHEN/THE BEACON

**KNIGHT TO...:** Rafael Hernandez and Michael Medina play chess in the GC pit.

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## SJMC multimedia lab made possible

**NELSON HERNANDEZ**  
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus is now home to a new approach in multimedia education.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is building a multimedia lab in Academic Two using a Scripps-Howard Foundation \$250,000 grant.

This foundation was formed in 1962, and since then has doled out scholarships and internships for communication students.

In partnership with SJMC Dean Lillian Kopenhaver, and Allan Richards, associate dean, Scripps-Howard is building on its relationship with the University.

This grant is important in developing SJMC multimedia capabilities, according to Kopenhaver.

"This new multimedia lab will become the nexus of our teaching, as we bring our vision of the future of the media into reality in the training we provide our students," Kopenhaver said.

Amid the budget cuts and majors being eliminated, there might be a concern among students as to whether the grant will be able to cover the plans detailed by SJMC.

"I want to be sure this doesn't take any money from students," said Gabriel De Varona, a sophomore majoring in creative writing.

Student and school funds will have no part in this lab, according to Kopenhaver.

Scripps-Howard will release \$50,000 over five years, which will allow the school to budget accordingly.

"The lab is strictly funded by the Scripps-Howard grant; there are no student funds involved. We're buying what we can, as we assess what we need," Kopenhaver said.

The lab is only open to SJMC students, and provides the necessary tools to produce their work.

According to Fernando Figuredo, chair and associate professor of advertising and public relations, the lab will help students appreciate the convergence of media.

"This is very important in helping prepare for the future of communication," Figuredo said. "There is a convergence in public relations, advertising and journalism in terms of tactics. A need for understanding each other's profession and each individual's goals is necessary."

The lab is not ready yet, but there is a general idea of how the lab will be working.

"There will be a number of teachers and courses offered. Elizabeth Marsh, assistant professor of multimedia, will be [in charge] of the technical aspects of the lab," Kopenhaver said.

Richards hopes that in providing a new classroom, there will be increased involvement from the students.

"The challenge we find ourselves in is keeping the heart of journalism while changing it up," Richards said.

## DANCING WITH THE MARIACHIS



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**FIESTA!** Yezi Giraldo dances with the musicians from Mariachi International of Top 1 Entertainment, brought by SPC-BBC to Panther Square on Oct. 13.

## Health Services gives advice on what to do in case the flu strikes

**FLU, page 1**

If already sick, the Health Center recommends covering the mouth and nose, and if possible, staying home to avoid spreading the virus.

The Health Center usually expects about 100 people each year for flu vaccines, but if ev-

eryone doesn't get the vaccine, the virus may spread to more people.

The virus is contagious, but the school has a preventive method to avoid it, and as Donna Weidema said, "Just do it."

To make an appointment at FIU's BBC Health Center call 305-919-5620 or (305) 348-2401 at UP.

Daina Kucawca can be reached at [daina.kucawca@fiusm.com](mailto:daina.kucawca@fiusm.com)

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## Historic waterfront locales offer beachy vibe, good eats

Some of my favorite memories are the nights I have spent at the beach. To me, nothing beats the moonlight shining down on the ocean and the sound of waves crashing on the shore.

When I was little, my family would take walks along the shore at night.

This past weekend, I relived those memories and found a couple of hang-out spots that have a waterfront history of their own.

I went one night to Pelicans On the Pier (16701 Collins Ave.) with my best friend, Beth. This open-air restaurant is located on the Newport Pier, which was built in 1936 as a public pier.

Before Hurricane Wilma destroyed more than half the pier in 2005, the spot had been known for its active fishing scene. The restaurant sits on the remaining pier, giving it a tropical vibe.

I recommend going there on weekends to take advantage of the raw bar menu. You can get four stone crabs, shrimp, oysters and half a pound of snow crabs for only \$19.95.

If you are not a big fan of seafood, there is always football on whenever there is a game. You cannot beat watching your favorite team by the ocean.

What makes this place worth visiting is the laid-back, friendly atmosphere. The staff is fun, talkative and will make your experience a million times better.

I suggest bringing a date and taking advantage of the romantic shoreline.

If you are not that into the beach and prefer a quieter setting, I have a good alternative – the Blue Marlin Fish House (2500 N.E. 163 St.)

The tables at the Blue Marlin are right on Oleta River, and there's even a pier behind the restaurant that is an ideal place to take a stroll after eating.

The restaurant has been around since 1938, and was a spot for fishermen to hang out after a day at sea. It is now run by D.J. Suarez, 24, an FIU hospitality management graduate, who bought the location seven months ago.

When my friend, Eric, and I went to Blue Marlin, we were completely blown away. As soon as we left, the first thing he said was, "We have been here once, and we already know the owner, his wife, his mom and the dogs."

Go there for a weekend lunch or early dinner before heading out for the night, or relax by the Oleta river on weekends from 11 a.m. through 4 p.m. listening to live music.

I love Blue Marlin because it is so easy to forget that you are in a huge city when you are surrounded by mangroves and wildlife.

In the winter, Suarez plans to make good use of two beer pong tables by hosting college nights.

Both Pelicans and Blue Marlin have deep roots in the history of North Miami Beach and Sunny Isles Beach. Set in different locations,

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE



PARADISE AFSHAR



PARADISE AFSHAR/THE BEACON

**SEASIDE SPOTS:** The Blue Marlin will soon offer kayak rentals for general use as well as its regular menu options.

they are both run by people who welcome groups to lounge around, have a few drinks and enjoy the breeze. They are both pet friendly; the Blue Marlin even provides personalized water bowls for the dogs of regular costumers.

But there is more to do on the beach than just eat and take long walks.

From Oct. 17 to Oct. 19, the Sunny Isles Beach Jazz Fest will take place in various hotels in Sunny Isles. The three-day festival will feature David Sanborn, Sammy Figueroa and George Tandy, among others.

Even with jazz playing in the background, the sounds of the ocean are like a song that can take you back to another place in time.

Sunny Isles Beach always takes me back to

when I saw my good friend Duane, who is in the Army, for the first time after he spent a year abroad.

The beach always reminds me of hanging out with close friends, and I am sure it will take you to a moment worth remembering as well.

For ticket information and locations for the Sunny Isles Beach Jazz Fest, visit [www.sunny-islesbeachjazz.com](http://www.sunny-islesbeachjazz.com).

Weekends with Paradise is a bi-monthly column about hang-out spots in North Miami. If you have any suggestions, e-mail me at [paradise.afshar@fiusm.com](mailto:paradise.afshar@fiusm.com).

# BYE, BYE BABY

## Supreme Court has the final say

KEVIN CASTRO  
Staff Writer

A presidential candidate's stance on abortion is as important as the freshmen experience course at FIU, which is to say that it is not important at all. For some reason, every four years, one of the hottest topics is abortion. Republicans preach about anti-abortion laws and the Democrats advocate it should remain legal.

This discussion, however, creates a large misconception of power. If an issue, whether its social security, Iraq, the economy or even abortion laws, becomes debatable then it would be safe to assume that the reason it is debatable is because those debating it can impact it significantly, right? No. Any and all discussions regarding abortion and the president's preference toward it, whether pro-life or pro-choice needs to stop.

In the case of abortion, the president has as much of a fighting chance to change or affect abortion law as a pregnant woman versus Mike Tyson. The only branch of the government with any power to decide the legality of abortions is the Supreme Court.

The reason that the decision lies with the Supreme Court is the infamous case of *Roe v. Wade*. The landmark abortion decision voided the abortion laws of nearly every state. Striking down a Texas statute that prohibited all abortions except to save the mother's life, the Supreme Court held that abortion was a constitutional right that the states could only abridge after the first six months of pregnancy.

Therefore the only way to re-out-law abortion would be to overturn *Roe v. Wade* through the Supreme Court, which is something the president has less control over than some think.

So then what can the president do if he wishes to change abortion law? To start off, the president must hope that one of the nine Supreme Court justices dies of a heart attack while eating Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Reason being that until a Supreme Court justice dies, retires or is impeached, the position will be filled. Of course, a Supreme Court justice dying is not hard to imagine as according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the

### Abortion Statistics in the United States and Florida

**1.21 million:** Number of abortions performed in 2005, a decrease from 2000 (1.31 million)

**Between \$90 and \$1,800:** The cost of an abortion with anesthesia

**\$413:** Average amount paid for an abortion

**22,404:** Number of terminations in Miami-Dade County (2007)

**14,560:** Number of terminations in Broward County (2007)

Sources: [webparish.com](http://webparish.com), [abortionfacts.com](http://abortionfacts.com), [gutmacher.org](http://gutmacher.org)

average life expectancy of a U.S. citizen is 77.8 years, and 77 percent of the Supreme Court justices are at least 60-years-old.

Once a position for Supreme Court Justice becomes available, then the president must nominate someone to become the next Supreme Court Justice. The nominee must then be approved by the Senate. Even after their appointment, it is not guaranteed that the new Justice will abide by the president's view on an issue. Even if the

new Justice wished to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, it still seems unlikely in the current climate that enough of the others would vote the same way.

To sum it up, all the talk and debate regarding a president's ideology on abortion is as useful as a cell phone in the Sahara Desert.

But, just for kicks, let us suppose that Justice Stevens, Kennedy and Ginsburg were trampled over by a herd of bulls, and *Roe* was overturned by the new appointees.

If a woman wants to get an abor-

tion, she will, regardless of the laws in place in the U.S. - making a ban futile, if not downright dangerous.

The easiest way would be to fly to London and get an abortion there. Flights to London range from \$333 to \$1,080, plus the added bonus of some sightseeing!

Regardless of what the politicians promise you in regard to abortion, they can't do anything and neither can you. So when deciding on who to throw your vote behind, consider some of the more press-

*All the talk and debate regarding a president's ideology on abortion is as useful as a cell phone in a Sahara Desert.*

ing issues that have a much greater chance of affecting our lives now: is our economy sound and our nation safe?

Stop bringing up the topic as "controversial" or "debatable," it is neither until the Supreme Court says otherwise.

Abortion is currently legal so if you are against abortion, then don't have one, you don't have to drag the other half of the country down with you.



### Tax cuts should not favor the wealthy

KATY HUDDLESTUN  
Contributing Writer

If I turn on the news and hear one more comment about "Issue Number One" or the "financial crisis," I'm going to throw my TV off of my balcony with full confidence that I am not alone in my frustration.

All of us have been getting our daily dose of panic - and constantly reminded not to panic - while simultaneously receiving nothing more than the same campaign lines we've had since the primaries.

The tax policies of both presidential candidates, Barack Obama and John McCain, are becoming an increasingly vital issue as people's budgets and the economy as a whole continue to dry up. Yes, we've heard Obama plans to cut taxes for "95 percent of working families," and McCain thinks "it's very important that we make the Bush tax cuts permanent," but these lines don't tell us very much.

We don't need any more slogans, we need facts.

Since 2001, with the introduction of Bush's tax cuts, there has been a sense of comfort among the wealthiest individuals and the largest corporations. The top tax brackets during the Clinton administration of 39.6 percent and 36 percent were reduced to a flat 33 percent under Bush's tax cuts.

In 2007, McCain said in a "Meet the Press" interview: "I voted against the tax cuts because of the disproportional amount that went to the wealthiest Americans."

He was right about the fact that those tax cuts allowed for 0.2 percent of the countries' wealthiest people to receive over 15 percent of the tax cuts in 2004, while the middle 20 percent of us received less than 9 percent.

But what is even better is the fact that McCain ardently insists upon making those very same tax cuts permanent now. He has also stated that he would reduce the corporate tax from 35 percent to 25 percent, a move intended to increase investment in U.S. businesses.

Obama's tax plan sets out to restore the top two tax rates to their pre-2001 levels, eliminate taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000 per year, as well as remove all capital gains taxes on start ups and small businesses. By leaving all tax cuts in place except for those making over \$200,000 a year

(single filer) and lowering taxes for those making under that amount, Obama plans to stimulate the economy from the bottom up.

This tactic has been attacked by Gov. Sarah Palin, McCain's running mate, as "the backwards way," even though on the subject of job creation, Obama's plan to cut taxes includes 95 percent of small businesses which fall under the \$250,000 partition. It is those types of businesses that need tax cuts.

In a country where the top fifth of the population holds half all the wealth, our tax policies should not increase the already-excessive income disparity. During the vice presidential debate, Palin accused the Obama tax plan of being a "redistribution of wealth." Sen. Joe Biden countered her with, "We don't call that redistribution, we call that fairness."

Rather than having middle and lower classes await the waterfall of wealth from the "trickle down effect," Democrats hold the radical notion of directly helping those who need it.

"We have seen a lack of shared prosperity. So, you've got CEOs making more in a day than ordinary workers are making in a year, and it's the CEO that's getting the tax break, instead of the workers," Obama said in a May 2008 interview on CNN.

With the economy being the most important issue to half of all voters, and considering the current financial situation of the country, it is becoming clearer that this will be the issue that decides who will be elected president.

Despite the excessive use of catchy rhetoric by the Republicans (please see: maverick), we must delve deeper into politics rather than continue accepting the half-truths being fed to us. We can all look at the past near-decade with vague memories of knowing in our gut that a Republican surely could not be elected after such a disaster of an administration.

It's time for America to realize that there is "a different value set," as Biden claims, between the parties and it's nothing new to politics. Despite what we're all hearing about "change" and "reform" from both parties, it's clear that one party is merely using those words as catch phrases, whereas the other actually means them.

Here's a hint: it's the one that hasn't been in office for the past eight years.

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor can be sent to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com). Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.





# NWEAMO

## Experimental music group explores sex in art

**CLAUDIA SANTANA**  
Staff Writer

Prepare to have your minds blown away. The experimental music and arts group, New West Electronic Arts and Music Organization, is heading to Miami this weekend, and the first performance will be at University Park.

Founded in 1998, NWEAMO is a non-profit organization that hosts a festival ev-



ery year with a unified theme in various cities. This year, dates will be in California, New York, Oregon, Germany, Mexico and Italy.

On Oct. 17, the concert New Connections will take place in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center's Concert Hall at 8:30 p.m. New Connections will be introducing the unique concept of a NWEAMO concert by merging different areas in the arts, like a collaboration between a video artist and a composer, or the awe-inspiring arrangements of electronic music with classical elements. These acts will be performed by students and professionals alike, blending their different styles.

"I feel like we can definitely appreciate this festival, since we're so 'Miami-centric.' I think it would be cool to experience something different than the normal weekends. I am especially excited to see what students and people from different backgrounds can bring to the table," said Stephanie Araujo, a senior photography student.

The theme for this year's festival is "Innuendo Intended," and that issue will be addressed on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Harold Golen Gallery in the design district at 8 p.m. This second concert, named Can Art Be About Sex?, is inspired by the acts that have been looked down upon in the past because of their sexual nature, such as "Madame Butterfly" and "Tristan and

Isolde," which have content different from the usual themes found in operas.

The organization plans to tackle the stereotypes and propaganda associated with sex in the arts and music.

There will be art displayed and musical performances in the same nature as the show at UP. Electronic music will be played on a laptop by Kristine H. Burns and the University's Laptop and Electronic Arts Ensemble, British cabaret musician Eleanor Williams and other acts.

Finally, that same night will be the closing concert at PS 14 - 28 NE 14 St. in Downtown Miami - at 10:30 p.m. Once again, experimental music will be played by acts such as Otto Von Schirach, Joshua Fried, SWARMIOUS and Eric DeLuca and the TM Sisters, who all bring world influences into their music and use unconventional techniques.

The event was brought to the University by NWEAMO board member Paula Matthusen, an aspiring composer, along with graduate students Juraj Kojs and Eric De Luca, who are both performing in the Harold Golden Gallery and PS 14, respectively.

The Univeristy was chosen to kick off the festival because of the musical interest on campus and the openness to diverse programming and new styles.

However, the event does not appeal only



COURTESY NWEAMO.ORG

to the artistically inclined - it appeals to everyone.

"I'm pretty excited about this festival that FIU is having here. I often look for new things to do. Plus, I think everyone should get a chance to showcase what they really love," said Reinaldo Hernandez, a senior marketing major.

For more information, visit the NWEAMO Web site [www.nweamo.org](http://www.nweamo.org).

## Freshman addresses frat labels

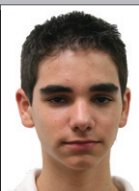
Party animals, drunks and rapists: These are the stereotypes that movies and TV shows such as "Greeks" and "Pledge This" have given to fraternities and sororities.

When most people think of "frats," what comes to mind are vapid misinterpretations and shallow misconceptions. Some people choose to believe that they resemble cults and that they slowly brainwash their pledges and then force them to partake in heinous acts that could potentially lead to serious injuries or death.

Sure, I am not going to deny the facts that in the history of Greek organizations such occurrences haven't happened, but then again, where don't they? Worse things have happened in other professional and elite circles. However, here at the University, such occurrences are near obsolete.

I was walking down the halls of the Graham Center a few weeks ago and was handed a flier. "Go Greek" is what it said. With rush week around the corner, I decided to go check it out. Rush week is a weeklong event that is held by fraternities and sororities which enables

### REAL FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE



JASON CACERES

## WEEKEND CALENDAR

### FRIDAY • OCTOBER 10

WHAT: Presidential Candidate John McCain at FIU  
WHERE: FIU Arenal  
WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE with pre-obtained Ticket.

WHAT: Art of Surviving Benefit Dinner  
WHERE: FIU GC Ballrooms  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT: DLP 3rd Annual Diva  
WHERE: Discotekka Nightclub  
900 NE 2nd Ave  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT: New West Electronic Arts and Music Organization (NWEAMO) Festival  
WHERE: FIU WPAC Concert Hall  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Francis 7 at PS14  
WHERE: PS 14 28 NE 14th St  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 7

WHAT: SPC Karaoke  
WHERE: Gracies Grill  
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Career Fair featuring Japanese Companies  
WHERE: GC 343  
WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE

### SATURDAY • OCTOBER 11

WHAT: Race for the Cure-FIU  
WHERE: Bayfront Park  
301 Biscayne Blvd.  
WHEN: 8 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: TBA

WHAT: Vicente Fernandez  
WHERE: American Airlines Arena 601 Biscayne Blvd.  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Jack's Mannequin  
WHERE: City Limits, 19 N.E. 3rd Ave. Delray Beach  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 30

WHAT: Bow Wow  
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater  
1700 Washington Ave  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$30

WHAT: Coltoberfest 305  
WHERE: Churchill's 5501 NE 2nd Ave Miami, FL  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 5 donation

WHAT: Nightmare: Ghost Stories  
WHERE: SoHo Studios  
2136 NW 1st Ave.  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$45

WHAT: Sunny Isles Beach JazzFest  
WHERE: Sunny Isles Beach City Hall  
17070 Collins Ave.  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL  
WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15

### SUNDAY • OCTOBER 12

WHAT: Hawthorne Heights  
WHERE: Culture room, 3045 N Federal Hwy, Ft Lauderdale, FL  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 20

WHAT: Miami Dolphins vs. Baltimore Ravens  
WHERE: Dolphin Stadium  
2267 Dan Marino Blvd  
Miami Gardens  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 41

WHAT: Music Map of the World Afternoon Tea Concerts  
WHERE: Arsh Center for the Performing Arts 1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami  
WHEN: 2:00 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 27

WHAT: Scarefest  
WHERE: CocoWalk 3015 Grand Ave Coconut Grove, FL  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 20

WHAT: Spa Week  
WHERE: Brownes & Co. 841 Lincoln Road Miami Beach, FL  
WHEN: Noon 12:00 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival  
WHERE: Cinema Paradiso 503 SE 6th St. Fort Lauderdale, FL  
WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$ 9

Compiled by: Rosalyn Delgado

# Fraternity stereotypes untrue

FRESHMAN, page 5

interested students to go and visit these events in order to see which organization they could see themselves in. You are to take into consideration which guys you get along with, which ones you could hang out with and of course, the fraternity's values and philosophies.

I walked into the first event, "Meet the Fraternities," at Everglades Lounge that Monday and was immediately overwhelmed by the amount of people that showed up. I walked around talking to various organizations and different types of people.

The sense of brotherhood and people being there no matter what can be very important for a freshman. Coming into college, you don't really know anyone, you don't know what's going on around campus and you don't feel at home most of the time. So you try to get involved. I think that fraternities and sororities give you that extra push to make you a better student and become involved.

Greeks represent a small minority on campus. Yet, they seem to make the biggest impact. As a freshman, I don't see why anyone wouldn't want to make an impact on their school.

Greeks show the most school pride. They are at all the games, all the tailgates, all the events, the movie nights, and are generally the most involved on campus.

Most big organizations on campus are led by Greeks, such as the Student Programming Council, Student Government Association and Panther Camp.

I would recommend attending rush week to every freshman at the University. You'll see how shows like "Greeks" and "Pledge This" got it all wrong.

## REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

MOVIE

Quarantine

☆☆☆

# Horror film fails to contain audiences

NELSON HERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

Last week's horror film "Quarantine" continues in the rich tradition of previous horror films with the motto of "Keep the camera on, we're not dead yet!"

Like "The Blair Witch Project" and the most recent example of "Cloverfield," a series of misfortunes befalls the cast of relative unknowns as a camera catches all of the acts of random violence and confusion.

The film takes place in Los Angeles as a news crew of two shadows the local fire department as firemen go out on a routine call to an apartment building.

The sensation that it won't be an average call becomes less subtle once the apartment where the call originated from is inspected, revealing a single elderly

woman covered in blood and shrieking hysterically. What ensues is the grandest example of personal chaos in recent filmmaking: people falling from the top floor of the building and into the lobby, excessive shots of jugular bleeding, curb stomping, frustration, language barriers, sledgehammers and government conspiracies.

The film falls weak on its attempt to bring the struggle down to a personal level.

There is a quick cycling of back stories for each of the characters, including everything from African immigrants (we assume since there is no clarification) to an opera student and her mentor. Yet for all of these nuggets of information, the lack of information is only meant to heighten confusion.

The predictable film struggles to provide any real frights or deep thought be-

cause it feels the only way to scare people is through a night vision lens and strategically placed monsters that the audience can see while a character fumbles around and the entire theatre is shrieking "Look behind you!"

"Quarantine" is caught between two styles of filmmaking. On the one hand, it strives to be among the latest wave of on the fly, virally marketed films like "Cloverfield," but it fails in its connection with the audience.

On the other hand, it seeks to scare through over the top cutaways and effects, but it doesn't capture the sensationalism of "torture porn" films like "Hostel" or "Saw."

This rift in ideas leaves "Quarantine" in the air, still deciding what it wants to be for the audience without ever coming close to it.

MOVIE

Sex Drive

☆☆☆☆

# Teen sex comedy hits the right spot

STEVE MESA  
Staff Writer

Whether you prefer Ben Stiller's sense of humor or the stylings of Judd Apatow, a new hat has been thrown into the preverbal comedy ring with "Sex Drive," another R-rated comedy in the tradition of "Tropic Thunder" and "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

Shot in Florida, including a scene at Dolphin Mall, "Sex Drive" is reminiscent of many 80s teen sex comedies such as "Porky's," in which the protagonist's sole mission is to get laid.

In this case, in order for that to happen,

the protagonist has to travel 500 miles to reach that goal. Why 500 miles? Ian (Josh Zuckerman) is told by a woman with whom he has been chatting online that if he travels from Chicago to Knoxville, he will lose his virginity. Obviously, Ian tells her via computer that he will be there in two days.

In most sex comedies, the protagonist surrounds himself with testosterone-driven best friends. In "Sex Drive," Ian's companions are Lance (Clark Duke), Ian's suave and debonair male friend and Felicia (Amanda Crew), Ian's best female friend. The plot picks up when Ian, Lance and Felicia confiscate the key to his brother's (James Marsden)

cherished Pontiac GTO to travel to Ian's destination.

While "Superbad" has the comedic timing and "Pineapple Express's" comedy came from violent and pot-smoking humor, this film's laughs come at the expense of the humiliation that takes a toll on Ian throughout the movie. Whether he is forced to parade around the mall he works at in a ridiculous donut costume or caught humping a punching bag by his mother, it works. The humor that comes from "Sex Drive" is very gratuitous where there are gags that include a big fake phallus on Ian's donut costume and bodily fluids used as an alternative to cool down a car's engine.

While the romance is at a minimum in this movie, its presence is felt. Zuckerman and Crew have great chemistry with each other as Ian and Felicia, who have the awkward and suppressed relationship that asks the question: Can a friendship become more than just a friendship? Their relationship creates a conflict within Ian because he has to decide if he can have sex with the girl of his dreams and still have sexual relations with his best friend.

Clark Duke became an Internet sensation with the web series "Clark & Michael," co-starring "Superbad" star Michael Cera. Just like Cera, Duke is a true comedic actor at the top of his game. Lance may not be the most handsome man in the world, but he uses his charm to woo any women he finds interest in, including the Amish.

Other funny actors in this film that should be recognized are "X-Men's" James Marsden as Ian's jerk brother - almost reminiscent of Seann William Scott's performances in the "American Pie" movies. Breaking the mold shaped by Lukas Hass in "Witness" and Randy Quaid in "Kingpin," Seth Green plays a sarcastic Amish worker with a real knack for car engineering and familiarity to today's technology.

As for cameos, look for David Koehn ("Anchorman") as a disgruntled hitchhiker, Brian Posehn ("The Sarah Silverman Program") as a carnival worker and a performance from the band Fall Out Boy in an Amish farmhouse.

Hilarious moments and funny performances turn "Sex Drive" into one of the funniest films this year.

## diversions

EASY

		2			4	1		
	1		9	5			7	
8		9	1			2		6
3				7		4	6	
	9		6		1			8
	4	7		2				9
1		3			5	7		8
	2			1	3			5
		4	2			9		

MEDIUM

				9		3	2		1
8	6			2					5
						5			
	4	6		5				9	8
9	2					8	7	4	
				4					
1						9		7	2
6		8	7		2				

Hi again,

Isn't the cartoon version of myself cute? This week, we have not one, not two, but three Sudokus for you conquer and put up on your fridge. We'll have more comics for you next week.

Cheers,

—Jonathan Davila,  
Life! Editor



HARD

				8	3	1			
9				7		2			8
		8						5	
2		3					7		5
	4							2	
6		9					8		3
		7					2		
3			2		6				4
			1	9	5				

For Sudoku answers, go to FIUSM.com/sudoku. If you are interested in having a comic in our paper, send an e-mail to Life@Fiusm.com.

### STOP THE PRESSES!



### A COMIC BY IRIS AMELIA



FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THIS SUIT GOT THE JOHN TRAVOLTA SEAL OF APPROVAL.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**SPARK PLUG:** Freshman receiver and returner T.Y. Hilton has made a major impact in his first season at FIU. He has 366 yards this season.

## NOTEBOOK: MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Hicks earns all-Sun Belt honor; Hilton to play hoops

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

In his first season at FIU, center Russell Hicks scored 12.5 points per game and led the Sun Belt Conference with 2.1 blocks per contest.

After having one of the best statistical seasons for a big man in the history of the program, he was named to the preseason men's all-Sun Belt team.

The senior, who played two seasons at Pepperdine University prior to his trans-

fer to FIU, became the 52nd player in FIU history to score 300 or more points in a single season in 2007-08.

Hicks was also ranked in the top 60 nationally in field goal percentage with a .539 clip from the field.

The 7-foot Ontario native is joined by Carlos Monroe (Florida Atlantic), Desmond Yates (Middle Tennessee), Josh White (North Texas) and Brandon Davis (South Alabama) on the preseason team. Yates was named

Preseason Player of the Year for the conference.

There were no other players from the Golden Panthers on any of the men's preseason teams.

### TOUGH ROAD

The Golden Panthers will play a slew of challenging opponents on the road this season. Trips to Washington, Miami (Fla.), UCLA, and Georgetown highlight a challenging away schedule.

Among those teams,

UCLA and Miami are expected to be among the top 25 nationally, with Washington and Georgetown on the outside looking in.

The Golden Panthers were 1-11 on the road last season, with their lone road victory at FAU. Notable home games for the Golden Panthers include games against Toledo and Fordham.

### DOUBLE DUTY

Freshman T.Y. Hilton, who is an FIU football player,

will be playing basketball for the Golden Panthers as well.

The former All-Dade basketball selection in high school will bring his athletic ability to the court.

"That was part of the agreement," said head coach Sergio Rouco. "T.Y. came here to play football and basketball. It was one of the reasons he came."

Hilton averaged 16 points per game and 5 assists per contest as a senior at Miami Springs High.

son, the Golden Panthers have gone from winning one game in two seasons, to becoming Sun-Belt Conference contenders. Hilton said the whole team is responsible for winning, not just one player.

"The things I can do to help this team, I do to perfection and everybody else sees that," Hilton said.

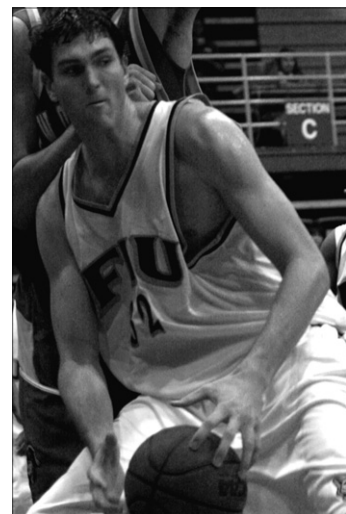
Hilton's role as a wide receiver is the latest addition to the offense, but FIU fans sitting in the student section know exactly when he's about to return a punt.

During home games, like a maestro conducting a symphony, he moves his hands and directs students to make more noise.

FIU fans this season have chanted "T.Y. Goodbye," "T.D., T.Y." and "T.Y. T.Y., T.Y.," but once the ball is in Hilton's hands, fans become silent because they know a touchdown run might unfold.

Gaitor believed in Hilton before he wore a college uniform. Following Hilton's promise, Gaitor told coach to have confidence in his long-time friend.

"Coach, whatever the kid says, believe it," Gaitor said.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**STEPPING UP:** With Galindo out, Hicks will have to score more

## Coming out of exciting week, injuries are the talk of owners

Week 6 of the NFL could have been the most exciting regular season weekend in history. We saw a record five games decided in the final minute, breaking some hearts and injecting some others with a shot of adrenaline.

We also saw some potentially dangerous injuries with a lot of fantasy implications raising some questions and concerns.

Tony Romo, the fourth ranked QB in fantasy, could be out up to four weeks. What are owners

going to do to replace him? How will this affect Terrell Owens and the other weapons on offense?

Speaking of the Cowboys, what type of impact will Patrick Crayton have now that Roy Williams is a Cowboy?

Back to the injuries, how badly are Joseph Addai and Felix Jones hurt? Truth is, no one knows, and fantasy owners can do their best

dealing with these problems head on, but always have a backup plan.

As the season rolls on, owners get more and more confused when to start and bench certain players.

For example, Maurice Jones-Drew dominates the Broncos, but hasn't done anything all year. Is Michael Pittman ever going to put together two weeks of solid numbers, and did Marvin Harrison finally wake up and smell the coffee?

Leagues are won and lost by knowing when to start middle of the road players. It hurts when guys on your bench had monster weeks and you lost by 5 points; it could cost you your season, or seeding in the playoffs.

We're halfway done with the fantasy season, and this might be the last chance you have to salvage it, or put a stamp on dominating your league. Here are some middle of the

road guys worth a look this week.

**Matt Schaub, QB, Houston Texans (vs. Detroit Lions)**—Schaub torched the Dolphins defense last week for 379 yards and a score, and the Lions defense is much worse than the 'fins D.

He is finally back on the same page with Andre Johnson, and Kevin Walter has become a very solid number two (and is worth a look this week too against Detroit). With the establishment of a good running game with Steve Slaton and Ahman Green, look for Schaub to put up huge numbers this Sunday.

**Jericho Cotchery, WR, New York Jets (vs. Oakland Raiders)**—With Oakland's Pro Bowl corner Nnamdi Asomugha on Laveranues Coles, quarterback Brett Favre will be looking Cotchery's way a lot on Sunday. With the directionless Raiders having given up on the young season, the Jets should romp the silver and black and pour on the points, We all know how Brett the

Jet rolls. Jericho has scored over 10 fantasy points in 4 out of the 5 games the Jets have played, and look for the trend to continue. Cotchery will lead the team in receiving this week... maybe even the league.

**Chris Johnson, RB, Tennessee Titans (vs. Kansas City Chiefs)**—Two things I like about Chris Johnson this week: first, I love starting players coming off bye weeks because fresh legs and extra rest usually means bigger numbers, and second, Kansas City is giving up more than 30 fantasy points a week to opposing fantasy running backs. Johnson will give the Chiefs a lot of problems given his speed and ability to catch the ball out of the backfield. He really has the potential this week to be a top 5 fantasy scorer.

**Sammy Morris, RB, New England Patriots (vs. Denver Broncos)**—The Broncos don't bode well against strong runners looking for contact (see Maurice Jones-Drew last week), and Morris is a

hard runner.

He has been spotty over the first few weeks of the year, but so has the Pats offense. He has led the team in carries the last few weeks, and should wreak havoc against a Denver defense that allows a wallowing 28 points a week to opposing running backs. The game should be a shoot out.

**Warrick Dunn, RB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers (vs. Seattle Seahawks)**—No, this isn't 1997, and no, Dunn isn't the starter in Tampa.

However, the crafty running back has had a resurgence back where he started in Tampa. Against the 23rd ranked run defense, he should have a great game splitting carries with incumbent and oft-injured Earnest Graham.

Dunn should flourish, no matter who is at Quarterback, catching the ball out of the backfield and scattering his way into the end zone on the ground.



COMMENTARY

JONATHAN ALPERT



## THE NEXT STEP

### FIU to play biggest conference game in school history at Troy

**ANDREW JULIAN**  
Sports Director

FIU (3-3, 2-0 Sun Belt) will travel to Alabama Saturday to take on the defending Sun Belt conference co-champion Troy Trojans (3-2, 2-0) in what is the most important conference contest the program has played in its seven-year history.

For the first time, FIU is 2-0 in conference play, and this will be the first of three consecutive contests against conference opponents sitting at 2-0 in league play, and atop the Sun Belt standings.

The charge has been led by a Golden Panther defense, which has become one of the Sun Belt's best.

During the current three-game winning streak, FIU has a +8 turnover differential, and is allowing an average of 324 yards per game.

Also, dating back to the South Florida loss, that could be cited as the beginning of the Golden Panthers' string of playing very well, over the last four contests, FIU is allowing an average of just 14 points.

To win on the road, FIU will need its defense to be in top shape if it wants to take a firmer hold on the Sun Belt standings. Leading the charge will be a healthy mix of youngsters.

The linebacker rotation has been solid, and the secondary has forced turnovers, but both units will need to be sharp this week, as they face relative unknowns for the Trojans.

Starting quarterback Jamie Hampton has been sidelined for the remainder of the season with a knee injury, and head coach Larry Blakeney has yet to name a starter. But the two likely candidates are sophomore Tanner Jones, a former walk-on, and Levi Brown, a 6-foot-3 225-pound junior, who is more of a fit for the Trojan spread attack.

Troy has the No. 1 defense in the Sun Belt, in terms of yards allowed per game, and is third in the conference in scoring defense.

Troy is led by junior linebacker Boris Lee and senior linebacker Bear Woods, who've combined for 108 tackles in just five games this season.

The Trojans also average over eight tackles for loss per game, which is the higher per game average.

For the first time this season, FIU will have a projected advantage at quarterback.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON



ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS/TROY UNIVERSITY

**DEFENSIVE STANDOUTS:** FIU's Scott Bryant (left) and Troy's Boris Lee (right) will both challenge for all-Sun Belt honors this season, and both should have a significant impact on the outcome of Saturday's decision.

Paul McCall has led FIU to three consecutive wins, and has limited his turnovers, throwing six touchdowns and one interception over the past three games, compared to zero scores and five picks over the first three contests.

In the backfield, it'll be tough sledding for both teams.

Troy, who runs the spread option for much of its offensive success may struggle, having lost a quarterback in Hampton that is averaging 4.6 yards per carry.

DuJuan Harris is the Trojan leading rusher, with 342 yards and four touchdowns, but struggled against FAU after the starting quarterback was injured.

Julian Reams and A'mod Ned have split carries, and have alternated productive games.

Both senior Golden Panther running backs have rushed for four touchdowns on the year, but they are averaging 3.2 (Ned), and 3.0 (Reams) yards per rush.

The FIU offensive line has continued to improve, and if they can get some push up front, the FIU ground game may have an opportunity to be effective.

Hidden yardage may be a factor in this contest, and because FIU leads the conference in both kickoff and punt return average.

T.Y. Hilton is having an all-conference type of season on special teams, but it will be strength on strength as Troy leads the Sun Belt in kick off coverage.

#### BEACON PREDICTION

The game is projected to be a defensive

struggle. It will come down to who can make big plays at the right moments, and maintain their focus as far as not turning the ball over, avoiding penalties and with penalties being near even FIU holds the advantage in turnovers.

It's the hidden yardage that'll be the difference, but not by as much a margin as the Golden Panthers have over the past three games.

FIU's defense will turnover Troy's young quarterbacks, and its offense will take advantage of a short field.

Troy's defense will limit long drives, but T.Y. Hilton will make a big play on special teams that will secure the game for FIU, who will take a step forward in the Sun Belt conference.

Final score: FIU 14, Troy 10.

## True freshman has made a true veteran impact in '08

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. News Director

On national signing day this past February, a brand new recruit, T.Y. Hilton, made a promise to FIU football head coach Mario Cristobal.

"At national signing day, I called coach and told him, 'The first punt return that I get, I'm going to take it to the house. And I promise you that.'"

Hilton, an 18-year-old fresh-

man, proved to be a man of his word. During his first collegiate game at the University of Kansas, he returned a punt 74 yards down the field for his first of five touch-

downs this season thus far.

"I saw so much film on him, I had a feeling this was going to be the one guy to do it. He's a different level of recruit in terms of abil-

ity," Cristobal said.

The Golden Panthers have a 3-3 record and are currently tied for their longest winning streak ever. The last two seasons combined without Hilton, the Golden Panthers averaged 12.3 points per game against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents.

This season, they are averaging 21.1 points per game. Miami Springs High School football coach Alex Pacheco said Hilton is not only an offensive machine, but

a versatile weapon who can play any position.

"Every time he played, I knew he was good for at least 14 points a game," Pacheco said, who coached Hilton for four years.

Playing several positions in high school such as wide receiver, corner back and even quarterback, gave him insight into how his opponents might try to defend him.

Gaitor, who Hilton has known

**HILTON, page 8**