

PEACE & LOVE

Campus unifies against violence

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COVER YOUR FANNY

Mortgage buyout fails

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Students go on tour

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WELCOME BACK

Inaugural team to be honored

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9/11 TRIBUTE



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA LYNCH AND NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

HONORING THOSE LOST: Junior Kimberly Wad (left) holds a rose in prayer during the 9/11 tribute held in GC. Soldiers hold up flags during the ceremony (top right). Campus Ministry Council and Biscayne Bay Campus students hold ribbons at the Peace Pole remembering 9/11 and Virginia Tech victims.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Medical school sees expansion

EDUARDO MORALES
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees discussed topics such as tuition, future expansion and the controversial budget cuts during its first meeting of the year on Sept. 12 in the Graham Center ballrooms.

Yet, the most prominent topic at the board meeting was the future of the College of Medicine. Student interest from across the country looks very promising, with 2,300 students from 48 states applying for the medical school's 40 spots that will be readily available next Fall semester. An increase in the amount of open spots is in the works.

Receiving accreditation for the medical school was described by University President Modesto Maidique as, "the most important event in FIU's history."

One of the other issues brought up was the expansion of the University. The Board revealed its visual plans to reshape the northeastern corner of University Park.

The plan covered the next 20 years of expansion, showcasing a new parking garage, a possible hospital and a nursing building, the latter being under construction already.

Expansion into Tamiami Park was hinted at, but nothing has been planned as of

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Up to date computers essential for keeping viruses away

OLGA VICENS
Staff Writer

Junior Darina Piddubna had no clue how it happened. She had just surfed the Internet when suddenly her computer had caught a virus. After the incident, she was prompted to download anti-virus software.

The methods FIU students are using to protect their computers from viruses range from downloading anti-virus software to using Apple's in-built protective software. Many Mac users may not be aware that any computer is at risk of receiving a virus.

But what is the most effective way to avoid computer viruses?

The University Technology Security office Web site suggests students install anti-virus protection such as McAfee software onto their computers. The Web site also says to keep virus signature definitions updated daily if possible and to scan computers for viruses weekly.

Aneysi Fernandez, a sophomore at FIU, stated that Norton, an anti-virus program, has so far prevented viruses on her Hewlett-

Packard computer.

"I have had my HP computer for about a year and so far the problems that I have had have been factory problems," Fernandez said. "I have Norton Anti-Virus and Norton Internet Security. I renew it every year and I have it set so that it does a weekly check-up on my computer regardless of what I'm doing."

Junior Carlos Revilla also has a HP, and he keeps his laptop virus-free by constantly updating the software on his computer.

"I have an HP laptop without viruses, and I use Webroot Spy Sweeper with anti-virus," Revilla said. "I also routinely check my computer's updates and maintenance."

The anti-virus protection is half of the job, the other half is installing updates to

ensure the software is evolving faster than computer viruses.

Those who use Apple computers say that their laptops come with the technology to protect computers from viruses.

Freshman Annie Sullivan is happy with Apple's virus protection.

"I have a black Macbook. I have never had any viruses, and rely on Apple's superior software to protect my computer from them," Sullivan said.

Simone Worsdale, the president of the FIU's Mac Users Group, said he doesn't do anything to prevent viruses on his Mac, except update the notebook's Apple Mac OS Security Updates.

"I have had my most recent Apple computer, a black Macbook, for about one year. In that time, it has not had one virus," Worsdale said.

Technology Editor for *Consumer Reports* Jeff Fox said that Macs are more resistant

I have a black Mac book. I have never had any viruses, and rely on Apple's superior software to protect my computer from them.

Annie Sullivan
freshman

against viruses, but are not invincible.

"Yes, Macs are much less susceptible to viruses and spyware than PCs," Fox said in an interview with CNN. "But surveys show that may breed a false sense of security among Mac owners, who still fall prey to phishing scams at about the same rate as Windows users."

Worsdale did reveal some reasons why virus makers aren't targeting Mac computers.

"Apple computers are better at preventing viruses than any PC, including HP computers," he said. "Apple computers take up a significantly less market share than PCs, because of this, most virus-makers do not make viruses for them."

For the complete story on preventing internet viruses. Visit the News section of our Web site.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

University to host panel on the dangers of abstinence-only education

Four speakers from Legal Momentum, Planned Parenthood, the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS) will discuss what the groups consider to be the negative effects of abstinence-only education in a seminar titled “Sex, Lies, and Stereotypes” on Sept. 16.

The panel discussion is open to students and to the public. The event will take place at the Graham Center Ballrooms at University Park from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Law school and Business schools receive top honors

FIU's College of Law and Business is ranked as one of the top colleges for Hispanic graduate students, according to *HispanicBusiness.com*.

The magazine produces a yearly study that looks for the schools that are “at the forefront of recruiting, retaining, and offering higher education” in the fields of medicine, engineering, business, and law.

The Web site ranked FIU's Business School number eight, with Hispanic graduates accounting for 55 percent of the total graduating class and 31.5 percent of the 17 MBA degrees awarded to Hispanics on 2008.

FIU scientists hope to recreate big bang theory conditions

A group of nine FIU scientists took part in a monumental experiment that looks to recreate the conditions of the big bang theory and discover invisible particles.

The FIU scientists were among the select group of 10,000 scientists from around the world, recreating the universe's earliest stages.

Their efforts were used to build the Large Hadron Collider, which is the largest particle collider in the world. FIU scientists worked on many different aspects of the project, such as analyzing results from the proton beam test.

– Compiled by Julio Menache

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Student group fights drugs, emphasizes dangers of alcohol

JOEY FRANCILUS
Contributing Writer

Amid the fervor surrounding an initiative to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18 years old, former Northeastern University student Ken Procaccianti has relaunched his student group Hammered, an alternative to the dangers of alcohol and other drugs found on college campuses.

In an effort to encourage undergraduates that they can have a good time and not booze it up every night, Procaccianti created Hammered in 2002 as an alternative to the on-campus Greek organizations of the Northeastern University's Boston campus.

Procaccianti's brainchild now features a Web site as an attempt to expand the program nationwide. The Web site, which features information about creating chapters and organizing events, features comedic videos about the potential repercussions of heavy drinking. A video en-

titled “Karma” is the first of many videos slated to be released during the school year.

FIU freshman Helen Shaheen recently visited *Hammered.org*, finding the site amusingly campy. Shaheen spoke with deep conviction concerning a campaign started in July to lower

Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, the relevance of Hammered's relaunching its anti-alcohol and anti-drug mission is solidified by an initiative to lower the drinking age, spearheaded by former Middlebury College president, John Cardell Jr.

Cardell's opposition to the

Initiative, petitioning a lower drinking age would allow them to oversee and potentially regulate drinking on their campuses.

Reaction concerning Cardell's initiative has varied considerably among the college community, and has been sparse, particularly here in South Florida. Although University President Modesto Maidique has not officially commented on the Amethyst Initiative, University of Miami President Donna Shalala notably declined to sign the petition.

“I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages,” Shalala said. “To just shift it back to down to the high schools makes no sense at all.”

Alex Cruz, an FIU freshman, questioned both the effectiveness of Hammered and the 21-year-old drinking age.

“I think the drinking age should be lowered,” Cruz stated. “If we're old enough to be charged with a crime, then we should be allowed to drink.”

If [18-year-olds] can go off to war and die for their country, why can't they have a drink?

Helen Shaheen, freshman

the drinking age, which has spurred particular interest in Hammered's nationwide relaunch.

“What Hammered is doing is great, but lowering the drinking age is important,” Shaheen said. “If [18-year-olds] can go off to war and die for their country, why can't they have a drink?”

With the return of undergraduates at FIU's University

current drinking age directly challenges the validity of the 1984 National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which restricts federal highway funding to any state that does not enforce a drinking age of at least 21.

Since July, Cardell has organized over 100 presidents and chancellors from colleges such as Dartmouth and Ohio State to sign the Amethyst

BOT reports on fiscal year with pride

BOT, page 1

yet.

The BOT was also proud to announce that several goals were met and surpassed in this record-breaking fiscal year for the University. FIU increased the number of doctoral degrees available to 122.

The University also achieved \$108 million in sponsored research, a 14.7 percent increase over last year.

Disappointments were also acknowledged at the meeting. Student retention decreased this year

and the BOT has yet to appoint a vice president of advancement, although three potential candidates are available.

Overall, the BOT is proud of the past fiscal year and there's plenty of promise for the next.

The board has achieved \$7.3 million in fundraising on its way to the current year's goal of \$35 million.

Despite the much talked about budget cuts, it was a record year in many areas.

“It was a year of great disappointment, but great achievement,” Maidique said.

POLICE NOTES

Aug. 28 – Aug. 31

Aug. 28: An FIU student parked and left her vehicle in the Red Parking Garage. Upon returning, she noticed that an unknown person had damaged the right upper rear quarter panel of her vehicle along with damage to the right rear window.

Aug. 30: At 3:53 a.m., police on routine patrol observed a four door red sedan heading northbound from 108 Ave. and SW 17 St. When it reached the traffic circle at 108 St and SW 16 St, it made a sharp right turn at a high rate of speed to head eastbound. The vehicle fishtailed and struck a nearby curb. A traffic stop was conducted; the vehicle's driver was intoxicated and arrested for DUI.

Aug. 31: Two white males were skateboarding by the Graham Center fountain area, when two officers arrived. Both men admitted to skateboarding in the area, an offense. Both men had been warned in the past of this offense. They were then arrested for trespassing. Both parties left the scene without incident.

– Compiled by David A. Barrios

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Students unite to dedicate monument, support peace

BARBARA QUIJANO
Contributing Writer

On a breezy afternoon of silence and admiration, chanting, prayer and allegiance, a peace pole stood strong, symbolizing and announcing in an array of languages, "Let there be peace on Earth and begin with me."

The Sept. 11 peace pole dedication ceremony commenced with a march from

the Multi-Faith Fair, held in Panther Square, heading to the back of the Wolfe University Center. As

they marched, participants sang "All we are saying is give peace a chance," accentuated by a chorus of drums.

The event carried the day, filling a crowd of curious faces with smiles and applaud.

Craig Cunningham, director of Campus Life and Orientation at Biscayne Bay Campus, began with a welcome speech, recognizing that "this is a special day of remembrance."

The idea for the peace pole originated from Rev. Dr. Linnea Pearson, and was constructed with the support of the BBC Campus Ministry and funded by BBC's Student Government Council 2007-2008.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Cathy Akens acknowledged the SGC-BBC initiative.

"[The Peace Pole] is a very fitting gift and a remembrance for all of us on a university campus," Akens said.

Passing on knowledge and creating future leaders of our society were two goals mentioned by Akens.

"The exchange of ideas and opinions is something we really value. [It's] really only possible when people understand the importance of co-existing peacefully and always working toward peaceful resolutions to conflict," Akens said.

Pearson mentioned that the location of the peace pole was a wonderful one and voiced her hope that when people pass it, that "they will stop for a moment and say a

verse from the Bible.

Speaker Rakesh Kamal said a prayer both in English and Hindi. Yumi Yokoi, Intervarsity speaker, recited the Prayer of Saint Francis in English and Japanese, both to an admirable ovation from listeners.

Patricia Desir read a verse from the Book of Psalms. Mnar Muhareb said a prayer in Arabic explaining how Muslims begin each day with prayer. And Sholom Neistein

read Song 23, which was written by King David and is common in both the Christian and Jewish religions.

The ceremony ended with the chanting of and swaying to the "Pledge Allegiance to the Earth."

"[The ceremony] was a very informative turnout encouraging peace," said Kertus M. Toussaint, a senior majoring in sociology and finance. "Technology has gotten so advanced. What are we doing to use it to benefit mankind instead of creating issues such as September 11 or Hiroshima or nuclear war? What are we doing individually to work to make sure things like this do not occur?" he said.

Instead of focusing only on a yearly ceremony to remember the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Pearson prefers to use the occasion to oppose all violence that has occurred in response to the attacks.

"I decided to do that shift of consciousness from mourning those victims to mourning all the violence that has come from Iraq," Pearson said.

The [Peace Pole] is a very fitting gift and a remembrance for all of us on a university campus

Cathy Akens
assistant vice president, Student Affairs

little prayer."

Pearson asked the crowd if someone in their life was touched by violence and various hands were raised. She then read a poem in recognition of these students, ending with the statement that "someday we might find an end to this violence."

Pearson's speech referenced quotes from the Dalai Lama, Ghandi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ending with a parable which suggested that:

"Each of us today pledge ourselves to be the one person ... to change the energy and to create a hope for a world in which we can all survive together ... we are one interconnected, interrelated family on this earth," according to Pearson.

"As we dedicate this peace pole today, I pray that this place would be one where many can find a place for rest and a place of meditation in the midst of our struggles and trials," said Mary Beth Doozen, coordinator for Intervarsity, after reading

assessments, massages and programs for smoking cessation, and back pain prevention.

"A nutritionist will inform about eating healthier, and a podiatrist will be doing check-ups," said Sara Baker, registered nurse at the clinic and open house coordinator.

Those who attend after eating can still get tested.

"It's OK if patients have food in their stomachs. It won't make a big difference," Baker said.

The Wellness Center open house is organized each year and is open to all students, faculty and staff, according to Andres Bermeo, assistant.

"We want to educate people about our services, and to be familiar with the clinic and know that we are here to help," Bermeo said.

Attendees will also receive free over-the-counter medication and a survey to evaluate their experience at the clinic.

For more information, please call (305) 919-5620.



PEACE PLEDGE:

On Sept. 11, students and faculty dedicated the Peace Pole (top) between the Wolfe University Center and Marine Science Building. Members of the University community marched from the Multi-Faith Peace Fair to the dedication singing, "all we are saying is give peace a chance."

NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON



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Doctor's orders: check-ups at center

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Life! Editor

FIU students and staff will be able to check their health without emptying their wallets.

The Wellness Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus will host an open house on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the campus clinic.

Blood sugar, cholesterol, pressure, lung function and posture screenings will be offered for free, as well as skin care and ear health

THE BEACON | Editorial

Lack of ticketing options for FIU football may lead to alienating students

Since it was first announced, the University community has been giddy about this season's football home opener against the University of South Florida.

The Golden Panthers will be playing against the No. 19 ranked team in the country and many will be getting their first glimpse at the stadium that cost \$31 million in its initial stage.

So far 5,000 students have picked up their vouchers, which can be used to gain entrance to the game.

But for those who may want to catch the unveiling of the stadium and game against USF, they'll have to pay \$100 for season tickets, instead of a ticket for a single game.

Even though Athletics has the right to make its own business decisions, it is in bad taste that single game tickets are not offered during this monumental time for the football team.

FIU is still considered a young university when compared to other schools like Penn State, Florida State and North Carolina.

Each of these schools has had time to build a legacy in athletics.

Now is a crucial time for FIU Football to build a fan base.

Students have historically not turned out to athletic events. But with a new stadium, logo and a coach in his second year, efforts must be made to reach out for support from the University community.

Athletics is building within a culture of student apathy, and part of its marketing and ticket sales strategy is based on that.

While this practice may not be uncommon in college football, this is not the time for FIU to put on the shoes of a big shot.

When tickets are in hot demand, it makes sense to reserve them for the people who will pay the most money for them.

Athletics has stated that no student would be turned away.

By forcing patrons to purchase season tickets rather than individual ones, the University is trying to establish a culture of interest and support for the football program.

While this might appear to be a coldly corporate approach – even as it directly relates to the student body – it is telling of collegiate athletics.

FIU is trying to generate this revenue at, what appears to be, the expense of the students. Nothing has changed from the past, with the exception of acquiring the entry pass.

But right now, Athletics' focus should be building a relationship with current students, who are funding the department through the Athletics fee included in tuition, making every student a ticket holder whether they like it or not.

Students will be less likely to support a failing football team if barriers are put in place, such as one that makes it difficult to invite non-students to attend a game with them.

While Athletics should certainly be wooing current students, there may be some graduates out there who may want to check out FIU's new stadium if they were able to do so on a single-game basis.

This business practice of trying to make a quick buck off a game in high demand is no way to help build a tradition.

Instead, this measure gives the impression that Athletics is more interested in building the department than encouraging school spirit for such a momentous occasion.

BIG BUCKS

Government takes on new debt



IRIS A. FEBRES/THE BEACON

MATT RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Last Sunday, the U.S. government, champion of liberty, model of democracy, defender of the free market, at home and abroad – announced it would be nationalizing two privately-held companies. In doing this, the government effectively doubled the national debt, all in one weekend.

Mortgage mammoths Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were both absorbed by the Treasury Department this past week in an attempt to ward off their likely bankruptcies and stabilize the ailing mortgage market.

Both companies are government-sponsored enterprises, meaning they were originally created by the U.S. Congress and were later privatized.

They later turned over control to stockholders. Their purpose: to bundle mortgage debt and resell them as mortgage-backed securities.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac own approximately \$5.4 trillion – yes, trillion – of the outstanding residential mortgages in the U.S. Therefore, this action effectively saddles every American born or still gestating, with a lifetime of debt.

To put this in perspective, the war in Iraq has roughly cost \$400 billion, approximately 1/13th of the debt of these two companies.

I can't fathom what brought United States Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to do this.

What is particularly irksome is this situation could have been avoided. Josh Rosner, an analyst at Graham Fisher – an independent research firm in New York – has stated in *The New York Times*.

“Since 2003, when these companies' accounting came under question, policy makers have

done nothing. Even though they had every reason to know that the housing market's problems would not be contained to sub-prime and would bring down the houses of Fannie and Freddie.”

The notion that we Americans need to pay for these mistakes is one I find outrageous. Here they were given every kind of graft Washington or Wall Street could conjure up and they still failed

“The notion that we Americans need to pay for these fatheads' mistakes is one I find outrageous.”

Both companies dodged these attempts at regulation in the earlier part of the decade with their bought-and-paid-for politician, Rep. Barney Frank, a Democrat from Massachusetts of the Financial Services Committee.

Frank managed to shoot down greater controls over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac after overstating their earnings by \$6.3 billion and \$5 billion, respectively. Coincidentally, both Fannie and Freddie are in the top 20 of lobbying spenders in Washington and together have paid \$170 million to lobbyists since 1998.

It's a well known axiom that 103 percent of all statistics are made up, and that goes doubly for Wall Street accounting. If our regulators aren't checking up on these companies, who is?

It comes as no surprise, with a carte-blanc from the government, that these companies continued buying risky sub-prime mortgages from banks.

They've overstated the amount of cash they had on hand in reserve. As a result, they've become unable to pay their own debts, which takes us to present day, and the taxpayer assuming the position.

epically. They are the most insane bunch of executives to ever create a balance sheet, like an “Ernest Goes To Wall Street” kind of stupid. They are crooks of the lowest order and responsible for one of the greatest frauds.

It's a neo-Enron on steroids, artificially propped up by a government that bought them a bigger shovel to dig their deeper hole – the same government that is now offering them a ladder and throwing the dirt our way.

This is not capitalism; it is the grossest form of robbery.

A theft so complete they've managed to convince us it's in our interest to bail out one of the most corrupt rackets in Washington.

Let the free market take its course, let Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fall to pieces, let us be ridden of these quasi-government, private corporations forever.

Let the government oversee its dissolution, and let the courts decide how to find buyers for Fannie's and Freddie's securities.

This is the house Big Government built, lacking in foundation and proper structure, it's only fitting because they're the ones to knock it down.

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Officer of a student organization?
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The Sneak Preview

Student band tours Florida in hopes of being discovered

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

If a band that, on its MySpace, describes their songs as having “melodic guitars, driving bass lines, thunderous beats, and an explosion of harmonic vocal melodies” appeals to you, then keep your eyes – and ears – out for The Sneak Preview, a pop-rock band featuring four FIU students.

Officially formed in fall of 2007, The Sneak Preview has become a staple in South Florida’s local rock scene. Although most of the members – Noor Laylee, singer; Michael Thomas, guitarist; Chris Plesent, guitarist and Michael Blanco, bassist – have known each other for years, the band was not complete until the addition of drummer Ricky Orozco, who was found via a MySpace advertisement.

The band is determined not to fall into the habit of playing the same shows in the same locations, eventually becoming what they describe as “weekend warriors.”

“The whole problem with being in a band in Miami is that it’s so easy to fall into [the] hole of playing in the same place every weekend. Florida is

really active right now. There are a lot of bands coming out of Florida, and there are a lot of eyes on Florida. We want to branch out as a Florida band, not just a Miami band. You’re taken more seriously,” Thomas said.

Unfortunately, branching out has not worked in the past. In mid-August, the band had originally planned to go on a two week Florida tour, but because of unforeseen circumstances, such as illness in the family and the threat of Tropical Storm Fay, they had to shorten the tour to only three days.

“It was like nature and everything else was against us,” Orozco said.

However, their spirits are still high.

“The best thing that you can do for your band is tour, because you get your music out there,” Laylee said.

“We only went for three days, but we got a lot done with the [music] video,” added Orozco.

The music video, the band’s first, was recently shot for their song “Is It Worth the Wait?”

“[Shooting the video] was just really weird, because we were in Windemere, Florida in the middle of a field. It all sounded so epic, but our



guitars weren’t plugged in. All we could hear were the drums,” Thomas said.

This year, the band also recorded their debut album. The LP, titled “A Storybook Ending,” is an eclectic mixture of various rock genres.

“Now that we’re home, we’re regrouping, trying to get our stuff together, trying to get hard copies of the album out,” Thomas said.

Despite their increasing popularity, they stay grounded.

“While on tour, there was a band next door and they threw a TV set out the window. We just took the towels,” Thomas said.

Plans for the immediate future include acquiring band merchandise, including T-shirts and, hopefully, temporary tattoos.

“Touring without band merchandise was a bad idea,” Laylee admits.

After their merchandise is made,

SNEAK A PEAK: The Sneak Preview: top from left to right: Michael Blanco, Michael Thomas, Noor Laylee, Christopher Plesent and Ricky Orozco.

they will embark on their next tour. In the long run, the band hopes to eventually tour outside of Florida’s borders and into Georgia.

“We’re planning on playing shows in northern Florida [for now], like Tampa or Delray Beach,” Laylee said.

And this time, more than three days, according to Orozco.

After Georgia the band plans to go international.

“Eventually, Tokyo, Japan,” Plesent said.

And it doesn’t end there.

“Well, we’re planning on ruling the world,” Orozco said.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE SNEAK PREVIEW

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 15

WHAT: Campus Bible Fellowship general meeting
WHERE: GC 314
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Multicultural Greek Council: Step, Stroll, Salute Exhibition
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 12 p.m.

WHAT: Panther Rage General Meeting
WHERE: GC 314
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Relay For Life Kick-Off Party
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.

WHAT: College Democrats General Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Muslim Student Association:
Ramadan week
WHERE: Cafeteria Annex
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: SGA Council Meeting
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 4 p.m.

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 16

WHAT: The Entrepreneur’s HOW TO get noticed without Spending a fortune
WHERE: online
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Aramark Exhibition
WHERE: GC ballrooms
WHEN: 12 p.m.

WHAT: Multicultural Greek Council Promotions
WHERE: GC PIT
WHEN: 12 p.m.

WHAT: Student Occupational Therapy Association General Meeting
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHAT:
WHERE: GC 314
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Black Student Union, Poetry Night
WHERE: Gracie’s Grill
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Black Student Union, Poetry Night
WHERE: Gracie’s Grill
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 17

WHAT: SGA Forum
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Music Saves Lives General Meeting
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.

WHAT: Department of Athletics, Pep Rally
WHERE: Betty Chapman Plaza
WHEN: 12 p.m.

WHAT: FIU Panther Promotions General Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 5 p.m.

WHAT: College Republicans General Meeting
WHERE: TBA
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.

WHAT: Caribbean Student Association, Game Night
WHERE: Gracie’s Grill
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Campus Bible Fellowship general meeting
WHERE: GC 314
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: SOC General Meeting
WHERE: WUC 150
WHEN: 2 p.m.

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 18

WHAT: Association for computing machinery meeting
WHERE: ECS 280
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: Interfraternity, Bid Day
WHERE: GC PIT
WHEN: 12 p.m.

WHAT: Invitational Club for Scholars, Study Sessions
WHERE: GC 05
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: Students for a free tibet general meeting
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: Caribbean Student Association General Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 5 p.m.

WHAT: Graham Center Art Gallery, Intrinsic Reception
WHERE: GC Gallery
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Colombian Student Association general meeting
WHERE: GC 340
WHEN: 7 p.m.

Compiled by: Rosalyn Delgado

Fashion show promotes panther pride, apparel

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

The overwhelming majority of students do not wear FIU clothing or merchandise. It is a rarity to spot any in the never-ending flow of student traffic in the Graham Center's congested and raucous halls. Considering that GC is the most populous area at FIU, the lack of FIU merchandise is disturbing to



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FIU GIVES YOU WINGS: The students modeling were given free University apparel.

the FIU Bookstore, where the merchandise is sold.

So, according to Marketing Manager for Business Services Nancy Cadavid, in order to "increase school spirit for students," a partnership between Business Services and the FIU Bookstore was formed to hold a fashion show.

Any FIU student was eligible to participate as a model. Several fraternities and sororities assisted in recruiting students to model FIU apparel. Of course, the participants are not going to go through the lengthy and sweltering procedure without compensation. All of the models were awarded FIU merchandise and apparel.

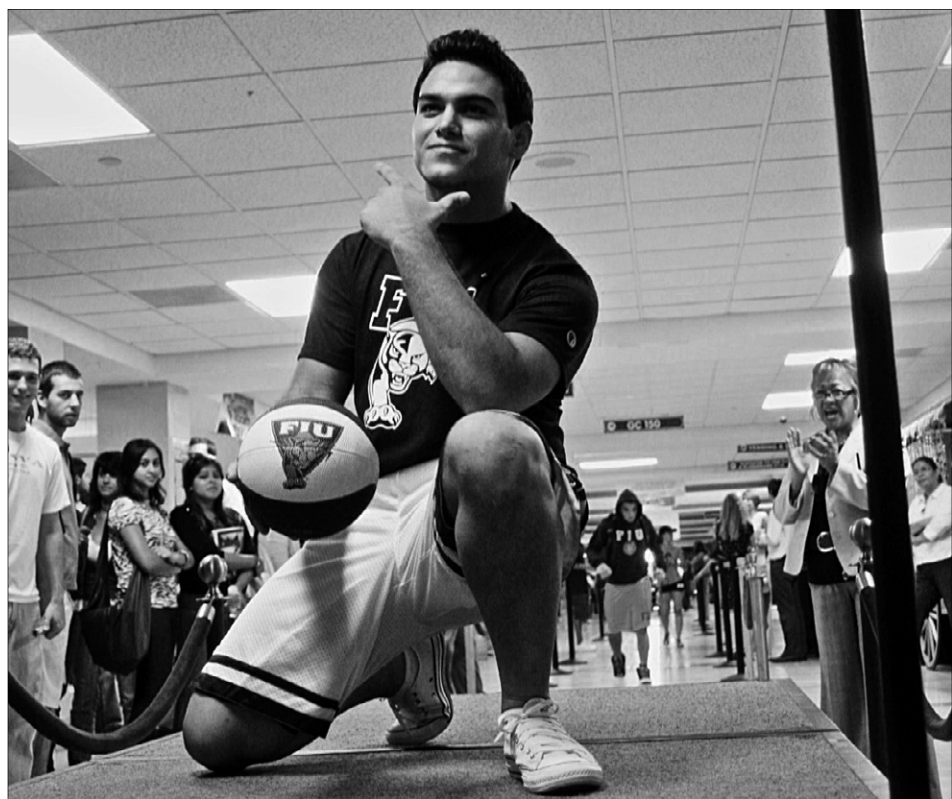
"I hope it encourages others to get involved on campus within the panther community," said freshman Jordan Rosales.

As one entered GC, announcers introducing the models as they sported FIU apparel could be heard. Although they did not have flashy entrances, the speakers placed throughout GC and the obstructive platforms were more than enough to attract a large crowd of curious golden panthers.

The clothing ranged from sleeping garments to track pants, and the merchandise was just as diverse. All of the FIU apparel matched perfectly well with its complement. The crowd showed their approval of the items with their applause and enthusiasm.

As the models boarded the platforms, cheers and applause could be heard all around while their apparel was advertised throughout GC.

"I had an amazing time," said senior Farrel



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

LOOKIN' GOOD: Student models showed off their University apparel in the Graham Center in order to promote the new line of FIU merchandise available at the bookstore.

Liger about modeling the FIU apparel.

Liger was not alone in his sentiments.

"It was a blue and gold experience," said sophomore Christos Meletis about his modeling experience.

According to Cadavid, the fashion show was held "to promote FIU clothing, apparel

and merchandise."

"It was a very different experience," Meletis said.

The students seemed quite enthusiastic about wearing FIU apparel. As a result, Cadavid expects to see more students and faculty sporting the blue and gold.

Best Buddies program reaches out to students

DIANA GARCIA
Contributing Writer

Everyone has a different idea of what friendship is. For members of Best Buddies, it means having respect for each other, laughing together, sharing secrets, understanding one another and making an impact on each other's lives. Many don't consider how lonely life would be if the only people they spoke with were their parents and close family members. A new program at FIU is making sure that those with intellectual disabilities never feel alone.

Founded in 1989, Best Buddies is now found worldwide in middle schools, high schools and universities, providing people with intellectual disabilities with one-on-one friendship. At FIU, Ari Juarez, the local program president, believes that this year Best Buddies will excel. She will be leading the group's meetings which will be held once a month.

Besides these meetings, members are committed to having one large event every month and several smaller events throughout the semester.

"Without friends and family, they are alone," said Juarez, who is planning to make Best Buddies as well known as Dance Marathon and Homecoming.

The standards have been set very high this year, and the club plans on living up to them by reaching out to members of the Greek society and other well recognized organizations on campus such as Student Programming Council and Student Government Association.

In order to handle public relations, a PR position was created within the club and given to

Melissa Reyes, who plans to tackle the challenge by creating Facebook and MySpace accounts that will be used to promote the event calendar as well as general awareness of the program.

For students looking to make a difference, Best Buddies gives you the opportunity to "change people's lives one friendship at a time." Once a student becomes a member, a matching sheet is filled out and taken to a church where a buddy also fills out a survey on their likes and dislikes. After two people, preferably of the same sex, are matched up, they attend different events together. Additionally, the members will contact their buddies once a week to speak with them about any subject.

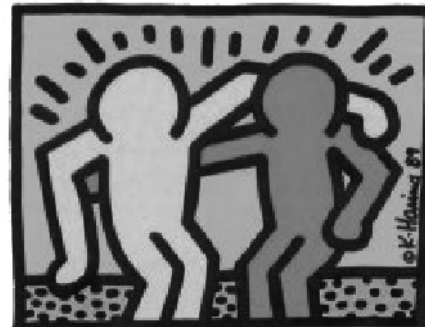
People get motivated to help in different ways. Juarez was inspired by her best friend in middle school. Her best friend had two brothers with intellectual disabilities and she never saw them as different. She noticed they were just like any person labeled as "normal." Juarez later got a public relations internship

at Best Buddies headquarters, and while working on one of their biggest fund raisers, she met many adults with intellectual disabilities and fell in love with them all over again.

The club's first meeting was held on Wednesday, Sept. 10 and was considered a success since now that there are more members, more buddies will have someone to laugh with and confide in.

Those interested in becoming a part of Best Buddies may find more information at the club's Facebook group Best Buddies FIU or MySpace page <http://www.myspace.com/bestbuddiesfiu>, or contact Juarez at arisleyj@yahoo.com.

BEST BUDDIES



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Former player says team had a 'family' during his tenure

FOOTBALL, page 8

recruited by bigger schools. Nick Turnbull had Florida, Greg Moss had Virginia Union, and John Haritan was being chased by UCF, and all elected to play for Don Strock and a program that never competed in an NCAA game."

Eventually, after practicing in the fall, spring, and summer, without ever taking a real snap—there were some scrimmages — FIU played its first real football game on August 29, 2002, beating St. Peters 27-3 at home in front of an electrifying crowd.

During that inaugural season, Timothee and the secondary helped the team achieve 5 wins and 6 losses; that record, a best for an NCAA football team in their first season. This teams' initial success would help propel the program to become the fastest program to ever turn Division 1-A (now called FBS)

Now, the team has scattered as all teams eventually do, but they make an effort to stay in touch.

Around thirty of the guys joined the FIU football alumni group on Facebook and Timothee, without hesitation, can just about name every old teammates current job and whereabouts, rifling off an array of professions: teachers, coaches, lawyers, insurance salesmen, construction project managers, and professional football players. After the game ended, this group remained very successful.

Timothee, the first FIU player to sign an NFL contract, continued to workout at FIU after graduating.

"We are a family at FIU and once you're a panther you're always a panther. I would drive back three times a week and workout at the school, some young defensive backs that are still there would join me. They liked seeing me come back and work with them, and I bet they will appreciate us coming to their home opener."

Timothee never doubted FIU was capable of becoming a successful program even when the team was subjected to a season of scrimmages, he said, "Strock kept saying 'we are getting a new stadium, we are going to play big-time football' and I believed him."

Sadly for Timothee, he also suspected he would be gone before that point would come. He was right. But the original Golden Panthers paved the way for the current players. They made this stadium possible. They sacrificed, and it is only befitting that they be apart of the new stadiums opening.

It was only seven years ago that football itself was a mirage; however, with the help of these golden panther pioneers, FIU has slowly climbed into the national scene.

To them this game's not just about celebrating the future; it's about remembering the past. Timothee stated with nostalgic tone, "To be honest, playing football at FIU was the best, and I would do it all over again."

THE GRIDIRON



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

VIEWING THE VENUE: *FIUSM.com* will provide a panoramic, interactive view from every angle of FIU stadium in a new feature. The stadium will open and host FIU football games this season for the first time.

Team hoping Wilford produces

COORDINATOR, page 8

ance between the pass (47 plays) and run (17), given that running back is the strength of the team with Ricky Williams and Ronnie Brown.

How many carries would Henning like to give Williams and Brown?

"How about 75 times? No passes," he said.

Henning noted the Dolphins struggled early with the ground

game against the Jets, then trailed the entire second half.

"When we don't run the ball effectively early on, that puts us in a bind if the other team gets ahead," he said.

As for Wilford, Henning said he's a possible solution for a team that still has a lot of problems.

"I like Ernest," Henning said. "I like the way Ernest works. I'd like to see him be more productive, but it's not always his fault that he's not more productive.

There's a lot going on here right now.

"It's not like you stick Ernest in here on a team that was in the playoffs last year and just needed a receiver, and he solves the problem for you. There's a lot going on, so it's difficult to evaluate everybody in this cauldron that is happening right now."

It must be a little like the Houston Oilers in 1972, except that Pennington is already married.

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Inaugural team recalls past, reflects on '08 team

MIKE JONES
Contributing Writer

If you build it, they will come...back. That's right, the ghosts of Golden Panthers' football past—though, these ghosts are still in their middle twenties—plan to revisit their alma mater to witness the brand new, on-campus stadium's inaugural game.

To correlate with the new stadium, FIU has adopted a new slogan: "New Stadium. New Game. New Attitude. You In?" through the new excitement surrounding current panther athletics, it's easy to overlook the past, yet without these founding football fathers; wouldn't this new stadium just be a mirage?

The Golden Panther Football pioneers were some 50-plus guys who practiced, practiced, practiced for the entire 2001 season without the reward of a single game. Though not all 50 will return for the Sept. 20th contest.

Led by Kevin Timothee, 25 to 30 original panther football members plan to reunite at the home opener, some traveling from Orlando, Tampa, and North Florida; a plan which commenced at an annual football camp hosted by Josh Alexander, an original Golden Panther defensive lineman. Twenty other members from that original team joined Alexander to help raise money in memory of fallen FIU alum and middle linebacker Lance Preston; a beloved member of the FIU family who died much too young in a motorcycle accident on Sept. 3 2006.

Emotionally, Timothee commented, "The two year anniversary of the accident just passed. Six of us from that original team got tattoos to match Lance's tattoo. He would have defiantly been at the stadium opener cheering on FIU. He would have been happy for the program."

Without his old roommate and team captain Lance Preston around to lead, Kevin Timothee decided not to let that special 2001 group drift completely apart, stating: "that team was special, I could call any one of those guys and have a place to stay; we really bonded in that initial season doing everything together. We practiced together, lived together, partied together [pausing]. We grew up together."

However, for Timothee, as well as many of his teammates, FIU almost never happened. Timothee was packed and ready for Massachusetts. That summer he even laughed at future teammate Kyle Salas—they knew one another from high school—when he said, "I'm really excited to help build the program at FIU." At the time, Timothee thought he was crazy.

But UMass is cold and Timothee, prompted by family, decided to visit FIU. After visiting the campus, seeing the towers—where he and teammates would later launch water balloons into pedestrian traffic—and the Graham Center during chaotic lunchtime, Timothee was ready to commit.

"A part of me really did want to stay home," Timothee admitted. And he wasn't alone as others such as Dannon Monroe, a tight end transferring from Fordham, also elected to stay home over playing elsewhere.

As Timothee stated, "lots of guys made sacrifices to go FIU, the entire secondary was

COACH'S CORNER: FOOTBALL

SLOW START

Cristobal looking for offensive spark

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU football team will be playing for the first time in its new on-campus stadium Saturday, Sept. 20. The new facility, which will be the only on-campus stadium south of Orlando, has been in the works since last year. Unfortunately, the team is still without victory at 0-2, and the team's first match in the new stadium is against a strong opponent in the University of South Florida.

The team held an open scrimmage in the new venue last Wednesday Sept. 11, with fans having an opportunity to see the team working as a unit in person.

Head coach Mario Cristobal shared his thoughts on the state of his team during the first of three bye weeks. When asked what area he felt the team needed to improve the most, Cristobal believed it was overall efficiency.

"The fundamentals of football. Blocking, tackling, throwing, and being more efficient," he said. "We're making sure that we find more ways to get the ball in the hands of those guys that have made plays for us in the first couple of games."

The second year coach also stood by his decision to stick with junior Paul McCall even after there was speculation earlier in the week that sophomore Wayne Younger would be named the new starter.

"Paul McCall is still our

starter. Wayne has earned playing time and will play," he said. "As of today, that is the status of our quarterbacks."

The coach also elaborated on the struggles of the offense but provided reasoning for their lack of execution.

"We haven't executed [the offense] like we did in the spring, but we're improving. We went up against teams that presented a much bigger challenge to us than we expected and I think the speed of the game hit us in the face," Cristobal said. "We weren't able to make the adjustments physically and I think that's just part of the growing pains of a young football team."

The unit will also not lose one of its key components, as senior running back Julian Reams is back practicing and will be available next week after suffering a concussion against Iowa.

"Reams is fully dressed. He is good to go and will be full-go on Saturday as well," he said.

In regards to the team's defense, Cristobal seemed upbeat.

"I see a lot of young guys stepping up, especially the defensive line. They are starting to put pressure on a lot of the older guys. You've also seen some of these young line backers step up and push for playing time," he said. "In the secondary, we got chewed up a bit last week; something that is tied into the opponent running the ball really well and opening up some of the playaction passing game that they did,"



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

PREACH: Head coach Mario Cristobal directs his team from the sideline during a scrimmage on Thursday, Sept. 11. The Golden Panthers play USF on Sept. 20 at FIU stadium.

For further improvement, the unit must consistently produce as group, according to Cristobal.

"The defense, like anything else in football, is all tied together. If one part malfunctions or shows itself to be the weak link, the entire defense pays the price --so we've been making

sure that everyone is responsible for their assignment," he said.

GAMENOTE

The first game at the new stadium on Sept. 20 against South Florida has been moved from 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. in order to accommodate ESPN who will be televising the game nationally.

New coordinator adapting to team

STEVEN WINE
AP Wire

Miami Dolphins offensive coordinator Dan Henning reminisced Thursday about his first NFL coaching job, which brought up the name of 1960 Playboy playmate June Wilkinson.

In 1972, Henning was an assistant coach for the Houston Oilers when quarterback Dan Pastorini married Wilkinson.

"She was 36, and I'm coaching a 23-year-old guy who got infatuated one bye weekend and three weeks later got married," Henning said. "She was playing in 'The Pajama Game' in Houston."

Perhaps not coincidentally, that Oilers team went 1-13. The 66-year-old Henning may need to draw on that experience this season.

He came out of retirement

this year to help longtime friend Bill Parcells, the new executive vice president for football operations, and new coach Tony Sparano. The regime is trying to revive the Dolphins after six years out of the playoffs, but it's off to a slow start: Miami takes an 0-1 record into Sunday's game at Arizona.

The Dolphins lost 20-14 last week to the New York Jets, and a sputtering offense prompted plenty of second-guessing about play-calling and the use of personnel.

"Didn't get the job done," said Henning, speaking to the media for the first time since the start of training camp. "We are still evaluating this team and finding out who can do what and when and where. Obviously we're not where we want to be."

Henning knows talent: He coached Joe Namath, Bob

Griese, John Riggins, Joe Theismann and Dan Fouts. For the Dolphins, who went 1-15 last year, talent is an issue, Henning said.

Miami bolstered the offensive line with the top pick in the draft, Jake Long, and upgraded at quarterback by signing Chad Pennington. But this is more than a one-year project for Parcells, Sparano and general manager Jeff Ireland, Henning said.

"Between the vice president and the general manager and the head coach, there's a singleness of purpose here about what they're trying to get done," Henning said. "I see that manifesting itself in the types of players they're looking for to bring in. They'd like to find better at certain spots, and we haven't been able to find better."

Pennington and Long are a start, he said. Pennington was

a rookie with the New York Jets in 2000 when Henning was their offensive coordinator.

"I've coached a lot of (quarterbacks) in this league that have started — approximately 60," Henning said. "He's as bright as anybody I've ever coached."

As for Long: "I would be willing to bet that 10 years from now he will be just as he was picked — the best player in this draft."

While everyone agrees the Dolphins have more talent than last year, the coaching staff is already catching grief one game into the season. There were questions about the use Sunday of Miami's six wideouts, who totaled six catches, while veteran receiver Ernest Wilford was deactivated. And critics complained about the imbal-

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