

COUNTRY CLUB
International students united

TURN OFF THE LIGHT
Old schedule would save power

GONE NUTS
Alumni go on comedy tour

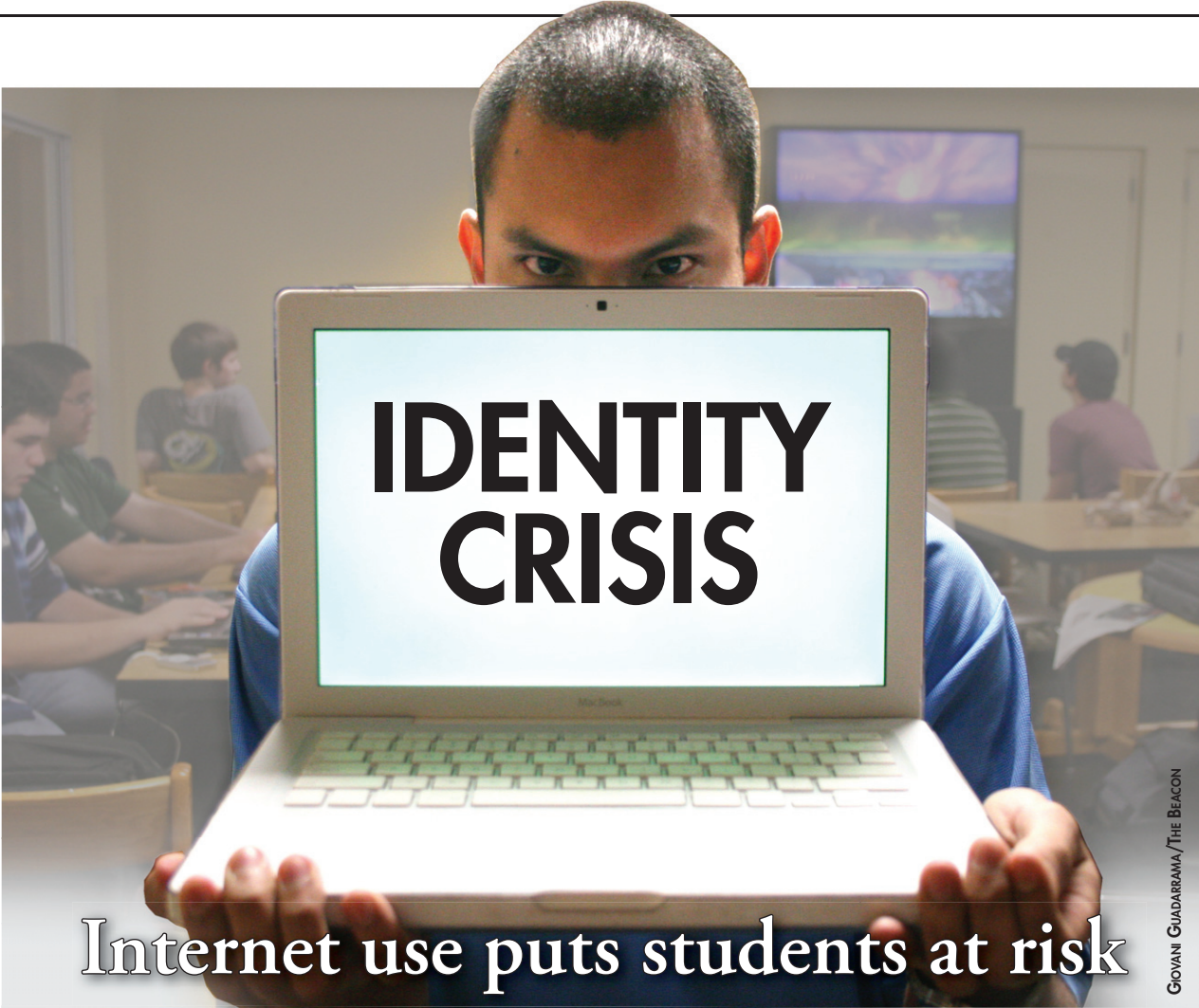
FOOTBALL RETURNS
Golden Panthers take on Jayhawks

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GIOVANI GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

Internet use puts students at risk

PAULO O'SWATH
Asst. News Director

Students beware: using your laptop around campus may expose you to identity theft.

"This is something that I worry about a lot," said Geoffrey Merconchini, a history major. "Identity theft is no joke. I'm very cautious whenever I go online and check e-mails."

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as nine million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Florida had more than 98,300 victims in 2006, according to *IdentityTheftSecurity.com*, an online identity theft prevention Web site, making it the fifth highest ranking state in the United States for identity theft.

Although many school's wireless

networks are traditionally open and unprotected environments, FIU's wireless network is safe to use, according to Cheryl Grant, FIU's Information Technology security officer.

Still, while there haven't been any hacking incidents over the FIU wireless network, illegal downloading for music and movies puts students at risk for identity theft, Grant said.

"We've had computer misuse in the past," said Grant. "Illegal downloading is still a big problem we're continuously facing. It can bring different viruses and that can lead to potential hackers."

Illegal downloading causes hackers to download malicious codes that run malwares, like the Trojan Horse virus, that can go undetected by computer users. This causes computers to malfunction and allow unauthorized users to log in.

Malwares, which are malicious software, can infiltrate a student's computer system and destroy their hard drives.

Grant said that malwares are something very common that occur when downloading illegal music, which is why it is dangerous for students to do so.

Another problem, especially during mid-terms and finals, is unattended laptops.

According to Identity Finder, a confidential data loss and theft prevention software company, close to a million laptops are stolen every year.

Stolen laptops are a goldmine for hackers, who can go over stored information in hard drives and sell the information online. Identity thieves can now buy Social Security numbers,

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Tough times necessitate new GI Bill

JULIO MENACHE
Asst. News Director

Sergeant Nathaniel Chapman is used to having bombs dropping all around him. What he didn't expect was to have a "bomb" drop on him back home.

The young FIU graduate student, who just transferred from Kentucky State University, had just found out the financial aid from the "GI Bill of Rights" would not come in on time to meet the tuition deadline for classes.

"It was really frustrating because I didn't have a job," said Chapman. "With the GI Bill, you really need to have a 40 hour a week job."

Besides tuition, Chapman needed to pay for housing and car insurance, which together came out to be \$1,500 a month. Aside from that, the young veteran needed to worry about paying back the \$20,000-\$30,000 in loans he'd taken out previously.

However, Chapman may be seeing some relief soon. A new law signed by President George W. Bush will provide more financial aid to college-bound veterans who served after 9/11. The new GI Bill of Rights is a massive spending bill that may have a huge impact on the daily lives of young degree-seeking veterans.

The law, which takes effect late next summer, aims to add to the GI Bill. The bill was last updated in 1984.

As a result of the new GI Bill, the months of negotiating between Democratic and Republican lawmakers provides veterans who served at least 90 days after Sept. 11, 2001 with full tuition and fees coverage – equivalent to the most expensive four-year public institution in the state.

In addition, veterans will receive monthly payments for housing and \$1,000 for books and sup-

plies. Servicemen can also transfer unused benefits to their spouses and children.

Under the old GI Bill, soldiers needed to pay a \$1,200 enrollment fee at the beginning of their service. Veterans would then have 10 years after leaving active duty to be eligible for aid. Full-time students would receive monthly reimbursement payments of \$1,101 for a maximum of three years under the old GI Bill.

"The new GI Bill will definitely help more in terms of paying for housing and school. While housing wasn't a big issue for me since I lived with my parents, it is a big issue with other Marines," said Carlos Araica, a Marine veteran who currently works at the FIU's Office of Veterans' Affairs.

With the new GI Bill, however, there is no enrollment fee and veterans would have an additional five years of eligibility. The new bill would pay for a veteran's college expenses, instead of reimbursing them, according to FIU Veterans' Affairs Assistant Coordinator Angel Contreras.

"The fact that it covers costs and takes care of them, instead of supplementing them, makes the new GI Bill superior to the old one," Chapman.

Different versions of the GI Bill have been implemented since the end of World War II. The original 1944 plan gave soldiers \$500 a year for their college education. As the cost of college skyrocketed, the bill had to evolve to meet the new standards and costs of living.

The GI Bill of the 1940's was updated to the Montgomery GI Bill in 1984. According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the Montgomery GI Bill covers about 73 per-

GI BILL, page 2

Future dorms aimed at graduates

CHERYL MALONE
Staff Writer

While no exact date is set, both University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus have new dormitories in store.

"More student applicants will have housing facilities to fill their individual housing preferences, with greater variety and location," said Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education.

The end goal of the dormitory expansion is expected to be a higher level of residential student life.

"At present there is higher un-

dergraduate enrollment, but the University will begin to reach out to graduate students as well," Jones said. During FIU's Town Hall meeting on May 22, University President Modesto A. Maidique first announced "FIU 3.0," a plan which would have selective enrollment, with fewer students being accepted into the University every year.

However, even with the enrollment caps, Jones does not expect a decline in applications in housing. Jones explains that a key goal for the housing project is to reach out to graduate students, who are a smaller population than undergraduates in housing.

"The students' [University] capping is not an issue of concern for this project," Jones said.

She believes that the demand is high enough that this expansion would result in a marketable number.

The dorms are not filled to 100 percent capacity, and percentages differ from one hall to the next, depending on student preferences such as availability for private bedrooms and apartments.

Currently, out of approximately 36,000 students, 3,000 live on campus. Of the students attending FIU,

DORMS, page 2

New housing suites expected to encourage student involvement

DORMS, page 1

Only 13 percent are residents on campus. The new dorms will aim for a minimum 7 percent increase.

“We want a lot of positive interaction on campus and more traditional students and participation,” Jones said.

Matt Rhodes, a political science major who drives to UP from Hialeah, agrees that living on campus presents a definite advantage.

“Living on campus would save me a lot of time and trouble,” he said.

“I’d much rather commute, I like knowing I can go and relax in privacy and study without distractions,” said Medali Castro, a journalism major.

Dormitories are currently valued and charged differently depending on the particular hall where it is located and room sizes, according to the Residential Life Web site.

“The new dorms will be based on similar values,” Jones said. Bonds will fund any new construction.

“The revenue stream used to repay those bonds comes from students who live in the dormitories,” said Madeline Baro, assistant director of Media Relations. “Construction of dormitories is not subsidized by any other source, such as tuition or state general revenue funds.”

Angela Granese, a graduate student in linguistics, doesn’t find much importance for residential life.

“I did the whole dorm thing in my undergrad years and it was a lot of fun. But now that I work full time and my masters program is more demanding, I think living in a dorm would just be a distraction,” Granese said.

Nonetheless, Jones remains optimistic about the values students can learn living on campus and student demand for the new dorms.

Unattended laptops vulnerable to hackers

THEFT, page 1

bank account logins, passwords and credit card numbers online by the thousands.

In June 2002, separate hacking incidents involving at least three Western colleges sparked off an investigation by U.S. Secret Service. The case led to the confiscation of 20 computer hard drives at Arizona State University in Phoenix.

Campus computers located in the common areas of ASU were found to be carrying software that recorded keystrokes which made it easy to gain a student’s personal information. Luckily, because the computers were erased at the end of every semester, no reports of identity theft were recorded.

“Students need to protect themselves when using their computers. They should never leave their computers lying around in the library,” Granto warned.

Despite internet theft dangers,

students can take action to protect themselves.

According to Granto, students must remember that FIU will never ask for passwords and if they receive any e-mails asking for it, they should delete those e-mails immediately.

Students should never share the passwords with other people and should keep their anti-viruses updated. Students should also be leery of the Web sites they visit. Answering online questionnaires is an easy way for hackers to steal someone’s identity.

Identity Finder adds that students should never let schools use their Social Security numbers as student identification numbers.

Even though the FIU’s wireless network is protected, students are taking caution to keep their personal information safe.

“Nothing can be 100 percent secure. You still have to be cautious no matter how safe you think you are,” said Merconchini.

FUTURE LEADERS



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

HEY, YOU!: Lisa-Marie Young, a member of the Center for Leadership & Service’s Lead Team, gets the crowd involved during the “WOW! Leadership is Great!” presentation on Aug. 27.

Veterans’ bill brings needed relief

GI BILL, page 1

cent of costs for public universities, and 31 percent of private four-year colleges. Community colleges are the only schools that are paid in full and are also the institutions with the most veterans.

“We usually won’t bother with private schools because they are expensive and hard to get in,” said Araica.

In order to rekindle the same dramatic effect the original 1944 bill had on college education, the new GI Bill would offer additional money to veterans to use for expensive private schools.

Critics of the law point to the fact that the new law will not have the same effect as the original G.I. bill due to the fact that the military is much smaller than it was after World War II.

Critics also claim that proponents fail to realize that most

veterans attend community colleges and public universities not just because of their costs but also because of convenience, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Since word spread of the new law, veterans have been flooding the FIU Office of Veterans Affairs with a myriad of questions about it.

But the office says “[Congress] needs to work out specifics and details of the new law. Lawmakers have the general idea, they just don’t know how to get there yet. A lot of questions are left to be answered,” said Contreras.

Because the new law doesn’t come into effect until August of next year, these soldiers will have to wait before they see any results.

However, Montgomery bill recipients, like Chapman, have seen an immediate \$220 increase in their monthly reimbursements.

“It’s a start but it makes a difference,” said Chapman of the increase.

For more information, please consult the Veterans Affairs’ Web site at va.gov.

1984 GI Bill	2008 G.I. Bill
•Time to use benefits 10 years	•Time to use benefits 15 years
•Members use their benefits after 2 years of active duty	•Members have to serve at least 90 days post 9/11
•Covers full cost of education at any public schools	•Covers full cost of education at any public school in the country and most private schools
•\$100 per month for 12 months	•No buy in
	•Maybe eligible for \$1,321 per month for school from GI Bill

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY IRAQ & AFGANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA, GRAPHIC BY ISAAC SORIA

THE BEACON

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THE BEACON

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International Student club wins co-club of the year

AMANDA BATCHELOR
Contributing Writer

Walk around the halls of FIU and you will find lots of people of other cultures. Many of these people are a part of the International Students Club.

This year they are proud to announce they have won co-club of the year after winning Best New Club of the Year in its first year.

"Everyone was very focused and determined to do their best to win best club of the year," said Aurelie Verne, ISC's president and a junior from France majoring in Hospitality Management.

ISC has helped international students get accustomed to a new culture and been a home away from home.

"Not only do we help familiarize international students with the American culture, but we also give them a chance to display their own culture and represent their country at FIU," Verne said.

ISC has also helped international students to meet people of other parts of the world.

"Most of us come to this country alone so I think the club is a perfect chance to make friends and to start feeling comfortable in a new environment," said Frances Ernst, ISC's secretary and a sophomore from Germany majoring in psychology.

Ernst has found long-lasting friendships in the club, having made connections at her first meeting for ISC.

"I started talking to Dennis, who's also from Germany, which gave me a good feeling to know that there is somebody from my culture. I also got to meet a Finnish

guy who lived in the dorms and through him I got to meet everybody else in housing," Ernst said.

This past year, ISC has hosted many events like a movie night, a Miami tour on a bus, a BBQ, a welcome reception, and a Chinese New Year celebration to name a few.

The club also took 30 students to Key Largo where they went snorkeling, swimming and canoeing.

Students do not have to be members of ISC to participate in any of these events, but if they decide to join an event, they need to let a member know because they carry a sign in sheet at each of their events.

"I think it was our constant effort to organize fun and educational events that finally won us the award," said Dennis Gebkenm, ISC's vice president and a junior from Germany double majoring in finance and international business.

Verne felt the same effort was put in to winning this award.

"I was honored to receive this prize. This is a great accomplishment for the club, and I'm very proud to represent such a great organization here on Biscayne Bay Campus. We try to be present on campus, and I'm glad we were recognized for it," she said.

Those interested in joining the ISC can do so at any time. The only requirement is to be an FIU student.

As members, students are then required to attend a minimum of 2 events and 2 meetings per semester.

For more information, e-mail bbcisc@fiu.edu.

IMPRESSIONS



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

QUICK DRAW: Al Rodriguez of AlRod Studio sketches a caricature of Sicong Qi, a hospitality management graduate student, during Biscayne Bay Campus' Welcome Week. Rodriguez specializes in drawing caricatures in three minutes or less.

Creative Writing Program hosts writer's conference

JULIA CARDENUTO
Asst. News Director

Here is a fresh opportunity to be innovative, imaginative and get inspired by professional writers and teachers in a motivating landscape.

This year's Florida International University Writers Conference will be at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort and Marina in Stuart, Florida, from Oct. 22-25.

The conference will feature three different workshops each day, one-on-one counseling with faculty and other afternoon programs like varied seminars.

"Our program offers intensive, friendly, hands-on workshops and discussions intended to help writers at all stages of development.

"[Participants] can enroll in up to three different four-day class sessions, and enjoy agent/editor roundtables, freelancing seminars, nightly readings and more," said

Les Standiford, director of the FIU Creative Writing Program, on the program's Web site.

The conference is also offering a manuscript conference with one faculty member of choice for \$50. Availability for these conferences is limited. The Martin County Library System is co-sponsoring the conference and hosting the evening readings. People who have a membership with them get a discount of \$25.

The conference is open to the public and will cost \$400 for the four-day session and \$100 for a one-day session if the registration is turned in by Sept. 1. After that the cost will rise by \$25.

The English department will be accepting registrations until Oct. 22 and there will be a registration desk at the conference, where walk-ins will be welcomed.

So far there are about 30 people registered and the event's maximum capacity, according to Tèrese Campbell, English department secretary.

Our program offers intensive, friendly, hands-on workshops and discussions intended to help writers at all stages of development.

Les Standiford, Director
Creative Writing Program

Rooms have been reserved at the Marriott for people attending the conference who wish to stay on-site. The hotel is offering a special rate of \$149 per night for attendees.

"We have a full slate of evening parties scheduled," said Standiford in a letter.

For more information, as well as a registration form, visit www.fiu.edu/crwriting.

Not only do we help familiarize international students with the American culture, but we also give them a chance to display their own culture and represent their country at

FIU.

Aurelie Verne, President
International Students Club

Kayak Club's popularity inspires whitewater trip

JULIA CARDENUTO
Asst. News Director

The FIU Kayak Club's monthly kayaking days at BBC have been so popular with students that Recreational Services has decided to take this idea and offer a bigger annual event.

Recreational Services will offer a whitewater rafting and caving trip to West Virginia from Sept. 25-28 that is open to FIU students, faculty and

staff.

"The kayaking club came from the kayaking day and this was going so well and so successful that we decided to offer something bigger than kayaking," said Warren Shaw, assistant director of BBC Recreation Services.

The three-day adventure will cost \$300 for students and \$325 for non-students if the registration is turned in by Sept. 8.

After this date the costs for stu-

dents and non-students will increase by \$25.

The fare includes a round-trip bus ride, a room at the Microtel Inn & Suites, rafting and equipment, lunch on the river and a cavern tour.

There are only 50 spots for students on the trip.

Participants will leave both campuses Thursday morning and return Sunday night.

"If speeding down the Lower Gauley River and exploring the Lost

The kayaking club came from the kayaking day and this was going so well and so successful that we decided to offer something bigger than kayaking.

Warren Shaw, Assistant Director
BBC Recreation Services

World Cavens sound like good times to you, sign up," a flier for the event said.

For more information contact

Warren Shaw at BBC at 305-348-4595 or shaww@fiu.edu, or Matt O'Connor at UP at 305-348-7530 or matthew.oconnor@fiu.edu.

A BRIGHT IDEA

Four-day work week can alleviate fuel, morale woes

KIMBERLY ENGELHARDT
Contributing Writer

Over the summer, FIU announced its employees would work 10-hour days Monday through Thursday in order to save money on electricity. According to a July 2 article in *The Miami Herald*, FIU expected to save at least \$250,000 with this measure. Now we're stuck once again with the 5-day school week.

pact. The day off contributed to fewer employee sick hours and a reduction in staff turnover.

Meanwhile, in Miami-Dade County, 16 schools implemented the 4-day work week during the summer as well.

A 4-day school week might be a small, temporary solution for FIU. However, it's a worthwhile effort.

If classrooms are not in use, lights, computers and air conditioners should be shut

Lakeview Hall can cost over \$3,000 a semester without a meal plan, depending on the room type chosen.

Also, almost everyone who attends FIU depends on some mode of transportation. Cars are never in short supply, but our parking spaces are.

With gas prices still high enough to debate whether stopping by Starbucks is a good idea, students have to cut back on spending in order to get to school. Getting an education is an epic journey; some students are blessed with financially stable families, while others are stuck with those terrible loans.

Most students work to pay off their bills and fill up their gas tanks. However, FIU's course scheduling does nothing to accommodate student's lives. With large breaks in between classes, some students are stuck on campus, unable to work extra hours outside school grounds.

In fact, my Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule demands I stay on campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Because there was no way I could accommodate for such a schedule, I said farewell to my internship and now I'm stuck longing for more experience for my advertising degree.

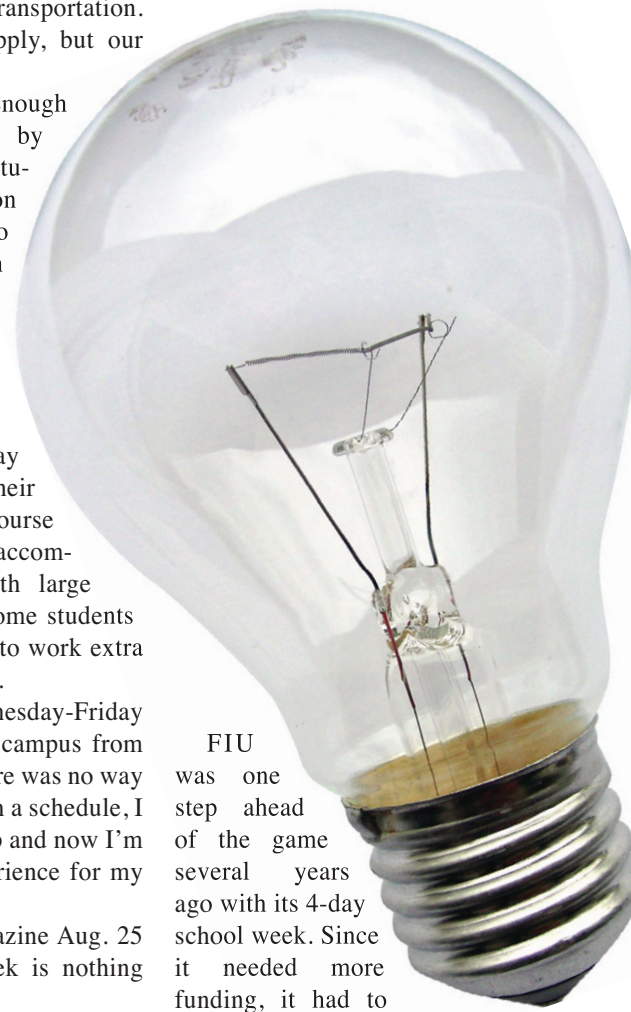
According to a *Time* magazine Aug. 25 edition, having a 4-day week is nothing new.

Back in the 1970s, the last big gas crunch, the 4-day school week was employed for school districts. As soon as the crisis was over, the schools returned to their normal 5-day week schedules.

We should do the same.

Last year, as indicated by *The Miami Herald*, Dr. Rex Facer from Brigham Young

University is studying the 4-day workweek concept and estimates "about one-sixth of U.S. cities will eventually shutter their offices on Fridays."



FIU was one step ahead of the game several years ago with its 4-day school week. Since it needed more funding, it had to switch to a 5-day school week.

In times like this, sacrifices are necessary. The State University System should reward those schools that are finding ways to save them money.

Let's return to the 4-day school week until the economy (and our funding) improves.

A shorter work week would accommodate student demands. With large breaks in between classes, students are often stuck not being able to work outside campus.

I can already hear the groans.

Keep groaning. According to an Aug. 17 article from *The Miami Herald*, the State University System has asked for an additional \$30 million in funding to cover rising costs of electricity and running air conditioning in all public university buildings.

With a cash-strapped school year ahead of us, university officials should do anything and everything in their power to reduce costs.

Along with FIU, other businesses, government offices and schools are turning to the 4-day work week in order to alleviate financial stress and concerns of traffic congestion.

According to a July 2 *Miami Herald* article, Brevard Community College President James Drake instituted a 4-day summer work week and discovered that the work arrangement had a far more personal im-

off. Furthermore, the University should take advantage of the rare cool days we have in Miami by leaving windows open; I bet lights, computer systems and air conditioning systems are on during the weekend, but this can be easily remedied with simple tasks.

Another local entity that is experimenting with the idea is the city of North Miami, which will start closing down its city hall on Fridays starting Sept. 2, according to an Aug. 22 *Miami Herald* report.

The University could save money by limiting the use of buildings on certain days, as it did over the summer, rather than returning to full work week.

A 4-day school week would accommodate student demands. Let's face it, not everybody lives two blocks away from FIU and not everybody can afford to live in FIU's dorms. For example, living at

Mix of education, experience crucial for success

ODETTE BARRIENTOS
Contributing Writer

We devote our time and money to our education, spending endless nights studying for exams. We cram, practice, read and sometimes write our weekends away.

Yet, how valuable is all the sacrifice at the end of the day?

Is the shiny degree really worth all the trouble in the job market?

According to *Monster.com*, work experience can take the place of a college degree in many cases - yet statistics for 2007's *Digest of Education* show that college enrollment hit a projected record level of 18 million students in fall 2007.

In addition, college enrollment is expected to continue setting new records into fall 2016.

If work experience really did take the place of a college degree, why are more and more high school graduates rushing off to college each year?

Perhaps it is because job availability for someone without a postsecondary education is scarce.

In a struggling economy, even college graduates have a hard time getting a job and lacking a degree will make it even

more difficult to obtain work. High school drop-outs are nearly three times as likely as college graduates to be out of a job, according to Job Bank USA.

People without a college degree now compete against recent immigrants, retirees in need of extra income, unemployed professionals and cheap labor overseas.

This makes it difficult for many to land jobs even at the bottom of the pay scale.

"I don't believe experience alone will replace the degree," said Lenroy Jones, director of Career Services.

However, one cannot completely refute the value of work experience.

Work experience is incredibly significant in today's job market, and a degree alone cannot help you obtain a job. Experience is always necessary, as is expertise and room for growth.

"I think experience always matters," Jones added.

In today's job market, competitiveness is key. Franchises compete, retail stores compete, car dealers compete; it's only logical for the people who wish to work for them to compete as well. Companies and brand names seek to hire the best possible employees.

No one wants to hire someone without

experience, but they won't feel compelled to hire someone without knowledge and expertise, either.

"Be not mistaken, at the end of the day, employers are looking for people with bachelors and masters degrees," Jones said. "The person with the degree is going to be more competitive."

To be competitive in the job market, one must not rely on solely experience or a degree. A combination of both is key in order to attain a job.

"We encourage students to get part-time jobs, internship opportunities and co-ops,"

Jones said. "I think our students at FIU have a competitive advantage when they have their degree and have gained good experience through the process. You are more competitive if you have an internship, or if you can take your volunteer or part-time job and connect it to your interview."

The next time you read or hear that experience can replace any form of education, don't buy into it; work experience could never completely compensate a degree.

If you want to prove it, take that attitude to your next job interview and see what potential employers have to say about it.

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Officer of a student organization? Student government member?
University official? Have something to say?
Contact us at eric.feldman@fiusm.com and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.

GO NUTS!

Improv comedy duo garners attention

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

In a genre dominated by eccentric characters and outdated sound effects, two FIU alumni are re-defining Hispanic-American comedy.

Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco joined forces in 1998 when they met in FIU through the Sig-Ep fraternity. Piedra, a theater major who later went on to appear in "Boston Legal" and *From Justin to Kelly*, had started the comedy group "Impromedy" at the Roxy Theater across the street from University Park. When Trabanco joined the group, he realized their chemistry was undeniable. They broke away from Impromedy and started "A Pair of Nuts."

The sketch comedy duo began by performing small shows in FIU classroom Deuxieme Maison 150, at Homecoming events like the lip-synching contest, and in the private party rooms in Dave & Buster's. They also

made videos for the ever-popular YouTube, and their parodies "Chonga Chat," which satirizes Miami-based *chongas*, and "The Law Offices of Facmee & Diaz," an ad for a law firm with an unfortunate name, each have more than 10,000 views. In the past year, they have headlined comedy shows in Los Angeles and Houston.

They attribute their growing success to patience. After facing rejection and begging reluctant comedy clubs to let them perform as a duo, which is fairly uncommon in modern comedy shows, they have developed a huge cult following and were even awarded the title of Best South Florida Performance at the Miami Improv Festival.

"Our skits have a beginning, middle and end, whatever happens in between, happens. It's loosely improvised. You can see the same skit tomorrow and it will have different dialogue," said Trabanco, of their unique

style, "It's not strict theater. If I laugh, everyone else is going to laugh".

The out-of-the-box concepts in their act have been compared to Andy Kauffman and Steve Martin's standup, and their dynamic has been compared to Abbott and Costello's. Piedra is tall and skinny, while Trabanco is short and stout. Their edgy skits are relatable to Miami natives, but their appeal reaches beyond their hometown.

"We don't limit ourselves because we're both Cuban," said Trabanco.

"Truth be told, Spanish comedy is probably the worst thing I have seen in my entire life," adds Piedra.

This year, The Nuts formed a partnership with YouTube. They have been working on projects for the Web site, including a music video and a reality show. They are also working with other comedians to develop a television pilot for MTV. However, they have not forgotten their roots.

"It's amazing me still that I'm going to all of these cities" Trabanco said.

"FIU was a huge influence on us both; it's where we came up with a lot of our characters and skits. It's where it all started for us", Piedra said, "We became friends here, we met here, we started doing comedy here."

To learn more about these "Nuts" go to www.nutscomedy.com or www.myspace.com/pairofnuts and watch their YouTube videos at www.youtube.com/ypiedra.



Visit them online!

Yamil Piedra:
Myspace.com/yamil
&
thisisthewebsiteofjamilpiedra.com

Johnny Trabanco:
Myspace.com/johnnytrabs

Schedule

- September 20-
Grouchus Comedy Club, Merritt Island, FL
- September 26-
Grouchus Comedy Club, Port St. Lucie, FL
- September 27-
Grouchus Comedy Club, Stuart, FL
- October 16-19-
Off the Hook Comedy Club, Marco Island, FL
- November 28 & 29-
Laugh in Comedy Cafe, Ft. Myers, FL

CD REVIEW: L.A.X.

West Coast hip-hop sees a revival

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

At a time when west coast hip-hop is a shadow of the days when Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube and the controversial N.W.A held the mic in their primes, many have come to question whether California rap will ever reach that level again.

Despite two successful albums, *The Documentary* and *Doctors Advocate*, The Game still hasn't received the respect he deserves for his contribution to hip-hop in the city of angels. Distractions such as his knack for starting rifts with other rappers and his split from the popular G-Unit, have held Game back from the enormous potential that he has.

With his latest effort, *L.A.X.*, the Game screams at hip-hop even harder and shows why he is ready to take the throne as the best MC on the west side of the country and one of the best in the game.

The album kicks off to an enormous start with the demand for respect on "L.A.X files," the second track on the album, where he explains what life was like growing up on the streets of violence ridden Compton.

The album continues with another west-coast banger in "State of Emergency," where Ice Cube drops a perfect hook to complement Game's hard flow.

Cube was just one of many star features on the disc. Raekwon, who rarely steps out of his Wu Tang confines, collaborates with Game on "Bulletproof Diaries" and actually delivers one of the best verses on the album.

Lil Wayne contributes a chorus to the second single of the album, "My Life" in which his usually annoying singing voice actually works well. "Ya heard" displays Ludacris at his best in a nice collaboration between two of the best artists from the South and West, respectively.

In the middle of the album, Game goes off on "House of Pain." Featuring a thumping backing track provided by DJ Toomp, Game goes on to drop four and a half minutes of flames.

"Dope Boys," aided by Travis Barker's drums, is also a high octane single that will be blasting through the windows of old school Impala's for awhile.

Though it is already known that Game can come in and be his usual gangster, gun toting self on a track, he really shines when he displays lyricism he never quite displayed before on the Martin Luther King Jr. tribute, "Letter to the

THE GAME, page 6

South Florida's anime enthusiasts connect

LUIS H. GARCIA
Staff Writer

Florida Supercon is back once again to treat anime and comic book fans to two days of games, guests and lots of costumed attendees.

The weekend serves as a primer to the upcoming Anime Super Con later this year at the end of October.

This weekend's event will be free to anyone who has registered for the later convention.

Heading into its third year, Anime Super Con has been growing to expand its convention to Atlanta in November.

The show will be divided into two themes: Anime and comics. Both genres, along with their fans, are often intertwined through various media such as video games, movies or the Internet, and conventions are no different.

Convention goers come from far and wide to see featured artists or to show off their own work and find others who share the same interests.

Conventions always have a way of bringing in a wide variety of people and, at the same time, allow fans to meet others in an environment that would allow contact that wouldn't happen otherwise.

The first day of the weekend will be dedicated to anime fans with cosplay photo shoots, costume contests, video games, discussion panel and viewing rooms.

The special guest for Saturday's Super Anime Day is voice actress, Brittney Karbowski, of anime series' such as "Xenosaga: The Animation" and "Coyote

Ragtime Show."

Sunday's Super Comic Day will feature two special guests - comic artist, Ralph Cabrera, known for his work on big name works from Marvel like "Spider-Man", "X-Men", "Captain America" and "The Fantastic Four", and winner of the San Diego Comic Con Inkpot Award, Allen Bellman.

Bellman's work during the Golden Age of comics in the 40's include the back-

SUPERCON, page 6

The Game's latest album a must-have for rap fans

THE GAME, page 5

King."

Game's third verse actually steals the spotlight from legend and highlight feature Nas, who brings heat to the track himself.

*"The rope aint tight enough
he still alive go fix it
pour some gasoline on him
call his daughters black b*****
make him pick cotton, while they momma
cleaning up the kitchen
same cotton in white T's
that's the cotton they was picking"*

Game partners on a song with another legend in Common on a track called "Angels," and does what he has to for the ladies in "Gentlemen's Affair" with Ne-yo.

In an album where Game shows a lot of lyrical development and balances his list of prime time features well, he still name drops too much for my taste, whether dissing 50 Cent or just referring to other rappers too much for the ear to stand. Though "Game's Pain" was a nice tribute track, Game needs to focus on himself before he fully reaches his potential. A very solid album with few holes, *L.A.X* might be Game's best overall body of work to date.

Every real hip-hop fan should buy this al-

Supercon seeks to extend reach beyond South Florida

SUPERCON, page 5

grounds for "Captain America" and his own works such as "Sub-Mariner" and "The Patriot."

Sunday will also feature a costume contest as well as Comic Book Win, Lose or Draw.

Other independent artists including Greg Kirkpatrick and Manuel Aguilera will be in attendance for both days.

Conventions have served as a hub for

fans and industry members alike to connect and interact.

Kirkpatrick has been a staple guest since the show's inception. His work includes "Living in Infamy" and the adapted for cartoon, "Savage Dragon."

"It's really cool to interact with the fans," he says.

With few conventions in South Florida, Supercon serves to further extend the convention experience and bring fans

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY • AUGUST 29

WHAT: My Morning Jacket
WHERE: The Fillmore
Miami Beach
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$30

WHAT: ANWS Art Exhibit
WHERE: Wolfe Univerisity
Center
WHEN: 8:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Miami Belly Dance
Convention
WHERE: Intercontinental
Hotel
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Federal Jack
Presents Workshop
WHERE: Wolfe University
Centre
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Free Fridays at the
Wolfsonian
WHERE: The Wolfsonian-
FIU
WHEN: 9:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

SATURDAY • AUGUST 30

WHAT: Kate Voegele
Back2School Tour
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Indian Student
Association - ISA Show
Auditions
WHERE: GC 316
WHEN: 12:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Labor Day
Weekend Comedy Explosion
WHERE: James L. Knight
Center
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$30

WHAT: Marlins vs New
York Mets
WHERE: Dolphin Stadium
WHEN: 3:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Yoga at Vue
WHERE: Hotel Victor
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 12

WHAT: Toots & The
Maytals
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$23

WHAT: Pi Kappa Phi
Push America car wash
WHERE: 107th ave.
and 8th st.
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: varies

WHAT: Young Jeezy
WHEN: Club 112
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25

WHAT: Free Sundays
at Vizcaya
WHERE: Vizcaya
Museum and Gardens
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Art Deco
Studio tours
WHERE: Art Deco
welcome center
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rouco brings back a familiar face

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers are bringing back a familiar face with the hiring of Heath Glick as an assistant coach, which was announced on August 25th.

Glick returns after a two-year stint as a video coordinator at Florida State, in which he was a member of Leonard Hamilton's staff. He served as director of basketball operations for FIU from 2004-06 under head coach Sergio Rouco, who re-hired him after the departure of assistant Ken Huber, who accepted a coaching position at Gardner-Webb.

Glick returns after gaining two seasons of valuable experience at FSU.

"I had a great job at Florida

State, I had a chance to mature and develop under the mentorship of one of the best coaches in the country [Hamilton]," he said. "Coming here I can use a lot of the tools I have learned from him and from my prior experience.

Because of Glick's desire to be on the sideline, and become a coach, he joined FIU's staff.

"I've always wanted to be a coach," he said. "I have always wanted to be on the court."

Rouco is pleased with the newest addition to his team, and is glad to have the former

video coordinator back on his bench.

"Heath comes back to us after a couple of years at Florida State University where he enhanced his overall basketball knowledge," Rouco told *FIUsports.com*. "We are ecstatic that we were able to convince him to come back."

Glick is excited about changes since he left FIU as well, specifically the growth of the programs facility's since he departed in 2004.

"Facility wise, there has been a lot of improvement," Glick said. "Our players are

very impressed by it. You can see the infrastructure is there."

Glick, who said he enjoys coaching guards and shooters, began his Division I basketball experience at the University of Miami under head coach Perry Clark in 2003 and 2004. He assisted the team in film exchange, scout team preparation, practice planning, and statistical compilation, before getting an ascension at FIU. He will serve as an assistant coach for the first time.

Huber parts ways after two seasons as a member of the coaching staff.

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TOUGH CHALLENGE



FIU opens season against Orange Bowl winner

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

Opening Day for the Golden Panthers presents a daunting challenge in the form of a Kansas team, ranked 14th in the Associated Press Preseason Top 25 Poll, riding high after a special season last year.

The Jayhawks finished 12-1 overall and 7-1 in the Big 12, and defeated Virginia Tech 24-21 in the FedEx Orange Bowl on Jan. 1.

The team come out of nowhere to seriously contend for the BCS Championship Game before suffering their first loss of the season, against Missouri by a score of 36-28, in the final game.

The stinging loss not only dashed their championship aspirations but prevented them from playing in the Big 12 championship game.

A team that won a school-record 12 games last season is now accustomed to winning, and is poised to once again compete for a championship.

This year's Kansas team will be led again by junior quarterback Todd Reesing who was one of the big surprises in college football last fall. Despite being just 5-foot-11 and just over 200 pounds, he was largely responsible for the

team's strong season and will, once again be the focal point of the offense.

Overall, Kansas has seven players returning on offense and nine returning on defense. While the offense is their strong point, the defense is talented as well and is led by a veteran group of linebackers.

OFFENSE

The Jayhawks run a no-huddle spread offense that centers on the quarterback, and his ability to make quick reads and be very accurate. Reesing threw 33 touchdowns and only seven interceptions last season, and at one point, attempted 213 consecutive passes without an interception. Offensively, the Jayhawks were ranked 8th nationally, averaging 479.8 yards per game.

Junior Jake Sharp is the projected starting running back for Kansas. He split the bulk of the carries with Brandon McAnderson last season and finished with 147 attempts for 821 yards and 7 touchdowns. He is also a serviceable receiver as he caught 21 passes for 163 yards and 2 touchdowns. Behind him are junior college transfer Jocques Crawford and junior Angus Quigley who had 17 carries for 98 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The receivers are experienced with senior and, leading pass catcher last season, Dexter Fields returning. Former special teams stand-out Jonathan Wilson will replace Marcus Henry, who was drafted in the 6th round by the New York Jets, and was last year's No. 2 receiver, sophomore Dezmon Briscoe, will move to the slot. Briscoe finished last season with 43 catches for 496 yards and seven touchdowns.

The offensive line last season was mediocre but produced in clutch situations. Two tackle positions are up for grabs as key offensive lineman Anthony Collins and Cesar Rodriguez have departed.

DEFENSE

The linebacker core is the most glaring advantage. Seniors Joe Mortensen, Mike Rivera, and James Holt bring veteran experience and are the anchors of the defense. Mortensen led the team in tackles last season with 106 while Holt was second with 99. Rivera also has made his presence felt as he has accumulated 186 tackles over the last two seasons.

The defensive line gets the job done quietly. The run defense was 8th in the nation last season and they did not allow a player to run for more than 200 yards for the second year in a

row.

All-American cornerback Aqib Talib was drafted in the first round last spring, leaving the Jayhawks without their top player in the secondary.

The team had the worst pass defense in the nation two seasons ago but improved drastically last season, leading the Big 12 in pass efficiency defense. Safeties Darrell Stuckey and Justin Thornton are two players to watch out for.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Kansas head coach Mark Mangino, 2007 Consensus National Coach of the Year, has a talented team with a stand-out quarterback in Todd Reesing.

FIU is a young team that will have to play flawless football, something they did not do in last year's meeting, losing by a score of 55-3 in Lawrence.

This will be a major test for the defense in dealing with a now established quarterback, and the challenge for the FIU offense will come in facing a strong defense that is led by its senior linebackers.

The atmosphere could also be a factor because big time college football is in full swing in Lawrence, KN.

QB Competition: McCall leads, Younger on his heels

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

An area of the Golden Panthers football team that seemed uncertain is now crystal clear as junior quarterback Paul McCall has edged sophomore Wayne Younger for the opening day assignment against Kansas.

Although McCall is the likely starter, Younger could definitely see playing time.

"You just got to compete against yourself and be the best you can be and you can't worry about the things that you can't control. You just hope and pray that it's good enough but you just have to go out there and work hard every day," McCall said of the competition that was the most discussed topic of training camp.

The junior appeared in only two games last season but led the Golden Panthers to their lone victory in the season finale against North Texas as Younger started 11 games before breaking his collarbone against FAU. The seldom appearances last season did not phase McCall by any means.

"At quarterback you always have to be ready to go in whether it's as a starter or a backup, it doesn't mat-

When we step on the field, its not our decision who plays and who doesn't, we just give it our all.

Wayne Younger, Quarterback

ter. Whoever goes down, you got to be ready to step in because the team is counting on you no matter what. Playing time doesn't really factor into that; you just have to be mentally prepared."

While Younger will have to adjust to life as a backup, at least for the first game, he agreed with McCall's assertions.

"When we step on the field, it's not our decision who plays and who doesn't, we just give it our all in practice and let the coach make that decision."

Even though Younger remains positive, the view from the sidelines will be different as he mentioned that he is used to being a starter rather than a backup.

"In the past I've started but anyway for me to be on the field I'll take it. If that means starting, I'll start but if we share or if he starts I'll do whatever coach asks me to

do," he said.

The two quarterbacks are an issue that FIU can embrace because both are stronger in certain areas. McCall has been known to be better in the pocket and have a stronger arm while Younger is your typical scrambling quarterback that isn't afraid to run the ball.

Because of this, outsiders went so far as to suggest using Younger at another position, one that involves exploiting his speed but Cristobal quickly shot down that idea.

"I know he is a gifted athlete, but because he is relatively new at the quarterback position in this offense, to try and move him around now, especially with as many wide receivers as we have and the ones that we have coming in, it wouldn't be fair to the team and it wouldn't be fair to him."

At least until opening day, this is Paul McCall's job to lose.



JESSICA MARSHALL/BEACON FILE PHOTO



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

QUARTERBACK QUANDRY: Junior Paul McCall (above) has been taking most of the first team snaps in camp, but sophomore Wayne Younger (below) started nine games last year and adds a running dimension.