

Alumna's bar offers beer, billiards and karaoke

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Commentary: Defense shows pride in stepping up

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

New SJMC graduate programs attract more students to the University, but the learning experience has gone down for others.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Lecture discusses Palestinian conflicts and the chances of peace with Israel.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

Bringing back the marching band is a small price compared to giving back FIU's spirit.

OPINION PAGE 4



Using or possessing medicinal marijuana is no longer a crime. So should we smoke up?

OPINION PAGE 4



Students with smart laundry habits can save more energy, even on campus.

LIFE! PAGE 6



Fistfuls of Tech: Not on the guest list for the Windows 7 launch party? If not, you didn't miss much.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dance Marathon Alumni Social, Nov. 2 and 3, 7:00 p.m. This event will be a fundraiser for Miami Children's Hospital Foundation through the Dance Marathon club. The event will be held at Red Koi on 137 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

Children Beyond Border, Nov. 3, 4:00 p.m. This club is meeting up to help needy children. They will be meeting in GC241.

Tibetan Sand Mandala Creation, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m. Come on into the Frost Art Museum and join in on painting with colored sand rinks. Event is free.

WEATHER



MONDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 74 HIGH: 86



TUESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 73 HIGH: 86



WEDNESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 74 HIGH: 84

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PARKING ANY TIME

New garage to add 2,000 parking spaces

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

Next year, students will be able to park their cars in a new parking garage that will offer the University community more than just a place to park.

The yet-to-be-named garage, called "Parking Garage 5," is currently being constructed in the Modesto Maidique Campus, across from the Chemistry and Physics Building and the Red Garage, running along the University's border with 8th Street.

Parking and Transportation Executive Director Bill Foster said

that a plan to build PG5 has been in the works for years.

"Once FIU was awarded the medical school, we had a master plan done to identify the best location that would support our current demand and the expected growth in the years to come," Foster said in an e-mail to Student Media.

The new six-floor parking structure will add 2,000 parking spaces. Though Foster said that the specific designation figures have yet to be determined, he expects approximately 1,500 of those spaces to be available to students.

The remaining 500 spaces, Foster said, will be distrib-

uted to accommodate those with higher-level parking permits, such as faculty/staff and administrative.

Currently, there are 9,553 parking spaces available to students on campus. In the last fiscal year, Parking and Transportation circulated 30,000 student decals.

"This ratio has worked pretty well since students come to class during the morning, afternoon, nighttime, different days of the week, Saturdays, etc.," Foster said.

Along with parking, the new structure will house Public Safety's new offices.

FIU Public Safety Chief Bill King said that the creation of the new offices has been "long awaited."

"We're really anxious about a new facility for the police department," King said. "Officers have been waiting for a new facility for such a long time."

King said that Public Safety has occupied the Tamiami Airport Tower "almost from the beginning."

PG5, page 2



FOOTBALL: FIU 20, ULL 17 (OT)

Blocked FG completes comeback

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers have been inching closer to blocking a kick recently.

"We sit in this meeting room every single Sunday and review film, and I can't tell you how many times, probably two dozen times, where we're watching film and we are this close to blocking a field goal," said Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal. "I'm talking millimeters."

The Golden Panthers (2-6, 2-3 Sun Belt), finally got that extra measurement when Tourek Williams blocked Tyler Albrecht's field goal attempt in overtime to secure a 20-17 victory over the University of Louisiana (4-4, 2-2 SBC) on Oct. 31 at FIU Stadium.

The 6-foot-4 defensive end extended his left arm and tipped the football as it was kicked from 29 yards out, sending the Golden Panthers' sideline into commotion and drawing the 8,593 announced fans into cheers on a fervent afternoon.

FOOTBALL, page 7

Faculty, students debate global issues in weekly talks

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Staff Writer

To stimulate newspaper readership and contribute to the new global learning initiative, the University launched a series of open discussions with faculty and students that will focus on global issues reported by *The New York Times*.

The Student Government Association, *The New York Times*, Global Learning for Global Citizenship and Quality Enhancement Plan have partnered with each other to host a weekly series of events named Tuesday Times Talks, at which faculty and students will use *The New York Times* stories to stimulate discussion on global issues every Tuesday.

The QEP is a new initiative that specifically focuses on students' ability to see the world in multiple perspectives: to become more globally aware and to engage in problem solving with other students, according to its Web site. Most importantly for University administrators, the QEP is a required part of the University's bid for reaccreditation in 2010.

Stephanie Doscher, the associate director of the University's Global Learning Initiative, sees the initiative as beneficial to students.

UPCOMING TUESDAY TIMES TALKS

- Nov. 3** Pharmaceutical Research: Medicine or Marketing?
Moderated by: Professor David Cohen
- Nov. 10** The Arts: I Know What I Like and I Like What I Know
Moderated by: Professor David Dolata
- Nov. 17** Women and Islam: Whose Marriage Is It Anyway?
Moderated by: Professor Aixa Perez-Prado
- Nov. 24** Online Learning: Will Schooling Ever Be the Same?
Moderated by: Professor Brian Peterson

SGC-MMC pays about \$11,000 a year for 400 copies of *The New York Times* distributed every day on campus. SGC-BBC pays about \$8,000 a year for around 150 copies to be delivered everyday. Both councils' funds come from students' Activities and Services fee, paid at the time of enrollment.

However, SGA considered ending the readership program because it wasn't meeting its goals, Doscher said.

"We felt the students weren't necessarily not only reading the papers, but that they were not interacting with it. The paper wasn't [rele-

TUESDAY TIMES TALK, page 2

First talk gets high turnout

TUESDAY TIMES TALKS, page 1

vant to] their lives,” Doscher said. FIU’s Global Learning Initiative and SGA worked with *The New York Times* to find a way to make the paper more relevant to students. They decided to model it after Georgia

College’s program and host a series of multi-perspective discussions on global events.

The first Tuesday Times Talks, held Oct. 27, was centered on an article regarding the recent boom in cell phones in rural Africa, and how farmers are using the technology to learn about crop diseases and other ways to protect their crops in order to boost their economic profits.

English instructor Benjamin Lauren moderated the open discussion, along with University librarian George Pearson and journalism professor Frederick Blevens.

“I thought it was tremendous. Great turnout and great conversations going on, really good thinking coming out of the students,” Blevens said after the event.

María Cedeño, a graduate student pursuing her master’s in mass communication through the Global Strategic Communication Program, was one of many engaged in the discussion.

“The exchange of perspectives allows

students to understand other views,” she said. “It allows students to go beyond being aware of a problem or issue and from simply learning through a book, and takes them to see the real world.”

Doscher estimated that there were around 50 to 60 people in attendance for the first Tuesday Times Talks.

“We would have been happy with anyone coming by, but we were overjoyed that there was such a critical mass,” she said.

The event was promoted in a number of ways: fliers on campus, GoGlobal FIU’s Web site, Twitter and Facebook. Some teachers even offered extra credit to their students for attending the event.

“It was an unmitigated success. Even people who came [just] for extra credit got into the conversation, raised their hands and they contributed,” Doscher said.

The next Tuesday Times Talks will take place on Nov. 3 and will be moderated by the School of Social Work professor David Cohen. The discussion will focus on an article regarding the promotion of crackdown on medical ghostwriting by medical editors.

“Ideal education is to have forums where students express themselves about issues that they are reading about,” Blevens said.

Surveillance camera feeds to be centralized in PG5

PG5, page 1

“[The Tower] is the oldest facility on campus... and it’s been deteriorating, as far as condition, for a good number of years,” King said.

King added that the department had been promised new facilities as far back as eight years ago, however, the state budget cuts stood in the way.

Public Safety’s new offices will be located on the first and second floor of the southwest corner of the garage.

The first floor will house the department’s dispatch office and patrol operations while the second floor will contain administrative offices and the department’s investigative unit.

Besides the Tower, Public Safety, particularly patrol operations and investigations, currently inhabit the space behind the University’s Duplicating Center.

After the new facilities are built, King said that all of the entities would be united under one roof. King said that this would make it easier for the department to “connect and communicate.”

King added that even with the new facility, Public Safety’s presence in Everglades Hall would remain unchanged.

Public Safety’s new office will also allow the department

to create a larger dispatch center, which is currently situated in the Tower and handles dispatch operations for both MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus.

One of King’s goals for the larger, newer dispatch center is to create a centralized location where police can monitor the entire surveillance camera feeds across both campuses.

Currently, departments who employ the use of surveillance cameras, such as Facilities Management,

Education Capital Outlay funds, and Business Services.

The University, with approval from the Board of Governors and the Florida Division of Bond Finance, issued bonds to be sold to generate revenue for the project.

According to Foster, once these bonds were issued and sold, the money was transferred to the project account.

PECO funds were allocated to cover the cost of Public Safety’s portion of the

Officers have been waiting for a new facility for such a long time.

Bill King, chief of police
Public Safety

Parking and Transportation and Housing & Residential Life, monitor their own camera feeds.

Aside from more space for campus officers to unify and newer facilities, space allocated in the structure will also allow Public Safety to park patrol cars and other department vehicles safely in the garage.

According to King, no spaces have been designated for staff or officers’ personal vehicles.

Funding for the garage comes from three different sources: bond sales, Public

garage, totaling \$2.6 million.

Business Services will be contributing \$2.45 million for their planned 30,000 square feet of retail space that will be located in the garage.

Foster said that although the final price of the garage will be ascertained post-construction, the estimated final cost for PG5 is \$32.5 million.

He added that the garage construction is currently on schedule and is expected to open in August 2010.

Public Safety expects to be fully situated in its new offices by October 2010.

THE BEACON



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New graduate classes have high student enrollment

MAUREEN NINO
Staff writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication created two new graduate programs, which have attracted more students than previous years. But the increased enrollment is not benefiting graduate students like Jodi-Ann Reid.

"Classrooms are very big. There are about 45 to 50 students," said Reid, a student in the Global Strategic Communications master's program. "It's a big issue. Teachers can't give their full attention to the workload or material."

SJMC created the GSC master's program, which started this semester and has two tracks: GSC and GSC Creative, which emphasizes more on advertising. This program is replacing the Integrated Advertising and Public Relations graduate program. SJMC also offers the Spanish Language Journalism program.

The GSC is the largest advertising and public relations master's program of its kind in Florida, and is fully accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, according to SJMC's Web site.

"We wanted to provide students a curriculum that is more in line with what is happening in today's world," said Fernando Figueredo, department chair of Advertising and Public Relations.

According to Figueredo, the program will integrate advertising and public relations courses, and fuse global aspects to provide students with the ability to succeed in the field.

Tania Williams, a graduate

senator in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus and a GSC graduate student, knew that like her, other students were concerned about the number of students in each class, so she founded the SJMC Graduate Student Association during the Summer. She introduced the SJMC GSA, of which she is president, "to bridge a gap that exists."

"A lot of the students felt that they weren't getting the full grad school experience, so we formed this association to provide not only a voice for the students, but hopefully resources that we can all use," she said.

According to Williams, students are complaining about the deficiency in class size, the lack of support at a graduate level, and the lack of classes and professors.

"We have good faculty on our staff, but we don't have enough for a program that is continuously growing. It's great that the program is growing, but on the flip side, something is going to suffer if you don't balance it," she said.

According to Figueredo, there are approximately 180 students in the program, including both tracks, and 20 students in the Spanish Language Journalism program.

Figueredo attributes the increase in enrollment to the recession and lack of jobs.

"With the downgrade in the economy, we have had an increase in interest," he said. "People have decided to use this time to get their degrees."

Rosanna Fiske, SJMC graduate coordinator and associate professor, is in charge of overseeing the master's program, and said this is the first time

she hears such complaints.

"This is the first I hear about this," she said.

Fiske also said that she responds to students' concerns frequently, but that she is the only graduate coordinator, and the graduate program is big.

Reid feels that improving the graduate student experience is not a priority for Fiske.

"There are several other factors that are very high in her priorities," she said.

Williams is currently working with Fiske to resolve the problem and create graduate student resources such as symposiums, workshops, more internships and an in-house agency, she said.

Figueredo said he, in conjunction with Fiske and Allan Richards, SJMC interim associate dean, are working on developing various options to improve the teacher-to-student ratio.

"We didn't expect to grow so fast," said Figueredo. "We are in the process of resolving the problem."

One of their solutions is to shift undergraduate professors with Ph.D.s to graduate level courses, but they must be certified first. Currently, there are 24 professors that are qualified to teach at a graduate level, Figueredo said.

"I just think it is such a disservice for FIU to have such a phenomenal program, and we don't have enough resources or professors to support it," Williams said.

Fiske said students need to approach the department with their complaints.

"If students are feeling this way, they need to make it known in writing to the dean, chair or myself," she said. "You can't solve the problem if you don't bring it up to the right people."

MAKING THE CUT



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

CARVING: Paul Ashe, a senior in advertising, carves a flamingo for a jack-o-lantern at the Pumpkin Carving event held at Bay Vista housing on Oct. 29.

Lecture highlights Palestine

ASHLEY SALAMANCA
Contributing Writer

While American media have long covered the struggle for peace between Israel and Palestine, there is little known about the conflicts that divide Palestine between the Hamas and Fatah factions.

Jonathan Schanzer, deputy director for the Jewish Policy Center, a non-profit think tank in Washington, D.C., was the guest speaker at "The Internal Palestinian Conflict: Implications for Israel and America," a lecture held at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center on Oct. 28.

The lecture was co-presented by the Middle East Society, Judaic Studies Program, Jewish Community Relations Council, Hillel Second Generation and the Student Government Association.

Within Palestine, there is a stark difference between Hamas, the governing power of the Gaza Strip, and Fatah, the governing power of the West Bank. Each territory has two different governments, each with very different objectives, separated by roughly 30 miles of the Negev Desert. There is a potential split in the state of Palestine, according to Schanzer, and it needs to be addressed before an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement can take place and be successful.

If Israel were to cede from the West Bank, which includes pulling out of all settlements and tearing down all checkpoints, there would still not be a chance to develop a peace agreement between Israel and Palestine, Schanzer said.

"Even if all of these things were ceded tomorrow, there would be no one on the Palestinian side to ratify that agreement," he said. "The primary reason for that is that the Palestinians are too divided."

Schanzer said his assertions may seem pessimistic to some, but his goal is to alert policymakers of the internal Palestinian conflict, a major pitfall to the development of a peace agreement.

"To my chagrin, in Washington, members of Congress and the White House continue to overlook this problem despite the fact that it is staring them right in the face," Schanzer said.

The internal Palestinian conflict began in

1987, when Yasser Arafat, leader of the Fatah movement, orchestrated the first *intifada*, a Palestinian resistance movement against Israel.

Arafat coordinated the fighting and demonstrations from his base in Tunisia, where he was exiled to by the Israelis in the early 1980s.

He was welcomed back in 1993, under the condition that he would begin negotiating peace in the Oslo Accords, which sought to find a two-state solution between Palestine and Israel.

As the *intifada* gained popular support in Palestine, Hamas was formed.

An offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt, Hamas adopted a more Islamic vision for the future of Palestine. Hamas is most known for adopting jihadist tactics to not only attack Israel, but to derail Fatah's leadership through attacks and suicide bombings.

They slowly started gaining support and became a threat to Arafat's rule.

In 2000, Arafat launched a second *intifada* in response to the threat of losing power to Hamas, ending the peace process between Israel and Palestine, which was spearheaded by President Bill Clinton.

Known as the *Al-Aqsa* *intifada*, it was steeped in Muslim symbolism, leaving behind the secular style of government Arafat once led. Fighting between Israel and Palestine ensued.

When Arafat died in 2004, Palestine was left in chaos. In 2006, Palestinian elections named Hamas the winner by a significant lead, which Fatah rejected. In June 2007, civil war erupted between Hamas and Fatah that continues to this day.

Schanzer suggested that if Palestinians cannot reach peace and stability among themselves, there may need to be a three-state solution to include the two sides of Palestine, instead of the two-state solution between Israel and Palestine that the U.S. Department of State and the media tend to emphasize.

"What we are really looking for [in Palestine] is a charismatic leader. A Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi, somebody that could come up through the ranks to capture the imagination of the Palestinian people to bring them together," he said.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Band's impact was far-reaching, efforts to bring it back commendable

After FIU's marching band was cut, the void left was felt almost immediately.

That one of the 25 largest universities in the United States does not have a marching band is embarrassing to say the least.

This issue has recently been revived with the SGA University-wide council passing a motion aimed at bringing back the University's marching band. *The Beacon* supports this measure, but feels that the issue has been misunderstood from the very beginning.

All the sporting events, save the first home football game where a local high school marching band came to play a few songs, have gone without the band playing.

A high school playing on behalf of FIU but not wearing FIU colors or even playing the fight song just does not cut it.

Even when rival Troy came to the University, they had their band there to support them – but at least the sound of Pitbull from the jumbotron was there to drown out their music.

And now that the band is cut, the University realizes how many events the band covered around campus: the Martin Luther King parade, graduation ceremonies, all the home athletic events, Homecoming, Trail of the Torch, pep rallies and the list goes on.

One of the main justifications for dropping the band, besides the spring budget cuts, was that not all the students within the band were music majors, or FIU students for that matter.

But this is a claim made by persons who do not fully comprehend the system of marching bands in general.

Most marching bands are not made up of students who are music majors at all: they are students with other majors who likely played an instrument in grade school and decided to continue their passion through college.

To ask for a band solely made up of music majors is almost impossible; students who are in the School of Music have to take 18 credit hours per semester in order to graduate in four and a half years.

The band also practices three times a week for about two to three hours and end up going to a game per week.

To add a typical 10 to 12 hours a week on top of a full-time school schedule may be asking too much from a student. This is partly why the band would accept students from Miami-Dade College, who would enroll in some sort of dual enrollment to be able to participate in FIU's marching band.

Without context, a band composed of non-FTE (full-time enrolled) students is troublesome; FTE students pay for the band with their Activities and Services (A&S) fee.

From a student perspective, however, this process is a means for them to dual enroll in a school where they would not normally be able to attend. From a university's standpoint, these students fill the role of FIU's band and also become prospective students.

With this said, we must bear in mind that there are high costs to running a band: uniforms, instruments, repairs and the music itself, just to name a few.

The musicians also are given a small stipend, which is well deserved when considering the amount of hours that are expected out of the students, practicing and performing.

In perspective, the cost of bringing back and running an FIU marching band is small compared to giving back the FIU community – on and off campus – their spirit back.

Smoking marijuana not a crime

CHRISTIAN R. BAUMAN
Staff Writer

To those of you in 14 states with prescriptions, you can light your prescription-grade without the paranoia. You are no longer a federal criminal. A three-page memo issued by the Justice Department told federal prosecutors to stop arresting those using and serving medical marijuana in strict compliance of state laws.

This move is a reversal of the stance held by the past administration, which sought to seize any trace of the plant possible. In a statement issued by Attorney General Eric Holder, "It will not be a priority to use federal resources to prosecute patients with serious illnesses or their caregivers who are complying with state laws on medical marijuana, but we will not tolerate drug traffickers who hide behind claims of compliance with state law to mask activities that are clearly illegal."

While it's no surprise that California has an abundance of dispensaries, locations in Colorado – tell your children! – have set up shop. Rhode Island and New Mexico will soon be licensing providers.

One man pleased with the change is Bruce Mirken, the communication director for the Marijuana Policy Project.

"This change in policy moves the federal government dramatically toward respecting scientific and practical reality," Mirken said.

I'm proud of this change. Yes, marijuana has perception-altering effects: it alters the way the mind and body functions. But it shouldn't be a Schedule-1 drug. The Department of Justice lists marijuana among LSD, heroin, GHB, DMT, ecstasy and mescaline – meaning that marijuana is more dangerous

JUMPING HOOPS



than cocaine, opium, oxycontin, PCP, anabolic steroids and codeine.

Marijuana is some pretty dangerous stuff even though it's killed less people than alcohol, tobacco, professional wrestling, Mortal Kombat and amusement park rides combined.

We have no reason to tell a cancer patient recovering from chemotherapy, an elder whose eyes ache from glaucoma or a sufferer of multiple sclerosis to step away from a plant. Who are we to picture ourselves in their pain and call them criminals?

We have no right. Many of the doctors among those 14 states swear by the same hippocratic oath as the ones who reside in the other 36. And even if this freedom breeds excess, it's no worse than the doctors who hand Xanax to 14-year-olds who had a bad day at school or Adderall to any high-schooler with bad grades.

Marijuana will still be illegal. Prosecutors will continue pursuing marijuana cases that involve violence, weapons dealing, money laundering and other crimes. The guilty parties will still be punishable to the

fullest extent of the law, but now federal law enforcement will have more focus on those engaged in the activity of organized crime rather than the usual puff-puff-passer.

In the end, there's no recipe to prepare marijuana. It's a flower one sets on fire and inhales. Who is responsible for the real pot problem? Blame the soil.

If the inhalation of plant matter can help those suffering with cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis and chronic pain issues, then let them hit it.

Marijuana is something of scientific value that should be researched, debated and openly discussed. Instead of *Reefer Madness*, a propaganda film so laughable that it's only watched by those who are stoned themselves, or the 1980's experiment that "proved" the harmful effects of the weed by putting oxygen-depriving masks on the face of monkeys.

Spark the debate. Regardless of whether you do the pot, tried the pot, love the pot, hate the pot, or you live in the 14 states and need the pot: medical research should come first.

Take from the past – hang your clothing

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Staff Writer

Even in my recent effort to try to save the environment by saving plastic bottles in my room and later depositing them into recycling receptacles, I've realized that I am still predisposed to biases that are anti-green.

For example, I saw some clothes hanging out of a Lakeview South window and thought, "Wow, that is just *not classy*."

Little did I know that tumble-dryers are the second most energy inefficient appliance, not to mention the one most likely to cause devastating house fires,

according to *The New York Times*. Maybe that student in Lakeview was actually being smart.

In an aesthetic society where comfort and class often comes before how economically or environmentally sound something is, what are the chances of clotheslines making a comeback?

Despite efforts of communities to actually ban this eyesore of a practice, some state legislatures have actually banned such ordinances in favor of the energy-efficient clothesline.

I don't see myself going out and buying clothespins to hang my shirts either now or when I

eventually own a home, though I do think efforts on this college campus and others to encourage such a behavior in an organized fashion would garner some attention.

One of very few nationwide attempts at this occurred in Pomona College. Drying racks were installed in the residence halls' laundry rooms providing a supply of racks students can rent out for the semester and use in their rooms.

I would take advantage of such an initiative at the University, especially after learning about how much energy dryers use – 3 percent of all energy used in a home, according to the

Department of Energy.

This statistic does not include any clothes dried at commercial laundromats, universities, prisons or condominium common rooms.

This issue also actually harks back to the ethnocentrism that often leads Americans to refuse to try new things, or in this situation, go back to an old one.

I'm not going to stop using a dryer, though I will most likely feel guilty about it from now on, but I do now believe that universities should implement programs to encourage air drying in an orderly fashion.

It would certainly be a breath of fresh air.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

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WINNER/LOSER



President Obama announced that his administration would lift a ban preventing individuals with HIV or AIDS from entering the U.S. Obama said the measure "will encourage people to get tested and get treatment ... that will save lives."



Spam doesn't pay – unless you're willing to pay through the nose. Sanford Wallace, a spammer who had worked in the 1990s, has to pay over \$700 million to Facebook for damages. Let's not forget Wallace already owes MySpace \$234 million.

OPINIONPIECE

650K

The number of jobs that have been created or saved by the \$150 billion economic stimulus package, according to the White House.

RAISING THE BAR



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

PANTHER'S PIT: Pitbull Sports Bar located on 11865 SW 26th St offers billiards, beer and food with a 10 percent discount for FIU students with their Panther ID cards.

FIU student runs local lounge

IVAN FLORES
Staff Writer

For Olgaly Combarro, beer tends to go nicely with business.

Combarro is a junior business and finance major at FIU and is co-owner of Pitbull Sports Bar. While Combarro's mother Barbara is the owner on paper, Combarro oversees the day to day operations and is responsible for the employees.

Pitbull Sports Bar is located on 11865 SW 26th St., less than a five-minute drive from Modesto Maidique Campus. The bar is nestled between the AMC Palace 18 movie theater and a Chinese restaurant that is curiously named, *El Cantones*. The bar is lined with Florida Marlins, Miami Dolphins, University of Florida and University of Miami logos. The FIU football schedule is posted on the wall by the bar and the away games are televised on one of the plasma televisions.

Combarro bought the bar in June of 2009 directly from the owner of the strip mall.

According to her, she bought the bar because she wanted to run her own business and she loves sports.

"Basketball, football, baseball - I love to watch them," she laughed while she said, "I can't play any, but I love them."

Pitbull opened to the public on July 4, 2009. Combarro joked that she opened the bar that day solely because her license to sell beer came in on July 2.

"No, honestly," she laughed, "it was to celebrate the American independence."

Combarro explained that the knowledge she has gained at FIU has helped her run the operations of the bar.

"One of my professors used to say, you can give away all the free food [you want], if you don't promote yourself you'll never go anywhere," Combarro said, who also noted that all FIU students who show their IDs get 10 percent off their total order. According to her, she attended FIU's School of Business for its prestigious reputation.

I visited Pitbull on Tuesday, the night the bar hosts a karaoke party. To help lower inhibitions and bring in more patrons, the bar boasts \$1 domestic drafts. Karaoke is provided by Karo-O-King, who has been providing DJ and karaoke services since

1998. The owner Robert Bedrosian described the collection of songs available for karaoke saying, "We have over 100 and 10,000 song titles and that number grows monthly when we receive updates of hot and new songs."

There is a woman singing karaoke in the background, a small crowd cheering as she sings Madonna's "Like A Virgin." Combarro takes the beers to the three men that sit at the back table.

A fourth man, with a beer in hand, goes up to kiss the singer and congratulate her on her performance.

The next singer that takes the microphone starts to choke within the first 30 seconds of the song. She stutters and does not hit the right pitch. The men sitting in the back table begin to jeer loudly.

The karaoke jockey rests his forehead on his palm, eventually standing up and declaring, "That's it! Someone else is up after this." A man wearing jeans splattered with white paint and a dirt-stained shirt takes the microphone. He begins to sing Trace Adkins' "Swing." The DJ smiles, sits back down and begins to drink a beer as the singer keeps the melody.

Combarro is pouring more drafts, the four men in the back asking for another round. Gloria Lynch, a junior biology major at FIU, sits at a table near the men in the back. With a beer in hand she motions for Combarro to bring another. Lynch has been a going to Pitbull since it opened.

"My friend Andre told me about this bar with \$1 drafts and I was sold. Everyone who comes in is fun loving and outgoing, it's a very welcoming atmosphere," Lynch said.

FISTFULS OF TECH

Windows 7 throws lame launch parties

Windows 7 has received much praise since its release. I'm adding another honor: Most Ridiculous Ad Campaign.

Microsoft released its latest operating system with much fanfare to a crowd of eager users desperate to put the horror that was Windows Vista behind them. The company has spared no expense in marketing both itself and the new software, hiring famed ad agency Crispin, Porter + Bogusky back in February 2008.

These guys have given us such gems as the "I'm a PC" commercials and those annoying commercials where two people go buy a new laptop and just so happen to pick a PC.

The marketing campaign leading up to Windows 7's release has been more bizarre than annoying. In Japan, Microsoft partnered with Burger King in a cross promotional event to introduce the "Windows 7 Whopper". This particular burger sports seven beef patties and, with all the appropriate accessories, stacks five inches tall and will happily donate over 2,000 calories to your body, all for the low price of ¥1,450 or \$18.17.

In order to reach out to potential customers here in the U.S., however, Microsoft prepared a cheesy, six-minute YouTube video explaining to people how to have a proper "Windows 7 Launch Party". The video shows four people, each representing a specific age, ethnic group and gender, demonstrating what is no doubt Microsoft's ideal Windows 7 launch party scenario.

"In a lot of ways, you're just throwing a party with Windows 7 as the honored guest," said Paid Actor No. 4.

The video goes on to describe all the fun things you can do while huddled around a computer with Windows and all your friends.

"Leave your computer on and running and let people mess around," said the creepy old lady.

According to the aptly titled "Windows Launch Party Activity Sheet", Microsoft suggests engaging in activities that showcase the operating system's many features, such as having guests, or if you have no friends just you, take 20 pictures and turn them into a slide show using the OS' preview software.

This video is so cheesy and awful I cringed as I watched it. I sat there in complete disbelief that this is actually being used to

reach out to potential customers.

Even so, that was not the worst part. On the table in the video, I noticed the second echelon of Microsoft lameness that was about to be unleashed to the public: the Microsoft Launch Party Kit. If you registered to host a Windows 7 home party, you would receive a party kit that will get you ready to host this extra special shindig.

The kit comes with everything you need to ensure that your congregation of Windows nerds will be content while they gather around the warm glow of Windows 7. The kit, which is put together with love by *HouseParty.com*, contains an assortment of Windows 7-themed party favors and handouts, a deck of playing cards (in case you get bored), and a copy of Windows 7 Ultimate Edition signed (sort of) by Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. I have always wanted a copy of Windows 7 signed by Ballmer.

I wish there was a font for sarcasm.

Though I understand that in the world of marketing any publicity is good publicity, I can't help but see the ridiculousness in all of this.

The idea of having a party for the release of an operating system is a bit absurd, even to me, a tech geek. This is the same fanaticism that Microsoft loyalists criticize me for, and yet I'm not huddled around a laptop in someone's living room and sipping Pepsi out of a Windows 7 cup.

The message I get from these epically lame ads is that Microsoft is trying desperately to capture the hype and loyal fan base that Apple has behind it and its products.

Microsoft needs to realize that just as Apple will never be Microsoft, Microsoft will never be Apple. Microsoft has an established fan base in business markets and enjoys a large market share percentage because of it. Microsoft's image is made by the countless businesses that adopt them to run their infrastructure and depend on their tried and true MS Office software for their day-to-day operations. They don't need to be cool, trendy, or stylish; therefore they should not force it.

I guess even a Fortune 500 software company can have mid-life crisis.

"Fistfuls of Tech" is a weekly column on all things technological.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST



WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

PREKSHA MEDITATION CLUB

General Meeting
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

JAZZ JAM/OPEN MIKE



WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Churchill's Pub

BAHAMIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

General Meeting
WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

DM ALUMNI SOCIAL

Fundraiser for Miami Children's Hospital Foundation through FIU Dance Marathon Alumni.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Red Koi, 317 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

SISTERS IN SPIRIT

General Meeting
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 1235

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

CHILDREN BEYOND BORDERS



Meeting to help needy children
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 241

DM ALUMNI SOCIAL

Fundraiser for Miami Children's Hospital Foundation through FIU Dance Marathon Alumni.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Red Koi, 317 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Student Ambassador Program
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

FRENCH CLUB - MOVIE



WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

FREE CUBA FOUNDATION



Recruitment
WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Table

TRUTH FOR LIFE

General Meeting
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009

MUSIC SAVES LIVES



General Meeting
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

BLACK STUDENT UNION



General Meeting
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

General Meeting
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

TIBETAN SAND MANDALA CREATION



Painting with colored sand ranks
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Museum

BLUES JAM AT TITANIC



WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Titanic Brewery

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

FIU YOGA CLUB



Meditation Event
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC pit

STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET

General Meeting
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

ITALIAN CLUB



General Meeting
WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

CARIBBEAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

General Meeting
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

DANCE MARATHON MEETING



General Meeting
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

EMILYN BRODSKY

In store performance!
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Sweat Records

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa.
Got an event you want featured? Send an e-mail to mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com.



Target Wednesday After Hours

November 4, 2009 6 p.m.

The Mystical Arts of Tibet and Dr. Nathan Katz lecture. Mandala sand paintings are painstakingly created grain-by-grain by Drepung Loseling monks. This artistic tradition of Tantric Buddhism ranks among the most unique and exquisite forms of Asian arts. In Tibet this art is called dul-tson-kyil-khor, which literally means "mandala of colored powders."

Formed of traditional iconography that includes geometric shapes and a multitude of ancient spiritual symbols, the sand-painted mandala is used as a tool for re-consecrating the earth and its inhabitants. Nathan Katz was selected as a delegate to the 1990 Tibetan-Jewish dialogue hosted by H. H. the Dalai Lama and reported in the best-selling *The Jew in the Lotus*. He reciprocated the hospitality in 1999 when the Dalai Lama first visited FIU for an honorary doctorate, as well as his 2004 visit. Inspired by the Dalai Lama's vision of educating both the "warm heart" and the "good brain," Katz founded FIU's innovative Center for the Study of Spirituality.

Target Wednesday After Hours are free and open to the public and take place from one Wednesday each month from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mark your calendars! Next Target Wednesday After Hours will take place December 16, 2009.

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No. 1 SEED



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Marina Pappas (left), Katrina Rose (center) are greeted by Amy Jackson (right) in the team's Arkansas St. match on Oct. 25. The Golden Panthers defeated Florida Atlantic 1-0 on Oct. 30 to become the No. 1 team headed to the Sun Belt Conference Championship on Nov. 4.

McCall forces overtime, defensive line seals win

FOOTBALL, page 1

"He always says we're going to block a field goal to win a game," Cristobal said about defensive coordinator Phil Galiano. "It's a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Trailing 17-10 with 10 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Golden Panthers quarterback Paul McCall found Greg Ellingson open in the end zone to tie the game. The Golden Panthers then got a field goal from Dustin Rivest in overtime to take their first lead of the contest. Linebacker Tyler Clawson had a crucial tackle for loss on third down to stop ULL's drive in the extra period.

Williams' left hand did the rest.

"Tourek Williams is a guy that you probably haven't heard much about but he has been a co-starter since day one," Cristobal said of the freshman.

Williams' finishing touch came on a day when the FIU defense manufactured its most complete defensive game of the season. The Golden Panthers' front seven played tenaciously, and held the Ragin' Cajuns

to 126 rushing yards on 44 carries. Ragin' Cajuns running back Yobes Walker, who was coming off an impressive 105-yard performance against Florida Atlantic University last week, was stifled for 40 yards. The Golden Panthers entered the game second to last in the SBC in rushing defense.

"We had some pretty good defensive line play this game, we seemed to knock the line of scrimmage back more than we usually have," said defensive tackle Jonas Murell. "I think the new scheme that we have put in with the movements that we are doing up front have really been working to our favor."

The sudden success for the Golden Panthers' defensive line was complemented by sound linebacker play. Williams pointed to discipline and players filling their gap assignments. Murell was encouraged by the consistent pursuit against the Ragin' Cajun offense.

"They were coming downhill in a hurry," Murell said. "There were several plays where I would come off the line and I would think 'it might break' and I turned around

and they got a play in the backfield."

Leading the group was sophomore Aaron Davis, who took the place of injured starting linebacker Toronto Smith.

The dreadlocked Davis, an imposing figure at 245 pounds, led the team with nine tackles and two tackles for loss.

"The kid's a monster, isn't he?" said Clawson, who had seven stops. "It's definitely good playing beside him."

Ironically, FIU has won its second game this season in a contest T.Y. Hilton did not score in. In 2008, Hilton scored in all of the team's five victories. Hampered by a knee injury, Hilton was barely on the field for FIU, but freshman Wayne Times picked up the slack with five catches. After the game, Cristobal was asked to clarify if it was Murell or Williams who blocked the decisive field goal. Although he clarified Williams got the block.

"It doesn't matter if the popcorn guy got it," he said. "Bottom line, that thing was blocked, and we were able to pull out the victory."

Unlikely heroes lead to OT win

TOWERS, page 8

First and goal.

This was where FIU's defense flipped the script.

They stood up two rushing attempts and on third down got into the backfield and into Louisiana quarterback Chris Masson's face, forcing an incompleteness and a field goal to keep the game within 1 score to give the offense, which had been stagnant the last eight quarters, one last chance.

A FITTING ENDING

Coach Mario Cristobal is the type of coach who will always reward a player who works hard, no matter where they are on the depth chart or how young they are. Junior wideout Greg Ellingson sat out much of the first half after being outplayed in practice by some of the younger receivers on the depth chart.

As the Golden Panthers moved down the field in the last two minutes, players like freshman Wayne Times and junior Ariel Martinez, who had one catch on the season prior to this week, came up with the big plays they needed.

But when Paul McCall needed a red zone target, Ellingson, the big receiver with the great hands was there,

standing alone in the back of the end zone on fourth and goal to give FIU the touch-down it needed to send the game to overtime.

And when FIU went up by a field goal in the first overtime and the Ragin' Cajuns were looking to answer with a field goal of their own following another big defensive stand, it was one of those younger guys Cristobal had rewarded, freshman Tourek Williams, who got the push and got his hands up to block the kick and secure the victory for a Golden Panthers team that was desperately hungry for a win.

LOOKING AHEAD

It wasn't a perfect win by any means, but a 1-6 team that can keep fighting back in front of a lackluster turnout at home is a team with a great deal of pride, and this is a team that may be able to somewhat salvage what has been a disappointing season.

Three of the final four games of the season are against Sun Belt foes, and each of them is a winnable game. Coming out after a 1-6 start and matching the team's win total from last season would be the best possible way to head into next season with their heads held high.

START THINKING AHEAD.

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FOOTBALL: FIU 20, ULL 17 (OT)

HALLO-WIN THRILLER



ALL PHOTOS BY VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

DOING OVERTIME: Dustin Rivest (top) is carried by his teammates following the 20-17 overtime win and blocked field goal attempt by the Ragin' Cajuns. Rivest's 24-yard field goal proved to be the game-winning score in overtime. Darrian Mallary (bottom left) stiffens arms a Ragin' Cajuns defender. Colt Anderson (bottom right) tries to gain more yards after a reception.

Comeback changes usual script, ending

Who knows what made the big difference on Saturday?

Maybe it was because they were missing a few of their key leaders and their replacements felt they had to step up their game. Starting middle linebacker Toronto Smith didn't dress for the game due to injury, and All-Sun Belt Conference corner Anthony Gaitor joined him on the sidelines early thanks to a nagging shoulder injury.

Maybe they felt slighted playing in front of the smallest crowd ever assembled in the renovated FIU Stadium. A paltry announced attendance of 8,539 that must have included about 4,500 ghosts, in keeping with the theme of the Halloween day game.

Maybe they were just dead tired of losing. Whatever it was, the Golden Panthers, and

in particular the defense, that showed up on Oct. 31 was one we haven't seen since about the second quarter of the team's first game against Alabama.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

Despite an uncharacteristically turnover-laden game for the Golden Panthers offense (that played much of the game without its two top receivers), the defense played with a pride that had been until this point unknown this season.

BEND, DON'T BREAK

What was the difference on Saturday?

With just under eight minutes left in the game and FIU down by 4, FIU starting quarterback Paul McCall committed his second turnover of the game, fumbling the ball on his own 39. When Louisiana's defensive tackle Jordan

Topp jumped on it, it seemed somewhat like a script that has played out numerous times this season, starring the Golden Panthers as the team that just comes up short.

Everyone in the stadium knew that the Ragin' Cajuns were going to run the ball right at FIU, knowing FIU has struggled mightily against the run this season. They were going to drive down the field and run the clock down so the Golden Panthers wouldn't have time for much more than a desperation offense.

1 yard rush. 9 yard rush. 1 yard, 6 yards, 2 yards, 2 yards.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

The Ragin' Cajuns picked up three first downs and ate up a ton of clock running right at FIU, all the way down to the 6-yard line.

TOWERS, page 7

VOLLEYBALL, CROSS COUNTRY

Panthers win 15th straight at Louisiana

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

The last time the Golden Panthers volleyball team (22-2, 12-0 Sun Belt) played New Orleans, the Privateers knocked them out of the Sun Belt tournament leaving a bitter taste after the loss.

In their first destination in the weekend road trip in Louisiana, New Orleans didn't roll out the welcome mat in the rematch as the match went five sets.

But this time around, the Golden Panthers would return the favor.

New Orleans gave FIU all they could handle, but the Golden Panthers came away with a five-set victory on Oct. 30 at the Human Performance Center. The victory keeps them perfect in Sun Belt Conference play.

Both teams swapped sets with FIU taking the first and New Orleans taking the second, and in the pivotal third set FIU jumped out to a huge early lead on their way to a third set victory.

The Privateers, one set away from defeat, came out strong in the fourth and managed to stop a Golden Panther comeback attempt to tie the match 2-2 and force a match-deciding fifth set.

The Golden Panthers came out strong in the fifth set and ran away with it to earn their 15th consecutive victory.

Four players posted double-digit kills for the team, including Yarimar Rosa's team-high 21 kills, to help push the team to a victory. The defense was also solid, with Andrea Lakovic recording five blocks. Natalia Valentin helped out on both offense and defense with 54 assists and a team-high 17 digs.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Golden Panthers men and women's cross country teams finished in 10th and 11th place, respectively, in the 2009 Sun Belt Conference Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships on Oct. 31 in Monroe, La. Running on a wet course, freshman Tai Canady led the women's team with a 22:04.09 time in the 5k course. Catalina Ortiz was the Golden Panthers' second best performer on the women's side with a 24:17.19 time. Estefania Fierro (24:54.11), Karina Edwards (27:37.57) and Ashley Aderman (29:13.28).

For the men's team, Sebastian Castillo came in 25th place and finished the 8k course in 19:01.76. Ciprian Mejia finished the race in 29:51.29 while Pedro Bigorra ran the course in 30:58.35 and Jason Oliver placed in 71st place (32:23.71).

Western Kentucky's Janet Jesang was the women's individual champion. South Alabama's Zac Edwards was the men's individual champion. Western Kentucky's men's and women's coaches were named the Sun Belt coaches of the year. Western Kentucky and South Alabama won all the Sun Belt Conference postseason awards.