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The Independent FIU Sunblazer

Volume 5, Number 8
Tuesday, October 27, 1987

the sunblazer

Yes or No?

FPIRG's future to be decided by student body in fall elections

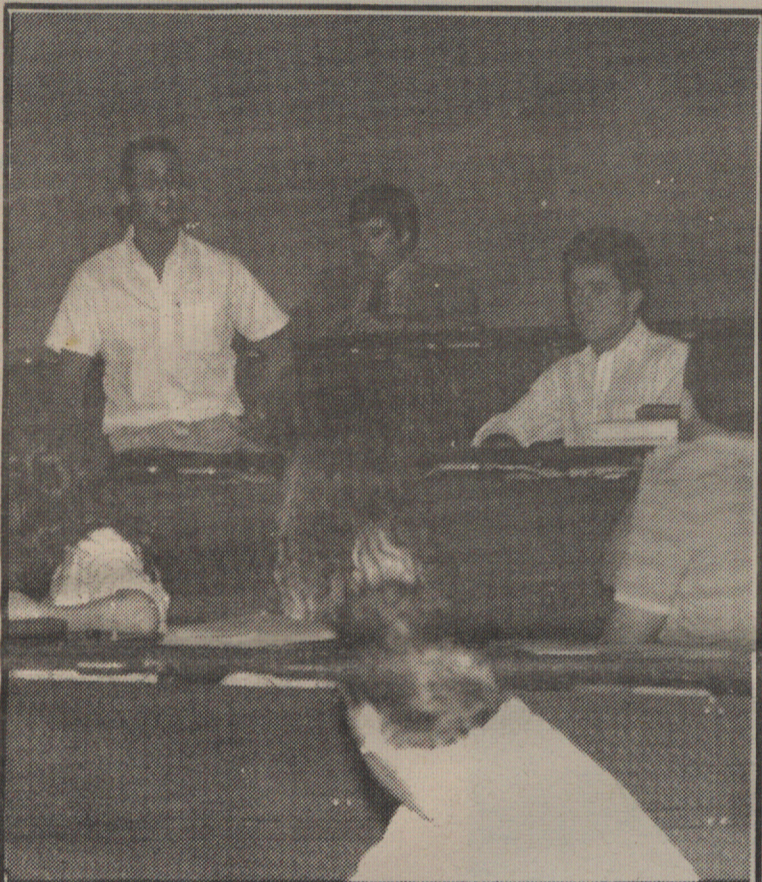


Photo: Guy Shir

■ SGA Senators debate over the FPIRG controversy. Our student leaders argued about the question of positive or negative "check-off" for the \$2.50 fee that the group collects.

MICHAEL SHELLEY
Sunblazer news editor

After months of debate, the choice is finally yours. On November 17-18, FIU students will decide during SGA elections by ballot whether to have a positive or negative check-off fee for the Florida Public Interest Research Group (FPIRG).

Tom Powers, the FPIRG representative at FIU said that if the majority of students vote in favor of a positive check-off, the group will have to leave the campus.

"Historically, at schools where there is a positive check-off, PIRG doesn't get enough money, and must leave," Powers said.

Under the current system, when a student is registering, he must check the "No" box to refuse the \$2.50 fee. If the box isn't checked, it is automatically assumed the student will pay, and FPIRG gets the money. Now, students will have the opportunity to decide

whether to maintain the current system, or check Yes if they want to pay the \$2.50 fee. It's confusing: negative check-off means a student must

"It's it to them (students) to pay. It's (the fall election) is giving them the option," SGA Senator Frank Janisch said.

check No to refuse to fee. Positive check-off means a student must check Yes to pay the fee.

"It makes it look like a donation if there's a positive check-off, whereas under the current system it is a fee which funds FPIRG. We are vital to the university community," Powers said.

In a debate at the last two SGA Senate meetings, senators voiced their opinions, with the general consensus leaving the student body

to decide if FPIRG is performing a vital function.

Powers says the group is prepared to launch a heavy campaign to sway student support.

At the dramatic October 21 Senate meeting it was decided to put the check-off vote on the fall ballot. Adam Underwood, lobby annex director, in his report advocated strongly for student choice. This drew criticism from Senator George Twum-Barimah, "I think he (Underwood) was wrong to use his time to advocate his view on FPIRG," Twum-Barimah said.

Senators were given five minutes to voice three pro (in favor of positive check-off) and three con arguments.

According to figures from the 1985-86 term, FPIRG received \$73,187, according to the registrar's office. Powers said that with a positive check-off, that figure is expected to decline drastically.

North Miami campus Student Center building suffering from water leakage

MICHAEL SHELLEY
Sunblazer news editor

George Wilson, director of the student union at the North Miami campus must feel like that mythical Dutch boy who used his finger to plug a leaking dike. The Student Center building is leaking water, and the damage is noticeable. The first floor area adjacent to the Nautilus center is blocked off, as well as the telescope viewing area on the third floor terrace, because some of the pre-fabricated blocks of cement that make up the exterior of SC are adjusting.

"I think we have a massive problem," Wilson said. "I feel we've solved the internal drainage problem, however."

Earlier in the year, the drains on the second and third floors of the building were repaired because water was not draining properly. Instead

of flowing through the drain and into the pipes, where it would run-off at ground level, water became saturated in the crevices surrounding the drains, and was dripping in the interior of the building. This caused extensive damage in room 240, where the walls are flaking apart, and the carpet has obvious water stains. A new drainage system was installed at a cost of \$40,000., which prevents the water saturation.

The pre-fabricated cement blocks, however, are adjusting because the caulk used to seal them together has developed cracks. In these cracks, rain water is deposited, and a change in temperature will either expand or contract the caulk, causing the blocks to move. One of the blocks on the third floor terrace is bolted by a steel plate to prevent it from moving off center any further. It already has moved about

one third of an inch.

Some of the steps on all the stairwells show noticeable cracks. Holes have been drilled in some of steps to allow for trapped water to flow out, but this effort has only met with failure.

A major problem has been the foliage in the planters on the second and third floors. The plants in these areas have grown, and their roots feed on the water that becomes laden after rainfall. Because of the roots, pores have developed in the cement planters, allowing water to become trapped. When the plant grows, so does the root, and these pores expand further, cracking the cement.

Under the stairwell next to day-care, there are stalagmites hanging from the cement, that resemble a cavern.

Since 1982, when the first steps were taken to solve the leakage problem, over 20 sets

of people have come in to examine the water damage. Over the five-year period, the building has been a "guinea pig" to various types of caulk that have been used to seal many of the leaks. But, Miguel Rivero, the university's contract administrator, feels caulks are only a remedy that won't last very long.

"I have seen more than enough leaks in my lifetime, but it's not very easy to determine where the leak in this building is coming from. You see damage over there, but it (water) could be coming from another place," Rivero said.

Wilson has even proposed pouring dye-colored water on the roof to see where the water leaks.

A proposal for the third floor area, where most of the planters are, is to tear apart the planters, and just roof over the terrace. The estimated cost for this is \$100,000., but if this

isn't the whole of the problem, it is a large expenditure of money that would not solve the entire problem.

Another factor that has caused the cement blocks to shift is the weight of the building. "Look at it (the building), it's not built on the rocks of Manhattan, but on a coastline," Wilson said, referring to SC's proximity to Biscayne Bay. The Student Center's pre-fabricated design allowed construction to be rather fast for a building of that size, but the original architect foresaw a drainage problem, and asked the contractor to install eaves to collect the water.

As of now, according to Wilson, the leaks, and the movement of the blocks pose no threat to students or others in the vicinity of the building.

Rey Quintana
Sunblazer staff writer

The FIU Dance Ensemble is **hard at work** preparing for its fall semester concert, to be held Dec. 3rd through 6th in Vierter Haus at University Park.

The show will consist of student choreographies in the ballet, modern and jazz dance mediums, and will feature the premiere of original works by Lee Brooke, artistic director of the ensemble, and six Miami choreographers.

A dance concert rich in variety is in store. Brooke is preparing a modern piece set to music from the film "The Mission." The work as of now is untitled, but its religious undertones and fluidly forceful movements are reminiscent of the masterpieces created by modern dance legend Alvin Ailey.

Patricia Strauss Gray will contribute a delicious jazz choreography titled "Mood Swings," set to a composition of the same name by musician Mike Stern. And FIU alumnus Marlon Zuniga will tell us what happened "Once Upon a Tango."

The other choreographers involved in the presentation are Leslie Neal Houck, Karen Peterson Corash and Linda St. Ambrogio.

Auditions for the FIU Dance Ensemble were held Sunday, Sept. 27th, in the FIU Dance Studio. The guest choreographers were all present, each closely surveying the participants and looking to find movements and expressions that would harmonize with their individual styles.

Dale Andree, director of Mary Street Dance Theatre, searched for creativity developing from the power of emotion. Patricia Strauss Gray, formerly of the Miami Ballet Company and principal dancer with "Les Ballets-Jazz" of Montreal, presented a jazz combination full of high kicks, sharp turns and rapid changes of focus.

The other guest choreographers watched closely, took notes and made choices. The students themselves observed each other, looking among their peers for special gestures and movements that would allow them to tell their own stories.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. Dec. 3rd, 4th and 5th and at 7 p.m. Dec. 6th. Ticket prices are \$6 general admission, \$5 for students outside of FIU and \$2 for FIU students.

For further ticket information and reservations, call 554-2895 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This program is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the state of Florida, the Department of State, the Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council. Partial funding has also been provided by FIU's Student Government Association.



■ FIU Ensemble dancers rehearse for new theater season



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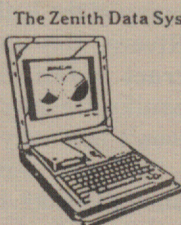
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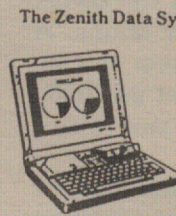


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On Campus Calendar

Homecoming hoopla

Homecoming/American Week Celebrations will take place November 7-30. "Homecoming: An American Tradition" is a time of traditions and welcoming Alumni back to our campus. It is a time to show support for our athletic teams, clubs, fraternities and sororities, and the entire university community.

This year FIU commemorates its 15th birthday as a university and celebrates the 200th birthday of the U.S. Constitution.

"Homecoming: An American Tradition 1987" is presented by the Student Government Association. This year's theme is "Glance at the Past...Step into the Future."

Homecoming events will include: A road rally, a Challenge Tailgate Party, soccer games, the election of the Homecoming King and Queen, fireworks, comedians and much more.

For more information, please call: Student Activities at 554-2137

FIU Theater kickoff

The FIU Department of Theater and Dance will open its theatrical season with "Noises Off", a successful London and New York comical farce.

Using the traditional theatrical device of a play-within-a-play, author Michael Frayn shows the hapless efforts of a provincial English theater company's dress rehearsal and two performances of the traditional farce, "Nothing On." The actors remain true to the motto "The show must go on," although personal relationships are chaotic and virtually everything that could go wrong during a performance does.

"Noises Off" is being directed by Therald Todd, FIU chairperson of the Department of Theater and Dance. Todd said, "Without a doubt, it is the funniest play I have ever seen on a stage."

"Noises Off" will run November 5 - 15 at University Park in the University Theater, VH 100.

For more information and reservations, call 554-2895.

New cafeteria hours

The Cafeteria at North Miami will now remain open until 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with hours as usual the remainder of the week. Freshly-made sandwiches, drinks and dessert will be available.

The extended hours have come in response to inquiries by several of the faculty on North Miami, according to Bradley Biggs, Assistant Vice President of Administrative Affairs on the campus.

Alumni reunion

The Apparel Studies Department at FIU will be sponsoring an Alumni reunion for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on Friday, November 13 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel Ballroom.

President Maidique will present "FIU in the year 2002" and share with alumni his perception of FIU 15 years from now.

There will be a fashion show of original designs created by FIU apparel design students including a wedding gown...made for swimming.

For more information contact: Adele Smith at 554-2531

Symphony buffs

The Florida International University Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform music

by Johh Phillip Sousa, Bach, Wagner and Glinka in a free concert on Thursday, November 5 at 8 p.m. in AT 100.

Literary enthusiasts

Luisa Valenzuela, one of Argentina's foremost writers and journalists, will give a reading of her work on Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. in AC1, Room 194 on the North Miami Campus.

Valenzuela divides her time between Buenos Aires and New York City, where she teaches at Columbia University. She has published acclaimed works of fiction, including "Clara," "Strange Things Happen Here" and "Other Weapons."

For further information contact: Les Standiford, director of the FIU creative writing program at 940-5859.

Alumni road rally

The First Annual FIU Alumni Association Road Rally will take place on Saturday, November 7, 1987 at 9:30 a.m. on the North Miami Campus in the parking lot behind the guard house.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There will be a \$30 registration fee for non-alumni association members, and a \$25 fee for alumni members, students and the FIU community. The entry fee includes commemorative t-shirts for the driver and navigator.

Prizes will include: Cruises, dinners at local restaurants, sports equipment, auto accessories and more.

The Road Rally is a part of the annual Homecoming celebration, and is sponsored by the Alumni Association in conjunction with the South Florida Sports car Association, Inc.

Rate It X

"Rate It X," a film on sexism in America, will be shown in UH 140 on Wednesday, November 4 at noon.

The film is an outrageous journey through the landscape of American sexism. Men only are interviewed in this witty montage of candid portrayals. The New York Times called this film "an intriguing and often hair-raising look at male attitudes toward women."

The film is being presented free of charge by the FIU Women's Studies Center and the student chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). For more information contact: The FIU Women's Studies Center at 554-2408.

Features section compiled by Michelle Dreseris and Ann Hill

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ONE STUDENT'S OPINION

Sylvia Gurinsky

With regard to the day in, day out goings-on in the United States, I am a cynic by nature. There are so many negative political, medical, and social occurrences in this country that at times, I lose hope for this country's future.

Then, however, an event happens that unifies the whole country, and I regain hope.

Last week, the prayers of a nation for an eighteen-month-old girl in Midland, Texas restored my faith in the citizens of this nation.

On Wednesday, October 14, little Jessica McClure was playing at her aunt's home in Midland when she somehow fell down a very deep and very narrow well.

Miraculously, she survived the fall; even more miraculously, she survived in the well for two days without food, water, or medical care. Finally, oil drillers got her out of the well on October 16. There was the unfortunate possibility that Jessica might have had to have her right foot amputated because of circulatory problems related to the accident. However, people in Midland are shaking their heads in joy and disbelief at the fact that Jessica survived at all.

Since news of Jessica's accident spread across the country, people nationwide have sent prayers, gifts, and wishes of a speedy recovery to Jessica. Millions around the nation were watching Friday night when Jessica was rescued. Many of us had tears of joy in our eyes.

It seems a miracle in itself that a nation that could be so divided over the Bork nomination, the football strike, the Presidential campaign, the AIDS crisis, and so forth -- could come together for the sake of one little girl.

It is a never-ending wonder that this nation can indeed live up to its name -- the United States of America -- in times like these. Over the past few years, I have seen this nation united in mourning over the Challenger astronauts and united in joy over the Statue of Liberty Celebration and the Olympics, among other things.

Therefore, I may gripe, but underneath the griping, I always have any underlying hope and belief that this nation can and will stay united. The miracle of Jessica McClure has proven to me that we can be united over the little things as well as the big.

ONE STUDENT'S OPINION will be appearing from time to time in The Sunblazer. The col-

umn by Sylvia Gurinsky will deal with a variety of local and national issues.



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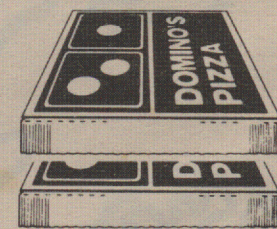
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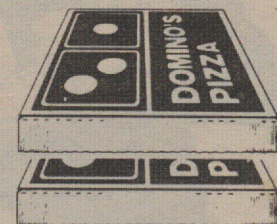
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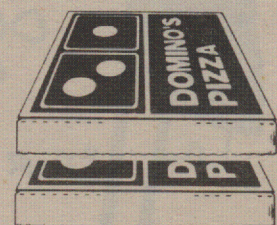
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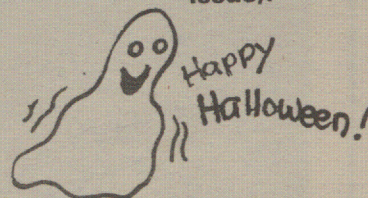
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Men starting to play well again

BETTY NUNEZ
Sunblazer staff writer

The Golden Panthers men's soccer team was off to a super start. They won their first six games, then they tied their seventh game against the number 2 ranked team in the country, South Carolina, 1-1.

Feeling comfortable at their position (6-0-1), the team slacked off somewhat. "For three weeks, we hit a skid. We stopped progressing," Coach Karl Kremser said. "It is difficult to put your finger on it, but it was like a lapse in concentration." The team has had some time off lately to regroup and rethink. They have had many practices and Kremser feels they have responded well. "They are concentrating and there's extra effort and intensity at practice."

Kremser looks to captain Robin Fraser for leadership. "He's a defender, always plays well, and is very consistent. He always gives his best," Kremser said. He feels, if everyone on the team had

Fraser's attitude, they'd be undefeated.

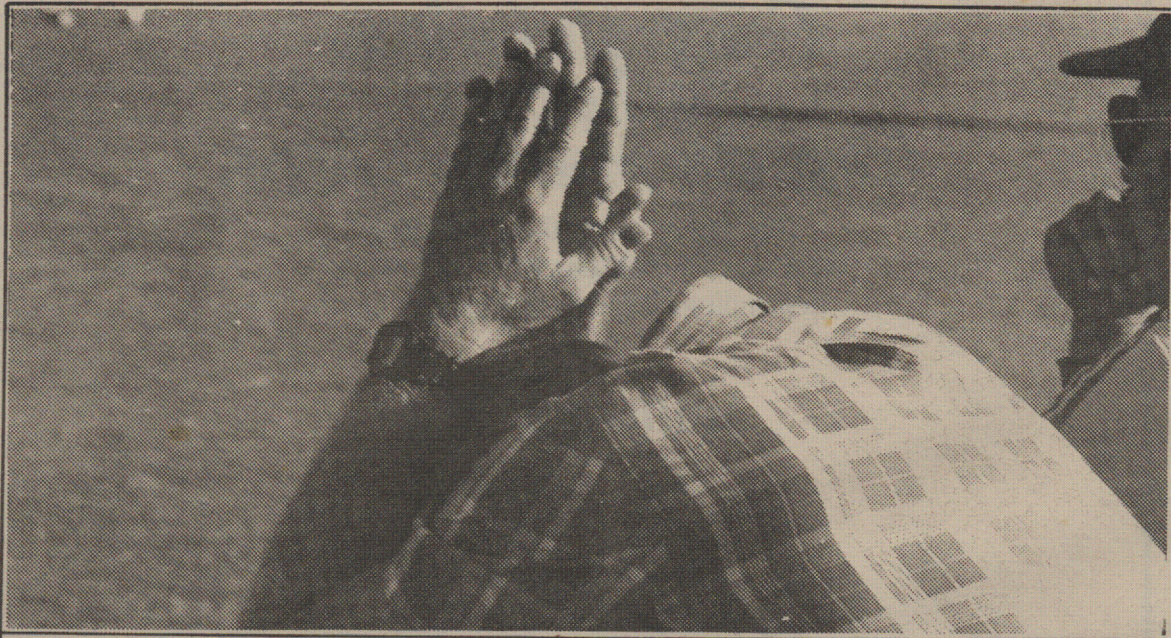
As captain, Fraser said that it's his responsibility to motivate the other players. "They look to me for leadership, although they may look to the older players for experience," Fraser said.

To prepare himself mentally before a game, Fraser spends time alone thinking and visualizing what he must do. "Without determination, you can't succeed," Fraser said, "I don't like to lose."

Coach Kremser feels that the team is working hard to meet his expectations, but that they could very well have been undefeated. Physically, their potential is all there. "They are very capable," said Kremser. "They are better than their record shows."

"We gressed, but now we're coming back. I can see progress," Kremser said.

The Golden Panthers (9-4-2; ranked seventh in the south) will host The First Annual Gatorade tournament, this weekend.



Men's soccer coach Karl Kremser can only pray for a national tournament berth. His team has a 9-4-2 record going into the last four games.

Photo: Guy Shir

What are some of the benefits of taking birth control pills?

- Protection against cancer of the uterus and ovaries.
- Reduced occurrence of benign breast disease.
- Most women experience lighter and shorter periods.

Learn the facts from Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood's affordable health services include contraceptive care and supplies for both men and women, testing and treatment for sexually transmissible diseases, diagnosis and treatment for vaginal infections, pregnancy testing, annual examinations and cancer screenings.

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Gatorade tourney coming to FIU

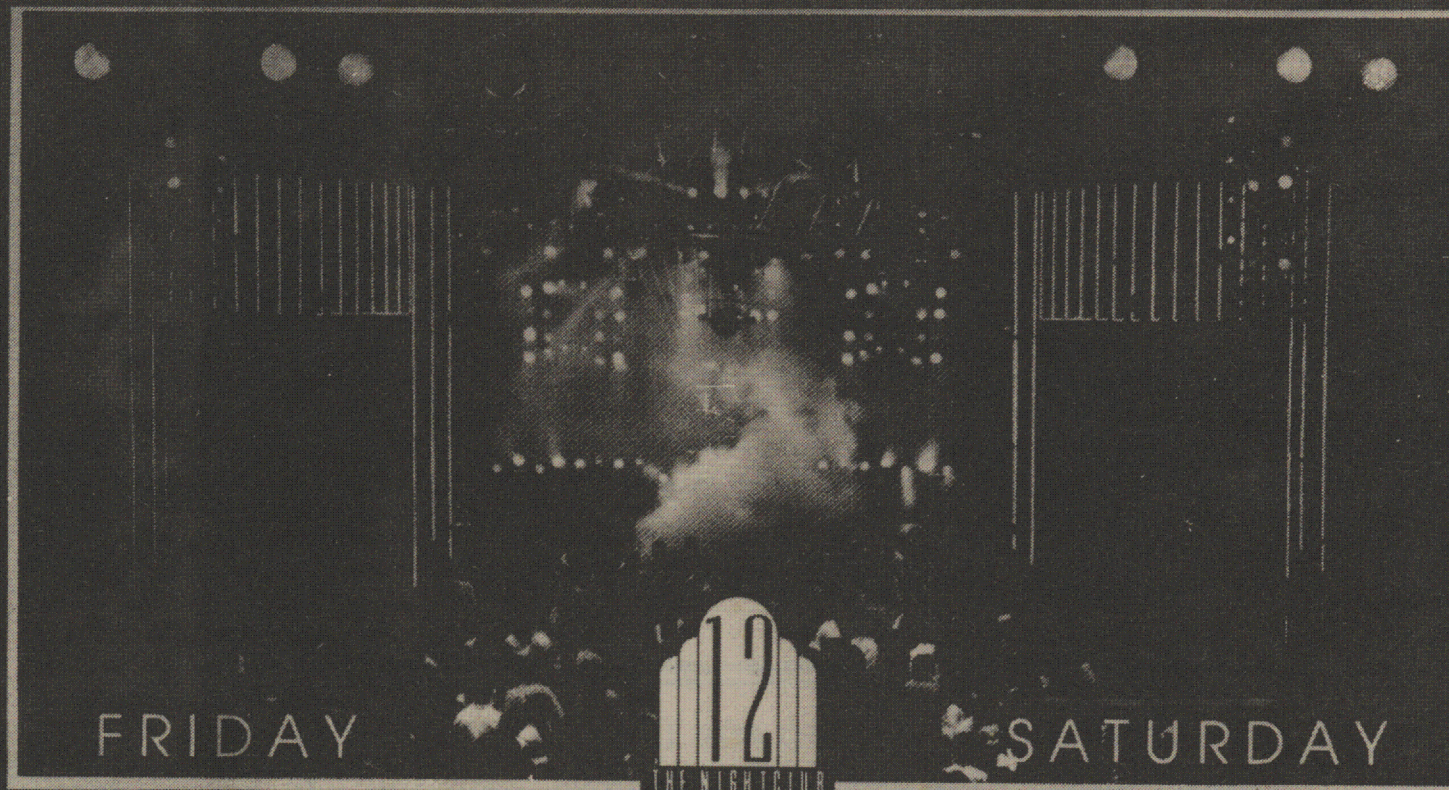
Gatorade has joined the Golden Panthers in hosting of a major men's intercollegiate soccer tournament, Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1. Joining FIU will be last season's NCAA Division I national runner-up, the University of Akron; American University, the 1985 NCAA Division I runner-up; and Tampa.

The schedule for the FIU/Gatorade Invitational is:
Saturday, October 31
University of Akron vs. University of Tampa (12:30pm)
American University vs. FIU (2:30pm)

Sunday, November 1
American University vs. University of Tampa (12:30)
University of Akron vs. FIU (2:30pm)

With the Miami-Indy Race at Tamiami Park set for the same weekend, a special parking lot will be open for spectators of the soccer invitational. The entrance for the special parking lot is just north of the intramural fields off of SW 117 Ave. There will be no charge for parking. For ticket information, interested persons should contact FIU at 554-3161.

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