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The Beacon, June 25, 2008

Florida International University

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ENDLESS SUMMER CUTS

Budget slashed again, tuition may increase

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

Only a week after FIU’s Board of Trustees approved a list of academic program cuts, University President Modesto A. Maidique announced an additional and unanticipated hit to allocated state funds in a June 19 newsletter.

For months, the University has developed a budget plan that aims to reduce University-wide spending after the Florida Legislature cut six percent from this year’s state funds.

Now, news from Governor Charlie Crist’s office has revealed that only 96 percent of those allotted funds will be received by Florida universities, which forces FIU to find additional means to alleviate the budget crisis

that could translate to a higher tuition hike.

So far, the University’s mitigation has resulted in restructuring and outsourcing non-academic operating costs, personnel and staff layoffs, academic program closures and increased tuition for all students.

According to Maidique’s newsletter, the administration is considering raising undergraduate and graduate tuition again to adjust to the new budget cut figure.

Maidique has kept the University community updated on the budget crisis through weekly newsletters spelling out the decision-making process since March.

The breakdown of the University’s academic and non-academic operating budget resulted in two budget plans, each forecasting different budget cut scenarios.

By early May, however, FIU projected a 7-percent cut, the highest amount the University predicted.

Still, when word from Tallahassee assured a cut of only 6 percent, Vivian Sanchez, chief financial officer and senior vice president, said in a Budget Stabilization Task Force meeting on May 5 that the University would not adjust its plans to the new number.

“We are still airing and moving toward the 7-percent scenario,” said Sanchez. “We need to stay the course.”

A 6-percent cut equaled a loss of \$11.9 million from allocated education and general state funds. Additionally, recurring and one-time funds issued by the State Legislature

CUTS, page 2

Employees face new 10-hour workdays

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

On May 19, the FIU Department of Human Resources released a memorandum to the University community outlining a special faculty work schedule for the summer.

The special summer work schedule gives affected employees Fridays off while extending their work hours to 10 hours from Monday to Thursday. It will be in effect from June 6 to July 25.

The special schedule is an initiative taken by the administration in order to help ease financial pressures on the University while maintaining day-to-day operations.

Human Resources Vice President Dr. Jaffus Hardrick wrote and issued the memorandum. Hardrick was unavailable for comment.

Yisell Cirion, a career coach at Career Services, does not mind the longer days.

“It was a little challenging getting used to the new schedule, but I think we get more accomplished. And we save gas,” Cirion said.

To Cirion, cutting Fridays out of the weekly schedule did increase workloads, but the extra day off was worth it.

“I personally like it,” Cirion said.

The special summer schedule affects many services and departments, although some will retain their regular operating hours.

Among these are student resources available at the Graham Center, such as the Computer Lab, the Panther ID office, the Graham Center Office, *The Beacon*, the Porter Davis Game Room, Panther Print, PantherStop and the FIU Bookstore.

The Green Library as well as security services will also remain unaffected by the summer

SCHEDULE, page 2

THERE WILL BE BLOOD



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

SQUEEZE: Ernest Verdecia, junior, donates blood through the Music Saves Lives campaign for free tickets to the Vans’ Warped Tour.

Students meet higher interest rates as lenders suffer

LAUREN AGOSTO
DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Beacon Staff

The country’s financial woes have hit the student loan market.

FIU students planning to take out loans to cover college costs will have more difficulties than a few complicated financial aid forms. Many lenders are now raising interest rates, while others are dropping out of the market altogether.

Among the lenders suffering is Sallie Mae, which provides financial assistance to more than 10 million

students. Sallie Mae reported in April that it would no longer waive the 1.5 percent loan-origination fee on subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans. Loan-origination fees are one-time charges frequently discounted at the time of the loan’s dispersal.

Later that month, John F. Remondi, Sallie Mae’s vice chairman and chief financial officer, stated in front of Congress that the company might be unable to cover demand for Stafford loans either and that it needed government intervention to close the loan gap.

The federal government has cre-

You have no choice but to get [private loans] if you’re a student and your scholarship money runs out.

Luisa Rivera
Junior

ated measures to alleviate the student loan crisis. President George W. Bush signed a bill on May 7 that gives student lenders additional capital to make loans.

“You have no choice but to get them if you’re a student and your scholarship money runs out,” said ju-

nior Luis Rivera.

Interest rates for private loans usually range from six to 11 percent. Because federal loans come with federal repayment guarantees, interest rates are somewhat lower ranging from six to eight percent.

Students usually turn to more ex-

pensive private loans to cover costs of their college expenses once they have exhausted their funds from scholarships, savings and federal aid. Even with higher interest rates, FIU students continue to need loans, either federal or private, to cover summer classes and next Fall’s increased tuition.

“I had to take out a \$2,500 loan for the summer because my financial aid wasn’t enough. So, to take more classes I had to take the private loan,” said junior Jonathan Jaure.

FIU’s Financial Aid Office would not comment on the student loan issue.

Attorney no longer faces rape charges

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

The case involving the alleged rape of an 18-year-old female FIU student by Boston attorney Gary Zerola was dropped earlier this month. It is the third time this year that such charges against the attorney have been dropped.

Zerola, 36, allegedly drugged and raped the FIU student in October 2007 in his hotel room after meeting the student in a Miami Beach nightclub. By being in Florida, Zerola violated his parole in Massachusetts where he awaited trial for two other sexual assault cases.

According to a memo accompanying the case's deposition, the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office stopped investigating the case because the FIU student "has numerous credibility issues and there is no physical forensic evidence to corroborate the victim's ver-

sion of events."

The memo, attached by the attorney's office, also stated "there is no direct evidence that [Zerola] and the victim had sexual intercourse."

Zerola was acquitted in Boston for two similar charges in January and March of this year. The charges were brought on by two 19-year-old women.

Florida defense attorney Brett Schwartz, Zerola's counsel for the Miami trial, said his client was "unfairly vilified based on unfair, ludicrous allegations," according to a June 13 story in *The Boston Herald*.

"The state attorney's office already dropped the case. That's all I'm going to say," Schwartz told *The Beacon*.

Zerola is noted for being a former candidate to star on ABC's television hit "The Bachelor" and was also listed by *People* magazine as one of the most eligible bachelors around.

Business school adopts program

CHERYL MALONE
Staff Writer

The School of Accounting celebrated 25 years of accreditation within the College of Business Administration and has several upcoming innovations planned for the months ahead.

A new masters program for students seeking graduate degrees in accounting is among the newest innovations for the school. School of Accounting Director Sharon Lassar believes the program will be an advantage to both faculty and students.

"It is designed for individuals who are working somewhere in the business world, but not in accounting," Lassar said.

The program's purpose is to foster greater career growth potential for those who are working in related fields such as finance.

Vice President of Professional Affairs Sharlita Millington said, "[The program] definitely gives students an opportunity to get ahead for their degree."

The program has been well received by students, who at first thought it to be only a rumor.

"With our budget situation we are in a very fortunate position to add this program,"

Lassar said. "So far improvements in applicant statistics, higher GPAs and GMAT scores have been at an all-time high. The demand for this program is definitely at its highest."

The new faculty within the School of Accounting is in the process of redesigning courses in order to improve the overall learning experience for students.

The School of Accounting faculty has hired undergraduates to assist other students at the College of Business Complex through one-on-one or group tutoring sessions.

Students who are interested in joining the institution can look forward to "new faculty, new attention to the program and new excitement in the School of Accounting," Lassar said.

Students can also participate in a study abroad program to Peru, which will allow them to learn modern business within a foreign country.

In addition to these provisions, the School of Accounting plans to open the Manuel Dieguez Student Support Endowment Fund, a yearly scholarship for graduate students. This will serve to honor the legacy of FIU's previous associate director of accounting Manuel Dieguez, as well as grant students an enriching opportunity.

BARACK STOPS HERE



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

MEETING THE MAYORS: Barack Obama speaks at the U.S. Mayors Conference at Miami's Intercontinental Hotel on June 21.

Students might pay 15 percent more

CUTS, page 1

would help buffer the blow to the University's budget.

Nonetheless, Sanchez said at the meeting, the University believed further, and possibly deeper, cuts would come in the future. In addition to this,, sticking to a conservative three-year budget plan would give leeway for unexpected announcements.

One such announcement was received the day of FIU's Board of Trustees meeting on June 12, according to the last presidential newsletter.

As the Board approved the University's budget plans, which resulted in 25 academic program closures, Governor Crist's office notified the state's universities that an additional 4 percent would not reach their coffers.

The newsletter qualifies these cuts as "significant" and "earlier than anticipated" but explains that foresight into the possibility of future cuts left the University in a relatively comfortable position where it can "absorb further reductions."

This does not mean the University will not react to the cuts. The newsletter lists six "variables" that might influence future management of the budget crisis including the confirmed 6-percent tuition increases for undergraduates, graduates and law students, as well as the possibility of an increase in

University's electricity costs.

Most notable is the new addition to the list: a newly acquired ability to charge "differential tuition." In other words, the University can hike tuition by up to 15 percent every upcoming year.

A further tuition increase is possible, as Governor Crist recently added FIU

Trustees before going into effect.

In approving the University's budget plan on June 12, the Board simultaneously agreed to increase undergraduate tuition by 6 percent, graduate tuition by 10 percent and law tuition by 15 percent.

Applying the differential tuition will increase tuition another 9 percent for undergraduates. Freshmen and sophomores will feel the brunt of this new provision while current students who enrolled before July 1, 2007 will be exempt from the additional charge.

Maidique proposed implementing the 15 percent increase this year and recurrent 10 percent hikes for the next few years in a *Miami Herald* article.

Any revenue generated by the increases can only be used to "enhance [the] quality of direct undergraduate instruction and support services," states the newsletter, which will result in hiring "badly needed" advisors and faculty members.

A 15-percent hike will add \$11.60 per credit for undergraduates.

State University System Chancellor Mark Rosenberg said in the article that there is a need for higher tuition rates to improve the state universities and believes that increases are not too severe.

"We understand the pain that's being felt out there," Rosenberg said in the article. "But it amounts to a couple of lattes a week."

We understand the pain that's being felt out there. But it amounts to a couple of lattes a week.

Mark Rosenberg, *Chancellor*
State University System

to a list of research universities that can raise tuition up to 15 percent a year, according to a *Miami Herald* article published on June 20.

This means a student who would previously pay \$929 for a 12-credit semester will now receive a charge of about \$1,068.

"We need a significant increase in funding both from the state and through tuition," Maidique said in the article.

However, any such tuition measures must first be approved by the Board of

Schedule change aims to cut costs

SCHEDULE, page 1

schedule.

When asked about the new schedule, Priscilla Juncadella, a senior biology major working in the Panther ID office, said her office was not affected because many students require their services at this time of year.

Juan Ugarte, a sophomore majoring in broadcast communication who works at the Porter Davis Game Room said the game room recently nixed Fridays from their work schedule for the summer. However, he said it was part of their stan-

dard hours of operation and has no connection to the special summer schedule.

"In the fall and spring, we are open until 11 p.m. Now, in the summer, we are open until 6 p.m.," Ugarte said.

Also among unaffected departments are the FIU Dining Services, all of which operate independently and on their own schedules.

Vincent Stella, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice works at the Starbucks located in the library.

"Our hours really depend on library hours. If they're closed, we're closed," Stella said.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

GC Main Office: Mon-Thurs (7:30-10 p.m.)

GC Computer Labs: Mon-Thurs (8-11 p.m.)
Fri (8-8 p.m.)

Financial Aid: Mon-Thurs (8-6:30 p.m.)

Academic Advising: Mon-Thurs (7:30-6:30 p.m.)

Undergrad Admissions: Mon/Thurs/Fri (8-5 p.m.), Tues/Wed (8-7 p.m.)

Panther Print: Mon-Thurs (8:30-7 p.m.), Fri (8:30-5 p.m.)

For full list, visit FIUSM.com.

WHAT YOU MISSED

THE BEACON RECAPS THE EVENTS OF SUMMER A
COMPILED BY BEACON STAFF

BOT votes on academic cuts

The Board of Trustees voted to cut 25 programs and six centers on June 12 after months of University-wide deliberation.

The academic cuts include 15 bachelor degree programs and nine master degree programs. The doctorate program from the Industrial and Systems Engineering department will be recommended for closure to the Florida Board of Governors.

The cuts are projected to save Academic Affairs \$4 million within a three-year period.

All programs will be phased out in two to three years; however, enrolled students are ensured the completion of their degrees.

The College of Education was the hardest hit with 6 program closures and a combined enrollment of about 368 stu-



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

TOUGH CHOICES: Top University officials announce which programs and centers will be cut due to state budget cuts.

dents in the programs. These degree programs will be absorbed into the College of Arts and Sciences.

FIU administration reviewed all academic programs and centers in the last few months. Those that did not align to the University’s mission and priorities were recommended for elimination,

consolidation, or for an immediate reduction of state funds in their budgets.

The Academic Affairs program reduction, which affects 33 filled faculty and staff positions, is a direct result of the statewide budget crisis that will leave the University with a \$32 million deficit in allocated state funds this year.

FIU violates NCAA bylaws

During early May, the NCAA penalized FIU athletics with over 25 scholarship losses followed by a four-year probation due to poor graduation rates and NCAA bylaw violations.

Low Academic Progress Rates resulted in a fraction of the scholarship losses while NCAA violations led to scholarship cuts and more penalties.

The violations included 45 student-athletes competing while ineligible, misap-

plying for financial aid and a lack of institutional control. FIU is under a four-year probation which extends until May 19, 2012, and the University must vacate all wins and records in which 45 ineligible student-athletes participated.

Lack of resources and understaffing were the primary reasons for the violations, according to the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

Athletics director Pete Garcia says the adminis-

tration is in the process of correcting the infrastructure and adding resources to athletics.

“We’ve added more personnel, more funding to compliance, and we’ve revamped and restructured a number of systems and processes across the university,” AD Garcia said.

The NCAA penalized 12 sports teams with some sort of scholarship loss; the majority of the penalties were self-imposed by the university and accepted by the NCAA Committee on Infractions.



GARCIA

College of Medicine banks

The College of Medicine received the largest donation in FIU’s history on May 28.

Benjamin Leon, Jr., owner of the Leon Medical Centers, donated \$10 million to jump start a center for geriatric medicine at the new college. The first \$2 million installment was presented during a ceremony at University Park.

“This is a momentous occasion. It will make us a power in the field of geriatrics,” President Modesto A. Maidique said.

The donation is eligible under the state’s Major Gifts Trust Fund to be matched dollar-for-dollar, increasing the gift to \$20 million.

The Benjamin Leon, Jr. Family center for Geriatric Research and Education, and the Leon Medical Center Eminent Scholars Chairs in Geriatrics will be established with the donation.

Both Maidique and Leon emphasized the importance of the college of medicine to the community.

“Benjamin Leon Jr. has built a dynamic health enterprise based on the vision that is completely aligned with our vision for the



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

BIG BUCKS: The College of Medicine receives a \$10 million donation which will be matched by the state for a total of \$20 million.

FIU College of Medicine,” said Maidique. “Together we will do great things for the community.”

Treviño and Banya named deans

Kingsley Banya and Fernando Treviño have been appointed interim dean and dean of the College of Education and Stempel School of Public Health, respectively.

Banya succeeds Luis Miron; Treviño succeeds interim dean Michele Ciccazzo.

Miron will help Banya transition into his new position and with the implementation of the college’s plans for budget cuts.

Ciccazzo will return to her previous position as

associate dean.

Banya, who has a 17-year tenure with the college, will work alongside with the faculty and staff in the College of Education as well as Dean Kenneth Furton from the College of Arts and Sciences to meet budget cuts while maintaining the quality of the School of Education.

A national search for a permanent College of Education dean will begin in the fall.

Treviño has work in public health education

for more than 30 years at University of North Texas Health, Southwest Texas State University, the American Public Health Association and the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

According to a press release from the University, Treviño, said he plans to build on the Stempel School’s reputation, bring more diversity to the faculty and to work more closely with other colleges and schools within the University.

Meyer becomes BOT member

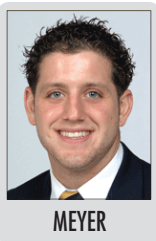
Arthur “AJ” Meyer, Student Government Association - University Park president, was voted the new chairman of the Florida Student Association. His new position makes him a full voting member of the Florida Board of Governors.

At the last FSA meeting, Meyer was voted chairman, making him the second FIU student to fill in the position at FSA and sit on the BOG.

“I am proud that I received the support of the majority of the student body presidents and their institutions for the

chair position,” Meyer said in an FIU news release. “I am humbled by this opportunity to serve and to help strengthen higher education in the state of Florida for the next year.”

The Florida Student Association represents Florida’s university students and consists of student body presidents and their cabinets from 11 state universities.



MEYER

Students win national contest

On April 11, FIU’s team of undergraduate business students placed first in the Johnson & Johnson 2008 National Case Competition.

The five members of Alpha Kappa Psi, a national professional business fraternity, traveled to Johnson & Johnson headquarters in New Brunswick, New Jersey for the annual na-

tional case competition.

The contest is an annual event where the winners of university-sponsored competitions square off against each other on the national level.

FIU’s team had a unique analytical tool that gave them an edge over their competitors, most of whom had similar presenta-

tions. Called a “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats,” the tool analyzes four parts of a market subject.

The FIU team rated each aspect of the analysis and, judging by the numbers, made educated decisions.

The team won a \$3,000 prize for placing first in the competition.

THE BEACON



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CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSING



PAMELA DUQUE/THE BEACON

PUSHING FORWARD: Originally expected to open in August 2007, construction of BBC's new cafeteria continues. An exact completion date is still unknown due to permit delays in Tallahassee, according to Gregory Olson, senior director of Student Affairs, in an April 2008 *Beacon* article.

NEWS FLASH

Incoming international students invited to immigration orientation

An immigration orientation will be hosted June 24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Wolfe University Center's room 159. Aimed at incoming international students, the event will help interested students decide if FIU is right for them. Call 305-919-5813 for further information.

Campus Life welcomes students with barbeque

Campus Life will host a summer welcome barbeque on June 25 in Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free burgers and hotdogs will be provided. Call 305-919-5804 for more information.

Orientation prepares new students for life at FIU

Freshman orientations will be held on July 10 and 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. Transfer student orientation will be July 8 at the same times and place. For more information, call 305-919-5804.

– Compiled by Julia Cardenuto, Pamela Duque and Susana Rodriguez, Beacon Staff

Tropical fish, live music at SOC club fair

KISHORE SAWH
Contributing Writer

Students will have the chance to swim with the fishes in Panther Square.

Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Organizations Council will host a club fair from 5 to 7 p.m. on June 26.

"It's summer and we felt a tropical something would go with the weather," said Didier Georges, SOC-BBC president,

Held once every two months, the club fair provides a chance for campus organizations to welcome newcomers and expand their network while allowing students to find new ways to get involved in extracurricular activities.

"It's a great way to make new friends and experience cross cultural diversity," Georges said.

Panther Square will be decorated with tropical fish and there will be free food and giveaways.

"The fairs are often planned to coincide with freshmen orientation in an effort to encourage new students to get involved right from the get-go," said Jessica Senorin, SOC-BBC's vice president.

The event will be paired with

Late Day Latte, a social gathering for students who take late classes to interact and enjoy some finger food.

"The purpose of this Latte is to welcome the summer B students and help them get acquainted with some of the clubs and orgnizations here at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus, as well as the student affairs department," said Jason Almodovar, Campus Life program coordinator.

On a Square, a local band, will provide live music.

"Their music can be compared to the pop sound The Beatles," Almodovar said.

There are currently 44 active clubs at BBC. Students can get involved with the athletic club, the kayaking club, music club or wine club.

"In order to join one of SOC's club, all you have to do is be enrolled at FIU," Georges said.

Starting clubs opens even more avenues for more people, according to Georges.

"There's a wide variety of clubs at BBC that students can get involved with," George's said. "And if they don't find one they like, they can start their own."

For more information, contact SOC-BBC at 305-919-3707.

Start a club in four steps:

1. Get four members to be president, vice president, treasurer and SOC representative.
2. Ask an FIU faculty member be your advisor.
3. Download and fill out the club registration packet at <http://socbbc.fiu.edu>
4. Turn it in to Campus Life in WUC 141. The deadline for \$200 in club funds is Sept. 30, late entries will receive \$100 until Oct. 31.

Nursing veterans bring their knowledge, experience to FIU

PARADISE AFSHAR
Contributing Writer

Returning to the classroom after over a decade brought back memories of where her career began, Lindsey Wilkins is now on the path to a new start in an old place.

Wilkins was a student at FIU, she has now returned to her alma mater as a clinical assistant professor.

"It is interesting to come back to the same buildings and some of the same professors that were here when I was a student," Wilkins said. "The University has grown so much."

Wilkins and Debra Renna are the two new faculty members at the College of Nursing and Health Science at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Both have decades of nursing experience and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others.

"The students respond well to them," said Paula Delpech, nursing director at BBC.

"Our students come from unique and diverse situations, and we need someone who can reach non-traditional students as well as the traditional ones."

Renna, a clinical assistant professor, began teaching at FIU in January.

She taught pharmacology during the spring term and is currently teaching that course to students in the Foreign Physician program.

This program trains foreign doctors who have a difficult time starting a practice in the United States or those who want to become nurses in this country.

"One of the reasons that I like FIU is that I can challenge myself," Renna said. "I like the fact that it is so culturally diverse."

For the fall term, Renna will

teach pharmacology and a leadership practical class.

In addition to these classes, Wilkins will also teach pharmacology to nursing students in the foreign physician program.

"My main goal right now is to learn how to become a better professor," said Wilkins, a clinical assistant professor.

"Everyone here has been very helpful in showing me the ropes, and sharing their experiences with me so that I can learn from them."

Renna has graduated from Nova South Eastern University.

Prior to coming to FIU, Renna had been a nurse for over 20 years, mostly working with critical care patients and as an administrative supervisor.

"I wanted to be a part of a big university that had a well-established nursing program, and whose focus was on research and development," Renna said.

Renna was a nursing instructor at Kaiser College in Fort Lauderdale before making the decision to teach at FIU.

"Renna will do well here because she has taught before," Delpech said.

"We always receive rave evaluations from her students."

Wilkins also has experience as a nursing instructor.

She worked as a clinical nurse specialist for the Memorial Healthcare System, where she used her passion for nursing to teach new graduates as well as experienced nurses.

"I wanted to become a nurse because it is a field where you can grow and be a lifelong learner.

"There is a lot of flexibility and it never gets boring!"

Wilkins said.

Wilkins came to FIU in 2005 as an adjunct professor, while still working at Memorial Healthcare.

Delpech says that both Renna and Wilkins have the skills in critical care nursing that will be beneficial to the school of nursing, adding on to its growing prestige.

FIU's reputation in research was a key factor in attracting Renna and Wilkins to the university, and is an area in which they would like to become more connected with.

"I would like to become involved in clinical research to help determine best nursing practices that would be used to improve nursing care in hospitals," Wilkins said.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Tuition hike a necessary evil in quelling financial woes, but other plans needed

What’s a school to do? No one is happy when tuition goes up, especially when it is accompanied by the opening of the Outplacement Resource Center to assist forced-out employees in finding new jobs.

While the situation is indeed unpleasant, the fact of the matter is, with the state-imposed budget cuts, something has to give.

The administration decided to make an unpopular decision that was necessary for the future of the University.

Let’s take a look at what is happening in Tallahassee that created the funding shortfall for FIU.

Already having doled out budget cuts to not only institutions of higher learning but most public services statewide, Governor Charlie Crist and the state legislature originally planned to cut six percent from FIU’s budget.

Crist announced after the fact that in addition to this cut, the University would be receiving only 96 percent of its anticipated budget, further adding to the dollar amount lost from FIU.

Believe it or not, this is actually an area in which our administration deserves some praise.

Vivian Sanchez, FIU’s Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, insisted in May that the University should plan to reduce expenses by an amount even greater than the 6 percent cuts announced by the legislature.

FIU has taken the responsible and cautious approach by taking a three year plan and over cutting more than it has to, because it realizes that this budget crisis is not just a one year problem.

“We are still airing and moving toward the seven percent scenario,” despite announced cuts of six percent, Sanchez said at the time.

June 12 would be the day that Sanchez was proven correct, when the legislature announced the further decrease in anticipated funding.

Budget trimming is never a happy endeavor, but Sanchez and the rest of the administration saw what was coming, and took appropriate actions to ease the blow by leaving themselves significant wiggle room in the budget.

FIU is also one of the universities that the legislature authorized to be allowed to increase tuition by no more than 15 percent yearly.

While any such increases would need to be approved by the Board of Trustees, University President Modesto Maidique plans to raise tuition by ten percent per year.

“We need a significant increase in funding both from the state and through tuition,” Maidique said in a *Miami Herald* interview.

Tuition increases are not the long term solution though.

While an acceptable blow to students for now, constant increases will mean prices simply too high to pay for some people in our community.

In order to solve the funding problem that public universities are facing, FIU must focus on generating donations in addition to creative ways to cut costs.

Of course, some degree of scrutiny must be applied to all of the University’s financial decisions.

For example, questioning whether or not private funds we are receiving are going to the right places.

Another example of creative thinking that administration can take credit for is changing the University workday over the summer, so that some buildings could effectively be shut down on certain days.

These actions, in addition to tuition increases when needed, will remove the University’s reliance on state funds.



SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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TESTING 1,2,3

NAME Rage Roary

SUBJECT FCAT

DATE 2/12/08 HOUR/ DAY Tuesday

DIRECTIONS

 USE NO. 2 PENCIL ONLY

- MAKE DARK MARKS
- ERASE COMPLETELY TO CHANGE
- EX. ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E

SPEAK OUT

Florida Coalition for Assesment Reform
fcarweb.com

State of Florida Education Petition
petitiononline.com/fled

Contact Gov. Charlie Christ
www.flgov.com/contact_gov-ernor

Sensible test changes could benefit education

JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ
Contributing Writer

When asked what he thought about the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Jose Placeres, marketing and finance major, said, “People are concentrating just on reading and math and they aren’t focusing on history, science, philosophy, which are equally important to the student.”

Many of us remember those dreadful days when butterflies flied around our stomach minutes before taking this now notorious exam.

Teachers would pressure us to pass this standardized test that has become the gavel in deciding who is ready to graduate. After so much power in deciding Florida’s future, one must ask, is the exam really that accurate?

According to the Theory of Multiple Intel-ligences, developed by Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner, there are eight aspects of intel-ligence. Being a standardized test, the FCAT is only able to test two of these aspects: linguistic and logical-mathematical.

By doing this, it ignores the importance of other types such as musical and interpersonal. Therefore, subjects like art, music, social stud-ies, science and physical education go unnoticed in budget appropriations and grading school’s performance.

“I think the FCAT has killed a lot of student and teacher enthusiasm,” said Maria Ochoa, an eighth-grade language arts teacher. “A lot of things have been put aside like spelling bees and field trips. Plainly, students just don’t like school anymore.” Some students think that the FCAT sets a good standard for public education, even if there are some flaws. “I think it is a fair test because if your are a senior and you don’t have what the FCAT requires then there is no point of you graduating from high school because when you go to college you [won’t] have the building blocks,” said sophomore Marey Lopez, archi-techure major.

Vouchers seem to be the easiest solution to our problem. If the system fails a student, then parents have the option of sending them to private schools.

That is what a proposed amendment to the Florida constitution plans to do. An article in TIME magazine published on June 8, suggests that the “No Child Left Behind Act” was intended to limit public schools and promote privatization thorough vouchers.

Susan Neuman, a former Secretary for Elementary and Secondary education for the George W. Bush administration, said “there were a number of people pushing hard for market forces and privatization.”

Coincidences in Florida during former gov-ernor Jeb Bush’s administration have raised

eyebrows. In 2001, the federal government, under President Bush, passed the “No Child Left Behind Act.” It aimed at improving student’s education by no later than 2014. This amend-ment put an extreme pressure of accountability on school districts to meet these requirements. Standardized tests would be a way to measure school’s performance overall. Critics believed it was a way to privatize public schools funding. Under Jeb Bush’s watch, the FCAT became the new standard of grading schools.

Doubts in voter’s minds began to rise when Neil Bush, brother of president George W. Bush and former governor of Florida Jeb Bush, founded the Texas-based software firm Ignite! Inc. Neil Bush is the CEO of this company that earned \$20 million in software to prepare students for comprehensive tests required by the “No Child Left Behind Act.” Failure to pass the test would terminate federal assistance to schools.

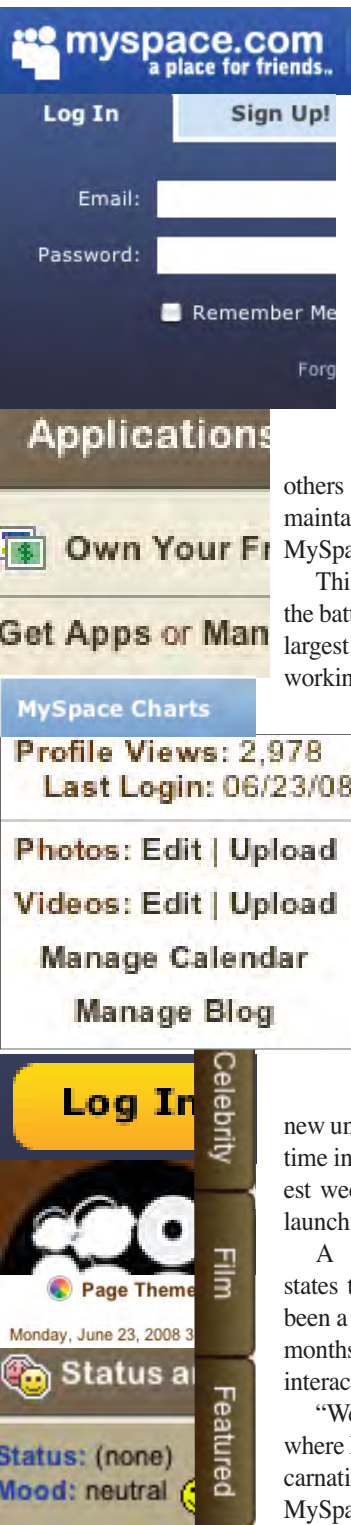
A sensible way to utilize the FCAT would be to restrict the administration of the exam to fifth, eighth and tenth graders. The exam would test material covered in classes, as opposed to selected passages. In addition, it would require the lessons of grammar and physical education during every academic year and of geography in tenth grade.

Critics of this plan argue that it doesn’t really address the FCAT’s problems. John Perry, a member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Coalition for Assessment Reform, said, even such changes wouldn’t “address the real reason the use of FCAT is so insidious, and that is mandatory retention in third grade and denial of a diploma in high school.”

Writing letters to our state representatives can be a starting point. Let us remember that, if left unchanged, our children will go into a decaying educational system that is criticized daily by its flaws.

REDESIGN WARS

Networking sites face off in a battle for market share



ERIC M. FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

Getting a Facebook profile has become somewhat like losing one’s virginity for high school students. Making the transition to signing up to the once college-only social networking Web site creates an aura of maturity in the eyes of some, while others resist the temptation and maintain the “V-Card” known as MySpace.

This is what sets the stage for the battle between the world’s two largest Internet-based social networking sites, News Corporation’s MySpace.com and Facebook, Inc., in a competitive effort to reign king of the Web. This year, both companies will be continuously redesigning and effectively “re-launching” their sites.

MySpace’s changes went into effect last week and Facebook’s new unveiling is slated for “some-time in July,” according to the latest weekly announcement on the launch.

A MySpace press release states that the site’s redesign has been a project in the works for six months to “change the way users interact with the site.”

“We felt like we reached a point where MySpace, in its original incarnation, had peaked in a way,” MySpace founder Tom Anderson



GRAPHIC BY NATALIE HOLTZMAN

said in an interview with *The Washington Post* earlier this month. “We were wondering how we can expand our market and appeal to new people. We looked at some of the reasons why someone might not use MySpace.”

The redesign of Anderson’s site will focus around giving the homepage greater usability, making it easier to navigate around the site and providing more content in a “portal-like” fashion.

Also, MySpace Music, which is now partnered with Sony, Universal and Warner music companies, is poised to offer paid digital downloads, free ad-supported streaming and other

e-commerce options for artists and consumers.

MySpaceTV is also expanding its video content.

“We’re now the second biggest video site globally after YouTube,” said Anthony Lukom, managing director of MySpace UK, to *The Telegraph* (U.K.). “So we’ve just got a responsibility to update our player with the latest technology and that’s what we are doing.”

Both sites’ efforts share a key similarity: engaging users in the process. Through Anderson’s blog, MySpace users saw previews of what was being developed and left comments with their thoughts.

Already less cluttered

than its competitor by design, Facebook hopes to make its site “simpler, cleaner and more relevant,” according to a recent site announcement, primarily by placing different types of content into separate tabs. For example, a user’s wall, personal info and applications will all be on separate sections of your page. People will no longer have to sift through countless, computer-slowng applications to see your wall.

Facebook not only developed a page showing screenshots of the upcoming design changes, but the staff also posts weekly updates on the progress of the changes. They have also set up an e-mail address specifically for concerned users – users who have been quick to voice said concerns.

“Granted, it’s simple, but perhaps too simple,” posted user Doug Valkenaar of Facebook’s hometown in Silicon Valley, Calif. “It’s kind of like closing the door to the den or the kids’ room when guests come over, except you’re forcing it on everyone.”

All in all, the competition for users’ time means that each Web site will be forced to continue to innovate and improve their sites in the coming months. Only time will tell which site wins the war.

Eric M. Feldman can be reached at eric.feldman@fiusm.com



Superheroes, secret agents ensure big July crowds

CHRIS TOWERS
Life! Editor

Summer is the time of year when the biggest movies are released and, while there have already been some huge movies released, the biggest may be yet to come with one of the most popular actors of our time and an extremely strong franchise making their way into theaters this July.

HANCOCK
(JULY 2)

Has there ever been a more successful or well-liked actor than Will Smith? It seems like he absolutely cannot miss, no matter what type of role he takes on. Drama, comedy, action – he’s done it all with impressive results at the box office.

So expecting a movie

featuring Smith donning spandex to play a sarcastic and lazy – not to mention, often drunk – superhero is just about the surest bet you could make.

Despite this, “Hancock” looks to be one of the biggest breaks from Smith’s squeaky clean image.

The movie has gone through four directors and has twice received an R rating from the MPAA before it was lowered to PG-13. Despite being marketed as a lightweight summer action movie, it should feature much more dark humor than expected.

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY
(JULY 11)

At a time when superhero movies routinely gross almost \$250 million, the

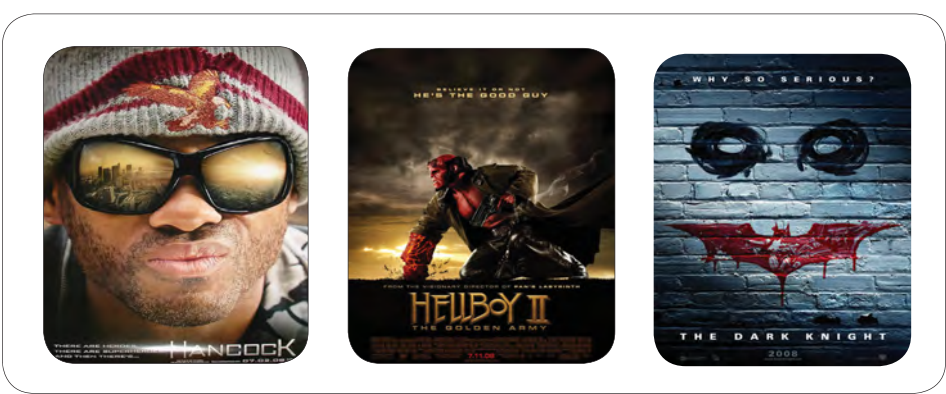
original “Hellboy” film managed to make only about \$60 million.

For a little known hero – outside of the comic book world – can this be considered a disappointment?

Well, thanks to the success of “Pan’s Labyrinth,” original “Hellboy” director Guillermo Del Toro is at least going to be given a fighting chance at making his pet project more than just a cult hit.

Rather than taking on Nazis like the last film, Hellboy will be taking on some of his own kind, as the truce is broken between Earth and the other dimension that Hellboy originated in.

When all hell breaks loose, Hellboy will be forced to choose between defending his adopted home or returning to where he came from



and finding a destiny there.

THE DARK KNIGHT
(JULY 18)

This would be the quintessential summer action movie if 99 percent of directors in Hollywood were making it. It would’ve had explosions, stars and not much else of consequence.

Instead, Christopher Nolan has steered the “Batman” series away from

the cartoon-y “bams” and “pows” of its fore bearers and has turned it into one of the darkest and most serious film series around.

The big story surrounding this movie is, of course, the late Heath Ledger as the Joker, a bold choice from the beginning.

His portrayal of Batman’s nemesis as a severely nihilistic anarchist looks like one of the most chillingly origi-

nal performances in a long time and is already starting to pick up posthumous Oscar buzz.

It may be difficult for this movie to live up to the hype following the beloved original, but there is little doubt in anyone’s mind that it will.

Chris Towers can be reached at Chris.towers@fiusm.com

Athletics fails to warrant investments

GRAU, page 8

FIU’s Athletic Department give prospective students and business owners who want to do business with the University?

Come join our team, and we’ll guarantee we won’t screw it up...on the third try. So far, all the money and the effort that has been put into Athletics has only produced bad publicity and has made the University look foolish for investing so much and pushing so hard for a first class football program and first class Athletics Department, while seeing little in the way of results.

In a time of economic hardship, do we really need all of this? Why not protect what we already have?

Students should think twice about why they are getting charged a \$5.85 “football fee” tacked onto every credit hour when degree programs are getting sliced and diced. Why doesn’t President Modesto A. Maidique explain to us why so much money is being poured into Athletics and not into The College of Education or Industrial Engineering?

But hey, look on the bright side, at least we have a new fierce-looking logo.

I wonder how much that cost?

Last season backup gains edge in QB race

McCALL, page 8

No.1 total offense in the Big Ten. The Golden Panthers newest coach likes what he sees out of the potential new leader of his offense.

“He is very bright, picks things up quickly, and the more of a coach you’re quarterback can on the field, the faster and more efficient you can function,” Legg said of McCall. “I was pleased with the quality of talent that was here when I got here, but one of the positions I was most impressed with was the quarterback position.”

EXTRA WORK

“The difference between success and failure at this level is not a whole lot to do with talent as much as it is the people willing to make the sacrifices that are necessary to separate themselves from other people of equal talent,” Legg said. “Our guys have opened their eyes up to the type of work ethic you need to have.”

In addition to a weight lifting routine, the team has begun seven-on-seven scrimmages and worked on their attack offense about a month and a half earlier than usual offseasons, according to McCall. The work ethic is building the team’s confidence as the season

approaches and bringing more clarity to who will be the starting quarterback in the fall. Sophomore Wayne Younger started the majority of games last season but suffered a season-ending injury he is still recovering from. Although Legg states that Younger will have a chance to compete, McCall will have the advantage.

“Wayne has proven that he can be very successful, but Paul is the guy that did by far the best job of anybody coming out of spring ball,” Legg said. “Paul is going in with the edge obviously because he got 15 spring practices in his system.”

Revised rating still too complicated

BONILLA, page 8

This system might tell more of a story than the NFL or NCAA rating, but the equation is intimidating enough to give FIU students traumatic flashbacks of failing college algebra for the

third time.

Well, Valdes’ new system was the last chance for the quarterback rating to have any meaning. Therefore, it must be eliminated, terminated, axed, cut off and rid out of town till the cows come home.

ALTERNATE QB RATING EQUATION

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pts/Game} = & 12.086 * (\text{Comp}\%) + 0.574 * (\text{Yds/Comp}) + 134.82 * (\text{TD/Att}) + [-45.886 * (\text{Int/Att})] \\ & + 18.243 * (1\text{st}\%) + [-28.697 * (\text{Sacks/Att})] + [-0.288 * (\text{RushYds/Att})] \\ & + 0.066 * (\text{RushYds/G}) + 2.956 * (\text{RushTD/G}) + [-0.055 * (\text{Fumble/G})] - 0.965 \end{aligned}$$

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

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Student Media is now accepting applicants for sports Director for the Fall semester. For more information, call 305-348-2709 or e-mail Charlie A. Grau at Charlie.grau@fiusm.com. Deadline for applications is July 11th!



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BUYER

ECO 3203
ACG 3301
BSC 1011

Athletics' rush to excel falls short

If Rome wasn't built in a day, why would FIU prove to be any different? If only someone would have asked that question before the University added football and made the jump to Division I. It's nice to see how quick the University has grown over the past 10 years. The addition of the College of Law, the founding of the accredited College of Medicine and a new on-campus stadium - but what's the big damn hurry? Last time I checked, whenever you are rushing somewhere, either two things happen: 1) you get a speeding ticket or 2) you get into a car accident - that's just what happened to Athletics; it got into a huge wreck.

FIU was so eager to build and expand the department, that we're seeing all of the effects now. For two consecutive years, the NCAA punished FIU for poor Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores and several teams lost scholarships as a result of the low scores. After adding the football program, the department failed to hire or add any compliance or academic support staff, It is these administrators who make sure student-athletes receive adequate advising and make sure they are eligible to compete. This led to 45 student-athletes in 15 sports competing while ineligible from 2002-2007, which then resulted in punishments handed down from the NCAA; public reprimand and censure and a total of 20.32 scholarship reductions in 12 sports. Fiu Athletics was also handed four years probation extended through May 19, 2012. FIU will also be forced to vacate all wins and awards earned for the period in which the 45 ineligible student-athletes were active. Granted, most of these problems didn't occur during current Athletics Director Pete Garcia's tenure, but under former Athletics Director Rick Mello. As soon as Garcia was hired, he launched an investigation into Athletics' violations of NCAA bylaws from the academic years of 2002-03 through 2006-07. "We've added more personnel, more funding to compliance, and we've revamped and restructured a number of systems and processes across the university," Garcia said. He even hired a APR specialist who ensures that student athletes are not negatively affecting APR scores with poor grades during the semester and notifies Garcia and the coaches which potential transfer students risk hurting the school's APR scores. To justify spending on athletics programs, university presidents across the country harp on the perceived notion that athletics can be used to help promote and advertise their universities to the masses. Since Athletics is essentially a marketing tool, what type of sales pitch does

COMMENTARY



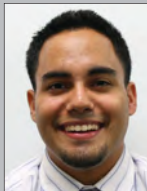
CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

COMPLICATED SYSTEM

Quarterback rating confuses players and fans

Peanut butter and jelly, Sonny and Cher, Bobby and Whitney, all matches made in heaven. Unfortunately, the NFL and NCAA couldn't share the same success when it introduced the quarterback rating to football in the 1970s. If calculating the quarterback rating was a test, most people would use a cheat sheet. The steps used to calculate the rating system are tedious and boring enough to lull a caffeinated Albert Einstein to sleep. FIU quarterback Paul McCall received his electrical engineering degree this past Spring. This is what he has to say about the most confusing stat in sports. "Nobody knows how that thing is calculated," McCall said. "I don't really look at my stats until the end of the season." Offensive coordinator Bill Legg says he examines other quarterback statistics when evaluating his players. "I know coaches pay attention to the quarterback rating, but I look at completion percentage and yards per attempt," he said. The odd equation and steps wouldn't seem so bad, if it measured a quarterback's value more accurately. But then you notice that it doesn't factor in rushing touchdowns, rushing yards or wins. That's when fans remember that the quarterback rating was enforced in the 1970s, a time when bell bottoms and the Brady Bunch were the definition of hip. The rating system loses more credibility and meaning when a perfect score is 158.3 in the NFL and 1,261.6 in the NCAA. Why not 158.4 or 1,262? Why not be more conservative and make 1,000 the perfect rating in the NFL and 1 million in the NCAA? Somewhere buried in that rant was a well thought out argument.

COMMENTARY

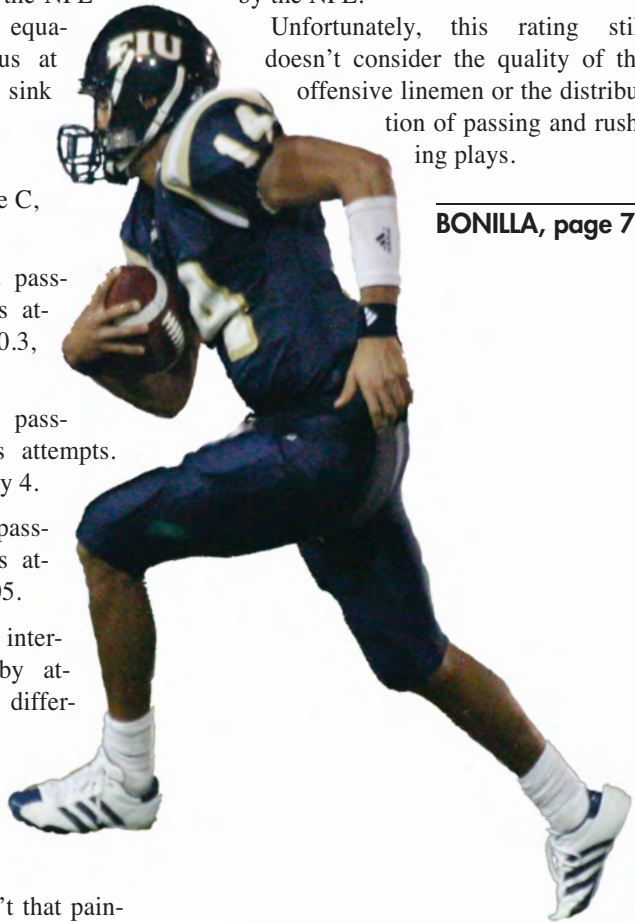


SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Therefore, I propose the elimination of the quarterback rating stat from all football box scores. The only way the quarterback rating should be used to measure quarterback efficiency, is if it factors in more variables. Current Harvard law student Michael Valdes created a more advanced version of the quarterback rating for an economics class at Harvard undergraduate school. Before exploring the possible alternative, a run down of the current system is necessary. Just to make things less complicated let's take a look at the NFL quarterback rating equation which plateaus at 158.3 and can only sink as low as zero. Ready, set, go: The variables are C, Y, T and I. C= Completed passes divided by pass attempts. Subtract 0.3, divide by 0.2. Y= Divide passing yards by pass attempts. Subtract 3, divide by 4. T= Touchdown passes divided by pass attempts, divide by .05. I= 2.375 minus interceptions divided by attempts. Divide the difference by .04. Add all the variables, then multiply by 100 and divide by 6. Sigh, now wasn't that painless? So many calculations to ar-

rive at one stat that tells so little about a quarterback's worth is a joke. Now, let's take a look at Valdes' system, which is meant to determine the number of points per game a team will score based solely on a quarterback's rating. He performed a multiple linear regression equation with points per game as the dependent variable and all the other statistics would be his independent variable. Using computer software, he obtained optimal coefficients for the formula. He compared the current rating with the new system and proved that there is a greater correlation between points per game and his rating than the one used by the NFL. Unfortunately, this rating still doesn't consider the quality of the offensive linemen or the distribution of passing and rushing plays.

BONILLA, page 7



New coordinator impressed by QB

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

FIU quarterback Paul McCall can play a little bit of basketball and makes sure his teammates know it. "I told them I was a second team all-state point guard in high school, and I had them going for a little while," McCall said. "But it's not true." Though he is not really a former prep basketball star, McCall says he can create plays for his teammates on the court. "I have a nice little jump shot; I'm the best distributor on the team," he said. "I get my assists." McCall is hoping to distribute the ball on the field like he does on the court as he prepares for the 2008 season. McCall, who tossed for 228

yards and three touchdowns in his only start last season, a win against North Texas, is entering the upcoming season with the spotlight of a Solar Max light bulb. The junior played in just three games during the 2007 season, but managed to lead the Golden Panthers to their only win of the season, and the program's first Football Bowl Subdivision win. After spring practice, FIU's offense changed on the coaching side as well. When Bill Legg replaced James Coley as offensive

coordinator after the season, it changed the spectrum even more for McCall as the team's offensive playbook changed. A LEGG UP The new offensive coordinator has injected new life into McCall and the offense this spring. "He knows how to use me, and I have been working long and hard to improve my mobility, so I can benefit from this offense and this offense can ben-

efit from me," McCall said of Legg and himself. "I want to be the starting quarterback for FIU, so whatever it takes, whether it be running more after practice or working out, I'm going to get it done." The nature of the offense is what excites McCall the most. "The fact that there is so much responsibility on the quarterback, I love it, and I love the fact that every decision depends on the quarterback," he said. "You go up to the line and you're calling the run plays, you're doing the options, and you're signaling the receivers. It's constant, fast-paced and really exciting." Legg, who was the co-offensive coordinator for Purdue last season, played a significant role as the Boilermakers had the

I want to be the starting quarterback for FIU, ... whether it be running more after practice or working out, I'm going to get it done.

Paul McCall, Quarterback

GRAU, page 7

McCALL, page 7