

7-15-2009

## The Beacon, July 15, 2009

Florida International University

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## Anime Convention dresses up, takes over GC

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## Former Golden Panther returns to the field after hiatus

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### SPOTLIGHT

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SPC-BBC hopes to attract new members by hosting two recruiting events.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Three newly-elected justices at SGC-BBC mark the first time in years they've had a full council.

#### EDITORIAL PAGE 4

It is unwise to award Maidique with an increased bonus during an uneasy financial climate.

#### OPINION PAGE 4

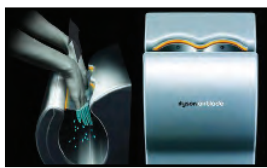


Honduras was in the right for taking action against its sitting president, Manuel Zelaya.

#### OPINION PAGE 4

Shouldn't educators love their craft above their paychecks?

#### LIFE! PAGE 5



New hand dryer: more energy efficient and more bacteria-ridden than paper towels.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8

High school center verbally commits to FIU; Golden Panthers may debut season against Ohio State.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gavin DeGraw and Collective Soul, July 15, 7 p.m.:** The performers will be playing at Revolution Live with a ticket price of \$34.

**Florida Marlins vs. Philadelphia Phillies, July 16, 7:10 p.m.:** This game takes place at the Landshark Stadium with ticket prices ranging from \$9-\$300.

**Stunt N Shine car, Bike & Truck show, July 17, 12:30-6:30 p.m.:** A day full of muscle cars, bikes and big trucks. Tickets will be going for \$20.

**Miami Dance Magic, July 18, 7 p.m.:** Grab your favorite dance partner and get your feet moving at this fun event. Tickets are \$15.

#### WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 80 HIGH: 90



**THURSDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 80 HIGH: 90



**FRIDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 80 HIGH: 90

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# University pioneers new loan program

## Government-funded initiative offers flexible payment options

**CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA**  
Staff Writer

Students with a need for financial aid may now borrow directly from the government, as the University has just enrolled in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program.

The FDSLPL is a newer, federally operated loan program that allows

students a number of options when it comes to borrowing and paying back money for a college education.

The FDSLPL, where the federal government is the lender, is a recent switch from the University's former financial aid program, the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), which many universities still utilize and where banks are the

lenders.

The new student loan program offers subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans, Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) loans and loan consolidation.

Among the advantages of switching to FDSLPL are faster award disbursement, expanded repayment options and pushing FIU ahead of political currents in Washington.

Francisco Valines, director of the financial aid department, explained that under FDSLPL, the institutions disbursing the loans are responsible

for withdrawing funds, as opposed to FFELP protocol, in which banks send funds to the institutions.

"This makes a faster turnaround to pay students," Valines said.

FDSLPL is also the only loan program that offers loan consolidation. With the consolidation program, students in heavy debt can stretch out payment over longer periods of time.

If students have borrowed from multiple sources, they can consolidate their payments into a single

**FDSLPL, page 2**



# BUSINESS MINDS

## College of Business creates new brand, receives award

**NATALEE GIL-DELRIO**  
Staff Writer

The FIU College of Business' branding technique is now considered the best college marketing practice, even above colleges such as Stanford and Harvard.

NAGAP, the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals, has awarded the University's College of Business with the Promotional Excellence Award as recognition for its "uncommon thinkers" branding campaign.

"We want our students to continue thinking after they leave a classroom, become mavericks maybe," said Luis Casas, the director of marketing, communications and recruiting at the College of Business Administration. "We even want our professors to get accustomed to this idea, therefore, the concept of 'uncommon thinkers' became the focus of our campaign."

Casas came to FIU in 2006 as the director of marketing for the College of Business.

His experience in public relations made him aware, he said, that the marketing program wasn't the best it could be.

Yet, with local competitors such as the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University, he said it was quite a challenge coming up with good marketing.

After research and input from major players, the college changed its name to "FIU Business," hoping to get more graduate students applying and working on a new name-recognition strategy.

Partners such as the Alma DDB advertising agency, the Parrot-Fish studio design firm and Quaxar, an e-community/loyalty solutions company, all helped with the project.

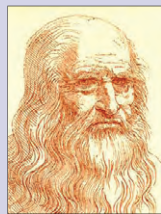
"We had billboards, bus ads, traffic reports ads on the radio, newspaper inserts, Facebook flyers, print ads in the *New Times*, we even went to several happy hour hotspots to recruit potential applicants to the FIU business

### WHICH THINKER ARE YOU?



#### REVOLUTIONARY

**Like: John Adams**  
You are a nonconformist, but not a rebel. You can be bending the rules and testing the limits for your strong desire to express your inventive ideas. You are perceptive and spontaneous.



#### VISIONARY

**Like: Leonardo DaVinci**  
You have a unique ability to brainstorm creative ideas as well as implement them. You are confident, and intense and know how to empower others to achieve results.



#### CREATIVE

**Like: Andy Warhol**  
You can find associations between completely diverse ideas or concepts. You enjoy exploring new places and meeting new people and are rarely bored.



#### RISK-TAKER

**Like: Donald Trump**  
You are comfortable with changes, readily embracing new situations if they can provide potential benefits. You see failure as an opportunity to develop new strategies for success.

SOURCE: UNCOMMON THINKERS FACEBOOK APP

school," Casas said.

Due to the efforts of this campaign the school has seen a gradual improvement in the number of applicants.

In 2009, the rate of individuals attending information sessions for the graduate program increased by 273 percent, and the number of enrolled applicants increased by 66 percent.

According to Casas, FIU Business is also using Facebook as its campaign source because

**THINKERS, page 2**

SGC-MC

# Lack of attendance may result in firings

**FRANCISCO MARADIAGA**  
Staff Writer

Anthony Rionda, president of Student Government Council at Maidique Campus, held a cabinet meeting to address problems with attendance and the creation of a new position.

At the meeting, held on July 8, Rionda outlined on a white board what it meant to be a good cabinet member.

On one side of a chart he listed the good qualities of a cabinet member that included doing their jobs, attending meetings and working office hours on behalf of SGA.

The other side of the chart was simply not doing those things.

"People who have chronically not attended meetings will be fired this week," said Rionda at the meeting. "People who have chronically not done their jobs will also be fired."

Of the seven cabinet meetings held by the current administration, nine members had missed more than half of the meetings, according to the official meetings' minutes. Two members missed all seven, another two missed six, two missed five and three missed four.

"These meetings aren't supposed to be boring," Rionda said. "What I want these meetings to be is where we can exchange ideas."

Rionda also told his cabinet that if someone was not attending because of class schedule they would be asked to step down.

"We have asked [for the cabinet] not to take certain classes during this time,"

**CABINET, page 2**



## NEWS FLASH

FIU

**Maidique may receive double of promised bonus**

Outgoing University President Modesto A. Maidique may receive a \$100,000 bonus up from the originally proposed \$50,000.

According to *The Miami Herald*, the Board of Trustees' compensation subcommittee gave Maidique a "superior-rating" and, as a result, moved to double his bonus.

This rating was given based on Maidique's 22 years of service to the University and his efforts with regards to both the College of Law and the College of Medicine. His current salary is \$478,000 per year.

The decision still needs to meet the approval of the full Board of Trustees.

Maidique's final day as president will be Aug. 3.

LOCAL

**New stadium creates jobs**

Managers working on the new stadium for the Florida Marlins are beginning to hire workers to help with construction.

According to WPLG, the construction company working on the project, Hunt/Moss, is planning on hiring 5,000 workers that will be involved with the project throughout its 33-month timeline.

According to team officials, 50 percent of the available jobs will be filled with residents of Miami-Dade County and 20 percent of those filled with residents of the City of Miami.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

## NEW ON CAMPUS



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**BLENDING IN:** The new Jamba Juice franchise will be located in the Graham Center's first floor, in front of the bookstore. According to Facilities Management, the construction is "25 percent completed" and on schedule to open in the Fall semester.

## College starts new branding campaign

THINKERS, page 1

its main target audience are individuals 25-30 years old who have experience in the workforce and an undergraduate degree.

Susan Lichtman, an external copy writer, helped transcribe Professor Gerald Zaltman of Chapman University's methodological branding solutions into a Facebook application called "uncommon thinkers."

After completing the test in the application, a person can find whether they are a revolutionary thinker, a visionary thinker, a creative thinker or a risk-taker thinker.

The "uncommon thinkers" test uploaded this past April and has already reached almost 6,000 individuals worldwide.

"I think there are two things

that are interesting about this test," Casas said.

"The first is that it gives a person insight into their personality and the second is that they can compare themselves to their friends and their 'uncommon thinking.'"

"People are realizing that they need a degree in order to get ahead in life and in any career, and FIU can provide them with the most economical degrees, especially the College of Business," said Claudia Fuentes, a sophomore business major.

The campaign is still up and running and new efforts to improve it are underway.

FIU Business received the award on April 23, in New York, N.Y. during this year's NAGAP Annual Conference.

## Possible new position to oversee bills' language

CABINET, page 1

he said referring to the hour-long weekly meetings.

SGC-MC Press Secretary Ben Badger said he had not heard of any firings; he believes the tough talk was used as a motivational tool.

"Last year there were several cabinet members that checked out rather early, and that situation is trying to be avoided," Badger said.

Rionda told cabinet members that they were going to receive a project sheet, which needed to be completed by July 27. Rionda called the date a "rebirth" for the cabinet, as it marks both the cabinet's accomplishments and his own birthday.

"Everything needs to be done," he said.

**CHANGES AND ADDITIONS**

The SGC-MC is also looking to create a position of Attorney General to help draft bills in proper, legal language.

Advisory boards to overlook the Recreational Center, the Athletics department, the 16 colleges and Veteran Affairs are also being created.

Additionally, Badger and Chelsea Franco, who is in charge of public relations for SGC-MC, have been working on a print newsletter that is near completion. The current draft is eight pages.

According to Communications Head Moses Aluicio the newsletter will feature student leaders, athletes and the University leadership.

"When students know who is leading them and what they want, they will be more competent in their school," Aluicio said.

The newsletter is an avenue the administration is exploring to better connect with the student body, which has been set as a major goal.

Both SGA councils will meet next week at the Biscayne Bay Campus for a University-Wide Council meeting.

## People who have chronically not done their jobs will also be fired.

Anthony Rionda, president  
SGC-MC

## Funding for education underway

FDLSP, page 2

payment.

"It's very convenient to manage," Valines said.

Valines explained there are also cancellation options that allow students to go into public service partial debt forgiveness.

According to Valines, students who are interested in the program must fill out an online entrance interview, which can be found on the FIU financial aid page's navigation bar.

Students must also accept their

awards online via MyFIU. And an annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) renewal is also required.

Valines stressed the importance for students currently receiving financial aid to bring themselves up-to-date with the new loan program.

"Students who are already receiving financial aid must fill out the master promissory note again, since it is for the new federal program," Valines said.

The switch to FDSLSP is a crucial move to keep FIU ahead of the game. According to President Obama's

campaign Web site, one of his running platforms was the elimination of subsidies to student loan providers.

The establishment of the FDSLSP was a key move in accomplishing this, as the federally operated loan program effectively cuts private lenders from the process.

By getting on board early, FIU not only sees the benefits of a federally operated loan program, but has also already passed a hurdle all universities will have to pass should Obama's elimination of the FFELP pass.

## THE BEACON

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ALFRED SOTO

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## SGC-BBC has full council for first time in years

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus senate unanimously voted to approve three new members, making it the first time in years the organization has had a full council.

"In the 13 years I've worked here, I can't even remember the last time there were justices on SGC-BBC," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life & Orientation. "This is the first time they've appointed justices in a long time, so this is actually an improvement."

Flora Madriz, Jermaine English and Tanha Dil were appointed as the new SGC-BBC justices on July 1. As members of the SGC-BBC judicial branch, the justices' main responsibility is to safeguard the constitution and interpret it, as well as decide the constitutionality of laws, according to Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president. Among the many duties of the appointed council members, the goal is marketing events to students, according to Neistein.

"We are trying to ensure student participation transpires," Neistein said.

As a new justice, Madriz hopes to uphold the constitution, contribute to BBC's growth and remain as unbiased as possible – an essential quality for anyone working in SGA, Madriz said.

"I do believe that with a strong foundation, a document would need only be changed with the development of the councils," Madriz said.

Although Madriz, a senior public relations major, has no previous judicial experience, she is confident about succeeding in her new position.

"I am sure of my abilities and I know that in time the council will be proud of their decision," Madriz said.

Like Madriz, English has never held a position as a justice or worked with SGC, but he does

know how the judicial system operates.

"I have taken numerous constitutional and judicial process courses to be able to know how the justice system functions," said English, a senior political science major.

English is certain he will be able to accomplish existing goals and relieve the chief justice's workload, which is the primary reason the senate decided to elect the new members.

During the initial interview, the justices presented their goals to council members and were asked to wait outside until the senators collected their votes. Although the senators deliberated between themselves, none of the justices were asked follow-up questions.

"I was nervous and I mentally prepared myself to answer any questions," said Dil. "My only concern was that the council did not further inquire about what I would accomplish with my new position."

Dil, a senior public relations major, has been a graphic artist for Campus Life & Orientation for the past three years. Prior to elections, she was constantly attending SGA meetings.

"I'm bringing forth issues and concerns not just from the perspective of a justice, but also from the point of view of a concerned student," Dil said.

As a new justice, Dil wants to create an ethnic and social relations committee, as well as a BBC radio station.

"We have a plethora of culture and religion among our student body, and I wish to bring that forward during various SGA events on campus," Dil said.

With the elections behind them, the justices must now be watchful of all council members, Neistein said.

"They are the guardians of the constitution," said Neistein. "They have a hold and power over it."

*Additional reporting by Daiana Kucawca.*

## YEARNING FOR YOGA



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE / THE BEACON

**WARRIOR STANCE:** Enidra Porter, a junior nursing major, demonstrates a variation of the Warrior Two pose. Classes are offered by the Recreation Center at various times throughout the week. For more information, call 305-919-4595.

## SPC hopes to attract more students with Summer Splash

### SPC-BBC OPENINGS

Available co-chair positions:

- Fall Fest
- Hispanic Heritage
- Homecoming
- Affair of the Arts
- Pan-African Heritage Celebration
- One World Celebration
- Women's Celebration
- Spring Fling
- Marketing / Recruitment
- Special Events

To apply:

- Submit a letter with your name, Panther ID, FIU classification and GPA.
- Two positions of interest
- Experience (if any)
- Reasons you would be a good candidate
- Contact information

Send letters to the SPC-BBC office in Campus Life, WUC 141C, or e-mail Melissa Binns at [Melissa.Binns@fiu.edu](mailto:Melissa.Binns@fiu.edu)

**MARIAN MARVAL DÍAZ**  
Contributing Writer

With the end of its recruitment drive, the Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus still hopes to attract new members by hosting a welcoming event this Summer term.

SPC-BBC currently has 25 members, but Melissa Desrameaux, vice president and a senior public relations major, hopes to increase that number to 50 by the end of the summer.

"There are a lot of [incoming] eager freshmen," Desrameaux said. "A lot of students will see that joining SPC could supplement their majors."

SPC-BBC hosted SPC Recruitment Day on July 9 in Panther Square. The event was free for students and featured free food, henna tattoos, games and giveaways.

About 100 people attended the event, but only four applied, according to Desrameaux.

SPC-BBC will also host a Summer Splash on July 23 at the Aquatic Center from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., according to Alia Silvera, SPC-BBC treasurer.

"It's a welcoming summer event that was supposed to be done earlier, but because of some complications with the reservation of the pool, we couldn't do

it," said Silvera, a senior public relations major.

SPC-BBC currently has 10 open unpaid co-chair positions for the Fall Fest, Hispanic Heritage, Homecoming, Affair of the Arts, Pan-African Heritage Celebration, One World Celebration, Women's Celebration, Spring Fling, Marketing/Recruitment and Special Events committees.

"We are looking for lively, funny and responsible students," Desrameaux said.

**You have to have a lot of dedication for this because it's going to test your determination. It's a great position for your resume.**

Melissa Binns, Secretary  
SPC-BBC

Petra Haven, SPC-BBC president and a senior marketing major, hopes the new members will be able to continue the organization's objectives.

"My goal is that SPC grows," said

Melissa Binns, SPC-BBC secretary and a senior public relations major. "When we leave, we want to still see the traditions that we built and see SPC as a strong, committed organization with activities for BBC."

SPC-BBC executive board members encourage all students to participate in the organization because it could contribute to their majors and resumes.

"You have to have a lot of dedication for this because it's going to test your determination," said Binns. "It's a great position for your resume."

According to its constitution, SPC is responsible for planning events for students, such as comedy shows, lectures, movies, dance lessons, homecoming dances and concerts.

The organization is funded by the Student Government Association, co-sponsors and donations from neighborhoods and businesses.

Any student interested in becoming a member of SPC can fill out an application at the SPC-BBC office located inside the Office of Campus Life and Orientation.

All students interested in organizing an event, such as a lecture or dance, can go to SPC-BBC for possible funding and other resources. The majority of these events are always free to students and open to the public.



## BEACON | Editorial

### *BOT's timing not right for Maidique's proposed \$100,000 bonus*

The University's Board of Trustees' compensation subcommittee recently recommended increasing outgoing University President Modesto Maidique's bonus to \$100,000.

The bonus, which would be financed by the FIU Foundation, would be paid over a two-year period.

Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, executive director of the FIU Foundation, was unavailable for comment.

Maidique's contract guarantees him a bonus of at least \$50,000. However, after receiving a "superior" rating by the subcommittee, they recommended an increase in the amount.

In the midst of program closures and faculty layoffs, the timing of this recommendation is incredibly unwise.

While it is common for outgoing university presidents to receive bonuses before ceding power, with the University's financial climate in dire straits, the money is needed elsewhere.

Last year, the University faced the worst budget crisis in its history, which led to the closure of many degree programs.

FIU is not the only victim: the entire state of Florida faces financial troubles. This month, it was announced that the Florida Bright Futures scholarship program, which is funded by the state's lottery, will undergo some cutbacks. Some recipients of the scholarship will no longer receive stipends to cover textbook costs.

Students are well aware of the economic downfall, especially with tuition skyrocketing. To witness a University president being offered \$100,000 only serves as a slap in the face.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Maidique earned more than \$462,000 in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Maidique also received approximately \$40,000 in retirement, a \$50,000 performance bonus and an expense account – bringing his total compensation to roughly \$562,000.

According to a severance deal brokered by the BOT in November, Maidique is due to receive his original salary for five years after he steps down from the presidency.

In June, the Dalai Lama donated exactly \$100,000 in order to save the University's religious studies program from closure. Though the FIU Foundation can disperse funds to whichever cause it deems fit, \$100,000 could easily save our University's cheerleaders for at least a year.

Maidique's rating of "superior" may have been warranted, given his extensive service to FIU, but with such a package already established, his outgoing bonus seems superfluous.

Bernie Machen, president of the University of Florida, recently forfeited his bonus of \$285,000 after it was approved by UF's Board of Trustees, giving the funds to a scholarship fund. It would be sensible of Maidique to follow suit, should his bonus be approved in September by both the Board of Trustees and the FIU Foundation's board.

The BOT wishes to retain Maidique by paying him an extra \$100,000 bonus, yet given his current retention contract there is nothing to stop him from leaving anyway.

*The Beacon* feels that overall, Maidique has served this University extremely well. However we cannot overlook the message that this gesture sends to those affected by the program cuts and lay-offs.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### University BOT's generosity 'ill-conceived'

While acknowledging Mr. Maidique's contribution to FIU, I find the largesse of a \$100,000 bonus to be ill-conceived and lacking in the common sense one assumes board members hold in ample abundance.

One had hoped that Mr. Maidique's paltry half-million dollar salary would soften his hard landing into retirement.

And all this time, I foolishly assumed educators found their worth from the intrinsic and intangible joy of broadening eager minds and curious intellects.

I was assured that educators shared a love for teaching that was not over-

whelmed by love for one's self.

Correction: it is the Board of Trustees who are showing the love – or rather, the money.

Somehow, the timing bothers me.

My hope is that followers of the Dalai Lama inform him of the Board's generosity.

Being a man of his word, the check from His Holiness will, I'm sure, arrive as promised.

And, if His Holiness has a sense of humor, he'll chalk this up as a new wrinkle in "zero-sum" equations.

Still, I'm troubled, and not a little

outraged.

Perhaps, instead of being so generous with the University's endowment, the respected members of the Board of Trustees will be so moved with the "wonderfulness" of President Maidique, that each member will reach into his or her own bank account, and, with unbounded joy, show him that your love and appreciation come not only from your hearts – but from your pockets.

Joe D. Fitzgerald, M.Ed.  
Harvard University ('79)

### SAY WHAT?!: Should the Board of Trustees award outgoing University President Modesto Maidique a \$100,000 bonus?

"It's unreasonable. I don't see why he's getting so much money."

Juan Maxinez  
Senior, Architecture

"If it came out of my pocket, I'd be concerned. But since it's not coming out of the students' money, I'm not too concerned about it."

Marc Duchaussee  
Senior, Psychology

"How did he deserve his superior rating? FIU has been in decline in every semester I've been here. Classes and programs have been getting dropped."

Carl Vitente  
Senior, English

"With programs being cut and Athletics in trouble, I think it's highly irresponsible for the Board of Trustees to be throwing money away like this."

Savannah Altwater  
Sophomore, International Relations

### *Honduras acted justly in order to preserve democracy*

MATTHEW RUCKMAN  
Asst. Opinion Editor

On June 28 the Honduran military arrested the sitting president of the country, Manuel Zelaya, and quietly – if not forcibly – expelled the now ex-president to Costa Rica, placing interim President Roberto Micheletti in his place.

For South America, this sounds like government as usual; one military-backed group seizing power from another corrupt government party, all the while paying lip-service to some convenient beneficent purpose like God's will, the proletariat, or the other side looking funny. Bloodshed usually ensues and nothing changes.

This is what makes the Honduran "coup" so interesting; it was done for democratic purposes, completely in line with the laws of the land. The military's actions were designed to deter the rise of another Castro or Chavez, not create one of their own.

They wanted to keep their country as is: a democracy.

Zelaya was in the midst of attempting to amend the constitution in such a way as to unlawfully extend his presidency. This is expressly forbidden in the Honduran constitution; you may not amend the country's borders, or the laws that limit a president to one four-year term.

The constitution cannot be changed and

### BONUS BLUES



the goes even further – if a president even attempts to change the laws it qualifies as treason, the charges Zelaya faces. These laws are ironclad to the Hondurans and so seriously interpreted because of the country's long history with dictators, military takeovers and the conflicts that succeed them.

This is why both the Honduran Supreme Court and the country's attorney general, Luis Alberto Rubi ordered Zelaya's arrest, to prevent the rise of a dictator who disregards constitutional law.

It's worth noting Zelaya is also a close ally of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. Chavez went so far as to lend a plane to Zelaya during his feckless attempt to return to

Honduras post-ejection. (Birds of a feather do flock together.)

So while the U.N., the U.S. and various other governments and governmental agencies might condemn Honduras's actions, I do not. This is why a Separation of Powers exists in any democracy. It's an action any Founding Father could be proud of, Jefferson himself said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of tyrants."

The Hondurans were just a bit more peaceable about it than Jefferson.

Instead of using an ice-pick in some Trotsky-like fashion, the Hondurans did the next best thing – they gave him a one-way ticket to Costa Rica.

### 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](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

### DAILYQUERY

With news on global warming on the rise (along with temperatures), many are urging others to "go green" – to recycle, to conserve, to save. Is the "green" movement too much nowadays? Have we heard enough? Send responses to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com).

### QUOTATIONATION

"The task of a judge is not to make law, it is to apply the law. ... I have applied the law to the facts at hand."

Sonia Sotomayor  
Supreme Court nominee, during her hearing July 13

### OPINIONPIECE

# 94.3

The federal deficit's total (in billions) for the month of June. It has totaled more than \$1 trillion for the first time.

# AT WHAT COST?

## Energy efficient dryers sacrifice hygiene

**JORGE VALENS**  
Asst. News Director

In an effort to be more health conscious and energy efficient, the University has placed Dyson Airblades, a new innovative type of hand dryer, in the Graham Center restrooms.

The hand dryers are specially designed to dry a pair of moist hands in "about 12 seconds," according to the company's Web site.

"You put your hands under other dryers, rub them a bit, then give up and wipe your hands on your trousers. It's something that's always annoyed me," said famed inventor Sir John Dyson, referring to conventional, warm air dryers.

The way the Airblade works is very complex. Using "patented dyson technology" too magical to put into words, the Airblade forces washroom air through razor thin openings creating a high-speed sheet of air traveling at more than 400 mph.

The Airblade also runs on 80 percent less energy. According to the company's Web site, "22 people can dry their hands using a Dyson Airblade hand dryer for the price of a single paper towel."

These dryers are not only designed to have you out of the bathroom quickly but, also, with the cleanest hands possible.

NSF International, a not-for-profit public health company, certifies the Airblade to be the "only hygienic hand dryer" because it complies with the ominous-sounding "NSF Protocol P335."

NSF Protocol P335 is not the self-destruct plan for the Death Star, but rather a list of features a hand dryer must have in order to be considered hygienic.

The Dyson Airblade satisfies all of these stipulations as it has HEPA filters, unheated air, can be operated without tactile contact and is covered entirely by an anti-microbial coating.

However, according to a study by the University of Westminster's School of Bioscience in London, England, the Airblade may not be as hygienic as Dyson claims it to be.

The European Tissue Symposium, a study

conducted by Keith Redway and Shameem Fawdar, compares the Dyson Airblade to traditional paper towels and warm air dryers in a series of different tests comparing their efficiency in both speed and resisting or repelling bacteria.

The study found that the Dyson Airblade actually led to an increase in bacteria in comparison to paper towels. However, the increase pales in comparison to the traditional hand dryers.

"The manufacturer's claim that the tested [jet air dryer] is the 'most hygienic hand dryer' is confirmed, assuming that the term 'hand dryer' refers to electric devices only because its hygiene performance compared to paper towels was significantly worse in all respects," according to reports from the study.

Also, the study found the Dyson Airblade to be more likely to contaminate surrounding bathroom occupants than paper towels.

"The study shows that paper towels are likely to cause considerably less contamination of other users, as well as the washroom environment, than the jet air dryer which was shown in this study to disperse artificial hand contamination to a distance of at least two meters, well within the range of adjacent dryers observed in a real washroom."

The study went on to say that, in this particular case, Dyson's claim that this is the "most hygienic hand dryer" could not be confirmed because of its "potential for dispersing bacteria."

The final part of the report also noted the Dyson Airblade's ability to allow colonization of various forms of bacteria on its surface.

"The results show that jet air dryers can be colonized by bacteria and have the potential to transmit them to washroom users. Both the numbers and types of bacteria found to be contaminating the jet air dryers in this study are similar to those found associated with warm air dryers."

The study suggests "that paper towels should be used in locations where hygiene is paramount."

This includes places such as hospitals, schools and places where food is handled or prepared.

### POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

## *As a genre evolves, pioneers struggle to stay relevant*

**CHRIS TOWERS**  
Staff Writer

I'm not exactly an expert on hip hop.

Oh, I know more than enough for a white kid who spent the last 8 years living behind a gated community in Pembroke Falls, but my knowledge isn't the most extensive.

Still, it's a genre I find fascinating on a number of levels. The thing I find most interesting is how the stars of hip hop are aging, and how their legacies are changing.

When I saw the Beastie Boys in June at the Bonnaroo music festival, another legend of hip hop, Nas, joined them on stage. The next day, Public Enemy played a late night set, performing the entirety of their 1987 album, *It Takes A Nation of Millions To Hold Us Back*.

Seeing those three artists over the course of about 24 hours surrounded by tens of thousands of sweaty, dazed hippies got me thinking about the future of hip hop.

Not necessarily the future of hip hop in the sense of the future of the music itself, since I wouldn't pretend to be able to predict how a genre evolves. Did anyone except maybe T-Pain think that cold, robotic singing would become the biggest trend in hip hop over the last year and a half?

Rather, it got me thinking about how the legends of the genre will adapt to future changes in music. In Nas, Public Enemy and the Beastie Boys, you've got well over 50 years combined as active performers, and they've all evolved in very different ways – in both their own styles as well as the public's perception of them.

Had Jay-Z been at Bonnaroo as well, you might've been able to cover the entire spectrum of hip hop's progression into old age in one weekend.

More so than Nas, the Beastie Boys and Public Enemy represent hip hop's old guard; both groups have been around for well over two decades and have had more critical acclaim heaped on them than about anyone else in the genre.

However, how the two bands have developed, and even where they are now, represent two very different paths.

The Beastie Boys were always more approachable, seeming like harmless stoners next to the more confrontational, aggressive Public Enemy.

In the early parts of their careers, Public Enemy always had more critical success; while the three nasally-voiced Beastie

Boys were fighting for their right to party and singing about Sam the Butcher bringing Alice the meat (snicker), Chuck D, Flavor Flav, Professor Griff and the Bomb Squad were singing about Louis Farrakhan and crack in the ghettos.

However, as their careers progressed, the militant views of Public Enemy pushed them off to the margins while the Beastie Boys managed to evolve into a respected musical trio, alternating their signature trade off rapping style with an increasing emphasis on instrumentals and musicality.

When the two bands performed at the festival, the Beastie Boys were given top billing and a headlining set right before Phish, while Public Enemy was viewed as something of a curiosity by many in attendance except for real fans. Many at the festival were more interested in catching a glimpse of Flavor Flav's Viking helmet and oversized necklaces than in anything the band had to say.

Of course, those who know the music were intensely interested in seeing Public Enemy perform their landmark album, but unfortunately for many they were seemingly reduced to a sideshow, while their contemporaries who were viewed as sophomoric back in the day were viewed as legitimate musicians.

About halfway through their set, when Nas came out on stage to perform a previously unreleased song from the new Beastie Boys album, he immediately went to what has become his current obsession: decrying the current state of hip hop.

Much like an aging hippie who claims that music just "isn't the same as it was then, man," Nasir Jones has made it a point to turn himself into a voice of a generation. On his last album, he compared himself to Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and Billy Joel, and he released an album titled *Hip Hop Is Dead* in 2006.

While Nas has to be commended for making it his stated goal to improve the overall quality of the genre while simultaneously making "important" statements, he is running the risk of becoming a caricature of himself before long, and it would be a shame if that was to become his enduring image.

Hip hop, like rock and roll in the early days, has been a young man's game, and as these three artists begin to reach what might be the twilights of their respective careers, it is interesting to see where they are, how today's and tomorrow's artists might evolve in their images.







**RACHAEL CONGDON**  
Asst. Life! Editor

Yasumicon offered FIU students an opportunity to show off their inner "character." Starting on July 11 and ending on July 12, Yasumicon took place at the Maidique Campus with events going on in the Graham Center and the Green Library.

GC offered Yasumicon attendees the opportunity to meet other people dressed as their favorite anime or video game personalities, while registering for the various events that were being offered.

Once registration was out of the way attendees were encouraged to head over to Fresh Food's annex to the Epic Sugarworks Maid Café for a bite to eat and something to drink.

The café aimed to create a fun atmosphere with a fully costumed head-mistress, innkeeper and waitress-maids. In the GC Ballrooms guests could find merchandise from their favorite anime, Japanese food and music for sale and plenty of rick rolls.

The Green Library offered concerts and costume play also known as "cosplay" on stage, where anime devotees dressed up in costumes improvised in character in front of a live audience.

Each building offered students many activities providing those in attendance an opportunity to get lost in a fantasy world.



All photos taken by Chris Adams



# Tomic recruits her first all-freshmen class

**VOLLEYBALL, page 8**

years have a fifth-year senior which will be a huge advantage for us," Tomic told *fiusports.com*. "When you are building a program you need players with some experience. You can't recruit all freshmen when your team was 3-23 and expect to turn the program around."

Having girls able to play more than one position adds depth, but Colon said versatility at several positions is a big asset as well to the girls on the current roster.

"We always feel we need work all the way around, and having a diverse group of girls coming in is big for those of us already here," Colon said.

Colon and Gonzalez know it's good to get acclimated with the team and the University early in their college careers.

"We both came in as freshmen," Colon said, "And we learned a lot about

the school and the program our first year, while the transfers have to get that college experience somewhere else and then jump in immediately."

In keeping with the team's current make up, the class features international signees, with girls from Serbia, Croatia and Canada coming in to join a team with players from Brazil, Puerto Rico and Ukraine.

Although there may be a language barrier, Gonzalez seemed confident the benefits of having girls from around the world are much greater than the troubles they may have in communicating.

"International players are used to doing things different, they're very experienced, and they know exactly what to do at certain moments," Gonzalez said. "We will learn a lot from them and hopefully they can learn from us as well."

The girls agreed that with such a young class



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**NEW CHALLENGE:** Head coach Danijela Tomic recruited an all-freshmen class for the first time at FIU. Junior libero Nina Colon said this about the freshmen class, "It gives us a run for our money."

coming in ready to compete for playing time, it may seem like the veterans on the team won't have a big burden on their shoulders, but they say the opposite is true.

Colon, who also came in as a true freshman, said setting the example is key.

"We definitely have to

set the example, and what better way than by going out and working hard? Everything is going to be new for them, on and off the court, so having the older girls set the example is very important, and that's what Sabrina and I and the other girls want to do."

This class is expected

to make a 28-7 team even better, and as Gonzalez made clear, they have set the bar even higher for this upcoming season.

"Our standards now are going to be very high because of how well we played last year, and because how good these girls are supposed to be. If

we're able to learn and play as a team, we have a chance to be the special team the coaches know we can be," Gonzalez said.

Colon agreed and added, "One of our main goals is to win the conference, and if the freshmen contribute and we reach that goal, what more can we ask of them?"

# Bostic taking 'humble' route toward the NFL

**BOSTIC, page 8**

Through the program's social networking Web site, *rightpath.ning.com*, student athletes can share and give advice to one another. Bostic also works with high school students by holding semi-

ically eligible or because of character issues, so I want to try to help them," he said.

Three years removed from his playing days at FIU, Bostic is now married, expecting a baby girl from his wife Keyonera and is trying to join his old high

school and college teammate on Sundays.

"I'm taking the back door route now. But it's really the most humbling route," Bostic said.

When he first arrived to Sioux Falls, S.D., he

was greeted by -10 degree weather and shocked by the lack of diversity in the city.

"Some people are nice, but when they find out you play football, now they're your best friend. But that's life, you're not important until people validate you," he said.

Bostic says he's never been happier, and is just focusing on his career ahead of him.

"When you're alone and you begin to realize it's all about you, you've got to do what makes you succeed and makes you important."

**You have to get away from trying to be important. A lot of people go through life measuring their success on being important.**

Alexander Bostic III

Former Golden Panthers linebacker

nars and camps to explain how the NCAA Clearing-house works and what they have to do to avoid problems getting into college.

"I saw a lot of student athletes lose scholarships because they are not academ-

ically eligible or because of character issues, so I want to try to help them," he said.

Three years removed from his playing days at FIU, Bostic is now married, expecting a baby girl from his wife Keyonera and is trying to join his old high

school and college teammate on Sundays.

"I'm taking the back door route now. But it's really the most humbling route," Bostic said.

When he first arrived to Sioux Falls, S.D., he



PHOTO COURTESY TOM SLATTERY

**STORM POWER:** When Alexander Bostic III joined the Sioux Falls Storm, he was moved to defensive end.

# Asprilla may sue University to get out of scholarship

**BASKETBALL, page 8**

Associated Press on July 9, as he played in a charity golf tournament hosted by Alonzo Mourning and Dwyane Wade. "If at some point and time you're going to be able to compete with the big boys, you might as well just jump right into the fire and get started."

Ohio State was ranked as high as No. 13 in the nation last season.

The two ranked teams the Golden Panthers played against last season were No. 12 Georgetown and No. 13 University of California, Los Angeles.

Both games resulted in blowout losses, a 38-point defeat against Georgetown and a 35-point loss vs. UCLA.

"It could be a bad night," Thomas said in the same interview with AP. "But it's good to go back and start there."

**SUING MATTER**

Last season's dominant big man Asprilla will

probably not be helping the Golden Panthers in their possible season debut against Ohio State.

Asprilla is currently disputing Athletic Director Pete Garcia's decision to not accept his request to be released from scholarship, *The Miami Herald* reported on July 7.

The deadline to appeal Garcia's decision passed. Therefore, if Asprilla wishes to play for another team, he must pay his own way.

Attorney William Sanchez told *The Miami Herald* that Asprilla would sue if necessary. He also stated FIU did not notify Asprilla of the appeal deadline.

"They are being unreasonable," Sanchez told *The Miami Herald*.

Asprilla left to his home country of Colombia shortly after coach Thomas was hired. The 21-year-old averaged 13.7 points per game and 9.2 rebounds per game last season as a freshman.

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## Thomas lands big recruit for 2011

### Center's commitment helps offset possible departure by Asprilla

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Sports Director

With 6-foot-10 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year Freddy Asprilla not willing to return to the Golden Panthers, head coach Isiah Thomas did his best to make sure the squad has a center by 2011.

Chris Coleman, a 6-foot-10, 250-pound big man heading into his junior year in high school, gave coach Thomas a verbal commitment to the University this past week, as first reported by *foxsports.com*.

He is ranked as the No. 43 high school prospect of his class by ESPN scouts.

Coleman told NBE Basketball, a blog-

ging basketball site, why coach Thomas influenced his decision to commit to FIU.

"I liked that he played in the NBA, coached in the NBA and he's got a lot of experience and stuff," Coleman told NBE on July 10. "That is where I am trying to get, so that is why I committed."

The center attended Mt. Zion Christian Academy last year, and he is from Buffalo, N.Y.

Scouting reports from *ESPN.com's* Recruiting Coordinator Reggie Rankin say he gave his assessment of Coleman this past April.

"Chris is a huge target that can score with his back to the basket and also has a nice touch while extending over defenders inside," Rankin said on *ESPN.com*. "Coleman also has great hands as he catches tough passes in traffic and either scores or draws fouls."

Still, Coleman will not graduate high school until 2011. He has not fully developed from a physical standpoint.

"His lift is not great at this point mainly because of his lack of conditioning," Rankin said in the same report. "Chris needs to work at running the floor harder which should improve as he gets in better shape. He is still very much a work in progress but with steady improvement Coleman will dominate the lane and be an impact player."

Coleman sparked interest from Big East teams such as the University of Connecticut and West Virginia.

North Carolina and Wake Forest were other big name schools interested in the young center.

This is the seventh player recruited by coach Thomas since he was hired by FIU on April 14. Coleman is the first high school

player recruited; the other six recruits are from junior colleges and Arkansas State University.

### THE BIG STAGE

The Golden Panthers have Ohio State University on their radar.

*ESPN.com* reported that the Golden Panthers may face the Big 10 powerhouse for the first game of the 2009-10 season on Nov. 9.

The deal is not official yet, but an announcement is expected to be made by the end of the summer.

Coach Thomas is familiar with the Big 10 Conference as he played college basketball for Indiana University.

He feels playing a team like Ohio State could be great exposure for the program.

"Big 10 country," Thomas told the

**BASKETBALL, page 7**

## Bostic finding his answers on, off field

**CHARLIE GRAU**  
Senior Staff Writer

Last summer, Alexander Bostic III was going door-to-door selling cell phone packages in the sweltering Miami heat when he asked himself an important question: "What am I doing?"

And that's when he decided to quit his job as an AT&T sales rep and go back to playing football.

After graduating from FIU in 2006 and not getting drafted into the NFL, Bostic has watched life take him in various directions.

While former teammate Antwan Barnes is making millions of dollars and rushing New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady for the Baltimore Ravens, Bostic is making \$800 per month sacking El Paso Generals quarterback Chris Dixon as a member of the Sioux Falls Storm of the United Indoor Football League, alongside former teammate Keyonvis Bouie.

Prior to getting back on the football field, Bostic took a two-year hiatus from the sport to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. During that time of self-reflection, the former Golden Panther linebacker started asking himself questions he



JESSICA MARSHALL/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**GOLDEN LINEBACKER:** Alexander Bostic III played on arguably the best defensive team in FIU history. His friend Antwan Barnes was drafted to the NFL, but Bostic went undrafted.

had never thought about.

"How did [Barnes] get chosen and I didn't when we went to high school and the same college together?" Bostic said. "I was trying to rationalize. Did I fail because

I didn't make the NFL, or did I fail because now people won't look at me because I didn't make it? Once football is gone and your career starts, it's all about finding your next step," Bostic said.

Bostic landed a job at Beacon Hill Preparatory School in Miami Gardens as a physical education teacher for a year. While teaching kids how to exercise, Bostic felt his students were giving him a life lesson of his own when they began asking him questions about his football career.

"It's very humbling. Kids ask questions that get you thinking like, 'Did you play football and why weren't you good enough?' It really makes you question yourself," Bostic said.

But then, Bostic began to measure his level of success differently after reading *How to Make Friends and Influence People*.

"You have to get away from trying to be important. A lot of people go through life measuring their success on being important. So once I humbled myself, I began to live day by day."

Bostic wants to share his wisdom with other student athletes through a non-profit organization he's established called Right Path which helps student athletes by promoting education, character and college preparation.

**BOSTIC, page 7**

## New recruits spark team competition

**LUIS ESTRADA**  
Staff Writer

Coming off a record 28-win season, the Golden Panthers volleyball team is ready to welcome in five freshmen to help them set a new mark.

For the first time under head coach Danijela Tomic, the recruiting class is composed of all freshmen players as opposed to incoming transfers from other universities.

Junior libero Nina Colon says the most important part of having an all freshmen class is the challenge it brings to the girls on the current roster.

"It gives us a run for our money," she said. "These girls are good, and they want to learn and get better and it makes the girls from last year have to protect their positions."

Junior middle blocker Sabrina Gonzalez knows

the competition will heat up with new talent added to the team.

Hope Williams, Jovana Bjelica and Marija Prsa are the three outside hitters of the 2009 class. Williams and Bjelica each stand at 5-foot-10 while Prsa is 5-foot-11.

Lisa Hooey is a 6-foot-3 middle blocker and Chanel Araujo is a 5-foot-6 libero.

"A lot of these girls won't be redshirted, and they're going to get playing time, so we have to make sure we play well throughout the year," Colon said.

Head coach Tomic said she expects some of the freshmen to be redshirted, something she has not been able to do in the past.

"This is the first year that we should be able to redshirt some of our freshmen and in five

**VOLLEYBALL, page 7**

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