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Reviews: Chris Cornell's CD terrible, Madonna's excellent

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Volleyball sweeps weekend in Alabama

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SPOTLIGHT

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Warnings vs. Citations: SGC-BBC tries to help students with their first parking tickets.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



Club on campus takes its members for a day of sharking!

OPINION PAGE 6

The Miami 21 proposal would certainly reinvent the city's landscape.

OPINION PAGE 6



Firefighters need to face salary cuts in order to fix Miami's budget crisis.

LIFE! PAGE 7

Moment of Clarity: New rappers ascending in the business must fight to stay on top.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Volleyball team avoids upsets of years past and builds a strong foundation without star.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Women's soccer splits one of two games this past weekend on overtime win over Hilltoppers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Haitian Students Organization, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m. Come together and share a culture with this meeting. It will be held in GC 150.

Students For A Free Tibet, Oct. 1, 1 p.m. Meet for a cause with this club. The organization will meet in GC 343.

Caribbean Student Association Game Day, Oct. 1, 6 p.m. Get your game on with this fun event in GC 314.

French Club Meeting, Oct. 1, 6 p.m. Enjoy a little taste of French life with this movie. It will be held in GC 140.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 73 HIGH: 88



THURSDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 76 HIGH: 86



FRIDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 78 HIGH: 87

CONTACTS

Editor in Chief 305-348-1580
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

MMC Office 305-348-2709
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office 305-919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections 305-348-2709
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising 305-348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

Graduation tickets to be sold

Extra admission charges aimed at keeping a 'memorable ceremony'

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

In an effort to curb high costs, the University will begin charging admission for its scheduled commencement ceremonies.

According to the University, graduating students will receive two free tickets and will have an option of purchasing up to three additional tickets for \$5 each.

"We resisted the idea of charging for tickets," said Interim Provost Douglas Wartzok in a written statement. "But in the end, it's the only option we have if we intend to give

our students a memorable ceremony they can share with the people dearest to them."

The ticket sales are expected to generate a total of \$35,000 that, according to the University, will help "defray the cost" of the ceremonies. The total cost of all the commencement ceremonies will exceed \$130,000.

"Students are more than upset about this new charge. We think all the increases we've been hit with this year should cover the cost of commencement," said Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Sholom Neistein in an interview with *The*

Miami Herald.

SGC at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda said that the implementation of this fee will "level the playing field" and ensure that everyone has a "fair shot" of getting most of their family members to attend.

"It doesn't take away from the academic part of this University," said Rionda. "We need more classes ... and we need more resources for students. I don't want that being diverted to pay for graduation."

"A graduation is a big honor in your time, and of course we like to bring our whole family," said junior economics major Monclaud Nestor. "But the reality is that we go to a school that has 30,000 students."

COMMENCEMENT, page 2

GRAHAM CENTER



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

BRAND NEW: The Graham Center was remodeled with new furniture, a study lounge, signs and repainted walls during the bi-annual renovation process. This year, the University prepares for the reaccreditation in March.

Redesign targeted at accreditation

Renovations aim to attract, retain students

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

At the start of this semester, the Graham Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus was bustling with activity: old and new students, faculty, teachers and ... painters?

There were a number of workers retouching the walls and reupholstering the sofas that line the hallways.

Before each academic year, GC goes through this process, though this year it is especially important.

"We are preparing for our reaccreditation," said Ruth

Hamilton, executive director of the Graham Center.

According to Hamilton, the reaccreditation process will occur between March 8-11.

Reaccreditation is a process colleges go through in order to maintain their standing in the academic community. Without accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a university diploma means little

more than a congratulatory certificate.

SACS is the academic association responsible for schools in 11 states in the Southeast. They evaluate each school every 10 years to ensure maintenance of quality educational programs and facilities.

According to Hamilton, the state of student facilities plays an important role in a

RENOVATIONS, page 2

Students arrested during season opener

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

More than a dozen people were charged for underage drinking during Saturday night's football game against Toledo University.

The game, held at FIU Stadium on Sept. 26, was the first home game of the 2009 football season.

According to FIU Public Safety, 13 arrests were made for underage drinking during the game and the tailgate that preceded it.

Out of the 13, one person was arrested and charged with juvenile drinking, or drinking under the age of 18.

FIU Public Safety patrolled along with members of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

Two students were ejected from the premises for throwing footballs at students during the tailgate in an aggressive manner.

One student was arrested by Public Safety for entering the game without his ticket and transferred to county jail.

The other arrests were forwarded to ABT agents.

This stands in comparison to the 47 students arrested during last season's opener against University of South Florida on Sept. 22, 2008.

In total, 11,047 students attended the game. 16,100 students attended last year's season opener. The stadium has a capacity to seat roughly 20,000, according to *fiusports.com*.

Underage drinking, on or off campus, violates the FIU Student Code of Conduct.

Students charged will have to appear in court and comply with issued fines, community service or other designated punishments.

They will also appear before the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Dowdy sentenced to three years probation, 100 hours community service

A man who was arrested for taking a locomotive car for a seven-mile joy ride was sentenced to three years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

According to *The Miami Herald*, Brandon Dowdy was also issued a restraining order to stay away from railroads.

Officials from CSX, the railroad company who owned the locomotive, were displeased with the decision. Dowdy will remain in jail until November.

FIU student arrested for setting fire to Blockbuster store

Police arrested an FIU marketing student accused of setting fire to a Miramar Blockbuster store after he burglarized it.

Firefighters responding to the blaze ruled the fire “suspicious” and called police.

CBS 4 reported that Youbran Rafael Zebib-Nunez was taken in by the Broward Sheriff’s Office outside another Blockbuster shortly after the fire was reported. Police found property stolen from the first store on the 22-year-old man.

A judge set bail for Zebib-Nunez at \$33,000.

NATIONAL

Sex offenders restricted to live in wooded area

A group of sex offenders in Atlanta, GA, have been told to relocate to a wooded area behind an office complex by probation officers.

According to the Associated Press, a total of nine sex offenders live in a cluster of tents due to a law that prohibits them “living, working, or loitering” within 1,000 feet of places where children gather.

A similar case exists in Florida, where sex offenders currently live under the Julia Tuttle Causeway, unable to live anywhere else.

Facebook poll asking whether Obama should be killed is under investigation

A Facebook poll posing the question “Should Obama be killed?” is under investigation by the U.S. Secret Service.

According to the Associated Press, the poll was posted Saturday and taken down immediately after Facebook was notified.

“We are aware of it and we will take the appropriate investigative steps,” said Darrin Blackford, a Secret Service spokesman in an interview with the Associated Press. “We take of these things seriously.”

-Compiled by Jorge Valens and Francisco Maradiaga

Committees present job details

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus has new definitions and purposes for four of five senatorial committees.

In its second week of consideration, the senate passed council bills on Monday that will be added to the MMC bylaws defining the goals and reach of three out of four committees that were previously missing. The last one was not presented as time ran out of the two-hour Sept. 28 meeting.

When the current constitution was ratified during the last administration, the four committees were created but no job description was assigned to them.

The passing of the bills now gives the senate entities that will audit usage of Activities

and Services fee funds, work on student concerns and keep track of legislation records.

“This was a huge step,” said Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez, who has been working on updating the bylaws since the summer.

The Operational Review Committee description, which was an area of contention last meeting, was approved with 25 yeas, 0 nays and two abstentions.

The ORC will audit any student organization directly funded by the Student Government Association through Activities and Services fees.

In the last meeting some, like SGC-MMC Comptroller Cristina “Raven” Morales, contended that such powers would not be legally binding.

The tweaked version has the ORC “working with” the comptroller in this endeavor as well as having a member of the

committee attend all Finance Committee meetings.

“We checked with Jose [Toscano],” said sponsoring Senator Loren Fraute, informing the senate of the ORC’s consolation with the SGA advisor.

The Student Advocacy Committee was passed unanimously by an oral acclimation. The SAC will deal with student concerns and make recommendations.

The SAC, as defined by the council bill, will collect reports from senators and have “direct contact” with the Governing Councils.

The reports are the responsibility of senators to keep track of concerns with their constituency and meetings with school deans.

“The idea is to gather the information that senators have collected so that we have records of concerns,”

said sponsoring Senator Taylor Prochnow.

The Internal Affairs Committee, which also passed with a unanimous oral acclimation, will be the body that keeps track of legislative records and senatorial day-to-day stuff like attendance and office hours.

The new committee will keep legislation up to date, including appropriations, bills, resolutions and meeting minutes.

The IAC will also ensure “senator compliance with requirements.” These requirements range from attendance to working with senators’ discretionary budgets.

The passing of the three definitions represent a progressive step to the senate speaker.

“These senators are ... taking all the student and senate concerns to heart,” Ramirez said.

\$2,000 allocation goes to mock war

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus voted to appropriate \$2,000 for a Spanish-American War simulation, voted to include *Roberts Rules of Order* into the campus bylaws and elected a new senator for the College of Arts and Sciences at its Sept. 28 meeting.

The senate approved a \$2,000 allocation to help sponsor the Jack D. Gordon Institutes for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies’ Spanish-American War simulation that will be held at the University. The war simulation will

be primarily for high school students. The \$2,000 would go to cover breakfast, lunch and drinks for the audience.

The consensus among the senate was that the event would showcase FIU to prospective students.

Senator Taylor Prochnow expressed concern that FIU is often “overlooked” by local high schoolers.

The senate also elected Sandra Perez as the new Arts and Sciences senator. She went up against former Senator Jennifer Fuentes.

Perez stated in her platform that she wishes to increase the amount of classes offered and the times they are

offered, as well as increase “the amount of advisors or their availability.”

Perez stated in her application that her previous experience in leadership roles made her the most qualified candidate.

According to her résumé, she has ran a committee during her time with Dance Marathon as director of communications. She has also served as program vice president, and philanthropy and community service chair for the Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Fuentes previously left SGA due to grade deficiencies. Some raised concerns over the possibility of the situ-

ation repeating itself.

“The SGA chemistry changes,” said Senator Adam Johnson when explaining what happens when people leave because of grades. “Grades are the most important thing.”

Acting on the suggestion of the judicial branch, the senate also passed a council bill that would add *Roberts Rules of Orders* to the bylaws. The current constitution eliminated mentions of RRO as a procedural tool.

For about a month, every senate meeting has begun with a motion to adhere to RRO. The procedures help facilitate an orderly meeting.

High turnout calls for six ceremonies

COMMENCEMENT, page 1

“The University is a community, we’re trying to help each other out,” he added. “If we are short on funds...I don’t see [charging] as a big deal.”

In addition, the University will be adding a sixth ceremony to accommodate the 5,500 students that are expected to graduate this Fall. This number has increased since 2004, in

which 4,458 students graduated in the Fall semester.

“Our students look forward to being recognized for their academic achievements, shaking the hand of their dean, taking a picture with the president and naturally, they want their family and friends to share this moment,” said Wartzok in the same statement. “There’s only one indoor venue on campus that can accommodate such

a ceremony – the U.S. Century Bank Arena – and we keep outgrowing it.”

Commencement ceremonies for this Fall will occur on Dec. 14 and 15.

Students can refer to the University’s commencement Web site, commencement.fiu.edu, to get more information, such as graduation schedules and procedures, and purchase additional tickets.

Redesign keeps up with state universities

RENOVATIONS, page 1

university’s accreditation.

Though special care is being taken due to the SACS visit in March, Hamilton said such tasks are undertaken twice yearly, once before the academic year and once midyear.

“We do an overall cleanup of the building. We are responsible to make sure the facilities are well kept, especially due to the diseases around, so we are especially careful things are clean,” Hamilton said.

Continuous improvement of the facility

is the goal, so according to Hamilton, student needs and suggestions are always heeded.

When students needed places to plug their laptops, they were provided. When Student Government Association leaders visited other Florida universities, they came back with suggestions. Those suggestions were immediately addressed.

GC benchmarks with other state university student centers, Hamilton said.

“SGA leaders that visited different universities decided [our student center] was a little bit behind. We are competing with newer schools like UCF,” Hamilton

said.

When SGA returned, they suggested the furniture reflect the school’s colors. They wanted to see more graphics depicting student life. They decided the new panther logo should also be depicted.

It’s all to make students feel more comfortable and to spark a sense of panther pride. It’s also to attract prospective students with a vibrant atmosphere reflecting an active student life.

“Facilities play a key role in attracting and keeping students. It develops a sense of pride and love for their institution,” Hamilton said.

THE BEACON

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Sorority creates domestic violence awareness

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON
Contributing Writer

Carolyn Thomas was shot in the face by her boyfriend, who then killed her mother. She had to go through extensive surgeries to repair the damage to her face and be able to breathe and eat again.

Thomas was the face used at a Lambda Theta Alpha charity event that addressed domestic violence issues and awareness.

One in three women will be a victim of domestic violence at least once in their lifetime – a statistic that Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. is trying to wipe out.

Gamma Pi is the FIU chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha and domestic abuse is their philanthropy of choice, and one way the “Infamous and Fly” Gamma Pi Chapter rallies for that cause is the “Art of Surviving Benefit Dinner.”

Starting in 2006, the event has raised more than \$2,000 that go to the Safespace Foundation.

Around 150 people were present at the Sept. 26 event.

Guests were invited to draw on the tablecloths

that would be roped into a blanket to be hung at a Safespace shelter.

Michelle Eusebio, a junior majoring in finance, wrote on her piece of cloth: “Only the strong survive, stay strong ladies.”

About 40 pieces of cloth were strung together and donated.

“The whole point is empowering women,” said member Stephanie Gonzales, a senior majoring in international business.

Sororities and fraternities, such as the Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, along with guests from the community, were also present at the event to show their support of the cause.

A presentation was then conducted by Maria Lopez, who talked about the sorority and gave statistics on domestic abuse.

Last year sisters from Lambda raised enough money to send 18 children from the shelters to summer camp.

The executive director of Safespace Foundation, Robert Schroeder, gave information on the shelter and more statistics and history of domestic abuse.

“We have a long way to go before we have true

equal rights in this country for everyone,” he said.

As another speaker went on stage, volunteers in the audience were given masks to graphically show the number of women directly affected by domestic abuse. They were asked not to take off their mask until the next speaker decided to take off hers.

Nadya Chapra took the stage and told her story. She is a volunteer at Safespace and a survivor of domestic violence.

Growing up she saw her grandmother and mother become victims and when her first husband put a gun to her face, she told him to shoot her. When he did not, she decided to leave.

“There are always risks in freedom but the only risk in capture is freedom,” she told the audience.

Dinner was then served and at the end of the night, Lambda sisters revealed that they had raised \$1,514 for Safespace and presented the check to Chapra on behalf of the shelter.

Most of the money came from ticket sales for the event and small personal donations from several sisters and their families.

Campus Progress

was one of the sponsors, along with Party City and Gourmet Chef on Tour, Inc. who donated food, decorations and supplies.

Guests were offered the chance to dance and enjoy the rest of the night; the sisters put on a show with their own unique dance moves.

The national sorority of Lambda Theta Alpha was started in 1975 by 17 ladies at Kean University. They began the first Latin sorority in the nation.

The Gamma Pi Chapter at FIU was established November 2003 by five ladies.

With eight active members this semester, it was a joint effort between all of the ladies with the two lead chairs Maria Lopez and Nohora Vanegas keeping everything organized.

They began plans for this year’s event in December and this was the first dinner many of the new sisters participated in.

“It was amazing to be part of this event,” said first-year Rayda Rojas, senior in early childhood education.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in helping others,” cited alumni Lissette Medina.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAMMA PI CHAPTER

FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Sisters of Gamma Pi Chapter held a charity dinner on Sept. 26 to raise awareness on domestic violence. They donated a tablecloth with inspiring words from guests to Safespace shelter.



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LIFE AT THE BAY



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GOINGS-ON: (Top) Frantz Germain, a senior in environmental studies, plays the piano in between classes in the Wolfe University Center on Sept. 28

(Bottom) Marco Tulio, M&M Landscaping, works on putting a new flower garden using native plants between WUC and the Hospitality Management building to beautify the campus, on Sept. 28.

NOTES BOX

"Interama: Miami and the Pan-American Dream"

From Sept. 10, to Oct. 31, original plans and drawings for Interama will be on display outside the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in the Wolfe University Center.

Interama was set to be an Epcot-like fair during the 1960s, and it would've been constructed in the land where the Biscayne Bay Campus now sits.

But the project never happened because of lack of funding, so *Interama: Miami and the Pan-American Dream*, an exhibit with all the plans for the project, was created by the Historical Museum of South Florida.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-919-5700.

Sisterhood Retreat

The Women's Center is hosting a sisterhood retreat from Oct. 23 to Oct. 25 at the Riverside Retreat Center at Labelle, Fla. The retreat is a weekend-long program that aims to empower women through fun and inspirational activities, such as yoga, kayaking and bike riding.

Registration begins Oct. 5, and there is a \$20 fee that must be paid through check. The first 30 women to register at both the Modesto Maidique Campus (GC 2200) and the Biscayne Bay Campus (WUC 256) are guaranteed a spot.

For more information, visit <http://women.fiu.edu/>

SGC-BBC

Parking without decal costs extra

Members talk ways to help students with decal tickets

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

Henry Herrera, a junior psychology major, got a ticket for not having a student decal, even though his new one was already on the way.

"My car did not have a decal, but I had ordered mine through the mail just days ago," he said. "I still hadn't received it, but I still got a ticket."

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council represents the student body at this campus, and allows students to address any issues or concerns they may have toward the University.

"SGA will never cease to be the voice for the students to depend on," said Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president. "We are the liaison to the administration, and I finally feel that students are beginning to recognize that."

Neistein addressed another student's concern about parking tickets during the last council meeting on Sept. 23.

He said there is a need to

resolve this problem, in which students get citations for not having decals, even if they have already ordered them.

Nikolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC senator, sympathized with Herrera after encountering similar issues with his parking decal and learning about issues encountered by some of his friends and classmates.

"After attending FIU for two years, primarily at BBC, I received my share of unjustified parking tickets as well as witnessed my friends and fellow FIU-ers get fined in a similar manner," Chikishev said.

To help students like Herrera, Chikishev proposed a goal for SGC-BBC that consists of a forgiveness policy for students receiving their first citation.

"I believe in a fee system where a first-time violation, given out by the Department of Parking and Transportation but not police officers, should be addressed with a warning letter mentioning regulations and decal policies that FIU students must abide by, and having their vehicle tag entered into a database," Chikishev said.

Chikishev would like students to receive warnings, rather than tickets, when they commit their first violations toward the University's decal parking enforcement.

Once this warning is issued, the vehicle information is then saved in Parking and Transportation's database.

However, traffic violations like running stop signs or speeding are not part of the proposal.

But according to William Foster, executive director of Parking and Transportation, this proposed policy is not plausible.

"The patrollers do not have the information in the field required to know if a previous warning has been issued, nor would the existing handheld devices be adequate," he said.

Students are not given tickets if they do not have decals during the first two weeks of the semester.

Any student who fails to provide a decal after the two-week time frame, however, is fined \$20. If that fine is not paid within the time provided, a \$5 late fee is applied.

If students are issued a ticket after the two-week period has passed, they can appeal it.

Therefore, the "forgiveness" process is already in place, Foster said.

SGC-BBC, page 5

Marine club hopes to study and fish for sharks with new members

BRANDON YEE
Contributing Writer

After expanding its focus from just the ocean, the Marine Biology Club has found itself a boatload of new members, who not only are willing to teach and learn about the environment but also ready to work with sharks.

Founded in fall of last year, the Marine Biology Club spent most of its inaugural year with less than five active members.

One year later, the club has grown to about 35 students.

"Originally, we were just marine oriented, and that narrowcasted us a lot, but recently we have opened up to all types of environmental activities," said Steven Diaz, vice president of the club and a senior marine biology major.

Diaz, as well as club

President Jessica Lee, a junior marine biology major, have expanded the club by collaborating their research with other environmentally aware groups like the Science

When we go shark-ing, our purpose is to find different species of shark, identify them and then return them to the water.

Steven Diaz, vice president
Marine Biology Club

Club, which helped the club with lab research on marine life.

Club members also plan on expanding their presence on campus and impacting students more directly.

They have plans currently in the works for bigger projects

such as beautifying the Biscayne Bay Campus with marine life decorating Panther Square.

According to Diaz, the Marine Biology Club is working on a fish tank for the Wolfe University Center, similar to the one in the Graham Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus. The tank would be placed as decoration for students to appreciate as they walk by.

"By putting beautiful mysterious species in the faces of the students, we think we can help the campus and bring our club attention," Diaz said.

The club takes part in many activities including camping, canoeing, beach cleanups and reef identifying excursions throughout the year. The club also teaches students from the schools next to campus, like the David Lawrence

Jr. K-8 Center.

But according to Diaz, there is nothing more fun than beach shark fishing, also known as sharking, which they did last spring.

"When we go sharking, our purpose is to find different species of shark, identify them and then return them to the water," Diaz said. "It gets really exciting because we are handling intimidating creatures at the same time we are learning about them."

Sharking, as well as all of the other activities, are organized and supervised by Adam Rosenblatt and Jean Rosenberg, both third-year marine biology graduate students and founders of the club.

"We recently went to the David Lawrence Educational Center to teach younger children

MARINE, page 5

Goal aimed at forgiving first-time parking offenders

SGC-BBC, page 4

Students can apply for appeals online at <http://parking.fiu.edu>, or in the Wolfe University Center Room 353 in the Office of Parking and Transportation. The appeals process takes about three to four weeks, and students get a letter or e-mail with the amount they have to pay if the appeal is rejected.

"I like to think that everyone will get a chance, but I am not the appeal officer, so I can't foresee what the decision will come to be," said Mindy Parrott, administrative assistant in the Department of Parking and Transportation.

Last Spring semester, 2,227 "no decal" tickets were issued at BBC, Foster said.

That same semester, \$27,240 was generated through "no decal" citations issued at BBC.

"These tickets aren't as financially damaging as, say, the traffic violations, but they are equally frustrating to students and creates a feeling that we

are getting nicked and dinged when the tuition is constantly going up every year," Chikishev said.

According to section 1006.66 of Florida Statute 11.011, "Monies collected from parking assessments

These tickets aren't as financially damaging as, say, the traffic violations, but they are equally frustrating to students.

Nikolay Chikishev, senator
SGC-BBC

and infraction fines shall be deposited in appropriate funds, and shall be used to defray the administrative and operating costs of the traffic and parking program at the institution to provide for additional parking facilities on campus, or for student loan purposes."

"Enforcement is not about generating revenue. It is about ensuring safety

and compliance to University policy," Foster said.

As a result, Chikishev altered his current goal and will now focus on creating signs that are visually informative to students, which may read "Do you have your new decal?" as suggested during the council meeting.

According to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor, students may not know that they need to renew their decals at the beginning of every Fall semester.

"We need to let students know in the beginning of the semester and ask them if they have gotten their new 2009-2010 decal," Zapata said.

However, Zapata feels that the Department of Parking and Transportation may not want students to know about the appeals process because of fear that students may misuse it.

"I think the problem is they do not want you (students) to know that you can get away with a warning because then students may park anywhere," Zapata said.

Research on aquatic life opens more doors

MARINE, page 4

all about mangrove conservation and marine life, and I found that really enjoyable," said Rosenblatt. "Until the late 1970s, we didn't even know life existed on the ocean floor, and to this day, we know more about the moon than we do about marine life.

So, I think the educational part of this club is really great."

In addition to organizing the club's activities, Rosenblatt and Rosenberg both play roles in choosing the students who run the club, some of which they are still looking for.

"We still are not only looking for members, but we also need some more officials, including a Student Organizations Council representative," Diaz said.

The Marine Biology Club does not have any membership requirements and accepts students of all majors and from both campuses.

The club meets every other Thursday at 2 p.m. in Room 362 of the Marine Science Building at BBC.

Even though the club is based at BBC, students from both campuses are still encouraged to join. Research can be done at both campuses.

The club holds video conferences of the meetings with students located at MMC.

Its members are also willing to alternate meetings between the two campuses

so all students interested can have a chance to mingle with other members.

Students interested in joining can just show up at one of their bi-weekly meetings.

The club is looking for both members and officials.

For more information, e-mail Lee at jlee08@fiu.edu or Diaz at Sdiaz023@fiu.edu.

MARINE BIOLOGY CLUB MEETINGS

- What: Club members meet every other Thursday
- Where: Room 362 in the Marine Science Building
- Who: All students interested in joining the club are welcome.

-Compiled by Pamela Duque

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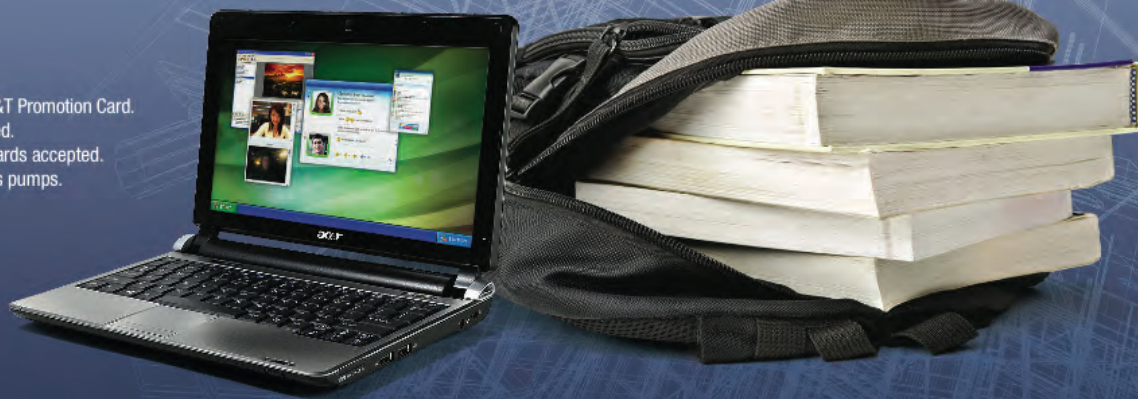
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GETTING SCHOOLED

Students should prepare themselves for illnesses

The worst thing that can happen to me during the school year is getting sick. My brain is wired to believe that missing classes does mean The End of the World as I Know It, and I try to do whatever I can to avoid it.

COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

Last week, I caught the worst cold that I've had in a while. Luckily, after a visit to the University health clinic, I found out it wasn't swine flu – which surprised me, considering how virulent the infection had become on campus.

According to *The Miami Herald*, as of Sept. 13, there were nearly 30 cases of "flu-like" illnesses at the University.

The University has done plenty to alert students of swine flu and cold prevention: in bathrooms, you can easily find illustrated posters reminding students to wash their hands. At the health clinic, students can get cards outlining symptoms for both the common cold and the infamous H1N1, though these are also available on the University Health Services Web site.

I guess I missed the boat because I still got sick. Even though I didn't get swine flu, I was fatigued, my throat was horribly sore and after a day of getting through classes and other activities, my voice was no louder than a whisper.

I had to give in. I felt guilty about being sick and ended up missing four classes, two of which met once a week. I didn't really have a chance to talk to my professors (lack of speech aside) from my last-minute e-mails alerting them of my absences, but I know they all would have told me to stay home and rest.

Surprisingly, after perusing the FIU Student Handbook, I found no explicit University-wide policy for illnesses. The general, unspoken rule is for students to stay home, especially when they have fever, until the fever is manageable after 24 hours.

But it's up to the discretion of professors in deciding how to handle missed work. Ultimately, we're at their hands; some may be lenient, and others may be quick to show us the door – but they are more likely to be understanding if approached as early as possible.

This, ultimately, is fair; when we accept a syllabus for a given class, we accept it as a contract to which we're bound. Yes, through our tuition we pay for a service and perhaps we should expect that service to accommodate to our needs, but in a classroom, it's all about give and take.

Ultimately, we're responsible for our grades and progress in class – and it's up to us to take action when things may not go our way, whether it's with difficult professors or an illness.

I know I'm not the only student at this University that deals with the dilemma of attendance versus health.

Some of us simply can't afford to miss class while sick. Many students hold jobs and have families, juggling between different responsibilities – often without health insurance. So we force ourselves to sit at our desks and pay attention, despite being doped up on acetaminophen and other OTC drugs.

Even though it's not written in any handbook, it's common sense: health comes first. And it's up to us, as students, to be responsible when getting our acts together before and after getting hit with the flu.

Miami 21 project beneficial for city

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

Anyone who lives in Miami likely counts their car as their most valued possession. Visiting tourists know they can't get far without an automobile, despite public transportation; there are no other viable enough alternatives for traversing the 6,137 square miles of urban spread that make up our sprawling city.

It's not just about convenience either: the Associated Press deemed Miami one of the deadliest cities in the country for pedestrians. So it was all the more surprising to have heard that the city is making plans to reform its entrenched car culture through the ambitious Miami 21 project.

Envisioning the creation of a "Miami of the 21st Century" (hence the name), the project officially aims to embark on "a holistic approach to land use and urban planning" and center on "a greater mix of housing, commercial and retail uses, transit and pedestrian oriented communities, and preserves open space and many other environmental amenities," according to the project's Web site.

The objective is to overhaul Miami's often chaotic planning system – strained by the city's rapid and massive growth – and focus on efficiency and long-term planning. This comes at a crucial time in the city's future, as it continues to grow exponentially in terms of population, area and all-around significance.

Plans include: creating more parks and open spaces, preserving historic and environmental areas; improving underprivileged neighborhoods through greenery

and artsy architecture; mixing residential and commercial areas; expanding transportation options; and creating a sense of community through more pedestrian-oriented environments.

Historically, Miami has never had much in the way of long-standing, comprehensive planning – one of the few major cities not to. Rather, its development guidelines were a series of short-term amendments that provided ad hoc solutions for the short run.

Miami's current zoning regulation, born of this hodge-podge of codes, has developed areas differently and by category (residential, commercial, etc). As a result, areas where people live, work and shop are often separated from each other – hence the infamously painful morning and evening commutes.

Many parts of the city have been decaying from neglect as growth and development is concentrated ever more outward, creating the urban stretch that has made non-vehicular travel so difficult.

Some parts of the city seem remarkably different from each other, and though that may add to the city's diversity and unique character, it has also contributed to traffic, difficulty in navigation and strained infrastructure.

The "pedestrianization" of the city seems to be the most prominent component of the project.

Miami's over-dependence on car travel

plays a significant role in the city's problems. Neighborhoods within Miami seem unconnected to one another, as residents rarely interact besides through traffic (being ranked among the rudest drivers doesn't help that either). A lack of pedestrians leaves streets more open to illicit activity.

The city could feel like an ant colony sometimes, with everyone just zipping by one another in cars, going from point A to point B without ever taking in the atmosphere and culture around them.

The idea of creating a more people-friendly, Miami aesthetic would certainly stem the growing disconnection and urban decay that is pervasive in many big cities.

Like any major change, however, Miami 21 brings much doubt and apprehension.

Miami could feel like an ant colony sometimes, with everyone just zipping by one another in cars, going from point A to point B ...

There's a fear of the loss of Miami's essence, its "soul" with these changes; there's also, of course, the expected financial repercussions.

Anything new comes with a chance of both risk and opportunity. We should focus more attention to the project, get involved and endorse it as a

community it hopes to help solidify.

Miami has become a vibrant and a chic center of culture precisely because of its boldness and vivacity. It would be a shame if we didn't tap into that spirit once more to give our city a chance to evolve.

Commissioners 'under fire' for budget cuts

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Asst. Opinion Editor

Debate has erupted in Miami-Dade County this month from an unlikely source – firefighters.

In an attempt to balance the \$444 million budget gap, county commissioners have taken aim at the stratospheric pay firefighters enjoy in Miami-Dade, who are among the highest paid in the state of Florida.

This little wrinkle of a half-billion dollar deficit means firefighters, who can have quarter-million dollar salaries, will have to carry a little less pocket change in their overalls.

One example of benefits gone awry in this fiery métier is Capt. Raul Fernandez, a mid-level officer who leads a group of paramedics in Brickell. The captain raked in about \$349,279 last year, including 500 hours of overtime pay. The

24-year veteran makes only \$50,000 less than the president of the United States and Fernandez ranks behind only the city attorney and the fire chief in being the highest paid public employees in Miami-Dade. In comparison, general surgeons make \$228,000 and obstetricians make \$203,000, according to the Department of Labor.

Of the approximate 630 firefighters, 19 are being paid more than \$300,000 a year, 47 firefighters cash in more than Mayor Manny Diaz, eight collect more than City Manager Pete Hernandez's \$329,447.

These numbers are absurd for a position that oftentimes doesn't require more than a GED. Miami Commissioner Marc Sarnoff, who possesses a law degree from Loyola University, expressed his disbelief in *The Miami Herald* at how much firefighters were being paid.

"I could kill my high school guidance counselor for not telling me to be a firefighter," Sarnoff said.

This year Miami-Dade's pension payouts will exceed \$100 million for the first time. That means one out of every five dollars spent will be going toward pension obligations, firefighters making up a significant portion of these costs.

Take Capt. Jon E. Hart who retired in 2006: Hart received an estimated \$311,000 in 2009 through the city's deferred compensation plan, which doesn't include the \$118,000 annual pension he began amassing in 2007.

Granted, there are workplace dangers in the firefighting world that are non-existent in other professions. Firefighters are called upon to show a daily courage few would be able to summon up. The job is replete with these hazards ranging from respira-

tory illness, maiming and even death.

I agree that their salaries should reflect these eventualities and would ... if they were \$100k or \$200k lower. A significant cut is needed.

The firefighter's union has agreed to slash 15 percent from their pay already, even with the cut however, retired Capt. Hart will be making only \$40,000 less than President Obama. The firefighters of Miami are worthy individuals, but not worth that much.

The commissioners and the union need to get serious and take a realistic look at how firefighters are paid. This budget crisis won't solve itself but has exposed some of the financial largesse in Miami-Dade County. Hopefully the Miami commissioners will have the foresight to realize that sometimes to save the entire house, you've got to take an axe to the door.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

WINNER/LOSER



Winner: Geronimo! A 92-year-old woman from New Hampshire celebrated her birthday by sky diving, becoming the oldest person to ever accomplish the extraordinary feat. Next on her to-do list: becoming the oldest person to break the sound barrier.



Loser: Swiss authorities arrested filmmaker Roman Polanski for his sexual involvement with a 13-year-old girl in 1978. Since then, Polanski has been avoiding U.S. courts – though he has worked in over 20 productions since his fleeing, including Oscar-winning *The Pianist*.

OPINIONPIECE

2B

The total number of iPhone applications downloaded as of Sept. 28. Apple's online app marketplace is the largest of its kind.

QUOTATIONATION

"It is a great development for the Chicago bid, and I am sure the bidding committee is delighted with such an extraordinary demonstration of the president's support."

Dick Pound
Member, International Olympic Committee

GETTING TO KNOW: SPC

FREE FUN

Council offers entertainment for all

ISABEL MAZA
Staff Writer

Students walking around campus may notice the flyers posted up about upcoming comedy shows, or movie posters announcing free screenings of popular movies on campus on Friday nights. Both of these services, along with many more, are offered by the Student Programming Council.

SPC is a student-run organization funded by the Student Government Association that programs events throughout the school year for the student body and community. The aim of SPC is to include more students in on-campus activities, therefore, every

event it hosts is free to all students.

The organization puts on countless events throughout the year which range from comedy shows to concerts. It provides cultural, educational, social and recreational programs. These different programs cater to a wide variety of interests and people.

The events SPC hosts usually differ from year to year, but there are a few programs that remain constant.

Every October, SPC features different Hispanic celebrations in the GC Pit, including food and music, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. SPC's other signature event is its UP-Roar Week in the spring. The week includes a comedy show and concert. In

the past, UP-Roar has featured comedians and artists such as Pauly Shore, Ludacris, OneRepublic and Fabolous.

"The UP-Roar concert with Ludacris last spring was the best part of my semester," said junior Tony Govin, a finance major.

In order to ensure that UP-Roar appeals to the majority of students on campus, SPC will be hosting surveys to determine what students would like to see.

SPC is a relatively new organization at FIU. It started as an event cabinet under SGA. The cabinet was made

SPC ORIGIN, page 9

SPC prepares for slew of big events this fall

ISABEL MAZA
Staff Writer

Students looking for exciting things to do this Fall semester can look to our very own Student Programming Council. In the past, they have held many events that give students something to do and this semester is no different.

As many people know, October is national Hispanic Heritage Month. People all over the nation are celebrating and the FIU community is no exception.

Many students are of Hispanic descent so SPC wants to make sure the culture is celebrated and made known. Even those who are not Hispanic can come out and learn some more about the customs and traditions of Hispanic culture.

SPC will be hosting two events in the Graham Center Pit for students to come out and celebrate Hispanic culture.

The pit events will feature various Hispanic craft making, food, music and dance. Students will be able to participate in the activities and mingle with others who share similar interests or the same ethnic background.

The events are sure to provide an engaging, exciting atmosphere in GC. Students with a break between classes can take advantage of this opportunity and score some free giveaways and food.

Apart from the pit events, SPC will be hosting the "Latino Comedy Chaos College Tour." The tentative list of comedians scheduled to perform includes Mark Viera, Shayla Rivera and Alex Ortiz.

These comedians have been featured on countless television shows and special programs, as well as at other universities

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PAST SPC EVENTS



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

ROLL OUT: Musical artist Ludacris performed last year during UPROAR week at Soccer Stadium.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

WHAT'S THAT?: Freshman Natalie Lopez looks at the audience after being hypnotized at a Week of Welcome event.



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

FUNNY MAN: Comedian Hasan Minhaj cracks some jokes earlier this semester at an SPC event during Week of Welcome.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Up and coming rappers need to work to adjust

It takes a long time to get to the point where every music artist in the industry wants to be: broadcasted and promoted on the commercial airwaves. They want to get there as soon as possible, and ride the wave as long as it lasts.

The steep climb into promotional visibility and commercial success can be short lived, however, and staying put is the most challenging facet of being relevant in music after an artist's arrival.

COLUMNIST



JONATHAN RAMOS

Most rappers do not make it to Jay-Z's 11-album career - in fact, nobody ever had before.

Though a rapper does not have to produce such a large quantity of records, staying relevant can be difficult because an artist usually has to adjust to change while also doing what got them there in the first place.

Recently, we saw Drake, Wale is doing his thing with five nice mixtapes leading into his Interscope Records debut.

J. Cole, the first artist signed to Jay-Z's newly created Roc Nation label, is also gaining momentum. Here is a breakdown of what it will take for them to establish themselves, long-term, as artists.

Drake: This Canadian, bubblegum TV series acting, blackberry reading-while-he-freestyles artist has hopped into popularity as quickly as anybody in recent memory.

The fact that he overcomes the three things I mentioned is enough to know that the talent is there - and the potential is vast.

He can tell a story or make a strong hit, as he showed on his "So Far Gone." E.P. Drake turned out singles like "Best I Ever Had" and "Successful." Powered by mixtapes like *Comeback Season*, Drake is the deal.

The only thing that could hold him back is his decision to sign with Cash Money Records, the same label that hosts superstar Lil' Wayne but could not break Currency into the mainstream and has yet to release anything from skilled wordsmiths like Jae Millz and Mac Maine.

Drake could be overshadowed by Wayne on his way up, more than he was when he was surrounded by teenagers in the spotlight when he was Jimmy Brooks on the TV series "Degrassi."

Wale: Wale had one of the most successful mixtapes of 2008 in *The Mixtape About Nothing*. His first studio album, *Attention: Deficit*, is set to release in November. The first single off the record featured Lady Gaga, adding fuel to his rise.

Typical of Wale, the song featured an energetic flow and a catchy hook.

Wale is the best rapper I have ever heard at using sports metaphors and references in songs, but I'm not sure that will be enough to make him great.

For Wale to stick around he will have to remain original, but I would like to hear if there is more to him than braggadocios rhymes and fun choruses.

He will stick if he can tap into his conscious

CLARITY, page 8

ALBUM REVIEW

Queen of pop celebrates decades of hits

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Imagine you're living in the year 2039. If there is still radio, you're using it. You decide to tune in to what all the kids are listening to. Is it Avril Lavigne? Probably not. Maybe it's Lady GaGa? That's a no-no. Nothing familiar here. The airwaves are filled with the new sounds of a new world. Thirty years may not be a long time, but 30 years in pop music seems like an eternity.

Yet for Madonna, who has been creating music since 1979, age is nothing but a number.

And, for the first time, she wants you to forget the sensual wedding dress, the big blonde curls, the Kabbalah, the divorces. She wants you to remember the music.

Sept. 29 brings the release of Madonna's third greatest hits compilation, *Celebration*. It will be the final release for Madonna under the Warner Bros. label that has housed her since the beginning. Tracking all the goods from "Everybody" to "4 Minutes" this album leaves no hit out.

All the chart-toppers are here along with the ballads and the dance tunes that make all women and gay men alike dust off their cone bras ... of course "Vogue" is there too.

An ingenue whose talents have sometimes taken backseat to her image, Madonna has continued to stay relevant, all while straddling the dance floor and the headlines.

Her music has stood the test of time – her acting not so much – but her music is why we love her. And that is what this album finally brings to light.

Madonna's fans helped with the selection of songs. Her manager Guy Oseary went to Twitter to ask people what they thought the track listing should be. The outcome is over 35 songs that have solidified themselves in the soundtracks of many.

Paul Oakenfold joined Madonna in the recording studio to collaborate on some new songs for the greatest hits album. "Celebration," the single, is a modern dance track mimicking the intentions of earlier Madonna songs like "Holiday." "Forget your troubles and get dancing before it's too late" seems to be her message again as of late.

The video for the song has two funky versions directed by Jonas Akerlund.

One with mostly dancers and Madonna along with her current boy toy, Jesus Luz, and the other capturing fans dressed in their greatest Madonna-esque attire.

Both videos introduce Madonna's daughter, Lourdes Leon into the spotlight. In the first she dances among her mother and her crazy dancers and, in the second, she actually dresses in the infamous wedding dress her mom wore at the first MTV Video Music Awards.

Celebration will be available in various formats. The deluxe version will include 36 songs, including "Revolver," a new song featuring Lil' Wayne.

The unlikely pair is sure to cause some controversy by asking: "My love's a revolver, my sex is a trigger, do you wanna die happy?" There's also a standard version of the album with only 18 songs.

iTunes has had the album for presale since Sept. 1, also including a packaged video collection that will be available on DVD titled *Celebration: The Video Collection*, featuring some of Madonna's most prominent videos, some never before seen on DVD.

Madonna has delivered once again, all we can do now is celebrate.

The Beacon reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.



Latin comedy tour comes to FIU

SPC EVENTS, page 7

across the nation. SPC is partnering with the brothers of *La Unidad Latina*, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity for the event.

"We are happy to be collaborating with them for this comedy show," said SPC President Cristina Rodriguez.

The last major SPC event for Hispanic Heritage Month will be "Salsa Magic." This event gives student organizations the opportunity to have their members sign up as dancing partners.

Previous salsa experience is not required, as the partners will be taught how to salsa dance and will then participate in a competition. Organizations will be able to attend the event and cheer on their dancing representatives.

The grand prize is a pizza party

for 50 members of the organization that wins. For those not involved in an organization, the event is still sure to provide fun entertainment and a good time for all.

This event will take place in the GC Ballrooms on Oct. 29.

Throughout the rest of the semester, SPC will also be hosting its traditional movie nights with movies such as *The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3*, *The Motorcycle Diaries*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, *Milk*, *Transformers*, *Bruno* and *The Hangover*.

All of the movies are shown in GC 140 on Friday nights. Each movie has two show times, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Students who missed these hit movies in theatres have the opportunity to see them for free right on campus with their fellow students.

"I love the SPC movies because I get to see the movies I didn't get to see

when they were out. It's way easier than having to go rent them," said junior and public relations major, Silvia Revilla.

As always, all of the SPC events are completely free for students, a fact many students appreciate.

"My favorite part about the SPC events is that they are free and I don't have to drive anywhere to get to them," said sophomore and business major, Janette Garcia.

Also, keep an eye out for SPC's spring events, including the famous UP-Roar concert at the end of the semester.

For a look at the official SPC calendar, visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~spc. For reviews of films screened by SPC, check out the weekly Beacon feature, "Is It Worth It?" rating the relative quality of the films shown every week by the council.

Emerging rappers will need to fight to stay relevant

CLARITY, page 7

feelings more, which he has done at times in his short underground career.

J.Cole: Cole got rejected by Jay-Z when he tried to give him his tape outside of a New York studio in 2007 but, once one of Jay's executives handed him the copy, he liked it enough to sign him.

Cole displayed a sharp flow on his guest appearance for Jay on *Blueprint 3*. On the track, "Star is Born," Cole arrived as a legitimate prospect.

The direction of his first album is a mystery, but he has showed a propensity for a clear delivery on his songs. Cole seems to be the least distinctive of this group, however.

In appearance and material, Cole will need to stick out more and show why he should emerge from the clog of promising rappers that poke into the game every year.

F.R.E.E.: FOR RIDICULOUSLY EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

Sandman helps wandering sleepwalkers get back to bed

Sleepwalking is troublesome. Walking around in the middle of the night with your eyes closed, completely unaware of your surroundings, just doesn't seem like a great idea.

Unfortunately, sleepwalkers don't have much of a say in the matter.

But just because they can't help their wandering ways doesn't mean we can't do our part to get them back to bed safely. *Sandman* is a game that allows us to do just that.

As the sandman, you use sand throughout the levels to keep the sleepwalkers out of trouble. There are pits, nightmares and some pools of water to avoid. Nightmares are enemies that will eliminate any sleepwalker they come in contact with.

You can sprinkle sleepwalkers and nightmares with sand to get them to change direction, and you can use sand to build up walkways to help the sleepwalkers safely traverse the landscape.

There are other contraptions within the levels that will require sand in order to work.

For example, one of the earlier levels require you to use the sand to spin a wheel that will move a platform across a pit.

The challenge will be to coordinate your sleepwalkers so that they're all on the platform while you're moving it across.

If you've ever played a *Lemmings* game, this will all feel very familiar to you.

You begin each level with seven sleepwalkers. You only need to get one to the finish but, with some good timing and a little creativity, you should be able to save them all.

If any happen to get stuck, you can press

the finish button, which becomes available once one sleepwalker makes it to the end, to end the level. Once you beat a level, the game will automatically save your progress on that computer, allowing you to start back where you left off or even try replaying a level to save even more sleepwalkers and get a higher score.

Sandman is a fun, frantic puzzle game with a surprising amount of depth.

Besides the addictive puzzle-solving, the game looks really great. It's a nighttime dream world that sort of looks like a cross between Disney's *Aladdin* and any Dr. Seuss movie adaptation.

The sleepwalkers are absolutely ador-

The game looks really great. Its a night time dream world that looks like a cross between Disney's *Aladdin* and any Dr. Seuss movie adaptation.

able and the sound effects are actually pretty funny.

Overall, this game feels like something I would have paid a decent amount of money for. Luckily for us, it's completely free to play. You can find *Sandman* at www.nitrome.com.

The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.

COLUMNIST



ASHLYN TOLEDO

SPC works to bring events to campus free of charge

SPC ORIGIN, page 7

up of about three to four SGA members who planned several big events throughout the year. They also planned movie nights to accompany the main programs.

The events were mostly comedy shows and two concerts. In 2000 it became its own council under SGA and it began to grow and eventually formed an application process for potential members, directors and executive board positions.

The organization believes that by getting more students involved in FIU programs, it can foster a greater sense of pride and school spirit among the student body. SPC also co-sponsors many events with other organizations on campus such as Panther Rage and Homecoming.

"I love how SPC is so open to helping other organizations on campus with their events," said Homecoming council member and sports management major, Alfredo Roig.

Those looking to get involved in SPC have two chances throughout the year to apply for membership. In the fall, applications are accepted from incoming, first-year students.

This application process began at the start of the school year and just recently ended. The next application period is at the beginning of the Spring semester. All students are invited to apply then. The process involves an application and interview.

Apart from membership, students also have the opportunity to join SPC Street. SPC Street is the promotional team for SPC, which will officially begin its work this October. Members of the team help promote SPC events around campus. In return, they receive rewards such as free gear and giveaways. They also receive priority seating and meal vouchers for events.

"SPC Street is the new hottest promotional team on campus," said SPC President Cristina Rodriguez.

Students looking to have a say in what events they want to see can still do so without actually being a part of SPC. The council accepts proposals from students and is always open to new ideas. To submit a proposal, students just need to enter it in writing to the SPC Office in Campus Life in GC 2240.

SPC offers advantages for members and students alike. Members have the opportunity to gain experience in leadership, event planning, networking, marketing and more. Students have the chance to attend fun, free events being held right on campus.

No matter what your interests are, SPC hopes to have an event for you. Check out a list of SPC's upcoming events on its Web site, www.fiu.edu/~spc.

"*Getting to Know FIU*" is a recurring set of stories about different departments and organizations relating to student life, focusing on what these entities are and how they affect on-campus arts and entertainment.

ALBUM REVIEW

Former Soundgarden front man fails in latest solo attempt

HECTOR MOJENA
Contributing Writer

Former Soundgarden front man, Chris Cornell, has proposed that his latest solo album, *Scream*, would be "an interesting sociological experiment."

But, it is more of an experiment in economics – as in, how will his record label recover economically from the massive losses when literally the only person who likes or wants to buy this travesty is Chris Cornell?

I tried to give this album a chance. We can't expect our irrelevant pop stars to be geniuses; this is the man who wrote "Rhinosaur" after all.

Even after I sifted through the wreckage of Chris Cornell's solo career and the overwhelmingly negative early reviews of the record, I kept an open mind and open ears.

Then, my ears began to bleed. *Scream* opens with fanfare in the form of synthesized horns in "Part of Me," that proudly declare how terrible the next 14 songs are going to be.

Interestingly enough, many of the song titles seem to actually be borrowed from other, better bands' songs.

We have "Climbing up the Walls", not to be confused with the much better Radiohead song, and a song called "Time" sans David Gilmour and Pink Floyd.

Hell, he even ends the album with a generic "girl" song – in this case, "Ordinary" – because, if anything, Chris Cornell wants you to take him seriously as an artist.

But how are we expected to mistake this clumsy, often uninspired mess for something inven-

tive, original or experimental? The music itself is so grating to listen to that it almost seems like a joke.

Timbaland's sonic imprint is all over this record – and not in a good way. My theory is that songs like "Watch Out" and "Scream" were originally supposed to be on the last Justin Timberlake record but were deemed too terrible for that, so they ended up here.

Almost every song has a chintzy, club-ready beat and superfluous synthesizers.

Chris Cornell's lyrics are even worse. They veer between the hilariously misogynistic ("Oh, that bitch ain't a part of me"), the completely obvious ("There's no need to scream baby, I'm standing right in front of your face"), to the inexplicable ("Watch out, she's going 90 in a residential zone").

Toward the end of the record, we get a hint of the old, Soundgarden-era Chris, as the songs start to introduce more traditional rock instrumentation but even that has been obliterated by the terrible songwriting saturating this record.

This is the Chris Cornell solo album absolutely no one has been waiting for.

The only positive thing I can say about this record is that it didn't break my car stereo. In a way, by abandoning the style of his earlier, better work, Cornell is asking us to forget who he once was and accept the new Chris for what he is.

I say, the old Chris Cornell would have totally kicked the new Chris Cornell's ass.

The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.

FIU students are invited to attend a Town Hall meeting that brings together for the first time Miami-Dade's top three public education leaders

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SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT	STREAK
East Division				
FIU	2-0	12-2	.857	W5
Middle Tennessee	1-0	8-6	.571	W3
Florida Atlantic	2-1	3-8	.273	W1
Troy	1-1	5-8	.385	W1
Western Kentucky	0-1	8-5	.615	L1
South Alabama	0-2	9-6	.600	L2
West Division				
New Orleans	2-0	9-5	.643	W5
Denver	1-0	6-9	.400	W2
Arkansas State	2-1	12-5	.706	W2
UALR	2-1	8-6	.571	W1
North Texas	0-1	4-11	.267	L1
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-2	6-11	.353	L4
Louisiana-Monroe	0-3	2-15	.118	L9

*All records and statistics up to date as of Sept. 28

HITTING PERCENTAGE		AVERAGE ASSISTS	
Stacy Oladinni, Midd Tenn.	.395	Natalia Valentin, FIU	11.87
Emmy Davidsmeyer, Denver	.389	Laura, Bennett, Arkansas St.	10.63
Meghan Gilroy, Troy	.362	Kresson Vreeman, Denver	10.46
Anita Bucur, UALR	.345	Leslie Clark, Midd Tenn.	10.20
Janay Yancey, Midd. Tenn.	.338	Jennica Hagberg, S. Alabama	10.02
Cayla Fielder, Arkansas St.	.332	Lauren Stuckel, W. Kentucky	9.79

KILLS		AVERAGE BLOCKS	
Emmy Davidsmeyer, Denver	4.56	Cayla Fielder, Arkansas St.	1.29
Meghan Gilroy, Troy	4.28	Lindsay Shwartz, S. Alabama	1.14
Anita Bucur, UALR	3.96	Kati Dillard, North Texas	1.12
Olga Vergun, FIU	3.74	Katharina Nobel	1.11
Juliana Almeida, S. Alabama	3.56	Janay Yancey, Midd Tenn.	1.02
Jovana Bjelca, FIU	3.52	Brittany Bowen, W. Kentucky	.96

AVERAGE DIGS		SERVICE ACES	
Heather Bowman, Arkansas St.	6.00	Kari Frazier, S. Alabama	.45
Nicky Valenti, New Orleans	4.96	Jennica Hagberg, S. Alabama	.40
Lindsay Brown, La. Lafayette	4.51	Lindsey Gould, W. Kentucky	.37
Chanel Araujo, FIU	4.31	Vesna Jelic, New Orleans	.35
Sarah Rogers, W. Kentucky	3.93	Juliana Almeida, S. Alabama	.35
Kacie Wikierak, Denver	3.85	Brittany Hoag, Arkansas St.	.34

TEAM ASSISTS		TEAM KILLS	
FIU	13.34	FIU	14.53
Denver	12.39	Denver	13.11
Western Kentucky	12.05	Western Kentucky	13.02
Arkansas State	11.98	Arkansas State	12.97
Middle Tennessee	11.92	UALR	12.85

TEAM BLOCKS		TEAM DIGS	
Arkansas	2.36	Arkansas State	15.72
UALR	2.21	Louisiana-Lafayette	15.29
Middle Tennessee	2.17	UALR	14.70
Western Kentucky	2.17	New Orleans	14.63
North Texas	2.17	FIU	14.38

Team's winning streak now up to 5

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

out the weekend with a sweep over the Jaguars.

"You make a statement when you beat a team 3-0," Tomic said. "You have to play every game up to our potential, the best that you can."

The Golden Panthers struggled with receiving serves against Troy but made adjustments against the Jaguars, allowing just one receiving error on the match.

"Our team showed on Sunday how much better we can play," Tomic said. "We have offensive weapons, but if we can't receive, our offense struggles. We talked to our team on Saturday about that aspect of the game and they reacted well."

With this win, the Golden Panthers improved their conference record to 2-0 while their win streak now stands at five.

FIU has not lost a single set since their last loss against Florida State at home on Sept. 12.

"It's the mentality that we are developing," Tomic said. "We are asking our team to come into every match playing better than the match before and if you can beat the team in three, that's what you have to do. We have that ability and we showed. We'll see how long this streak goes."

Rosa led the Golden Panther offense once again with 15 kills with Olga Vergun contributing nine kills. Sabrina Gonzalez had four blocks and Chanel Araujo had nine digs to help solidify the defense.

No players were available for comment.

The team returns to action this weekend at home with matches against Western Kentucky on Oct. 2 and Middle Tennessee on Oct. 4.

Panthers keep unwelcome guest away

BONILLA, page 12

over the last two weeks is something they needed to do to keep me away from their 2009 campaign. And based on the team's play of late, it has a much deeper roster than last season's lineup that depended heavily on Yarimar Rosa.

This team can succeed without Rosa and dominate with her.

DEEP ROSTER

Coach Danijela Tomic said it best after the New Orleans loss.

"They were able to stop Yarimar and we cannot win big matches without her ... I don't want to put pressure on Yari. She carried this team through the whole season," she said after the loss.

Tomic put her 2008 team's main and only true weakness in better perspective than anyone else could. Coaches often reflect after I've sneaked up on their teams.

However, the Golden Panthers are 9-2 while missing Rosa, and they even managed to win a set against the then-No. 22 Florida State Seminoles.

Olga Vergun is a senior who provides a very strong second option at the outside hitter position. Vergun was not on the team when I showed up, perhaps with her in the lineup, I would've never seen the Golden Panthers.

Rosa and Isadora Rangel were the main offensive weapons, and they both led the team in kills in the New Orleans game. Yet having

Vergun in the lineup puts less pressure on Rosa and Rangel to distribute most of the kills. One of them can now afford to have a night off.

DOMINATION

As they head back home with a 12-2 record to face the two toughest teams in the conference, the volleyball squad could not be playing at a higher level.

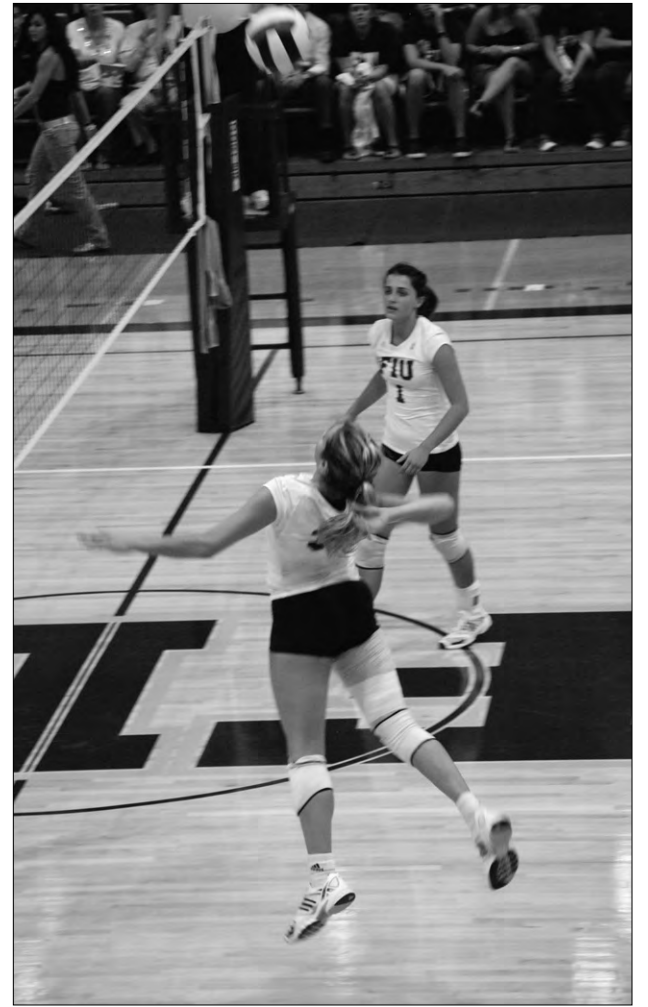
The last five games for the Golden Panthers have been more like scrimmages than live games. They played all five games on the road and did not drop one set during that stretch. The last time they lost a set was on Sept. 12 vs. FSU.

At first glance, I thought this was a good opportunity for the team to inflate their record with meaningless wins. But two Sun Belt teams were part of that five-game massacre and this is another way this season's team is different compared to the 2008 group.

Last season, the longest string of games they played without losing a set was two games. The next way of gauging progression from a year ago is to see how the team handles Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky. Those are the programs with the best chance of defeating the Golden Panthers. They went 1-1 against both conference rivals in 2008.

SO CLOSE

I was close to clearly making my way back to the Sun Belt Conference tournament.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

HEALED UP: Yarimar Rosa notched a season-high 17 kills vs. Troy in her return. She has played in three games this season.

Once Rosa became injured, the Golden Panther faithful was left wondering how she would return to the team as a hesitant or even scared player would've hurt the team's continuity. Her apprehension would've not have been reflected in the record much, but it would've appeared in the SBC tournament again.

She made her return vs. Troy and South Alabama and did not look like she had missed time. Rosa notched 32 kills in both games after being gone the last two weeks.

Well, that was my best

immediate chance to revisit the Golden Panthers. Rosa returning to the team as a hesitant or even scared player would've hurt the team's continuity. Her apprehension would've not have been reflected in the record much, but it would've appeared in the SBC tournament again.

But at this point, I don't see myself ending their season. Yet again, I don't plan my appearances. No one does.

Offense finds timing in OT win

SOCCER, page 12

Thomas Chestnutt to *fiusports.com*.

FIU 1, WKU 0 (OT)

FIU entered the game vs. Western Kentucky on Sept. 27 looking to snap a two-game losing streak and came out on top 1-0 in overtime in Bowling Green, Ky.

Freshman goalkeeper Savage notched her first career shutout win after junior midfielder Sorzano scored five minutes into overtime.

"It's awesome to get the win against this team - one of the top in the conference - and to do it in overtime is even more special," Sorzano said to *fiusports.com*.

Although the Hilltoppers outshot the Golden Panthers 15-9, the FIU defense was able to hold back a strong Western Kentucky offense that has six wins.

"In the second half,



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

BREAKING AWAY: Sophomore defender Jessica Gambill picked up her second assist of the season on a game winning goal in overtime against Western Kentucky.

our defense held it down for us," Sorzano said to *fiusports.com*. "Katrina (Rose) and Jessica (Gambill) had great games and Amy (Jackson) in the middle was our force defensively. It was a great team effort."

Getting the assist on

the goal was sophomore defender Gambill, getting the ball to Sorzano with perfect timing, something the Golden Panthers have lacked all season.

With the win, the Golden Panthers improve to 3-5-2 (1-1).

The team begins a four-game homestand on Oct. 2 against Denver. They are a win away from matching last season's total. Players and coaches were unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Wild weekend makes for major shake-up in Top 25

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP Wire

After a weekend in which four top-10 teams lost, The Associated Press college football poll received a major makeover.

No. 1 Florida, No. 2 Texas and No. 3 Alabama held their places in the media poll released Sept. 27, but 15 teams moved up or down at least three spots.

LSU is up to No. 4 after barely avoiding an upset at Mississippi State on Saturday. No. 5 Boise State is in the top five for the first time in the regular season.

No. 6 Virginia Tech, No. 7 Southern California and No. 9 Ohio State are back in the top 10. Cincinnati moved up four spots to No. 10, the best ranking in school history.

No. 13 Iowa and No. 16 Oregon both jumped back into the rankings after beating top-10 teams. Georgia Tech also moved back into the rankings. Falling out were

Florida State, North Carolina and Washington, which followed its upset of USC with a 34-14 loss at Stanford on Sept. 26.

Florida (4-0) had no problem beating Kentucky, but lost quarterback Tim Tebow to a concussion late in the third quarter of its 41-7 victory. Florida is off this week before playing at LSU on Oct. 10.

For the second consecutive week the Southeastern Conference has three of the top four teams in the country, with LSU replacing Mississippi.

The Gators, Longhorns and Crimson Tide are the only preseason top-10 teams that have not lost a game. Six times already this season a team ranked in the top 10 has lost to an unranked team.

A volatile weekend for highly ranked teams began Sept. 24 in South Carolina, when the unranked Gamecocks beat then-No. 4 Mississippi. Ole Miss fell 17 spots

to No. 21.

And that was only the second-largest drop by a ranked team this week.

After California was routed 42-3 by Oregon on Sept. 26, the Bears fell 18 spots from No. 6 to No. 24. Cal hosts USC on Oct. 3.

Penn State lost its first game, falling 21-10 at home to Iowa. The Nittany Lions fell 10 spots to No. 15.

Virginia Tech's 31-7 win against Miami, boosted the Hokies five spots and sent the 17th-ranked Hurricanes tumbling eight spots. Miami faces No. 8 Oklahoma at home on Oct. 3.

TCU is up four spots to No. 11, followed by another potential BCS buster, undefeated Houston. Georgia and Kansas are tied for No. 18 and BYU is No. 20.

No. 23 Michigan, which needed a late rally and a controversial call to go its way to beat Indiana 36-33, was the only team outside the top three to hold its spot.

PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TOUCHDOWN MACHINE: T.Y. Hilton led the Golden Panthers offense again this week. He caught nine passes for 126 yards and a touchdown. He's scored at least once in every game this season.



TORONTO SMITH

The junior inside linebacker led the Golden Panthers in tackles and was the lone bright spot on a defense that gave up 566 yards against the Toledo Rockets.



PAULA HURTADO

The junior entered the final round of the Bettie Lou Evans Invitational tied for fourth place and carded a 2-under 69 to tie for top honors with No. 52 nationally ranked Macarena Sukva of Florida State. It was her second win of her collegiate career.



NATALIA VALENTIN

The junior setter helped her teammates by setting them up with 21 assists. She had no hitting errors for a .500 hitting percentage and added eight digs and three kills in the Golden Panthers 3-0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-17) win over South Alabama.



YARIMAR ROSA

In her first two games back from a hand injury, the junior All-American led the team in kills, 32, during their wins over Troy and South Alabama.



KAITLYN SAVAGE

The freshman goalie kept Western Kentucky out of the back of the net as the Golden Panthers won its first conference game after defeating Western Kentucky on Sept. 27. She recorded seven saves in her first shutout.

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VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED DOMINANCE



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

STRONG RETURN: Yarimar Rosa picked up her Sun Belt record 10th Player of the Week award due to her big injury comeback.

Golden Panthers sweep weekend foes

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

Yarimar Rosa made her return from a dislocated pinky injury as the Golden Panthers (12-2, 2-0) went on to collect clean sweeps against Troy (5-8) and South Alabama (9-6) on Sept. 25 and 27, respectively.

FIU 3, TROY 0 (25-20, 25-21, 25-22)

The Golden Panthers began conference play on the road and welcomed back Yarimar Rosa in a sweep over conference rival Troy.

Coach Danijela Tomic noted some of the difficulties inserting Rosa back in the lineup

after missing nearly every non-conference game.

"It was good to have Yari back, but we needed to get in sync now playing in a new lineup," Tomic said. "Every time we change something it changes the dynamics of the team."

The Golden Panthers struggled on receiving serves throughout the match, committing 10 receiving errors. But it wasn't enough to stop FIU from earning their first conference win of the season.

Despite the win, Tomic felt that the team came in with the wrong mindset.

"It was good to beat the team 3-0, but I was not satisfied with the way that we played," Tomic said. "It was sloppy... it

comes down to mental preparation."

In her return, Rosa compiled 17 kills which was a team-high for the match and the Trojans did not have an answer to her offensive attack.

Andrea Lakovic and Jovana Bjelica also had double digit kills, Lakovic with 11 and Bjelica with 10.

The victory extended the Golden Panthers' win streak to four games.

FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-17)

South Alabama was unable to slow the Golden Panthers down as the team closed

VOLLEYBALL, page 10

Strong run keeps upset demons dormant

I'm every great team's worst nightmare and every underdog's dream.

I greet No. 1 teams by handing them losses to inferior opponents.

I met the 2008 Golden Panthers volleyball team after the 3-0 loss to New Orleans in just the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament. I'm the reason their motto this year is "finish strong."

COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA

I'm the upset that bumped into the Golden Panthers last season.

I had a rendezvous with the team in 2008, but unfortunately I most likely won't be seeing the squad this season.

Watching the team's domination displayed

BONILLA, page 10



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

TEAM EFFORT: Since losing three of four sets to No. 22 ranked Florida State, FIU has reeled off a 15-set winning streak.

WOMEN'S SOCCER



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

STRONG SAVE: Freshman keeper Kaitlyn Savage recorded 140 shutout minutes for FIU.

Team splits opening conference games

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team began Sun Belt Conference play with two road games against Middle Tennessee State and Western Kentucky. The team managed to earn a split this weekend as they fell to Middle Tennessee before ousting Western Kentucky in an overtime.

MTSU 2, FIU 0

In front of a crowd of 439, the Golden Panthers lost their first Sun Belt Conference game of the season on Sept. 25 in Murfrees-

boro, Tenn.

With Mayara Bordin and Madeleine Hjorth out due to injury, the Golden Panthers were unable to stop a red hot Middle Tennessee team that won its fourth consecutive game.

The 2-0 loss began with a corner kick goal by Middle Tennessee's Jaimee Cooper roughly 32 minutes into the game. Shan Jones scored on a penalty kick to net the Blue Raiders' second goal of the game at the 35-minute mark.

While sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Raimo started in between the posts, freshman Kaitlyn Savage took over at the half and recorded three saves to keep the damage to a

minimum for FIU.

Although FIU outshot Middle Tennessee 7-5, none of the shots from Casey Thames, Marina Pappas, Cassandra Sorzano, Jessica Gambill or Kaley Durrance were able to find the back of the net.

With 9:28 left, Middle Tennessee was issued a yellow card, but held on to win and increase their record to (7-1-1). With the loss, FIU now falls to (2-6-2).

"A corner and a penalty kick did us in. I felt that we were playing pretty well and created opportunities," said Golden Panthers coach

SOCCER, page 10