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RUSSIA

Commercial space station underway

A private Russian space firm and a state-controlled spacecraft manufacturer are planning to build and operate the world's first commercial space station and expect it to be launched by 2016.



NORTH KOREA

Ailing leader begins transition of power

North Korea's ailing leader Kim Jong Il has laid the groundwork for a transition of power to his youngest son but it remains to be seen if the regime will soften its combative international stance.



AFGHANISTAN

Senior al-Qaida commander killed

A NATO air strike killed a senior al-Qaida commander who coordinated attacks by Arab fighters, Abdallah Umar al-Qurayshi, in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Wednesday.

Summons process sparks heated debate during hearing

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

On Sept. 27, the Student Government Council at Modesto A. Maidique Senate meeting caused heated debate between SGC-MMC Vice President Nick Autiello and the rest of the senators during the senate summons process.

The Senate had previously called four members of the SGC-MMC Executive Cabinet to come before it and present their current and future projects. Although four were called, only two were present at the meeting.

Director of Campus Life, Alex Lastra, was not present at the meeting, but had warned the Senate that he would not be able to attend the hearings because it conflicted with his job schedule.

Lastra's absence at the senate meeting called for SGC-MMC Speaker Pro Tempore, Hector Mujica, to initiate an investigation, which will be led by Internal Affairs. The report that is currently being

conducted on Lastra will be submitted next Monday, Oct. 4.

SGC-MMC Comptroller Maria Rosa-Blanco was not present at the meeting since her specific hearing was held because of a writ of certiorari submitted by SGC-MMC Attorney General Altenese Phenelus, which questioned the legality of the Senate summoning the comptroller.

The constitution allows the Senate to summon members of the executive cabinet for review of their work; however, it states that the comptroller is not a part of the cabinet, but her own person.

According to Article four Section two of the SGC-MMC Constitution, "The Executive Branch shall be composed of a president, vice president, comptroller, executive cabinet and the elections board."

As stated above, the comptroller is in fact not a part of the cabinet and belongs to the executive branch as a whole.

WATCH TEA, DRINK ART



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

FIU alum, Melissa Fernandez, a psychology major, attended the Fine Art Student Association's "Watch Tea Drink Art" event featuring the works of four FIU students on Sept. 23 at Special Tea Lounge.

The Senate is allowed to summon members of the executive cabinet and members of the legislative branch.

The writ was sent to the SGC-MMC Supreme Court and the constitutionality of the summons

will be decided on Oct. 1, at 12:15 p.m. The comptroller may or may not be called to speak before the Senate dependent upon the court's decision. Debate began as soon as Director of External Relations, Andrea Aldahari, came

before the Senate to present her work. Some questions from Arts & Architecture Senator, Moses Aluicio, about her attendance at a recent Board of Governors meeting caused a heated

SUMMONS, page 2

'Kill-a-watt' competition aims to save \$10,000

ZORAIDA PASTOR
Staff Writer

Beginning on Oct. 6, Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions will be challenging students at the University to "kill-a-watt."

According to Viktor El-Saieh, president of IDEAS, "Kill-a-watt" is an energy saving competition between all buildings on campus. The program is modeled after a similar competition held by the University of Central Florida, which has been running the program for four years now.

"I pledged to save the University \$10,000 or 10 percent of their energy costs," El-Saieh said. "My plan is

to reduce [students'] energy consumption for two months." The University's department of Housing and Residential Life is fully supporting the program as well. Prizes for participants include: Nooks, iPods, digital cameras and scholarships.

The scholarships are divided between Residential Assistants and students in the dorms. Residential Assistants will receive scholarships based on the amount of students they bring in relation to the amount they have in their building. Residential Assistants with the highest attendance rates will receive scholarships.

The student scholarships will be based on the amount of energy the entire building reduces and

a two-page essay on what the student did to reduce energy, how he or she thinks the competition can be improved and suggestions for saving energy in the future.

According to El-Saieh, Residential Assistants from buildings who reduce energy consumption by 10 to 15 percent will be asked to nominate students who they have seen working to conserve energy.

"With these incentives, people are really going to want to participate," states Jenna Jennings, intern for the Office of University Sustainability.

Aside from incentives and saving energy, the kill-a-watt program aims to inform students with energy saving tips through

a series of workshops.

"[That's] what it's all about, educating people," said Jessica Okaty, vice president of Students for Environmental Action. "[People] have the power to make a change."

The seminars will be held during the second week of October and will continue until the last week of November.

There will be several topics discussed, including reasons to save energy and different ways to do so.

"[Kill-a-watt] is worth a shot," said Okaty. "It is only a pilot program [lasting] only eight weeks, if the turn out is good we should be able to count on [it continuing] in future semesters."

FIU VS. PITT

Team to square off in road game

IGOR MELLO
Staff writer

Both teams have the same school colors, the same mascot and have yet to defeat a BCS opponent this season; although, these schools carry plenty of similarities, FIU and the University of Pittsburgh are completely different from each other on the gridiron.

The Golden Panthers of FIU will have its last chance to defeat a BCS school on Saturday before Sun Belt conference play begins.

Pittsburgh will be FIU's fourth consecutive BCS opponent this season, the most scheduled by any Sun Belt schools.

"We are aware of the fact that our team that plays four BCS out-of-conference opponents but our players and our staff will approach that as a challenge," Cristobal said.

According to Cristobal, no challenge will be bigger than this. He claims that Pittsburgh will be the toughest BCS opponent FIU has faced this season.

"That is about as physical of a football team we will see all year long," Cristobal said.

Although Cristobal has raved about the size of Pitt's lineman and their physicality, running back Darriet Perry feels like they can take advantage of Pitt's size with their speed.

"We're quicker and...I think we can outsmart them by carrying out the play fakes really well," said Perry, who despite having 33 rushing yards has scored two of FIU's eight touchdowns this season.

FOOTBALL, page 4

FIU VS. PITT

Gameday

- Time: 3:30 p.m.
- When: 10/02/10
- Where: Pittsburgh, Pa
- TV: ESPN3.com
- Watch Party @ S Bar

NEWS FLASH

Mystery on Palmetto as cab passenger dies

A man flew to Miami, hailed a taxi and muttered wildly in Spanish before running into traffic on the Palmetto Expressway early Tuesday.

“What are you doing?” the incredulous taxi driver had shouted a second earlier, seeing the man unbuckling his seat belt and reaching for the door.

Moments later, the man was dead. The passenger, whose identity was not known, lay face down in the center lane around 3:30 a.m. as the driver yelled at traffic to veer away, according to the Sun Sentinel.

However, a pickup truck struck and killed him. Investigators on Tuesday were still unraveling what appears to be a mysterious suicide on the busy highway.

Census snapshot of S. Florida: Poverty up, wealth down

A flood of Census data released Tuesday crystalized some of the trends under way as South Florida reckons with a wrenching economic downturn, a tepid recovery and a transformed real estate market, according to The Miami Herald.

Cheap houses are on the rise. Pricey ones are in retreat. More houses sit empty as the region recovers from an ill-advised building boom as poverty expanded.

Thousands of cheap urban condos built during the boom are now attracting renters and bargain hunters. The city of Miami, the center of the nation’s condo building binge, saw its population surge 25 percent this year to about 433,000.

Bank heist investigation: FBI offers \$50,000 reward

Bishop Eddie Long, known for his public crusades against homosexuality, faces serious allegations, according to CNN. Two young men who were members of Long’s New Birth Missionary Baptist Church filed lawsuits claiming he used his position as their spiritual counselor to coerce them into sexual relationships.

The men—Anthony Flagg, 21, and Maurice Robinson, 20—allege Long used to take them on overnight trips where they shared a bedroom and engaged in kissing, masturbation and “oral sexual contact.”

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Arts center affected by mold issues

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Student Media previously reported that a mold infestation closed down the Political Science Department and Modern Languages Department offices, displacing around fifty individuals who work in these offices in the Deuxieme Maison building.

Student Media has learned that the Wertheim Performing Arts Center was also closed for a prolonged period due to mold infestation found on the theater side of the building.

The WPAC is now open and avail-

able for use after Servpro, a company that specializes in water damage and mold mitigation, intervened.

Student Media reached out to members of Facilities Management for comments on the mold infestation which affected the WPAC, but as of press time, has not heard back.

While the WPAC is open and fully functioning again, the offices in the DM building have yet to reopen for use.

Initially, Facilities Management had given members of the Political Science Department a deadline of Sept. 7 for reopening the offices, but as *Student Media* has learned,

the offices will reopen on Monday, Oct. 4.

Previously, the Department of Environmental Health and Safety reported on Aug. 12 that penicillium and aspergillus, types of mold that are typically associated with allergy symptoms, had been found in the fourth floor offices of DM; neither of these strains of mold present serious health risks.

Student Media reached out to Facilities Management to see if the WPAC was affected by the same types of mold; however, as of press time, Facilities Management has not responded.

Flu shot available for all students

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

University Health Services is providing students, faculty and staff the opportunity to get a flu shot without stepping off campus.

In accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, UHS is offering the shot for \$16 for all students. A flu shot is considered the best protection against the flu according to the FIU HealthCare Network’s website.

The shot protects against the most common types of influenza, including the H1N1 strain that affected so

many people last year. The HCN states that those most at risk include young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic illnesses.

“Due to flu seasons we’ve had in the past, it is especially important for people with chronic illnesses to get vaccinated,” said Lourdes Diaz-Bergouignan, Senior Nurse Manager at UHS.

UHS suggests that anyone at high risk for the flu or in care of someone with a high risk should get vaccinated. Because the shot is open for everyone, it will be available at both Modesto A. Maidique Campus and

Biscayne Bay Campus.

For more information about getting a flu shot at UHS at Biscayne Bay Campus, call 305-919-5620, extension 2. To get a shot at UHS at Modesto A. Maidique Campus, call 305-348-2401, extension 22. Faculty and staff will also be able to receive the shot through the College of Medicine’s Faculty Practice Plan, and practice hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling 305-348-DOCS.

“They are available as long as supplies last,” said Diaz-Bergouignan.

Autiello: hearings to ask cabinet members questions, ‘not attack them’

SUMMONS, page 1

response from Autiello. After the commotion calmed down, the hearings were closed and the meeting moved along.

“These hearings were created for the Senate to ask questions about the summoned person and their current projects, not to attack

them,” said Autiello. After the meeting, Autiello spoke to *Student Media* and expressed his thoughts on the summons hearing. “I feel like there are certain senators that are more worried about what everyone else is doing than what they themselves are doing for the University,” Autiello said.

Chief Information Officer, Julio

Yanes, also appeared before the Senate and presented his current project to the senators.

Yanes, who was appointed during the summer of this year, is currently working on a survey to gauge the quality of customer service provided by different University departments who deal with students on a consistent basis.

THE BEACON



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VOLLEYBALL

ROAD ASSESSMENT

Panthers look to re-establish themselves vs. SBC best

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers will be going on the road this weekend for a two game set against Sun Belt Conference teams that are getting national recognition.

FIU (8-6, 2-0 SBC) will face Middle Tennessee State (12-4, 3-0 SBC) on Oct. 1 at 8 p.m., and they will look to gain some revenge from last year's SBC championship game, where they fell to the Blue Raiders despite being the conference's top seed.

The team then play at Western Kentucky on Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.

The Blue Raiders received 22 votes for the Women's Volleyball Top 25 Coaches Poll, and it comes with good reason. Freshman Outside Hitter Una Trkulja believes it will be a challenge.

"I think it's gonna be a tough weekend." Trkulja said. "We have to play our best to win. We can't be lazy."

Isabela Kozan, the Blue Raiders' legitimate attacking threat, leads the SBC in kills with 240. While leading the offense, Kozan has two players that can set her up for the kills.

Morgan Peterson and Angela Peyton are great setup players, with Peterson having 378 assists and Peyton having 313 assists of her own.

The defense is up to par as well, with Brynne Anderson holding down the metaphorical fort with 212 digs.



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers defeated Denver and North Texas last weekend to start SBC play unbeaten. The team will be tested by two of the conferences best this weekend.

Kozan is no slouch on defense, adding 127 digs of her own. Those are four players that can win games for the Blue Raiders and another reason they are considered a national powerhouse team.

Although they are considered a good team, Junior Middle Blocker Andrea Lakovic is not too worried about Middle Tennessee.

"They lost a lot of players, just like we lost a lot of players," Lakovic said.

"They are beatable, just like every team is beatable."

The Panthers will have to make a quick turnaround, as they will play the next day against Western Kentucky.

Head Coach Daniela Tomic knows the hectic nature of back to back games.

"It's tough for us since we're playing back-to-back," Tomic said. "So you can't really talk about both teams the whole time. You can't give them scouting reports for

both teams because they are different. So they have to focus on Middle Tennessee first, and then have a quick turnaround for Western Kentucky."

Western Kentucky University (13-4, 2-0 SBC), who was also recognized in the Top 25 Coaches Poll with two votes, knows how to start matches and finish them.

So far this season, the Hilltoppers have held their opponents to an average first set and third set score of 19.6 points, which means they know how to hold opponents to low scores when it matters.

Kills come from a platoon of players, including Junior Middle Hitter Tiffany Elmore. The concentration of the offense focuses on Freshman Setter Melanie Stutsman.

Stutsman currently has 621 assists and is averaging 10.53 aps, good for second place in the SBC.

Lakovic was short but firm on where she stood against Western Kentucky.

"With Western Kentucky, if we shut down their middles, we're going to do fine," Lakovic said.

The road can be tough, especially against conference opponents. Coach Danijela Tomic feels that the early season road schedule in which the team split its 12 games helped this team get battle tested.

"I think they'll be ready. Again, we played four pre-season tournaments on the road," Tomic said.

"It's not gonna be much different."

FANTASY CRUZ

Rivalries often bring out the best; pick up some Jets

Week three of fantasy football is under way and things are heating up.

Rivalries in the NFL are under hyped compared to college football and I don't understand why.

NFL rivalries surprise many fans and fantasy owners alike when players who are usually mediocre and inconsistent explode with successful performances.

Why is it that when you go to Jets-Dolphins games in Miami, there are just as many New Yorkers there as there are fans?

As much as New Yorkers love and praise their city, it's pretty ironic that most of them end up in South Florida.

In the past decade, the Jets and the Dolphins have been on the backburner of the AFC East behind Tom Brady and the Patriots.

Recently, the tables have turned while both Mark Sanchez and Chad Henne had "Brady-esque" performances, throwing for over 300 yards and three touchdowns each.

Antonio Cromartie was in the twilight zone on Monday night when he had to face the receiver that haunted him just a year ago by catching 18 passes in a single game against him.

Brandon Marshall torched Cromartie

once again, acquiring 10 catches for 166 yards and a touchdown.

The dumbfounded look on Jason Allen's face when he faked the interception in the fourth quarter was an all-game occurrence while Braylon Edwards embarrassed him with 87 yards and a touchdown.

Dustin Keller added to the misery with six catches for 98 yards and two touchdowns.

The Texans shocked the world with their week one win over the Colts. The Cowboys stepped in their neighbor's yard and proved they're still the team to beat in Texas.

Tony Romo had a phenomenal game throwing for 298 yards and two touchdowns, while Matt Schaub had a grotesque game throwing for over 200 yards and a touchdown, but threw two interceptions as well.

This far into the season I can confidently say the Cowboys receiving core is top three in the league. Dez Bryant should be labeled "Michael Irvin Jr." after showing us what he is capable of.

After his four catches and 50 yards game on Sunday, he took the team out to dinner and raked up the bill to over \$54,000. Roy Williams caught his first touchdown of the season as well.

THE TRASH BIN

Devin Aromashodu (Chicago Bears) - While he does have a really cool name, the Bears just aren't using him all of a sudden

after a productive first week. He didn't get any playing time against the Packers and because of the way Hester and Knox are playing, his future doesn't look too promising. Trash him.

Robert Meachem (New Orleans Saints) - If Marques Coslton is not getting his usual fantasy points so far, it's pretty tough for Brees to get the ball to a number four or five receiver. Last season, Meachem was a solid free agent to pick up when your go-to receiver had a bye week. Meachem only has four receptions with 38 yards this season. Se Acabo.

Jerome Harrison (Cleveland Browns) - Now that LeBron is gone, there's no hope for Cleveland or Harrison. He is coming back from an injury, but do not get your hopes up too high, fantasy owners.

Peyton Hillis is coming off an excellent game with 144 yards. This means split carries and if Harrison doesn't perform, Hillis will win the starting job.

HOT PICKS

Mark Sanchez (New York Jets) - I find it funny how a Mexican reporter wanted to interview Sanchez when he doesn't even speak Spanish.

Sanchez has thrown for over 300 yards and three touchdowns in his last two games.

If the "Sanchize" is a free agent in your league, pick him up and start him if your quarterback is playing a tough defense.

Buffalo is probably the worst team in the league and he should pick them apart.

Dexter McCluster (Kansas City Chiefs) - One can use the argument that he's a one-dimensional back.

One can also use the argument that Darren Sproles was one of the best fantasy backs in 2009.

McCluster has the same potential as Sproles. He is mainly used in passing situations for screens or third-down conversions.

Dustin Keller (New York Jets) - I like to think of Dustin Keller as a more athletic Dallas Clark. He had 98 yards and two touchdowns last week and is only getting better.

He is a very strong wide receiver who can block.

He poses mismatches against linebackers because of his speed and against defensive backs because of his size.

SANTANA SCRUTINY

Everyone knows by now how I feel about Santana Moss, but I must give credit where credit is due.

Moss had an impressive 124 yards receiving and a touchdown. May I point out it was against the Rams?

Not bad for a guy who has stunk the past three years in fantasy football in general. Moss is going against the Eagles defense next week. It's not looking too good for him.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

FIU shuts down North Texas

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team is starting off with their best start in conference play in ten years, and are still looking for more

After beating both the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Arkansas State at home, they will now travel to both Troy and South Alabama this weekend in hopes of continuing the success they have gained thus far.

The Trojans (7-2-1) are currently riding a seven game unbeaten streak, and sit atop the conference along with FIU as being undefeated so far.

The biggest key for the Golden Panthers will be to contain the offense of Troy, who as of now has the most goals per game in the Sun Belt Conference.

Also, junior forward Mary Morris is third in the conference for goals per game, with ten. Coach Thomas Chestnutt expects Troy to be very organized team, and says that his team must be patient when facing them.

After the battle with Troy, they will then face off against South Alabama (3-7-1). The Jaguars just recently beat Louisiana-Monroe, and have a good home record, at 2-0-1.

Carlan Jones talked about the difference between a road weekend compared to a weekend at home.

"The traveling kind of wears you out, and at home you're more relaxed," Jones said.

Kassandra Sorzano also commented that, "At home you're more comfortable" and that "On the road it takes away, but you still got to stay focused."

Another obstacle the Golden Panthers

must overcome besides playing on the road against two conference foes is the inclement weather here in Miami.

"We will hopefully be able to get some kind of training in" said Coach Chestnutt "you just have to be creative with what you do and make you of the time that you do have."

The team has been a defense force so far, as they have two shutout victories in conference play.

They are also among the top five in the nation in save percentage, on top of getting ranked No. 9 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America South Region Rankings.

"I think we've been done a good job as a team up till now defending as a team, and we've been pretty stingy in that regard in terms of giving up goals," Chestnutt said.

He also stated that there not going to be doing anything differently against Troy, and said "We stress team defense and that's what we're going to continue to do."

FIU takes on Troy at 4 p.m. on Oct. 1, and South Alabama Oct. 3 at 2 p.m.

FIU AT TROY; USA

- Time: 4 p.m.; 2 p.m.
- When: Oct. 1; Oct. 3
- Where: Troy; USA
- TV: None

FOOTBALL

Ellingson steps into role

FOOTBALL, page 1

LEWIS THE HEISMAN HOPEFUL

Another point of concern for the Golden Panthers is their defensive unit. After allowing 19 points to Rutgers and 27 to Texas A&M, the Golden Panthers allowed a whopping 42 points to a struggling Maryland team. Three of Maryland's six touchdowns came on plays over 65 yards, including a punt return.

Geoff Collins' unit will have to focus on one of the most dynamic tailbacks in college football. Pitt's Dion Lewis had one of the most productive seasons a freshman could ever have. Lewis, a Heisman hopeful, rushed for 1,799 yards and 17 touchdowns, only 126 yards shy of Adrian Peterson's NCAA record for most rushing yards by a freshman in a season.

This season, Lewis isn't even leading his team in rushing yards. Another sophomore, Ray Graham has exploded for 215 yards on 23 carries.

Although Lewis is still the starter, Cristobal will not let his defense overlook the talent of Lewis nor any other

running back on Pittsburgh's roster.

"We are very well aware of his talent and his capabilities. If you watch film of him this year, he is literally a shoe-string tackle away from having the types of games he is used to having," Cristobal said.

CARROLL TO ELLINGSON CONNECTION

Wesley Carroll threw for a season-high 355 yards last week against Maryland and seemed to have a connection with wide out Greg Ellingson.

The senior receiver caught six passes for 93 yards last week, including a 43-yard touchdown catch.

Ellingson beat Maryland cornerback Cameron Chism off of the line of scrimmage on numerous occasions last week.

According to Cristobal, Ellingson's role on the offense will continue to increase as the season progresses.

"The more of those guys you have, the less you can focus on one specific part of the field," said Cristobal, who feels like the emergence of players like will help out T.Y. Hilton, the number one receiver on the team.

"We feel like we're getting to the point where we can trust a lot of different guys to get the ball to and they can make something happen with it. The more we can do that, the more dangerous we become on offense and in turn, the more we can help our defense," Cristobal said.

COLD WEATHER UP NORTH

Oct. 2 marks the first time FIU has faced off against Pitt in football, as well as the first time the Golden Panthers will deal with any kind of cold weather this season.

In fact, Pittsburgh will be the northernmost city the Golden Panthers will have to travel to in this entire season.

"The weather is going to be a little bit different up there in Pittsburgh. It shouldn't be raining but it should be 45 to 50 degrees up which we welcome that," said Cristobal.

"I'm sure for some of these South Florida kids, that's a hand warmer game."

Despite that, Cristobal reassures the team will have no problem with that climate.

"If you try to think about the weather and make it an issue, then it will be an issue," Cristobal said.

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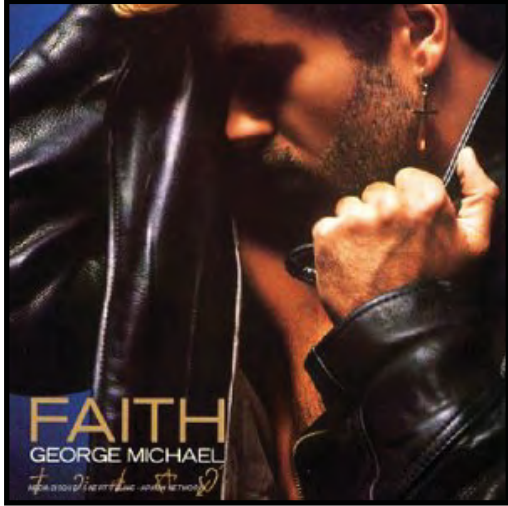
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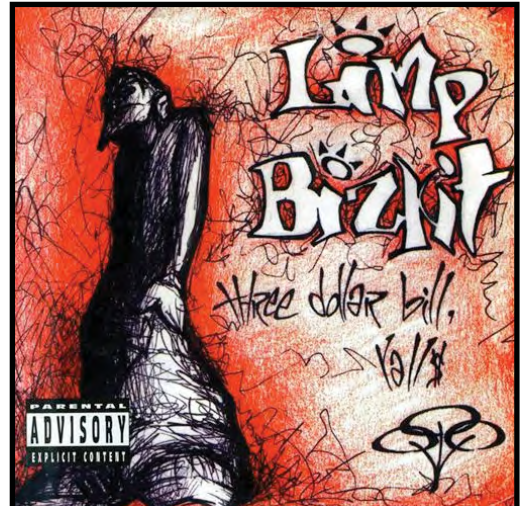
Six cover songs that do not live up to the originals



COURTESY OF GEORGEMICHAEL.COM



COURTESY OF MOBY.COM



COURTESY OF LIMPBIZKIT.COM

HECTOR MOJENA Staff Writer

Cover songs can do a lot for an artist such as increase their artistic credibility among critics and fans, perhaps even expose their adoring listeners to obscure music they wouldn't necessarily research on their own.

Well, this list isn't about those cover songs.

Instead, here is a document of the soul crushing despair that a writer must endure to bring to you these wretched examples of aural diarrhea.

1. TEMPTATION BY MOBY (ORIGINALLY BY NEW ORDER)

This is the second time that something negative has been written about Moby in these pages, and if this completely soulless rendition of a New Order classic is any indication, it won't be the last.

It's as if he heard the original version, an upbeat electronic dance number about soul searching, and tried to re-imagine it as the music you hear

while watching Wheel of Fortune reruns in a dentist's office. In Wisconsin.

There are so many things wrong here: from the deathly slow Fruit Loops drum sample that plods through the song, to the disinterested chanteuse who just kind of breathily intones the lyrics while apparently recovering from a stupor.

Turning an ecstatic pop song into a theme song for anti-depressant users should be a punishable offence, right?

2. HEROES BY THE WALL-FLOWERS (ORIGINALLY BY DAVID BOWIE)

This is perhaps one of David Bowie's best known songs and rightfully so: the romantic longing of the lyrics combined with Robert Fripp's unmistakable and wholly original guitar lead makes for one of the most beautifully realized love songs of Cold War-era pop.

Why then did Bob Dylan's son, Jakob Dylan, decide to re-record this amazing tune for the Godzilla soundtrack?

Well, unfortunately, it wasn't so his band could improve upon it. Much like Moby's butchering of "Temptation," this track manages to take the bombastic yearning of the original and distill it into Starbucks-ready background music.

Also, it was recorded specifically for the soundtrack of a really bad movie, so there's that.

3. AMERICAN JESUS BY SIMPLE PLAN (ORIGINALLY BY BAD RELIGION)

The fact that Simple Plan can claim even some modicum of influence from a band with as much cultural cachet as Bad Religion only makes this cover more heart-wrenching to write about.

Try searching for it on YouTube, if you dare, but beware: all you'll find is the epitome of human despair, desperation and the worst atrocities this world has ever seen made sound.

Surprisingly, that sounds suspiciously like what a Simple Plan cover band covering Green Day covering Bad Religion might sound like.

4. LAND OF CONFUSION BY DISTURBED (ORIGINALLY BY GENESIS)

Obviously when you think of Phil Collins-era Genesis, you think angry jock-metal. Or, I suppose, that is what the members of Disturbed think when they listen to their well-worn copies of Genesis' Invisible Touch.

There isn't really much that needs to be said to describe this because it sounds exactly how you think it does.

You could simulate the experience of hearing this travesty by playing the original and a Limp Bizkit tune at the same time. It might even be better than the Genesis version, I mean.

5. FAITH BY LIMP BIZKIT (ORIGINALLY BY GEORGE MICHAEL) AND...

6. BEHIND BLUE EYES BY LIMP BIZKIT (ORIGINALLY BY THE WHO)

Speaking of Limp Bizkit, what list of the worst covers of all time would be complete without their particular contributions to the

field?

After all, not many artists, or guys with backwards baseball caps and silly face paint, can lay claim to such a feat.

"Faith" helped break the band at a time when the definition of "alternative," so it's no surprise that people latched onto the metal-esque headaches that the band so effortlessly laid to tape.

Furthering their assault on all things that are not as bad as Limp Bizkit, the band tried its hand at re-interpreting The Who by taking a heartfelt song about the loneliness and anger Pete Townshend felt about his position in the band and adding a robotic backing vocal that smoothly intones "DISCOVER L-I-M-P."

Geniuses that they are, the band even managed to change some of the lyrics around to give it that Bizkit sensibility.

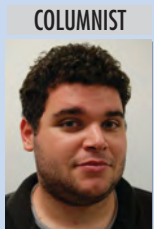
Did I mention that Halle Berry appears in the music video for this song and makes out with Fred Durst?

And there's only Fred Durst's backwards baseball cap to blame for the songs.

FISTFULS OF TECH

Social media sites beginning to impact elections

Elections have always been difficult to predict, even for media outlets like CNN with their scientific polls and multi-touch screens. However, the answer to effectively predicting the outcome of an election might be right under our noses: social media.



JORGE VALENS

Almost every winning candidate in the primary elections that occurred on Sept. 14 has far more followers on social media sites like Facebook than the losing one, according to a CNN report.

The article cites the Delaware Senate Republican primary battle between Tea Party backed candidate and Mama Grizzly, Christine O'Donnell and Republican Mike Castle. In this case, Castle had a mere 2,453 fans on Facebook while O'Donnell towered over him with 9,883.

"Overall, we've seen that candidates are using Facebook as a free resource to reach voters directly, without having to go through the traditional media filter or pay for television and radio ads," said Facebook spokesman Andrew Noyes in an e-mail to CNN. "Campaigns are using Facebook to organize and communicate with voters in a way unimaginable a decade ago."

Similar instances occurred in different races all over the country, varying from mayoral races to primaries for vacant House of Representatives seats; most of the winning candidates had more fans than their opponents.

We've seen the effect social media and the Internet have had in elections since the trend took off in the mid 2000's. Social media has really reshaped the political landscape. Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter allow candidates to reach voters instantly and for little to no money.

In the geekiest reference I can muster, what

this basically boils down to is that social media and the Internet have upgraded the conventional elections process, which some experts dub "election 2.0."

Voters can interact with their candidates easily, and those candidates who interact back win elections. The perfect, and more obvious example of all of this, is President Barack Obama's campaign in 2008. The president was able to raise large amounts of money because of two things: the American people's willingness to rid the White House of the scourge of the Bush presidency and an aggressive web campaign.

Obama was everywhere from Twitter to Facebook, engaging voters and rallying support in the form of votes and money. For crying out loud, he even had election posters superimposed in various Electronic Arts video games on Xbox LIVE.

When you are ramming your friends in the popular combat racing game, Burnout,

you can't help but notice Shepard Fairy's Obama poster on walls. That's when you know someone has their marketing blitz together.

Before Obama, we'd be lucky if a candidate had a MySpace page with three comments and a loop of Bruce Springsteen's Born in the USA.

Candidates in 2010 and beyond need to have a grasp of these tools used to reach voters if they plan to ever make it in politics. Candidates need to be sharp on the Internet, understand how public and easy this technology is and capitalize on it by using it to really interact with their voters one on one.

Social media really evens the playing field, giving even the poorest, average citizen candidate a chance to start his or her own grassroots campaign.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column about all things technological. For more FoT!, check out FoT! online at fistfulsoftech.fiusm.com

REEL TO REEL

Film reveals true Dylan

During the summer of 1963 at the Newport Folk Festival, the festival announcer hailed Bob Dylan as the man who “had his fingers on the pulse of his generation.” Archival footage shows the scrawny young man from the mining country of Minnesota playing his first hit song, “Blowing in the Wind,” on an acoustic guitar backed by a who’s who of the 1960’s folk movement: Joan Baez, and the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary among others.

Almost three years later, while on tour in England during the summer of 1966, many of the crowd members who had fallen in love with his earlier hit song booed at the Manchester Trade Hall.

The same scrawny young man who used to wear jeans and plaid working-shirts was in tight proto-mod suits and in desperate need of a haircut.

He was still performing with his acoustic guitar during the beginning portions of his shows, but for the second half, a rock group backed him up.

His newest material had moved away from overtly political works like, “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall,” or “Talking World War III Blues,” and moved towards more abstract, free form ideas.

The crowds missed the “protest” songs about nuclear war and racial prejudice.

He’d moved from the external into the internal. During a press conference, Dylan said, “All of my songs are protest songs.” Even against the public, or so it seemed.

What we see in Martin Scorsese’s epic-length documentary, *No Direction Home*, is a young man who had the hopes and fears of an uncertain time thrust upon him and who rejected the people’s mandate to serve as a spokesperson.

He is first and foremost an artist, constantly shifting form to suit his needs; from Robert Zimmerman, aspiring folk singer from the mid-west, to Bob Dylan, a newcomer to the burgeoning folk scene in Greenwich Village circa January 1961.

Dylan claimed to have learned cowboy songs while living in New Mexico and playing guitar with a traveling circus (both stories total fabrications, for the record). He’d gone to New York to search for Woody Guthrie, his idol.

We follow Dylan from 1959 into 1966 and his seismic shift from acoustic performer to rock star. Archival footage from Murray Lerner’s documentary, *Festival* and a pair of vintage documentaries on Dylan by D.A. Pennebaker are put to perfect use.

The beauty of Scorsese’s documentary is in its representation of both the main subject and his effect on America. Dylan, in original interviews exclusively for the documentary, pays tribute to influences like Harry Belafonte and Odetta.

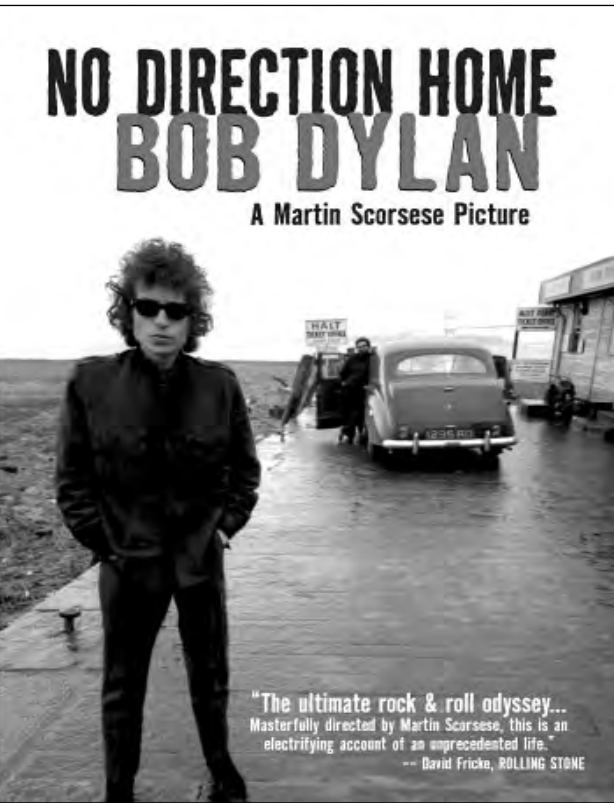
Allan Ginsberg, Van Ronk and other colleagues and contemporaries from “The Village,” bring to life the folk scene as Dylan arrived. Van Ronk discusses how Dylan “borrowed” his interpretation of the folk classic, “House of the Rising Sun,” which Dylan would use on his first album.

“Blowin’ in the Wind,” would become the anthem of the Civil Rights movement.

“The Times They Are A-Changin’,” was a distillation



DAVID BARRIOS



TEA PARTY



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

SpecialTea, a tea lounge on Coral Way, held it’s annual Watch Tea Drink Art event hosted by FIU’s Fine Art Student Association featuring the works of four FIU students and a performance by The Two Man Quartet.

of the rage many students would harness in protests during the latter part of the 1960s. But Dylan walked away from that.

Baez, a fellow performer and sometimes lover, claims that Dylan no longer felt he could change the world with music.

He changed again.

In 1965, he plugged in his amp at the Newport Folk Festival and tore into his newest song, “Maggie’s Farm.” Legend has it that Pete Seeger ran for an axe to cut the audio cables, presumably unhappy with Dylan’s new direction.

Footage from Pennebaker’s film, *Don’t Look Back*, shows Dylan no longer interested in talking to Baez. He doesn’t even bother to invite her onstage to perform with him.

Footage from an aborted film by Pennebaker on Dylan’s 1966 British Tour shows a man at siege with the world.

Three weeks after returning from his tour, Dylan’s Triumph Motorcycle would crash near his New York home and he would not write music again or perform for over a year.

Scorsese is able to give us a definitive portrait of Dylan: liar, performer, opportunist and artist. He’s neither God nor the Devil in this work.

Every time we think we understand Dylan, he disappears back into the shadows.

Reel to Reel is a weekly film review column. Look for it every Friday.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, OCT. 1

TOY STORY 3



Presented by SPC-MMC.
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

Challenges and Opportunities for Decadal Climate Change Projections

A lecture by Kenneth Broad.
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: LC 110

MY STORY

Screening of documentary produced by former FIU student John Hasselbach.
WHEN: 3 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 190

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop

Topic: Utilizing Your Advisor.
WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Panther Suite (third floor)

FACULTY RECITAL



Featuring Marco Antonio Navarrete. Presented by FIU Music.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff/seniors; \$15 general
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

DISCOVERING ANCIENT EGYPT



The History Honor Society invites you to celebrate Ancient Civilizations Month.
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Bass Museum 2121 Park Ave, Miami Beach

MIAMI BEACH: THE MUSICAL



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20 in advance; \$25 at door
WHERE: The Arts at St. John's 4760 Pine Tree Drive

BIBLE STUDY

By Christians On Campus.
WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

TANIA PEREZ-SALAS COMPANIA DE DANZA



Contemporary Dance.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25-\$90
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Bring your own mat and towel. Must be 18+
WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Tina Hills Pavilion, Bayfront Park

SUNDAY, OCT. 3

ISLAND CLEANUP & MANGROVE RESTORATION

Bring water and comfy clothes!
WHEN: 1:45 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Shake-a-Leg Miami, 2620 S. Bayshore Drive
For more info, e-mail ideas.fiu@hotmail.com

TROPICAL SUNDAYS AT THE BILTMORE

Relax poolside and enjoy some music. Half-price drinks.
WHEN: 1 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Parking and admission are free
WHERE: Biltmore Hotel 1200 Anastasia Ave, Coral Gables

JAGERMEISTER MUSIC TOUR



Slayer, Megadeth and Anthrax.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$35.50 - 49.50
WHERE: Bayfront Park Amphitheater

LINCOLN ROAD FARMERS MARKET



WHEN: 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Lincoln Road, between Alton and Ocean

Want to have your event featured? Write to calendar@fiusm.com!

Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Asst. Opinion Editor

Don't even bother bringing a lighter to campus when the new semester begins. Starting Jan. 2011, smokers will have to leave their cigarettes at home due to a University-wide tobacco ban, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on Sept. 24.

According to the "FIU Tobacco-Free and Smoke-free Campus Policy Proposal: Questions & Answers," the ban is due to the University's "renewed commitment to changing social norms that promote healthier campus environments."

However, in their haste to catch up with their competition, the University has failed to adopt a truly democratic process in proposing and implementing the smoking ban. In turn, this will have negative effects on its success.

When the University of Florida adopted its smoking ban in July 2010, this was the climax of years of phasing out, which began in 2007. Furthermore, students and staff input was encouraged and received through a host of open forums.

Our university, however, did no such thing. Although the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Steering Committee has also been around since 2007, they have chosen to not develop a plan to phase out smoking

As of now, the 20 foot distance still stands, although very few smokers observe

this Florida law and do so without consequence. Furthermore, student and staff input was limited to only two open forums open forum as the remaining forums were either cancelled or converted into educational forums in which no one could offer their opinion on the matter.

Even with the final approval, the steering committee has yet to create a plan for implementation, nor have they verbalized any penalties in place for those who repeatedly disregard the new regulation.

Additionally, the pending ban has not been advertised as fully as possible, by way of fliers, posters and the televisions in the Graham Center, which is heavily used for University announcements.

While compiling a feature on the smoking ban, I found that many students were still unaware of the campus-wide smoking ban, and I wouldn't doubt that this is still the case.

If the University had used their time wisely, the steering committee would have also adopted a similar phasing out process to make the ban more gradual to smokers. Instead, they sat back until UF adopted their ban and engaged in a game of catch-up.

Since this ban seems to be coming out of the clear blue sky to most, campus smokers will be less likely to follow it, especially with a plan of social enforcement that lacks detailed consequences.

In theory, both universities accomplished the same goal of establishing a smoke-free campus within a similar time

WEIRD SCIENCE

CHRISTINE O'DONNELL:
"AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMPANIES ARE
CROSS-BREEDING HUMANS AND ANIMALS
AND COMING UP WITH MICE WITH
FULLY FUNCTIONING HUMAN BRAINS."



MELODY ALEMAN/THE BEACON

Blame misplaced on game developers

JUSTIN JANS
Contributing Writer

Sex is prevalent in all facets of society. Even the best of advertisements feature some sort of sexual innuendo.

Now this controversial topic is coming to the forefront of the video game scene.

In the game *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*, the developers had planned on including a sex mini-game as the reward for a mission called "Hot Coffee." They decided to remove the content, but discovered it would be too complicated to remove the code. Instead, they made it inaccessible.

A hacker was able to break the code and re-enable it, then made the modification accessible to the general public.

When people found out that this code was left in the game, parents of children started complaining about what their kids were playing.

What angers me is that the people who complained about this mod where parents of little kids who had the game.

First of all, the game is rated "M" for mature, which means those kids should not even have those games. The parents bought it for them, then complained when they discovered it's not suited for children.

People need to let the game developers work with their own creativity and the parents need to be parents. If we start censoring the video game developers, they may become afraid to break boundaries and innovate, and the quality of this art form will decline.

I am a self-proclaimed hard-core gamer, so I tend to protect games and see them as a form of art. While I think that some content is not suitable for everyone, the developers should not be restricted from putting content into games. The ratings are in place to protect those who shouldn't be allowed to see it.

I understand that the mini-game was tasteless and added no meaning to the story what so ever, but it takes place in a game where you can go kill hookers and take the money from them, so I'm not really expecting anything thought-

frame. However, poor planning on the University's part will likely result in reluctance and outright opposition.

out and tasteful.

When you buy a game most of the times you can tell what type of game your buying just by reading the back of the box. If you can't understand what it's saying on the box, then you can always ask the attendants at the store, and they will be happy to explain to you.

I have friends that work at game stores, and I've heard the stories of parents coming in with their kids, looking for a game. They'll pick up a game, go to the counter, and ask the clerk what the game is about. The clerk will tell them that it's a game not appropriate for children and describe the content in the game.

But then the kid will complain about wanting the game, and the parent buys the game just to please the child. Then they get mad when it turns out to be a horribly violent game.

It's just not fair to the companies take the blame for parents' laziness. People need to be aware of what they buy, and if parents want to buy these games to placate their children, they have no right to complain about the content.

PERSPECTIVES

Is our University a healthy campus?



"The only unhealthy thing is the smoking, but that's going to go next semester. I would say that the campus is pretty clean and everyone seems to be in shape and seems to take care of themselves."

-Flavia Almonte, Senior,
International Relations



"Yes. It provides a healthy environment; it's a very clean campus. The only thing is maybe there's a little too many fast food joints. There could be a few more health options when it comes to restaurants."

-Sergio Guzman, Senior,
Philosophy



"I think it is, for the most part. Food-wise, there are a variety of options, except for vegans. Environmentally, it seems okay. I think FIU overall is a healthy campus, but it could be improved."

-Sarah Shah, Sophomore,
Biomedical Engineering

-Compiled by Jasmyn Elliott.

DISCLAIMER

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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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your 5-600 word letter in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.



Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Gathering Opinions,
Promoting Discussion

96.9 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and streaming live on FIUSM.com



PUERTO RICO

DEA: Mail workers trafficked drugs

Seven U.S. Postal Service workers have been indicted on charges they shipped thousands of parcels of heroin, cocaine and marijuana through the mail, the Drug Enforcement Administration said on Sept. 29.



VENEZUELA

No plans for recall vote

Henrique Capriles, a prominent opposition leader, dismissed Chavez's challenge for a recall vote following congressional elections in which opposition candidates made significant gains.



CHILE

Chile rescue speeds up

A surge in the drilling of escape tunnels raised hopes the rescue of the trapped miners may come sooner than scheduled. Officials reported one of the rescue drills made twice the expected progress on Sept. 28.

Renovated pool sees few students

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

Two years after an \$800,000 renovation, the Aquatics Center still hasn't seen a noticeable increase in the number of students using its facilities.

The renovation, which came from students' activity and services fees, according to Elias Bardawil, director of campus recreation, were unveiled in January 2009 and consisted of a resurfaced pool shell, an updated pump room, new furniture, updated landscaping and painting, an expanded sitting area, updated diving blocks, structural repairs, and a new coating over the deck as opposed to the prior cement-like finish.

"The renovation has provided a tremendous asset to the campus and the growth of the Recreation Center," Bardawil said.

But Daniel Lopez, aquatic supervisor, said the number of people using the pool now compared to before the renovation is about the same, but people enjoy the experience more due to the new look, atmosphere, and furniture.

During the operational hours of 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., the Aquatics Center is rented to a host of non-university entities: the Miami Waves Club, which offers synchronized swimming classes; the new Alonzo and Tracy Mourning High School swim team; a program that teaches children to swim; and American University in Washington DC, which uses the pool during winter training.

"Students are the priority, of

course," Bardawil said.

Eight non-rented lanes are reserved at all times and students are welcome to use the pool during operational hours.

Yet John Brausch, an environmental studies professor who uses the pool a couple times a week, said he rarely sees University students using the pool, and likes that there are always lanes available.

"At my old school [Texas Tech], the pool was always packed with students," he said. In addition, no children used the pool.

Funds made from organizations renting the space goes back into the revenue account for overall expenses such as chemicals, water, electrical, maintenance, and gas usage, according to Bardawil.

"None of the departments, whether it's Athletics, student unions, or Rec Centers are funded at full capacity, and in that sense you have to go and partly generate revenue," Bardawil said. "In that regard, the monies aren't earmarked for any specific thing."

Lopez agreed that a main reason the pool is rented out is money-related.

"We're trying to stay afloat. Pools never make money, so we're trying to make some revenue while at the same time offering these things."

A side effect of renting the pool out is inevitable extra traffic and use of the University's resources by people who



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL LOPEZ

The Aquatic Center's renovations gave it an updated pump room, updated diving blocks, structural repairs, and other improvements.

don't attend, such as young children.

"If the kids don't use the locker room in the gym, they use the WUC locker room and go through the building," Lopez said. "But they're just kids. It's a great deal that they're all learning how to swim while they're young, and a lot of those kids live in the area and end up coming to FIU."

Danielle Cohen, a senior in communications, agrees.

"I actually like seeing the kids. They're cute and learning how to swim. What could be wrong with that?" she said.

Cohen said she has never used the pool at and doesn't plan to, as she'd rather go to the beach or a less crowded one.

As far as who Bardawil thinks uses the pool most between students and commu-

nity members, he said there is no way for them to keep track of those demographics.

According to a newly installed body-reader on the door to the pool, it showed an approximate count of over 600 people at the pool on a Monday and 200 for a Saturday.

The pool is available at all operating hours for recreational swimming for students and community members that purchase a pass. The pool is also used for some activities that are exclusive to University students, such as the Women's Swimming and Diving team and academic scuba classes for the Marine Biology department.

The pool directors are also trying to bring the water polo team back.

"We're working on the future of the pool," Bardawil said.

CAMPUS TALK

Will FIU Fridays increase school spirit?



"As long as people do participate, I do think people will feel more proud to wear their FIU clothes, and also they will be more excited to show their school pride."

- Ashly Levi, Freshman, Psychology



"I think we really have to promote FIU Fridays and make it the high point of the week. People should wear their panther clothing and panther masks, and really try to go all out and make it important."

- Kevin Camara, Freshman, Physiology/Communications



"I don't know if [Pride Days] is such a good idea. I didn't really know about it and the enthusiasm at this school isn't really that big."

-Sasha Thomas, Sophomore, Pre-nursing



"If they increase the activity at the school, [Pride Days] can be effective. I know the turn out is better when they have food and activities for people to do. I mean, it's Miami, and there are so much things here for people to do."

-Sasha Schettini, Sophomore, Physiology

-Compiled by Matt Porsche

"Pride Days" to be new University tradition every Friday

SORAYA JOSEPH
Contributing Writer

While businesses have casual Fridays to boost employee morale, the University is starting its own tradition to boost school spirit.

"Pride Days" is a day designated for the sole purpose of University students, staff, and faculty to flaunt their Golden Panther Pride through the use of blue-and-gold attire such as "FIU" T-shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, hats, scarves, and pins.

It started back on March 10 when the Student Government Association hosted "Pride Days," with the help of then Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Vice President Mykaelle Figueiredo.

Now, since the start of the Fall Semester,

all Fridays are designated for showing school spirit.

"This is a university effort. Not only MMC, but BBC [as well]," said Helena Ramirez, SGC-MMC president.

She added that this new tradition will "definitely invoke a sense of pride."

Johanna Gonzales, a senior international business major at MMC, is in favor of "Pride Days."

"I think it's a great idea," Gonzalez said. "Something that all students can conveniently get involved in."

Held three times since its official fall debut on Sept. 3 the idea of "Pride Days" came up at an annual SGA retreat and has since been initiated with the help of SGA, Human Resources, and Media Relations.

"Pride Days," as described by Ramirez,

is a "top-down" effort that starts with administration's own efforts.

"In actuality, 'Pride Day' should be everyday," said SGC-BBC President Christin 'CiCi' Battle.

With the initiation of Pride days, members of SGA hope to break the stigma of the University being limited to that of a commuter's school.

If the University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University are more demonstrative about their school spirit, there's no reason why FIU can't match them, Battle said.

From large student turn out at games, bumper stickers on cars, or students sighted wearing school T-shirts on any given weekend, many surrounding universities have already succeeded in drilling the idea of school pride to their masses.

"We need that same pride to permeate in our community in order for them to be proud of [FIU] too," Battle said.

Antonio Conyers, senior business major who attends both MMC and BBC, agrees.

"I like going [to FIU], but I do feel like I'm 'in and out' of campus," Conyers said.

As far as any concerns regarding the difference in campus size hindering any participation, Battle is hopeful that the size of the student body won't make for much difference.

"I feel that it is the quality of the actual participation, not the quantity of the participants, that will play the biggest role in the success of 'Pride Days' at BBC," Battle said.

Additional reporting by Vincent Fernandez.