Welcome Week starts new year

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

Welcome Week, a series of events organized by the Orientation Committee to welcome new and returning students for the academic year, began Aug. 25 and will continue until Sept. 4.

“This is the first time Welcome Week planning has been left to Orientation,” said Orientation Coordinator Alin Wakefield. “It’s also the first coordinated effort. Many organizations have their hand in this year’s Welcome Week.”

A major event is planned for every day of the week.

“Mission: Impossible III,” which was shown at the Housing Quad lawn Aug. 25, was the Student Programming Council Films committee’s first movie this semester.

Another SPC event this past weekend was the Liquid Pool Party by the Housing Quad’s pool.

The party included three inflatable slides and a DJ.

“Liquid is a tradition for us,” said SPC Vice President Micaela Anczewicz.

After the party, students had the option to take a bus tour through Miami.

The weekend concluded with Freshman Orientation and Playfair, billed as “The biggest icebreaker you’ve ever seen” by the Orientation’s website at orientation.fiu.edu/welcome.

Other events:

On Monday, Aug. 28, Orientation will be organizing Pantherpalooza, an event where students can meet representatives from various clubs and organizations.

The event will take place at the Housing Quad at 4:30 p.m.

After Pantherpalooza, the Caribbean Students Association will host a party in the GC Ballrooms at 7:00 p.m.

“The Caribbean Students Association is known for their parties,” said Wakefield.

According to SPC president Bill Buchanan, the event expected to bring in the most amount of students is Disorientation, an SPC Comedy show featuring hypnotist performer Tom Deluca on Aug. 29.

“Deluca is the biggest campus hypnotist in the [United States],” said Buchanan.

“Arrive early because seats fill fast,” said Richard Lopez, the SPC Comedy chairman.

The Welcome Week BBQ on Aug. 30 is expected to be one of the highlights of the week-long events.

The barbecue will take place in front of the Student Union.

See PROJECTS, page 4

See WELCOME, page 5
BABY PHAT
4-ring latchall $91.
Small robe, $55.
"Shrunken" athentic
in brown looo. 79.95.

RED BY MARC ECKO
Belted, weathered handbag, $99.
MIA
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GUESS
"Home" tote in mocha, black or oyster, 59.

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Clockwise:

**KEDS**
"Champion" distressed slip-on, $38.95

**CONVERSE**
"All Star" low-top, $48

**SKECHERS**
"Sneaker" slip-on, $99.35

**PUMA**
"Corder" slip-on, $52

**ROCAWEAR**
Recycled backpack, $45

Color selection varies by store.

Aspiring Magician
Turner Construction, resulted in project acceleration at a cost of approximately $250,000,” said Citarella. As a result of the successful negotiations, the Lakeview Village would open for residents to check-in during August.

“The total project cost is $42 million, including architectural, engineering and inspection services, furniture and equipment. The building construction cost $37.4 million alone,” said Citarella.

The new building will house approximately 800 students and 25 residential life staff.

The final major construction project is the new Frost Art Museum. The four-story, 46,000 sq. ft. structure will include nine galleries as well as space for a café, multipurpose room, and offices.

“Special attention was given to the nine galleries that range from 900 to 1,600 sq. ft., five of which are indirectly lit from skylights,” said Citarella. Furthermore, the building was designed by the internationally known architect firm of Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, according to Citarella.

“The building has a unique shape. A high level of design was achieved by strategically emphasizing certain areas. As a focal point, in the lobby, HOK designed monumental stairs that are an engineering feat on their own and became the main sculptural elements within the four-story glass entry atrium,” said Citarella.

“The $16.4 million project was funded by private donations and state matching funds.”

Construction on the project is expected to be completed in April or May of 2007.

With two of the three major construction projects completed, what lies ahead is a mystery. Professor Downs rumors it may be a new building for the Medical School.
Paid lobbyist fired for breaking Florida law

BETSY MARTINEZ  
News Director

After FIU spent more than $500,000 of taxpayer’s money on lobbyist Fausto Gomez, the University’s Vice President of Administration Marcos Perez found out it was illegal.

“It’s pretty complex,” Perez said in an interview with The Beacon. “There are laws that allow you to pay full-time employees with state money and there are laws that allow you to pay different buckets of money.”

The contract, which began in 2001, between Gomez and FIU violates a 1974 law that forbids universities from using taxpayer’s dollars to pay outside lobbyists.

FIU spent $517,820 since 2000 on Gomez, according to school records. Gomez’s list of more than 30 clients included local schools Barry University and Carlos Albizu University.

Gomez’s working title was “practitioner in residence,” according to the 2001 letter that served as his contract.

The contract stated that his responsibilities included guest lectures in political science and/or public administration courses, possible seminars and workshops for students, faculty or staff.

His main job, though, was advising FIU’s administration on dealing with state and local government issues and lobbying money for the University.

“With the amount of clients he was representing he wasn’t considered a full-time employee,” Perez said.

Perez said he noticed the “mistake” in July and drafted a letter to Gomez detailing the problem.

“In going through a review, I noticed a mistake and I immediately brought it to the attention of the general counsel [Christina Mendoza] and provost [Ronald Berkman],” Perez said.

The draft is dated July 14, but was not sent out immediately.

Perez embarked on a three-week long vacation on July 26, twelve days after the letter was drafted.

“It was right before I was supposed to go on vacation,” Perez said. “I wanted to make sure everything was correct.”

The Miami Herald got a hold of the draft and published the story Aug. 5.

Gomez’s contracts were signed by former Provost Mark Rosenberg, according to a 2001 letter written by Rosenberg.

This letter, addressed to Gomez, asked him, with the approval of University President Modesto A. Maidique, to “develop strategy and advise the University’s administration on matters related to FIU’s public affairs interests, with special attention to local and state decision-making.”

In October 2005, Rosenberg left to be the chancellor of the state university system.

According to The Miami Herald, the state ethics commission could subject the school and the lobbyist to a two-year ban on lobbying the governor and the legislature.

Although this mistake could bring severe consequences to FIU, Perez doesn’t feel it will hinder plans for the medical school, which was approved earlier this year.

“I don’t believe it’s going to have any impact [on the medical school]. We were the ones who reported it,” Perez said. “If anything, it was the help from Mr. Gomez and his team that helped us get the medical school.”

Perez said Gomez continues to lobby for the University, compensated with funds from the FIU Foundation. The University also plans to refund the state money used to pay Gomez.

“He’s done a lot for FIU,” Perez said. “We owe a lot to Mr. Gomez.”

Gomez declined to comment, despite requests, and referred all questions to the University administration. Berkman and Maidique were unavailable for comment.

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Welcome Week: BBQs, parties, torches

From WELCOME, page 1

University President Modesto A. Maidique’s house is UP with food and refreshments served by faculty.

“To my knowledge, there has never been a public student event held at the President’s residence,” said Wakefield. “It’s going to be a great way for students to get to know the faculty.”

In addition to the BBQ, there will be tours of the President’s house.

The Trail of the Torch, a tradition begun in 2004 mimicking the Olympic ceremonies, will take place on Aug. 31.

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F.Y.I.

Aug. 28: Pantherpalooza, 4:30 p.m., Housing Quad; Caribbean Students Association Party, 7 p.m., GC Ballrooms.

Aug. 29: On-campus Job Fair, 12 p.m., GC Pit; Disorientation (with hypnotist Tom Deluca), 8 p.m., GC Ballrooms

Aug. 30: Welcome Week BBQ, 12 p.m., President’s House; Fall Recreation and Wellness Expo, 3 p.m., Rec Center

Aug. 31: Trail of the Torch, 7 p.m., Housing Quad; Panther X-Plosion, 8 p.m., Gold Parking Garage

Sept. 1: Cop-a-Burger, 1 p.m., UPA Gazebo; Dance Cruise, 6 p.m., meet in Everglades Hall

Sept. 2: FIU Amazing Race, 5 p.m., Everglades Hall; Karaoke, 7 p.m., Everglades Hall
Inaugural Panther Camp builds leadership and friendship

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life Editor

For freshman Philip Margets, camping was about sitting around a campfire and telling ghost tales — until he experienced Panther Camp, that is.

One of his favorite activities: Pipes and Pieces.

“Group members had to piece different pipes together to get water from one end of a course to another,” said Margets. “Activities like that really emphasized teamwork.”

From Aug. 11-13, more than 20 incoming and current freshmen developed leadership skills and school spirit while dealing with intense heat and numerous insects as part of the University’s Panther Camp.

Panther Camp, a $7,000 program introduced this year to mold potential student leaders, is the result of collaboration among five different FIU branches: the Student Alumni Association, the Center for Leadership and Service, the departments of Campus Life and Residential Life, and the Office of Orientation and Commuter Services.

Although this year marked the camp’s debut, the idea of Panther Camp materialized several years ago in talks among FIU staff.

“We’ve talked about the idea of a camp for three or four years now. Other schools do something similar for students, and we wanted to do something to get the new freshmen class excited,” said Director of Campus Life and Orientation Charlie Andrews. “The different departments involved looked at existing budgets and collaborated, and Panther Camp finally happened.”

To partake in the camp, freshmen either paid an $80 fee or received a scholarship covering camp expenses by writing a one-page essay about their reasons for attending. While many students signed up to make friends and get a feel for their university, others applied because of the excitement of a new experience.

“I’ve never been camping, so the thought of a bunch of college kids camping in a remote area really interested me,” said freshman Cedric Caraveo.

Freshmen who attended the camp spent time participating in team-building activities and presentations at Gold Coast Christian Camp in Lake Worth, Florida. Before arriving at the camp, students were divided into four groups, each of which was led by two camp facilitators.

“When picking facilitators, the five departments and areas involved with Panther Camp identified students they felt would offer a lot to the freshmen in terms of experience and leadership,” said Andrews.

Throughout the weekend, the groups’ facilitators directed students in learning about FIU’s history and traditions as well as informing them of involvement opportunities at FIU.

“Before attending Panther Camp, all I wanted to do was be a Peer Advisor,” she said. “After the campus life presentation, the Student Government Association caught my attention because it’s the umbrella organization that funds everything else.”

The camp facilitators intend on keeping track of attendees’ campus involvement to determine whether the camp proved successful in developing campus leaders.

“We have their contact information so we’ll be keeping tabs on them,” said Student Alumni Association Advisor Sean Kramer. “Although there isn’t a particular plan to follow up on them, we will keep in contact with them either through future reunions or other means.”

Despite the camp’s effectiveness in creating a sense of initiative and bonding among its attendees, facilitators noted areas requiring improvement.

“A lot of the kids wanted more physical activities like an obstacle course,” said facilitator Wolfgang Avedo. “They also wanted more team-building activities included in the schedule.”

Andrews agreed.

“We might adjust the schedule by moving things around and adding or removing activities, but almost everything worked,” he said. “Attendance is one thing we need to focus on, though.”

Originally, 60 freshmen were expected to sign up for the camp. Instead, only 23 signed up. Even though the low attendance seemed discouraging, Andrews remained optimistic.

“I think the camp worked out better with a smaller group,” he said. “It was a more intimate setting for students, and the facilitators learned a lot this year that can be implemented in the future.”

According to SGC UP President Alfonso Leom, the camp’s future is certain.

“There will be another Panther Camp.”

Welcome back students!!

Dear Fellow Students,

We want to begin by welcoming you to another amazing year at FIU. Thank you for your participation in last spring’s elections. As your new council, we began working on many of your issues this summer.

We held our retreat in June at Marco Island, where we identified many of your concerns and the ways we would address them. Some of the issues discussed ranged from parking and transportation concerns, to customer service and financial aid.

We also collected over 3,000 petitions in favor of retaining the priceless sculptures on our campus. Thanks to a new website redesigned by Campus Life Publications, you can now post your concerns and provide suggestions.

We want you to get more involved; the more you do, the stronger the student body’s voice will be. Don’t forget to attend our first Student Government Association meeting on Wednesday, August 30 at 4 pm, in the GC pit. We’re looking forward to seeing you at our meetings, events, and football games (especially when we play UM), Go Panthers!!

Regular SGA Meetings
Every Wednesday
GC 150
4 pm

Upcoming Events
First SGA Meeting
Wednesday Aug. 30th
GC Pit 4 pm

Parking and Transportation Forum
September 13th
GC 140 2 pm

Level 5 September 28th
Gold Garage 5th floor 9:00 pm

Gram Jam December 11th and 12th
Graham Center
Fresh Food Company
11:30 pm
Welcome week offers students play time

EDITH SEVILLA
Asst. BBC Director

From a rock band performance to a Segway obstacle course, Biscayne Bay Campus will be hosting its annual Welcome Week from Aug. 25 to Sept. 1 with a series of events for all the new and returning students.

“We want all students to feel welcomed and to be introduced to our campus so they’ll know all the different things this campus has to offer,” said Elizabeth Cervantes, public relations director for the Student Government Association at BBC.

Various events will be scheduled throughout welcome week beginning with the Soak N Wet Flicks event that will take place on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.

“This event is sponsored by SPC and they will be playing the movie “Benchwarmers” on a projector screen out by the pool,” said Cervantes.

On Aug. 28 and 29, students will notice an Ask Me table in Academic One and in the library with an SGA staff ready to answer any questions students might have.

“This is an appropriate way for us to show that we care and service students as best as possible,” said Edgar Izaguirre, elections commissioner for SGA.

According to Cervantes, free pizza and soda will be offered at Got Questions?, along with some treats from the school’s cafeteria or from several vendors from around the area.

A presentation by local band, Another Day in December, will follow the Got Questions? event at 4:30 p.m. in Panther Square.

“This is a pretty good band,” said Izaguirre. “They’ve been playing all over the state and will be sponsored by Rock House Blend, “a commuter coffee house similar to Starbucks except with free food and a band making its debut on that day at BBC.”

The events scheduled for Aug. 31 will culminate with Trail of the Torch, a ceremony created to promote FIU spirit among students. However, this ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. in the Housing Quad at University Park. Transportation buses are scheduled to depart from BBC at 6 p.m. and head to UP.

With so much planning, the organizers of these events say they’ve stayed focused on the interest of each student.

“We’re all a family here at Campus Life and Orientation. Our main concern is the students and we are hoping that the students at BBC get the most out of the different events throughout Welcome Week,” Cervantes said.

“Welcome Week is truly aimed at welcoming the students to BBC and to have them also become involved because it can’t be all work and no play.”
**New neighboring school seeks ties with BBC**

**FALLAN M. THOMPSON**

Staff Writer

After months of construction and traffic delays, the new school near the entrance of Biscayne Bay campus next year will welcome David Lawrence Jr., opened Aug. 14.

The Kindergarten through eighth grade school is a marine science theme school with a dolphin mascot and the motto: riding the wave of excellence.

“The theme is perfect because [we] are next to FIU. This [area] used to be mangroves and we live in South Florida,” said Principal Bernard Osborn.

“Full completion of the school should be November 2006, according to Principal Bernard Osborn.

“It was shared to me by the contractor,” Osborn said. “But since it’s construction, we’re taking it with a grain of salt.”

Concerns about traffic will not be made aware of until FIU’s Fall semester begins Aug. 28. Public Safety’s Captain Michael Wright is working with Osborn and North Miami Police on any traffic issues.

“Considering traffic delays and expecting to have traffic on the first couple days of school,” Wright said. “I recommend coming to school a little early the first week.”

**SCHOOL’S IN SESSION:** The David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center near BBC’s entrance opened its doors to its first class Aug. 14.

**GOOD EATS:** Chefs prepare a meal at Oishi Thai, a Japanese/Thai restaurant near BBC. This is just one of the many available food choices around BBC.

**INEXPENSIVE:**

- **Big Apple Deli**
  - Located at 14861 Biscayne Blvd., the Big Apple Deli features items such as salads and smoky grilled meats.
  - From ice cream to on-the-go kebabs and specialty pizzas, the Deli offers a variety of options at prices ranging from $2.95 to $6.95.

- **Chez Michele**
  - Located at 14841 Biscayne Blvd., Chez Michele delivers a Parisian ambiance with its own signature cuisine, including salads and pastries.
  - The menu includes items such as Truffle Tiramisu priced at $4.50 a slice, with options like Ex-Press, Fraise, Chocolate vs. Caramel and Tiramisu priced at $4.50 a slice, offers the alternative of a more casual and complete snack.

- **Paul Bakery Cafe**
  - Located at 14861 Biscayne Blvd.
  - The café offers a variety of options, from coffee and tea to pastries and sandwiches.

- **Pasha’s**
  - Located at 3801 N Miami Ave.
  - Pasha’s delivers the goods as a well-rounded breakfast.

**CULINARY ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE AROUND BISCAYNE AREA**

- **Sun City Deli**
  - Located at 14432 Biscayne Blvd.
  - Known for its variety of ice cream cones, sundaes, and smoothies priced from $2.80 up to $4.80, offers plenty to satiate that craving for a refreshing dessert in addition to monthly scheduled promotions.

- **Elindra Porter, freshman**

I prefer homemade to microwave or even restaurant food. But there are times you have to simply branch out.

Their menu features its own signature cuisine as well, serving varieties of mixed grill shish kebab along with specialty pizza baked in their own stone oven. An outing here comes at about $20-25. The menu at Sun City delivers with American, Philly, Havana, and Avenuras crepes. Tuna, Boca, and Alaska wraps and Cuban, Jerk Chicken and Spicy Chicken sandwiches come with salads and side dishes with no item exceeding the $9.00 mark.

In addition, FIU students might consider the variety of options available around BBC. From ice cream to kebabs and specialty pizzas, there is something for everyone.

**FOR BISCUAYNE BAY STUDENTS, IT IS A DIFFERENCE**

For something lighter, Paul Bakery Cafe offers complete breakfasts on-the-go like Express, 60% off your next meal purchase, said attendant George Pardillo.

For evening meals, Oishi Thai’s hybrid of Thai and Japanese food yield combinations of appetizers, dinner, and house specials, with meals pricing at $25-30 per seat.

You can order any kind of appetizer and soup at any time of the day, but specific dishes are served for lunch and dinner respectively.

If all you want at the moment is a sweet bite, Dippin’ Dots and Chez Michele square hit the spot.

The former, with its variety of ice cream cones, sundaes, and smoothies priced from $2.80 up to $4.80, offers plenty to satiate that craving for a refreshing dessert in addition to monthly scheduled promotions.

Chez Michele, with its selection of fruit and cream pies, among them Mango-Mango, Fraise, Chocolate vs. Caramel and Tiramisu priced at $4.50 a slice, offers the alternative of a more casual and complete snack.

All of these can be enjoyed in Chez Michele’s quiet environment, or viewing paintings from local artists.

Biscayne boulevard in North Miami provides students with enough variety so, if you do not find exactly what you were looking for, at least you can try something new.

“Prefer homemade to microwave or even restaurant food,” said Freshman Elindra Porter. “But there are times you have to simply branch out.”

**F.Y.I.**

New York’s Big Apple Deli Inc. 14432 Biscayne Blvd.

Pasha’s 3801 N Miami Ave.

Paul Bakery Cafe 14861 Biscayne Blvd.

Oishi Thai 14841 Biscayne Blvd.

Dippin’ Dots 15508 Biscayne Blvd.

Chez Michele 16689 NE 19th Ave.

Sun City 15400 N Biscayne Blvd.

For Biscayne Bay students, it frequently seems like there are no alternatives when it comes to going to new places and trying a different kind of meal. “I just go to a Burger King or McDonalds if I’m very hungry,” said Senior Albert Burn, “but McDonalds if I’m very hungry, “but there are times you have to simply branch out.”

“I prefer homemade to microwave or even restaurant food,” said Freshman Elindra Porter. “But there are times you have to simply branch out.”

**In addition, FIU students might consider the variety of options available around BBC. From ice cream to kebabs and specialty pizzas, there is something for everyone.**

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New football teams pressured to play big programs sooner

A popular motto in sports is, “in order to be the best, you have to beat the best.” Now, there’s nothing wrong with that philosophy, but how a team accomplishes it can set them in the wrong direction.

The FIU football team is obviously following that philosophy – with the likes of the University of Miami, Maryland and Alabama on its 2006 schedule. But in its fifth year of existence, are the Golden Panthers ready to be thrown into the fray already?

Playing a tough schedule has its upsides - especially for recruiting. Big-name opponents are also helpful in putting butts in the seats – something FIU is in dire need of. Fans want to see their school play popular teams, even if it means a guaranteed shellacking.

For example, back when UM was in its down years, the games against Florida and Alabama on their schedule were and should be high, people shouldn’t expect a Sun Belt championship just yet. “There is definitely pressure to win more games for [FIU] and they should be ready to contend in the higher arc of the conference standings,” Forde says. “I wouldn’t go as far as saying they are conference favorites but, yes, there is pressure to perform better.”

Last year’s team yielded an overall record of 5-6 and 3-4 in conference play, with the Golden Panthers being competitive in three of those four losses.

In 2005, three teams shared the Sun Belt Conference crown – Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe and Arkansas State, who represented the league in the New Orleans Bowl.

This parity helps the bigger expectations for the Golden Panthers, said Sun Belt Conference Commissioner Wright Waters.

“Our league is one of the most competitively balanced in the country,” said Waters. “And with the Golden Panthers raising their level of play every year, contending for the conference title should be a goal for FIU and its coaching staff.”

Do the students think this is the year the Golden Panthers have to make a leap? It depends on who you ask.

Some students, like sophomore Sofia Gomez, believe that FIU still has “some growing up to do as a team.” While others, like senior Rafael Pardo, believe that losing is getting old.

“I have been here since the beginning and at first winning wasn’t a priority,” Pardo said. “But it is getting a little old if the school wants full support from the students, it is time we start winning big.”
What was a strength for the football team last year has turned into one of the biggest question marks heading into the season. Last year's offensive line helped the Golden Panthers lead the Sun-Belt Conference in passing yards per game and allowed second-team All-Sun Belt quarterback Josh Padrick finish the year second in passing efficiency (122.6).

The Golden Panthers offensive line will have a new look to it when they open the season Aug. 31 against Middle Tennessee. The only returning starter to the unit will be sophomore center Xavier Shannon, whom offensive line coach Leon Searcy is looking to lead the young line. Along with him at center, juniors Mike Alvarez and Jeffery Eugene will hold down the guard positions, while freshman Andy Levine and sophomore Dustin Gibson man the tackle positions.

“This is [Shannon’s] unit. I put all the responsibilities on him and he’s embraced it,” Searcy said.

Shannon had the opportunity to learn from last year’s former first-team All-Sun Belt center Victor Cernius, who started all four years at center for the Golden Panthers.

“He taught me pretty much everything about the game,” Shannon said. “He always taught me to keep my head up because the defense will make plays, but you just have to make more plays than the defense.”

Searcy added: “Victor was a student of the game. There would be times when Victor would beat me in here watching film. And he kind of passed that on to Xavier. Xavier’s a very, very smart kid.”

Shannon, Alvarez, and Gibson are the only members on this year’s offensive line who saw any playing time last year. In total, they all have 17 starts between them.

In order to combat youth and inexperience, coach Searcy has emphasized nothing but perfection. Searcy isn’t expecting his offensive line to come out and maul every defensive line. What he does expect is for his line to out-tough and out-execute their opponents on game day.

“You got to have commodity on offensive line. You’re not individuals, you play as a unit. You either live by the sword or die by the sword, you either all look bad or all look good,” Searcy said.

This year’s tough schedule won’t ease the process either. With tough opponents like Alabama, UM, and Maryland early on, growing pains will be expected. In the long run, though, the tough competition may help them later on when conference play intensifies during the later part of the season.

“The only thing that may help us as far as the long road is getting accustomed to the speed. When they play Miami or Maryland, it’s going to be full throttle,” Searcy said. “I think it’s going to be good for our guys to understand how they got to play. Playing a team like Miami, Maryland, Alabama, they’re going to understand where they need to be as a team when it comes to speed.”

Although many would worry that this year’s offensive line will be dominated by an opposing team’s front seven, many of the players prefer to let others do the worrying for them.

“It’s something we’re looking forward to. You don’t know how good you are till you play the best,” Alvarez said. “Now we have the opportunity to match up against the big boys across the nation. We feel we can compete with the Alabama’s, Miami’s and Maryland’s but we have to show the nation that.”

NEW LOOK: The Golden Panthers’ new offensive line features four new starters and is anchored by the only returning starter from last season, sophomore center Xavier Shannon. 

Chris Cutro/The Beacon

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Golden Panthers coach Don Strock promised his team that they would play against the best of the best. And he kept his promise. “The schedule doesn’t get any softer,” Strock said. It certainly doesn’t.

Besides playing in the competitive Sun-Belt Conference, the Golden Panthers are set for an uphill battle against some formidable nonconference opponents.

FIU is set to take on cross-town rival University of Miami, which is ranked No. 12 in the Associated Press preseason college football poll, at the Orange Bowl on Oct. 14.

Equally challenging are the Alabama Crimson Tide, last year’s Cotton Bowl victors who finished No. 8 in the country, who will play the Golden Panthers Oct. 28 at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Other out of conference teams FIU will face are South Florida (Sept. 9), Bowling Green (Sept. 16) and Maryland (Sept. 23).

But players are salivating at the opportunity to play against the best and show their talents off on a national stage. “If you’re a fan, this is what you want to see,” said junior guard Mike Alvarez. “It’s a challenge, not only as individuals, but as a team. It’s something we’re looking forward to. You don’t know how good you are till you play the best. Now we have the opportunity to match up against the big boys across the nation. We feel we can compete with the Alabama’s, Miami’s, and Maryland’s, but we have to show the nation that.”

Senior all-conference linebacker Keyonvis Bouie and defensive end Antwan Barnes will have a chance to show the nation they’re considered the best at their positions in the Sun-Belt.

Bouie and Barnes, Lombardi Award candidates, had UM head coach Larry Coker visit their high schools to look at other recruits, but neither had the coach look in their direction. It is safe to say both players will be playing with a chip on their shoulders that day to show what coach Coker missed out on.

Besides giving the players an opportunity to play on the ultimate stage against top-tier opponents, the tough nonconference schedule is also part of a strategic plan to help the program grow.

As reported by The Miami Herald, FIU Athletic Director Rick Mello said that the University will receive a total of $800,000 for its nonconference games this season. The tougher schedule can also be used as a recruiting tool. When the program first began, coaches would only recruit players out of Dade, Broward and Palm Beach county. Coaches are hoping that the added exposure will help bring in some recruits from different parts of the state and nationwide.

“Everybody would like to go to [UM], but they can’t because they’re just not enough scholarships. So now with the schedule we have, we can play against those types of teams and find out how good they really are,” said assistant head coach Bruce Hardy.
2006 FIU FOOTBALL OUTLOOK
A position by position analysis of the Golden Panthers

ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

A year after finishing the season 5-6 and losing 27 senior, the FIU football team takes on the 2006 season with a different outlook as many important questions regarding their offensive line, quarterbacks and special teams need to be answered.

OFFENSE

The offensive line lost four starters following the departures of the first graduating football class, forcing former Miami Hurricane and line coach Lesan Scarry to search for young and adequate replacements. The Golden Panthers ranked 177 in the country and predicted by Sports Illustrated to finish 2-10 this season, the football team takes on the 2006 season with a different outlook as the Golden Panthers, ranked 117 in the country and predicted by various occasions last season, Ned may be the player to watch in this buckfield. In six appearances in 2005, Ned managed 375 yards and three touchdowns.

The wide receiving corps sees just two starters returning, last year’s leading receiver senior Chandler Williams, who finished the season with 41 catches for 750 yards and two scores, and sophomore Lloyd Moss, the younger brother of NFL players Santana and Sinorice Moss. Coach Strock and Padrick will look to the likes of John Houston, Widdon and Elliot Dix, two true freshmen to pick up the rest of the weight as this true passing offense.

Senior Zach Davis and sophomore Malik Jones should be the two starting defensive backs for a secondary that sees the likes of Chris Smith at strong safety and a combination of Jeremiah Weatherpoon and Marshall McFinnie at free safety.

DEFENSE

Defensively, the Golden Panthers appear to be stronger than a year ago despite losing a trio key players, senior Armstrong Barnes, who finished last year after being moved from linebacker to defensive end and set a new school record for sacks in a season, will look to be a player for opposing offenses to key on. His sophomore counterpart, Reginald Jones, has shown marked improvement in the offseason and could also have an outstanding year. Along with them in the trenches look for Jonus Murrell and Roland Clarke to put up a big fight against opposing offensive lines.

FIU’s linebacking corps returns three members, including standout middle linebacker Keyonvis Bouie. Alexander Bostic III and James Black both are returning to the likes of John Houston Widdon and Elliot Dix, two true freshmen to pick up the rest of the weight in the trenches look for them in the trenches look for Jonus Murrell and Roland Clarke.

Malik Jones should be a player for opposing offenses to key on. His sophomore counterpart, Reginald Jones, has shown marked improvement in the offseason and could also have an outstanding year. Along with them in the trenches look for Jonus Murrell and Roland Clarke to put up a big fight against opposing offensive lines.

The special teams took a big hit following last year’s graduation of place kicker Adam Moss, the all-conference punter at Palm Bay High School last year.

“[Patullo] is the guy we have confidence in,” Strock said. “His problem is that he wants to do everything, but we don’t want him to be a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none. I want him to be the best he can be at one position, and right now, that’s as our place kicker.”
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2. Is a violation of this Policy for anyone to report to classes, work, or related assignments "under the influence" of illegal drugs or alcohol.

3. Is a violation of this Policy for anyone to use prescription drugs illegally. The illegal use of prescription drugs with known potential to impair personal safety should be reported to supervisors or an appropriate University representatives.

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In compliance with Federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, Florida International University shall provide annual notification to students and employees regarding this Policy and its alcohol and substance abuse awareness, prevention and rehabilitation programs.

Further, the FIU Substance Abuse Task Force shall conduct biennial reviews of such programs in order to assure their continued conformance with the stated goal and intent of this Policy and the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations.
The Beacon is fervently pursuing talented and self-driven individuals who possess those innate qualities that merit the title and responsibilities of the prestigious copy editor position.

And also those who can use some extra cash.

Inquire within ... GC 210
Resident Life has plenty of advantages

PEDRO ROSS
Contributing Writer

I have the windows open and my shoes off with my naked toes dangling up in the air, and I’m thoroughly enjoying the breeze that’s coming through. I’m being very irresponsible because my air conditioner is on while the windows are open. This is one of the odd habits you pick up while windows are open. This is one of the bad habits of leaving you in the real world for a couple years. However, I’m making the most of them and living on campus.

So living on campus has certain advantages, especially the consolidation of bills: everything is consolidated by the school so you don’t have to worry about receiving a monthly bill for energy, cable, DSL, etc.

I’ve been living on campus for four years now and I can’t think of a time when I have nothing wrong with that, right? Well, it is if you live in the dorms, where having more than two guests is against the rules. If I’m paying for an apartment, I want to be able to have as many guests as I wish.

Imagine it’s your birthday and you want to invite some friends over to have a party. There are no rules. However, I have the opportunity to have as many guests as I wish. The only thing that I do have to worry about is that they may be the type that I would prefer not to have in my room.

When I lived in a dorm, I had the opportunity to have as many guests as I wish. The only thing that I do have to worry about is that they may be the type that I would prefer not to have in my room.

The expenses here are slightly high; I pay a little over $700 a month to stay in my on-campus studio apartment. With the apartment, though, I didn’t have to pay a security deposit or an additional first or last month’s rent to get into the apartment. I just paid a $100 processing fee. What’s more, when you eventually leave an apartment, it’s also nearly impossible to get that security deposit back.

I’ve lived in the real world for a few years and I know what you’re thinking: If I live off-campus, I’ll get a few friends to help out with the expenses. Wrong! Even friends you can trust with your life have the bad habit of leaving you in the cold when it comes to bills. You’ll spend most of your time dwelling on whether your roommate is going pay their $200 share for utilities, instead of thinking about your homework or your social life.

On campus, you can minimize your expenses by sharing a space on campus with somebody, you won’t have to worry about mounting bills and it will save around $1000 a semester.

There are other advantages. I like to get up in the morning and walk to the gym and then stroll back to the apartment. Then I bathe, and I’m ready for whatever.

The price of gas is going up and traffic sucks. If you live 20 minutes from the campus, you’re still going to waste an average of 2 ½ hours a week when driving to school if you could be studying or doing something else.

I consider myself a private person, and when I study I become more of an introvert. Even so, I do find myself socializing with my neighbors in various clubs here on campus.

All in all, with the cost savings and the time-saving conveniences, together with available activities, living on campus gives students a sense of community that would be hard to come by off campus.
Ethics of registration seat holding questionable

SARAH RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

It’s the day before sophomore nursing major Katie Warfel’s registration appointment, and she has several tentative class schedules highlighted in pink and splayed out in front of her. Her planning has been somewhat complicated by the fact that several required classes for nursing majors are offered primarily at BBC, but it is especially complicated because many of them have filled up quickly.

“Way before my registration date, I noticed the classes I needed were already full,” Warfel said. “I panicked because I didn’t have that many options to choose from.”

This is true for many sophomores, because they are at the bottom of the registration totem pole.

Out of frustration, many students resort to asking friends with earlier registration dates to hold spots for them in the classes they need most.

Interestingly enough, many students are aware of the widespread custom of spot-holding, but the majority of faculty and administrators seem to be in the dark about the practice. When alerted about it, faculty and administrators alike tend to ask in wonder, “How do students manage to do that?”

The truth is that they’ve been managing it for a while, and while some students may not have considered the negative repercussions, in the long run excessive spot-holding can become unfair to the student body as a whole.

Students without “friends in high places” could potentially be harmed in a system where appointments are assigned in an attempt to make registration as fair a process as possible.

Peer advisor Alejandra Maruri agreed the practice is questionable. “It’s a very iffy situation, especially if you’re doing it every semester; it’s not fair to others,” Maruri said.

Dr. Carmela McIntire, Chairperson of the English Department, does not excuse the habit, but is sympathetic to the needs of students.

“I don’t think spot-holding is a good idea, but it’s an act of desperation. FIU almost sets up a culture of doing what you need to do to get what you need. We’re almost setting up a system where appointments are assigned in an attempt to make registration as fair as possible.

There are room limitations. We can’t override all the time because there simply isn’t space,” McIntire said.

She further explained that as much as the faculty and administration desire to help students attain the classes they seek, they too face obstacles of their own.

“How do students manage to do to get what you NEED... We’re a STRING-PULLING culture,” McIntire said.

FIU almost sets up a culture of doing what you NEED to do to get what you NEED... We’re a STRING-PULLING culture

Chris Cutro

Staying awake for class by any means

There aren’t a lot of things worth staying awake for. Jay Leno’s sad attempts at humor, 3 a.m. post-clubbing trips to Denny’s where you wait an hour for cold fries served by a woman who has what can only be a beard, or watching your boyfriend beat the hardest level on Zelda for the 17th time are all good examples.

Classes, however, are a different story. Although many professors force you to meet the sandman with their monotone voices and disgust with their jobs, staying awake is crucial to the big picture: getting good grades, graduating, making the big bucks, trophy spouse.

Many of us are not morning people. For me, 8 a.m. classes are the equivalent of plucking out each arm hair one by one. Unfortunately, many freshmen don’t know any better, and many seniors must take them because, of course, it’s the last class they need to graduate. Here are some tips on how to make ecstasy out of the agony.

TRADITIONAL METHOD

Caffeine is life. It’s the element that brings most of the world out of its zombie state. Many say the long term effects of coffee and caffeinated beverages are negative and can lead to gastrointestinal disturbance and sleep disorders. Frankly, I’d be more concerned with the gastrointestinal disturbance that comes from eating in our food court.

FIU’s many coffee outlets makes it more than easy to be able to consume a cup of joe or two, or twelve, before jetting to class. Be warned, though, getting a coffee at school can be comparable to standing in line at registration: lots of people behind a counter working a double speed, charging four times its cost to get a half-assed product.

This may lead you to take more extreme measures.

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

When left with little options, sometimes you have to get creative. If I’m in a particularly sleep-inducing class, I like to jam a pen in my thigh ever so delicately. Particularly sleep-inducing class, I like to imagine my feet falling asleep, you need to be prepared.

Staying awake

See CLAIMED, page 18

See STAYING AWAKE, page 14
A guide to cheap and convenient eating

Luckily for budget-conscious students, University Park has a cluster of restaurants within walking distance or reasonable driving distance that can be visited instead of the typical fast food joints. When students have the time, they can forgo the on-campus food options and take a break from a full-time 8-hour class schedule. Here’s a rundown of where to grab a bite when your appetite gets the best of you:

**Publix**
While not exactly a restaurant, Publix actually has some great options for students who want to prove to themselves that they can cook something besides Easy Mac. If you want a sub and are sick of Subway, the deli has several subs available with your choice of either Publix or Boar’s Head meat. The supermarket chain also has sushi, ready-made fruit bowls and salads, and individual hot meals in the deli. The downsides are the crazy parking lot filled with student drivers and the waiting in line, which eventually starts feeling like an eternity. Regardless, there’s no other nearby place you could go to and order a box of cookies as well as a tub of potato salad after you’ve failed a test.

**Natural Chicken Grill**
Located in the same shopping plaza as Smoothie Time, this healthier and tastier alternative to burgers and fries specializes in chops (the mix of your choice of chicken or churrasco, beans, rice and veggies). Whether you’re in the mood for a Latin Chop (which unsurprisingly black beans) or a basic Natural Chop, the menu is diverse enough to satisfy most stomachs. Even if you’re not interested in chops, the restaurant will win you over with its succulent pitas and delicious curry mustard sauce. It’s neither fancy nor exotic, but Natural Chicken Grill offers hungry college students some tasty food at decent prices (around $7).

**Moe’s Southwest Grill**
Although Taco Bell is a few blocks away from UP, students should give this Mexican restaurant a chance because of its bigger-than-your-head burritos. With cleverly named menu items such as the Home wrecker (a loaded burrito) and Ruprict (a basket of tortilla chips smothered in cheese), Moe’s will make you feel at home as its employees greet you with a hearty “Welcome to Moe’s!” upon your entrance. The place also serves a variety of beers to wash down their delectable tacos. Located at 10660 NW 19th St. in Doral, Moe’s offers a ten percent student discount so make sure to show the cashier your PantherCard.

**Top’s China Buffet**
This all-you-can-eat buffet restaurant boasts a lot of food, but none of it is very good. The restaurant’s main appeal is the pricing. For about $10, you can dine on assortments of noodles, meats, appetizers and desserts. Although its name be deceiving, Top’s China Buffet does not only offer typically Americanized Chinese food, but also ho-hum items such as pizza. If you’re a quantity-over-quality kind of eater, then this place is definitely for you. However, if your eyes are bigger than your stomach, be careful because you might get yelled at by an employee for wasting food.

**Smoothie Time**
is perfect for someone who wants something fruity, refreshing, and full of vitamins all in one delicious drink. Smoothie Time has an array of smoothies to appease one’s sugar cravings; however, paying $5 for a smoothie can be steep when you can buy a meal for that price somewhere else. Also, there’s only so much enjoyment you can get when you’ve tasted the same thing for 15 minutes, not to mention have brain freeze. Conveniently located in the shopping plaza across from FIU’s SW 16th Street exit, Smoothie Time is within walking distance of Gold’s Gym so you can indulge accordingly.

**Latin American Café**
Reasonably priced Latin dishes are the staple of this unassuming restaurant. The waiters are not usually thrilled to see people in our age group coming in, especially if it’s a large group. However, it is a great place to pick up a cortadito and pastelito for under $2. Because the restaurant is located at the SW 24 Street and 107 Avenue intersection, students can drive there, purchase a cheap meal of arroz con pollo, and return to campus in time for their next class. However, parking can be a nightmare during the day, and law enforcement officers frequent this restaurant so make sure you don’t park illegally.

**Camille’s sidewalk cafe**


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Clubs council gives unknown groups a FIU audience

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.  Asst. Life Editor

For many students, joining a club will help them meet new people and make a difference on campus. With hundreds of organizations at FIU, there is bound to be something that appeals to any student's interests. But what if the underwater underwear-knitting club doesn’t have a chapter at the University?

If a particular club isn’t present on campus, there’s a simple solution: start it. The Student Organizations Council, the governing body for more than 140 clubs, gives FIU students the opportunity to create their own organization. According to SOC President Frances Crevier, any student can start a club, but there are certain restrictions.

"Any student can start a club regardless of what year or type of club they choose as long as it is a new type of club or the other organizations don’t offer something that isn't offered by any of the other organizations." said SOC Events Coordinator Anthony Munyaka. "It has to fill a need for the student body," added Munyaka. "If we see that a club has to fill a need for the student body, it probably won’t fly."

Once a club is approved, members must attend an SOC orientation session, where they will be informed of all SOC guidelines such as club responsibilities and budgets. Orientation is scheduled for Sept. 21 and 22 in GC. Room location has yet to be announced.

The following week, new clubs are invited to participate in the SOC club fair from Sept. 25-28.

"It’s not necessary for new clubs to participate in the fair, but it is encouraged," said Munyaka. "It would be dumb not to do so because the fair is a great opportunity to promote and recruit new members."

Ultimately, starting a club through SOC can meet needs that otherwise aren’t accommodated. While an underwater underwear-knitting club may be too ambitious, your idea for a club could make a profound impact on campus. The last day to register a new club is Sept. 1.

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Have a car for sale? A room for rent? Post FREE classified ads in The Beacon! Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 to show your FIU student ID and fill out a form for your free classified ad!

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ESSENTIALS TO STARTING A CLUB:

• Find a novel subject
• Find at least nine others who would be willing to join
• Fill out an application in GC 2240
• Promote and recruit at the SOC club fair Sept. 25-28
• Make an impact on campus!

Making up for in-class rudeness

For a quick response if you’re called on by the professor. Posing grand scheme questions is a good way to get around a public chastising. When the professor asks you if you were sleeping, you say “I was just wondering what it all means in a global sense” or “How did you deal with this in your work experience?” Two things professors love: pontificating and talking about themselves.

Realistically, it’s true that there can be no substitute for a good night’s sleep and a good breakfast. But if you really need sleep, you can always buy those joke glasses with the eyes painted open on the lenses. It’s a shot. Good luck.
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MICHAEL HERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer

The Student Programming Council has both new events and old favorites for the student body to attend during the Fall semester. Because of the organization’s immense schedule of events, students shouldn’t have problems finding something to do on a weekday.

As a part of Welcome Week at University Park, SPC is bringing hypnotist Tom Deluca to campus. Expect to see your friends performing embarrassing antics like running around stage squawking like chickens. Taking place August 29 at 8 p.m., the show is being held in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Tickets are available in the Campus Life office (GC 2240) and the SPC office (GC 2304).

Micaela Ancewicz, vice president of SPC, feels events like these are important for students to feel included.

“It’s a great way for freshmen to feel at home, getting used to the campus with all these events planned,” she said.

Every Friday and Saturday evenings this semester, popular films such as “Thank You For Smoking” and “The Da Vinci Code” will be screened. One film in particular, “Lady in The Water” (Oct. 27), will have the audience not jumping from their seats, but screaming in the pool as the movie will be shown at the Housing Quad pool. But films are just one part of a much bigger scheme for the organization.

If you need to burst out into song, Gracie’s Grill is hosting a karaoke night from 7-10 pm the second Tuesday of every month starting on Sept. 12. If you want to showcase your vocal talents with a rendition of Justin Timberlake’s “Move Your Body,” this is the place to do so. Luckily, Gracie’s Grill sells alcohol — after a few beers, you won’t feel too embarrassed about your mediocre singing.

Keeping in touch with the dominant culture at the university, the Hispanic Heritage celebration will take place from Oct. 9-19, with two events planned for each day. During this celebration, students will have the opportunity to represent their country and partake in Latin-themed happenings.

The biggest event planned for Hispanic Heritage is Carnaval on Oct. 19. It takes place between the Blue and Gold garages and will feature a performance from a surprise artist.

“Our theme for Hispanic Heritage is ‘Mi Orgullo,’ and I think that it is important for all students, both new and old, to come out to the events and show the pride they have for their country and their heritage,” said SPC Cultural Celebrations Chair Ayxa Barbel.

For the students who love to solve puzzles, SPC is hosting a murder mystery dinner on Oct. 30. This is a new fall event, where attendees would have to arrive in the GC Ballrooms dressed up to recreate an old Hollywood type of atmosphere. Authentic Italian food will be served to the patrons, and then the show will start — the audience will have to solve a murder acted out by trained actors.

“This murder mystery dinner event is going to be one of the funnest, wackiest, and coolest events to come to FIU,” said SPC Campus Entertainment Chair Ann Marie Muñoz. “Who wouldn’t want to participate in a live game of Clue?”

On Nov. 11, the Insomnia tailgate party will take place after a football game scheduled for that day. It will include free food, activities and live band performances.

“I think the events held by the SPC are great for students, especially for freshmen,” said Mekdeci. “You meet other people and just hang out with other students. Plus it’s all free, so it’s a pretty cool deal.”

SPC Concerts Chair Jackie Gadea.

SPC does not charge for its events. However, students pay for such entertainment through the Activity and Services fee included in students’ semester fees.

“That money is invested for the students’ benefit. Their own money is coming back to them,” said Gadea.

Regardless, students such as junior Alfred Mekdeci take advantage of the various events SPC hosts every semester.

“I think the events held by the SPC are great for students, especially for freshmen,” said Mekdeci. “You meet other people and just hang out with other students. Plus it’s all free, so it’s a pretty cool deal.”

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Music – the perfect escape from the stresses of a new semester. Whether you are a freshman getting accustomed to what college life is or a super senior heading to a concert and actually seeing your favorite band live, there’s no better time to do that than this fall.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Caribbean Music Festival is also being held at Bicentennial Park, and is said to be the largest Caribbean festival in North America. Formerly known as the Caribbean Reggae Fest, this festival will bring together a variety of local and national artists on Oct. 7, along with Caribbean-style foods and plenty of space for dancing. Tickets went on sale Aug. 25, and are $30 for general admission. The festival starts at 1 p.m., but it is suggested to be there an hour in advance.

The lineup includes such names as Daft Punk, Gnarls Barkley (not to be confused with the basketball player), Modest Mouse, Duran Duran (yes, I am shocked as well) and Kinky. Many more artists will be announced as they are added to the growing list. Presale tickets go on sale Aug. 16. Be warned, even though Bicentennial Park is a monstrous venue, it does get easily crowded. Don’t be surprised if you find yourself standing in line for an hour, just for a cold hot dog and a $7 bottle of water.

THE STROKES

If you’re a fan of those oh-so-lonely screaming and whining emo bands, then don’t you dare go to this show. The Strokes may throw a beer bottle at you. The group began their tour in Australia in early August and will be making their way to Pompano Beach’s Club Cinema on Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. After the show, the band will head to Los Angeles where they will open for Tom Petty, for some reason. Tickets for Club Cinema went on sale Aug. 18, and are $30.

Another great act scheduled for Club Cinema is the Yeah Yeah Yeahs on Oct. 12 for $30.

NOUVELLE VAGUE

You might not be a fan of cover bands, but there is nothing unoriginal about Nouvelle Vague. The band, comprised of 11 members, is known for taking some of the best ‘80s tracks and making them into their own. The music style is called “mento” music – mostly acoustic guitars, slow percussion beats, accordions and soft voices.

Nouvelle Vague will be finishing its North American tour on Sept. 23 at Downtown Miami’s Studio A. The band will be performing songs from their first album, Nouvelle Vague I, along with tracks from their newly released album Bande a Part, which will be released just one day prior to their Studio A performance.

Songs in the album include covers of “Killing Moon” from Echo and the Bunnymen, “Ever Fallen in Love” from The Buzzcocks, “Don’t Go” from Yazoo, “Dancing with Myself” from Billy Idol, “Heart of Glass” from Blondie and “Blue Monday” from New Order.

Nouvelle Vague is scheduled to take stage at 9 p.m. and tickets are $15 for general admission. Other acts scheduled for Studio A are Anna Nalick (Sept. 1, $15), Ladytron (Sept. 20, $20), We Are Scientists (Sept. 21, $13), Electric Six (Sept. 28, $12) and The French Kicks (Sept. 29, $10). All tickets for Studio A events can be purchased at www.studioamiami.com.
College transition allows opportunity for new lusts

As the summer closes and the Fall semester begins, many of us must leave the bumping-and-grinding of the dance floor, put down those thirst-quenching mojitos, and pick up our textbooks to focus on what really matters: getting an education. As depressing as that may seem, the party does not have to end here.

For those of you who are college first-timers, you’re not in high school anymore. There is no writing your crush’s name on the bathroom walls or fear of a rumor spreading if someone discovers that you’re a freak. Prepare yourselves for embarking on more adult-like relationships and be open to obtaining a more diverse group of friends. Also, keep in mind that dating in college is far different than it was when you were in high school (no curfew, independent living situations, and a much larger selection of mates, just to name a few examples).

During the summertime, meeting someone outside of school is spontaneous and exciting, but making a back-to-school connection can be just as, if not more, invigorating. There is an abundance of great-looking, hormone-driven, and goal-oriented individuals here at FIU, including students of different ethnicities, ages, and sexual orientations. Whether you are straight, gay, or tri-sexual, FIU is the place and sexual orientations. Whether you are oriented individuals here at FIU, including students of different ethnicities, ages, and sexual orientations. Whether you are straight, gay, or tri-sexual, FIU is the place to find whatever tickles your fancy.

A terrific way to meet interesting new people is to participate in a club or organization that you would enjoy being a part of. On the FIU webpage, under “Campus Life,” there is a variety of on-campus activities listed pertaining to just about anything you can think of: student government, Honors Council, athletics, and fraternities/sororities.

There are also many gathering places on campus where you can meet someone. One of my favorite places is the library. Just imagine the role-playing that could occur should the right person come along. Where are my naughty librarians?

FIU also has many outdoor courtyards, where many people lie to catch some sun while others prefer to sit in the shade and read a book. Or, if there is a cute guy or girl in class that piques your interest, do not hesitate to create stimulating conversation. Since you are taking the same class, perhaps there are common interests that can lead to the discovery of other similarites. Being study partners would be an excellent way to get to know them better.

I started talking to this really cute guy in one of my classes during spring semester. We ended up sitting together every day, trading notes and flirtatious gestures. Come finals, we arranged to meet at his place for a break for a snack, we had some crazy, glad-you-did-it sex. There is nothing better to help clear your mind than that.

For those of you who are new to the school and are looking to make friends with similar interests, if hooking up is what you have in mind, it will come along with getting to know the person better over time and possibly over a few dates. Who knows, by finals you might add anatomy to your studies.

Online registration reduces spot-holding problem

CLAIMED, from page 12

not.” Yff said. For the sake of students who feel the system is unjust, she attempts to clarify why registration appointments are assigned the way they are in the first place: Freshmen, Seniors, Juniors, and then Sophomores.

“There has to be priority. One of the things used for priority is GPA. Freshmen and Seniors usually aren’t problems because they don’t register for the same classes. Why should Sophomores have advantage over Freshmen and Seniors or over students with higher GPAs?”

The logic behind the order is that Freshmen need their basic courses, Seniors need certain classes to graduate, and Sophomores can afford to be last because they still have two years left at the university. Yff asks students to imagine just how unfair registration would be if it were a free-for-all instead of operating on priority.

Although the university cannot prevent spot-holding completely, Yff said that online registration has significantly reduced it. “Online, I don’t know how effective [spot-holding] is. You’d have to be very good at dropping and adding immediately. The online system makes it a lot more fair.”

The issue of spot-holding seems to show one glaring trend: students and administration see each other as “the other side,” when ideally they should be on the same page, working together to see each other’s perspectives more clearly and make registration a more efficient and fair process.
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