Dinner raises funds for Islamic Relief charity

A fund raising dinner will be held in the Graham Center East Ballroom on Sept. 15 at 8 p.m., to help the Lebanese and Palestinian families who have been displaced because of recent Middle East conflicts.

“The Humanitarian Crisis: Lebanon and Palestine” is the result of three organizations working together for the cause: The Muslim Student Association, the Pakistani Student Association and the Women's Studies Honor Society. The proceeds from the dinner will be given to Islamic Relief, an international charity that provides assistance for the impoverished and homeless and raises more than $50 million annually.

According to MSA President Nasim Ahmed, the idea for the dinner developed in early May at the start of the Summer A term. The sponsoring organizations collaborated and brought the idea to fruition.

“Everything just came together,” said Ahmed. “The Muslim Student Association had an idea and was planning this dinner, and the Women’s Studies Honors Society was extremely enthusiastic about the cause and wanted to help us out. The Pakistani Student Association offered to help as well.”

Because of the amount of donations, though, the cost for putting the event together is hard to determine. “It’s really difficult to say because so many people donated things and put their effort into the event,” said Ahmed. “For example, MSA put forward $200 for food, and the Pakistani Student Association is helping pay for decorations.”

Aside from the FIU clubs, outside organizations are helping with the dinner to help promote awareness of the displacement problem affecting thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian people. Arabic food is being provided by Mediterranean restaurant Maroosh.

“The food is being donated by a restaurant in Coral Gables,” said Ahmed.

“It is my experience with new contracts that after a two-week period we sit down with the vendor to see what’s working out and what isn’t,” he said.

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS: In spite of switching companies for the the second time in four months, the Golden Panther Express, now operated by American Coach, is still unpopular within the FIU community.

Students unsatisfied with new service

YESENIA FORTE
Asst. News Director

A couple of days ago, a driver made 30 students wait in the pouring rain while she ate a sandwich and was talking on her cell phone, according to senior Jackie Huntzicker.

“The bus left 20 minutes late,” Huntzicker said.

Two weeks into the Panther Express shuttle service with newly contracted American Coach Lines of Miami, students weren’t the only ones facing problems.

“Driver’s should be given orientation as to who we are as an entity. They should know who their customers are,” said William Martinez, assistant director of Operations for the Wolfe University Center.

Martinez is a frequent shuttle user and suggests that the bus service has room for improvement.

“One driver took us to the Hollywood Blvd. exit en route to BBC which shows they haven’t been given a map of the best routes,” Martinez said. “Some drivers have been leaving earlier than it says on the bus schedule or one will try to pack a bus to let the other driver leave early.”

Transitional items like that in the first couple of weeks are normal according to Purchasing Director Stephen Millsapugh.

“It is my experience with new contracts that after a two-week period we sit down with the vendor to see what’s working out and what isn’t,” he said.

Upcoming Lectures:

- Joseph L. Brown, Assistant Prof. of Economics, Florida Atlantic Univ.
  Topic: Surpluses & Deficits effects on Investment
  Sept. 22, TBA, TBA

- Eric Chiang, Assistant Prof. of Economics, Florida Atlantic Univ.
  Topic: Surpluses & Deficits effects on Investment
  Sept. 22, TBA, TBA

- Bob Crabtree, Topic: Bioorganic Chemistry
  Sept. 16, WC, 11 a.m.

-FundRaiser, page 2
Over 150 expected to attend fundraising dinner

**FUNDRAISER, page 1**

Pakistan Student Organizations Council Representative Beena Kazi.

In addition, tables are available at the dinner for any person or group who wants to sell anything or pass out information about a particular cause. The cost for a table is $100. Besides the Arabic food being served and the information tables set up in the ballroom, there will be several speakers participating in the event. Naeem Muhammad, a representative from Islamic Relief, is the main speaker at the dinner and will be giving a presentation about the crisis in Lebanon and Palestine as well as bringing another speaker who has yet to be announced.

“Naeem is going to do a presentation that has a purpose of hopefully motivating the guests at the dinner to donate more money for this cause,” Ahmed said.

Muhammad has traveled around the world as part of Islamic Relief to raise money for children worldwide, including those affected by the 2005 Kashmir earthquake. This summer, he was a part of the Evening of Inspiration tour that stopped in various states such as New Jersey and California to emphasize the organization’s activities, attract volunteers and help gain new donors.

“This is not the MSA’s first time working with Islamic Relief. “We worked with Islamic Relief last year for another dinner, and it worked out well,” said Ahmed. “They send the money to people who really need it so we wanted to work with them again.”

For the dinner, about 200 people are expected to attend and witness the presentation by Muhammad.

**MEMORIAL 9/11:**

Over 150 expected to attend fundraising dinner

**REUBEN PEREIRA**

Asst. News Director

Amid the crowds and bustle of the Greek rush week, the administration of the Graham University Center organized a memorial service for the victims of the terrorist attacks that took place on Sept. 11, 2001 and for those currently in service.

The commemorative ceremony began at 8:30 a.m. with a Color Guard ceremony performed by the National Guard of the terrorist attacks that took place on Sept. 11, 2001 and for those currently in service.

The commemorative ceremony began at 8:30 a.m. with a Color Guard ceremony performed by the National Guard at the Graham Center, room 210 at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305.348.2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33139. Fax number is 305.348.2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305.919.4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.beaconnewspaper.com

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REMEMBERING 9/11: Candles outline the abbreviation "NY" at the Graham Center pit during the memorial service organized on Sept. 11, 2006.

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The event concluded with students, faculty and staff observing a moment of silence before a candlelight ceremony. Students and staff also signed the memorial on the GC Pit wall and at the Graham Student Center table.

At the Biscayne Bay Campus, several students and staff also gathered to remember the lives lost.

As in UP, the group also had a moment of silence and a candle lighting ceremony.

Additional reporting by Betsy Martinez, Beacon Staff
**TUESDAYS AT GRACIE’S**

**INDIE FLAVOR:** “The Monday Photo” lead singer Leo Marcelo performs at Gracie’s Grill on Tuesday, Sept. 12. The band performed as part of the Student Programming Council’s Two Band Tuesday series.

**NEWSFLASH**

**FIU**

*College of Business Administration among Nation’s best*

The College of Business Administration retains its number seven spot for the second year in a row in U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges 2007” annual survey.

*The magazine ranks business schools nationwide with undergraduate programs focusing on international business.*

*The college is up from number nine in 2004.*

**LOCAL**

*6.0 magnitude earthquake hits Southwest Florida*

According to geologists, an unusually strong earthquake in the Gulf of Mexico rocked southwest Florida Sunday morning.

The quake provoked about 2,000 calls from people in Florida and from as far away as North Carolina.

No damage or injuries were reported, though many residents of the region experienced dishes that rattled all by themselves and swimming pools that suddenly developed rolling waves.

The 6.0 magnitude quake struck a few minutes before 11 a.m. and was centered 259 miles west of Bradenton and 397 miles from Miami.

**Hulk Hogan’s Lamborghini catches fire**

A yellow Lamborghini reportedly owned by Hulk Hogan, caught fire Saturday on Bay Harbor Islands.

There were no injuries reported but information was sketchy about the circumstances leading to the expensive car catching fire along the 96th Street causeway.

*The extent of damage to the VT model is unknown.*

Bay Harbor Islands police said the driver was a juvenile and the law prohibits the release of his name.

**NATIONAL**

*President, First Lady observe 9/11 anniversary*

As part of the 9/11 remembrance, President Bush and his wife Laura spent moments of silence on Sunday after laying wreaths at the site where the twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood.

Bush later pledged “renewed resolve” to remember the lessons of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The Bushes also set floral wreaths adrift in reflecting pools that mark the former location of the north and south towers at the beginning of a fifth-anniversary tour that took them to all three sites of devastation.

The Bushes then attended a service of prayer and remembrance at nearby St. Paul’s Chapel and stopped by a rebuilt firehouse to greet firefighters.

He was then scheduled to visit firefighters and other emergency workers at a firehouse in lower Manhattan; attend a ceremony at the field in Shanksville, PA, where one of the hijacked planes crashed to the ground; and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon.

**WORLD**

*Serbian miners share survival story*

Emotional relatives greeted eight miners rescued Saturday from a burning Siberian gold mine after a violent fire killed at least 21 of their co-workers.

The survivors were rushed to hospitals to be treated for hypothermia and carbon dioxide poisoning.

In order to stay alive they said they shared one cigarette, two pieces of lard that were split into smaller equal pieces among all, and a piece of bread.

They said that no one yelled at each other and that everybody managed to stay together.

Rescuers discovered the bodies of five miners late Saturday and four other workers were still missing in smoke-filled tunnels.

*Compiled by Betsy Martinez, Beacon Staff, from wire reports*
Landing expected to finish in 12 years

FALLAN M. THOMPSON
Staff Writer

A new entrance is planned as an add-on to the construction of the Biscayne Landing development project near Biscayne Bay campuses. Yet, traffic is still an issue to be addressed.

As students drive in and out of BBC, the only road available to them at this time is one that is very difficult for them to block due to ongoing construction of the condominiums.

Construction in the area is expected to continue for at least another 12 years, according to estimates from the Biscayne Landing website.

According to Nick Diciacco, senior director for facilities management operations, discussions on a new entrance were agreed upon last year.

The road would be a larger route for students connecting Biscayne Bay Boulevard to 151 to hopefully ease traffic.

“Traffic studies were taken of the street by the city and developer and found it would suffice for the traffic,” Diciacco said.

According to Diciacco, they also looked at drawings of the road to be widened and were considering new walls and a new sign announcing FIU and Biscayne Landing.

The multi-billion dollar “city with a city” condominium along 151 Street is planned as a family-friendly community, which owns the local school, David K. Lawrence K-8 Center.

The project began in 2003 and is not slated to end until 2015, according to the website. Biscayne Landing developers were not available for comment.

The development that stretches from 137 Street to 151 Street will boast 6,000 residents and a 230-acre nature preserve.

According to the Biscayne Landing Sell Center, the development is planning 16 condominium towers, several town homes and perhaps some villas.

The condos start at $500,000 and the town homes are going for $900,000 to $1,250,000.

The complex will include a town center with shops and restaurants, the 23-story condo towers, which are 95 percent sold, according to the website and a parking garage on premises.

A new high school will also be built in the area east of the stadium.

“The high school [is not a] charter school anymore,” Pam Solomon, City of North Miami spokesperson said.

“They plans have changed and it is now a [Miami-Dade School Board] project.”

Kevin Patterson, senior tries his best as a commuter student to get to class on time, he looks forward to construction coming to an end.

“I hope they fix it soon,” Patterson said.

“I think that the construction really hurts the drive time associated with getting to school on time.”

Traffic is also caused by continual construction on the K-8 Center and up-and-coming high school.

The K-8 school opened to the community Aug. 14 but continues to have construction occurring on site to create parking, drop-off and pick-up lanes, landscaping and other outdoor surroundings.

Principal Bernard L. Osborn claims the construction for his school should wrap up this November.

Currently, traffic problems involve the school is between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. because students are being dropped off by both bus and parents.

Parents have to park at the FIU Stadium parking facilities and walk their way to the FIU to Biscayne Landing, a development is estimated to be complete in 2015 that will boast 6,000 residents.

Author’s lecture addresses oil and corruption

FERNANDO ANZOATEGUI AND CRISTELA GUERRA
Beacon Staff

Edwin Black, bestselling investigative author from the New York Times, kicked off The Middle East Society’s Fall lecture series with a hot topic: oil.

It was his first of 500 stops in 30 cities in a national book tour to promote his new book, Internal Combustion, a non-fiction novel in thick black binding about oil, corruption and the history of the Middle East.

According to Black, not only the type to mimic words, Black introduced himself bluntly.

“If you want to understand Middle East politics, you’ve got to understand oil and our dependency on it,” he said.

His lecture, entitled “The exploitation of Petrolopetalitics in the Middle East,” confronted many issues such as terrorism and why the U.S. seems to rely so heavily on the petroleum it receives from the other side of the world.

Black attacked the root of the problem that according to him began centuries before using phrases such as a “century of lies based upon a millennia of manipulation” referring to the commercial oil industry.

“It began in the cradle of civilization formerly known as Mesopotamia. I’d prefer to call it the cradle of commerce,” Black said.

Black also touched on the history of foreign affairs within the Middle East from the Anglo-Persian oil company to the well-known British Petroleum company or BP.

“There has always been oil in the Middle East,” according to Black.

“Petroleum literally means the oil that comes from the rock.”

An interesting perspective on the oil crisis was Black’s insistence on new methods of energy and fuel.

The writer encouraged all to fax purchase orders to Honda and demand they produce more cars and trucks that run on compressed natural gas or alternative energy.

“We need to get off oil today, not be one imposed upon when we least expect it. The car companies have sold us out,” Black said.

Many in the audience, even those who arrived a bit late, felt the impact of his words.

“I heard about it in class and decided to show up,” said senior Daniel Lubin.

“It sounds to me that he believes we should really put emphasis on the changes, but things aren’t getting better,” Lubin said.

To Mireille Mechoulamm, a North Miami resident and Israeli, the issue hit home.

“He made a lot of sense about the conspiracies of corporations. They don’t want us to have alternative methods, they just want money,” she said.

Black answered some audience members questions after his lecture and emphasized why he wrote the book.

“All of my books have talked about a terrible past that can insure a better future. This book focuses more on preventing a terrible future and restore the good parts of our past,” said Black.
Full speed ahead.

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Monique Mattiache, senior

It's terrible. They're building all this near schools and it's just making more traffic.

Currently, more than half of our 900 students ride the bus, according to Sergeant Robert Bage. “Currently, the only school zone in place is a giant traffic billboard that says, “Slow down; school zone.”

According to Captain Wright who oversees public safety at BBC, North Miami police has been doing periodic strict checks of the area and has stopped numerous students for speeding already.

There’s also a plan to eventually establish official speed limits in accordance with a school zone as well as flashing yellow lights to warn students of elementary school children crossing 151.

“We monitor traffic though we can’t predict the future impact of construction,” Wright said.

According to Captain Wright who oversees public safety at BBC, North Miami police has been doing periodic strict checks of the area and has stopped numerous students for speeding already.

There’s also a plan to eventually establish official speed limits in accordance with a school zone as well as flashing yellow lights to warn students of elementary school children crossing 151.

“We monitor traffic though we can’t predict the future impact of construction,” Wright said.

All in the University community should pay attention to the fact that there are children and their parents crossing and we’re near a construction site.”

Until the Department of Transportation makes the area an official school zone, students face the issue of getting a ticket.

“We’ve been pulling over speeders, but not that many,” Sergeant Bage said Aug. 28, of 151 Street’s 25 MPH speed limit. “[The good thing is that] FIU doesn’t start all at once.”

Monique Mattiache, a junior who’s classes are all at BBC summed up her opinion on traffic and construction.

“It’s terrible, they’re building all this near schools and it’s just making more traffic,” said Mattiache.

“I don’t understand it, why isn’t FIU expanding its own campus rather than allowing all this other construction? The area is so small and college campuses are expected to have traffic already,” she said.

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Quality In Everything We Do
Democrats will win midterms

CHRIS CABRAL
Contributing Writer

With the midterms approaching, the Democratic Party finds itself poised to gain control of Congress. This opportunity is born not of superior political maneuvering on their part, but rather from the utter failure of their opponents, whose so-called “leadership” pulled us toward domestic disaster and whose vision failed to foresee catastrophe in Iraq.

America’s growing contempt for the Republicans is more than just a momentary shift of public opinion. It is a historic rebuke and rejection of the policies of extreme conservatism.

The rise of the Republican dynasty was hailed by its proponents as the dawn of a new America. But over the years, their work to bend regulation and cede control of our economic destiny to big business would yield a new era of greed; their slashing of social programs would usher in a golden age of personal responsibility; and the war in Iraq would be quick and relatively easy.

This heartwarming fantasy nearly bullied us all to sleep, comforted by visions of a secure America, protected by a strong military, its economy growing stronger.

But this country can do great things. It has overcome greater problems before. Social Security, overtime pay, Medicare. These programs and reforms are monuments to what can be achieved through a government dedicated to serving its people.

We need leaders who acknowledge these problems exist, and work to solve them. Electing a Democratic Congress may not be a cure-all for the nation’s ills, but it will be a step forward for a country that has been in regression for too long.

vitation, the oil, health care and insurance industries could now milk consumers for record profits. Disaster struck the Gulf Coast and our leaders seemed paralyzed by indecision and apathy. As wages remained stagnant, Congress remained too fearful of interfering with the “free” market to raise the minimum wage, so instead they busied themselves with talk of banning gay marriage.

Our troops came to realize that while the G.O.P. supports them in spirit, it would not hesitate to give them inadequate body armor and gut veterans’ benefits.

Democrats will win midterms

New bus company off to bad start

Throughout the course of the past year, FIU has hopped from bus company to bus company in search of someone to provide transportation for the shuttle service that runs to and from the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses. In four months, the University has gone through three different companies.

Two weeks into the Summer A semester, 7871 Buslines, Inc. dissolved its contract with the University.

Desperate to find someone to supply transportation throughout the summer and until it could find a suitable replacement, the University scrambled together a contract with Royal Limousine. As The Beacon reported over the summer, this proved to be a disastrous arrangement.

Royal’s buses were small and in poor condition. This resulted in cramped seating arrangements and uncomfortable seats, among other issues. These problems were aggravated by buses that arrived late or sometimes not at all.

The beginning of the Fall semester coincided with the start of a new contract with another bus company, American Coach. So far, the transition has been anything but smooth.

American Coach has failed in running its buses on time. On good days, lateness has been caused by buses leaving past their scheduled depature time. In one case, this was caused because the driver wanted to finish the sandwich she was eating before getting on the road. Other times, buses have simply not shown up at all. When students rely on this essential service to get to their classes, all this translates into tardiness and absences.

Given that FIU is not organized into two separate, wholly independent campus entities, but rather as one campus spread over two locations, adequate transportation between UP and BBC is indispensable. Many students need to take classes at both campuses. Because housing at UP is in short supply, students who take classes at UP have been housed at BBC. These students need a reliable means of travel from one campus to the other.

The need for a reliable mode of transportation between campuses is essential, yet so far the University has dealt with it only as an afterthought. For FIU’s “one campus” concept to work, the administration needs to take seriously transporting between campuses.

The administration must take action to turn the Panther Express into an efficient and reliable bus service. This means finding a bus company that is willing and prepared to meet the needs of the University and its students. Finally, it also means that once such a company is found, it must be held to its commitment to the University, rather than shuffl ing through a series of second-rate providers.

Musical bell ringing unnecessary, irritating

I understand the importance of the bell at [the University Park campus]. It goes off on the hour, half hour, and 10 minutes before. It is quiet and helpful.

For some reason, somebody has brought it upon himself to make the most horrible music out of these bells, which lasts for another four or so minutes. This is only my third week here and I find it beyond irritating already.

Orlando Leone
Sophomore
Electrical Engineering

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Have you experienced delays using the FIU shuttle service this semester?

• Yes – The bus left late, arrived late and took the long way there
• No – So far, so good.
• No – I haven’t used the shuttle this semester.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Praise for handling of homeland security undeserved

The “On the Right” opinion article written by Christopher Necuze for the November 11, 2006 edition of The Beacon is adorably naive. His big point, the one that knocks the wind out of any question raised against the Bush Administration, is that America has hardly been attacked on foreign soil since September 11, 2001. Then, his point is highlighted with a tender “Game On.” What an admirable goal.

After reading Necuze’s article, I began to question where I was during the unsafe Clinton years, before George W. was elected, making America safe again. A plausible, almost worthy, argument to Necuze’s statement is that there had never been any attacks on the continental American soil until 9/11/2001 when his beloved #43 had been in office for one year, taking naps in the afternoon and spending a record time on vacation at his Texas ranch.

Also, the arrests made a few weeks ago were made by British, not American, officials.

Let’s stop gracing the Bush Administration with so much undue credit. There were, in fact, 42 presidents before him. I think some of the others may have contributed to the security and morale of this nation.

Ruoel Yasin
Senior
Biochemistry/Finance

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
As many students already know, there are two main campuses for students to attend classes: University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Located 20 miles away from each other, it’s a simple matter for students to commute between the two campuses. Because the commute is particularly difficult for those without their own vehicles, FIU set up a bus service going back and forth between UP and BBC.

However, depending on which student you ask, the bus service is either a blessing or a curse.

I myself had never ridden on the bus service before, so as an educational venture I bought the $4 round trip ticket and headed for the bus stop.

The pouring rain I was being sheltered from under the bus stop was the first of several bad omens I would receive on this ride.

Much to the dismay of many of the students waiting, the 8 a.m. bus never showed up. Or, if you want to look at it a different way, the 8 a.m. bus was 30 minutes late and the 8:15 a.m. bus never showed up...

As a result, the 9 a.m. bus showed up 15 minutes late.

Regardless of how you look at it, two buses were scheduled to show up at 8:00 a.m. and 8:15 a.m., but only one bus arrived.

Once students boarded the bus, all seemed to be going well.

That is, until the bus turned onto 107th Ave. and stayed there for 20 minutes because of traffic.

The bus driver obviously did not know that you could cut through FIU and turn directly onto 8th street, which is where the turnpike leading to BBC is located; it took two hours to reach BBC. Granted, a big piece of the delay was due to the rainy weather, but then again it is Miami, and it rains frequently.

Does this sound familiar? According to some students, this is a regular occurrence.

“This started in the summer. It’s my second time missing class because the buses are running so late,” said junior Jessica Nodarse. “I missed my class, why bother to get off?” Nodarse said when the bus arrived.

She wasn’t alone either: five other students in the same situation as Nodarse.

She, on the other hand, was determined to start a petition demanding that the university’s previous bus service be reinstated.

“We’re paying more money for crap-pier service,” said Nodarse.

Not all students have such bleak opinions of the shuttle service, however.

“It’s really convenient. It saves gas, and the time is good for taking naps or eating breakfast,” said Junior Amin Shahidpour while taking the bus from BBC to UP.

When things go on schedule, students tend to enjoy themselves.

“I either chill with friends or listen to music,” said sophomore Natasha Qureshi.

Some faculty members like Martin Quirk, professor of organic chemistry, insist that despite the bus service’s drawbacks, it’s a vital service.

“I personally don’t get any perks for teaching at both campuses, but it’s really important to have the bus service,” Quirk said.

Ladies, if you like g-spot stimulation, tell him. If your clitoris needs to be rubbed, let him know. Not all women are pleased equally. And, men, if you want her to try something new, just ask - she may be open to it.

Don’t try to initiate anything unexpected - especially anal sex. I can assure you it will make her mad. Ease into it and she will be more responsive in telling you her needs.

To get the full experience of how great intimacy can be, plan an evening along with your partner. Start with a romantic dinner, followed by a walk under the stars, a candle-lit bubble bath and lots of explorative kissing. Just take your time, do it right and thank me later!
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COLLEGE HAPPENS. BE READY.
Although recent hazing incidents at Florida A&M may have incited students worried about such activities occurring at FIU, Daniela Pestana, vice president of the Panhelena Council, feels the need to convince them otherwise.

"On behalf of sororities, I don’t think hazing exists [at FIU]," she said. "We don’t have that problem. Each chapter’s headquarters would have to come down and revoke the chapter if it did." As VP of the council, Pestana oversees different committees, including public relations, philanthropy and athletics. She defines hazing as "anything that can break a person down," and believes that although it may not happen at FIU, other schools don’t follow such strict regulations.

"[It] definitely exists in more of the southern and traditional colleges, where the really old chapters are," she said. A recent incident at FAMU put five students in the spotlight after the brutal beating of a fellow Kappa Alpha Psi member during an initiation session.

This will be the first hazing case in Florida since a state law was passed in June 2005 making hazing a third-degree felony. Each chapter’s headquarters would have to come down and revoke the chapter if it did.

As VP of the council, Pestana oversees different committees, including public relations, philanthropy and athletics. She defines hazing as "anything that can break a person down," and believes that although it may not happen at FIU, other schools don’t follow such strict regulations.

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At FIU, every fraternity claims to abide by laws set about in the Interfraternity Council’s Constitution, last revised in November 2004, which includes Article IV, a section dedicated solely to the laws pertaining to hazing.

It states that "hazing means any action, activity or situation which recklessly, negligently, or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person for the purpose of initiation or admission." Further on, it urges any person who suffers from or witnesses any hazing to "report the incident to the appropriate university officials and to the IFC Judicial Board Chair."
Men’s soccer earns first victory of 2006 season against Mercer

ANDREW KAMEKA
Staff Writer

The men’s soccer team seems allergic to winning. Shut-out in three games and forced into overtime in its fourth, FIU was still searching for a win as the team faced Mercer on Sept. 10.

Thanks to two forwards finally connecting the ball with the net, the Golden Panthers (1-2-2) got a 2-0 victory in a 2-1 victory over the Bears.

“I’m one of the seniors in a line with younger players, so it felt good to win and get some of the pressure off my shoulders,” Team Captain David Hope said.

Hope gave FIU a 1-0 lead when he beat goalkeeper Roberto Cronenbold 10 minutes into the match.

Cronenbold hesitantly challenged Hope, who pasted past a defender and shot the ball into the bottom right corner of the goal.

Freshman Christian Caporaletti then made it 2-0 early in the 29th minute. Cronenbold made an acrobatic save, but didn’t secure the ball, and Caporaletti tapped in the rebound from six yards out before the goalkeeper could recover.

Despite the win, FIU’s performance troubled Head Coach Karl Kremser.

“Early on we played very well and put good pressure on them,” Kremser said. “Then it seemed like [players] just said, ‘let’s take it easy,’ and it turned into a free-for-all.

FIU held Mercer to three shots in the first half but the Bears earned nine shots in the second half.

The most devastating shot came from Vicente Arze in the 67th minute.

Moments after goalkeeper Shane Crowe called for FIU to throw the ball in the box heart, Arze answered with a goal as midfielder Richard Martinez near the left side of the penalty area.

He dribbled into the box and sent a low shot past Crowe, setting the score at 2-1.

“One of the most inexcusable things in soccer is a backyard goal and we had that happen today,” Kremser said.”

“We cannot afford to do that because it’s a basic, fundamental thing.”

FIU 2, BINGHAMTON 2

It may have taken 318 minutes and a transfer student from Iceland but FIU finally earned a goal this season.

Junior midfielder Dadi Kristjánsson scored in a 2-2 tie against Binghamton Sept. 8 to end a three-game drought.

In the 48th minute, Kristjánsson pounced on a deflected ball inside the penalty area and sent it rolling into the left side of the net.

“I was in the right place at the right time,” he said. “It came straight at me and I just hit it because there was nothing else to do.”

At Kristjánsson’s goal event a penalty kick in the 14th minute. Binghamton once again benefited from a handball foul in the 50th minute.

Just as forward Barry Neville did earlier in the game, FIU’s goalie David Lilia blasted his penalty kick into the right side of the goal.

“It’s the referee’s call but I don’t think either [foul] was intentional,” Kremser said.

“And the second one took a lot of us because we had just scored and tied it up.”

FIU’s next match takes place Sept. 17 as the team faces Florida Atlantic at the University of Central Florida.

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connected for his first career extra point giving the Golden Panthers a 1-3-7 lead with 9:21 to play in the half.

FIU’s offense struggled visibly throughout the night. With a brand new offensive line, the Golden Panthers combined for just 50 yards rushing on 31 attempts.

They scored just their second touchdown of the season with 20 seconds to play in the half thanks to a USF mental blunder with 4:12 to play.

USF returned an FIU punt all the way back for a score, only to be called back for a holding penalty, which gave FIU a new first down to the visitors.

Senior quarterback Job Padrick, who finished the night 20 -of -33 for 238 yards and a touchdown, connected on 4 of 4 passes and marched FIU down the field before finding senior tight end Samuel Smith from three yards out for a touchdown and a 20-7 halftime lead.

The lead quickly dwindled as the third quarter got underway.

On just the third drive of the second half USF cut the lead to six, 20-14 as Taurus Singleton on a miss run route following an audible call at the line of scrimmage.

USF’s next match takes place Sept. 16 at the team faces the University of Central Florida at the University Park campus.

Strock says offensive line is still “work in progress”

OFFENSIVE LINE

With 10:33 left to play Grothe was intercepted for the second time on the night, this time by FIU defensive back Lionel Singleton on a miss run route following an audible call at the line of scrimmage.

FIU managed to achieve a first down with under eight minutes to play as Padrick found freshman receiver Ashlyn Parker for a 27-yard gain out to the USF 46-yard line.

From there however the failure running game cost FIU as they were unable to get anything else and were forced to punt with 6:29 to play.

With a chance at the win, Grothe drove his men down to the FIU 30 yard line where they were unable to pick up a first down with 3:46 to play. At that point, the victory seemed to be in the books, but a minute later a miscalculation would change the ball up.

FIU’s season continues Sept. 22 at home against Florida State in Tallahassee.
Football players and families taunted by community

Umm. Is she completely ignoring the fact that her son stole a fake deer in the middle of the night, placed it in the middle of a dark road and laughed from a distance as people swerved around it?

Football has made her son such an accountable and exemplary citizen that the minute someone crashed – and almost died – because of his senseless prank, he fled the scene immediately.

As a judge, how can one even get away with such favoritism? The purpose of the justice system is to teach offenders a lesson. I think there would have been no bigger lesson than to ruin these brats’ football season – even if the team suffers because of it.

The father of one of the convicted boys complained to CNN.com that members of the community have made crude remarks when his family went shopping at the local Wal-Mart.

“I don’t know why it’s about football players. Why isn’t it about student council or track?” he asked CNN.com. “He admitted what he did and he faced the consequences like a young man should.”

That’s fine and dandy sir, but no student council or track team members were involved in causing the near-death of two teenagers. And if they were, they would sure as hell serve their sentence as soon as possible.

The worst part of all is that the football team itself is not taking any disciplinary action.

Now, take the recent incident with the University of Texas football team when two of their contributing players, Tarell Brown and Tyrell Gatewood, were charged with possession of less than two ounces of marijuana. Brown was also charged with illegal possession of a weapon.

Immediately after the charges were filed, the players were suspended indefinitely from the team and their future with the program is in jeopardy, depending on the outcome of impending sentencing.

It didn’t matter that Texas, the No. 2 team in the country at the time, was playing No. 1 Ohio State that same week.

Texas went on to lose the game. But the team and the two players learned a valuable lesson: Bonehead behavior off the football field will tarnish your future on it.

Sadly enough, most teams are still going to give star players special treatment and the only ones who suffer in the end are the players. They can get away with murder – or, in this case, causing a near-fatal car wreck – and will never be taught a lesson.
Golden Panthers lose by one point again

ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

TAMPA, Fla. – For the second week in a row FIU’s defense played their hearts out. Also for the second week in a row, a lackluster offense and a missed extra point cost the Golden Panthers the game.

FIU (2-0, 1-0) dropped their second game in nine days on the road as they visited University of South Florida (2-0) in Tampa’s Raymond James Stadium falling 21-20 on a late Bulls touchdown with just 2:33 left to play in regulation.

Coach Don Strock’s men looked to have sealed the biggest win in the program’s short five-year history as they lead 20-13 a late Bulls touchdown with just 2:33 left to play in regulation.

“Everything was falling in FIU’s favor. It didn’t make plays when we had a chance to.”

Before that point it seemed as though almost everything was falling in FIU’s favor.

FIU, a 22-point underdog by the odds makers, took a surprise lead that stunned the crowd of 27,114 people when senior wideout Chandler Williams returned a punt for an 82-yard touchdown less than five minutes into the game.

Everything looked to be going their way until senior first-year kicker Chris Patullo missed his second extra point in two weeks. Still early in the game it appeared as though the mistake that cost the team the one point loss against Middle Tennessee would be one they could overcome. Led by strong safety Chris Smith’s seven tackles, FIU’s defense played a stellar first half but could only see their lead disappear from the sidelines as USF punt returner Ean Randolph broke free of the special teams unit and returned the favor with a 76-yard punt return for a touchdown. After a successful conversion, USF led 7-6 - an ominous score for Golden Panther fans so far this season.

“Our special teams didn’t do much of anything,” Strock said. “We have a lot of young guys – almost all freshmen who haven’t played on the punt team – and they didn’t stand up to the challenge real well. That stuff you work on everyday, so that’s disheartening because I am trying to get these young guys into the game and get them some experience and I wouldn’t call that experience.”

Before long Strock’s defense stepped up and turned the second quarter around. Free safety Robert Mitchell read Grothe perfectly and stepped in front of the pass and scored on a 14-yard interception return. Patullo missed his second extra point in two weeks.

The Golden Panthers needed to establish a running game. In both their losses to Middle Tennessee and USF, they only averaged 72.5 yards rushing. Establishing a running game will open up the passing game for senior quarterback Josh Padrick.

“That means it wasn’t even supposed to be a blow out. Surprisingly, there were, up 20-7 at halftime.

For those of you who watched or listened to the game, FIU blew the lead and a chance to score their first upset victory of the year. And not just any upset, but a victory against a Big East conference opponent who played in the Miami Car Care Bowl last year.

They weren’t the only Sun-Belt team trying to pull a fast one. Troy almost beat Florida State in Tallahassee and were also leading in the fourth quarter. It just goes to show you that both these teams, and many other teams in smaller conferences, aren’t quite ready to take down the big boys – not yet though.

Call me an optimist, but I think this should be something to build upon.

Unfortunately, I’m alone in thinking this way. All I hear around campus is how bad the team is, how they blew it, what if, etc.

So maybe FIU would have won the game if sophomore running back Julian Reams wouldn’t have fumbled the ball at their 30-yard line with 2:52 left in the game; or maybe they would have won the game if place kicker Chris Patullo would have made his first extra point. All of that shouldn’t be the main issue here. It’s all about progress.

And that’s what I saw: a USF team that was only one point and one kick better than FIU. The same could be said for the game against Middle Tennessee, who lost to Maryland 24-10. FIU plays Maryland Sept. 23.

The defense held the Bulls in check most of the game and the offense is beginning to find its rhythm and establish an identity. You can’t expect a five-year-old team to go undefeated in their second year in Division I-A.

During his first year at FSU, Don Strock and his coaching staff are slowly trying to build a program and tradition at FIU. And with that, growing pains and patience should be expected.

Unfortunately, patience isn’t something found in sports today. Coaches are fired left and right, players are cut and fans cry for blood when a team goes 9-3, instead of 12-0.

So a few losses this year shouldn’t surprise anyone.

It hasn’t surprised oddsmakers in Las Vegas because Bowling Green is favored to defeat FIU by five points. Is it finally time to stop thinking of the underdog?"