The proposed budget cuts delay Med School

BEN F. BADGER JR., Asst. News Director

Governor Charlie Crist caught FIU by surprise Sept. 6 with the announcement of his proposed state budget cuts.

The proposed cuts include postponing the opening of FIU's and the University of Central Florida's medical schools – an action that, according to Provost Ronald Berkman, is a reversal on Gov. Crist's previous stance on the medical schools opening.

According to Berkman, Gov. Crist considered the opening of the medical schools "a priority" and fully supported their contributions to community needs. Virtually all of the FIU administration was made aware of the proposed budget cuts at the same time shortly before The Miami Herald broke the story.

"We had no advance warning," Berkman said. In Crist's proposal there are over 250 specific line items proposed to be cut from the state's budget. Four of them directly involve FIU. (Refer to Info Box)

"The University community is already working on a thoughtful, sober plan to make the required cuts to our overall University budget based on the state's financial reality," President Modesto A. Maidique said in a press release issued Sept. 6. "These additional cuts undermine our common goal of providing affordable educational opportunities to students throughout South Florida and fostering the economic development of our state."

The proposed budget plan comes amidst the State universities already planning a general budget cut of 6.2 percent due to low state revenues.

Proposed budget cuts

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<tr>
<th>Line Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Line Item 43: FIU Hispanic Crime Prevention Program ($550,000 cut)</td>
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<td>Line Item 322: FIU Life Science Program Enhancements – Delay First Time Funds ($440,000 cut)</td>
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<td>Line Item 333: FIU Hurricane Mitigation Research – Delay First Time Funds ($4,000,000 cut)</td>
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<td>Line Item 313: Bright Futures – Maintain Prior Year's Finding Level ($18,000,000 cut)</td>
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<td>Line Item 311: FIRP – Delay First Time Funds ($10,197,426 cut)</td>
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According to Viviana Jordan, director of legislative affairs for the Student Government Council at University Park, some of the proposed cuts are surprising because they were already approved and appropriated funds by the State Legislature.

"The fact that it's [paying until the legislature recovers] on the Med school line item, doesn't give me a set amount of time [before funding for the College of Medicine would be issued]," Jordan said.

Also causing controversy is $80 million that has been earmarked for the University of Miami and will not be subject to the state budget cuts. The funds will be used to establish a new Institute of Human Genomics – the study of an organism's genetic material.

"UM gets $80 million for research in a specific area. That's a little unusual when we are starving," said Carolyn Roberts, chairman of the Board of Governors in an article published Sept. 6 in the Palm Beach Post. "It would be my hope that we would be protected from some of the cuts."

According to Berkman, if the Legislature does follow the budget plan, "we are starving," said Carolyn Roberts, chairman of the Board of Governors in an article published Sept. 6 in the Palm Beach Post. "It would be my hope that we would be protected from some of the cuts."

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Bank services, fees under review

Bank services, fees under review

DAVID SHAW
Contributing Writer

Like hundreds of other students, when Opal Nugent’s in a money bind, she heads over to the Wachovia ATM in the Graham Center.

But because she is not a Wachovia customer, Nugent gets greeted with a $2.25 service fee.

"They have inconvenienced me greatly," Nugent said.

Currently, only Wachovia or University Credit Union members have a way to avoid fees while banking on campus, but that could change very soon.

There is hope that some services might be offered in conjunction with the ATM service that would give customers who weren’t members of the bank a chance to withdraw money without paying a service fee.

Only three ATMs serve the more than 30,000 students that pass through UP daily.

In addition to the Wachovia ATM next the stairs behind The Pit in GC, there is also an ATM operated by the University Credit Union by the main entrance to GC, which charges a service fee of $1.50 to any non-credit union withdrawals. The third ATM, whose service charge is $1.95, is located in the Breezeway Café by the Housing Quad.

One proposal is an upgraded PantherCARD. According to PantherCARD Coordinator Mercedes Cesin, the PantherCARD works as a cash card that can be used anywhere on campus and is used by many parents to manage students’ spending by periodically adding money to the card. The PantherCARD doesn’t work exactly like a bank card; students can’t use it to make cash withdrawals.

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The Beacon – September 10, 2007

**Events fundraise for earthquake victims**

**Center closes after losing funds**

**Correction**

In the Aug. 30th issue, the article titled “Fees, services increase,” the correct name of the organization is Baptist Health South Florida, not Baptist Health Systems.

In the Sept. 4th issue, the article titled “Team looks to regain past glory with new head coach,” the name for Health South Florida, not Baptist Health Systems.

**COMPETITIONS**

**SGC-UP Notes**

Sept. 5 Call to order 4 p.m., Adjournment 4:40 p.m.

President’s Report (Maribel Hernandez):

- The Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) is putting together a program about the FIU “going global” to use FIU’s diversity, taking advantage of it on campus and in the community.
- Vice President’s Report (Arthur “AJ” Meyer):
  - Said there are many changes happening to Gracie’s Grill: SGC-UP is talking to Gracie’s Grill to discuss possibility of cheaper prices and their new menu to see if student’s want the food items.
  - Also looking into placing comment boxes for every customer service department at FIU, such as the Financial Aid office, to get more student input.

Comptroller’s Report (Sergio Bolotnick):

- Hopes to present financial books and their total amounts after this fiscal year to council through the Activities and Services Fees office.
- Financial control board next meeting Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.

Chief of Staff (Kenny Gelok):

- Sept. 5 was the first cabinet meeting at 3:15 p.m. They will meet every two weeks.
- Sept. 19 will be a the pond cleanup behind Gracie’s Grill. Council looking to get help from the Greek Council.
- New SGA website will be up Oct. 5, not sooner, because there is no webmaster in Campus Life office to it.

See www.beaconnewspaper.com for complete notes.

- Compiled by Nicole Acosta, Tina Bahienko and Christine Veiga

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Exhibit reveals propaganda in children's books

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO Contributing Writer

It's hard to believe that books with passages such as, "any person who tells us that this war isn't any of our business doesn't know what he's talking about," can qualify as propaganda.

Nonetheless, it's hard to call the books subtle as the majority of them depict strong war images such as children wearing gas masks and an alphabet book from World War II with Adolf Hitler, Hermann Göring and Joseph Goebbels in stocks on the cover. Even others demonize the enemy by casting the opponents in negative stereotypes or as threatening animals like wolves.

"One of the things that makes this such an amazing collection is that it shows different players in the various wars, especially during World War I and World War II," Luca said.

One person not surprised by the content in the exhibition is Professor Brian Peterson from the History Department at FIU. An expert on Nazi German and Soviet Communism, Peterson explained that propaganda was a big thing during the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian states, which tried to control everyone's thinking and life.

"They especially wanted to get children while they were young," Peterson said.

He mentioned that about 100 books were confiscated by governments or encouraged by governments or done by governments but done by private individuals who were not approved by different governments have influenced generations of children through a means that most parents would find safe.

Some of the books were received as gifts from foreign embassies or for children who were the offspring of foreign diplomats. Some were either overtly sponsored by governments or encouraged by governments or done by private individuals who were not approved by different governments that published, distributed and made children accessible to buy stamps or conduct scrap drives for the war, and another promoting laughter as the means to defeat Hitler, seem innocent enough.

"In the Sept. 6 press release, Markell expressed concern about whether the University of Central Florida would receive funding for the Special Collections Center from the Legislature unless it opened an exhibit of the collection to the public.

"These measures are necessary to ensure that our students and faculty have access to the rich resources that our librarians and collectors have assembled over the years," said Markell. According to the Diaspora Books for Children, the collection is that it shows different players in the various wars, especially during World War I and World War II."

Berkman: We hope Legislature honors budget commitments

Berkman: We hope Legislature honors budget commitments

BUDGET, page 1

Gov. Crist's plan and goes back on its agreement with the University of Central Florida to provide library services to students could be able to get a bank that would be available around town so that they could get a bank card outside of the University. (Photo courtesy of the Wolfsonian/The Beacon)

"A" IS FOR ADOLENT: An alphabet book displays Hitler, Göring and Goebbels in stocks on its cover.

"I'm absolutely convinced that we have the support from the Legislature to continue," Berkman said. We're doing research and are working on a month-to-month contract that can expire at any time.

Marbely Hernandez, president of UP-Student Government Council, who represents the student body and communicates with the University, has already worked on some ways of improving the services available through the University. (Photo courtesy of the Wolfsonian/The Beacon)

"It would be good to have a bank that would be available around town so that students could be able to use banks at the mall or other area resources without worry," Hernandez said.

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SOC-BBC elects new vice president

ELVIS RAMIREZ
BBC Life Editor

Didier “DJ” Georges was elected by student club representatives as the new vice president for the Student Organizations Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus, said Georges, a sophomore in the Department of Campus Life and Organizations.

The special election was held after the resignation of Carla St. Louis, the former SOC-BBC vice president. She resigned three weeks before the Fall semester began after accepting an internship from The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars in Washington, D.C.

“The new vice president should be just a person who’s dedicated, wants change for the University, and who also has patience. They should be prepared to make mistakes,” St. Louis said. “They should come into [SOC] with an open mind and be prepared to work with the people.

The election was pushed back until the second week of the Fall semester because SOC-BBC wanted to be fair to the clubs that were not active during the summer. The organization also felt it was best to wait until after the first week of the semester, according to Ivy Siegel, the advisor for SOC and coordinator for the Department of Campus Life and Organizations.

Though clubs were informed of the election through e-mails, SOC-BBC knew that not all of the 33 clubs would be able to send representatives to the election, said Joseph “Joe” Mintz, SOC-BBC president.

During the meeting, the four candidates running for vice president were given two minutes to present themselves and their ideas before the club representatives.

They were Daniel Cheretis, Jose “Juy” Flores, Gabriel Labrador and Georges.

All the candidates had previous experience with SOC-BBC. Cheretis is the current marketing director for the organization, Flores was SOC-BBC treasurer last semester and Georges has participated in different SOC-BBC clubs and Georges was a representative for the Catholic Student Association, an organization under SOC-BBC.

Mintz, who was SOC-BBC’s vice president before becoming president, said that the person running for vice president had to be able to take on the president’s responsibilities in the event that the president couldn’t fulfill them.

“The vice president’s main role is to serve as a personal assistant to the president, and to fill in when he is not there,” Mintz said. “The role of the vice president] is probably the most undefined position. If you read our constitution, it’s very vague on what the vice president has to do.

During the election meeting, Georges told the SOC-BBC representatives why he was qualified for the position.

“I spoke a lot about school spirit and how I want to bring school spirit here at the Biscayne Bay Campus and I’m a guy who leads by example. I was Roary the Panther for the 30th anniversary birthday bash of BBC on June 12,” said Georges, a sophomore in the Department of Business.

The club representatives discussed each candidate’s strengths and weaknesses.

The candidate’s availability was one of the biggest concerns.

Several club members brought up the fact that Labrador’s other responsibilities within BBC’s Student Government Council and Student Programming Council would not allow him to do the job effectively.

The student representatives liked Georges’ intentions to help the clubs with whatever they need.

“He seems like a very genuine guy. He’s willing to put himself out there to help anyone of us [the SOC clubs] if necessary,” said Nellista Reid, SOC-BBC representative for the Invitational Scholars Club.

Georges said he plans to meet with all the clubs and begin helping them motivate students to increase school spirit.

In his presentation, Georges explained that school spirit at BBC is incredibly low. His proposed solution is support the different clubs in their endeavors by helping them obtain funding and ensuring that BBC stands behind the clubs.

“My plan now is to meet with the clubs. Each of the clubs gets to meet one on one with Joe but I want to be there and meet with them also, and see the things they would like to do to attract more members and [how] I could help them do that,” Georges said.
Anti-Obama protesters don’t speak for Miami

CUBAN AMERICANS FEEL THAT LIFTING SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WILL EMPOWER THE CASTRO REGIME.

Chris Cabral
Asst. Uelf Editor

There were no more than 30 of them, these anti-Obama protesters, holding signs and shouting insults at more than 1,500 people who were gathering across the street, waiting to hear the senator from Illinois speak Aug. 25 at the Miami-Dade Auditorium in Little Havana. The protesters were few, but what they lacked in numbers, they made up for with yells of anarchy rhetoric; occasional, vaguely threatening gestures; and a very loud megaphone.

“The senator doesn’t want you!” shouted one of the protesters. They ostensibly spoke for all of Miami. Forget the almost 2,000 people who paid to watch the presidential candidate give a 45 minute speech. But only a few of his supporters had signs – and not one had a megaphone.

The protesters were angry over Obama’s statement that he’d meet with leaders of hostile countries – Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Libya. They apparently didn’t think anyone supporting a change in Cuba’s policies would speak for Cuba. They thought anyone supporting a change in Cuban-American policy was a Castro fan club.

In reality, the poll was funded through the Cuba Study Group and the Brookings Institution. Neither group told Cuba should be a guiding principle in America’s policies to change. They are both organizations that decry the political prisoners. Both decry the Castro regime.

The small crowd shouting outside the event may have made noise, but the group of the hundreds who came to see Obama speak delivered a loud and powerful message. The people of Miami, and the entire nation, want the debate over Cuba’s policies to change. They want an exchange of ideas. Not a shouting match.

President Barack Obama is greeted by protesters on his visit to Miami. Many Cuban Americans feel that lifting sanctions against Cuba will empower the Castro regime.

Presidential Protest:
Senator Barack Obama is greeted by protesters on his visit to Miami. Many Cuban Americans feel that lifting sanctions against Cuba will empower the Castro regime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student pays parking fee twice

I wish to bring to your kind attention the plight of doctoral students who are also instructors.

Until Summer 2007, doctoral students who teach undergraduate classes were entitled to Faculty/Staff decals.

Instead of paying the student decal fees for the year, we could get a staff decal, which is appropriate since almost all doctoral students teach classes, and finding parking during the semester is impossible.

Starting in Fall 2007, the Department of Parking and Transportation has instituted a double tariff requiring instructors who are also enrolled as students (in my case, for dissertation credits) to pay twice - the student parking fees as well as the staff decal fee!

This is an unjust, gouging tactic employed by the parking department. Think about the time and money lost by students waiting for an instructor who’s late because of parking difficulties. In addition to the miserly double stipends, double-charging for parking is a way that FIU mistreats doctoral students.

I wish that Parking and Transportation offered a waiver to doctoral students to obtain staff decals, as they are a minuscule population and will not result in any loss of revenue.

Parking already sells staff decals to any student who is willing to pay the extra price and ignorantly charges even those who do not drive to pay for parking.

FIU is the only school that penalizes students who walk or commute with a parking fee. Way to go for the green movement that’s going on in other schools.

Arvi Arunachalam
Graduate Student

Financial aid up to students

Let me first say, this is not high school. If you forget to turn in your homework your professor will not call your mother to remind you. This is very much the situation when it comes to financial aid. We really need to stop complaining about problems we have created ourselves.

Yes, financial aid has not always been on top of everything and I personally can attest to having problems with the office. But if you sit back and think about it, most of these problems are because I didn’t do one thing or another. It is not the responsibility of the Office of Financial Aid to remind you of everything you need to do. After all, you’re the one who wants financial aid, not them.

If you wait until a week before classes to put all your paperwork together, of course you will run into problems – that’s how you do it.

Let’s start taking responsibility for our own lives and stop complaining about our self-created situation.

Again, I’m not saying that financial aid couldn’t be better organized or better staffed, but there are many ways we can take care of our matriculation issues.

We can call the financial aid office, we can chat live online with a representative, or even just walk into the office. There are many ways to get what we need done.

I recommend that if you want financial aid in time, you do your work on time - not one week before classes but at least two months prior.

Joe Vasquez
Alumnus, 2007
Political Science

LETERS TO THE EDITOR

Graduate student left aid-less

I am from India and this is my first semester at FIU.

I am the only international student in my department, and I have not gotten any support from my college or department.

I’ve been told my Test of English as a Foreign Language scores did not get here on time.

So when the department committee was reviewing my files, I was not complete, so I was left without any financial aid.

In fact, I faxed the Office that my TOEFL was not complete, so they didn’t get through, and I have not gotten any help from the department, and I have to pay for the semester myself.

I am from India and this is a communist organization.

If we assume the poll wasn’t proper, we can call the financial aid office, we can chat live online with a representative, or even just walk into the office. There are many ways to get what we need done.

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Anti-Obama protesters don’t speak for Miami

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President Barack Obama is greeted by protesters on his visit to Miami. Many Cuban Americans feel that lifting sanctions against Cuba will empower the Castro regime.
involved without having to put in serious work. For students who want to continue volunteering in their college years, the Center for Leadership and Service provides students with easy access to numerous community service projects, according to the center’s Associate Director Patricia Temiño. “It’s a great way for students to get involved without having to put in serious commitment to an organization,” Temiño said. “It doesn’t take a group of people – one person counts.” Temiño also said that many of the groups the CLS gathers volunteers for are small and non-profit. To make volunteering easier, most projects are done on the weekend, so that a student busy with work and school won’t have to shirk duties to help others. Interested students who don’t know what’s going on each week can sign up for one of the copies of Rosary’s Community Calendar that the center sends out each week. One of the events being promoted by CLS is Alternative Breaks, formerly known as Alternative Spring Break. The one-week community service project involves students spending their spring break helping communities around the world rather than getting drunk on the world’s finest beaches. Shawn Sprockett, a co-director of Alternative Breaks, commented that the program has become so popular at FIU that it has expanded to include the Winter break and a weekend during the Fall semester. Sprockett has been participating in Alternative Breaks for three years now and said that students who end up participating their senior year of college wish they had done so earlier. The cost for participating in Alternative Breaks is $100, which includes a week of board and food. If going on a trip for a week isn’t possible for you, you may want to try a two day event such as Relay for Life. The overnight event is aimed at raising money for finding a cure for cancer. The American Cancer Society funds this international event. Last year’s relay, held at University Park, raised over $60,000 with the participation of over 50 teams. The next relay will be held from February 15 to 16 in 2008. Another large community service event is Dance Marathon, which will be held on March 1 and 2. DM is FIU’s largest student-run philanthropy project, according to CLS coordinator and DM advisor Mariela Campuzano. It will be held at the UP Fitness center and will be celebrating its 11th year this year. DM raises money for the Miami Children’s Hospital with a series of events held through a 25-hour period. According to Campuzano, dancing means you don’t sit down or fall asleep for the 25 hours. “We have a schedule for every 15 minutes,” Campuzano said. “And we have an infinite amount of possibilities to get involved.” Anyone can participate in DM with a pledge of $140 per person, though Campuzano encourages groups of five to enter with a pledge of $700. Last July, FIU’s DM was awarded Best Moral Dance Line and Most Improved Dance Marathon by the Children’s Miracle Network conference. “Those were great stepping stones,” Campuzano said. Participants are also given a meal every three hours from various sponsors such as Chicken Kitchen and Pasta Factory Express. But one of the real treats for participants is when families visit and share stories of how they have been helped by the funds raised by DM. Besides the feelings participants get from volunteering at the various events, students can literally get a medal for the charity work, the Medallion of Distinction. For more information on the medal and future events, representatives are available for questions at the CLS offices: GC 242, GC 232, GC 2210 and WUC 256 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Republican Senator’s denial of sexuality not unusual

As a Republican, I fully supported Senator Larry Craig a few days ago when he defiantly told the press he wasn’t gay, despite the fact he’d recently pleaded guilty to soliciting sex in a public bathroom. Back in high school, I tortured myself trying not to look at the other boys changing clothes in the locker room after long, humid hours running the track field. But like Craig, I wasn’t gay either – I had added my name to a petition asking the school to prevent a gay/straight alliance club from forming.

In college, I’d find a deserted corner of the campus library to read back issues of Out and The Advocate, two of the country’s most popular gay lesbian bisexual and transgendered magazines, praying to God that no one would see me. But I wasn’t gay – I also prayed in church and nodded my head in approval as my father – the pastor – condemned gay marriage.

On perfectly bright afternoons, I like cruising through highways with friends while we throw words like “fag” and “queer” at each other as though they were silly insults, not to be taken seriously. By night, I do a different kind of cruising, driving to local gay clubs by myself whenever I feel particularly lonely. But I wasn’t gay.

“Christ, I’ve never seen so many faggots in my life!” yelled a heavily intoxicated man on South Beach.

Lending a Helping Hand

Opportunities abound for students seeking to serve

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director
Apple cuts iPhone price, evokes mixed reactions

JORDAN ROBERTSON AND MAY WONG
AP WIRE

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) - Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs apologized and offered $100 credits last week to customers who shelled out $599 for the most advanced model of the iPhone this summer, only to have the company unexpectedly slash the price $200 in a push to boost holiday sales.

In a letter on the company's web site, Jobs acknowledged that Apple disappointed some of its customers by cutting the price of the iPhone's 8-gigabyte model and said he has received hundreds of e-mails complaining about the price cut. But Jobs added that "the technology road bump," and there will always be people who pay top dollar for the latest electronics but get angry later when the price drops.

"This is life in the technology lane," Jobs said.

Jobs said Apple will hand out $100 credits for Apple's retail and online stores to any iPhone owners who aren't eligible for a rebate under the company's refund policy. The policy covers those who bought an iPhone within 14 days of the price cut.

For many of the iPhones early adopters, money is not and never was an issue, and we must live up to that trust with our actions in moments like these."

"We need to do a better job taking care of our early iPhone customers as we aggressively go after new ones with a lower price," he said. "Our early customers trusted us, and we must live up to that trust with our actions in moments like these.

"In the course of a day, he probably got an earful and a better sense of the extent of the discontent on the part of these very, very loyal customers," said Charles Golvin, an analyst with Forrester Research. "On the technology road, he realized these were probably the customers you most want to make sure are satisfied and retain a very positive impression about Apple overall, not just the iPhone.

"Under Apple's refund policy, customers who bought an iPhone within 14 days of the price cut can get a refund of the price difference if they have the original receipt.

"Those who haven't opened the phones can return them for a full refund.

"And we must live up to that trust with our actions in moments like these."

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Metroid series ends with bang

EDDIE ZENG
Staff Writer

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Despite previous glory West disappoints on third album

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Wild Arms was one of the first role-playing games to debut on the original Sony PlayStation. The game’s unique backdrop of an old Western atmosphere with touches of sci-fi elements has garnered the Wild Arms series quite a following over the past few years. Since its series’ fifth installment, Wild Arms 5, marks the 10th anniversary of the latest installment, Wild Arms 5, the series has garnered a Western atmosphere with touches of sci-fi. The game’s unique backdrop of an old Western atmosphere with touches of sci-fi elements has garnered the Wild Arms series quite a following. 

The story sounds typical enough: young aspiring golem hunter Dean Stark and childhood friend Rebecca discover a giant golem arm falling from the sky. The game play remains simple as it always has with some unique additions to the standard RPG formula. The game world itself is vast, offering a lot to be discovered; vehicles such as trains allow you to cover Filgaia’s expansive world, and exploring dungeon areas involves some basic jumping skills and item use to further progress. The game looks quite bland to today’s standards, even on the aging PS2. The audio makes up for the game’s lack of visual appeal with sounds and music straight out of a western.

The game does a good job of portraying Filgaia’s rough frontier, perhaps too well. Whether it was a design choice to reflect the barren wastelands of Filgaia or not, the game looks quite bland to today’s standards, even on the aging PS2. The audio makes up for the game’s lack of visual appeal with sounds and music straight out of a western.

Despite its visuals, the game remains faithful to its early roots. Series’ fifth installment offers more of the same for players, and even more so for those holding an amnesiac woman who remembers only her own name, Avril, and the name “Johnny Appleseed.”

Looking at the whole package, from the simple and accessible game play and the familiar world of Filgaia, Wild Arms 5 was crafted for series fans in, and its charm still endures today. The game also comes with an art book chronicling the series’ history through illustrations and character designs in gratitude to faithful fans. Although it may not win over too many new fans, Wild Arms 5 can still be enjoyed by long-time fans and role-playing enthusiasts alike.

West falls short of high expectations on latest record

The song “Bitterweet Poetry”, featuring John Mayer, may be one of the best songs on the album from iTunes, you would never buy retail. In fact, the only song Brion has a production credit on is “Drunk And Blown”, which was arguably the worst song on the album. West has ever been associated with. Rather than sounding like the work of two of the most forward-thinking artists in hip-hop (Mos Def guests on the track as well), it sounds more like a bad outtake from Eminem’s Encore. Aside from Brion’s lack of involvement, the biggest ingredient missing from this album seems to be the chip that had been stuck permanently in West’s shoulder since day one. His best work has always come when under his belt, maybe West feels like he has nothing to prove and this is where Graduation ultimately fails.

Another factor that significantly weakens Graduation is a problem that has been getting worse throughout the music industry lately, and that is saving some of the best songs from the album to release as bonus tracks on iTunes and various other retailers in order to convince fans to buy extra copies of the album. The song “Bitterweet Poetry”, featuring John Mayer, may be one of the best songs Kanye has ever done, but if you don’t buy the album from iTunes, you would never know it. Although it has numerous high-quality songs, more than a few sure-fire hits and only one really terrible song, the album ultimately disappoints with its inconsistency.

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The majority of collegiate athletes are indirectly paid to play sports in which they have excelled.

Division I-A recruits are given scholarships and free housing, but why is it that the term student-athlete is reserved for students involved in athletic programs? Intramural sports provide a means of giving students an opportunity to participate in team play and competition. Conversely, intramural participants pay to be on a team. The act of paying to play sports conveys the passion they have for their particular sport.

Intramural teams are not respected as real teams because they are not as organized as collegiate teams and, most importantly, they do not generate revenue. But aside from the lack of fiscal rewards, there is no concrete difference between an intramural football team and a collegiate football team. Top collegiate and intramural squads are still part of a team. They go out on the field or court and they have to communicate and depend on each other. The players also run plays like any other official FIU team and some squads even practice five times a week.

And all the teams have either a coach or team captain to lead and organize practices. The intensity of the intramural games also matches—and sometimes even surpasses—several regular season FIU home games.

This past Spring, the Men's Fraternity Soccer Intramural Championship between the fraternities Tau Kappa Epsilon and Phi Gamma Delta featured Teke and FIUJU members in the stands with flags and painted faces. The two teams had faced off in previous years and the returning players all had sour tastes in their mouths.

The matchup between the Tekes and the lowered heads of the Fiji players indicated and gauged how much the rivalry meant to the fraternities. In both, the closest thing to a rivalry the Golden Panthers have is against the University of Miami, and it is unsure whether the teams will continue to play after their game this season.

Therefore, FIU intramural rivalries are as concrete as any FIU programs’ vendettas.

In addition, this is an opportunity for students to partake in a recreational activity with fellow students. Some students may have played sports in high school, but decided not to continue playing in college. Intramurals allow these players to still practice their hobby in a controlled, in-game atmosphere.

One of the reasons why intramural sports are not popular is because the participants are not perceived as athletic enough. The most important reason intramural sports are not popular goes back to capitalism—the leagues do not produce enough revenue. Intramural promotions are meager and do not reach a wide audience on campus.

However, a new outlet and a chance to watch friends play on a competitive field should be promoted more effectively. This spring, the Men’s Fraternity Soccer Intramural Championship Game will attract crazed fans full of pride for their respective teams.

They will all be cheering for their friends who happen to be student-athletes.

Proven hurlers have trouble beating mental hurdles

The good news, though, is that number of reliever doesn’t look quite as big anymore.

And Zito has Carlos Zambrano, his agent, and the always-desperate Chicago Cubs to thank for that.

Yes, that Carlos Zambrano, last seen wondering around why Cubs fans were booing him at Wrigley Field the same way fans in San Francisco are of Zito earlier this summer.

The same Carlos Zambrano who last month signed a new contract that took some of the highest pitched price with a multyear contract at $18.3 million a year.

The same Carlos Zambrano who is 0-5 with an 8.79 ERA in six starts this year beating Cincinnati more than a month ago and can’t figure out why Cubs fans seem to care.

“I thought these were the greatest fans in baseball. They showed me today they just care about them,” Zambrano said Monday after he was shelled in his latest outing. “That’s no fair.”

It’s not fair to pay $35 bucks for a seat in the upper deck or $9.50 for a beer, either, but those are the prices fans must pay to fund the ever increasing arms race in baseball. And pay they do, packing ballparks so full that it’s hard to know how much two beers cost.

And the guy with the big contract standing on the mound can be an awfully big target.

Some, like Chan Ho Park with the Texas Rangers, never figure it out. Others like Kevin Brown in his final year with the Yankees just collect their paychecks and don’t seem to try.

Zito, though, thinks he finally understands. A season of pain has given him a newfound outlook on success.

The best part is he’s still got six years to prove worth.

“Don’t look at it like you’ve hit,” he said in Washington. “It’s like a freshly waxed car. You tend to look at every dent you see.”

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Proven hurlers have trouble beating mental hurdles.
Middle linebacker Zach Thomas has proved he can play beyond what his 5-foot, 11-inch frame would suggest. He has seven Pro Bowl appearances, as he enters his 12th year with the Miami Dolphins, the most of any active player, Thomas is still searching for play-off success. He has yet to play in an AFC championship game, much less the Super Bowl, and his team last reached the playoffs in 2001.

“I just want to get back _ get back to winning,” Thomas said.

He hopes the turnaround will start Sunday when Miami opens the season at Washington.

The Dolphins finished 6-10 in 2006, only their third losing season since 1969. Thomas takes defeat hard, teammate Chann- ing Crowder said.

“He’s not a very good loser _ or a good winner,” Crowder said. “If we lose, he’s mad at the world. If we win, he’s mad at himself. He’s real self-critical. I guess that’s what makes you a great player.”

Thomas started every game last season and led the team in tackles for the 10th time. His play was a bright spot during a disappoint- ing season, but he was still overshadowed by teammate Jason Taylor, the 2006 NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

“He had a great, great year last year,” said Taylor, who is Thomas’ brother-in-law. “Zach is still young enough to do what he needs to do at a very high level, and never gets the respect he should. Zach blows away half the guys I hear talked about all the time. One day people will realize how good a player he really was.”

Linebacker Joey Porter joined the Dol- phins this year after eight seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers and quickly developed a new appreciation for Thomas.

“The things he can do, he can do that,” said Porter, who was drafted in the 7th round by the Minnesota Vikings.

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“Tackled a lot of guys, I really was,” Porter said, “and when I got here, he really was. But he plays like he’s 6-3.”

Thomas, who turned 34 on Sept. 1, jokes about his hairline, but refuses to think about retiring.

“Some people say I’m running out of fumes, but I feel like I’ve got years to play,” Thomas said. “I think my last couple years have been the better of my years. And they say I’m aging, but I don’t see that.”

As they rebuild this season under new coach Cam Cameron, the Dolphins will again rely on an experienced defense that ranked fourth in the NFL last year. Thomas said he doesn’t consider anyone a star on the defense, but rather looks to all his team- mates to lead.

“We’ve got to have everybody on the same page with this type of defense,” Thomas said. “If my defensive line is play- ing bad, I’m playing bad. If our secondary’s playing bad, Jason’s playing bad. We all depend on each other. That’s the way the team works, and people don’t understand that. You don’t have single good players if you don’t have anything around you.”

Thomas is eager for the season to start his 12th season, and his drive and determi- nation is evident to Porter.

“There are rare players in this league who can walk away and don’t get kicked out of the league,” Porter said. “And I think he’s one of those guys. When he’s tired of play- ing, he’ll stop playing. But I think there will always be a spot on any team for him.”

Dolphins linebacker hopes to flip team’s misfortunes

SPORTS

Golden Panthers establish part- nership with Miami-Dade Schools

Athletic Director Pete Garcia announced an agreement with Dade County Public Schools on Sept. 5 to give Miami-Dade County students the opportunity to attend FIU football home games for free this season.

Looking to expand its fan base, FIU has agreed to a partnership with Miami-Dade that will allow student’s to attend games at the historic Orange Bowl, where FIU will be playing all of their home 2007 football games.

Garcia said that one of the main reasons for doing this is to allow young football fans the opportunity to witness a game in the history stadium during it’s final season.

To go along with the ticket program, FIU also plans to work with schools on the DARE program and on FCAT rallies through the Panthers with a Purpose program.

FIU Alum making strides in NFL

Last season saw a record number of former FIU football players get drafted or signed by NFL teams. Linebacker Antwan Barnes was drafted in the 4th round by the Baltimore Ravens and wide receiver Chandler Williams being drafted in the 7th round by the Min- nesota Vikings.

Barnes has been making a name for himself in Ravens camp, moving up to 2nd on the right outside linebacker depth chart behind Pro Bowler Terrell Suggs.

Barnes has been compared to Suggs and may end up lined up opposite Suggs a few plays a game if the Ravens want to go with a set specified to rush the quarterback a little more as both play- ers excel in the pass rushing game. For now, Barnes will be making himself seen mostly on the Eagles special teams.

Barnes even received some national attention, as a bone crushing block he put on Philadelphia Eagles punter Sav Rocca was shown numerous times on ESPN’s Sportscenter, and NFL Live listed it as one of the top plays of the preseason.

Williams was recently cut by the Vikings and has found his way back to South Florida, as the Dolphins recently signed him to their practice squad. If Ted Ginn Jr’s ankle injury flares up again early in the season, Williams may eventually see time with the team as a special teams player.

Along with the players who were drafted, several former Golden Pan- thers were signed as free agents in the days following the draft. Safety Chris Smith was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles, though was recently cut from their squad.

Linebacker Keyonvis Bouie was last seen on the New Orleans Saints practice squad and quarterback Josh Padrick had a brief tryout with the Jacksonville Jag- uars, though it nothing came from it.

To go along with those on the class of 2006, safety Nick Turnbull, the first FIU player to appear in an NFL game, was recently cut by defending NFC Champion Chicago Bears and was picked up by the first team to give him a chance, the Atlanta Falcons. He will look to contribute to their special teams once again.

Sports Replay

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Big contracts might lead to big letdowns

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Wire

Barry Zito thinks more deeply about most things than the average major leaguer.

At $18 million a year, he also makes more money than most of the guys who play the game for a living.

The combination, along with a terrible start with his new team this season, makes Zito uniquely qualified to talk about the pressures of performing for pay.

“The truth is that I’ve never pitched with a number on my forehead,” Zito said the other night in Washington, D.C.

Zito was speaking figuratively, of course, but he’s not alone. He might as well have $126 million tattooed on his forehead this season, just like Carlos Zambrano might have $91.5 million.

Put $17.4 million just below the bill of the cap on Roger Clemens while you’re at it.

Everyone in the ballpark knows what they make on the day they pitch, from the guys selling beer in the upper deck to those sitting in the pricey seats down below.

With the windfalls come the burden of expectations even Cy Young would have trouble delivering.

“You want to be everything for everyone,” Zito said. “You want to show everyone that you’re worth every dollar.”

That’s an impossible task given that

dency to deflate footballs with your claws, do you think you would be a good football player?

Roary: Nods vigorously. Makes throwing motion to suggest playing Quarterback. Strikes Heisman pose. Points to his Finger to indicate where he would wear his national championship ring. Strikes Heisman pose, again.

Back in 2001, there was another Roary on the FIU campus. Professional zoologists would refer to that Roary as a “real” Golden Panther. He was brought to a football scrimmage to pose for pictures with fans. “It wasn’t really a mascot per se,” said Associate Athletic Director Mike Garrity.

“It was just a panther that they brought out for one scrimmage in the year before we played games in 2001; in what we called the practice year.”

Garrity added, “It was only meant to be a one-time thing; we always had the mascot Roary. It’s tough to get an animal out here, especially a Golden Panther, which I believe is endangered.”

It’s unknown exactly what happened, but after the event the panther’s cage was found open and empty and the campus’ wildlife reserve, which is located very close to the football fields, had a new resident.

Luckily, the panther’s trainers and campus police were able to remove the panther before anything serious happened.

Unlike his “real” counterpart, Roary the mascot is not at all bloodthirsty or anything serious happened.

Occasionally, he always made the students do “cuddly.”

If you want to meet Roary, your best bet is at an FIU sporting event where he is frequently seen prowling the sidelines, doing his FIU cheer, hyping up the crowd, fraternizing with the cheerleaders and doing his best to inspire FIU to victory.

BIG MONEY: San Francisco Giants Pitcher Barry Zito is one of many major league pitchers struggling this season despite large contracts.

Zito makes in one night what the average school teacher makes in 10 years.

But most of us have long since accepted the fact that baseball salaries will always be far out of whack with what goes on in the real world.

Still, it’s hard to feel sorry for someone making that kind of money, no matter how tough it gets on the field.

Clemens is as sure a lock for the Hall of Fame as there is, but that didn’t stop Yankee fans from booing him off the mound after a rocky start last month.

The Yankees coughed up $24 million for Clemens this year, an investment that has gotten them six wins, some innings eaten up and little else.

Dodger fans can’t boo Jason Schmidt, because they can’t find him. Schmidt signed for $47 million over three years during the offseason.

But Schmidt won only one game in six starts before undergoing season-ending shoulder surgery.

Although Boston fans have spent lifetimes perfecting the art of being patient, they have to be growing increasingly anxious about heading...