Florida’s Board of Governors voted unanimously Sept. 27 to raise the state’s undergraduate tuition for the coming spring semester by 5 percent.

The tuition increase will only apply to in-state students and will mean an extra $55 for a student enrolled full-time less than $4 per credit hour.

However, some believe the Legislature will not approve the BOG’s decision.

The board’s decision follows a state battle between the BOG and the Legislature for the authority to raise tuition.

“The board’s decision follows a state battle between the BOG and the Legislature for the authority to raise tuition,” Newell said. “We want to offset the cuts…We want to see if it’s either lacking or if other universities are lacking what we already have,” Hernandez said.

The task force was created in 2002, believes it should have the power to regulate tuition without the approval of the Legislature or governor.

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The task force was created in 2002, believes it should have the power to regulate tuition without the approval of the Legislature or governor.

“This is where all the gray area is…who has the authority to set tuition,” said FIU Provost Ronald Berkman. “That is a unanswered question. Right now the BOG has asserted that it has the authority. Can this be implemented without Legislative approval? I think the answer is yes. We think we can go ahead and charge a 5 percent tuition difference. I think there’s going to be a lot of discussion about this.”

Gov. Charlie Crist originally vetoed a 5 percent tuition increase last summer, which prompted the BOG to tell all Florida public universities to prepare for budget cuts between 4 and 10 percent. The board then wants to make sure that our universities hire additional faculty, hire additional advisors and make some of that increase available for student financial aid,” said Mark Rosenberg, Chancellor of the State University System.

Berkman and Rosenberg said that the Senate and House recommended to increase tuition by 5 percent as well. “Remember that it still has to be approved by the Legislature and the governor has not vetoed it. So it’s not a done deal yet. In our case, it’s done deal,” Rosenberg said.

On July 6, the BOG joined a lawsuit filed by former Gov. Bob Graham that would strip the Legislature of any power to raise or lower tuition.

The outcome of the lawsuit is still pending in court. “The purpose of the lawsuit is to determine who sets tuition in Florida,” Rosenberg said. “The BOG exercised it’s authority yesterday when it voted to increase tuition. What the board is saying is that they have the authority and the governor will not determine that once and for all.”

Rosenberg said that the increase would generate $9.5 million, and added that the funds are needed considering lawmakers are looking to cut $1.1 billion in state spending.

On Sept. 6, Crist surprised the FIU and University of Central Florida by announcing that the two universities’ plans for medical schools would have to be delayed due to low state revenues.

Berkman said that the cuts and proposed increase won’t affect FIU’s College of Medicine because its funding has already been approved by Gov. Crist and the Legislature.

“He can not veto anything in the existing budget,” Berkman said. “When the budget is complete and when the legislators sign off and complete the budget, it becomes law.”

State task force addresses safety

To prevent inadequate safety at Florida public universities, Gov. Charlie Crist established the Gubernatorial Task Force on University Campus Safety last summer.

The task force was created initially to discuss safety and prevention measures in the wake of the events at Virginia Tech, but its discussions shifted to staffing public safety and university police departments in Florida public universities.

Student leaders and administrators from FIU and other public universities in Florida were part of the task force.

Among its objectives: determining ways in which the Legislature and other public universities in Florida were part of the task force.

Hernandez and other FIU representatives to evaluate FIU’s prevention efforts in comparison to other schools in the state.

“It gave us a chance to see how we run things and to see if it’s either lacking from other universities or if other universities are lacking what we already have,” Hernandez said.

The task force was created after President George W. Bush asked U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt and other Cabinet members to research practices for crisis situations for a number of other types of services and be more much visible if we had more people but, the budget being as it is, we understand that sometimes our staffing can’t be as we like it.”

“The accessibility of psychological health services was also a priority. After his death, Virginia Tech shooter Seung-Hui Cho was found to have a history of mental health problems.

Cheryl Newell, director of the University Counseling Center at FIU, informed the task force of FIU’s counseling availability. Newell outlined that FIU’s counseling center, which is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, needs to double its staff to comply with the association’s staffing requirements. Currently, the center has a total of 21 people providing clinical services to the FIU community. Of that total, 11 are licensed psychologists.

Newell detailed FIU’s use of a consultation system that “provides the opportunity to walk in and be seen in half an hour.”

Although the state did not require any mandates to be implemented, Hernandez and other FIU representatives learned of new ways to increase safety and prevention services on campus.

One item: Mobile Campus, a free text messaging system through which students receive University bulletins for their cellular phones.

“Students could pick where they’d want to get text messages from; kind of encouraging them to set it up campus safety and, if something was to happen, where students wouldn’t have to come to campus or they wouldn’t leave certain areas, they would be able to receive a text message letting them know,” Hernandez said.

Following the meetings, the task force presented its recommendations to the Crist. According to Hernan-

dez, there is a chance for a similar committee to resurface and perhaps remain permanent.
**CONCLUSIONS**

In the issue dated Sept. 27, 2007, the story titled “FIU Students Victims of Hate Crime,” Stephen Barnett should have been Stephen Barrett. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Compiled by Cassandra Pool
Students’ families to experience university life

JESSICA SEÑORIN Contributing Writer

FIU students’ parents and family members will have a chance to experience university life during the third annual Parents and Family Weekend, taking place from Oct. 5 to 7.

Although the Orientation and Commuter Student Services are sponsoring the event, all student organizations and departments have been invited to coordinate their own events to showcase their resources and to give families a chance to learn more about FIU.

“The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for students to show off the campus and all of the amazing things they’ve been doing during their time as a student at FIU,” said Justin Brady, coordinator for Parent Programs with Orientation and Commuter Student Services.

Ivy Siegel, coordinator for the Division of Student Affairs with Campus Life and Orientation, said students and their families “can expect to have a great time, meet some of the FIU staff and experience some of college life.”

On Oct. 5, at 6 p.m., there will be a wine and cheese reception with BBC faculty and staff from the Division of Student Affairs at the Hospitality Management building.

“The Division of Student Affairs provides a link to all of the services and activities students can participate in to have a holistic student experience, providing them with the ‘out-of-classroom’ learning and development [that] students can’t get solely from academics,” Brady said.

Sponsored by FIU’s Interfraternity Council, the 5K Fun Run/Walk will kick off at 7 a.m. on Oct. 6 at UP. The event is also open to the public.

Proceeds of the run/walk will go to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, the first institution established for the purpose of conducting research on catastrophic childhood diseases, mainly cancer.

“It is great to see members of the FIU Greek community pulling together for such an amazing cause. We are hoping that with the support of the FIU community, IFC will be able to donate at least $2,000 to St. Jude,” said Sally Gates, coordinator for New Student Programs with Campus Life.

A Tailgate Party will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 6 outside the Orange Bowl, before the Golden Panthers football team plays against Troy State at 7 p.m.

Intercampus shuttles will be available so that families can attend events on different campuses.

The registration deadline has been extended to Oct. 4. For more information, call 305-348-6414, or e-mail parent@fiu.edu.

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Racism and hate crimes still prevalent

When Stephen Barnett was attacked by several teens with baseball bats, it showed that we still a long way from ending the problem of racism and prejudices. Sadly, we’ve taken an apathetic approach to racism. We’ve gone into life with a grain of salt unless the event was gruesome and brutal. But wait, didn’t racism disappear with the civil rights movement of the ’70s?

Apparent not.

Racism merely hid quietly in homes and lonely towns where its root were deeply placed for decades.

Becoming a public taboo, racism never really went away, its power just lessened.

In contrast to the Jena 6 controversy, this incident pitted Hispanics against blacks, rather than the age-old archetype of white versus black. This shows racism has diversified from its previous incarnations.

Like religion or politics, racism can be equally taught and followed without question.

Let the recent hate crime against Barnett and his buddies be an example for all: racism is still here and still a threat, even among your younger generation.

But sadly, we all knew it was around.

What happened to those students must have been a traumatizing experience. Let alone a wake-up call to never attend parties where the police are not an arm’s reach away.

It’s going to take a long time before prejudices and racism are all but gone. Racism might as well be the oldest living, irrational emotion next to love.

Although, to acknowledge this ongoing racism has been around—for centuries—allows us to realize that it will not disappear within a matter of decades.

It will take a very, very long time to eradicate.

But let us take the initiative to quicken and cure this human disease—let us educate others when a stereotype is uttered, and let us erase the slurs on bathroom stalls instead of walking right past it.

The demonstration in Jena, according to Martin, further expanded in the past two weeks because the almost insomniable opposition to the black students being acquitted, but this decision is equally almost supported.

Close to 20,000 demonstrators marched upon Jena in protest against the possibility of the students being imprisoned unjustly while the white students were allowed to go free.

Shouts of “Black Power” and “No Justice, No Peace” must have been intimidating, but not enough to pull the Louisiana Court System of the 1850s’ to the logical closure point that “if the white students are innocent, then these kids are too,” as one unidentified Jena resident said to a CNN reporter.

Other residents see the miscarriage of justice as something of a surprise. “We are not a racial town. We get along with each other, we get along fine. This is something that got out of proportion. It really has,” said Terry Adams, a Jena resident.

Anders also said that the black and white populations of Jena have always gotten along well until August 2006.

Roland Martin of CNN compared the demonstrations in Jena to the Million Man March of 1995, the sort of monolithic, intimidating sup-port that just cannot be substituted.

Martin also makes several points to the effect of why should the “white on black” beating go uninvestigated and the “black on white” beating is on the verge of becoming a hate crime? Martin seems to be implying that the district attorney, police, and possibly the town of Jena has a closeted attitude about racism.

While the residents vehemently insist that racism has never been a prior issue in Jena, Racism isn’t really what this whole issue is about. Race is just something that has happened to be paid a lot of attention to because of proximity and the obvious racial tension in the Jena area despite the “noose incident’s” obvious intention to be offensive to the black students.

Racism is the only seemingly rational explanation, but in actuality, the upheaval of the judicial system is the real crime.

The demonstration has been more about justice rather than which race was beaten worse. The point being that today’s six black students from Jena, but next it could be six Cubans from Westchester. The public needs to speak out against miscarriages of justice such as these. I’m not saying the “Jena six” are completely without guilt, but thousands and millions of myself are saying that if these six are guilty, then the white students are too. As Martin so finely stated, “It’s not your race that matters in this, it’s your voice that counts.”
Sept. 25, 2007 marked the day that Halo fans waited more than three years to get their hands on the series’ latest installment. When Halo 2 left off, Master Chief, a genetically enhanced super soldier, arrived on Earth as the planet was being decimated by an alien force known as the Covenant. With this sequel, the fate of humanity still rests in Master Chief’s hands.

In the game, your objective is to stop the Halo rings, galactic weapons of doom, from activating, thus preventing mass destruction. The Elites, comprised of Covenant officers and commanders, are now on your side as civil war cracks the alien army in half. The single player campaign has improved much since Halo 2. In the campaign, your main enemies are the Brutes, Covenant soldiers who resemble gorillas and hunt with a pack mentality that only a Spartan can survive. As you play through the game, each level introduces new elements: Tsavo Highway introduces vehicles, Sierra 117 introduces weapons and Crow’s Nest introduces heaps of brutes.

During campaigns, you’ll notice that unlike Halo 2, the environments look different from checkpoint to checkpoint; in the previous game, it seemed as if you were going down the same room and corridor at every turn.

The artificial intelligence is also a lot smarter than in most games. The intelligence seen in heroic and legendary difficulty levels is shocking and offers a new challenge to veteran players. The Flood is back, this time harder to kill and appearing in more devastating forms.

Most importantly, each level contains a revealing piece of Halo 3’s plot. Through campaign mode, the answers to all of the most desired questions will be revealed. Will the Chief die? Do the humans die? Who are the Forerunners? Although Campaign answers some gaping questions, the game’s meat is the multiplayer mode.

Halo 3 brings to the table the largest and most comprehensive online experience to date. Through the Xbox Live service, you can play with up to 16 people. You have the choice of either playing in social, more relaxed matches, or ranked matches, which are extremely competitive. If you play in ranked matches, you increase your skill. The more matches you win, the higher your skill level becomes.

You also gain EXP (experience) as you win matches, promoting you through the ranks; Halo 3 has a rank system that goes from recruit to general, though only a select few ever make it to the latter.

One of the new features that has players salivating is the Forge. The Forge is a map editor that allows players to rearrange the map as they see fit. If a player doesn’t like the location of the Spartan Laser, they can move it elsewhere. If a certain map doesn’t have a flamethrower, one can be placed there. Also, every map has its own budget that can be used to buy new weapons and vehicles.

File sharing is another new trinket found within Halo 3. If you want to share maps with others, it’s as easy as pushing a button; you can post the new maps and game variants on bungie.net for others to download at their leisure.

There are 11 new maps and more on the way, ranging in size from the small Construct to the vast Sandtrap. New is the use of equipment that allows you to activate items to help you in battle. From a bubble shield that protects you from even the toughest tank to a radar jammer that will confuse your enemies, there are countless new weapons and vehicles available for fighting.

Halo 3 is perhaps the best online multiplayer game out there. It has more features than Bill Gates has money, but the single player aspect fails to deliver on the eighth mission of nine; because Campaign only has nine missions, that single flawed mission mars an otherwise solid game. Yet for multiplayer, Halo 3 is the new standard. It’s time to “finish the fight.”
Ramen noodles have often been referred to as a staple food for college students: it doesn’t cost much and requires no culinary prowess other than knowing how to boil water.

“Think, just like in Japanese culture, ramen’s become a decent way to grab a quick and cheap meal,” said Wu. 

Indeed, its popularity among college students has led to its incorporation into American culture. For a decade, a giant steaming cup of Nissin’s Cup Noodle could be seen in Times Square.

Currently in post-production is The Ramen Girl, a movie about an American woman (Britney Murphy) who decides to be a ramen chef after she is abandoned in Tokyo. It’s loosely based on the 1985 Japanese film Tampopo.

Hungry students can find two major producers of instant ramen in the United States, Nissin Foods and Maruchan, whose products are available in most grocery stores. Nissin Foods was the first company to produce instant ramen; instant noodles themselves were invented by the company’s founder, Momofuku Ando, and first appeared in 1958 as a packaged block of hardened noodles known as Top Ramen.

Today, these “ramen bricks” are available in a wide variety of flavors – from chicken to fish to pizza shrimp – Cup Noodles, another ramen option, comes in its own portable cup. As of 2006, more than 25 billion servings of Cup Noodles have been sold worldwide since its release in 1971.

“I personally prefer Cup Noodles over Top Ramen,” said senior Dahya Villalobos. “Though I do find the broth a bit salty, I ordinarily pour out the broth and just eat the noodles.”

Ramen comes in 70 percent of all cervical cancers, so they are providing coverage for Gardasil, and Digene, is definitely the cost. According to medicalnewstoday.com, Gardasil is the only vaccine that could prevent the two cultures are hushed by an assassina-

right from the outset, veterans of Rogue Squadron will recognize the two cultures are hushed by an assassiana.

Rohan, a member of the Asylian Sky Guard, is drawn into the impending conflict and must fight to stop both warring sides.

In Japan, instant ramen isn’t just “cheap starving student food,” said Wu. “A lot of the instant ramen I buy is pretty fancy and expensive. Some of the bowl ramen I’ve bought costs $3 to $5.”

While ramen is affordable, it’s not something that should be eaten in excess.

“There’s been some recent discussion on the health impact of ramen,” said Matt Fisher on the official ramen homepage (www.mattfisher.com/ramen). “It has a fair amount of fat because the noodles are fried, and sodium in the flavor packets but there’s not much we can’t enjoy it once in awhile.”

Additional brands can be found in Asian supermarkets. Lucky on $120 per dose. 

“Before, I went to Publix, but I prefer Lucky because of their variety,” said Brian Samelson, a member of the technology support staff for undergraduate education. “They have multiple packs that are vegetable based or soup based.

For those who want authentic ramen, there’s Matsuri restaurant, located at 5759 Bird Road.

However, at first, you might not realize that the restaurant serves it – it’s only listed on its Japanese-language menu. Matsuri has all four broths and a bowl costs about $8. The eatery is currently closed for renovation but will be reopening at the end of the month.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The women’s basketball team announced they will face three top-25 teams and six WNTI teams during the 2007-08 season.

The top-25 teams will all be headed to the Pharmed Arena along with defending Sun Belt champions Middle Tennessee and NCAA sweet 16 teams Florida and Georgia.

They start off the season Nov. 9 against Lynn University at home. This is the first of 19 home game this season for the Golden Panthers.

When they return home, the Golden Panthers will host the annual FIU Thanksgiving Classic. The Golden Panthers will face Providence of the Atlantic 10 in the first round, Nov. 23, and either Illinois or South Carolina, in the championship or consolation game Nov. 25.

The Golden Panthers will head to Coral Gables against city rivals Miami Dec. 4. Following Miami, they play two home games against Eastern Michigan and Texas – San Antonio.

FIU commences conference play against Middle Tennessee ranked No. 23, at the end of last season in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll. The two teams will clash Dec. 19 before playing at the University of Little Rock Arkansas.

Two consecutive doubleheaders Dec. 29 and 30 make up the Sun and Fun classic at home close out the 2007 season.

The rest of the season, the Golden Panthers play sixteen consecutive conference games including two games at home against Western Kentucky and South Alabama.

After the regular season, the Sun Belt Conference Championships March 5-11. The winner of the SBC Tournament Championship Game receives an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

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

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SPORTS

Sports Replay

ATHLETES, page 8

So far, not so good. FIU was dealt a blow by the NCAA by stripping the school of 12 scholarships, including nine from football.

The 2006 NCAA Division I Graduation Success Rate (GSR) – the most recent report publicly released – shows some staggering figures. The GSR is a figure created by the NCAA that takes the school's graduation rate, adds in transfers and subtracts those students that are “allowable exceptions” – those who either die or become permanently disabled and those who leave to join the armed forces, foreign service or a church mission.

According to the report, the good news is that the team's graduation rate, adds in transfers and subtracts those students that are “allowable exceptions” – those who either die or become permanently disabled and those who leave to join the armed forces, foreign service or a church mission.

The bad news is that the graduation rate for all students is only 47 percent. The GSR for FIU athletes is 62 percent, which falls far below Florida, Florida State and Miami’s GSR but slightly above FAU. The graduation rate for all NCAA Division I schools is 77 percent.

Based on these numbers, athletic director Pete Garcia needs to and has started to emphasize on graduation and education rather than worry about donors for the Panther Club at the new football stadium or season ticket sales.

Garcia is a business man, but with graduation rates like FIU has seen in the past, the new AD could be capturing a sinking ship.

This problem is certainly not Garcia's fault. The blame likely falls to coach Ed Tapscott and the FIU administration.

FIU athletics in its three decades of existence and success comes in many forms. Stressing education and increasing graduation rates will certainly be a selling point for Garcia and his staff to donors and the state in general, which provide funding and future recruits.

Some other possible solutions to the problem include, but are not limited to coaches actively continuing to monitor their team and stressing education; coaches putting more effort to recruit kids with better high school records; internal ramifications from the athletic department imposing penalties on teams with poor graduation rates or rewards for those that have high rates and postgraduate scholarships and perhaps an athletic office devoted to assisting athletes with career options.

Let's be honest, All things considered there probably haven't been too many successes on the field for FIU athletics in its three decades of existence and success comes in many forms. Stressing education and increasing graduation rates will certainly be a selling point for Garcia and his staff to donors and the state in general, which provide funding and future recruits.

Infrastructure changes needed for Golden Panthers’ education

The Beacon – October 1, 2007 www.beaconnewspaper.com

SPORTS

Beating two conference foes critical to season

VOLLEYBALL, page 8

ever, last season they struggled stopping the elite teams, especially in the final set of crucial matches. So far this season, Szymanska is leading the team with 40 blocks. Mina Apasojvic has 31, Vergun has 24 and Rosa 23. In order for the team to get over the hump, everybody has to make more of a commitment defensively by playing aggressively and being in the spots assigned by coach Tomic.

WESTERN KENTUCKY AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Even though the Golden Panthers shouldn’t take any team lightly, the two teams that the Golden Panthers have to learn to beat are the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers and the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders.

After sharing the Sun Belt Conference title with the two last season, the race for supremacy is on once again. Middle Tennessee is off to a 15-1 start and is 2-0 in conference play. Junior Ashley Adams is up to her old tricks, leading the team with 262 kills and 62 blocks this season.

Meanwhile, Western Kentucky is off to an impressive 13-3 start with virtually the exact team from last year. Don’t be surprised if the Sun Belt Conference goes down to the wire between these three Eastern Division teams again. Presently Denver sits atop the West Division with a mediocre mark.

The Golden Panthers have all the ingredients that they had last year: talent, a dominant scorer, good defense and a great coach.

However, the team has much better chemistry and a greater level of focus this year, because it expects to win.

I look forward to the team’s first real test when they face off against division foes Western Kentucky and Middle Ten-

nese Oct. 12 and 13, respectively, at the Pharmed Arena.

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Announcements
Professional ranks a rare dream for majority of student athletes

There are over 360,000 NCAA athletes and most of us are going pro in something other than sports.

The NCAA ad campaign rings true here at FIU.

The number of FIU graduates that have signed professional athletic contracts and made any type of impact in the professional ranks can be counted here at FIU.

Mike Lowell plays third base for the Boston Red Sox, Steve Ralston for Toronto FC in the MLS.

Carlos Arroyo plays for the Miami Heat, while Williams plays for the Phoenix Suns. Tyrone Marshall, a midfi elder for the New England Revolution in the MLS.

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