Prosecutors of the alleged Sept. 23 hate-crime against a black FIU student announced last week that they plan to drop the charges.

FIU student Stephen Barrett, 18, who was called a racist slur and later beaten along with two college friends, told prosecutors that the 15-year-old accused of the slur did not use the N-word but rather said “nigga,” a less-loaded term rooted in hip-hop culture.

"Maybe things got [hectic] because of it... I don’t believe that they wanted to come after me just because I was black,” Barrett said, according to a transcript of an interview released Oct. 17, “The Miami Herald” reported.

However, the five teens arrested in the Haulover Beach Park Marina incident still face charges for battery with prejudice. The decision was announced in a Miami-Dade Community Relations Board meeting Oct. 17, meant to ease tensions among black leaders.

Ed Harris, director of the special projects for Miami-Dade’s office of community relations, told “The Miami Herald” that the case underscores the danger of the word in all its variations.

“...We need to eliminate it. People have died because of it,” Harris said.

Witnesses told prosecutors that the teen used the word simply because he was “gloating.”

“This was a fight that involved blacks, whites, Hispanics and Asians. It was not a hate crime. It included everyone,” said Miami-Dade prosecutor Breezye Telfair during the meeting, as reported by “The Miami Herald.”

The incident took place when Barrett and fellow college students Christopher Eden, 18, and Daniel Cabezas, 18, tried to return in a ferry from a keg party on an island in the back of the head but it’s still unknown who hit who, Telfair told the board. “Where it stands now, we cannot prove anything.”

Later investigations show that no one had tried to drown Barrett as was previously reported.

Barrett, Cabezas and Eden refused to comment because of the pending lawsuits.


WITH AGE COMES WISDOM

KEVIN SMITH Contributing Writer

With the number of students suffering from credit card debt nearly doubling each year, U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter has proposed the College Student Credit Card Protection Act, which would limit the credit card spending of college students to 20 percent of their annual income.

“It’s astonishing to me to see college students coming out of school with staggering amounts of debt and credit scores so abominable that they couldn’t rent a car,” Slaughter said in an interview with MSNBC Sept. 5. Slaughter’s bill, which was proposed Aug. 1, is actually an amendment to the Consumer Credit Protection Act of 2005. The proposed amendment would apply the 20 percent restrictions of credit card spending only to students under the age of 21. The amendment will also prohibit students from receiving more than one credit card without the student presenting proof of independent income. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs but no decisions have been made.

Those who would fall under the Act’s restrictions could have their parents co-sign with them on credit card applications for higher spending limits. According to Nellie Mae, a major student loan provider, the average college student incurs a credit card debt of over $1,843.

The Educational Resources Institute, along with the Institute for Higher Education Policy, showed that 77 percent of college students used their credit cards for every day personal expenses and reached their credit limit within weeks.

The bill would apply to students such as junior Anthony Rodriguez, who received his first credit card when he began his college career in 2005. Rodriguez began charging every day items to his card and quickly racked up a $1500 debt.

“I was shocked when my credit cards were denied,” Rodriguez said.

Act proposes credit restrictions for students

HISPANIC HERITAGE

Events raise cultural awareness, interest

ELVIS RAMIREZ Staff Writer

The Hispanic Heritage Committee chose to hold events celebrating Hispanic heritage throughout the month of October because it is easier to represent many cultures with this amount of time, according to Gabriel Labrador, committee chair.

The committee’s goal was to steer students away from the belief that Hispanic cultures are all the same, said Michelle Oria, the vice president of external affairs for the Student Programming Council at University Park.

“It’s [Hispanic] heritage not just one culture,” Oria said. “When most people think of Hispanic Heritage they think of Cinco de Mayo. When you look online everywhere about Hispanic heritage is Cinco de Mayo.”

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month SPC at both UP and the Biscayne Bay Campus planned several events that will continue until the beginning of November.

The UP council will host a variety of events during these weeks. On Oct. 27, SPC-UP will host Carnaval, an event where almost every Hispanic country and culture will be represented, in Lot 3. Dis-plays with information on a specific country’s culture will be a large part of the event.

The event is free to students who are each allowed to bring two guests. There will be food and DJs mixing music throughout the event.

It’s more of a celebration of Hispanic heritage, the political aspect of the culture is not the focus of the festivities at UP, according to Oria.

“The Carnaval has been in the planning stages since September and is a big event,” Oria said. “[The committee planned the Carnaval] so everyone has the chance to participate in Hispanic heritage.”

SUPER NURSE: Willie Pearl Porter, a veteran nurse, (left) speaks with Erika Mathews (right) and Angelina Duquesne (center), two of FIU’s nursing students on Oct. 18 during the Inauguration of the South Florida, The suicide of7 nurse in the Green Library.

RIVALRY REVISITED

Women’s soccer falls to UM

SPORTS

PAGE 12

FREE DANCE MOVES

Salsa, balcony, hip-hop and more

AT THE BAY

PAGE 4

POISON IN THE PUBLIC

Smokers put non-smokers at risk

OPINION

PAGE 5

“SUPER” SOULJA?

Degrading lyrics propel rap song

LIFE!

PAGE 6

OUR VIEW:

New bill will help students graduate debt free.

Page 5
‘Green’ hopes stem class project

EVELYN DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Students in professor Yolanda Cal’s Advertising 3200 Creative Concepts class are using their creativity to get FIU students thinking about the environment and ways to “Make Recycling Fun.”

Presently, FIU seems to lead in campus recycling among colleges and universities in Miami. FIU already recycles paper, aluminum, plastics, glass, light bulbs, cardboard paper, wood pallets, car batteries and trees. The University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University only recycle paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and aluminum cans, while Miami-Dade College does not recycle at all. But Cal wants to do more. She says she came up with the idea of a group project that focuses on recycling because she wants to do a good deed for the environment and to offer her students a hands-on assignment.

Cal’s project has caught on in her class, with many groups coming up with new ways to increase recycling on campus.

Evelyn Ferro and her group have come up with the idea of hosting an event for people to exchange recycling materials for items other people no longer want and to provide booths on recycling awareness information around campus.

“I’m interested [in increasing recycling on campus] because I think it’s a problem that directly or indirectly affects all of us. I think the school is not doing its best to address this issue and students, as part of the FIU community, should come up with a plan to get involved in it,” Ferro said.

Carol Wang and her group want to encourage volunteerism by placing color-coded bins around campus, putting up posters to remind students to recycle and to make a small club for students who wish to be a part of recycling at FIU. Wang believes that every little bit will help when it comes to recycling.

“Since FIU is full of hundreds of students, even our [small] contribution to recycling will make a difference,” Carol Wang said in an e-mail.

Other group ideas involve competing with different universities, wearing shirts about recycling on certain days, forming a club and hosting festivals. While the group’s ideas all differ, most everyone agrees that more recycling bins should be available around campus.

The best thing to do is to explain how to recycle. First thing we have to do is work with what we have and then increase it.

To do that, Trautenberg and his group “Go Green” have been working since the beginning of the fall semester along with other groups at FIU and SGA, trying to make the process of recycling better.

Student Government Association Vice President Arthur “AJ” Meyer appreciates the work of Cal’s class and the “Go Green” group and encourages other students to take up the cause.

“If the students come up to us with a proposal and an idea, we would love to help that student with that idea,” Meyer said. “We wish we had more students doing that. Not enough students take that initiative.”

Compiled by Kasandra Pool

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Credit legislation raises controversy

Credit card limit was hit and my financial aid wasn’t enough to pay it completely off,” Rodriguez said.

The validity of the amendment is under debate.

“I feel though that this legislation is a bit too invasive to work,” said junior Noelle Reed.

Reed said that she has taught many of her friends to budget their money in college but feels the Legislature is overstepping their bounds with the amendment.

Cary Diaz, member service representative for the University Credit Union, has little faith in the amendment as well.

“Many students who apply for a credit card do not have a job and are usually working on their parent’s income,” Diaz said. “Along with that many students are too young to know how to budget their money.”

Other students such as freshman Arlene Heredia like the idea.

“Having a low credit limit not only helps me keep my finances organized but also forces me to make choices such as saving money for groceries over splurging on Coldstone,” Heredia said.

Whether the CSCCA amendment will be the turning point in student debt, or not, is still pending.

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OVER THE LIMIT: The proposed College Student Credit Card Protection Act could limit students’ credit limit to 20 percent of their total income.

CREDIT CARD STATISTICS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Students on average owe $1,843 in debt
- On average, students have 2.8 credit cards
- Students receive 25 to 50 credit card solicitations
- 8.5 percent of students drop out due to financial pressure
- 6 percent of student drop-outs are caused by academic failure
- 1280 colleges ban credit card marketing on campus nationwide

So you know...

SGC-UP Notes

Oct. 17: Call to order at 4:09 p.m., Adjournment 4:52 p.m.

President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez):
- Thanks FIU for participation in A Night For Molly and voter registration initiatives
- University Wide Council meeting date TBA.

Comptroller’s Report (Sergio Ibarra):
- University-wide committee will be formed from established SGA members from both campuses to address SGA budget.

Speaker of the House’s Report (Jennifer Ruiz):
- Adopt-a-Player meet-and-greet will take place Oct. 25 in the East GC Ballroom.
- Our House Your House service project with the Ronald McDonald House will take place Nov. 5.

Honors Council:
- Now has a full governing board.
- The Fall and Spring Commencement have been merged into one commencement during the Spring semester.
- Palmer House community service event to take place Oct. 25.

Graduate Student Association:
- Business Etiquette seminar had 80 participants.
- Family Festival will take place Oct. 24 in GC 243 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

New Business:
- Resolution to formally thank Alexander Zyne for his 30 plus years of service to FIU passed.

- Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.

Visit our website for the full notes.
Dance classes promote fun, friendships

CATHERINE KAIMAN
Contributing Writer

Walking through the Wolfe University Center on a Tuesday night, students may hear salsa music and laughter as a result of Biscayne Bay Campus’ Dancing with the Wolfe Class.

These are free classes offered at BBC where students can choose to learn how to dance in ballroom, salsa, belly dancing or hip-hop styles.

“The reason we offer these types of classes is because they are diverse and give students an opportunity to learn something new,” said Leatrice Gachette, Student Programming Council secretary.

BBC’s Student Programming Council pays for Dancing with the Wolfe classes out of their budget, which is set by the Student Government Association.

“Even though I have never danced before, I had a lot of fun,” said FIU Freshman Max Daniel Jordan after participating in his first class teaching the Wolfe Class.

“Want to be more natural and comfortable at dancing.”

Just after one class, Jordan is planning on attending the salsa class regularly and wants to learn ballroom dancing.

“When Jimmy Chang was offered to teach a salsa class during Hispanic Heritage month in 2002, he saw the appeal of teaching at FIU,” Bennett said. “The best part about this class is that not you’re learning salsa, but that you’re here to socialize, to have fun!” said Chang, who has made a lot of friends through these classes.

Chang also teaches classes at Johnson and Wales University and Miami Dade College, allowing students from these schools to participate in the classes held at FIU. Students can take the salsa classes at these schools as well.

“The salsa class is really lively and has positive energy and vibes,” Chang said.

FRESHMAN Katie Bennet also wants to try her skills at ballroom dancing.

“I wish I had come to the classes from the beginning of the semester,” Bennet said. “I hope to learn some wicked moves to display at Homecoming.”

A dancer for 30 years, Kira Cocchi is enjoying her first semester teaching belly dancing at FIU and already has a few students who have become regulars.

Having been in a salsa club in high school, Bennett also wants to try her skills at ballroom dancing.

“I like being able to educate people in this form of dance because I believe that art is something that will unite people across cultural, ethnic and religious differences,” said Cocchi.

Belly dancing classes offer a diverse range of music, including Lebanese, Turkish and Israeli.

Freshman Carrie Brown has attended class every week since the beginning of the semester.

“I really like the way [the instructor] breaks down the moves so you learn the technical aspects,” Brown said.

Elegance Chang, a doctoral student, has been attending three Dancing with the Wolfe classes per week for the last year. “I like dancing and I want to be more energetic and in better shape,” Chang said.

“Work with school and studying, you need something to boost your energy, especially after spending hours on a computer, these classes are great.”

Classes are held Monday through Thursday in the Wolfe University Center, rooms 155 and 157, at 6 PM.

Luis Polt started attending Dancing with the Wolfe classes in 2002 and, since graduating from FIU, still attends regularly. Polt has learned, “to continue to practice because if you take a semester off, you have to relearn all the steps.”

Forums, movies celebrate heritage

HERITAGE, page 1

At BBC, flyers have been distributed to promote Hispanic Heritage Month, but they are not accurate because several events, such as the Hallow’s Eve Kid’s Event Oct. 29 and the Iron Chef Latin America competition Oct. 22, were cancelled. An updated schedule can be found at the Campus Life office at the Wolfe University Center, room 141.

A movie series is being planned at BBC for the week of Oct. 22. The movies and the days they will be shown are still being discussed.

A student-lead discussion forum on the topic of Cuba will lead the day-long Afro-Cuban Celebration Oct. 24. The discussion will be centered on Cuba and its culture and politics but the topic may not stay on just Cuba, according to Labrador.

Another political discussion forum on a topic yet to be announced will be held Oct. 31.

These discussions will be held in Panther Square at WUC.

I think people can get more connected, more active when discussing something with their peers, with some one of their own age set that knows what issues that are facing. They may not necessarily agree but that’s the beauty of political discussion,” Labrador said.

The final event will be a celebration of Dia de los Muertos, a holiday practiced throughout Latin America that honors and celebrates the dead. The event will run Nov. 1 to Nov. 2, the traditional days used to honor the deceased children and adults, respectively.

An information session detailing the specifics of the holiday and its historical significance will be held Nov. 1, from noon to 1 p.m. at Panther Square.

“It actually translates to African culture because the Day of the Dead is celebrated in Madagascar, in Nigeria and a lot of African countries... it shows how closely tied the cultures are,” Labrador said.

An altar may be constructed although its location and the building process are still being discussed. If it is constructed, people will be able to bring offerings, such as a deceased relative’s favorite drink, to the altar.

Restrictions against alcoholic beverages will apply.

These events being held during Hispanic Heritage Month are about broadening student’s horizons and educating them about the differences and similarities in Hispanic cultures, said Vanessa Robinson, former vice president of SPC-BBC and last year’s chair of the Hispanic Heritage Committee. The committee wanted to bring all of the Hispanic cultures together.

“We don’t expect to change people’s minds in [a couple of days],” Robinson said.

Labrador wants everyone to get involved in the events on both campuses.

He said he takes the celebration’s events very seriously due in part to the fact that his heritage is rooted in Mexico.

“Just like the saying] everybody is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day, well everybody is Hispanic on Hispanic Heritage Month.”

“It doesn’t matter whether you’re black, if you’re white, if you’re Asian, if you’re from Australia... After all, that’s the beauty of it,” Labrador said.

SotHEBay

SGC-BBC Notes

October 17, 2007
Call to Order: 3:41 p.m., Adjournment 4:36 p.m.

President’s report (Katiana Saintable)

• Saintable thanked all interns and council members who attended the fall open house last weekend and supported the new fitness center’s grand opening last Friday.
• Saintable and SGA intern Laura Torres reviewed the new Vice-President plaque that will be placed on the wall across the Campus Life office.
• During the event “Day at the Bay” on Nov. 3, when students can volunteer to clean up a specific part of a beach together in the morning, a time capsule will be buried.
• On Friday Oct. 12 SGA met with Dr. Rosa Jones, vice-president of Student Affairs and Cathy Akens, assistant vice president. SGA updated Dr. Jones and Ms. Aiken on issues like the Biscayne Bay Campus pool reconstruction and plans to expand the C-Store, the convenience store that operates with the BBC bookstore.

Compiled by David Rodriguez

Visit our Web site for complete notes.
Smokers carelessly disregarding non-smokers

SAIMEH MEHTA
Contributing Writer

People may have the inalienable right to poison themselves but they certainly have no right to poison another. You let that same person blow malodorous filthy smoke into your face and you’re supposed to realize that smokers have rights, too. Well, it’s a real interesting concept.

Saying smoking is ‘bad’ is under-rated. By given facts it is much easier to comprehend the damage they do on a yearly basis.

Each year, because of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, or ETS, an estimated 3,800 nonsmoking Americans die of lung cancer and 300,000 children suffer from lower respiratory tract infections. In the United States, 21 million, or 35 percent of children live in homes where residents or visitors smoke in the home on a regular basis. The estimated number of children exposed to ETS in the home ranged from 32,105 (Delaware) to 1,120,051 (New York). Particularly alarming is the fact that more than 3 million young people under the age of 18 smoke half a billion cigarettes each year and more than half of them consider themselves dependent upon cigarettes.

Yes, these are the statistics we have in our American society and sadly, we are aware of the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke. It is estimated that smokers in our society not only pose a threat to their own health but also produce a tremendous amount of side effects onto their fellow beings.

And because smokers may want to smoke absent-mindedly around anyone, there should be a statutory warning on the cigarette package stating “smoking is injurious to others health also.”

One FIU graduate student, Indu Prasad at FIU, expressed that smoking on campus was harmful to her as well as her two and half year old child, Nitin.

“Spending some time with my kid on campus at FIU seems to be injurious for the health of both me and my kid. My kid had experienced the effect of secondhand smoke on campus by having coughing and lower respiratory tract infection after having exposure to it only twice,” Prasad said.

Secondhand smoke is the number one killer in the American workplace.

Prasad was concerned about how to say no to smokers. You could try and ask them politely, “I would like to ask a favor. Would you stop smoking?” Or “I would really appreciate it. My doctor says tobacco smoke can cause lung cancer in nonsmokers.”

ETS or passive smoke, is a mixture of 2 forms of smoke from burning tobacco products: side stream smoke that comes from the light end of the cigarette, pipe or cigar and Mainstream smoke that is exhaled by a smoker. It is so harmful that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified it as a Group A Carcinogen—which are known to be the most toxic substance to cause cancer in humans, like radon, benzene and asbestos.

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Now, even Florida has started with the preventive steps to rid itself of public smoking in the workplace and outside of it. Santa Rosa County officials of Florida are starting an awareness campaign to help prevent women quit smoking. Members of the Florida legislature are pushing a measure that would revise the state’s Clean Indoor Air Act to make it clear that businesses are responsible for smoking viola-tions on their property. A proposed constitutional amendment that would require the state to spend about $54 million annually on anti-smoking campaigns drew no opposition as the Florida Supreme Court considered whether to allow it on the ballot.

When a smoker feels the need to publicly ‘light up’, they should be reminded that by doing so they are threatening the health of others. Smoking in public should be illegal—this may sound radical, but when you break it down, where is the rational-ity in threatening another’s health?

Smokers careless-ly disregarding non-smokers

Bill will help students avoid troublesome debt

In an effort to curb the number of students who end up in debt upon graduation, Congress has proposed a new bill that would set a barrier on the size of the credit limit students can acquire from private creditors.

Debt among college students is a major problem. According to a 2004 study of credit-use by student loan lender Nellie Mae, the average debt a college student has a credit card debt of $1,843.

Congress believes the best way to fix this problem is to limit college student’s credit limit by 20 percent of their income through the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. If the bill is passed, it would only apply to college students under the age of 21. Students who receive the permission of their parents would be exempted from this limitation.

It is a shame that such a low needs to be proposed. In today’s society, an individuals credit history can determine whether or not one can receive a mortgage, a loan to purchase a new house or even get a job. Many lenders are targeting students, one of the more underprivileged segments of the population and offering them massive credit limits.

By doing this, private credit-ors are luring them into years of financial hardship. Ultimately, this approach is very profitable for the companies, because it guarantees that these expenditures are paid off with interest, often over the course of many years.

These actions by these compa-nies need to be curbed, however, the key to this problem is educa-tion. More efforts need to be taken to enable students to make wise fiscal decisions and render laws such as one proposed by Congress unnecessary.

The Nobel Prize is one of the most coveted honors on Earth but will its momentum one day run out?

The major problem with the Nobel Peace Prize is that it doesn’t allow enough time to pass so as to see if the efforts of its recipients, or laureates, actu-ally work. Effort is not every-thing and just because a world entity engages in diplomatic talks doesn’t render them an officer of peace.

Former Vice President Al Gore, who gave up politics after conceding the 2000 election to George W. Bush in order to expose the urgency of global cli-mate change. Now he, along with a United Nations climate change panel, has a Nobel Prize to recog-nize their work. Global Warming is an issue just coming into the forefront this decade and the details of it are still being discov-ered and debated. Gore deserves credit for bringing awareness to the issue but at this point in the game it is hard to tell how much knowledge about climate change is still subject to revision, as even valid scientific theories take time to fully develop.

Some Nobel Prize decisions have looked pretty dubious in retrospect, which can damage the credibility of the award.

One laureate who calls into question the Nobel Prize’s valid-ity is Yasser Arafat. Arafat was the former Chairman of the Pal-estinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the group that was widely believed to ultimately be behind the kidnapping and murder of 11 Israel athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany as well as countless ter-rorist attacks against civilians.

So, why did Arafat win the prize in the first place? Well, in the early 1990’s Arafat, to the dismay of the terrorist groups who looked up to him as leader, began to sit down in peace negoti-a-tions with the Israeli leaders including the 1993 Oslo Accords and 2000 Camp David Summit. It begs the question of whether or not the prize was a positive move?

The Oslo Accords, which were directly responsible for Arafat being honored, led to the creation of the Palestin-ian Authority. The Authority, as of 2006, is controlled by Hamas, which is listed as a terrorist organization by major governments including the United States, Canada and the European Union. Hamas has refused to recognize Israel as a state, refuses to renounce the use of violence, and even has denounced the Oslo Accords themselves.

Nonetheless, the Prize is not without honor, considering that other than Arafat, Gore also share this distinction with revolution-ary icons such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Teresa. Only time will tell if Gore will also achieve such iconic status in history and if the Prize will retain its reputation.
Student finds outlet for self on new EP

LYNDSAY HALL Contributing Writer

Described as having poetic lyrics and a sound similar to that of Coldplay, Radiohead and the 80's electric dance era, FIU student Gerardo Brenes hopes to enlighten listeners with his recently downloadable Extended Play disc Chromatic.

As four songs have already been released on his web site gerardobrenes.com, the self-proclaimed alternative electronic pop musician has spent the past three months recording songs in his home studios.

Brenes began writing slow, love ballads in the sixth grade. His lyrics have since matured and now focus on society as a whole. Brenes finds inspiration for his music during talks with his girlfriend, Natalie Ramirez. "I may think something and talk to her about it," Brenes said. "The ideas blossom into what becomes a song. She inspires them even if they're not about her."

Ramirez notes that most topics of discussion include society and that some people do not always see "the bigger picture." Over the past two and half years of dating, Ramirez has noticed a slight change in his writing habits. "Only up until a few months ago, he didn't write very often," Ramirez said. "When we first met, he only showed me a couple songs, mostly about higher knowledge. Now he writes more about society, but for the most part his style hasn't changed much."

While all of the songs hold a special meaning to Brenes, he says the most meaningful one is titled "The Lies." "The song refers to people being susceptible to the most trivial things," Brenes said. "As you're being raised, you're influenced by your friends, parents and teachers; some parts of your personality are lost when trying to please others. After a while, people can become so attached to other things that it becomes you. You change yourself without ever realizing it."

"The Lies" is only one of many songs that will be relatable to listeners – Brenes has left many of his lyrics up to interpretation on purpose. "I always have a very specific idea of what I'm writing, but some lyrics may be vague and poetic in nature," he said. "I do it because that can remind people of things that have happened to them. I want people to apply the words to their own life."

An anonymous fan describes Brenes' music as being reflective, saying that "all hearts are able to make room for it." Ramirez believes this is the precise reaction Brenes desires. She hopes people will give the album a chance and not categorize it as "another pop album."

"People are too concerned with what is immediately catchy, and while the music does catch attention, it goes to another level," Ramirez said.

BREÑES

It's not uncommon for a new dance to become a craze in South Florida, but few have been as prolific in recent memory as that of Soulja Boy Tell'em. The current Billboard Hot 100 hit, with 13-weeks on the charts, "Crank Dat" had everyone learning, or at least talking about, the 17-year-old Soulja Boy's self-titled dance. A YouTube search for videos of the dance will yield you everything from dancers who have great choreographic skill, to the complete lack thereof, and even a step-by-step instructional video.

Aside from the physical component of "Crank Dat," which involves doing a Superman-style swoosh through the air and "cranking" it from left to right, the hot topic of discussion about the song is its lyrics. By now it is known that the song, which often references Superman, is not just an innocent reference to a pop culture hero, but most of the words actually have hidden sexual meanings, which refer to using male reproductive functions in a way that asserts dominance over women.

Despite this school of thought, the song remains immensely popular. Larissa Metalidis, a sophomore majoring in psychology at FIU, mentioned that the lyrics, "They are just filled with sexual innuendo and it is not worth the time analyzing the lyrics," said Lauren Perez, a freshman who is studying finance. "Pop culture that sexually degrades women is a hot topic of study in academia. Dionne Stephens, associate chair with the department of psychology at FIU, mentioned that the culture of hip-hop re-creates a stereotypical, historical image of women. Stephens cited research, including a study conducted by Gina Wingood of Emory University, that correlated the watching of hip-hop videos with increases in sexual risk behaviors, including decreased condom usage among young women."

Despite this, the song continues to be a hit, and it is not worth the time analyzing the lyrics. "Crank Dat" is a hot topic of study in academia. Dionne Stephens, associate chair with the department of psychology at FIU, mentioned that the culture of hip-hop re-creates a stereotypical, historical image of women.
Club focuses on building relationships with God

LYNDSAY HALL
Contributing Writer

During meetings, the organization Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) begins with a simple discussion about God. Scriptures are read from the Bible and together, members speak with one another and discuss about God. Scriptures are

CCC, founded in 1951 by Bill and Vonette Bright, has rapidly spread from its original location in University of California, Los Angeles. Chapters can be found across the United States, with a total of more than 1,000 locations worldwide, according to the official web site campuscrusadeforchrist.com

"At [FIU], Anel Avila started Campus Crusade," director Erik Williams said.

As part of CCC, members participate in numerous activities throughout the year to grow closer to God and to promote their club. "We'll be on campus [Oct. 17] talking to students and letting people know what we're up to. We'll have a table for people who are interested," Essary said.

Other activities include the club's fall retreat in Boca Raton, which happened earlier this semester. Other chapters that attended included those from University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University.

Aside from the fall retreat, club members also take a part in a Christian Conference in Atlanta, Georgia between Dec. 27 and Jan. 2.

"There will be Christian bands, speakers, seminars and 'boxes of love' given to those in Atlanta that don't have as much. And we'll talk to people about God," Essary said.

"There will be a huge party on New Years [also]."

To complement the weekly meetings, there is a girls' Bible study in Lakeview South Lounge. It begins with each girl sharing a good and bad experience from the previous week and then continues into the topic of asking God for help in one's everyday life.

Essary believes the goal of CCC is for everybody at FIU to know someone who has a relationship with God, especially those who didn't grow up with God. College is a key point in a kid's life where they're making decisions about God. College is a big decision. That's why we're there to help students develop a relationship with God. "I was drawn in by the people. It shows that God can touch all different colors of skin and ethnicity," Johnson said.

Robert B. Newman Vice President, Financial Consultant — National Planning Corporation

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Round 3: 6/17/08

DANCE OF PRAISE

NEW LIFESTYLE: Leo Cornejo (l) and monk Jiba Gosvani of the Hare Krishna perform their dance of praise in the Graham Center pit with the yoga club of FIU. The clubs will offer vegetarian meals for a donation of $4 and will be also giving free yoga classes at 11 a.m. every Wednesday.

Chromatic scale used as inspiration

MUSCIAN, page 6

During the process of making his debut album, Brenes has found himself writing more than usual. Inspired simply by the word "chromatic" to begin the writing process.

The first song for the album, "Inspector," was written in just one night.

"Within the first week, I wrote a song every day. In a week I had five songs, which eventually turned into an average of two songs a week. I would sit down at the piano and write whatever came to mind, either words, music or a theme," Brenes said.

Brenes has started small by passing out his disc to anyone who will listen, free of cost. Songs can also be downloaded on his web site or heard in the playlist for the Graham Center.

In a few months, he plans to expand his fan base by selling his full-length album.

"Sometimes artists try their luck and take [their record] to every record label, but they need to be careful because if something falters, then that's it," Brenes said. "Instead, I want to let people hear my music and create a fan base. I want to prove that I can be successful in Miami then go to the labels."

There is currently no set release date for the full-length album.

To listen to some of Brenes's songs, visit myspace.com/gerardobrenes.
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Players revisit Nintendo classic via download service

LUIS H. GARCIA
Staff Writer

Seven years ago at the twilight of the Nintendo 64’s run, Japan saw one of developer Treasure’s finest shooters, Sin and Punishment.

It never saw release in other territories and became the target for rare game collectors all over. Now, through the Wii’s Virtual Console download service, the mass can now discover the once lost N64 masterpiece.

As mankind enters a new era of peace, overpopulation strangles the world’s food supplies. Scientists develop a new species of life to be bred as a new food source, which eventually mutates, multiplies and destroys, leading to world-wide panic.

As peace keepers step in to quell the violence, another faction, lead by a self-proclaimed “savior,” prepares to fight the others in the same genre.

Given that the game was designed with the N64 controller in mind, the Wii classic controller serves as a fine substitute.

Two players can get in on the action – one controls movement and dodging while the other takes aim and attacks.

The game is visually replicated without a hitch; cut scenes and fully voiced dialogue progress the story and give tribute to Treasure’s storytelling and optimal use of limited hardware that can still be appreciated today.

The game is rather short, but still challenging.

A time limit adds extra pressure, and the game throws plenty of excitement and dangers to players, including a climactic final battle that must be seen to be believed. Two players can get in on the action – one controls movement and dodging while the other takes aim and attacks.

Like many of their brethren in the emo genre, Jimmy Eat World have made quite a career out of singing about inequalities to move past adolescence.

For basically its entire career, the band’s lyrics have read like your typical MySpace blog: full of awkward first kisses and affirmations that being different isn’t such a bad thing, no matter what the cool kids might say.

From debut album Jimmy Eat World, to a first appearance in the public consciousness with the self-esteem boosting hit single “The Middle,” to the latest sixth album, Chase This Light, due out Oct. 16 on Interscope Records, Jimmy Eat World has staved off many of its signature style.

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Two players can get in on the action – one controls movement and dodging while the other takes aim and attacks.

If there was any title that pushed the N64’s capabilities, it was this one, although it is a far cry from what we are used to now.

The game is visually replicated without a hitch; cut scenes and fully voiced dialogue progress the story and give tribute to Treasure’s storytelling and optimal use of limited hardware that can still be appreciated today.

The $12 price tag might be a bit much for a downloadable game, but for something like Sin and Punishment, it is well worth it.

Although many missed out on an outstanding and unique 3D shooter years ago, Nintendo has rightfully done gamers a huge favor in making an unknown gem of a game known to all.

As opposed to the high energy and catchy choruses the band has been known for, this track is a mid-tempo, bass heavy tune that features some ill-advised synthesized strings throughout.

The band is obviously trying to go for an ominous feel with the song, but the strings end up sounding like a bad parody of “Strawberry Fields Forever” with some of the most nonsensical lyrics in the entire Jimmy Eat World catalogue.

While this song fails, the idea of the band attempting to make a new sound for themselves is probably the only noteworthy part of this entire album for non die-hard fans.

While neither of those songs will be remembered as strong tracks, if the band wants to continue to stay relevant, it should try to mature as a group.

Going 13 years into a career that has seen the band grow from some of the leaders of the still underground emo movement in the mid-‘90s to a group that has garnered heavy rotation on MTV for numerous songs, strong, catchy tunes like “Feeling Lucky,” “Big Casino” and “Dizzy” are to be expected from this band, and it has become predictable and formulaic.

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Sure, the songs are enjoyable, but the band has done the same thing for six albums, and even the strongest bands have a tough time staying relevant without reinventing themselves before long. Jimmy Eat World has long past that point.

Overall, Chase This Light is just another album from a band that knows how to craft catchy songs with relative ease. It is enough to keep the die-hards happy, but if you haven’t been a fan of the band before this, you will find very little to interest you.
## Men's basketball holds open tryout for 'any players'

The men's basketball team held an open tryout for any students wishing to walk on to the team on Oct. 15. Thirteen students showed up to try out, and in the end, the coaching staff saw potential in a few of the participants.

In order to tryout, students filled out a form certifying that they have proper medical clearance, that they are aware of the risk and that they are currently taking 12 credits.

"I admire them for coming out and trying, because a lot of kids talk a good game and then come to games and say they can make it," said men's basketball head coach Sergio Rouco.

After a water break, basketball drills followed with a right- and left-handed lay-up line, a rebound drill, a passing drill and a shooting drill.

There was also weave passing drill, which proved to be a weakness for most of the participants and was one of only a few things they did not do well.

After all the running and drills, it came time for the most decisive test: a full court scrimmage.

Half the participants were given blue practice jerseys, while the other half received green practice jerseys, which pleased surprisingly the coaching staff.

"It was a good tryout and it was tough with the running and conditioning, but overall it was good and gave everybody a chance," said Conray Whittier, one of the participants at the tryout.

Whittier was named by Rouco as someone likely to receive a call inviting him to further team activities.

"They were in better shape than any group I have had as walk-ons, so they really worked themselves into a shape to come out here and not embarrass themselves," Rouco said.

## Adventure weekend series against conference rivals

Junior Susan Nam finished the first day of the tournament in a tie for first place, and the Golden Panthers are Sun Belt Conference games.

Junior Christina Marin, who also finished in the top 20 out of 69 competitors on the strength of a three-stroke improvement on the second day from 5-over to just 2-over.

The Golden Panthers remain at home for a weekend series agains Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock Oct. 26 and 28, respectively.

## Sunnyway Women's Golf

On the strength of three Top-20 finishes, the women's golf team finished the UNCG-Starmount Fall Women's Golf Classic in a tie for third place with Elon University. FIU finished behind East Carolina and North Carolina-Greensboro, who finished first and second, respectively, in the tournament held Oct. 16 in Greensboro, N.C.

Junior Monica Arreaza and Roberta Neves netted scores of 16-over and 25-over, respectively. Along with Nam, FIU received strong performances from senior Maria Hernandez, who also finished in the top 20 out of 69 competitors on the strength of a three-stroke improvement on the second day from 5-over to just 2-over.

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Tisch receives strong support from parents

**SWIMMING, page 12**

the an afternoon swim.

Swimming coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia believes the practice schedule is grueling but necessary for Tisch and her teammates to be able to compete at a high level. "It is a very demanding sport that takes a lot of time and energy, especially at the Division I level," Lung-Zaharia said. "Being in Division I makes it all much harder than being in Division II or Division III, based on the teams we have to play."

Tisch, who competed in the 50, 100, 200, and 500-yard freestyle for FIU in 2006-07, is no stranger to regional competition either. In high school, she competed in the Empire State Games, which is a New York area event that features the top athletes in each region. Though Tisch did not win at the Empire state Games either, she believes those experiences have helped mold her into the swimmer and person she is today. "This is just another added-on experience," she said.

Although Tisch isn’t too concerned about winning it all, Lung-Zaharia will be cheering her on from thousands of miles away. "Our philosophy and my goal as a head coach is to push them to their limit," Lung-Zaharia said. "My job is to make her the best she can be and I am very proud of the work she is doing. She works very hard and it has only made her better. I’m excited for her because she is not only representing the United States but FIU as well."

Tisch appreciates the extra push from her coach. "She is very supportive and she really wants me to go all the way," Tisch said. "She does a great job in trying to get me to reach my limit. She is a great coach."

Tisch also shares a bond with her parents, who come to watch her almost every weekend.

"I am very close to them because I am an only child," she said. "They are retired and they are coming to live in their North Miami Beach condo in November to get to see me more."

In addition to her participation in the upcoming Maccabi games, Tisch still has academic and athletic responsibilities at FIU. Lung-Zaharia thinks she is an example of what a student-athlete should be.

Tisch, who is majoring in criminal justice, keeps a good GPA up and sets an example for her teammates. "She does a great job of balancing it all between the Macabbi games and our season," Lung-Zaharia said.

Her teammates have taken notice as well. "She was voted as one of our two co-captains of the team," Lung-Zaharia said. "Her teammates chose her based on her leadership, and she has worked hard for it. As a captain she now has even more responsibility."

For now, Tisch will look forward to the upcoming games. She enjoyed her first time at the Maccabi Heat last year. She won first individual title of last year. She won first individual title last year.
SWIMMING, page 11

For the second consecutive season, FIU will send only one representative to compete in women’s open swimming: Meredith Tisch. The junior will participate in the 11th annual Pan American Maccabi Games Dec. 26-Jan. 2. It will be her second time at the event, competing against six other countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Australia and Costa Rica.

She will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina looking to take first place wearing the United States’ colors.

“It is the greatest feeling to be out there representing the United States,” she said. “It is like a mini-Olympics with the ceremonies and the atmosphere you are surrounded in. I am very exited to go back.”

For Tisch, the experience of traveling to another country to compete against fellow elite swimmers was enough to justify her journey to Chile. The trip will not be a complete loss if she does not obtain the gold.

“I was just happy to be there, it was a great experience,” she said. “It was amazing, I just want to be the best that I can, but if I don’t bring home the medal I will not be upset.”

Tisch especially liked the foreign appeal of the event.

“It was a extremely international,” she said. “You get to meet a bunch of new, cool people and you get to play the sport you love.”

During the first week of the trip, the team was taken on a tour of Chile, an experience Tisch will never forget. The surroundings in the area were much different than Florida.

“It was extremely beautiful because the city was within the mountains and the houses were very close together,” she said. “The sight-seeing during the first week was very pretty. We went to a small market and the Chilean people treated us very well. It wasn’t one of those fake tours with a little key chain. They made tourist things with their own hands and gave us a great tour.”

In order to prepare for this year’s competition, she will not break her normal routine. She plans to conduct her regular swimming practices with teammates.

“I’m just practicing as hard as I can, just as I would do normally,” she said.

The routine the team conducts includes two-a-day practices three times a week, starting with an early morning practice.