ENDLESS SUMMER CUTS
Budget slashed again, tuition may increase

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

Only a week after FIU’s Board of Trustees approved a list of academic program cuts, University President Modesto A. Maidique announced an additional and unanticipated hit to allocated state funds in a June 19 newsletter.

For months, the University has developed a budget plan that aims to reduce University-wide spending after the Florida Legislature cut six percent from this year’s state funds. Now, news from Governor Charlie Crist’s office has revealed that only 96 percent of those allotted funds will be received by Florida universities, which forces FIU to find additional means to alleviate the budget crisis that could translate to a higher tuition hike.

So far, the University’s mitigation has resulted in restructuring and outsourcing non-academic operating costs, personnel and staff layoffs, academic program closures and increased tuition for all students.

According to Maidique’s newsletter, the administration is considering raising undergraduate and graduate tuition again to adjust to the new budget cut figure. Maidique has kept the University community updated on the budget crisis through weekly newsletters spelling out the decision-making process since March.

The breakdown of the University’s academic and non-academic operating budget resulted in two budget plans, each forecasting different budget cut scenarios. By early May, however, FIU projected a 7 percent cut, the highest amount the University predicted.

Still, when word from Tallahassee assured a cut of only 6 percent, Vivian Sanchez, chief financial officer and senior vice president, said in a Budget Stabilization Task Force meeting on May 5 that the University would not adjust its plans to the new number.

“We are still airming and moving toward the 7 percent scenario,” said Sanchez. “We need to stay the course.”

A 6 percent cut equalled a loss of $11.9 million from allocated education and general state funds. Additionally, recurring and one-time funds issued by the State Legislature.

Students meet higher interest rates as lenders suffer

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The country’s financial woes have hit the student loan market. FIU students planning to take out loans to cover college costs will have more difficulties than a few complicated financial aid forms. Many lenders are now raising interest rates, while others are dropping out of the market altogether.

Among the lenders suffering is Sallie Mae, which provides financial assistance to more than 10 million students. Sallie Mae reported in April that it would no longer waive the 1.5 percent loan origination fee on subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans. Loan origination fees are one-time charges frequently discounted at the time of the loan’s dispersal. Later that month, John F. Remondi, Sallie Mae’s vice chairman and chief financial officer, stated in front of Congress that the company might be unable to cover demand for Stafford loans either that and it needed government intervention to close the loan gap.

The federal government has created measures to alleviate the student loan crisis. President George W. Bush signed a bill on May 7 that gives student lenders additional capital to make loans.

“You have no choice but to get [private loans] if you’re a student and your scholarship money runs out,” said junior Luis Rivera.

Interest rates for private loans usually range from six to 11 percent. Because federal loans come with federal repayment guarantees, interest rates are somewhat lower ranging from six to eight percent. Students usually turn to more expensive private loans to cover costs of their college expenses once they have exhausted their funds from scholarships, savings and federal aid. Even with higher interest rates, FIU students continue to need loans, either federal or private, to cover summer classes and next fall’s increased tuition.

“I had to take out a $2,500 loan for the summer because my financial aid wasn’t enough. So, to take more classes I had to take the private loan,” said junior Jonathan Jauri.

FIU’s Financial Aid Office would not comment on the student loan issue.
Attorney no longer faces rape charges

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

The case involving the alleged rape of an 18-year-old female FIU student by Boston attorney Gary Zerola was dropped earlier this month. It is the third time this year that such charges against the attorney have been dropped. Zerola, 36, allegedly drugged and raped the FIU student in October 2007 in his hotel room after meeting the student in a Miami Beach nightclub. By being in Florida, Zerola violated his parole in Massachusetts where he awaited trial for two other sexual assault cases.

According to a memo accompanying the case’s defense, the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office stopped investigating the case because the FIU student “has numerous credibility issues and there is no physical forensic evidence to corroborate the victim’s version of events.”

The memo, attached by the attorney’s office, also stated “there is no direct evidence that [Zerola] and the victim had sexual intercourse.”

Zerola was acquitted in Boston for two similar charges in January and March of this year. The charges were brought on by two 19-year-old women.

Florida defense attorney Brett Schwartz, Zerola’s counsel for the Miami trial, said his client was “unfairly vilified based on unfair, illogical allegations,” according to a June 13 story in The Boston Herald.

“The state attorney’s office already dropped the case. That’s all I’m going to say,” Schwartz told The Beacon.

Zerola is noted for being a former candidate to star on ABC’s television hit “The Bachelor” and was also listed by People magazine as one of the most eligible bachelors around.

One such announcement was received by the day of FIU’s Board of Trustees meeting on June 12 according to the last presidential newsletter.

As the Board approved the University’s budget plans, which resulted in 25 academic program closures, Governor Crist’s office notified the state’s universities that an additional 4 percent would not reach their coffers. The newsletter qualifies these cuts as “significant” and “earlier than anticipated” but explains that forethought into the possibility of future cuts left the University in a relatively comfortable position where it can “absorb further reductions.”

This means a student who would previously pay $929 for a 12-credit semester will now receive a charge of $1,049. Students seeking graduate degrees in accounting are among the newest innovations for the school.

The School of Accounting Director Sharon Lassar believes the program will be an advantage to both faculty and students.

“It is designed for individuals who are working somewhere in the business world, but not in accounting,” Lassar said.

“The program’s purpose is to foster greater career growth potential for those who are working in related fields such as finance.”

Vice President of Professional Affairs Sharlita Millington said, “The [program] definitively gives students the tools to get ahead for their degree.”

The program has been well received by students, who at first thought it to be only a rumor.

“We had no budget situation was we in a very fortunate position to add this program,” Lassar said. “So far improvements in applicant statistics, including GRE and GMAT scores have been at an all-time high. The demand for this program is definitely at its highest.”

The new faculty within the School of Accounting is in the process of redesigning courses in order to improve the overall learning experience for students.

The School of Accounting faculty has hired undergraduates to assist other students at the College of Business Complex through one-on-one or group tutoring sessions.

Students who are interested in joining the institution can look forward to “new faculty, new attention to the program and new excitement in the School of Accounting,” Lassar said.

Students can also participate in a study abroad program to Peru, which will allow them to learn business within a foreign country.

In addition to these provisions, the School of Accounting plans to open the Manuel Rodriguez Student Support Endowment Fund, a yearly scholarship for graduate students.

This will serve to honor the legacy of FIU’s previous associate director of account- ing Manuel Dieguez, as well as grant students an enriching opportunity.

University’s electricity costs.

Most notable is the new addition to the list: a newly acquired ability to charge “differential tuition.” In other words, the University can hike tuition by up to 15 percent every upcoming year.

A further tuition increase is possible, as Governor Crist recently added FIU Trustees before going into effect.

In approving the University’s budget plan on June 12, the Board simultaneously agreed to increase undergraduate tuition by 6 percent, graduate tuition by 10 percent and law tuition by 15 percent.

Applying the differential tuition will increase tuition another 9 percent for undergraduates. Freshmen and sopho- mores will feel the brunt of this new provision while current students who enrolled before July 1, 2007 will be exempt from the additional charge.

We understand the pain that’s being felt out there. But it amounts to a couple of lattes a week.

Mark Rosenberg, Chancellor
State University System

Maidique proposed implementing the 15 percent increase this year and recurring 10 percent hikes for the next few years in a Miami Herald article.

Any revenue generated by the increases can only be used to “enhance [the] quality of direct undergraduate instruction and support services,” states the newsletter, which will result in hiring “badly needed” advisors and faculty members.

A 15-percent hike will add $11.60 per credit for undergraduates.

State University System Chancellor Mark Rosenberg said in the article that there is a need for higher tuition rates to improve the state universities and believes that increases are not too severe.

“We understand the pain that’s being felt out there,” Rosenberg said in the article. “But it amounts to a couple of lattes a week.”

Schedule change aims to cut costs

SCHEDULE, page 1

When asked about the new schedule, Priscilla Juncadella, a senior biology major working in the Panther ID office, said her office was not affected because many students require their services at this time of year.

Jean Ugarte, a sophomore majoring in broadcast communication who works at the Porter Davis Game Room said the game room recently nixed Fridays from their work schedule for the summer.

“Our hours really depend on library hours. If they’re closed, we’re closed,” Ugarte said.

We have a significant increase in funding both from the state and through tuition,” Maidique said in the article. However, any such tuition measures must first be approved by the Board of Trustees.
The Board of Trustees voted to cut 25 programs and six centers on June 12 after months of University-wide deliberation.

The academic cuts include 15 bachelor degree programs and nine master degree programs. The doctorate programs from the Industrial and Systems Engineering department will be recommended for the Florida Board of Governors.

The cuts are projected to save Academic Affairs $4 million within a three-year period.

All programs will be phased out in two to three years, however, enrolled students will be enrolled by the completion of their degrees.

The College of Education was the hardest hit with 6 programs closures and a combined enrollment of about 368 students.

During early May, the NCAA penalized FIU athletic programs with over 25 scholarship losses followed by four-year probation due to poor graduation rates and NCAA bylaw violations.

Kingsley Banya and Fernando Treviño have been appointed interim dean of the College of Education and Stempel School of Public Health, respectively.

Banya succeeds Luis Miron, Treviño succeeds interim dean Michele Ciccazzo.

Miron will help Banya transition into his new position and with the implementation of the college’s plans for budget cuts.

Ciccazzo will return to her previous position as associate dean.

Banya, who has a 17-year tenure with the college, will work alongside the faculty and staff in the College of Education as well as Dean Kenneth Furton from the College of Arts and Sciences to meet budget cuts while maintaining the quality of the School of Education.

A national search for a permanent College of Education dean will begin in the fall.

Treviño has work in public health education for more than 30 years at University of North Texas Health Science Center Fort Worth, in addition to serving as the founding dean of the St. George’s University School of Medicine and as the dean of the College of Public Health.

The College of Medicine receives a $3.5 million financial commitment from the Benjamin Leon, Jr, owner of the Leon Medical Centers, donated $10 million to support student-athletes competing while ineligible, misapplying for financial aid and a lack of institutional control. FIU is under a four-year probation which extends until May 19, 2012, and the University must vacate all wins and records in which 45 ineligible student-athletes participated.

Lack of resources and understating were the primary reasons for the violations, according to the NCAA Committee on Infractions. Athletics director Pete Garcia says the administration is in the process of correcting the infrastructure and adding resources to athletics.

“We’ve added more personnel, more funding to compliance, and we’ve revamped and restructured a number of systems and processes across the university,” AD Garcia said.

The NCAA penalized 12 sports teams with some sort of scholarship loss; the majority of the penalties were self-imposed by the university and accepted by the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

Arthur “AJ” Meyer, Student Government Association University Park president, was voted the new chairman of the Florida Student Association. His new position makes him a full voting member of the Florida Board of Governors.

On April 11, FIU’s team of undergraduate business students placed second in the FIU College of Business’ Top University Officials announce which programs and centers will be cut due to state budget cuts.

TOUGH CHOICES: Top University officials announce which programs and centers will be cut due to state budget cuts.

The College of Medicine received the largest donation in FIU’s history on May 28.

Benjamin Leon, Jr., owner of the Leon Medical Centers, donated $10 million to jump start a center for geriatric medicine at the new college. The first $2 million installment was presented during a ceremony at University Park.

“This is a momentous occasion. It will make us a leader in the field of geriatrics,” President Modesto A. Maidique said.

The donation is eligible under the state’s medical school matching program.

On April 11, FIU’s team of undergraduate business students placed second in the College of Business’ National Case Competition.

The team won a $3,000 check and extended their participation in the competition.

The team rated each team on four parts of a marketing plan, analyzing the team’s strategy and approach to the studied business.

The FIU team rated each aspect of the analysis and, in total, by the numbers, made educated decisions.

The team won a $3,000 prize for placing first in the competition.
**CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSING**

Cafeteria 170 thru 175

170-175

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**PUSHING FORWARD:** Originally expected to open in August 2007, construction of BCC’s new cafeteria continues. An exact completion date is still unknown due to permit delays in Tallahassee, according to Gregory Olson, senior director of Student Affairs, in an April 2008 Beacon article.

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**NEWS FLASH**

Incoming international students invited to immigration orientation

An immigration orientation will be hosted June 24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Wolff University Center’s room 159. Aimed at incoming international students, the event will help interested students decide if FIU is right for them. Call 305-919-5813 for further information.

**PAMELA DUQUE/THE BEACON**

**Start a club in four steps:**

1. Get four members to be president, vice president, treasurer and SOC representative.
2. Ask an FIU faculty member be your advisor.
4. Turn in to Campus Life in WUC 141.

The deadline for $200 in club funds is Sept. 30; late entries will receive $100 until Oct. 31.

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**Tropical fish, live music at SOC club fair**

**KISHORE SAWH**
Contributing Writer

Students will have the chance to swim with the fishes in Panther Square.

Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Organizations Council will host a club fair from 5 to 7 p.m. on June 26.

“It’s summer and we felt a tropical something would go with the weather,” said Didier Georges, SOC-BCBC president. Held once every two months, the club fair provides a chance for campus organizations to welcome newcomers and expand their network while allowing students to find new ways to get involved in extracurricular activities.

“It’s a great way to make new friends and experience cross cultural diversity,” Georges said.

Panther Square will be decorated with tropical fish and there will be free food and giveaways.

“The fairs are often planned to coincide with freshmen orientation in an effort to encourage new students to get involved right from the get-go,” said Jessica Senorin, SOC-BCBC’s vice president.

The event will be paired with Late Day Latte, a social gathering for students who take late classes to interact and enjoy some finger food.

“The purpose of this Latte is to provide live music. Their music can be compared to the pop sound The Beatles,” Georges said.

There are currently 44 active clubs at BBC. Students can get involved with the athletic club, the kayaking club, music club or wine club.

“In order to join one of SOC’s clubs, all you have to do is be enrolled at FIU,” Georges said.

Starting clubs opens even more avenues for more people, according to Georges.

“There’s a wide variety of clubs at BBC that students can get involved with,” George’s said. “And if they don’t find one they like, they can start their own.”

For more information, contact SOC-BCBC at 305-919-3707.

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**NEWS**

Nursing veterans bring their knowledge, experience to FIU

**PARADISE AFSHAR**
Contributing Writer

Returning to the classroom after over a decade brought back memories of where her career began, Lindsey Wilkins is now on the path to a new start in an old place.

Wilkins was a student at FIU, she has now returned to her alma mater as a clinical assistant professor.

“It is interesting to come back to the same buildings and same of the same professors that were here when I was a student,” Wilkins said. “The University has grown so much.”

Wilkins and Debra Renna are the two new faculty members at the College of Nursing and Health Science at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Both have decades of nursing experience and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others.

“The students respond well to them,” said Paula Delpech, nursing director at BBC.

“Our students come from unique and diverse situations, and we need someone who can reach non-traditional students as well as the traditional ones,” Renna, a clinical assistant professor, began teaching at FIU in January.

She taught pharmacology during the spring term and is currently teaching that course to students in the Foreign Physician program.

This program trains foreign doctors who have a difficult time starting a practice in the United States or those who want to become nurses in this country.

“One of the reasons that I like FIU is that I can challenge myself,” Renna said. “I like the fact that it is so culturally diverse.”

For the fall term, Renna will teach pharmacology and a leadership practical class.

In addition to these classes, Wilkins will also teach pharmacology to nursing students in the foreign physician program.

“My main goal right now is to learn how to become a better professor,” said Wilkins, a clinical assistant professor.

“Everyone here has been very helpful in showing me the ropes, and sharing their experiences with me so that I can learn from them.”

Renna has graduated from Nova South Eastern University.

Prior to coming to FIU, Renna had been a nurse for over 20 years, mostly working with critical care patients and as an administrative supervisor.

“I wanted to be a part of a big university that had a well-established nursing program, and whose focus was on research and development,” Renna said.

Renna was a nursing instructor at Kaiser College in Fort Lauderdale before making the decision to teach at FIU.

“Renna will do well here because she has taught before,” Delpech said.

“We always receive rave evaluations from our students.”

Wilkins also has experience as a nursing instructor.

She worked as a clinical nurse specialist for the Memorial Healthcare System, where she used her passion for nursing to teach new graduates as well as experienced nurses.

“I wanted to become a nurse because it is a field where you can grow and be a lifelong learner,” Renna said.

“There is a lot of flexibility and it never gets boring!”

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Wilkins said.

Wilkins came to FIU in 2005 as an adjunct professor, while still working at Memorial Healthcare.

Delpech says that both Renna and Wilkins have the skills in critical care nursing that will be beneficial to the school of nursing, adding on to its growing prestige.

FIU’s reputation in research was a key factor in attracting Renna and Wilkins to the university, and is an area in which they would like to become more connected with.

“I would like to become involved in clinical research to help determine best nursing practices and help them get accustomed with some of the clubs and organizations here at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus, as well as the student affairs department,” said Jason Almodovar, Campus Life program coordinator.

On a Square, a local band, will provide live music.

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For more information, contact SOC-BCBC at 305-919-3707.
Opinion


tuition a necessary evil in quelling financial woes, but other plans needed

What’s a school to do? No one is happy when tuition goes up, especially when it is accompanied by the opening of the Outplacement Resource Center to assist forced-out employees in finding new jobs. While the situation is indeed unpleasant, the fact of the matter is, with the state-imposed budget cuts, something has to give.

The administration decided to make an unpopular decision that was necessary for the future of the University. Let’s take a look at what is happening in Tallahassee that created the funding shortfall for FIU.

Already having doled out budget cuts to not only institutions of higher learning but most public services statewide, Governor Charlie Crist and the state legislature originally planned to cut six percent from FIU’s budget.

Crist announced after the fact that in addition to this cut, the University would be receiving only 96 percent of its anticipated budget, further adding to the dollar amount lost from FIU.

Believe it or not, this is actually an area in which our administration deserves some praise.

Vivian Sanchez, FIU’s Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, insisted in May that the University should plan to reduce expenses by an amount even greater than the 6 percent cuts announced by the legislature.

FIU has taken the responsible and cautious approach by taking a three year plan and over cutting more than it has to, because it realizes that this budget crisis is not just a one year problem.

“We are still airing and moving toward the seven percent scenario,” despite announced cuts of six percent, Sanchez said at the time.

June 12 would be the day that Sanchez was proven correct, when the legislature announced the further decrease in anticipated funding.

Budget trimming is never a happy endeavor, but Sanchez and the administration saw what was coming, and took appropriate actions to ease the blow by leaving themselves significant wiggle room in the budget. FIU is also one of the universities that the legislature authorized to be allowed to increase tuition by no more than 15 percent yearly.

While any such increases would need to be approved by the Board of Trustees, University President Modesto Maidique plans to raise tuition by ten percent per year.

“We need a significant increase in funding both from the state and through tuition,” Maidique said in a Miami Herald interview.

Tuition increases are not the long term solution though. While an acceptable blow to students for now, constant increases will mean prices simply too high to pay for some people in our community.

In order to solve the funding problem that public universities are facing, FIU must focus on generating donations in addition to creative ways to cut costs.

For example, questioning whether or not private funds we are receiving are going to the right places.

Another example of creative thinking that administration can take credit for is changing the University workday over the summer, so that some buildings could effectively be shut down on certain days.

These actions, in addition to tuition increases when needed, will remove the University’s reliance on state funds.

When asked what he thought about the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), Jose Placerez, marketing and finance major, said, “People are concentrating just on reading and math and they aren’t focusing on history, science, philosophy, which are equally important to the student.”

Many of remember those dreadful days when butterflies flew around our stomach minutes before taking this now notorious exam.

Teachers would pressure us to pass this standardized test that has become the gavel in deciding who is ready to graduate. After so much power in deciding Florida’s future, one must ask, is the exam really that accurate?

According to the Theory of Multiple Intelligences, developed by Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner, there are eight aspects of intelligence. Being a standardized test, the FCAT is only able to test two of these aspects: linguistic and logical-mathematical.

By doing this, it ignores the importance of other types such as musical and interpersonal. Therefore, subjects like art, music, social studies, science and physical education go unnoticed in budget appropriations and grading school’s performance.

“I think the FCAT has killed a lot of student and teacher enthusiasm,” said Maria Ochoa, an eighth-grade language arts teacher. “A lot of things have been put aside like spelling bees and field trips. Plainly, students just don’t like school anymore.”

Some students think that the FCAT sets a good standard for public education, even if there are some flaws. “I think it is a fair test because if you are a senior and you don’t have what the FCAT requires then there is no point of you graduating from high school because when you go to college you [soon] have the building blocks,” said sophomore Marry Lopez, architecture major.

Vouchers seem to be the easiest solution to our problem. If the system fails a student, then parents have the option of sending them to private schools.

That is what a proposed amendment to the Florida constitution plans to do. An article in TIME magazine published on June 8, suggests that the “No Child Left Behind Act” was intended to limit public schools and promote privatization through vouchers.

Susan Neuman, a former Secretary for the Florida Coalition for Assessment Reform, said, “There were thorough vouchers.”

Critics of this plan argue that it doesn’t really address the FCAT’s problems. John Perry, a member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Coalition for Assessment Reform, said, even such changes wouldn’t “address the real reason the use of FCAT is so insidious, and that is mandatory retention in third grade and denial of a diploma in high school.”

Writing letters to our state representatives can be a starting point. Let us remember that, if left unchanged, our children will go into a decaying educational system that is criticized daily by its flaws.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor can be sent to opinion@fiusm.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.
Superheroes, secret agents ensure big July crowds

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

Summer is the time of year when the biggest movies are released and, while there have already been some huge movies released, the biggest yet may be coming with one of the most popular actors of our time and an extremely strong franchise making their way into theaters this July.

HANKOCC (JULY 2)

There has ever been a more successful or well-liked actor than Will Smith? It seems like he absolutely cannot miss, no matter what type of role he takes on. Drama, comedy, action – he’s done it all with impressive results at the box office. So expecting a movie featuring Smith donning spandex to play a sarcastic and lazy – not to mention, often drunk – superhero is just about the surest bet you could make.

Despite this, “Hancock” looks to be one of the biggest breaks from Smith’s squelky clean image. The movie has gone through four directors and has twice received an R rating from the MPAA before it was lowered to PG-13. Despite being marketed as a lightweight summer action movie, it should feature much more dark humor than expected.

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMS (JULY 11)

At a time when superhero movies routinely gross almost $250 million, the original “Hellboy” film managed to make only about $60 million.

For a little known hero – outside of the comic book world – can this be considered a disappointment?

Well, thanks to the success of Pan’s Labyrinth,” original “Hellboy” director Guillermo Del Toro is at least going to be given a fighting chance at making his pet project more than just a cult hit. Rather than taking on Nazis like the last film, Hellboy will be taking on some of his own kind, as the truce is broken between Earth and the other dimension that Hellboy originated in.

When all hell breaks loose, Hellboy will be forced to choose between defending his adopted home or returning to where he came from and finding a destiny there.

THE DARK KNIGHT (JULY 18)

This would be the quintessential summer action movie if 99 percent of directors in Hollywood were making it. It would’ve had explosions, stars and not much else of consequence.

Instead, Christopher Nolan has steered the “Batman” series away from the cartoon-y “bams” and “pow’s” of its forebears and has turned it into one of the darkest and most serious film series around.

The big story surrounding this movie is, of course, the late Heath Ledger as the Joker, a bold choice from the beginning. His portrayal of Batman’s nemesis as a severely nihilistic anarchist looks like one of the most chillingly original performances in a long time and is already starting to pick up posthumous Oscar buzz.

It may be difficult for this movie to live up to the hype following the beloved original, but there is little doubt in anyone’s mind that it will.
Athletics fails to warrant investments

GRAU, page 8

FIU’s Athletic Department give prospective students and business owners who want to do business with the University?

Come join our team, and we’ll guarantee we won’t screw it up... on the third try. So far, all the money and the effort that has been put into Athletics has only produced bad publicity and has made the University look foolish for investing so much and slushing so hard for a first class football program and first class Athletics Department, while seeing little in the way of results.

In a time of economic hardship, do we really need all of this? Why not protect what we already have? Students should think twice about why they are getting charged a $5.85 “football fee” tacked onto every credit hour when degree programs are getting sliced and diced. Why doesn’t President Modesto A. Maidique explain to us why so much money is being poured into Athletics and not into The College of Education or Industrial Engineering?

But hey, look on the bright side, at least we have a new fierce-looking logo. I wonder how much that cost?

Extra Work

“The difference between success and failure at this level is not a whole lot to do with talent as much as it is the people willing to make the sacrifices that are necessary to separate themselves from other people of equal talent,” Legg said. “Our guys have opened their eyes up to the type of work ethic you need to have.”

In addition to a weight lifting routine, the team has begun seven-on-seven scrimmages and worked on their attack offense about a month and a half earlier than usual offsea-sons, according to McCall. The work ethic is building the team’s confidence as the season approaches and bringing more clarity to who will be the starting quarterback in the fall. Sophomore Wayne Younger started the majority of games last season but suffered a sea-son-ending injury he is still recovering from. Although Legg states that Younger will have a chance to compete, McCall will have the advantage.

“Wayne has proven that he can be very successful, but Paul is the guy that did by far the best job of anybody coming out of spring ball,” Legg said. “Paul is going in with the edge obviously because he got 15 spring practices in his system.”

Revised rating still too complicated

BONILLA, page 8

This system might tell more of a story than the NFL or NCAA rating, but the equation is intimidating to give FIU students traumatic flashbacks of failing college algebra for the third time.

Well, Valdes’ new system was the last chance for the quarterback rating to have any meaning. Therefore, it must be eliminated, terminated, axed, cut off and rid out of town till the cows come home.

ALTERNATE QB RATING EQUATION

Pt/Game=12.086*(Comp%)+0.574*(Yds/Comp)+134.82*(TD/Att)+[-45.886*(Int/Att)]+8.243*(1st%)+[-28.697*(Sacks/Att)]+[0.288*(RushYds/Att)]+0.066*(RushYds/G)+2.956*(RushTD/G)+[-0.055*(Fumble/G)] – 0.965

Florida International University

LocalBookBin.com

Puts you in touch with local students to buy and sell your textbooks

OUR PRICING BEATS THE BOOKSTORE... GUARANTEED!
Athletics’ rush to excel falls short

Peanut butter and jelly, Sonny and Cher, Bobby and Whitney, all match-ups made in heaven. Unfortunately, the NFL and NCAA couldn’t share the same success when it introduced the quarterback rating to football. If calculating the quarterback rating was a test, most people would use a cheat sheet. The steps used to calculate the rating system are tedious and boring enough to lull a caffeine-deprived Albert Einstein to sleep.

FIU quarterback Paul McCall received his electrical engineering degree this past Spring. This is what he has to say about the most confusing stat in sports.

“Nobody knows how that thing is calculated,” McCall said. “I don’t really look at my stats until the end of the season.”

Offensive coordinator Bill Leggs says he examines other quarterback statistics when evaluating his players.

“I know coaches pay attention to the quarterback rating, but I look at completion percentage and yards per attempt,” he said.

The odd equation and steps wouldn’t seem so bad, if it measured a quarterback’s value more accurately. But then you notice that it doesn’t factor in rushing touchdowns, rushing yards or wins.

That’s when fans remember that the quarterback rating was enforced in the 1970s, a time when bell bottoms and the Brady Bunch were the definition of hip. The rating system loses more credibility and meaning when a perfect score is 158.3 in the NFL and 1,261.6 in the NCAA. Why not 158.4 or 1,262? Why is 158.3 in the NFL and 1,261.6 in the NCAA?

The steps used to calculate the quarterback rating to football in the 1970s.

The nature of the offense is where it gets tricky. For a quarterback, rushing yards and touchdowns count. And as the quarterback, you have to say, ‘I know coaches pay attention to the quarterback rating, but I look at completion percentage and yards per attempt.’

The quarterback has to say about the most confusing stat in sports.

For two consecutive years, the NCAA punished FIU for poor Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores and several teams lost scholarships as a result of the low scores. Fiu Athletics was also handed four years probation extended through May 2008, which then resulted in public reprimand and censure and a total of 20.32 scholarship reductions in 12 sports. Fiu Athletics was also handed four years probation extended through May 2012, 2006-07, which then resulted in public reprimand and censure and a total of 20.32 scholarship reductions in 12 sports. Fiu Athletics was also handed four years probation extended through May 2012.

Garcia and the coaches which potential student-athletes receive adequate advising and make sure they are eligible to compete.

This led to 45 student-athletes in 15 sports competing while ineligible from 2002-2007, which then resulted in punishments handed down from the NCAA; public reprimand and censure and a total of 20.32 scholarship reductions in 12 sports.

Fortunately, this rating still suffers from the same lack of logic and fairness.

Unfortunately, this rating still suffers from the same lack of logic and fairness.

“add all the variables, then multiply by 100 and divide by 6. Sigh, now wasn’t that painless? So many calculations to arrive at one stat that tells so little about a quarterback’s worth is a joke.”

New coordinator impressed by QB

FIU quarterback Paul McCall can play a little bit of basketball and makes sure his teammates know it.

“I told them I was a second team all-state point guard in high school, and I had them going for a little while,” McCall said. “But it’s not true.”

Though he is not really a former prep basketball star, McCall says he can play basketball for his teammates on the court.

“I have a nice little jump shot, I’m the best defender on the team,” he said. “I get my assists.”

McCall is hoping to distribute the ball on the field as he does on the court as he prepares for the 2008 season.

McCall, who tossed for 228 yards and three touchdowns in his only start last season, a win against North Texas, is entering the upcoming season with the spotlight of a Solar Max light bulb.

The junior played in just three games during the 2007 season, but managed to lead the Golden Panthers to their only win of the season, and the program’s first Football Bowl Subdivision win.

After spring practice, FIU’s offense changed on the coaching side as well. When Bill Legg replaced James Coley as offensive coordinator after the season, it changed the spectrum even more for McCall as the team’s offensive playbook changed.

I want to be the starting quarterback for FIU, ... whether it be running more after practice or working out, I’m going to get it done.

The nature of the offense is where it gets tricky. For a quarterback, rushing yards and touchdowns count. And as the quarterback, you have to say, ‘I know coaches pay attention to the quarterback rating, but I look at completion percentage and yards per attempt.’

The quarterback has to say about the most confusing stat in sports.

No matter how many complaints about the NCAA are heard, what matters is what the player is bringing to the field. McCall said all the players are working hard to improve their mobility and work on their strengths.

“We know how to use me, and I have been working long and hard to improve my mobility, so I can benefit from this offense and this offense can benefit from me,” McCall said of Legg and himself. “I want to be the starting quarterback for FIU, so whatever it takes, whether it be running more after practice or working out, I’m going to get it done.”

The nature of the offense is what excites McCall the most.

The fact that there is such a responsibility on the quarterback, I love it, and I love the fact that every decision depends on the quarterback,” he said. “You go up to the line and you’re calling the run plays, you’re doing the options, and you’re signaling the receivers. It’s constant, fast-paced and really exciting.”

Legg, who was the co-offensive coordinator for Purdue last season, played a significant role as the Boilermakers had the most prolific offense in the Big Ten conference.