Tough times necessitate new GI Bill

By JULIO MENACHE
Asst. News Director

Sergeant Nathaniel Chapman is used to having bombs dropping all around him. What he didn’t expect was to have a “bomb” drop on him back home.

The young FIU graduate student, who just transferred from Kent State University, had just found out the financial aid from the “GI Bill of Rights” would not come in on time to meet the tuition deadline for classes.

“It was really frustrating because I didn’t have a job,” said Chapman. “With the GI Bill, you really need to have a 40 hour a week job.”

Besides tuition, Chapman needed to pay for housing and car insurance, which together came out to be $1,500 a month. Aside from that, the young veteran needed to worry about paying back the $20,000-$30,000 in loans he’d taken out previously.

However, Chapman may be seeing some relief soon. A new law signed by President George W. Bush will provide more financial aid to college-bound veterans who served after 9/11.

The new GI Bill of Rights is a massive spending bill that may have a huge impact on the daily lives of young degree-seeking veterans.

The law, which takes effect late next summer, aims to add to the GI Bill. The bill was last updated in 1984.

As a result of the new GI Bill, the monthly of negotiating between Democratic and Republican lawmakers provides veterans who served at least 90 days after Sept. 11, 2001 with full tuition and fees coverage equivalent to the most expensive four-year public institution in the state.

In addition, veterans will receive monthly payments for housing and $1,000 for books and supplies. Servicemen can also transfer unused benefits to them, instead of specialists.

Under the old GI Bill, soldiers needed to pay a $1,200 enrollment fee at the beginning of their service. Veterans would then have 10 years after leaving active duty to be eligible for aid. Full-time students would receive monthly reimbursement payments of $1,101 for a maximum of three years under the old GI Bill.

“The new GI Bill will definitely help in terms of paying for housing and school. While housing wasn’t a big issue for me since I lived with my parents, it is a big issue with other Marines,” said Carlos Ariaca, a Marine veteran who currently works at the FIU’s Office of Veterans Affairs.

With the new GI Bill, however, there is no enrollment fee and veterans would have an additional five years of eligibility. The new bill would allow for a veteran’s college expenses, instead of reimbursing them, according to FIU Veterans Affairs Assistant Coordinator Angel Contreras.

“The fact that it covers costs and takes care of them, instead of supplementing them, makes the new GI Bill superior to the old one,” Chapman.

Different versions of the GI Bill have been implemented since the end of World War II. The original 1944 plan gave soldiers $500 a year for their college education. As the cost of college skyrocketed, the bill had to evolve to meet the new standards and costs of living.

The GI Bill of the 1940’s was updated to the Montgomery GI Bill in 1984. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Montgomery GI Bill covers about 73 percent of tuition.
New housing suites expected to encourage student involvement

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only 13 percent are residents on campus. The new dorms will aim for a minimum 7 percent increase.

“We want a lot of positive interaction on campus and more traditional students and participation,” Jones said.

Matt Rhodes, a political science major who drives to UP from Hialeah, agrees that living on campus presents a definite advantage.

“I’d much rather commute, I like knowing I can go and relax in privacy and study without distractions,” said Medali Castro, a journalism major.

Dormitories are currently valued and charged differently depending on the particular hall where it is located and room sizes, according to the Residential Life Web site.

Unattended laptops vulnerable to hackers

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bank account logins, passwords and credit card numbers online by the thousands.

In June 2002, separate hacking incidents involving at least three Western colleges sparked off an investigation by U.S. Secret Service. The case led to the confiscation of 20 computer hard drives at Arizona State University in Phoenix.

Campus computers located in the common areas of ASU where found to be carrying software that recorded keystrokes and made it easy to gain a student’s personal information. Luckily, because the computers were erased at the end of every semester, no reports of identity theft were recorded.

“Students need to protect themselves when using their computers. They should never leave their computers lying around in the library,” Granto warned.

Despite internet theft dangers, students can take action to protect themselves.

According to Granto, students must remember that FIU will never ask for passwords and if they receive any e-mails asking for it, they should delete those e-mails immediately.

Students should never share passwords with other people and should keep their anti-virus updates. Students should also be leery of the Web sites they visit. Answering online questionnaires is an easy way for hackers to steal someone’s identity.

Identity Finder adds that students should never let schools use their Social Security numbers as student identification numbers. Even though the FIU’s wireless network is protected, students are taking caution to keep their personal information safe.

“Nothing can be 100 percent secure. You still have to be cautious no matter how safe you think you are,” said Merconchii.

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 DEBUG: This should be included somewhere! Seems to be a new section...
International Student club wins co-club of the year

AMANDA BATECHORL
Contributing Writer

Walk around the halls of FIU and you will find lots of people of other cultures. Many of these people are a part of the International Students Club. This year they are proud to announce they have won co-club of the year after winning Best New Club of the Year in its first year.

“Everyone was very focused and determined to do their best to win best club of the year,” said Aurelie Verne, ISC’s president and a junior from France majoring in Hospitality Management.

ISC has helped international students get accustomed to a new culture and been a home away from home. “Not only do we help familiarize international students with the American culture, but we also give them a chance to display their own culture and represent their country at FIU,” Verne said.

ISC has also helped international students to meet people from other parts of the world. “Most of us come to this country alone so I think the club is a perfect chance to make friends and to start feeling comfortable in a new environment,” said Frances Ernst, ISC’s secretary and a sophomore from Germany majoring in psychology.

Ernst has found long-lasting friendships in the club, having made connections at her first meeting for ISC. “I started talking to Dennis, who’s also from Germany, which gave me a good feeling to know that there is somebody from my culture. I also got to meet a Finnish guy who lived in the dorms and through him I got to meet everybody else in housing,” Ernst said.

This past year, ISC has hosted many events like a movie night, a Miami tour on a bus, a BBQ, a welcome reception, and a Chinese New Year celebration to name a few.

The club also took students to Key Largo where they went snorkeling, swimming and canoeing. Students do not have to be members of ISC to participate in any of these events, but if they decide to join an event, they need to let a member know because they carry a sign in sheet at each of their events.

“I think it was our constant effort to organize fun and educational events that finally won us the award,” said Dennis Gebken, ISC’s vice president and a junior from Germany double majoring in finance and international business.

Verne felt the same effort was put in to winning this award. “I was honored to receive this prize. This is a great accomplishment for the club, and I’m very proud to represent such a great organization here on Biscayne Bay Campus. We try to be present on campus, and I’m glad we were recognized for it,” she said.

Those interested in joining the ISC can do so at any time. The only requirement is to be an FIU student.

As members, students are then required to attend a minimum of two events and 2 meetings per semester. For more information, e-mail bciscs@fiu.edu.

Quick Draw: Al Rodriguez of Al-Rod Studio sketches a caricature of Sicong Qi, a hospitality management graduate student, during Biscayne Bay Campus’ Welcome Week. Rodriguez specializes in drawing caricatures in three minutes or less.

Creative Writing Program hosts writer’s conference

JULIA CARDENUTO
Asst. News Director

Here is a fresh opportunity to be innovative, imaginative and get inspired by professional writers and teachers in a motivating landscape.

This year’s Florida International University Writers Conference will be at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort and Marina in Stuart, Florida, from Oct. 22-25.

The conference will feature three different workshops each day, one-on-one counseling with faculty and other afternoon programs like varied seminars. “Our program offers intensive, friendly, hands-on workshops and discussions intended to help writers at all stages of development. [Participants] can enroll in up to three different four-day-class sessions, and enjoy agent/editor roundtables, freelancing seminars, nightly readings and more,” said Les Standiford, director of the FIU Creative Writing Program, on the program’s Web site.

The conference is open to the public and will cost $400 for the four-day session and $100 for a one-day session if the registration is turned in by Sept. 1. After that the cost will rise by $25.

The English department will be accepting registrations until Oct. 22 and there will be a registration desk at the conference, where walk-ins will be welcomed.

So far there are about 30 people registered and the event’s maximum capacity, according to Térèse Campbell, English department secretary.

Kayak Club’s popularity inspires whitewater trip

JULIA CARDENUTO
Asst. News Director

The FIU Kayak Club’s monthly kayaking days at BBC have kayaking so far with students that Recreational Services has decided to take this idea and offer a bigger annual event. Recreational Services will offer a whitewater rafting and caving trip to West Virginia from Sept. 25-28 that is open to FIU students, faculty and staff.

“The kayaking club came from the kayaking day and this is going so well and so successful that we decided to offer something bigger than kayaking,” said Warren Shaw, assistant director of BBC Recreation Services.

The three-day adventure will cost $300 for students and $325 for non-students if the registration is turned in by Sept. 8. After this date the costs for students and non-students will increase by $25.

The fare includes a round-trip bus ride, a room at the Microtel Inn & Suites, rafting and equipment, lunch on the river and a cave tour.

There are only 50 spots for students on the trip. Participants will leave both campuses Thursday morning and return Sunday night.

“If speeding down the Lower Gauley River and exploring the lost World Caverns sounds like good times to you, sign up,” a flyer for the event said.

For more information contact Warren Shaw at BBC at 305-348-4595 or shawns@fiu.edu, or Matt O’Connor at UP at 305-348-7530 or matthew.oconnor@fiu.edu.

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August 29, 2008
www.fiusm.com
Contact Us
Suzanne Rodriguez
IBC Managing Editor
shaww@fiu.edu
Over the summer, FIU announced its employees would work 10-hour days Monday through Thursday in order to save money on electricity. According to a July 2 Miami Herald article, FIU expected to save at least $250,000 with this measure. Now we’re stuck once again with the 5-day school week.

A shorter work week would accommodate student demands. With large breaks in between classes, students are often stuck not being able to work outside campus.

I can already hear the groans. Keep groaning. According to an Aug. 17 article in The Miami Herald, the State University System has asked for an additional $30 million in funding to cover rising costs of electricity and running air conditioning in all public university buildings.

We have a cash-strapped school year ahead of us, university officials should do anything and everything in their power to reduce costs.

The University could save money by limiting the use of buildings on certain days, as it did over the summer, rather than returning to full work week.

A 4-day school week would accommodate student demands. Let’s face it, nobody lives two blocks away from FIU and not everybody can afford to live in FIU’s dorms. For example, living in Lakeview Hall can cost over $3,000 a semester without a meal plan, depending on the room type chosen.

I am currently struggling to both support myself and save for college. I work 30 extra hours a week and spend most of my weekends away from the school. Getting an education is an epic journey; some students are blessed with financially stable families, while others are stuck with those terrible loans.

The knee-jerk reaction has been to save on electricity. According to a July 2 Miami Herald article, Brevard Community College President Dr. Rex Facer from Brigham Young University is studying the 4-day workweek concept and estimates "about one-sixth of U.S. cities will eventually shutter their offices on Fridays."

Perhaps it is because job availability for people without a college degree, why are more people expected to continue setting new records into fall 2016.

In a struggling economy, even college enrollment is scarce.

I am already stuck longing for more experience for my resume. A combination of both is key in order to attain a job.

According to a July 2 Miami Herald article, the State University System should reward those schools that are finding ways to save them money. Let’s return to the 4-day school week until the economy (and our funding) improves.
South Florida’s anime enthusiasts connect

Luis H. Garcia
Staff Writer

Florida Supercon is back once again to treat anime and comic book fans to two days of games, guests and lots of costumed attendees.

The weekend serves as a primer to the upcoming Anime Super Con later this year at the end of October.

This weekend’s event will be free to anyone who has registered for the later convention.

Heading into its third year, Anime Super Con has been growing to expand its convention to Atlanta in November.

The show will be divided into two themes: Anime and comics. Both genres, along with their fans, are often intertwined through various media such as video games, movies or the Internet, and conventions are no different.

Conventions goers come from far and wide to see featured artists or to show off their own work and find others who share the same interests.

Conventions always have a way of bringing in a wide variety of people and, at the same time, allow fans to meet others in an environment that would allow contact that won’t happen otherwise.

The first day of the weekend will be dedicated to anime fans with cosplay photo shoots, costume contests, video games, discussion panels and more. The special guest for Saturday’s Super Anime Day is voice actress, Britteny Karbowski, of anime series’ such as “Xenosaga: The Animation” and “Cytoye Ragnite Show.”

Sunday’s Super Comic Day will feature two special guests – comic artist, Ralph Cabrera, known for his work on big name works from Marvel like “Spider-Man,” “X-Men”, “Captain America” and “The Fantastic Four”, and winner of the San Diego Comic Con Inkpot Award, Allen Bellman.

Bellman’s work during the Golden Age of comics in the 40’s includes the back...
The Game’s latest album a must-have for rap fans

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The Game’s third verse actually steals the spotlight from legend and highlight feature Nas, who brings heat to the track himself. “The rope aint tight enough he still alive go fi x it pour some gasoline on him call his daughters black b****** make him pick cotton, while they momma cleaning up the kitchen same cotton in white T’s that’s the cotton they was picking.”

Game partners on a song with another legend in Common on a track called “Angels,” and does what he has to for the ladies in “Gentlemen’s Affair” with Ne-yo. In an album where Game shows a lot of lyrical development and balances his list of prime time features well, he still name drops too much for my taste, whether dissing 50 Cent or just referring to other rappers too much for the ear to stand. Though “Game’s Pain” was a nice tribute track, Game needs to focus on himself before he fully reaches his potential. A very solid album with few holes, L.A.X might be Game’s best overall body of work to date.

Every real hip-hop fan should buy this album.

Supercon seeks to extend reach beyond South Florida

SUPERCON, page 5

grounds for “Captain America” and his own works such as “Sub-Mariner” and “The Patriot.”

Sunday will also feature a costume contest as well as Comic Book Win, Lose or Draw. Other independent artists including Greg Kirkpatrick and Manuel Aguilar will be in attendance for both days. Conventions have served as a hub for fans and industry members alike to connect and interact.

Kirkpatrick has been a staple guest since the show’s inception. His work includes “Living in Infamy” and the adapted for cartoon, “Savage Dragon.”

“It’s really cool to interact with the fans,” he says.

With few conventions in South Florida, Supercon serves to further extend the convention experience and bring fans and industry members alike to connect and interact.
Rouco brings back a familiar face

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers are bringing back a familiar face with the hiring of Heath Glick as an assistant coach, which was announced on August 25th.

Glick returns after two years as a video coordinator at Florida State, in which he was a member of Leonard Hamilton’s staff. He served as director of basketball operations for FIU from 2004-06 under head coach Sergio Rouco, who re-hired him after the departure of assistant Ken Huber, who accepted a coaching position at Gardner-Webb.

Glick returns after gaining two seasons of valuable experience at FSU.

“Rouco is pleased with the newest addition to his team, and is glad to have the former video coordinator back on his bench. Heath comes back to us after a couple of years at Florida State University where he enhanced his overall basketball knowledge,” Rouco told FIUsports.com. “We are ecstatic that we were able to convince him to come back.”

Glick is excited about changes since he left FIU as well, specifically the growth of the programs facility’s since he departed in 2004.

“Facility wise, there has been a lot of improvement,” Glick said. “Our players are very impressed by it. You can see the infrastructure is there.”

Glick, who said he enjoys coaching guards and shooters, began his Division I basketball experience at the University of Miami under head coach Perry Clark in 2003 and 2004.

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He assisted the team in film exchange, scout team preparation, practice planning, and statistical compilation, before getting an ascension at FIU. He will serve as an assistant coach for the first time.

Huber parts ways after two seasons as a member of the coaching staff.
Opening Day for the Golden Panthers presents a daunting challenge in the form of Kansas State, ranked 14th in the Associated Press Preseason Top 25 Poll, riding high after a special season last year.

The Jayhawks finished 12-1 overall and 7-1 in the Big 12, and defeated Virginia Tech 24-21 in the FedEx Orange Bowl on Jan. 1.

The team came out of nowhere to seriously contend for the BCS Championship Game before suffering their first loss of the season, against Missouri by a score of 36-28, in the final game.

The stinging loss not only dashed their championship aspirations but prevented them from playing in the Big 12 championship game.

A team that won a school-record 12 games last season is now accustomed to winning, and is poised to once again compete for a championship.

This year’s Kansas team will be led again by junior quarterback Todd Reesing who was the starting quarterback in all 23 regular season contests last year and 66 total games.

He led Kansas to seven players returning on offense and nine returning on defense. While the offense is their strong point, the defense is the team’s strong season and will, once again be the focal point of the offense.

The Jayhawks run a no-huddle spread offense, and one of the big surprises in college football last season was that McCall has been known to be better in the pocket and have a stronger arm.

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Junior Jake Sharp is the projected starting running back for Kansas. He split the bulk of the carries with Brandon McAnderson last season and finished with 147 nationally, averaging 479.8 yards per game.

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