Um's freshmen parking ban will not be imitated

EDUARDO MORALES
Staff Writer

After University of Miami announced this fall that residential freshmen parking was no longer allowed, some FIU freshmen became worried a similar plan was coming to their University. Freshman Larry Bravo thinks UM’s policy makes no sense. “It’s a contradiction of the universal idea that when a student enters college they’re considered an adult, more responsible,” he said. “Taking vehicles away from the students would take away from their independence.” Despite students’ initial fears, Bill Foster, FIU’s director of Parking and Transportation said there are no plans to ban residential freshman parking. “I have not been contacted about developing any kind of parking plan that would limit residential students from parking on campus,” Foster said. Although Foster may have put some incoming freshmen at ease, students believe that the overcrowded parking issue still looms. “I think that they need to be building more garages, maybe start replacing lots with them,” said sophomore Jenni Hanlon. “There’s always faculty parking that doesn’t get used and kids end up parking there as a last resort and getting ticketed.” Finding parking might be a problem students can remedy if they’re willing to get some mileage under their feet. “Our ‘parking problem’ is one of convenience, not supply,” Foster said. “There are always spaces available in the Panther Garage. Lot Five and in the overflow area on the north-east side of campus, but these areas are not looked at as convenient.” Other universities, such as the University of Florida, have not yet announced any plans to move along with a similar strategy. The situation with FIU appears to be temporary, as the beginning of each semester is notorious for its amount of traffic, as well as during March, when the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition comes into town. “The beginning of the Fall semester is always very busy, since students are on campus for a variety of reasons other than attending classes,” Foster said. Um’s freshmen parking plan has caused a bit of an uproar with students and alumni alike, many of them leaving angry comments on the Sun Sentinel Web site dealing with the residential freshmen parking banishment. Other students think that the university provides a reasonable alternative. “It’s hard to get around Miami without a car,” UM sophomore Kara Paez said. “But at least the University provides transportation services exclusively to its students to make it easier to get around.” Um’s Green U Initiative is a movement to protect and maintain the environment. Sharing rides, using public transportation...
HURRICANE, page 1

explains that various forms of staff and student information are offered. The University’s Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Committee, Housing and Public Safety work together to ensure information is spread throughout FIU. Also, telephone conferences between departments, divisions and with the campus Chief of Police are under way during any emergency, Hamilton explained. “At the Graham Center we individually inform our staff. We also have a meeting and we also put signs in our electronic boards on campus,” she said.

As with the Sept. 5 “Preparations for Hurricane Ike” e-mails that were sent through the University e-mail system, students will receive continuous updates through e-mail and now the new “Panther Alerts” text messaging system.

But for some students these alert systems are not enough. “You would think that with the money we spend living here that they could take that extra step to announce an evacuation with more time to spare,” Remington said.

- Paulo O’Swath contributed to this article.

FIU students oppose less parking spots

FIU students voiced their opposition to the university’s parking policy, which is part of the University Park Master Plan draft, according to the FIU parking office.

The university’s senior parking officer, John Paez, said that the decision to reduce the number of parking spots was made after a study was conducted on the university’s transportation needs.

PARKING, page 1

and riding bikes around campus are currently being encouraged. Bikes decorated in the university’s trademark colors are being offered by the school and have already sold out on their first shipment.

Public transportation may provide students a means of mobility on the weekends, but come the holiday season, inconveniences are a possibility. “I’m sure some freshmen probably think it’s unfair, especially those that don’t live too far and want to visit home for a weekend,” Paez said. “Now they have to find other ways to go home that are probably more expensive.”

Bravo shares the same sentiment. “A lot of the freshmen would be upset at the administration because, in an emergency, they’d need a vehicle,” he said.

According to the Facilities and Management Web site, the 2005-2010 University Park Master Plan draft shows the construction of a new parking garage in the works.

FIU must endure a series of budget cuts over the next three years, but according to the Capital Improvement Plan and Legislative Budget Request, the FIU Board of Trustees asked for $10.5 million toward the Facilities and Infrastructure projects from 2009-2010 through 2013-2014.

The director of the parking department at the University of Miami was unavailable for comment.

Do you like NEWS?

If you answered “yes,” join our staff!

Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124
J-students engage in multimedia project

DAILEYS MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication was approached by the Sun-Sentinel, and asked to help produce a new TV morning show and a Web site package.

The show, "SouthFlorida.com Live," will premiere Jan. 5 on WSFL-TV 39. The site, SouthFlorida.com, will launch later this fall.

SJMC students will be responsible for most parts of these projects, which will be incorporated into existing journalism program courses.

Students in Jane Daugherty's online news class, and Michael Sheerin's special topics: multimedia videography class, will collaborate with the Sun-Sentinel by producing a two and a half minute video on political issues related to the 2008 presidential election.

Students in the online news class will be in charge of the reporting, while students in the special topics class will manage the production side of the project. Students from both classes will be interviewing students around campus about the issues that will drive them to vote in this year's presidential election.

The main outcome of the video packages, according to Allan Richards, SJMC's associate dean, will answer the questions: "Are students really coming out in this election, and what are the issues that are driving them?"

The final edited video will be available for viewing on the new SouthFlorida.com Web site on Oct. 15.

"What we are doing is changing journalism education, and responding to the choices and unknowns in the media. I find that extremely exciting," Richards said.

Sheerin's class will have two crews of four students involved in this project. Shooting will start on Sept. 30, possibly finishing by Oct. 2. According to Sheerin, the crews might miss some opportunities to shoot the interviews on campus.

"What’s proving to be difficult is the logistics of it, because students in this class have jobs, and they have families, and they have their own classes," Sheerin said.

"SouthFlorida.com Live" will be a four-hour morning show and will air Mondays through Fridays from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The format will consist of current news, presented from the students' point of view, according to Sue Kavalierski, news director for WSFL-TV 39.

According to Ponte, most of the students for the newscasts will be drawn from a broadcast course, news and public affairs, because those students possess the requisite skills.

"However, if there is someone from another class who has the skill set and is not there, we will be open to evaluating that with them,” Ponte said.

The first discussion took place at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater on Sept. 15, students to discuss current events in an open forum setting. At 8 p.m, Doors will open at 6 p.m for the SGC-BBC meeting notes, according to Andrew, LMS will also be present. A local hip-hop artist whose music is poetically driven, according to Andrew, LMS will also discuss the significance and key points of these films.

Federal Jack currently meets every Friday at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater at 6 p.m to discuss current issues. These discussions are also open to all FIU students, at no cost.

"We want to show information not covered by the media, or that is in the back of most newspapers, and its importance. We want to show and allow people to come up with their own conclusions,” Heid said.

For more information regarding these events, please call (305) 919-5381.
McCain's VP pick gains ground within GOP campaign

VERONICA TRUEBA  Contributing Writer

So you turn on your computer and log on to MySpace, and right afterward, Facebook. You have new friend requests with unfamiliar pictures, and yet, you still want to make more friends, right? The answer to this question in many cases is yes, it is impossible to know who these people are and whether they can be trusted. In fact, they could be sex offenders.

In February, an article published in The New York Times explained how the New York Senate had approved the Electronic Security and Targeting of Online Predators Act. This bill, also known as E-Stop, seeks to prevent teens from being targeted by sexual predators when they use the Internet. As a result of the implementation of E-Stop, MySpace has made an agreement with 49 states to develop new technology that will allow the verification of Internet users’ identities and Facebook has also worked to increase the site’s safety for its users. “It’s good to know these sites are doing something about it,” freshman Luis Lopez said. “Everyone has either a MySpace or Facebook account, and with the thousands of unknown friend requests one gets, one can never be too careful.”

Despite these measures, sexual predators continue to lurk. The Web might have become somewhat safer, but sexual predators can be found throughout the state and country. The Broward Sheriff’s Office Web site, http://sheriff.org/sexu-alpredators/index.cfm, provides a sex offender locator system free of charge. In response to an address, the locator system displays a map of the area that contains a sex offender. It also provides a basic profile of a sex offender. The National Alert Registry is another useful Web site, which can provide detailed information about sex offenders for a $10 fee. This includes names, aliases, photos, home addresses and even offense details regarding sex offenders. But when it comes to sex offenders, it’s not always fair to assume they’re criminals.

An article published in The Miami Herald reported how Florida senators believed the state’s sex-offender laws “unfairly lump together sexually active teenagers and the man who raped a 9-year-old girl and buried her alive.”

Since the announcement of Palin for vice president, Obama has begun throwing the “inexperienced” card at the Alaska governor (Pot? Kettle? Black? … Anyone?), but she has thusfar prevailed, painting parallel pictures of her and Obama in the sense that they rose up through the ranks, yet portraying experiences more valid than Obama’s in terms of judgment and character.

“Heing the mayor of a small town is a bit like being a ‘commu-"nity organizer’ except with actual responsibilities,” said Palin in her acceptance speech, dutifully in her own defense.

A bit eras, yes, but the Obama camp needs to realize if you’re go- ing to play with fire you should expect to get burned from time to time, especially if one’s campaign was originally founded upon being above negative campaigning.

Republicans are hardly out of the cusp of blame when it comes to hypocrisy. They can be seen as contradicting themselves on issues ranging from family values to qual-ifications for office in a scramble attempt to support their newly-named nominee from nowhere.

All in all, neither the GOP veep nor the Democratic hopeful have any right to call each other inexperience, but Palin may be gaining the upper hand.

The Palin angle has really made this contest interesting again.

For now.

Everyone has either a MySpace or Facebook account, and with the thousands of unknown friend requests one gets, one can never be too careful.

Luis Lopez, Freshman

Florida college students sustain this idea.

“It’s crazy that teenagers who’ve had consensual sex can be labeled as sex offenders,” said sophomore Jennifer Garcia. “Even if one of them is underage, there’s been mutual agreement, and that can’t be consid-
er a sex offense.”

A USA Today article published in Aug. 2007 reported how officials in several states believed laws should change their focus; instead of fo-
cusing on irresponsible teens, these should go after predators. The Herald article also explained several measures taken by Florida. State attorneys, for instance, try to use lesser charges on prosecuted teenag-
ers. There’s also an educational pro-
Classic Jeezy proves he is still a voice to be reckoned with

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

Since rapper Young Jeezy mutated his first few rhymes on the commercial scene in 2005 with former group “Boyce N Da Hood,” the Atlanta artist stood out among them with a flow as smooth as Boston Market’s mashed potatoes and a swagger as sharp as a Swiss army knife. After two platinum releases in Let’s Get It: Thug Motivation 101, and The Inspiration: Thug Motivation 102, the self-proclaimed gun toting thug has cemented himself as arguably the most respectable street voice in the South.

Jeezy returns to the booth with his third LP, The Recession, offering single “Put On” featuring Kanye West as the anchor for the album. But before the West assisted hit, which comes late in the album, Jeezy pumps more of the hardcore street music that has got him where he is today.

With a window shuttering instrumental engineered by DJ Toomp, Jeezy comes just as hard as ever with the intro to the album. To follow that, Jeezy welcomes himself on “Welcome Back,” where he effortlessly flows over a faster beat offering. Oh yes, he is back.

Catch me in my black Tee, but you can’t see the sun. and wondering what time it is because you are stuck inside a boarded up house, feeling like a caveman and asking yourself why you bought 15 gallons of water for what amounted to a heavy rainstorm.

If you are lucky enough to not lose power, then you are also lucky enough to not have to spend time with your real family, and can instead spend it with a surrogate family: television and video games. “One time, I ate so many animal crackers during a storm that I didn’t want to eat them again for two years,” said senior and engineering major DC Alatorre. “All I did was sit there, watching the Food Network, drooling because all I had were animal crackers.”

Of course, anyone who has lived in South Florida long enough knows not to panic. If you do, you can end up frustrated and asking yourself why you bought 15 gallons of water for what amounted to a heavy rainstorm. The real challenge is making sure you don’t lose your mind while stuck inside a boarded up house, feeling like a caveman and wondering what time it is because you can’t see the sun.
Google Chrome

Google rides Chrome with new browser

ERIC FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

When I first heard that Google had released a new Web browser, Chrome, I became pretty giddy. Everything else Google has touched has become an intuitive piece of Internet gold. Google’s G-mail interface was a tenfold improvement in organization and usability over other Web-based mail programs that are still struggling to keep up, and Google Maps can help you find your way by showing you what certain streets actually look like from the ground.

So what would it be like to use these applications from within a browser also made by Google?

My first thought after installing and loading a couple of my favorite sites with Chrome was: To whom exactly is this browser’s design aimed at? The thing that will stand out the most upon opening Chrome is its minimalist nature.

When the page is maximized, the title bar (where “File,” “Edit,” etc. are usually found) is hidden, and the status bar (naturally at the bottom of the screen which tells you where your browser is getting information from, as well as the load status of a page) is also suspiciously missing.

The fact that the search bar has been combined with the URL bar further cemented the first perception that there is simply not much going on in this browser.

One of the most visually exciting (and perhaps slightly useful) features is that when you open a new tab, rather than seeing a white page, you get a listing of all your most frequently visited sites, complete with screenshot previews.

Now, granted this is all not sounding too positive, but let me remind you that if you open a JavaScript application, at least yet.

This week, I also finally downloaded Firefox 3. I know that I am a bit behind the times in getting this, but I have a bad habit of clicking “Cancel” whenever any sort of box tells me that there are updates that I should install to any program.

And after years of Firefox, I am simply not ready to switch yet, being all too familiar with Mozilla’s new features and countless user-developed add-ons and themes.

This represents Google’s closest shot at making headway for market share against Microsoft’s Internet Explorer and Firefox, the leading choice for those who don’t use what comes prepackaged with every PC.

Like all Google products, Chrome is innovative and worth a look. The Beta version is not available for Macs at this time.

While Chrome’s Web site states that this is “to plan surprises like gifts or birthdays,” I think we all know what this mode’s most prominent use will be:

It is no surprise that bloggers are already dubbing it porn mode, especially considering the creepy logo of a man wearing a cloak that is peering at you from the top of every page you view in incognito mode.

So why isn’t Chrome my default Web browser application, at least yet?

There are no clear weak songs on the album despite his similar subject matter throughout, but there are a few highlights.

In “Circulate,” Jeezy goes in on a sample of an old Billy Paul joint, which is a nice smooth sound in comparison to most of the album. Aided by a few drums, it made for a good platform for Young to brag about his money and how he gets it.

On the last track of the album, Jeezy invites one of the best Mc’s of all time to the booth, in a different look from what is expected of the Southern Star. On “My President” Jeezy celebrates democratic nominee Barack Obama’s possible victory among other things.

His guest on the song, Nas, is just, well, Nas. Another great verse from a legend puts the end to the song, which still has a Jeezy feel on the boards but feels like a sequel to Nas’ song “Black President” off of his latest album, “Unfinished.”

The album is worth the buy, but is not a step up for Jeezy. For his fans, it is what was expected, a good album full of solid up tempo joints.

There is no star producer on the album, unlike his first two efforts, which had the likes of Timbaland and Mannie Fresh on board.

It looks to me as if Jeezy is trying to feed off of the country’s economic situation to promote his album, which is the type of subject matter that lyrically he might not be able to keep up with. Despite that, the music will still be Jeezy, and nobody can deliver it to the streets like him.
Volleyball carries hot start into home court tournament

JONATHAN ALPERT  
Staff Writer

Off to its best start ever, the women’s volleyball team will host the FIU tournament Sept. 12-13.

At 6-1, the team looks to be creeping closer to the Top 25.

The teams playing are FIU, Oral Roberts, Central Florida and Pennsylvania.

The outside hitter combination of Yarimar Rosa (FIU’s all-time leader in kills in the Rally Scoring Era), Isadora Rangel and Ines Medved could be the best in the Sun Belt conference.

Setter Natalia Valentin’s performance has been a pleasant surprise with 3 matches with at least 40 assists.

Head coach Danijela Tomic knows she has a good squad, but she understands it is a very long season. “Teams will be ready for anything,” Cristobal said.

“We'd like to settle on one more than the other but we’ll have to look like we had said at the beginning of the season, that we have two guys that could play football and Wayne was getting hot and it was a better match up game for him to play in,” Cristobal said.

McCall finished 10-for-28 for 73 yards and two interceptions while McCall struggled from the first snap of the game in going 8-for-16 for 55 yards with two interceptions. Both quarterbacks were sacked three times.

Cristobal mentioned that throwing Younger into the mix was predetermined at halftime, McCall played 11-for-20 for 107 yards and no interceptions while McCall struggled for 24 yards on 5 carries and is only 54 yards from 1,000 for his career here at FIU.

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

 Amid speculation, Cristobal sticks with McCall as quarterback

LUCA MESSINA  
Asst. Sports Editor

After the Sept. 6 contest that saw sophomore quarterback Wayne Younger relieve junior Paul McCall in the second half, head coach Mario Cristobal shot down any notion of naming Younger the new starter despite his improved performance from the opening game against Kansas.

“A game like this [Iowa] is good for a guy like Wayne because he could escape and be creative on the run and he moved the football and did some good things. It doesn’t change anything; we’re still going in with Paul as our starter.”

Younger arrived in the second half against the Hawkeyes and finished 11-for-20 for 107 yards and no interceptions while McCall struggled from the first snap of the game in going 8-for-16 for 55 yards with two interceptions. Both quarterbacks were sacked three times.

Cristobal mentioned that throwing Younger into the mix was predetermined at halftime, McCall played 11-for-20 for 107 yards and no interceptions while McCall struggled for 24 yards on 5 carries and is only 54 yards from 1,000 for his career here at FIU.

IDLE TIME

The Golden Panthers (0-2) are finished with games in the Midwest this season. They are currently in the first of three bye weeks.

The much anticipated home opener and debut of the new on-campus stadium is Sept. 20 against South Florida.

SPORTS COVERAGE ONLINE AND ON AIR

Get the latest FIU sports news by reading The Beacon every M-W-F, online at FIUSM.com or by listening to Panther Sports Talk Live every T-R at noon on WRGP Radiate FM (88.1, 95.3 and 96.9).
Fantasy Football: Surprise offenses prevail in first week

JONATHAN ALPERT
Staff Writer

The NFL season kicked off incredibly re- minding everyone how boring baseball was and how captivating Sundays will be for the next 4 ½ months. For fantasy football par- ticipants, week one provided some surprises, some unbelievable performances and some owners drowning in sorrow due to the team being ravaged by injury. A few points to remember when playing fantasy football:

1) Matchups are everything—Don’t feel obligated to start certain players just because you invested a high draft pick in them. Always pay attention to who is playing who, where they are playing, and how defenses rank against your position player.

2) Garbage time can pad point totals; It doesn’t matter if it’s the first quar- ter, or fourth quarter, points can be earned at any time in the game. Fantasy football is not a team sport, it is about individual performances, so don’t pay attention to wins and losses, only yards gained and points scored.

PLAYERS TO START
The Arizona Cardinals offense—The Cardinals are hosting the Dolphins, who’s de- fense is sub par at best. If Kurt Warner is your QB, start Warner.

The Dolphins can’t stop anyone on the bench, so get Felix Jones in your starting lineups…matchups people!

Matt Cassel QB, New England Patriots—Attention all Tom Brady Owners, drafts aren’t won or lost with you’re first or second round picks.

The Pats aren’t going to win a super bowl, but their offense won’t lose much. Randy Moss, Wes Welker, Lawrence Maroney and Co. are still healthy and (should all be in your starting lineup), and moti- tivated to show they can win without Tom Brady.

All Cassel has to do is throw these guys the ball, it shouldn’t be a prob- lem, don’t be scared to start him. The Patriots will still look to throw 60 percent of the time and score plenty of points.

Felix Jones, RB, Dallas Cowboys—Besides scoring a touchdown on his first carry, Felix Jones did well in garbage time last week, earning him a share of the carries with Marion Barber. Barber’s rib injury will increase the role of Jones earlier than most people expected.

The Green Bay Packers offense—Aaron Rodgers, Ryan Grant, Greg Jennings, and Donald Driver will have a field day against the terrible Lions Defense. Last week, the lowly Falcons scored 34 points on the Lions. This Packers offense is full of firepower, and coming off an impressive win against Minnesota, green bay wont be afraid to let fly with newly appointed Aaron Rodgers at the helm.

Chris Johnson RB Tennessee Titans—Tennessee is playing Cincinnati and their ter- rible defense. With Vince Young hurt Kerry Collins can open up the offense for the Titans, and look for Chris Johnson to better his 93 rushing yards, 3 receptions 34 yards and a touchdown from last week. This rookie had the fastest time in the com- bine and has not disappointed so far, and for owners who took a flier on him late in the draft, congratulations.

PLAYERS TO STAY AWAY FROM
Matt Hasselback QB, Seattle Seahawks—His back isn’t right, all of his receivers are hurt and the running game hasn’t been established, Enough said.

Derek Anderson QB Cleveland Browns—The Browns begin the sea- son with a tough stretch of scheduling, first Dallas, now Pittsburgh. Hold off one more week, and it will be smooth sail- ing for the Browns’ offense soon enough.

Chad Ocho Cinco WR Cincinnati Bengals—Ocho Cinco is in a bad situ- ation, but you would think he would still put up numbers.

He caught one pass against the aging Ravens Defense and will not do well against the stingy Tennessee Defense.

Willis McGahee RB Baltimore Ravens— A bum knee limited him to zero carries last week, and expect the Ravens to go with running back by committee.

Students need vouchers to attend USF game, here’s how to get them

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

As junior Joey Iglesias rounded the Graham Center during the first week of the semester, he shared a common senti- ment among students the first few days of class.

“I wasn’t sure where to get my voucher,” he said.

Leading up to the football home opener against the University of South Florida on Sept. 20, FIU is in the final stages of preparing its new on-campus stadium for the game. Despite the exi- mence leading up to the event, there has been questions among students concern- ing acquiring their vouchers.

Assistant athletic director of ticket- es and operations Steve Cisco explained why the process has been the way it is, which includes getting a voucher at FIU Arena instead of a ticket.

“The reason for the voucher is we want to keep the number of tickets out that are available,” he said. “We want only students to be attending this game and we didn’t want a lot of tickets out there.”

With a voucher students are guar- anteed to get into the stadium, but it is not a ticket with a reserved seat. Cisco believes the system will work for one main reason.

“The biggest reason is if you give a ticket and it is a reserved seat number and that person does not show, you can’t use it for anyone else,” he said. “Here if we give a voucher and they don’t show we can still fill those seats with students.”

FIU students can get their vouchers at the FIU arena in room 111 until Friday, Sept. 12. The Arena is on-campus be- hind the student Recreation center.

The reasons that tickets are being distributed mostly at the Arena, instead of a place with more of a concentration of students like the Graham Center, is due to past failures of ticket distribution attempts.

“If students come and make an effort to pick up a voucher we know that there is a good chance they are going to come to the game,” Cisco said. “We have handed out tickets in the GC [Graham Center] in the past and students don’t show, so because of their lack of sup- port in the past we have decided to go this way.

If a FIU student wants to bring a guest to the contest they will have to purchase season tickets, due to the limit of only one voucher per student. The Golden Panthers will try to win their second straight home game overall against USF. Over 5,000 vouchers have been distributed so far.

How to get your ticket vouchers

FIU VS. USF, SEPT. 20

- Report to FIU Arena ticket office, room 111, any weekday until Sept. 12
- Bring an FIU Panther ID
- Claim voucher, only one per student
- Come to the stadium and present your voucher for admission on Sept. 20

-Compiled by Jonathan Ramos