Up to date computers essential for keeping viruses away

**OLGA VICENS**
Staff Writer

Junior Darina Piddubna had no clue how it happened. She had just surfed the Internet when suddenly her computer had caught a virus. After the incident, she was prompted to download anti-virus software.

The methods FIU students are using to protect their computers from viruses range from downloading anti-virus software to using Apple’s in-built protective software. Many Mac users may not be aware that any computer is at risk of receiving a virus. But what is the most effective way to avoid computer viruses?

The University Technology Security office Web site suggests students install anti-virus protection such as McAfee software onto their computers. The Web site also says to keep virus signature definitions updated daily if possible and to scan computers for viruses weekly.

Anyesi Fernandez, a sophomore at FIU, stated that Norton, an anti-virus program, has so far prevented viruses on her Hewlett-Packard computer.

“I have had my HP computer for about a year and so far the problems that I have had have been factory problems,” Fernandez said. “I have Norton Anti-Virus and Norton Internet Security. I renew it every year and I have it set so that it does a weekly check-up on my computer regardless of what I’m doing.”

Junior Carlos Revilla also has a HP, and he keeps his laptop virus-free by constantly updating the software on his computer.

“I have an HP laptop without viruses, and I use Webroot Spy Sweeper with anti-virus,” Revilla said. “I also routinely check my computer’s updates and maintenance.”

The anti-virus protection is half of the job, the other half is installing updates to ensure the software is evolving faster than computer viruses.

Those who use Apple computers say that their laptops come with the technology to protect computers from viruses.

Freshman Annie Sullivan is happy with Apple’s virus protection.

“I have a black Macbook. I have never had any viruses, and rely on Apple’s superior software to protect my computer from them,” Sullivan said.

Simone Worsdale, the president of the FIU’s Mac Users Group, said he doesn’t do anything to prevent viruses on his Mac, except update the notebook’s Apple Mac OS Security Updates.

“I have had my most recent Apple computer, a black Macbook, for about one year. In that time, it has not had one virus,” Worsdale said.

Technology Editor for Consumer Reports Jeff Fox said that Macs are more resistant against viruses, but are not invincible.

“Yes, Macs are much less susceptible to viruses and spyware than PCs,” Fox said in an interview with CNN. “But surveys show that may breed a false sense of security among Mac owners, who still fall prey to phishing scams at about the same rate as Windows users.”

Worsdale did reveal some reasons why virus makers aren’t targeting Mac computers.

“Apple computers are better at preventing viruses than any PC, including HP computers,” he said. “Apple computers take up a significantly less market share than PCs, because of this, most virus-makers do not make viruses for them.”
Student group fights drugs, emphasizes dangers of alcohol

JOEY FRANCUS Contributing Writer

Expressions of Feelings
Critical Thinking Skills
Decision Making Skills
Communication Skills
Hands on Experiences
Expression of Feelings

FIU University to host panel on the dangers of abstinance-only education

Four speakers from Legal Momentum, Planned Parenthood, the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS) will discuss what the groups consider to be the negative effects of abstance-only education in a seminar titled “Sex, Lies, and Stereotypes” on Sept. 16.

The panel discussion is open to students and to the public. The event will take place at the Graham Center Ballrooms at University Park from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Law school and Business schools receive top honors

FIU’s College of Law and Business is ranked as one of the top colleges for Hispanic graduate students, according to HispanicBusiness.com.

The magazine produces a yearly study that looks for the schools that are “at the forefront of recruiting, retaining, and offering higher education” in the fields of medicine, engineering, business, and law.

The Web site ranked FIU’s Business School number eight, with Hispanic graduates accounting for 55 percent of the total graduating class and 31.5 percent of the 17 MBA degrees awarded to Hispanics on 2008.

FIU scientists hope to recreate big bang theory conditions

A group of nine FIU scientists took part in a monumental experiment that looks to recreate the conditions of the big bang theory and discover in invisible particles.

The FIU scientists were among the select group of 10,000 scientists from around the world, recreating the universe’s earliest stages.

Their efforts were used to build the Large Hadron Collider, which is the largest particle collider in the world. FIU scientists worked on many different aspects of the project, such as analyzing results from the proton beam test.

— Compiled by Julio Menache

POLICE NOTES

Aug. 28 – Aug. 31

Aug. 28: An FIU student parked and left her vehicle in the Red Parking Garage. Upon returning, she noticed an unknown person had damaged the right upper rear fender. The student left the scene without incident.

Aug. 30: At 3:53 a.m., police on routine patrol observed a four door red sedan heading northbound from 108 Ave. and SW 17 St. When it reached the traffic circle at 108 St and SW 16 St, it made a sharp right turn at a high rate of speed to head eastbound. The vehicle fishtailed and struck a nearby curb. A traffic stop was conducted; the vehicle’s driver was intoxicated and arrested for DUI.

Aug. 31: Two white males were skateboarding by the Graham Center fountain area, when two officers arrived. Both men admitted to skateboarding in the area, an offense. Both men had been warned in the past of this offense. They were then arrested for trespassing. Both parties left the scene without incident.

— Compiled by David A. Barrios

BOT reports on fiscal year with pride

 BOT, page 1

The BOT was also proud to announce that several goals were met and surpassed in this record-breaking fiscal year for the University. FIU increased the number of doctoral degrees available to 122.

The University also achieved $108 million in sponsored research, a 14.7 percent increase over last year.

Disappointments were also acknowledged at the meeting. Student retention decreased this year and the BOT has yet to appoint a vice president of advancement, although three potential candidates are available.

Overall, the BOT is proud of the past fiscal year and there’s plenty of promise for the next.

The board has achieved $7.3 million in fundraising on its way to the current year’s goal of $35 million. Despite the much talked about budget cuts, it was a record year in many areas.

“IT was a year of great disappointment, but great achievement,” Maidique said.
Students unite to dedicate monument, support peace

BARBARA QUILANO
Contributing Writer

On a breezy afternoon of silence and admiration, chanting, prayer and allegiance, a peace pole stood strong, symbolizing and announcing in an array of languages, “Let there be peace on Earth and begin with our society were two goals mentioned by Akens.

The Sept. 11 peace pole dedication ceremony commenced with a march from the Multifaith Fair, held in Panther Square, heading to the back of the Wolfe University Center. As they marched, participants sang “All we are saying is give peace a chance,” accompanied by a chorus of drums. The event carried the day, filling a crowd of curious faces with smiles and applause.

Craig Cunningham, director of Campus Life and Orientation at Biscayne Bay Campus, began with a welcome speech, recognizing that this is a special day of remembrance.

The idea for the peace pole originated from Rev. Dr. Linnea Pearson, and was constructed with the support of the BBC Campus Ministry and funded by BBC’s Student Government Association.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Cathy Akens acknowledged the BBC initiative.

“The Peace Pole] is a very fitting gift and a remembrance for all of us on a university campus,” Akens said.

Passing on knowledge and creating future leaders of our society were two goals mentioned by Akens.

Doctor’s orders: check-ups at center

PAMELA DUGE
BBC Life! Editor

FIU students and staff will be able to check their health without emptying their wallets.

The Wellness Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus will host an open house on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the campus clinic.

Blood sugar, cholesterol, pressure, lung function and posture screenings will be offered for free, as well as skin care and ear health assessments, massages and programs for smoking cessation, and back pain prevention.

“A nutritionist will inform about eating healthier, and a podiatrist will do checking-ups,” said Sara Baker, registered nurse at the clinic and open house coordinator.

Those who attend after eating can still get tested. “It’s OK if patients have food in their stomachs. It won’t make a big difference,” Baker said.
BIG BUCKS

Government takes on new debt

The notion that we Americans need to pay for these fatheads’ mistakes is one I find outrageous.

They're the most insane bunch of executives to ever create a balance sheet, like an “Ernest Goes To School” kind of stupid. They are crooks of the lowest order and responsible for one of the greatest frauds.

It’s a neo-Enron on steroids, artificially propped up by a government that bought them a ladder and threw the dirt our way.

This is not capitalism; it is the greatest form of robbery. A theft so complete they’ve managed to convince us it’s in our interest to bail out one of the most corrupt racketeers in Washington.

Let the free market take its course, let Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fall to pieces, let us be ridden of these quasi-governmental private corporations forever.

Let the government oversee its dissolution, and let the court decide how to find buyers for Fannie’s and Freddie’s securities.

This is the house Big Government built, lacking in foundation and proper structure, it’s only fitting because they’re the ones to knock it down.

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The Sneak Preview
Student band tours Florida in hopes of being discovered

If a band that, on its MySpace, describes its songs as having “melodic guitarists, driving bass lines, thunderous beats, and an explosion of harmonic vocal melodies” appeals to you, then you might enjoy The Sneak Preview, a pop-rock band featuring four FIU students.

Officially formed in fall of 2007, The Sneak Preview has become a staple in South Florida’s local rock scene. Although most of the members — Noor Laylee, singer; Michael Thomas, guitarist; Chris Plesent, guitarist; and Michael Blanco, bassist — had known each other for years, the band was not complete until the addition of drummer Ricky Orozco, who was found via a MySpace advertisement.

"The whole problem with being in a band in Miami is that it’s so easy to fall into the hole of playing the same shows in the same locations, eventually becoming what they describe as ‘weekend warriors.’ "

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Fashion show promotes panther pride, apparel

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

The overwhelming majority of students do not wear FIU clothing or merchandise. It is a rarity to spot any in the never-ending flow of student traffic in the Graham Center’s congested and raucous halls. Considering that GC is the most populous area at FIU, the lack of FIU merchandise is disturbing to the FIU Bookstore, where the merchandise is sold.

So, according to Marketing Manager for Business Services Nancy Cadavid, in order to “increase school spirit for students,” a partnership between Business Services and the FIU Bookstore was formed to hold a fashion show. Any FIU student was eligible to participate as a model. Several fraternities and sororities assisted in recruiting students to model FIU apparel. Of course, the participants are not going to go through the lengthy and sweltering procedure without compensation. All of the models were awarded FIU merchandise and apparel.

“I hope that it encourages others to get involved on campus within the panther community,” said freshman Jordan Rosales. As one entered GC, announcements introducing the models as they sported FIU apparel could be heard. Although they did not have flashy entrances, the speakers placed throughout GC and the obstructive platforms were more than enough to attract a large crowd of curious golden panthers.

The clothing ranged from sleeping garments to track pants, and the merchandise was just as diverse. All of the FIU apparel matched perfectly well with its complement. The crowd showed their approval of the items with their applause and enthusiasm. As the models boarded the platforms, cheers and applause could be heard all around while their apparel was advertised throughout GC.

“Had an amazing time,” said senior Farrel Liger about modeling the FIU apparel. Liger was not alone in his sentiments. “It was a blue and gold experience,” said sophomore Christos Meletis about his modeling experience. According to Cadavid, the fashion show was held “to promote FIU clothing, apparel and merchandise.”

“It was a very different experience,” Meletis said. The students seemed quite enthusiastic about wearing FIU apparel. As a result, Cadavid expects to see more students and faculty sporting the blue and gold.

LOOKIN’ GOOD: Student models showed off their University apparel in the Graham Center in order to promote the new line of FIU merchandise available at the bookstore.

DIANA GARCIA
Contributing Writer

Everyone has a different idea of what friendship is. For members of Best Buddies, it means having respect for each other, laughing together, sharing secrets, understanding one another and making an impact on each other’s lives. Many don’t consider how lonely life would be if the only people they spoke with were their parents and close family members. A new program at FIU is making sure that those with intellectual disabilities never feel alone.

Founded in 1989, Best Buddies is now found worldwide in middle schools, high schools and universities, providing opportunities for one-on-one friendships. At FIU, Ari Juarez, the local program president, believes that this year Best Buddies will excel. She will be leading the group’s meetings which will be held once a month.

Besides these meetings, members are committed to having one large event every month and several smaller events throughout the semester. “Without friends and family, they are alone,” said Juarez, who is planning to make Best Buddies as well known as Dance Marathon and Homecoming.

In order to handle public relations, a PR position was created within the club and given to Melissa Reyes, who plans to tackle the challenge by creating Facebook and MySpace accounts that will be used to promote the event calendar as well as general awareness of the program.

For students looking to make a difference, Best Buddies gives you the opportunity to change people’s lives one friendship at a time. Once a student becomes a member, a matching sheet is filled out and taken to a church where a buddy also fills out a survey on their likes and dislikes. After two people, preferably of the same sex, are matched up, they attend different events together. Additionally, the members will contact their buddies once a week to speak with them about any subject.

People get motivated to help in different ways. Juarez was inspired by her best friend in middle school. Her best friend had two brothers with intellectual disabilities and she never saw them as different. She noticed they were just like any person labeled as “normal.” Juarez later got a public relations internship at Best Buddies headquarters, and while working on one of their biggest fund raisers, she met many adults with intellectual disabilities and fell in love with them all over again.

The club’s first meeting was held on Wednesday, Sept. 10 and was considered a success since now that there are more members, more buddies will have someone to laugh with and confide in.

Those interested in becoming a part of Best Buddies may find more information at the club’s Facebook group Best Buddies FIU or MySpace page http://www.myspace.com/bestbuddiesfiu or contact Juarez at arileyj@yahoo.com.

Best Buddies program reaches out to students

NAVY STREET TEAM PROGRAM

The Navy Street Team Program is a chance for you to gain real-world, hands-on business experience, while helping design and execute key marketing strategies for the Navy on your campus.

As a two-person marketing agency, you will implement 8-9 activities on-campus and in your local community. Working with a budget, being paid, and the possibility of cash incentives, are some of the benefits you will receive.

Get ready for a rewarding challenge!

Log on to

www.edventurepartners.com/navy

to apply for this amazing opportunity
Former player says team had a ‘family’ during his tenure

Recruited by bigger schools. Nick Turnbull had Florida, Greg Moss had Virginia Union, and John Haritan was being chased by UCF, and all elected to play for Don Strock and a program that never competed in an NCAA game.

Eventually, after practicing in the fall, spring, and summer, without ever taking a real snap—there were some scrimmages—FIU played its first real football game on August 29, 2002, beating St. Peters 27-3 at home in front of an electrifying crowd.

During that inaugural season, Timothee and the secondary helped the team achieve 5 wins and 6 losses; that record, a best for an NCAA football team in their first season. This team’s initial success would help propel the program to become the fastest program to ever turn Division 1-A (now called FBS) Now, the team has scattered as all teams eventually do, but they make an effort to stay in touch.

Around thirty of the guys joined the FIU football alumni group on Facebook and Timothee, without hesitation, can just about name every old teammate current job and whereabouts, riffling off an array of professions: teachers, coaches, lawyers, insurance salesmen, construction project managers, and professional football players. After the game ended, this group remained very successful.

Timothee, the first FIU player to sign an NFL contract, continued to workout at FIU after graduating. “We are a family at FIU and once you’re a panther you’re always a panther. I would drive back three times a week and workout at the school, some young defensive backs that are still there would join me. They liked seeing me come back and work with them, and I bet they will appreciate us coming to their home opener.”

Timothee never doubted FIU was capable of becoming a successful program even when the team was subjected to a season of scrimmages, he said, “Strock kept saying ‘we are getting a new stadium, we are going to play big-time football’ and I believed him.”

Sadly for Timothee, he also suspected he would be gone before that point would come. He was right. But the original Golden Panthers paved the way for the current players. They made this stadium possible. They sacrificed, and it is only befitting that they be apart of the new stadiums opening.

It was only seven years ago that football itself was a mirage; however, with the help of these golden panther pioneers, FIU has slowly climbed into the national scene. To them this game’s not just about celebrating the future; it’s about remembering the past. Timothee stated with nostalgic tone, “To be honest, playing football at FIU was the best, and I would do it all over again.”
Inaugural team recalls past, reflects on ‘08 team

MIKE JONES
Contributing Writer

If you build it, they will come...back. That’s right, the ghosts of Golden Panthers’ football past—though, these ghosts are still in their mid-twenties—plan to revisit their alma mater for the first time since their own final game on FIU’s new-on-campus-stadium’s inaugural game.

To correlate with the new stadium, FIU has adopted a new slogan: “New Stadium. New Game. New Attitude. New You.” through the new excitement surrounding current panther athletics, it’s easy to overlook the past, yet without these founding footballers: wouldn’t this new stadium just be a mirage?

The Golden Panther Football pioneers were some 50-plus guys who practiced, practiced, practiced for the entire 2001 season without the reward of a single game. Though not all 50 will return for the Sept. 20th contest...

The FIU football will be in memory on Sept. 3, 2006. The new facility, which will be the only one of its kind in the country, has been in the works since last year. Unfortunately, the team is still without victory at 0-2, and the team’s first match in the new stadium is against a strong opponent in the University of South Florida.

The team held an open scrimmage in the new venue last Wednesday Sept. 11, with fans having an opportunity to see the team working as a unit in person.

Head coach Mario Cristobal shared his thoughts on the state of his team during the first of three bye weeks. When asked what area he felt the team needed to improve the most, Cristobal believed it was overall efficiency.

“The fundamentals of football—Blocking, tackling, throwing, and being more efficient,” he said. “We’re making sure that we find more ways to get the ball in the hands of those guys that have made plays for us in the first couple of games.”

The second year coach also stood by his decision to stick with junior Paul McCall even after there was speculation earlier in the week that sophomore Wayne Younger would be named the new starter.

“Paul McCall is still our starter. Wayne has earned playing time and will play,” he said. “As of today, that is the status of our quarterbacks.”

The team is still reeling [the offense] like we did in the spring, but we’re improving. We went up against teams that presented a much bigger challenge to us than we expected and I think the speed of the game hit us in the face,” Cristobal said. “We weren’t able to make the adjustments physically and I think that’s just part of the growing pains of a young football team.”

The unit will also not lose one of its key components, as senior running back Julian Reams is back practicing and will be available next week after suffering a concussion against Iowa.

“We are still evaluating this [the offense] because the unit is still without victory. Obviously we’re not where we want to be,” Cristobal added.

For further improvement, the unit must consistently produce as a group, according to Cristobal.

“The defense, like anything else in football, is all tied together. If one part malfunctions or shows itself to be the weak link, the entire defense pays the price — so we’ve been making sure that everyone is responsible for their assignment,” he said.

New coordinator adapting to team

MIKE JONES
Contributing Writer

This year to help longtime friend Bill Parcells, the new executive vice president for football operations, and new coach Tony Sparano. The regime is trying to revive the Dolphins after six years out of the playoffs, but it’s off to a slow start: Miami takes an 0-1 record into Sunday’s game at Arizona.

The Dolphins lost 20-14 last week to the New York Jets, and a sputtering offense punctuated plenty of second-guessing about play-calling and the use of personnel.

“Didn’t get the job done,” said Henning, speaking for the first time since the start of training camp.

“We are still evaluating this team and finding out who can do what and when and where. Obviously we’re not where we want to be,”

Henning knows talent: He coached Joe Namath, Bob Griese, John Riggins, Joe Theismann and Dan Fouts. For the Dolphins, who went 1-15 last year, talent is an issue, Henning said.

Miami bolstered the offensive line with the top pick in the draft, Jake Long, and upgraded at quarterback by signing Chad Pennington. But this is more than a one-year project for Sparano, Pennington and general manager Jeff Ireland, Henning said.

“Between the vice president and the general manager and the head coach, there’s a single-ness of purpose here about what they’re trying to get done,” Henning said. “I see that manifesting itself in the types they’re looking for to bring in. They’d like to find better at certain spots, and we haven’t been able to find better.”

Pennington and Long are a start, he said. Pennington was a rookie with the New York Jets in 2000 when Henning was their offensive coordinator.

“I’ve coached a lot of (quarter-)backs in this league that have started — approximately 60,” Henning said. “He’s as bright as anybody I’ve ever coached.”

As for Long: “I would be willing to bet that 10 years from now he will be just as he was picked — the best player in this draft.”

While everyone agrees the Dolphins have more talent than ever before, the coaching staff is already catching grief another one into the season. There were questions about the use Sunday of Miami’s six wideouts, who totaled six catches, while veteran receiver Ernest Wilford was deactivated. Critics complained about the imbalance.

New coordinator adapting to team