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 relying on 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.

Aneyi 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 Macs also catch viruses, and are not invincible.”

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JOEY FRANCUSI
Contributing Writer

Amid the fervor surrounding an initiative to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18 years old, former Northeastern University student Ken Procaccianti has relaunched his student group Hammered in 2002 as an alternative to the on-campus Greek organizations of the Northeastern University’s Boston campus. Procaccianti’s brainchild now features a Web site as an attempt to expand the program nationwide. The Web site, which features information about creating chapters and organizing events, features comedic videos about the potential repercussions of heavy drinking. A video entitled “Karma” is the first of many videos slated to be released during this school year. FIU freshman Helen Shaheen recently visited Hammered.com, finding the site asingle vamp. Shaheen spoke with deep conviction concerning a campaign started in July to lower the drinking age, which has spurred particular interest in Hammered’s nationwide reach.

“What Hammered is doing is great, but lowering the drinking age is important,” Shaheen said. “If [18-year-olds] can go off to war and die for their country, why can’t they have a drink?”

With the return of undergraduates at FIU’s University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, the relevance of Hammered’s relaunching its anti-alcohol and anti-drug mission is solidified by an initiative to lower the drinking age spearheaded by former Middelbury College president John Cardell Jr. Cardell’s opposition to the current drinking age directly challenges the validity of the 1984 National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which restricts federal highway funding to any state that does not enforce a drinking age of at least 21.

Since July, Cardell has organized over 100 presidents and chancellors from colleges such as Dartmouth and Ohio State to sign the Amenity Initiative, petitioning a lowering of the drinking age. Bill Shaheen said. “If [18-year-olds] can go off to war and die for their country, why can’t they have a drink?”

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 quarter panel of her vehicle along with damage to the right rear window.
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 collided, and two men had been warned in the past of this offense. The vehicle was then arrested for trespassing. 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.

Amendment to the drinking age is high, but lowering the drinking age is important,”

If [18-year-olds] can go off to war and die for their country, why can’t they have a drink?

Helen Shaheen, freshman

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Helen Shaheen, freshman

Student group fights drugs, emphasizes dangers of alcohol

Currently, the drinking age is 21. However, a number of states are considering lowering the drinking age to 18. This has led to a debate about the effectiveness of the current drinking age law. There are arguments for and against lowering the drinking age. Some argue that this would allow people to make responsible choices about alcohol consumption, while others believe it would increase the risk of alcohol-related accidents and injuries.

The BOT reports on fiscal year with pride

The BOT is pleased to announce that the fiscal year has been successful. Overall, the BOT has achieved its goals and maintained financial stability. The BOT is proud of its accomplishments and is excited for the future.

The BOT is excited for the next fiscal year and is planning for continued success. The BOT is committed to maintaining financial stability and achieving its goals.

The BOT is looking forward to the next fiscal year and is excited for continued success. The BOT is committed to maintaining financial stability and achieving its goals.
Students unite to dedicate monument, support peace

**BARBARA QUIJANO**

Contributing Writer

On a breezy afternoon of silence and admiration, chanting, prayer and affirmations, a peace pole stood strong, symbolizing and announcing in an array of languages, “Let there be peace on Earth and begin with us.”

The Sept. 11 peace pole dedication ceremony commenced with a march from the Multi-Faith 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,” accented 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 Ministry and Student Affairs Cathy Akens.

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.

**PEACE PLEDGE:**

On Sept. 11, students and faculty dedicated the Peace Pole (top) between the Wolfe University Center and Marine Science Building. Members of the University community marched from the Multi-Faith Peace Fair to the dedication site, singing, “all we are saying is give peace a chance.”

**The (Peace Pole) is a very fitting gift and a remembrance for all of us on a university campus**

Cathy Akens
assistant vice president, Student Affairs

“...the exchange of ideas and opinions is something we really value. [It’s] really only possible when people understand the importance of co-existing peacefully and always working toward peaceful resolutions to conflict,” Akens said.

Pearson mentioned that the location of the peace pole was a wonderful one and voiced her hope that when people pass it, that “they will stop for a moment and say a little prayer.”

Pearson asked the crowd if someone in their life was touched by violence and various hands were raised. She then read a poem in recognition of these students, ending with the statement that “somehow we might find an end to this violence.”

Pearson’s speech referenced quotes from the Dalai Lama, Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ending with a parable which suggested that “Each of us today pledge ourselves to be the one person … to change the energy and to create a hope for a world in which we can all survive together. We are one interconnected, interrelated family on this earth,” according to Pearson.

“As we dedicate this peace pole today, I pray that this place would be one where many can find a place for rest and a place of meditation in the midst of our struggles and trials,” said Mary Beth Doozen, coordinator for Intervarsity, after reading a verse from the Bible.

Speaker Rakesh Kamal said a prayer both in English and Hindi. Yumi Yokoi, Interfaith Ally coordinator, read the Prayer of Saint Francis in English and Japanese, both to an admirable ovation from listeners.

Patricia Desir read a verse from the Book of Psalms. Mnar Muhareb said a prayer in Arabic explaining how Muslims begin each day with prayer.

And Sholom Neistein read Song 23, which was written by King David and is common in both the Christian and Jewish religions.

The ceremony ended with the chanting of and swaying to the “Pledge Allegiance to the Earth.”

“[The ceremony] was a very informative turnout encouraging peace,” said Kermit M. Toussaint, a senior majoring in sociology and finance. “Technology has gotten so advanced. What are we doing to use it to benefit mankind instead of creating issues such as September 11 or Hiroshima or nuclear war? What are we doing individually to work to make sure things like this do not occur?” he said.

Instead of focusing only on a yearly ceremony to remember the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Pearson prefers to use the occasion to oppose all violence that has occurred in response to the attacks.

“I decided to do that shift of consciousness from mourning those victims to mourning all the violence that has come from Iran,” Pearson said.

Doctor’s orders: check-ups at center

**PAMELA DUGUE**

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 be doing check-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.

The Wellness Center open house is organized each year and is open to all students, faculty and staff, according to Andres Bermeo, assistant.

“We want to educate people about our services, and to be familiar with the clinic and know that we are here to help.” Bermeo said.

Attendees will also receive free over-the-counter medication and a survey to evaluate their experience at the clinic.

For more information, please call (305) 919-5620.
Lack of ticketing options for FIU football may lead to alienating students

Since it was first announced, the University community has been giddy about this season’s football home opener against the University of South Florida.

The Golden Panthers will be playing against the No. 19 ranked team in the country and many will be getting their first glimpse at the stadium that cost $31 million in its initial stage.

So far 5,000 students have picked up their vouchers, which can be used to gain entrance to the game.

But for those who may want to catch the unveiling of the stadium and game against USF, they’ll have to pay $100 for season tickets, instead of a ticket for a single game.

Even though Athletics has the right to make its own business decisions, it is in bad taste that single game tickets are not offered during this monumental time for the football team.

FIU is still considered a young university when compared to other schools like Penn State, Florida State and North Carolina.

Each of these schools has had time to build a legacy in athletics.

Now is a crucial time for FIU Football to build a fan base.

Students have historically not turned out to athletic events. But with a new stadium, logo and a coach in his second year, efforts must be made to reach out for support from the University community.

Athletics is building within a culture of student apathy, and part of its need to sell tickets is the ticket sales strategy is based on that.

While this practice may not be uncommon in college football, this is not the time for FIU to put on the shoes of a big shot.

When tickets are in hot demand, it makes sense to reserve them for the people who will pay the most money for them.

Athletics has stated that no student would be turned away.

By forcing patrons to purchase season tickets rather than individual ones, the University is trying to establish a culture of interest and support for the football program.

While this might appear to be a coldly corporate approach – even as it directly relates to the student body – it is telling of collegiate athletics.

FIU is trying to generate this revenue, at what appears to be, the expense of the students. Nothing has changed from the past, with the exception of acquiring the entry pass.

But right now, Athletics’ focus should be building a relationship with current students, who are funding the department through the Athletics fee included in tuition, making every student a ticket holder whether they like it or not.

Students will be less likely to support a failing football team if barriers are put in place, such as one that makes it difficult to invite non-students to attend a game with them.

While Athletics should certainly be wooing current students, there may be some graduates out there who may want to check out FIU’s new stadium if they were able to do so on a single-game basis.

This business practice of trying to make a quick buck off a game in high demand is no way to build a fan base.

While Athletics should certainly be wooing current students, there may be some graduates out there who may want to check out FIU’s new stadium if they were able to do so on a single-game basis.

This business practice of trying to make a quick buck off a game in high demand is no way to help build a tradition.

This measure gives the impression that Athletics is more interested in building the department than encouraging school spirit for such a momentous occasion.

MATT RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Last Sunday, the U.S. government, champion of liberty, model of democracy, defender of the free market, at home and abroad – announced it would be nationalizing two privately-held companies. In doing this, the government effectively doubled the national debt, all in one weekend.

Mortgage mammoths Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were both absorbed by the Treasury Department this past week in an attempt to ward off their likely bankruptcies and stabilize the ailing mortgage market.

Both companies are government-sponsored enterprises, meaning they were originally created by the U.S. Congress and were later privatized.

They later turned over control to stockholders. Their purpose: to bundle mortgage debt and resell them as mortgage-backed securities.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac own approximately $5.4 trillion – yes, trillion – of the outstanding residential mortgages in the U.S. Therefore, this action effectively saddles every American born or still gestating, with a lifetime of debt.

To put this in perspective, the war in Iraq has roughly cost $400 billion, approximately 1/13th of the debt of these two companies.

I can’t fathom what brought United States Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson to do this.

What is particularly irksome is this situation could have been avoided. Josh Rosner, an analyst at Graham Fisher – an independent research firm in New York – has stated in The New York Times.

“Since 2003, when these companies’ accounting came under question, policy makers have done nothing. Even though they had every reason to know that the housing market’s problems would not be contained to sub-prime and would bring down the houses of Fannie and Freddie.”

Both companies dodged these attempts at regulation in the earlier part of the decade with their bought-and-paid-for politician, Rep. Barney Frank, a Democrat from Massachusetts of the Financial Services Committee.

Frank managed to shoot down greater controls over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac after overstating their earnings by $6.3 billion and $5 billion, respectively. Coincidentally, both Fannie and Freddie are in the top 20 of lobbying spenders in Washington and together have paid $1.7 billion to lobbyists since 1998.

It’s a well known axiom that 103 percent of all statistics are made up, and that goes doubly for Wall Street accounting. If our regulators aren’t checking up on these companies, who is?

It comes as no surprise, with a carte-blanche from the government, that these private companies continued buying risky sub-prime mortgages from banks.

They’ve overstated the amount of cash they had on hand in reserve. As a result, they’ve become unable to pay their own debts, which takes us to present day, and the taxpayer assuming the position.

This is not capitalism; it is the grossest 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 rackets in Washington.

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

Let the government oversee its dissolution, and let the courts 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.

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

Student band tours Florida in hopes of being discovered

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

If a band that, on its MySpace, describes its songs as having “melodic guitars, driving bass lines, thunderous beats, and an explosion of harmonic vocal melodies” appeals to you, then keep your eyes – and ears – out for 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, 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 band is determined not to fall out of the window. We just took the towels,” Laylee said.

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The band is determined not to fall out of the window. We just took the towels,” Laylee said.

“We got a lot done with the [music] video, they stay grounded. ‘While on tour, there was a band next door and they threw a TV set out the window. We just took the towels,’” Thomas said.

The music video, the band’s first, was recently shot for their song “Is It Worth the Wait?” "[Shooting the video] was just weird, because we were in Windermere, Florida in the middle of nowhere. It all sounded so epic, but our guitars weren’t plugged in. All we could hear were the drums,” Thomas said.

This year, the band also recorded their debut album. The LP, titled “A Storybook Ending,” is an eclectic mixture of various rock genres.

“Now that we’re home, we’re regrouping, trying to get our stuff together, getting to hear hard copies of the album out,” Thomas said.

Despite their increasing popularity, they stay grounded. “While on tour, there was a band next door and they threw a TV set out the window. We just took the towels,” Laylee said.

Plans for the immediate future include acquiring band merchandise, including T-shirts and, hopefully, temporary tattoos.

Touring without band merchandise was a bad idea,” Laylee admits.

After their merchandise is made, they will embark on their next tour.

In the long run, the band hopes to eventually tour outside of Florida’s borders and into Georgia.

“We’re planning on playing shows in northern Florida [for now], like Tampa or Delray Beach,” Laylee said.

And this time, more than three days, according to Orozco.

After Georgia the band plans to go international.

“Eventually, Tokyo, Japan,” Plesent said.

And it doesn’t end there.

“We’re planning on ruling the world,” Orozco said.
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 ravenous halls. Considering that GC is the most populous area at FIU, the lack of FIU merchandise is disturbing to the students modulating throughout GC.

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

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 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.

“I had an amazing time,” said senior Farrel 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.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Best Buddies program reaches out to students

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 people with intellectual disabilities with one-on-one friendship. 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.

The standards have been set very high this year, and the club plans on living up to them by reaching out to members of the Greek society and other well recognized organizations on campus such as Student Programming Council and Student Government Association.

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 arisleyq@yahoo.com.
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, ruffling 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 part 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.”

**FOOTBALL, page 8**

**THE GRIDIRON**

Team hoping Wilford produces

Henning noted the Dolphins struggled early with the ground game against the Jets, then trailed the entire second half. “When we don’t run the ball effectively early on, that puts us in a bind if the other team gets ahead,” he said.

As for Wilford, Henning said he’s a possible solution for a team that still has a lot of problems. “I like Ernest,” Henning said. “I like the way Ernest works. I’d like to see him be more productive, but it’s not always his fault that he’s not more productive.

There’s a lot going on here right now. “It’s not like you stick Ernest in here on a team that was in the playoffs last year and just needed a receiver, and he solves the problem for you. There’s a lot going on, so it’s difficult to evaluate everybody in this cauldron that is happening right now.” It must be a little like the Houston Oilers in 1972, except that Pennington is already married.

**COORDINATOR, page 8**

ance between the pass (47 plays) and run (17), given that running back is the strength of the team with Ricky Williams and Ronnie Brown.

How many carries would Henning like to give Williams and Brown? “How about 75 times? No passes,” he said.

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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 middle twenties—plan to revisit their alma mater to celebrate the first 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. You In?” through the new facility, which will be the only on-campus stadium 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 FIU football team will begin their season this weekend against Texas State at 2 p.m. at the new on-campus stadium Saturday, Sept. 20. The new facility, which will be the only on-campus stadium in the University of South Florida, 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.”

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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—and we’ve been making sure that everyone is responsible for their assignment,” he said.

STEVEN WINE
AP Wire

Miami Dolphins offensive coordinator Dan Henning remained Thursday about his first NFL coaching job, which brought him up the name of 1950s Playbuy player June Wilkinson.

In 1972, Henning was an assistant coach for the Houston Oilers when quarterback Dan Pastorini married Wilkinson.

"She was 36, and I’m coaching a 23-year-old guy who got infatuated one bye weekend and three weeks later got married,” Henning said. "She was playing in 'The Pajama Game' in Houston."

Perhaps not coincidentally, that Oilers team went 1-13. The 66-year-old Henning may need to improve the most, what area he felt the team needed to improve the most, Cristobal believed it was overall efficiency.

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

"Didn’t get the job done,” Henning said, speaking to the media 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 Parrasolo, Sparano 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 manifest itself in the types of players 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 starter. Wayne has earned playing time and will play,” he said. “As of today, that is the status of our quarterbacks.”

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