Credit Union keeps funds protected during financial crisis

**JULIO MENACHE**
Asst. News Director

After walking toward the glass doors in front of the University Credit Union inside Graham Center, students see a simple paper sign with a picture of ‘Uncle Sam’ pointing straight at them. It contains a brief message stating their account is insured up to $250,000 and this reassures students that their money is safe.

“We are not affected by the crisis,” said Toby Dishrow, the Credit Union branch manager.

The Credit Union has brought calm amid the calamity of an economic meltdown gripping the country, but students will still face many issues in the coming year, such as difficulties in finding work, procuring a loan or buying a home.

While economic experts and political pundits debate the scope of the disaster and who’s to blame, one professor thinks the verdict is clear.

“I believe we are in a recession,” said Bruce Nissen, director of research at the Center for Labor Research and Studies.

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ECONOMY, page 1

Dwinding economy affects all

In the beginning to create a rational curriculum for the students.

The idea that once the student learns the foundations they will then apply them to the clinical aspect, according to Dambach.

“We’ve decided to integrate the two together from day one,” Dambach said. “We will talk about the science and the clinical condition simultaneously throughout all four years, progressively building the capabilities of the students to think critically and rationally.”

The curriculum includes four chronological periods of study that will be covered in four years.

The first period will provide the foundations of medicine: core sciences and social sciences. An introduction to clinical skills will focus on doctor-patient communication and general physical exams. The second period will consist of eight courses and cover the major organ systems.

Students will pursue outpatient and hospital simulation during the third period, and will have individual schedules with other students and a faculty member for their area of specialty.

The second period will have individual schedules with other students and a faculty member for their area of specialty. The last period will allow students to explore areas of specialty and will be dedicated to research, among other things.

Throughout the four years, students will participate in Neighborhood Help, a program that will allow interdisciplinary groups of students to work in under served communities throughout South Florida.

Each student will be assigned to two families and will monitor their health across the four years.

“We thought it was very important for our students to get more intense hands-on personal experience with the real lives of real people,” Dambach said.
Ten years ago, not paying Greek fees meant suspension from events. Now, it means not being able to purchase a car.

When the Greek community changed its payment policy from manual collection to an online paying system, some students have found that it can affect their credit score.

"Three semesters ago, I used to get a receipt by hand from the chapter treasurer and [if you didn't meet deadline] the only consequence was being suspended from an event," said senior Christopher Hernandez, a Beta Omicron Pi member.

Not paying on time has a long-term effect on a student’s credit score and their ability to borrow money. Many Greek members have expressed concern for this current system in hopes for a change in policies.

"A year ago, we joined Omega financials and the system does not set the standards," Pi Kappa Phi’s Treasurer Frady Bayona said.

"The money is sent to the national headquarters and is brought back to the chapter for scholarships and specific projects," Collazo said.

"There is a scholarship system in the works for a sister in financial trouble and that has shown commitment and leadership within the chapter," Collazo said.
A war and exile by the Taliban in 2002, car bombs and explosions and a walk through a torture chamber run by Saddam Hussein are some of the experiences Dexter Filkins has lived to write about.

Filkins, a foreign correspondent for The New York Times, has dedicated the last 10 years to covering the rise of the Taliban, the 9/11 attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. On Oct. 20 in the Biscayne Bay Campus Mary Ann Wolfe University Center bookstore on Oct. 20.

Filkins showed a series of pictures from Afghanistan, where he spent days covering the war in 2001 and 2002. Two individuals walking in the desert toward the horizon, marines shielding themselves from bombings, bodies destroyed by explosions and kids covered in dirt with defenseless looks were just some of the scenes that Filkins’ pictures depicted.

“Pictures are much better than anything I can tell you,” Filkins said. “Afghanistan is a beautiful place. It was a weird ying-yang experience. The people are striking, the land is striking. It’s so beautiful and so terrible at the same time.”

Filkins also spoke about his experience as a correspondent in The New York Times Baghdad Bureau, from where he covered the war from March 2003 until August 2006.

He survived street fighting, suffered the emotional consequences of war with young Marines, witnessed the life of Iraqis during those days and felt the impact of 8-52 strikings.

“It’s like an earthquake. We woke up at 9 a.m. one day with our windows shaking,” Filkins said. “It’s a terrible thing to see, it’s like the end of the world. We almost got killed like a thousand times.”

Filkins not only shared his experiences, but also talked about the consequences of witnessing the war. The physical toll that covering a war takes on journalists is only part of the package, according to Filkins, who said that many do not survive it neither emotionally nor physically.

“How did the war affect your family?” asked Jasmin Heilbron, a senior and journalism major who was in the audience.

“It is pretty hard on the people you leave behind. It’s tough,” said Filkins, who also writes in the acknowledgments of his book, “I lost the person I cared for the most. The war didn’t get her, it got me.”

He also wrote about his coverage of the 9/11 attacks, when he spent a night on Ground Zero during the first week after the attacks.

Filkins also spoke about his experience in war zones inspired SJMC associate professor Mario Diament to ask, “Who do you think is guilty [for this war]?” Filkins gives importance to what, according to him, real matters.

“Everybody has made up their mind about the war, even before it started. I don’t see what’s the point of bringing it up again,” Filkins said. “It’s more about what it is like to be there. It’s more about the details.”

Filkins grew up in Cape Canaveral, and graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor’s degree in government. He also has a degree in international relations from Oxford University, and was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University. He received a George Polk award for his coverage of the assault on Falluja in November 2004, and has twice been a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize.

“Thankfully for us, he was willing to take the risk. What happens if we don’t have people brave and crazy enough to [cover the war]?” Daugherty said.

Filkins did not realize what he was getting himself into when he decided to cover the war in Iraq. He said he thought the war was going to be over in six weeks.

“Despite all the danger, [covering the war] was fascinating,” Filkins said.

Filkins concluded his visit with a book signing in the bookstore.

BOOK SIGNING: Dexter Filkins signs copies of his book for students and faculty at the Wolfe University Center bookstore on Oct. 20.

Aquatic Center almost ready for general public use

The Division of Student Affairs allocated the money from the Student Government Association’s reserve account, which consists of money not spent from the yearly financial allocation to SGA that accumulates over the years, according to Aline Maria Silva, assistant dean of student affairs.

Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation also lost a total of $50,000 from not hosting meets for other universities that revenue comes from hosting meets for other universities. In addition to Bardawill. The pool lost some revenue, according to him, really matters.

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At The University of Miami

POOL, page 1

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At the University of Miami

The Aquatic Center is expected to be ready for students, since their athletic complex is UP according to Redick.

Thanks to an agreement with the Metropolitan Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department, FIU students and Campus Recreation members are allowed free use of the Miami-Dade County Department of Health, one of the diving and swimming pool for home meets.

The diving well, a separate pool that measures 50 by 40, will be equipped with two new diving boards, one-meter and three-meter springs. A full reconstruction is under way, which demands that there be a separate diving facility for the diving team and an Olympic-sized swimming pool for home meets.

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The Aquatic Center is expected to be ready for general public use once pool construction is complete, two operating per hour.

With the pool closure, the BBC Recreation Center lost some revenue, according to Bardawill. The pool lost $21,000 for each of the two winters that it was closed; that revenue comes from hosting meets for other universities.

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Halloween tricks, treats for your party festivities

The end of October is quickly approaching, and one of the best holidays is creeping up on us. Halloween is almost here, and sure our lives are not orange or brown, and autumn is nowhere to be seen, but Miamians do Halloween another way: the party way. Put on your costumes and dance all night with someone dressed like Batman at an over-decorated, spooky club. But what if you’re throwing the party? Here are some tricks and treats you can use to make your party one to die for.

You’re really going to serve punch in a plain bowl at your party? Take that plain party favor and turn it into a party one to die for. Place a cauldron inside the plastic container, on top of the glow sticks. You’re almost there.

Your centerpiece is approaching Addams Family creepiness. Put more glow sticks in the cauldron with hot water and dry ice. The cauldron will begin to spool fog over the lip, along with the eerie glow of the sticks, creating a party favor any witch would love to find at any party super store.

We have lots of spookgasms – foodgasms returns in charge here and wash it, removing all stickers. Remove the stems and skewer the apple about halfway through with a sturdy stick, like a Popsicle stick. In a pot, melt about 40 caramel squares with a tablespoon of water over low heat, stirring constantly. Flip your apple into the melted caramel to coat, and place it on wax paper to harden. Halloween is fun, it’s our chance to channel our inner child and dress up like the Spice Girls – it’s the day where dressing in drag and bringing on chocolates is acceptable. Make your party a monster smash by recreating childhood favorites with a little flair. Face it, no matter how old we get, dry ice-in-dug fog still makes us go “oohhh.” And it doesn’t matter if we’re 25. Candy is still our best friend, if only for one day of the year.

Have a Happy Halloween and remember to have lots of spookgasms – foodgasms returns in two weeks.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com.

Blood center encourages students to get involved

DAYSY CALAVIA-LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

For a little over a decade, FIU has worked with the state’s blood centers, partnering with student groups and helping create themed blood drives to attract young donors.

The University works with two blood centers, Florida Blood Centers and the Community Centers of South Florida, to help them obtain blood supplies needed for patients. In turn, the blood centers reward student donors with gifts as well as donate money for the school’s general scholarship funds.

For the past two years, Florida Blood Centers has donated about $30,000 to the University, according to Dr. Robert Dollinger, assistant dean of Student Affairs, who has helped organize drives for the blood centers.

The money is presented to FIU via a check, and according to Dollinger, the amount is then disbursed through the Office of Financial Aid.

Community Blood Centers of South Florida offers scholarships to community high school students who plan to attend FIU.

“"The blood drive program is a great program that’s getting better and better, more student groups than ever are getting involved. Programs like this one help to create more value to the university,” Dollinger said. “The students are obtaining prizes like movie tickets, sub sandwiches, etc. as well as getting money they need for their club’s causes, some even possibly a scholarship. The blood centers are getting the blood they need to distribute to ill, and the ill are getting the blood they need to survive.”

By donating one pint of blood, students can not only help save three lives, but can also show their support of student club causes.

“We want students to come out and donate, so we will provide advertising materials for students wanting to hold a blood drive. We completely support student efforts,” said Lawrence Ganns, manager of Media Relations at Florida Blood Centers.

“The aim of the blood banks is to supply hospitals and blood and blood products needed for their patients,” Ganns said.

The blood centers cooperate with students in planning and creating special blood drives, and make monetary donations to causes that student groups are supporting.

Florida Blood Centers’ blood banks are non-profit, underwritten by hospitals that use the blood in emergencies, routine surgeries, and for cancer and leukemia patients, according to Ganns.

“The aim of the blood banks is to supply hospitals with blood and blood products needed for their patients,” Ganns said.

The Integrated Communications Council, a new club in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, held a special blood drive Oct. 9 with the help and support of Community Centers of South Florida.

“The money is helping us fund a fashion show that we’re holding at the south campus on Oct. 26,” said Paul A. She, promotions chair of the ICC.

The ICC received a $10 donation from the blood center for each pint of usable blood obtained, according to A. She.

For more info, go to floridabloodcenters.org or call 1-888-9-DONATE.

FOODGASM

Golden Delicious or Granny Smith – you’re desperate for something different to eat during the party? No need to sacrifice your little sister this Halloween.

CANDY CORN RICE KRISPIES TREATS

Follow the recipe on the side of your favorite puffed rice cereal’s box and add your favorite Halloween candy to spice things up. If your favorite is to add the traditional candy corn. Not only does it give the treats an orange holiday color, but it makes them sickly sweet and sticky – perfect for the first sugar overdose of the evening.

CREEPY CAULDRON:

The makings of a perfect party decoration: combine dry ice, spider webs and glow sticks to ensure a spooktacular night for your ghouls and ghosts.

EDIBLE DIRT

More of a childhood favorite that we just can’t grow out of, edible dirt is the recipe that combines three things we love – ice cream, crushed Oreo cookies and gummy worms.

To give the illusion that you’re eating directly from the earth, take a scoop of softened ice cream and put it in a cup. To give the illusion that you’re eating dirt, then decorate with gummy worms to add color and make this dessert more fun.

THE CARAMEL APPLE

Take your favorite apple, whether it is Golden Delicious or Granny Smith – you’re not going to want to eat it. Peel your apple and dip it in caramel. Allow to harden. It will make the perfect Halloween treat that is also your favorite liquor – and place the bowl inside of the cauldron.

Weeds and glow sticks to ensure a spooktacular night for your ghouls and ghosts.

Finally, in a smaller bowl, mix your favorite punch together – usually your favorite fruit juice with copious amounts of your favorite liquor – and place the bowl inside of the cauldron.

To add an extra-creepy touch, add peeled green grapes to the punch, they will be slimy, round and cold – just like eyeballs.

There you have it – a spooky Halloween treat that is also your centerpiece.

MY witch’s cauldron recipe is definitely the trick for your party. How about the treats?

Here are some things you can make that will curb the hunger of the zombies at your party. No need to sacrifice your little sister this Halloween.

Halloween is almost here, and sure our lives are not orange or brown, and autumn is nowhere to be seen, but Miamians do Halloween another way: the party way. Put on your costumes and dance all night with someone dressed like Batman at an over-decorated, spooky club.
Despite exciting football season, one message remains: safety first

PETE GARCIA
Special to the Beacon

First and foremost I’d like to apologize and take full responsibility for the unfortunate situation that occurred on Oct. 11 following FIU’s football win over Miami Beall.

Everyone at FIU Athletics is excited about the football season our team is having. Our brand new stadium, the tailgating, the overall college-atmosphere and most importantly, winning.

This is what was envisioned and its success will continue to be the mission of FIU Athletics for years to come. We have the best student support we could have ever hoped for.

We understand the excitement and desire to share in the celebration on the field, but there are many factors as to why we cannot allow this to take place.

Most importantly is the safety of our fans and students. Serious injuries can occur with so many fans trying to rush the field at the same time.

Also, the well-being of our student-athletes, cheerleaders and on-field staff is paramount to our mission. Policies and procedures are in place to maintain a fan-friendly yet safe atmosphere for the entire stadium.

We must all understand and adhere to these policies and regulations, we do encourage fan participation and would always urge our players to gather in the student section after each home game. We are there with our fellow students. In addition, plans are being developed to create even fan interaction with our team.

Regarding the unfortunate incident that took place after the win over Middle Tennessee, Chief Bill King and FIU Public Safety, with complete cooperation from the Athletic Department, are thoroughly investigating the incident in order to ascertain exactly what happened.

When the investigation is completed, appropriate action will be taken.

I look forward to many more exciting wins at the new FIU Football Stadium and hope that each and every one of you will continue to be a part of many years to come.

Pete Garcia is Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. The Soapbox is a forum for student leaders and University officials to voice concerns about FIU issues.

Kimberly Engelhardt
Staff Writer

Everyone has been talking about the importance of “going green.” However, the green I’m referring to is money, not the saving of the environment.

It’s no secret that the economy is on the minds of Americans. It’s on my mind; I will be hired after I graduate from FIU.

It’s on your mind: will the economy get better?

It’s on the minds of employers as they wonder if their employees can afford them with dumping salaries.

With the all-pervasive preocupations about the economy and the lack of “green” in our wallets, the other “green” is being pushed to the side.

The environment cannot take a backseat while we suffer from this economic roller coaster.

We have waited too long for the environment to take center stage only to be ignored in an man-made crisis: balancing our budget.

According to the Associated Press, Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate, and both presidential candidates, continue to rank tackling global warming as a chief goal next year. I’m happy to note that at least both candidates are on record in support initiatives to curb greenhouse emissions.

However, I don’t see that support translating into bills anywhere anytime soon. We shouldn’t be waiting for a new administration to address the issues that will affect this and, more importantly, our children’s generation.

The economy in worse shape than our environment, it’s going to be more difficult to pass laws that can reduce carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.

It’s like Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe who is completely against green initiatives. According to the Associated Press, his blog entry “criticized 52 House members for releasing a set of principles to tackle global warming in the midst of the economic turmoil.”

This is surprising due to the fact Inhofe is also a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. In a recent interview, Sen. Inhofe stated, “The current economic crisis only reinforces the public’s wariness about any climate change bill that attempts to increase the costs of energy and jeopardizes jobs.”

Some jobs may be in jeopardy by the Debt Clock, but more jobs will be created. Not all hope is lost.

The Republican call for “Drill, baby, drill” received so much attention that Democrats such as Sen. Barack Obama began to “publicly support some amount of offshore drilling” according to an article in Time Magazine published Oct. 7. The article also noted that there’s no denying that in oil, is king and the environment is a poor orphaned child.

Drowning in debt and resisting the unforgiving waves of an economic slowdown, the proposals for renewable energy projects such as wind and solar have taken a back seat.

Time Magazine also reported that renewable energy projects have been put on a back seat.

I can only hope that the economy will recover completely because I’d like to note that the economic downturn has not really affected the overall situation.

The environment should not be a political issue or an economic issue; it should be a world issue.

As more people populate the world, more cars will be driven, more factories will be built and more deforestation will occur. The environment cannot be ignored again, we must do something about it. Buy responsibly to stimulate the economy and use your oil wisely because one day, I hope, we won’t need it any more.

Adding digits to debt clock doesn’t solve the problem

JASMYN ELIOT
Contributing Writer

Looking at the National Debt Clock in Times Square, it seems someone has neglected to pay the bills on time. According to the Associated Press and other news reports, the National Debt Clock has not run out of digits in order to count the nation’s current debt. The dollar sign had to be removed to accommodate the $2.7 trillion debt incurred at the time, which would then prompt the nation to watch its spending habits and attempt to reduce its debt.

Freshman Alicia Vargas, a psychology major, remembers seeing lower digits in the past through her studies. “I remember being in the psychology class and seeing that the number was nowhere near 10.2 trillion dollars.”

However, thanks to the increased government spending, most notably $500 billion a year since 2003, the debt clock has gone in the opposite direction, so much so that it literally ran out of space. Vargas is hopeful that the National Debt Clock will serve its original purpose in calling our nation to action.

“Hopefully, it sparks a movement to change our spending habits and stop the war that is extremely expensive,” Vargas said.

As of now, the solution is to add two more digits to空间 that the National Debt Clock can count up to a quadrillion dollars in debt. Although this will alleviate the obvious issue at hand, I don’t believe that’s the true answer to the problem.

The addition of two more digit spaces put a very dismal fact in front of me: there may be a time where the nation’s debt will push into the quadrillion-dollar range. This would mean that financially, the government has spread themselves so thin to the point that they will more than likely have little money for our own necessities as a nation, let alone the ability to start paying off the national debt.

The simple fact that the National Debt Clock even got to this point makes me uncomfortable. This tells me that there’s an obvious mismanagement of funds going on somewhere in the national budget. The $700 billion bailout plan is estimated to bring the debt up to over $1 trillion.

Isn’t the $1 trillion bad enough? Beall had an idea. He said, “The problem with Washington is that their only way of getting out of a financial crisis is to spend more. What the U.S. needs is to get off credit for a few years and switch to a cash based-system so the country can get back on its feet.”

In short, the only way to start chipping away at the national debt is to cut government spending while paying what we owe to our creditors.

According to ConcordCoalition.org, which presents concerns regarding our nation’s fiscal responsibilities, the government has spent the most on health care, social security and defense, the latter mostly due to the war in Iraq, as of the 2007 fiscal year. Quite frankly, healthcare and social security are indispensable aspects of the federal budget; we need such funds to survive. However, the “war on terror” may not be of as much importance.

In the meantime, perhaps the government can somehow get started with some of the smaller debts owed, such as the interest on the national debt, what we owe to other nations, what we owe to businesses and corporations.

Before all of this, we also have to get through this recession first so that our economy can start generating the funds needed to start paying. All of these aspects must work quickly and cohesively so that we can get numbers down.

Before we take down the National Debt Clock to add spaces to it, perhaps we should work on getting those spaces removed.
Country star reveals soft side in new children’s book

JOHN GEROME
AP Wire

As the father of three girls, Tim McGraw understands the challenges that face dads who want to please their daughters.

So the children’s book he’s co-written with Tom Douglas has some simple advice: As long as you’re spending time with them, it doesn’t really matter what you do. “My Little Girl,” to be published Tuesday by Thomas Nelson, tells the story of a father — in a dark cowboy hat, of course — who spends a fun day with his little girl Katie doing nothing in particular.

They stop by the farm co-op, gaze up at the clouds and play on a tire swing.

The 41-year-old country singer said he enjoys spending time with his daughters — ages 11, 10 and 6 — but if he did what they liked doing, he’d be spending a lot of time shopping at the mall or getting pedicures.

“It’s something that as a father you kind of have to sacrifice what you want to do, because boys do what you want to do, but if I want to go to the farm and shoot guns or ride four-wheelers in the mud when it’s 40 degrees, the girls aren’t really interested in doing that,” he said.

But McGraw said he’s found that his daughters like coming along while he does simple, everyday stuff, like running to the grocery store or stopping by the office.

“Do what you have to do in your regular routine and take them with you. It makes all the difference in the world,” he said.

McGraw’s wife, Faith Hill, wrote in the forward: “I hope this story provides quality time for fathers and daughters to enjoy each other’s company and make memories reading together.”

While Hill loved the book, McGraw, his daughters were far less enthusiastic. “If it doesn’t have Chris Brown or the Jonas Brothers involved, they don’t care,” he joked.
character of Zooman and show the audience that the character is not so much a menacing criminal as he is a victim. “I want him to be your son, nephew, cousin so that you may realize that he is, and or was, approachable and or recognize that there is still hope for him,” Gainey said. “[To] not just give up and allow our community to continue to become more and more filled with young men who are forced to believe they live in a jungle and create a zoo in their own community to bring havoc.”

Both Gainey and Harrell believe this play deals with many issues that are relevant today and recall the death of a local young girl whose death mirrors the death of Jimmy in the play. “Two years ago, a little girl was murdered on her back porch due to gun violence,” Harrell said. “Her name was Sherdavia Jenkins. Ironically, she was burying her doll in the dirt when a stray bullet hit her in the Liberty Square Housing projects. I do believe the play is a testimony of the violence that has been placed in the laps of children throughout this country.”

Harrell explained that the play allows the audience to see the other side of the crime and see it from the perspective of the perpetrator. “An avenue most people don’t get to see, the audience will obtain an insight to his thoughts and feelings and the reasoning behind his senseless acts of violence. “Communities are choosing to ignore the needs of troubled youths and just wait on the penal system or wait on them to self-genocide. If we are supposed to be able to evolve as humans, then we need to increase our commu-nication skills,” Gainey said.

FAMILY PROBLEMS: The leads of “Zooman and the Sign” argue during a recent performance of the show. The show is based around a tragic family situation.
Lamppost brings spunk, spontaneity to Radiate FM

MONICA PUERTO
Staff Writer

Jennifer Mojena, also known as Lamppost, has been a DJ at Radiate FM for the past six years and was a program director for four years. Coming a long way from listening to WVUM, the college radio in her middle school years, she has left her mark with her Living End Show.

Yet she wishes she applied sooner to the station. “I wish I had applied sooner to the station. I have a love for exposing people to things they haven’t been exposed to before. This is what really drives me.” Lamppost likes to keep her shows impromptu and spontaneous, and ease the songs’ transitions by playing songs from bands such as The Cure, Depeche Mode, Echo and the Bunnymen, which spark nostalgic high school memories for listeners.

When asked what she looked for in employees when she was a program director she said, “Since the DJ positions are volunteer, you really have to have a love for exposing people to good music to keep you doing it week after week.”

One of the DJs interviewed by her, Rick Baldwin, states she is an inspiration to the music he plays as a DJ and how working with her has been a pleasure. “I will never forget when Jennifer bought me the Electric Wizard’s CD, and now I play it every chance I get on my show.”

Radiate FM has evolved over the years since Lamppost began. The most significant change she has noted is the addition of two new frequencies, 96.9 at Biscayne Bay and 95.3 in the main campus.

To Mojena, it is a big accomplishment, because not many universities have three signals, and with her addition of classical music from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m., Radiate FM is now a 24-hour operating station.

“I expect Radiate FM to continue playing music that people don’t immediately have access or experience to, making it a shining beacon in the sea of Miami radio, bogged down with repetition and vapidity. People have definitely noticed the change and in 2006, Radiate FM won the annual New Times Best in Miami, Best Radio Station.”

Although the broadcasting world is competitive, Mojena’s dream would be to work for a station such as Seattle’s KEXP. She made a program director for sorority recruitment this year, and she is especially excited to see the Greek community growing and for what is to come from Sigma Kappa in the future.

“I think having Sigma Kappa as a new sorority on campus is going to really help our Greek community expand. They bring something else to the table and from what I’ve seen so far, they are taking a lot of initiative. I’m impressed by how many women they recruited. With these new additions, there’s nowhere to go but up,” A lonso said.

Katie Mullens, a sophomore and new member of Sigma Kappa, started off going through formal recruitment with the intention of becoming a new member of one of the other 6 sororities. But she changed her mind once she got to know what Sigma Kappa had to offer her.

“Sigma kappa seemed exciting even since I heard that there was a new sorority coming to FIU. They really did a great job of painting Sigma Kappa to be a new opportunity for friendship and fun,” said Mullens.

“When I went to the recruitment week events and had the opportunity to meet the other girls who would become my possible pledge sisters, I met extremely loyal, intelligent and outgoing women which made me even more eager to join,” Mullens said.

For more information on Sigma Kappa and Greek Life, visit the Campus Life office on the second floor of GC.
New backfield threat emerges for FIU

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

OWENS HAS CAREER GAME

Daunte Owens played high school football with University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow. Tebow has gone on to win a Heisman trophy and a national championship, while Owens has lurked in the shadows during his FIU career. On Saturday, things changed for the Jacksonville native.

During the loss to Troy, Owens enjoyed career high statistics in every offensive category. The junior running back accounted for 90 total yards of offense and scored his first career touchdown. The performance included a 35-yard run.

"I feel good," Owens said. "I’m just playing my role. The offensive line blocks and I just respond to how they block." Owens was given 14 carries on the game, as starter Julian Reams sat out the meeting with an injury. In addition, Owens caught two passes.

Through seven games, Owens has already surpassed his career rushing totals.

OFF TIME

The Golden Panthers will have another bye week this weekend before their next game at Louisiana Lafayette on Saturday, Nov. 1. The off time is expected to give extra time to Reams and linebacker Matt Garris, both nursing injuries. Garris suffered a concussion during the game against Troy. It will be the second last bye of the year.

SAFETIES

FIU’s first score against Troy was a safety in the first quarter. The two-point score was the second of its kind this season, and the total is more than the Golden Panthers converted last season. The last time was against the University of South Florida Sept. 20.

Tebow’s vote for Heisman: McCoy

MARK LONG
AP WIRE

Florida quarterback Tim Tebow has a front-runner for the Heisman Trophy, and it’s not last year’s winner. Tebow, who could become the first player since Ohio State’s Archie Griffin in 1975 to win consecutive Heismans, said Monday that Texas quarterback Colt McCoy is his top choice right now.

"Being smart and just looking at guys who are having a good year, he obviously is someone to look at and would probably be my top guy I’d vote for right now," Tebow said.

As a previous winner, Tebow has a Heisman vote, and he used No. 5 Florida’s off week to catch up on some of the hopefuls for college football’s most prestigious award.

McCoy stood out.

Through seven games, McCoy has completed 81 percent of his passes for 1,894 yards and 19 touchdowns. Throw in McCoy’s strong religious beliefs and it’s no wonder Tebow, the son of a missionary who makes frequent mission trips to the Philippines, would be a fan.

"I think he’s done a great job just handling everything," Tebow said. "His interviews after the game I watched, too. Just getting to know him a little bit, I was very proud because I think he represents college football really well, and handled his faith extremely well, too.

Tebow threw 32 touchdown passes last season, ran for 23 scores and became the first sophomore to win the Heisman.

Tebow knows there’s plenty of time for things to change, too. After all, Boston College’s Matt Ryan and Oregon’s Dennis Dixon were Heisman front-runners around this time last year, and neither ended up making the trip to New York for the presentation.

"Now, he has a vote. I think it’s cool," he said. "You have a responsibility. To have a vote for the Heisman is a pretty cool deal and something you should do wisely and have a well-educated vote."
The Miami Dolphins have been beaten the past two weeks by a winless team and by the only team they beat the past two weeks on a breakdown of their ground game and run defense, which is held at the FIU Arena.

The Golden Panthers finished with a 9-9 home record a season ago, but ended up with an unfavorable record on the road. The Panthers on 17 carries, while Baltimore's Willis McGhee ran for a season-high 105 yards. Miami played the final three quarters without 305-pound nose tackle Jason Ferguson, who was sidelined by an injury to his ribs and still hurts inside. Those days," Sparano said. "Whether we lost, we didn't. You can give up a 10-yard completion, but if that turns into 20 or 30 yards, that's a different ballgame."

Poor blocking allowed Baltimore to put pressure on quarterback Chad Pennington. Sparano said, while Brown and Williams had little success attacking the flanks or running inside.

"It's just going to be day to day," Davone Bess said. "We just need to focus on what we're doing, and that will at least give us a shot."

The Dolphins also need to revive their ground game and run defense, because they've been second-best in rushing yards in every loss. Against the Ravens, Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams combined for only 43 yards on 17 carries, while Baltimore's Willis McGhee ran for a season-high 105 yards.

Dolphins try to take advantage of a pretty well; yesterday wasn't one of those days," Sparano said. "Whether running or running with a funky formation failed to produce a touchdown, and it netted only 4 yards in five snaps.

"We've executed that package well; yesterday wasn't one of those days," Sparano said. "Whether or not we move on with it, we'll see. It's part of what we do, but it's a small part of what we do.""

This week's practices will likely be devoted more to basic drills than to playbook gimmicks, as the Dolphins try to take advantage of a favorable schedule that has them at home for four of the next five games. Then again, the Dolphins have won only two of their past 11 games in Miami.
The Golden Panthers completed their second consecutive conference weekend sweep and third this season, collecting wins over South Alabama, Oct. 17 and Troy, Oct. 18, both on the road. FIU improved to 17-4 overall and holds a league-best mark: 7-1 conference record, with the only blemish being a close 4-3 set loss at Middle Tennessee on Oct. 3.

FIU leads the Sun Belt east division over the Blue Raiders by a half game, and both clubs will have six more conference contests before meeting for the second time this season on Nov. 7 at FIU arena.

FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 1

FIU played what Coach Danjela Tomic called a “sloppy” game in Mobile, Ala., as they won their second road conference game of the season in four sets, 25-22, 22-25, 25-18, 25-15. FIU had won the previous year’s meeting between the schools, on Sept. 26, in a sweep at FIU Arena. “They played much tougher at home than they did in our first meeting,” said Tomic, whose team had a solid .229 hitting percentage in the match.

Junior All-American Yarima Rangel collected her fourth double-double of the season, with 20 kills and 11 digs. Isadora Rangel and Sabrina Gonzalez added double digit kills, with 11 and 10, respectively.

Leading the way for the Jaguars was Hirsanna Markova and Juliana Almeida. The pair combined to amass 25 kills and led the way in USA’s lone set victory in which South Alabama had a 20-attack percentage. FIU entered the fourth set leading 2-1, and took care of business quickly, holding a .500 hitting percentage in the final frame, while holding USA to just 15 points and .083 hitting percentage while making just three errors.

FIU 3, TROY 0

The Golden Panthers made short work of the Troy Trojans on Oct. 17 in Troy, Ala. FIU had a bit of a letdown in the second set, but was able to control the first and third, to cruise to a three-set victory, 25-11, 25-21, 25-12. FIU was aided by an unlikely group of supporters. 14 FIU students made the trek up to Troy to support the Jaguars for the Saturday’s FIU-Troy double feature that began with the FIU volleyball.

“It was awesome, to have our fans when we are on the road. I am sure we can see our players turn it up a little bit when they see our fans coming in,” Tomic said as her team rolled through most of the match, but had some trouble in the second set.

“I said a couple of weeks ago, that we have a tendency to play down to the level of our opponents if we’re not challenged,” Tomic said. Troy was able to hang with FIU through a second set lull that saw the set tied for much of its duration, a total of 13 times. FIU took the lead for good, on going a 5-0 run to bring the score to 24-19. Isadora Rangel had the most efficient hitting day of the season for FIU, with a .688 percentage, and Yarima Rangel posted double-double number 13 on the year with 15 kills and 14 digs.

The Golden Panthers visit FAU on Oct. 21 for their last mid-week contest of the season, and this upcoming weekend FIU hits the road for its final road conference weekend. It will be a visit to Arkansas, to take on the UA Little Rock' Feb. 18, and Arkansas State on Oct. 25.

Great Weekend: Junior Isadora Rangel had an impressive weekend, with a hitting percentage over .400.