Public Safety expands: adds routes, officers

The University Public Safety Department is preparing for the new semester by expanding their work force and employing new patrolling tactics.

The department has 40.151 enrolled students. According to Chief of Police Bill King, there are 45 police officers serving both Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses (one officer for every 892 students on campus.)

Two of those officers were recently hired and King said he expects to add one more officer in the coming weeks.

University police officers patrol both campuses 24 hours a day, everyday, and coordinate patrols in 10-hour shifts. There is always a minimum of three officers on patrol at MMC and two at BBC. However, King said that these shifts often overlap, so there are more officers on campus than the minimum.

King said that the current amount of officers can serve FIU well, but the department is quickly adapting as the University community continues to grow.

“Our staff levels are adequate,” he said. “But at the same time, as the University grows, we need to grow. We could add one more officer to the force and we would still have the minimum of three officers on patrol.”

Police radios remain anything but flawless

Three years have passed since the University’s Public Safety Department first acquired its current radio system, which has been the target of complaints from officers since it was adapted.

Problems with the current system include an inability to report to police dispatch and “dead spots” throughout both campuses, including areas around the Graham Center and Primera Casa at the Modesto Maidique Campus along with areas around the Wolfe University Center and the library at the Biscayne Bay Campus – all areas of heavy occupation and traffic.

“We did surveys and tests around the campus and we found that there are dead spots within our University with the county radio. Now and again you’ll find spots where your frequency isn’t picked up as clearly,” said University Chief of Police Bill King.

He added that improvements have been and are continuing to be made.

King said that the most recent issue the radio system faced was last month, after lightening struck one of the repeaters.

“We did lose coverage at BBC. That repeater was then replaced and we haven’t had any problems since then.”
Security officers prepare for football season

SAFETY, page 1

Security officers prepare for football season

Radio’s constant glitches hoped to diminish

RADIO, page 1

Corrections

In the issue dated Sept. 9, in the article titled “Program signs two-year contract,” Gold Star signed a one-year contract, not a two-year contract.

In the same article, the prices for the valet service should have been $5 for two hours and $12 for the entire day.

In the same issue, the picture on page 10 was taken by Linda Lee.

In the same issue, the following information was incorrect: "People from the outside world enter these areas late for class, and this hinders campus police's ability to apprehend the individual or individuals involved."

In an earlier interview, "The current system is still unreliable," said Brenton Coyle of the Dade County Police Benevolent Association.

In the same issue, the following information was incorrect: "The Union endorses and still endorses the county system which is the best system for the University and its officers," said Coyle.

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ALGEBRA COUNTS

Campus Life fair showcases clubs to get students involved

SABRENA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Students wanting to learn how to row, address community needs, or just enjoy writing and sharing poems, can start doing it right on campus.

Campus Life set out to get students more involved in campus activities by hosting its annual Involvement Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The fair was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Panther Square. Several clubs came together in an effort to recruit members and get students more involved in different campus activities.

The purpose of the Involvement Fair is to make students aware of the different organizations we have available at the University,” said Ivy Siegel, coordinator of Campus Life.

Representatives from several campus clubs were also present, one of which was Melissa Binns, vice president of the Student Programming Council.

“We are a diverse club, and we host a list of campus events such as Fall Fest, the Homecoming Step Show, the Spring Fling Concert and Hispanic Heritage Week,” said Binns. “We are recruiting new members because a lot of our current members are seniors.”

SPC members meet every Thursday at 4 p.m. in WUC 154.

Other clubs included the NAACP, On Point Poetry, Marine Biology Club, Multicultural Club, Planned Parenthood, Stonewall 2 BBC, FIU Community Builders and the Rowing Club.

“Our club is actually the only On Point Poetry club on either campus. Members can present their poems just sign up at that time. All organizations are free and open to University students,” said Melissa Binns, vice president of the Student Programming Council.

“I wasn’t aware they had so many different clubs available at the school,” said Elvia Brazil, On Point Poetry president.

Students who would like to join On Point Poetry can sign up in Campus Life, WUC 124AB, to receive an e-mail with the dates and times of poetry readings.

Those who are interested in aquatic activities can join the Rowing Club, which was established on campus about 15 years ago, according to Henry Kupcheck, founder of the club.

“We currently have about 25 members. We are recruiting right now and will start practicing some time in the fall,” Kupcheck said.

In order to join the Rowing Club, students must be good swimmers and know how to tread water for at least 10 minutes. Students interested in joining can e-mail club officials at crows@fius.edu to receive a notification of the practice dates and times.

Students who want to get more involved with activities outside the University can join the Community Builders Internship Club.

“Our club is designed to get students actively involved in the community. We try to promote a more engaged experience of learning by volunteering for different projects in the district area, caring for university initiatives and addressing the needs of the community,” said Esperanza Ibuka, president of the Community Builders Club.

Ibuka’s club will be bringing in the first conference of the semester Sept. 17 in WUC 244AB from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students who would like to join can also sign up at that time.

All organizations are free and open to University students.

“We need people to be informed,” Yang said. “One thing about retention is making people feel needed. If you have things for them to do as soon as they come in, they will be more likely to stay,” she said. “Now they will have tons to do and be involved.”

In SGC-MMC, interns will be part of a mentoring program that will require students to shadow different SGC council members.

“The program will also have a Merit Point System in order to keep track of the interns’ involvement. Interns will receive points based on their participation in the council, and different prizes and opportunities will be given to those with the highest amount of points. According to Lavado, the internship with the most merit points at the end of the program will receive a $500 scholarship.

At BBC, Samuels wants to get interns involved with the president’s goals and create student leaders through hands-on experience.

“Since the internship program may use several methods to give students a broader understanding of the organization, but no strategies have been finalized,” according to Zapata. Samuels plans on having the interns work with the different student organizations at BBC to help them learn more about campus life.

“We want this year’s interns to be well-rounded, and we believe that they can learn something from each council,” Samuels said.

Interviews for SGC-BBC applicants are scheduled to begin about a week after the deadline, according to Samuels. SGC-MMC internship coordinators will start conducting group interviews Sept. 23 in the GC ballrooms, and individual interviews with the president, vice president, chief of staff and two intern coordinators Sept. 30.

No resumes are required for the interviews, but proper attire is expected.

“The ideal intern is one that years for all that the program is offering, someone who wants to be active in the school community and is willing to learn the ways of student government -- an intern that is driven for growth and vows commitment to the structure of the program,” said Samuels.
Still much to learn from Sept. 11 attacks

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

Before you disregarded this as another “9/11 nostalgia” article, you must come to terms with the fact there can never be enough warnings. With QR3EY keyboards making their way onto every mobile device, texting has undoubtedly been on the rise and inevitably ending lives. According to a study conducted by Students Against Destructive Decisions, recent events associated with texting are proven to be the greatest distraction for drivers. These unsurprising findings are the tragic accidents that are later viewed on the news, after the fact.

For many people it is difficult, maybe even close to the point of impossible, to imagine what life was like before texting. With 160 characters, texting found its way into our daily lives and incorporated itself into human instinct. In the past, this kind of message, however trivial, is still enough to cause countless accidents. Texting is no longer only affecting your future, but unknowingly bystanders as well.

Not only are drivers advised against texting, but drivers of all motor vehicles need to find the will to refrain from such distraction. Recent events associated with texting while on the road or tracks have proven deadly as well. In May, a 24-year-old old cadet caused a Boston trolley accident that injured 49 passengers because he sent a text message.

Commuters on the West Coast are also familiar with texting-related tragedies. According to The Los Angeles Times, the 2008 MetroLink crash — which killed 25 people and injured 130 — was the result of a texting commuter.

It has been my experience that we mentally live in a “not me” world. As human beings, we know that we are not immune to accidents, but we go about with the illusion that they happen to others, “not me.” Unfortunately, as real world happenings have, at times we become these “others.” Countless warnings have been issued to公路 drivers since the sense of such a thing might just prove to over-power that of hearing.

Officially, these airwaves are ahead in collaborating in a persuasive effort to bring an end to texting while driving before it has a chance to end your life. The British have been running a PSA considered too graphic for U.S. television. The video can still be seen via YouTube. The four-minute clip from

For many, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was this once an average day, and now, the seemingly innocuous combination of the numbers 9 and 11 invoke reactions of anger, tragedy, fear and tears.

One could argue that we have merely moved forward from darker times, following the course of time. After all, we should not allow ourselves to be held back in sorrow and anger. We must always remember the many heroes, average people like us, who died that day, and continue on with their sacrifices in our memory.

But there is sadly more to Sept. 11 than senseless death; many repercussions — and their lessons — remain to be learned. I recall during a conference on American foreign policy a dictum on the event: it was not Sept. 11 itself that changed the world, but our reaction to it. You think about it, none of the events that transpired after the attacks needed ever to have happened. We did not have to forsake our civil liberties under an increasingly powerful executive branch. Our complacency with the Patriot Act, our stance on water-boarding and other forms of torture and unwarranted wiretapping on American citizens is inexcusable.

We did not have to support wars that to this day claim more blood and remain a haunting legacy of that time — over 30,000 Americans have been wounded since the Iraq invasion in 2003, according to GlobalSecurity.org, a database of figures collected over the course of six years. Additionally, over 4,000 American troops and over 90,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed.

Moreover, we did not have to succumb to the fear and paranoia that allowed those in power to exploit our rightful call to justice for their own selfish interests.

Sept. 11 became a significant but fleeting boost to our good will and patriotism following that fateful event. To think it took the loss of 3,000 lives to get us to come together as a nation. It wasn’t long before we reverted back to the political deadlock and public polarization that continues to plague our progress today. Must we only come together in the face of certain dooms or out of insecurity?

We allowed Sept. 11 to grip us in a state of victimization and panic that was naively complacent. This came to be exploited with horrific consequences — consequences that would no doubt change the very fabric of American society.

When you see a flyer on the sidewalk offering a short course at the laboratory on the corner that you’ve never heard of before, you should adding FIU’s logo to the course. This is not a criticism, but a means of finding out about something new and exciting.

Instead, verify that the student staff and several unjustifiable fees are not being charged.

Eric M. Feldman
Staff Writer

When I see a college degree hanged on a wall, it represents that the person has gone through four years of more than schooling — attending classes, being involved on their campus and all the other duties that come with a college education.

In reality, however, it is starting to mean that the person did a large amount of online research, chatted with other classmates through e-mail and even online classes in their computers.

This trend should be expected to grow even more, considering that a Department of Education report that analyzed years of classes across all levels of schooling has found that students are using equivalent classes online and in person performed better online.

In fact, when comparing multitude of studies of students taking the same courses in both online and classroom setting, online students actually fared nine percentile points higher than their in-class peers.

These numbers are promising, because that means not only does online education enable more people to have access to learning from more places, but that it may actually enhance education as a whole.

Though I am still weary of the thought of campuses being replaced by a network of laptops, online classes certainly have their advantages and disadvantages.

Personally, every semester I take one online class. This time to come to the 15 credits required of me without having to show up to five different classes a week, but I wouldn’t do more than this online.

Even though I see online classes as a fine supplement to the rest of college, reading the textbook and throwing up on Blackboard Learning System doesn’t seem the same as being challenged in person by professors who are experts in their field, seeing their personality, and being able to ask questions and getting an answer on the spot.

Another thing that concerns me about the expanding trend of online learning is taking tests online. I’m not going to advocate school being harder than it already is — but I also don’t understand that a degree should only be as valuable as it was challenging to get.

The typical exam administered to Blackboard is timed as to provide some sort of challenge to the student, but there is no way to prevent the use of book or notes, or most importantly, verify that the student signed into the exam is the one actually enrolled in the class.

Already in my limited years in college, I have seen a shift from professors requiring you to bring a photo ID to class in order to take an exam to telling you to go home and take the exam online without any sort of identity verification — simply giving grades in the process.

Perhaps this freedom to check even accounts on the couple percentile points over that online classes students scored over traditional ones.

In addition, online learning is a big business. Not only does it expand the capacity of people to attend college, but at many institutions, such as ours, the school gets to charge extra money for the courses while not having to build extra classrooms or parking spaces. Online learning will continue to expand, but the push to put entire degree programs online should be looked at with extreme scrutiny.

When you see a flyer on the side of the road that says “Earn your degree from home,” you dismiss it as a scam. So, why would anyone think that FHS’s concept makes any difference?
Student balances school life, limeligh

Tiffany Huertas
Contributing Writer

She may seem like any other FIU student, but in the last 18 months, Lourdes Borrajero plans to become a star. She already has steady work as a model, dancer, actress and singer.

The oldest of two, born to parents of Cuban descent, Borrajero was raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey until the age of 5 when she moved to Miami.

Borrajero’s family has supported her for as long as she could remember, providing the foundation that she hopes will lead her to success. Borrajero has performed in national choirs and has 15 years of dance training including lyrical, classical ballet, jazz, tap and belly dancing.

“The doors opened for my career when I entered the World Beauty Championship in 2005,” said Borrajero. “I then found the opportunity to perform and enter the Miss Hispanic competition, which was the foundation that she hopes will lead her to success. Borrajero has performed in national choirs and has 15 years of dance training including lyrical, classical ballet, jazz, tap and belly dancing.

The aspiring star has just released her new CD album called Sen Gente, which is composed of songs from an eclectic mix of musical genres. The album sold briskly in North and South Carolina, selling out in the first week. She also works as a background singer for the TV show “Sabado Gigante,” on Univision.

Despite a blossoming entertainment career, Borrajero still puts education at the top of her priority list. She is currently working on a course in criminal justice at FIU.

“She is not only a talented person, but a hard working student,” said Veronica Gonzalez, a close friend who has known Borrajero since the age of 6.

She was recently seen on the Modesto Maidique Campus, not for a performance, but for the first week. She also works as a background singer for the TV show “Sabado Gigante,” on Univision. Borrajero still puts education at the top of her priority list. She is currently working on a course in criminal justice at FIU.

“She is not only a talented person, but a hard working student,” said Veronica Gonzalez, a close friend who has known Borrajero since the age of 6.

Borrajero sister at FIU in the near future.

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The aspire
is it worth it?

SPC picks great film to screen in Gran Torino

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Clim Eastwood is one of America’s great enigmas. Behind the grizzled, worn face and the no-nonsense, “Greatest Generation” veneer is a deeply personal and layered filmmaker; not just an actor but a director and a composer: as fearless and honest in his ideals as he is old fashioned and traditional in his story telling. He is the blending of old and new America. That’s what makes films like Gran Torino worthy watching.

Eastwood plays Walt Kowalski, a recent widower and veteran of the Korean War. Retired from the auto industry, his family seemingly disinterested in him, all Walt really has time to do is sit on his front porch, drink a beer and complain, especially about his neighborhood and his new neighbors: Hmong immigrants from Southeast Asia.

Times certainly have changed for Walt, but unlike his 1972 Gran Torino, which sits in his driveway, a sign of tradition, Walt pushed to change as he tries to guide his young neighbor, Thao, played with great honesty by Bong Va, after Thao tries to steal his Gran Torino. In trying to teach Thao, who he refers to lovingly as “Toad,” along with many other racial slurs, Walt will have to confront not only his prejudices but also find a reason to keep living.

Eastwood is a master storyteller at heart. The plot of the film unfolds with perfect measure which each of the major characters gaining depth. In another filmmaker’s hands, Thao would have been played as a Shia Labeouf-type: an annoying, jumpy nerd. But Eastwood, aided by Nick Schenk’s screenplay, allows Thao to be an actor but a director and composer; not just an actor but a director and composer: as fearless and honest in his ideals as he is old fashioned and traditional in his story telling. He is the blending of old and new America. That’s what makes films like Gran Torino worthy watching.

Eastwood is a master storyteller at heart. The plot of the film unfolds with perfect measure which each of the major characters gaining depth. In another filmmaker’s hands, Thao would have been played as a Shia Labeouf-type: an annoying, jumpy nerd. But Eastwood, aided by Nick Schenk’s screenplay, allows Thao to be a real teenager with awkwardness, impatience and naivete. Eastwood is a living icon who is not scared to play with his image.

Amey Her is particularly affecting as Thao’s sister, Sue, who tries to break through Walt’s exterior. It seems that Eastwood isn’t scared to cast unknowns, but the one fact of the film is that while the cast acts excellently as an ensemble, Eastwood’s performance is a powerhouse, easily while the cast acts excellently as an ensemble, Eastwood’s performance is a powerhouse, easily...
Cristobal looking for strong start by keeping ball on the ground

FOOTBALL PREVIEW, page 1

It’s important to look at a game like a heavyweight fight where you’re going to go 15 rounds and you’re going to go the full distance...

Mario Cristobal, coach

Cristobal said one way to start fast will be to attempt to establish a running game that was often absent last season.

“You have to stick to the run,” Cristobal said. “If you don’t do it, then it’s easy for them to pin their ears back and get after your quarter- back. We have improved through weight room but there has to be a transfer to the football field.”

Where Alabama is inexperienced is at the quarterback position, where Greg McElroy will be starting his second career game.

Defensively for FIU, they cannot afford to let Crimson Tide playmakers like running back Mark Ingram and wide receiver Julio Jones break away for big gains.

CONTAIN

Linebacker Scott Bryant said

“We’re going to take advantage of his inexperience, throw a lot of looks at him,” Bryant said. “Pressure busts pipes.”

Bryant did not play in the teams matchup in 2006, but he will start and be an important piece to the Golden Panthers as they face one of the nation’s best.

“I thank God for this opportunity,” he said.

WHERE AND HOW

- Catch live blogging on FIUSM.com
- Any scores, updates and key plays will be available online.
- Official FIU Football Road Watch Party at Sports Grill on 40th St. and SW 117 Ave.
- Game will be broadcast live on 790 AM The Ticket

START ON THE CUTTING EDGE.

START THINKING AHEAD.

START BECOMING A LEADER.

START MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

START READY FOR THE FUTURE.

START ACCOMPLISHING MORE.

START STRONG.

There’s strong. Then there’s Army Strong. By enrolling in Army ROTC as a nursing student at FIU, you will receive advanced training from experienced Army Nurses. You will also be eligible to receive a full tuition scholarship. After graduation, you will be an Army Nurse. And an Army Officer.

To get started, contact Major Jorge Rodriguez at 305-348-1619 or jrjoe@fiu.edu.

ASK ABOUT ARMY NURSE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND ARMY ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS!
**Nick Saban not taking FIU lightly**

It wasn’t quite coach Mike Leach getting red in the face and yelling at a reporter during a press conference, but Alabama Coach Nick Saban slipped out of his southern gentleman persona just a tad during last Monday’s press conference.

A reporter asked how confident he was his team would be able to avoid a let down going from last week’s matchup against ranked Virginia Tech to FIU.

“I don’t have confidence in anything. OK?”

That’s not what you expect to hear from the head coach of a national powerhouse football program going into a game against a team with almost 780 less wins as a program.

Alabama should be able to handle FIU pretty easily, and yet during Monday’s press conference he stated “in no uncertain terms” that FIU is not what they are perceived as being.

Is there something about FIU that worries coach Saban going into his home opener tomorrow?

**COACH’S NIGHTMARE**

Well, there is that one guy with the No. 4 across his chest who caused some problems last season for opposing coaches.

“This guy No. 4 is a better offensive player than anybody we played last week. You understand that?” Saban asked the reporters in the press conference.

For Saban to specifically mention T.Y. Hilton, FIU’s star receiver, twice in the span of a few minutes and say he is a better player than anyone on the then No. 7 ranked team’s offense is high praise indeed.

“Their receiver No. 4 Hilton is as a good a player as anybody in the country.”

There is definitely something about this FIU lightly

**MEN’S SOCCER: FIU 2, UNC WILMINGTON 0**

**Strong defense leads team to second straight win**

**JOEL DELGADO**
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers began preparing for their highly anticipated home opener for the FIU/UM Invitational on Tuesday after finishing a successful 5-1 road trip to begin the season.

They will try to build on the success they have earned going into this weekend against two quality opponents in Albany and No. 22 Florida State.

“You want to build on the momentum, have that winning attitude going into conference play,” Coach Danijela Tomic said. “We always schedule our preseason to be tough; we want our conference play to be easier than the preseason.”

Yarimar Rosa, the Sun Belt’s Preseason Player of the Year, participated in practice on Sept. 8. She has not played so far this season after aggravating a hip injury she acquired over the summer just before the season started. Whether she plays depends on how her hip is feeling. The practices have also been geared toward shoring up on defense, and the team has been able to make strides in the right direction.

“Our defense has improved tremendously,” Tomic said. “That was the focus of our spring season. We’re focusing more on defense in practices now.”

The Panthers go up against Albany on Sept. 11, then take on No. 22 FSU in the last game of the FIU/UM Invitational.

**UPSTATE CHALLENGE**

The Florida State Seminoles come to Miami after getting off to a quick 5-1 start, their best start since 2000. One of their victories was a 3-0 sweep over then-No. 8 Illinois that propelled them into the top 25. Senior Mira Djuric leads the Seminoles on offense with a team-best 58 kills and 8 aces.

The Golden Panthers, who have won just six times in their 28 meetings against the Seminoles, hope to change their fortunes against FSU on Saturday.

“Everybody has improved; I think they’re smarter volleyball players. They have more experience; they’re reading the game better. For defense … you have to know pretty much what’s going to happen before your opponent knows what’s going to happen and then defense becomes easy,” Tomic said.

**BACK IN ACTION:**

Steven Jair Cabas scored on a penalty kick and had an assist to help the Golden Panthers win their second game.