**Graduation tickets to be sold**

Extra admission charges aimed at keeping a ‘memorable ceremony’

**Jorge Valens**  
Asst. News Director

In an effort to curb high costs, the University will begin charging admission for its scheduled commencement ceremonies.

According to the University, graduating students will receive two free tickets and will have an option of purchasing up to three additional tickets for $5 each.

“We resisted the idea of charging for tickets,” said Interim Provost Douglas Wurzok in a written statement. “But in the end, it’s the only option we have if we intend to give our students a memorable ceremony they can share with the people dearest to them.”

The ticket sales are expected to generate a total of $35,000 that, according to the University, will help defray the cost of the ceremonies. The total cost of all the commencement ceremonies will exceed $30,000.

“Students are more than upset about this new charge. We think all the increases we’ve been hit about this new charge. We think all the increases we’ve been hit

**COMMEMNEMENT, page 2**

**Students arrested during season opener**

**David Barrios**  
Staff Writer

More than a dozen people were charged for underage drinking during Saturday night’s football game against Toledo University.

The game, held at FIU Stadium on Sept. 26, was the first home game of the 2009 football season.

According to FIU Public Safety, 13 arrests were made for underage drinking during the game and the tailgate that preceded it.

Out of the 13, one person was arrested and charged with juvenile drinking, or drinking under the age of 18.

FIU Public Safety patrolled along with members of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

Two students were ejected from the premises for throwing footballs at students during the tailgate in an aggressive manner.

One student was arrested by Public Safety for entering the game without his ticket and transferred to county jail.

The other arrests were forwarded to ABT agents.

This stands in comparison to the 47 students arrested during last season’s opener against University of South Florida on Sept. 22, 2008.

In total, 11,047 students attended the game. 16,100 students attended last year’s season opener. The stadium has a capacity to seat roughly 20,000, according to fiusports.com.

Underage drinking, on or off campus, violates the FIU Student Code of Conduct.

Students charged will have to appear in court and comply with issued fines, community service or other designated punishments.

They will also appear before the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
**Committees present job details**

**FRANCISCO MARADIAGA**  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus has new definitions and purposes for four of five senatorial committees.

As second week of consideration, the senate passed 11 bills on Monday that will be added to the MMC bylaws defining the goals and reach of three out of four committees that were previously missing in the bylaws. One was not presented as time ran out of the two-hour Sept. 28 meeting.

When the current constitution was ratified during the last administration, the four committees were created but no job description was assigned to them.

The passing of the bills now gives the senate entities that will audit usage of Activities and Services funds, work on student concerns and keep track of legislation records. This was a huge step," said Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez, who has been working on updating the bylaws since the summer.

The Senate Operational Review Committee description, which was an area of contention last meeting, was approved with 25 yeas, 0 nays and two abstentions.

The ORC will audit any student organization funds that are contributed by the Student Government Association through Activities and Services fees. The last meeting some signers expressed concern that the ORC “working with” the comptroller in this endeavor as well as having a member of the committee attend all Finance Committee meetings.

“We checked with Jose [Toscano],” said sponsoring Senator Loren Prante, informing the senate of the ORC’s consultation with the SGA advisor.

The Student Advocacy Committee was passed unani- mously by an oral acclamation. The SACP will deal with student concerns and make recommendations. The SAC, as defined by the senate, will collect reports from senators and have “direct contact” with the Governing Councils.

The reports are the responsibility of senators to keep track of concerns with their constituency and meetings with school deans.

"The idea is to gather the information that senators have collected so that we have records of concerns,” said sponsoring Senator Taylor Pochnow.

The Internal Affairs Committee, which also passed with a unanimous oral acclamation, will be the body that keeps track of legislative records and senatorial day-to- day concerns. It also has the power to fine and suspend.

The new committee will keep legislation up to date, including appropriations, bills, resolutions and meeting minutes.

At its Sept. 28 meeting, the IAC also “sponsored Senate with IAC resolutions.” These requirements range from attendance taken during working with senators’ discretionary budgets.

The passing of the three definitions represent a progres- sive step to the senate speaker. These senators are taking all the student and senate concerns to heart,” Ramirez said.

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**$2,000 allocation goes to mock war**

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA

Staff Writer

The Student Government Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus voted to appropriate $2,000 for a Spanish-American War simulation, voted to include Roberts Rules of Order into the campus bylaws and elected a new senator for the College of Arts and Sciences in its Sept. 28 meeting.

The senate approved a $2,000 allocation to help sponsor the Jack D. Gordon Institutes for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies’ Spanish-American War simulation that will be held at the Univer- sity. The war simulation will be primarily for high school students. The $2,000 would go to cover breakfast, lunch and dinner for the audience.

The consensus among the senate was that the event would showcase FIU to prospective students. Senator Taylor Pochnow expressed concern that FIU “is often overlooked” by local high schools.

The senate also elected Sandra Perez as the new Arts Sciences senator. She went up against former Senator Jennifer Fuentes. Perez stated in her plat- form that she would increase the amount of classes offered and the times they are offered, as well as increase “the amount of advisors or their availability.”

Perez stated in her application that her previous experi- ence in leadership roles made her the most qualified student.

According to her résumé, she has run a committee during her time with Dance Marshall as director of communications. She has also served as program vice president, and panther pride and community service chair for the Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Fuentes previously left SGC-MMC to graduate and to focus on family. Some raised concerns over the possibility of the situa- tion repeating itself.

“The SG chemistry changes,” said Senator Adam Johnson. “That explains what happens when people leave because of grades. "Grades are the most impor- tant thing."”

Acting on the suggestion of the judicial branch, the senate also passed a council bill that would replace Roberts Rules of Orders to the bylaws. The current constitution elimi- nated mentions of RRO as a procedural tool.

For about a month, every senate meeting has begun with the “secret ballot” that would decide if a “media defense.” The procedures facilitate help an orderly meeting.

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**Commitment calls for six ceremonies**

**COMMENCEMENT, page 1**

“The University is a community, we’re trying to help each other out,” he added. “If we are short on funds…I don’t see [charging] as a big deal.”

In addition, the University will be adding a sixth ceremony to accommodate the 5,500 students that are expected to graduate this Fall. This number has increased since 2004, in which 4,458 students graduated in the Fall semester.

“Our students look forward to being recognized for their academic achievements, shaking the hand of their dean, taking a picture with the president and naturally, they want their family and friends to share this moment,” said Wartozk in the same statement. “There’s only one indoor venue on campus that can accommodate such a ceremony – the U.S. Century Bank Arena – and we keep growing it.”

Commencement ceremonies for this Fall will occur on Dec. 14 and 15.

Students can refer to the University’s commencement Web site, commencement.fiu.edu, to get more information, such as graduation sched- ules and procedures, and purchase additional tickets.

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**Commencement keeps up with state universities**

**RENOVATIONS, page 1**

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Sorority creates domestic violence awareness

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON
Contributing Writer

Carolyn Thomas was shot in the face by her boyfriend, who then killed her mother. She had to go through extensive surgeries to repair the damage to her face and be able to breathe and eat again.

Thomas was the face used at a Lambda Theta Alpha charity event that addressed domestic violence issues and awareness.

One in three women will be a victim of domestic violence at least once in their lifetime – a statistic that Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. is trying to wipe out.

Gamma Pi is the FIU chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha and domestic abuse is their philanthropy of choice, and one way the “Infamous and Fly” Gamma Pi Chapter rallies for that cause is the “Art of Surviving Benefit Dinner.”

Starting in 2006, the event has raised more than $2,000 that go to the SafeSpace Foundation.

Around 150 people were present at the Sept. 26 event.

Guests were invited to draw on the tablecloths that would be roped into a blanket to be hung at a SafeSpace shelter.

Michelle Eusebio, a junior majoring in finance, wrote on her piece of cloth: “Only the strong survive, stay strong ladies.”

About 40 pieces of cloth were strung together and donated.

“The whole point is empowering women,” said member Stephanie Gonzales, a senior majoring in international business.

Sororities and fraternities, such as the Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, along with guests from the community were also present at the event to show their support of the cause.

A presentation was then conducted by Maria Lopez, who talked about the sorority and gave statistics on domestic abuse.

Last year sisters from Lambda raised enough money to send 18 children from the shelters to summer camp.

The executive director of SafeSpace Foundation, Robert Schroeder, gave information on the shelter and more statistics and history of domestic abuse.

“We have a long way to go before we have true equal rights in this country for everyone,” he said.

As another speaker went on stage, volunteers in the audience were given masks to graphically show the number of women directly affected by domestic abuse.

They were asked not to take off their mask until the next speaker decided to take of hers.

Nadya Chapra took the stage and told her story. She is a volunteer at SafeSpace and a survivor of domestic violence.

Growing up she saw her grandmother and mother become victims and when her first husband put a gun to her face, she told him to shoot her. When he did not, she decided to leave.

“There are always risks in freedom but the only risk in capture is freedom,” she told the audience.

Dinner was then served and at the end of the night, Lambda sisters revealed that they had raised $1,514 for SafeSpace and presented the check to Chapra on behalf of the shelter.

Most of the money came from ticket sales for the event and small personal donations from several sisters and their families.

Campus Progress was one of the sponsors, along with Party City and Gourmet Chef on Tour, Inc. who donated food, decorations and supplies.

Guests were offered the chance to dance and enjoy the rest of the night; the sisters put on a show with their own unique dance moves.

The national sorority of Lambda Theta Alpha was started in 1975 by 17 ladies at Kean University. They began the first Latin sorority in the nation.

The Gamma Pi Chapter at FIU was established November 2003 by five ladies.

With eight active members this semester, it was a joint effort between all of the ladies with the two lead chairs Maria Lopez and Nohora Vanegas keeping everything organized.

They began plans for this year’s event in December and this was the first dinner many of the new sisters participated in.

“It was amazing to be part of this event,” said first-year Rayda Rojas, senior in early childhood education.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in helping others,” cited alumni Lissette Medina.
LIFE AT THE BAY

SGC-BBC

Parking without decal costs extra

Members talk ways to help students with decal tickets

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

Henry Herrera, a junior psychology major, got a ticket for not having a student decal, even though his new one was already on the way.

“My car did not have a decal, but I had ordered mine through the mail just days ago,” he said. “I still hadn’t received it, but I still got a ticket.”

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council represents the student body at this campus, and allows students to address any issues or concerns they may have toward the University.

“SGA will never cease to be the voice for the students to depend on,” said Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president. “We are the liaison to the administration, and I finally feel that students are beginning to recognize that.”

Neistein addressed another student’s concern about parking tickets during the last council meeting on Sept. 23. He said there is a need to resolve this problem, in which students get citations for not having decals, even if they have already ordered them.

Nikolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC senator, sympathized with Herrera after encountering similar issues with his parking decal and learning about issues encountered by some of his friends and classmates.

“After attending FIU for two years, primarily at BCC, I received my share of unjustified parking tickets as well as witnessed my friends and fellow FIU-ers get fined in a similar manner,” Chikishev said.

To help students like Herrera, Chikishev proposed a goal for SGC-BBC that consists of a forgiveness policy for students receiving their first citation.

“I believe in a fee system where a first-time violation, given out by the Department of Parking and Transportation but not police officers, should be addressed with a warning letter mentioning regulations and decal policies that FIU students must abide by, and having their vehicle tag entered into a database,” Chikishev said.

Chikishev would like students to receive warnings, rather than tickets, when they commit their first violations toward the University’s decal parking enforcement.

Once this warning is issued, the vehicle information is then saved in Parking and Transportation’s database.

However, traffic violations like running stop signs or speeding are not part of the proposal.

But according to William Foster, executive director of Parking and Transportation, this proposed policy is not plausible.

“The patrol officers do not have the information in the field required to know if a previous warning has been issued, nor would the existing handheld devices be adequate,” he said.

Students are not given tickets if they do not have decals during the first two weeks of the semester.

Any student who fails to provide a decal after the two-week time frame, however, is fined $20. If that fine is not paid within the time provided, a $5 late fee is applied.

If students are issued a ticket after the two-week period has passed, they can appeal it. Therefore, the “forgiveness” process is already in place, Foster said.

President Jessica Lee, a junior marine biology major, has expanded the club by collaborating with other environmentally aware groups like the Science Club to help students get citations for not having decals with decal tickets.

Sisterhood Retreat

When we go shark- ing, our purpose is to find different species of shark, identify them and then return them to the water.

Steven Diaz, vice president
Marine Biology Club

After expanding its focus from just the ocean, the Marine Biology Club has found itself a boatload of new members, who not only are willing to teach and learn about the environment but also ready to work with sharks.

Founded in fall of last year, the Marine Biology Club spent most of its inaugural year with less than five active members.

One year later, the club has grown to around 35 students.

“Originally, we were just marine oriented, and that narrowed us a lot, but recently we have opened up to all types of environmental activities,” said Steven Diaz, vice president of the club and a senior marine biology major.

Diaz, as well as club President Jessica Lee, a junior marine biology major, have expanded the club by collaborating with their research with other environmental awareness groups such as beautifying the Biscayne Bay Campus with marine life deco- rating Panther Square.

According to Diaz, the Marine Biology Club is working on a fish tank for the Wolfe Univer- sity Center, similar to the one in the Graham Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus. The tank would be placed as decoration for students to appreciate as they walk by.

“By putting beautiful mysterious species in the faces of the students, we think we can help the campus and bring our club attention,” Diaz said.

The club takes part in many activities including camping, canoeing, beach cleanups and reef identifying- excursions throughout the year.

The club also teaches students from the schools next to campus, like the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center.

But according to Diaz, there is nothing more fun than beach shark fishing, also known as sharking, which they did last spring.

“When we go sharking, our purpose is to find different species of shark, identify them and then return them to the water,” Diaz said.

“It gets really exciting because we are handling intimidating creatures at the same time we are learning about them.”

Sharking, as well as all of the other activities, are organized and super- vised by Adam Rosen- blatt and Jean Rosen- berg, both third-year marine biology graduate students and founders of the club.

The club was recently went to the David Lawrence Educational Center to teach younger children about the ocean.
Students can apply for appeals online at http://parking.fiu.edu, or in the Wolfe University Center Room 353 in the Office of Parking and Transportation. The appeals process takes about three to four weeks, and students get a letter or e-mail with the amount they have to pay if the appeal is rejected.

“I like to think that everyone will get a chance, but I am not the appeal officer, so I can’t foresee what the decision will come to be,” said Mindy Parrott, administrative assistant in the Department of Parking and Transportation.

Last Spring semester, 2,227 “no decal” tickets were issued at BBC, Foster said. That same semester, $27,240 was generated through “no decal” citations issued at BBC.

“These tickets aren’t as financially damaging as, say, the traffic violations, but they are equally frustrating to students and creates a feeling that we are getting nickedle and dimed when the tuition is constantly going up every year,” Chikishev said. According to section 1006.66 of Florida Statute 11.011, “Monies collected from parking assessments and infraction fines shall be deposited in appropriate funds, and shall be used to defray the administrative and operating costs of the traffic and parking program at the institution to provide for additional parking facilities on campus, or for student loan purposes.”

“Enforcement is not about generating revenue. It is about ensuring safety and compliance to University policy,” Foster said. As a result, Chikishev altered his current goal and will now focus on creating signs that are visually informative to students, which may read “Do you have your new decal?” as suggested during the council meeting.

According to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor, students may not know that they need to renew their decals at the beginning of every Fall semester.

“We need to let students know in the beginning of the semester and ask them if they have gotten their new 2009-2010 decal,” Zapata said.

However, Zapata feels that the Department of Parking and Transportation may not want students to know about the appeals process because of fear that students may misuse it.

“I think the problem is they do not want you (students) to know that you can get away with a warning because then students may park anywhere,” Zapata said.

Goal aimed at forgiving first-time parking offenders

SGC-BBC, page 4

Research on aquatic life opens more doors

MARINE, page 4

all about mangrove conservation and marine life, and I found that really enjoyable,” said Rosenblatt. “Until the late 1970s, we didn’t even know life existed on the ocean floor, and to this day, we know more about the moon than we do about marine life.

So, I think the educational part of this club is really great.” In addition to organizing the club’s activities, Rosenblatt and Rosenberg both play roles in choosing the students who run the club, some of which they are still looking for.

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The Marine Biology Club does not have any membership requirements and accepts students of all majors and from both campuses.

The club meets every other Thursday at 2 p.m. in Room 362 of the Marine Science Building.

Even though the club is based at BBC, students from both campuses are still encouraged to join. Research can be done at both campuses.

The club holds video conferences of the meetings with students located at MMC.

Its members are also willing to alter- nate meetings between the two campuses

For more information, e-mail Lee at jlee08@fiu.edu or Diaz at Sdiaz023@fiu.edu.

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-Compiled by Pamela Duque
GETTING SCHOOLED
Students should prepare themselves for illnesses

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

Anyone who lives in Miami likely counts their car as their most valued possession. Visiting friends know they can’t drive far without an automobile, despite public transportation; there are no other viable enough alternatives for traversing the 6,137 square miles of urban spread that make up our sprawling city. It’s not just about convenience either: the Associated Press deemed Miami one of the most car-centric cities in the country for transit. So it was all the more surprising to hear that the city is making plans to reform its entrenched car culture through their Miami 21 project.

Envisioning the creation of a “Miami of the 21st Century” (hence the name), the project officially aims to begin to “endorse an ‘holistic approach to land use and urban planning’ and center on ‘a greater mix of housing, commercial and retail uses, transit and pedestrian oriented communities, and preserves open space and many other environmental amenities,’” according to the project’s Web site.

The objective is to overhaul Miami’s often chaotic planning system – strained by the city’s rapid and massive growth – and focus on efficient and long-term planning. This comes at a crucial time in the city’s future, as it continues to grow exponentially in terms of population, area and all-around significance.

Plans include: creating more parks and open spaces; preserving historic and environmental areas; improving underprivileged neighborhoods through greener and artisy architecture; mixing residential and commercial areas; expanding transportation options and creating a sense of community through more pedestrian-oriented environments.

Historically, Miami has never had much in the way of long-standing, comprehensive planning – one of the few major cities not to. Rather, its development guidelines were a series of short-term amendments that provided ad hoc solutions for the short run.

Miami’s current zoning regime, born from this hodgepodge of codes, has developed areas differently and by category (residential, commercial, etc.). As a result, areas where people live, work and play are often at odds with one another, hence the infamously painful morning and evening commutes.

Many parts of the city have been decaying from neglect as growth and development is concentrated even more outward, creating the urban stretch that has made Miami non-vehicular travel so difficult.

Some parts of the city seem remarkably different from each other, and though that may add to the city’s diversity and unique character, it has also contributed to traffic, difficulty in navigation and strained infrastructure. The “pedestrianization” of the city seems to be the most prominent component of the project.

Miami’s over-dependence on car travel plays a significant role in the city’s problems. Neighborhoods within Miami seem to be more like another, as residents rarely interact besides through traffic (being ranked among the rudest drivers wouldn’t help that either). A lack of pedestrians leaves streets more open to illicit activity.

The city could feel like an ant colony sometimes, with millions of people passing one another in cars, going from point A to point B without ever taking in the atmosphere and culture around them.

This idea of being more pedestrian-friendly, Miami aesthetic would certainly stem the growing disconnection and urban decay that is pervasive in many big cities. Miami, however, has many major challenges, however, Miami 21 brings much doubt and apprehension.

There’s a flaw in the loss of Miami’s “soul” with these changes; there’s also, of course, the expected financial repercussions.

Anyway, new comes with a chance of both risk and opportunity. We should focus our attention on the project, get involved and endorse it as a community it hopes to help solidify. Miami has become a vibrant and chic cultural center precisely because of its boldness and vivacity. It would be a shame if we didn’t step up to that spirit once more to give our city a chance to evolve.

Miami 21 project beneficial for city

Mathew Ruckman
Ass Op Ed

Debate has erupted in Miami-Dade County this month over an unlikely source – firefighters.

In an attempt to balance the $444 million budget gap, county commissioners have taken action at the, at times, tepid pay for firefighters in Miami-Dade, who are among the highest paid in the state of Florida.

This little wrinkle of a half-billion dollar deficit means firefights, who can have quarter- million dollar salaries, will have to carry a little less pocket change in their overalls.

One example of benefits gone away in this fiery métier is Capt. Raul Fernandez, a midlevel officer who leads a group of paramedics in Brickell. The captain raked in about $349,279 last year, including $50,000 of overtime pay. The 24-year veteran makes only $50,000 less than the president of the United States and Fernandez ranks behind only the fire chief in being the highest paid public employees in Miami-Dade. In comparison, general surgeons make $228,000 and obstetricians make $303,000, according to the Department of Labor.

Of the approximately 630 firefighters, 19 are being paid more than $300,000 a year. 47 firefighters cash in more than Mayor Manny Diaz, eight more than County Manager Pete Hernandez’s $329,447. These numbers are absurd for a position that oftentimes doesn’t require more than a GED.

Miami Commissioner Marc Samoff, who possesses a law degree from Loyola University, expressed his disbelief in The Miami Herald last week. “There were no press releases before these firefighters were being paid.”

“I could kill my high school guidance counselor for not telling me to be a firefighter,” Samoff said.

This year Miami-Dade’s pension payments will exceed $100 million for the first time. That means one out of every five dollars being spent will go toward pension obligations, firefighters making up a significant portion of these costs.

Take Capt. Jon E.Hart who retired in 2006. Hart received an estimated $311,000 in 2009 through the city’s deferred compensation plan, which doesn’t include the $118,000 annual pension he began amassing in 2007.

Granted, there are workplace repercussions but the fire fighting world that are non-existent or nonexistent. Firefighters are called upon to show a daily courage few would be able to summon up. This is especially true with new hazards ranging from respiratory illness, maiming and even death.

I agree that their salaries should reflect these eventualities and would . . . if they were $100,000 or even $50,000. A significant cut is needed.

The firefighter’s union has agreed to slashed 15 percent from their paychecks, even the cut however, retired Capt. Hart will make only $40,000 less than President Obama. The firefighters of Miami are worthy individuals, but not worth that much.

Commissioners and the community need to get serious and take a realistic look at how firefighters are paid. This budget crisis won’t solve itself but has exposed some of the financial largesse in Miami-Dade County. Hopefully the Miami commissioners will have the foresight to realize that sometimes to save the entire house, you’ve got to take an axe to the door.

COMMISSIONERS ‘UNDER FIRE’ FOR BUDGET CUTS

Matthew Ruckman
Asst. Opinion Editor

With the job is replete with these place dangers in the fire-service. This year Miami-Dade’s pension payments will exceed $100 million for the first time. That means one out of every five dollars being spent will go toward pension obligations, firefighters making up a significant portion of these costs.

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SPC prepares for slew of big events this fall

ISABEL MAZA  
Staff Writer

Students looking for exciting things to do this Fall semester can look to our very own Student Programming Council. In the past, they have held many events that give students something to do and this semester is no different.

As many people know, October is national Hispanic Heritage Month. People all over the nation are celebrating and the FIU community is no exception. Many students are of Hispanic descent so SPC wants to make sure the culture is celebrated and made known. Even those who are not Hispanic can come out and learn some more about the customs and traditions of Hispanic culture.

SPC will be hosting two events in the Graham Center Pit for students to come out and celebrate Hispanic culture.

The pit events will feature various Hispanic craft making, food, music and dance. Students will be able to participate in the activities and mingle with others who share similar interests or the same ethnic background.

The events are sure to provide an engaging, exciting atmosphere in GC. Students with a break between classes can take advantage of this opportunity and score some free give-aways and food.

Apart from the pit events, SPC will be hosting the “Latino Comedy Chaos College Tour.” The tentative list of comedians scheduled to perform includes Mark Viera, Shanya Rivera and Alex Ortiz.

These comedians have been featured on countless television shows and special programs, as well as at other universities. The organization puts on countless events throughout the year which range from comedy shows to concerts.

The events SPC hosts usually differ from year to year, but there are a few programs that remain constant.

Every October, SPC features different Hispanic celebrations in the GC Pit, including food and music, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. SPC’s other signature event is its UP-Roar Week in the spring. The week includes a comedy show and concert. In the past, UP-Roar has featured comedians and artists such as Paulie Shore, Ludacris, OneRepublic and Fabolous.

“The UP-Roar concert with Ludacris last spring was the best part of my semester,” said junior Tony Govea, a finance major.

In order to ensure that UP-Roar appeals to the majority of students on campus, SPC will be hosting surveys to determine what students would like to see.

SPC is a relatively new organization under SGA. The cabinet was made during the last spring was the best part of my semester,” said junior Tony Govea, a finance major.

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ALBUM REVIEW

Queen of pop celebrates decades of hits

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Imagine you’re living in the year 2039. If there is still radio, you’re using it. You decide to tune in to what all the kids are listening to. Is it Avril Lavigne? Probably not. Maybe it’s Lady GaGa? That’s a no-no. Nothing familiar here. The airwaves are filled with the new sounds of a new world. Thirty years may not be a long time, but 30 years in pop music seems like an eternity.

Yet for Madonna, who has been creating music since 1979, age is nothing but a number. And, for the first time, she wants you to forget the sensual wedding dress, the big blonde curls, the Kabbalah, the divorces. She wants you to remember the music.

Sept. 29 brings the release of Madonna’s third highest hits compilation, Celebration. It will be the final release for Madonna under the Warner Bros. label that has housed her since the beginning. Tracking all the goods from “Everybody” to “4 Minutes” this album leaves no hit out.

All the chart-toppers are here along with the ballads and the dance tunes that make all women and gay men alike dust off their cone bras ... of course “Vogue” is there too.

An ingenue whose talents have sometimes taken backseat to her image, Madonna has continued to stay relevant, all while straddling the dance floor and the headlines. Her music has stood the test of time – her acting not so much – but her music is why we love her. And that is what this album finally brings to light.

Madonna’s fans helped with the selection of songs. Her manager Guy Oseary went to Twitter to ask people what they thought the track listing should be. The outcome is over 35 songs that have solidified themselves in the soundtracks of many.

Paul Oakenfold joined Madonna in the recording studio to collaborate on some new songs for the greatest hits album, “Celebration.” The single, is a modern dance track mimicking the intentions of earlier Madonna songs like “Holiday.” “Forget your troubles and get dancing before it’s too late” seems to be her message again as of late.

The video for the song has two funky versions directed by Jonas Åkerlund.

One with mostly dancers and Madonna along with her current boy toy, Jesus Luz, and the other capturing fans dressed in their greatest Madonna-esque attire.

Both videos introduce Madonna’s daughter, Lourdes Leon into the spotlight. In the first she dances among her mother and her crazy dancers and, in the second, she actually dresses in the infamous wedding dress her mom wore at the first MTV Video Music Awards.

Celebration will be available in various formats. The deluxe version will include 36 songs, including “Revolver,” a new song featuring Lil Wayne.

The unlikely pair is sure to cause some controversy by asking: “My love’s a revolver, my sex is a trigger, do you wanna die happy?” There’s also a standard version of the album with only 18 songs.

iTunes has had the album for pre-sale since Sept. 1, also including a packaged video collection that will be available on DVD titled Celebration: The Video Collection, featuring some of Madonna’s most prominent videos, some never before seen on DVD.

Madonna has delivered once again, all we can do now is celebrate.

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Latin comedy tour comes to FIU

SFC EVENTS, page 7

Emerging rappers will need to fight to stay relevant

CLARITY, page 7

SFC EVENTS, page 7

Across the nation, SFC is partnering with the brothers of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity for the event.

“We are happy to be colabo- rating with this organization for this special show,” said SFC President Cristina Rodriguez.

The last major SFC event for Hispanic Heritage Month will be “Salsa Magic.” This event gives student organizations the opportu- nity to have their members sign up as dancing partners.

Previous salsa experience is not required, as the partners will be taught how to salsa dance and will then participate in a competition. Organizations will be able to attend the event and cheer on their dancing representatives.

The grand prize is a pizza party for 50 members of the organization that wins. For those not involved in an organization, the event is still sure to provide fun entertainment and a good time for all.

This event will take place in the GC Ballrooms on Oct. 29.

Throughout the rest of the semester, SFC will also be hosting its traditional movie nights with movies such as The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3, The Motorcycle Diaries, Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince, Milk, Transformers, Bruno and The Hangover.

All of the movies are shown in GC 140 on Friday nights. Each movie has two show times, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Students who missed these hot movies in theaters have the opportu- nity to see them for free right on campus with their fellow students.

“I love the SFC movies because I get to see the movies I didn’t go see when they were out. It’s way easier than having to go rent them,” said junior and public relations major, Janette Garcia.

As always, all of the SFC events are completely free for students, a fact many students appreciate.

“My favorite part about the SFC events is that they are free and I don’t have to drive anywhere to get to them,” said sophomore and business major, Janette Garcia.

Also, keep an eye out for SPC’s spring events, including the famous UP-Rose concert at the end of the semester.

For a look at the official SPC calendar, visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~spc. For reviews of films screened by SPC, check out the weekly Beacon feature, “Is It Worth It?” rating the relative quality of the films shown every week by the council.

CLARITY, page 7

Feelings more, which he has done at times in his short underground career.

J.Cole: Cole got rejected by Jay-Z when he tried to give him his tape outside of a New York store in 2007 but, once one of Jay’s executives handed him the copy, he liked it enough to sign him.


The direction of his first album is a mystery, but he has shown a propensity for a clear delivery on his songs. Cole seems to be the least distinctive of this group, however.

In appearance and material, Cole will need to stick out more and show why he should emerge from the clog of promising rappers that poke into the game every year.
Sandman helps wandering sleepwalkers get back to bed

Sleepwalking is troublesome. Walking around in the middle of the night with your eyes closed, completely unaware of your surroundings, just doesn’t seem like a great idea.

Unfortunately, sleepwalkers don’t have much of a say in the matter. But just because they can’t help their wandering ways doesn’t mean we can’t do our part to get them back to bed safely. Sandman is a game that allows us to do just that.

As the sandman, you use sand throughout the levels to keep the sleepwalkers out of trouble. There are pits, nightmares and some pools of water to avoid. Nightmares are enemies that will eliminate any sleepwalker they come in contact with.

You can sprinkle sleepwalkers and nightmares with sand to get them to change direction, and you can use sand to build up walkways to help the sleepwalkers safely traverse the landscape.

There are other contraptions within the levels that will require sand in order to work.

For example, one of the earlier levels require you to use the sand to spin a wheel that will move a platform across a pit.

The challenge will be to coordinate your sleepwalkers so that they’re all on the platform while you’re moving it across.

If you’ve ever played a Lemmings game, this will all feel very familiar. You begin each level with seven sleepwalkers. You only need to get one to the finish but, with some good timing and a little creativity, you should be able to save them all.

If any happen to get stuck, you can press the finish button, which becomes available once one sleepwalker makes it to the end, to end the level. Once you heat a level, the game will automatically save your progress on that computer, allowing you to start back where you left off or even replay a level to save even more sleepwalkers and get a higher score.

Sandman is a fun, frantic puzzle game with a surprising amount of depth.

Besides the addictive puzzle-solving, the game looks really great. It’s a nighttime dream world that sort of looks like a cross between Disney’s Aladdin and any Dr. Seuss movie adaptation.

The sleepwalkers are absolutely adorable and the sound effects are actually pretty funny.

Overall, this game feels like something I would have paid a decent amount of money for. Luckily for us, it’s completely free to play. You can find Sandman at www.nitrome.com.

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SPC works to bring events to campus free of charge

SPC ORIGIN, page 7

up of about three to four SGA members who plan all the big events throughout the year. They also planned movie nights to accompany the main programs.

The events were mostly comedy shows and concerts. In 2000 it became its own council under SGA and it began to grow and eventually formed an application process for potential members, directors and executive board positions.

The organization believes that by getting more students involved in FIU programs, it can foster a greater sense of pride and school spirit among the student body. SPC also sponsors many events with other organizations on campus such as Panther Rage and Homecoming.

“I love how SPC is so open to helping other organizations on campus with their events,” said Homecoming council member and sports management major, Alfredo Roig. Members of the team help promote SPC events around campus. In return, they receive rewards such as free gear and giveaways. They also receive priority seating and meal vouchers for events.

“SPC is the newest hottest promotional team on campus,” said SPC President Cristina Rodriguez. Members looking to have a say in what events they want to see can still do so without actually being a part of SPC. The council accepts proposals from students and is always open to new ideas. To submit a proposal, students just need to enter it in writing to the SPC Office in Campus Life in GC 2240.

SPC offers advantages for members and students alike. Members have the opportunity to gain experience in leadership, event planning, networking, marketing and more. Students have the chance to found fun, free events being held right on campus.

No matter what your interests are, SPC hopes to have an event for you. Check out one of SPC’s upcoming events on its website, www.fiu.edu/spc.

*Getting to Know FIU* is a recurring set of stories about different departments and organizations relating to student life, focusing on what these entities are and how they affect on-campus arts and entertainment.

———

ALBUM REVIEW

Former Soundgarden front man fails in latest solo attempt

HECTOR MOJENA
Contributing Writer

Former Soundgarden front man, Chris Cornell, has proposed that his latest solo album, Scream, would be “an interesting sociological experiment.”

But, it is more of an experiment in economics – as in, how will his record label recover economically from the massive losses when literally the only person who likes or wants to buy this travesty is Chris Cornell?

I tried to give this album a chance. We can’t expect our irrelevant pop stars to be geniuses; this is the man who wrote “Rhinoceros” after all.

Even after I sifted through the wreckage of Chris Cornell’s solo career and the overwhelmingly negative early reviews of the record, I kept an open mind and open ears.

Then, my ears began to bleed. Scream opens with fanfare in the form of synthesized horns in “Part of Me,” that proudly declare how terrible the next 14 songs are going to be.

Interestingly enough, many of the song titles seem to actually be borrowed from other, better bands’ songs.

We have “Climbing up the Walls”, not to be confused with the much better Radioshed song, and a song called “Time” sans David Gilmour and Pink Floyd.

He, hell, he ends the album with a generic “girl” song – in this case, “Ordinary” – because, if anything, Chris Cornell wants you to take him seriously as an artist.

But how are we expected to mistake this clumsy, often uninspired mess for something innately original or experimental? The music itself is so grating to listen to that it almost seems like a joke.

Timbaland’s sonic imprint is all over this record – and not in a good way. My theory is that songs like “Watch Out” and “Scream” were originally supposed to be on the last Justin Timberlake record but were deemed too terrible for that, so they ended up here.

Almost every song has a tinny, club-ready beat and superficial synthesizers. Chris Cornell’s lyrics are even worse. They veer between the hilariously misogynistic (“Oh, that bitch ain’t a part of me”), the completely obvious (“There’s no need to stay in bed, I’m standing right in front of your face”), to the inexplicable (“Watch out, she’s going 90 in a residential zone?”).

Toward the end of the record, we get a hint of the old, Soundgarden-era Chris, as the songs start to introduce more traditional rock instrumentation but even that has been obliterated by the terrible song-writing saturating this record.

This is the Chris Cornell solo album absolutely no one has been waiting for.

The only positive thing I can say about this record is that it didn’t break my car stereo. In a way, by abandoning the style of his earlier, better work, Cornell is asking us to forget who he once was and accept the new Chris for what he is.

I say, the old Chris Cornell would have totally kicked the new Chris Cornell’s ass.

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serves against Troy but struggled with receiving it.

"It's awesome to get

When you beat a team 3-0,"

But at this point, I don't see myself ending their season. Yet again, I don't plan my appearances. No one does.

Panthers keep unwelcome guest away

**SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS**

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**DEEP ROSTER**

Coach Daniela Tomic said best after the New Orleans loss: "They were able to stop Yarimar and we cannot win big matches without her... I don't want to lose her," Caya Fielder, Arkansas State. 3.32

Anita Bucur, UALR. 4.50

Stacy Oladinni, Midd Tenn. 4.96

Heather Bowman, Arkansas St. 6.00

*All records and statistics up to date as of Sept. 28*

**SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS**

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**SOCCER, page 12**

**STREAK now up to 5**

"The last five games for the Golden Panthers have been all near-scan, all live games. They played all five games on the road and did not drop one set during that stretch. The last two weeks is something they needed to do to keep me away from their 2009 campaign. And based on the team’s play of late, it has a much deeper roster than last season’s lineup that depended heavily on Yarimar Rosa.

Once Rosa became injured, the Golden Panther faithful was left wondering how she would play when she responded. Even though she hurt her non-hitting hand, Rosa is a big-time blocker and needs both hands to play at full speed. She made her return vs. Troy and South Alabama and did not look like she had missed time. Rosa notched 32 kills in both games after being out the last two weeks.

Vergun in the lineup puts less pressure on Rosa and Rangel to distribute most of the kills. One of them can now afford to have a night off.

As they head back home with a 12-2 record to face the two toughest teams in the conference, the volleyball squad could not be playing at a higher level.

The last five games for the Golden Panthers have been all near-scan, all live games. They played all five games on the road and did not drop one set during that stretch. The last two weeks is something they needed to do to keep me away from their 2009 campaign. And based on the team’s play of late, it has a much deeper roster than last season’s lineup that depended heavily on Yarimar Rosa.

This team can succeed without Rosa and dominate with her.

It's the mentality that we are developing," Tomic said. "We are asking our potential, the best that you can.

"It was a great win, she was a great player," Tomic said. "When you beat a team 3-0, you can beat the team in three, this streak goes."

"It's awesome to get a sweep out of the week. A good win over the Jaguars. The team was able to solidify the defense. Araujo had nine digs to help the Panther offense once again.

"You make a statement when you beat a team 3-0," Tomic said. "You have to play every game up to your potential, the best that you can.

The Golden Panthers struggled with receiving serves against Troy but made adjustments against the Jaguars, allowing just one receiving error on the match.

"Our team showed on Sunday how much better we can play," Tomic said. "We have offensive weapons, but if we can’t receive, our offensive struggles. We talked to our team on Saturday about that aspect of the game and they reacted well to the talk.

With this win, the Golden Panthers improved their conference record to 2-0 while their win streak solidifies the defense.

"It's the mentality that "We are asking our potential, the best that you can."

**HEALING UP**

Yarimar Rosa notched a season-high 17 kills vs. Troy in her return. She has played in three games this season.

**WINNING streak now up to 5**

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PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK

The junior setter helped her teammates by setting them up with 21 assists. She had no hitting errors for a .500 hitting percentage and added eight digs and three kills in the Golden Panthers 3-0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-17) win over South Alabama.

NATALIA VALENTIN
TORONTO SMITH
PAULA HURTADO

The junior entered the final round of the Bettie Lou Evans Invitational tied for fourth place and carded a 2-under 69 to tie for top honors with No. 52 nationally ranked Macarena Sukva of Florida State. It was her second win of her collegiate career.

The junior inside linebacker led the Golden Panthers in tackles and was the lone bright spot on a defense that gave up 566 yards against the Toledo Rockets.

VICTORIA LYNCH
PAULA HURTADO
NADIA VALENTIN
YARWAH ROSA
KAITLYN SAVAGE

The junior setter helped her teammates by setting them up with 21 assists. She had no hitting errors for a .500 hitting percentage and added eight digs and three kills in the Golden Panthers 3-0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-17) win over South Alabama.

In her first two games back from a hand injury, the junior All-American led the team in kills, 32, during their wins over Troy and South Alabama.

The freshman goalie kept Western Kentucky out of the back of the net as the Golden Panthers won its first conference game after defeating Western Kentucky on Sept. 27. She recorded seven saves in her first shutout.

The freshman goalie kept Western Kentucky out of the back of the net as the Golden Panthers won its first conference game after defeating Western Kentucky on Sept. 27. She recorded seven saves in her first shutout.

The junior inside linebacker led the Golden Panthers defense again this week. He caught nine passes for 126 yards and a touchdown. He’s scored at least once in every game this season.

TOUCHDOWN MACHINE:

WANTING TO GET MORE OUT OF LIFE IS STRONG.
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LIFE IS ARMY STRONG.

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Thank you for reading
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
CONTINUED DOMINANCE

Strong run keeps upset demons dormant

I'm every great team's worst nightmare and every underdog's dream. I greet No. 1 teams by handing them losses to inferior opponents. I met the 2008 Golden Panthers volleyball team after the 3-0 loss to New Orleans in just the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament. I'm the reason their motto this year is "finish strong." I'm the upset that bumped into the Golden Panthers last season. I had a rendezvous with the team in 2008, but unfortunately I most likely won't be seeing the squad this season.

Watching the team's domination displayed

Golden Panthers sweep weekend foes

Yarimar Rosa made her return from a dislocated pinky injury as the Golden Panthers (12-2, 2-0) went on to collect clean sweeps against Troy (5-8) and South Alabama (9-6) on Sept. 25 and 27, respectively.

FIU 3, TROY 0 (25-20, 25-21, 25-22)
The Golden Panthers began conference play on the road and welcomed back Yarimar Rosa in a sweep over conference rival Troy.

Coach Danijela Tomic noted some of the difficulties inserting Rosa back in the lineup after missing nearly every non-conference game.

"It was good to have Yari back, but we needed to get in sync now playing in a new lineup," Tomic said. "Every time we change something it changes the dynamics of the team."

The Golden Panthers struggled on receiving serves throughout the match, committing 10 receiving errors. But it wasn't enough to stop FIU from earning their first conference win of the season.

Despite the win, Tomic felt that the team came in with the wrong mindset.

"It was good to beat the team 3-0, but I was not satisfied with the way that we played," Tomic said. "It was sloppy… it comes down to mental preparation."

In her return, Rosa compiled 17 kills which was a team-high for the match and the Trojans did not have an answer to her offensive attack.

Andrea Lakovic and Jovana Bjelica also had double digit kills, Lakovic with 11 and Bjelica with 10.

The victory extended the Golden Panthers' win streak to four games.

FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-17)
South Alabama was unable to slow the Golden Panthers down as the team closed out conference play with three straight victories.

MTSU 2, FIU 0
In front of a crowd of 439, the Golden Panthers lost their first Sun Belt Conference game of the season on Sept. 25 in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

With Mayara Bordin and Madeleine Hjorth out due to injury, the Golden Panthers were unable to stop a red hot Middle Tennessee team that won its fourth consecutive game. The 2-0 loss began with a corner kick goal by Middle Tennessee's Jaimee Cooper roughly 32 minutes into the game. Shan Jones scored on a penalty kick to net the Blue Raiders' second goal of the game at the 35-minute mark.

While sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Raimo started in between the posts, freshman Kaitlyn Savage took over at the half and recorded three saves to keep the damage to a minimum for FIU.

"A corner and a penalty kick did us in. I felt that we were playing pretty well and created opportunities," said Golden Panthers coach.