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Florida International University

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Lot Six new tailgating spot

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

Housing students gathered at a town hall forum to address issues regarding parking on campus, including a change in the tailgating location, parking lot security and the amount of available parking spaces.

The forum, held on Nov. 4, was second in a three-part series of town hall forums sponsored by the Office of Housing and Residential Life.

Parking and Transportation executive director, Bill Foster, was on hand to answer student questions.

“I like doing the forums with students,” Foster said. “Sometimes it gives them a different perspective on it. Sometimes they agree and sometimes they don’t.”

Foster announced that on the upcoming home game on Nov. 14, tailgating will be held in Lot Six instead of in Tamiami Park. Lot Six was originally designated as a tailgating area before Lakeside Housing was built. The lot, across from Everglades Hall, will play a bigger role in the University’s tailgating activities, according to Foster.

The University is concerned that Tamiami Park may not always be available to tailgaters and wants to set Lot Six as the tailgating area.

Foster said that the three remaining football games will be a learning experience for the department and that this instance will inform students of the change, which would go into full effect next year.

“The University wanted to go back to creating that atmosphere, especially when we may not always be able to use Tamiami Park for tail-}

Program recruits new peer advisors

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Asst. Opinion Editor

The Peer Advising Program is currently accepting applications for its 2010 season. The program is looking for young, enthusiastic FIU students to inspire incoming freshmen and transfer students, according to assistant director of the Office of Orientation & Community Student Services, Korrin Stanek.

Peer advisors are students selected from an applicant body and, according to the Peer Advisor Interest Packet, “are trained to assist with all new student orientation programs throughout the year as well as other programs for new students and their families.”

During the summer orientation season, peer advisors must live for free on campus. Along with free housing is a stipend of $1,250 with a potential extra $250 depending on how many orientation sessions a peer advisor works.

The process of becoming a peer advisor begins with applying online as freshmen before 5 p.m. on the Nov. 16 deadline.

Within three to four days, the applicant will be contacted regarding whether they passed the initial screening and met all the qualifications (like having a 2.3 GPA when applying for a full-time student).

If they pass, the applicant will be invited to a workshop where potential peer advisors will be exposed to practice questions and information sessions they will be involved with in the future.

After the workshop, finalists are selected and invited back for a one-on-one interview.

For more information on the Peer Advising Program, call 305-348-1580.

PEER ADVISING, page 4

TALKS TIMES, page 4

Talk discusses ethics in medical community

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Staff Writer

Concerns over a recent, growing trend of medical ghostwriting provided plenty of debate and discussion between students and faculty members at the latest Tuesday Times Talks.

Tuesday Times Talks, the weekly series that is part of the SGA and Global Learning Initiative’s revamped The New York Times Readership Program, took place for the second time since its inception. The latest talk was moderated by social work professor David Cohen, who also chose The New York Times article for the talk.

“I picked this article because to me it’s very fascinating. It touches on science, ethics and patient care; all of the issues that we can associate with medical research,” Cohen said.

Medical ghostwriting happens when pharmaceutical companies pay professional writers to produce papers, meanwhile paying doctors and scientists to attach their names to these papers. Those papers are then published in a medical or scientific journal. However, these doctors and scientists have little to no involvement in the pharmaceutical company’s actual research.

The problem that medical journals now fear is that doctors who read these published ghostwritten articles will be influenced into prescribing medicine to their patients based on biased opinions or false information.

“There have still been some remains of the idea that you could go see your doctor and the information you would get from him/her, of which you would make your opinion yourself, was his/her opinion. Whereas now, you’re not really sure, because they’re reading that literature and they’re getting their views from this opinion that someone else wants them
Homecoming court back in action

Melissa Caceres Staff Writer

In contrast to last year’s Homecoming week, the Homecoming court will reign once again as the council in charge of the pageant makes adjustments to the rules and regulations for this year’s candidates. Each candidate is now allowed to campaign by word of mouth and have one poster on campus, according to Court Affairs Chair Alina Quintana.

She also added that the Box Tops for Education Drive will no longer be an event that every candidate must participate in. Instead, they are to take part in a collaborative community service project with other students from each of their respective organizations.

“This year’s kind of like our guinea pig since we’re not putting as many restrictions,” said Quintana, a junior psychology major. “We’re going to try and see what’s going on and what ends up happening.”

Last year, the court was canceled by the Homecoming Council due to accusations of cheating among the candidates. Claims of excessive internet campaigning and mishandling of the Box Tops drive were brought up against a number of students. Regulations at the time stated that students on the court were prohibited from advertising themselves in the Internet through social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace or even e-mail.

“It seems to be going a lot more smoothly,” said Dawn Ogali, recruitment chair. “We’re looking forward to those traditions,” said Dawn Ogali, recruitment chair. “We’re looking forward to those traditions.”

Sheska Ocascio, assistant director of Student Media, said she’s looking forward to the pageant.

“Every year, we look forward to those traditions because of the diverse groups,” said Ocascio.

This year, the council is changing the activities taking place. Homecoming will begin Nov. 9 with Panther Prowl, five at the Homecoming parade and seven at Ultra.

Gabe Villanueva, director of production for Homecoming, said he hopes that the same amount of officers are available during this year’s events.

Public Safety officer Douglas Ochipa explained that after analyzing the events schedule, they estimate how many officers are needed in each event.

“We usually give them the same amount of officers every year since there hasn’t been any issues or problems with past events,” Ochipa said.

On Oct. 15, members of the Homecoming Council started to distribute and post fliers all over the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Engineering Center for both Panther Prowl and Ultra.

According to the Homecoming Website, Panther Prowl is one of the biggest events and traditions at the University. The event will take place on Nov. 9 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena and will feature guests and comedians such as Josh Tosh, Kevin Hart and Andrew Kennedy.

Lip Sync around the world, an event that showcases students’ dancing and singing abilities, will take place on Nov. 10 at 8 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Christina Perez, a junior majoring in public relations, is going to be performing for the first time on the lip sync contest.

“I’m just looking forward to going out on stage and showing my school spirit as well as just having fun with my sister,” said Perez, a member of Phi Sigma Sigma.

FIU Ultra, a dance party event that will be held between the Blue and Gold Garages on Nov. 13, will present DJs Irie, Kaeno, Danny Daze and Jorge Felix. The event will be held from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

“(FIU Ultra) was once a block party but now it is a DJ event that plays rock, hip-hop and dance,” said Alex Para-yuelos, FIU Ultra chair.

“Because I’m really interested about Homecoming because our goal was to recruit diverse groups other than Greeks. This year’s going to be a lot new school spirit because of the diverse groups,” said Dawn Ogas, recruitment chair.

“The purpose of Homecoming is to reaffirm FIU’s traditions so that future generations of students and alumni can look forward to those traditions,” said Sheska Ocasio, assistant director of Student Media.

“A student organization is responsible for making sure that the Homecoming event is a success,” said Alex Para-yuelos, FIU Ultra chair.

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“A student organization is responsible for making sure that the Homecoming event is a success,” said Alex Para-yuelos, FIU Ultra chair.
Students object to fliers on their cars

FORUM, page 1

Students object to fliers on their cars

Foster added that though he understood that this change may be inconvenient to housing students, who would have to move their cars before the game, the decision came from various parties, such as the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Affairs.

Students also brought up concerns regarding security on campus parking lots and promotional fliers on cars.

Graduate student Katiey Genrich, who recently had her housing decal stolen, asked Foster if the department will be taking any steps to prevent the theft of housing decals.

Housing decals do not have numbers assigned to them like regular decals do. Foster said they are looking into having registered, numbered housing decals as early as next year.

Students were also concerned with solicitors leaving fliers and pamphlets on their cars, which stick to the cars when exposed to the rain and sun. The 2009-2010 Student Handbook states that the placement of fliers or pamphlets in cars is prohibited.

Foster added that this shuttle program, which has transported about 6,000 students in September, was implemented to make parking in farther lots and garages convenient.

Joseph Haefel, assistant director for Residential Life, said that though attendance to the forum was lower than the first one, held on Oct. 4, he “appreciated” that students still came out to ask questions.

The next forum will be held on Dec. 2 in Everglades Hall and will field general housing related questions.

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Students voice distrust of pharmaceutical industry

**TIMES TALKS, page 1**

to have,” Cohen argued.

During the discussion, many students expressed their distrust of the pharmaceutical industry, fearing that many of these companies are looking out for their profits instead of the people who they make medicine for.

“At the end of the day, these companies are out to make money and they will try to market their products any way they can,” said Mike Suarez, a senior majoring in psychology.

Lack of accountability by these medical journals was also one of the concerns held at the discussion, specifically, what these journals stand to gain from having these articles published.

“In the general scheme of things, journals benefit because when they publish a high stakes article, if they are reporting on a drug made by Pfizer or Merck or so, they know that the company may buy thousands or even millions worth of reprints of that paper to distribute to physicians around the country and say “look at the results of our drug, [in one of] the top medical journals in the world.”” Cohen stated.


Attendance declined in comparison to the first Tuesday Times Talks. Around 50-60 students and faculty members were in attendance for the first event, while only around 20-25 attended the second event.

Among the faculty members in attendance at this past Tuesday Times Talks was Stephanie Doscher, the associate director of FIU’s Office of Global Learning Initiatives, who was pleased to announce that *The New York Times* will be providing the University with a special guest speaker.

“At the end of international education week, there is going to be a guest speaker,” Doscher said. “Giacomo, a former diplomatic correspondent for Reuters in Washington, covered foreign policy for the international wire service for more than two decades before joining *The New York Times* editorial board in August 2007.

The event will be held at FIU’s Wertheim Performing Arts Center at 4 p.m. in Room 170 on Nov. 20. After the talk, there will be a smaller discussion for journalism and international relations students. It will be held in one of the WPAC classrooms from 5-6 p.m. and will consist of a Q-and-A session with Giacomo.

“IT’s going to be a fantastic talk. It’s going to be on Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and the foreign policy challenges that are currently facing President Obama,” Doscher said.

Campaigning rules change

**COURT, page 2**

than necessary and we’ve got such a small group of people trying to regulate a big event, it gets very difficult,” said Campus Life Director Eric Ameson. “You had some candidates who thought other candidates were breaking regulations, but we were not able to find it or see it. So this year, we had students regulate themselves and act appropriately and they have responded very well.”

In order to become eligible for the court, students were required to complete an application, have a minimum 2.74 GPA and be a full-time student. Once they are official candidates, they will participate in Homecoming events such as Lip Sync, the Box Tops for Education skits, peer advisor coordinator. “It helped me to develop personal and leadership skills. It’s the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Students voice distrust of pharmaceutical industry

**PEER ADVISING, page 1**

on-one interview. By Jan. 4, the near two-month application process culminates in the announcement of the 2010 peer advisors.

“IT helped me to develop personal and leadership skills. It’s the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Peer advisors are expected to attend five-hour training sessions once a week upon being hired.

At these training sessions, past advisors, professors and deans of the various schools at the University come to teach the prospective advisors about FIU.

The boot camp eventually ends with a training marathon, involving eight-hour days of stuffing orientation bags and practicing the various orientation skits.

Sophomore Renzo Barrantes is a peer advisor for this year.

“The training marathons are one big, hot mess... of fun,” he said, adding that it was a great bonding experience with his fellow advisors.

When the summer orientation season comes, peer advisors have received a full semester of training and are prepared for any of the parents’ concerns or students’ questions. A typical orientation work day begins at 6 a.m. and ends roughly at around 11 p.m. Orientations run daily during the summer session.

Peer advisors are allowed to take only one online course during the orientation session and encouraged to take time off their non-University jobs due to the strenuous workload.

One tip by senior Miguel Alvarado, a current peer advisor was “to think of peer advising as an internship. You don’t go to school or work while you have an internship, you’re there for the experience.”

Peer advisors also attend a number of events outside the University.

This year, they will travel to the University of Louisville for the annual Southern Regional Orientation Workshop, where peer advisors from across the country will meet.

In addition, a peer advisor retreat is organized so they can take a weekend off and relax among their friends. The last trip was to Fort Myers, Fla.

“I applied because I wanted to help the students who were quiet,” said Wen-Ju Chien, a peer advisor coordinator. “It helped me to develop personal and leadership skills. It’s the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Program allows students to hone leadership skills

**NEWS**

www.fi usm.com

Oct. 27 “Cell Phones: The Missing Link to Progress for Rural Africa?” Moderators: Todd Shively, Journalism; Boni Lauren, English; George Pearson, Library

Nov. 3 “Pharmaceutical Research: Medicine or Marketing?” Moderator: David Cohen, Social Work

Nov. 10 “The Arts: I Know What I Like and I Like What I Know” Moderator: David Olsina, Music

Nov. 17 “Women and Islam: Whose Marriage Is It Anyway?” Moderator: Mia Perez Paredes, Education

Nov. 24 “Online Learning: Will Schooling Ever Be the Same?” Moderator: Brian Peterson, History
Senators pass resolution to make algebra count for credit

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

After hearing several concerns from students about the Undergraduate Core Curriculum, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus wrote a resolution on Nov. 2 to change MAC 1105, College Algebra, from its status as an elective to the status of a UCC credit.

The resolution was written at the beginning of the Fall semester by Natalya Cohen, SGC-BBC senator-at-large, after overhearing a conversation when she was studying in the learning center.

“A student was expressing that this was his third time taking the class,” she said. “And I heard him say ‘it doesn’t even count as a UCC.’

According to Cohen, SGA is also working to get more advisors for both campuses to end the confusion.

Cohen brought the issue to the attention of the senate, and the motion was made by Leatrice Angelova, the motion was seconded by Zahra Arbabi, lower division senator.

The purpose of passing the resolution is to make MAC 1105 a core course instead of being an elective. It will save students money,” said Gachette. “It will still count toward their degree credit.

Gachette, SGC-BBC nursing and the motion was made by Leatrice Angelova, after the attention of the senate, and the class is counted as an elective.

According to Valerie Morgan, assistant dean of undergraduate education, the University is the only public institution in Florida that does not consider MAC 1105 part of the UCC.

“In 2003, the University decided to combine general education and core curriculum; however, this created some problems for students who transferred into the University from other institutions and did not have an associate’s degree,” she said.

When students enter the University, they must take a placement test that will place them in a math class based on their background. The class does fulfill college credit and students are given a grade, but the course is counted as an elective.

Students need a very strong college algebra background for some courses.

Valerie Morgan, assistant dean
Undergraduate Education

SGC-BBC, page 6

DANCE SERIES OFFERS STUDENTS FREE BALLROOM LESSONS

DAVIS AUGUSTE
Contributing Writer

Sophomore Isabel Angelova has been taking dance classes since her junior year in high school, but she had to stop because she couldn’t afford them.

This semester, she started taking dance classes for free at the University.

“The ‘Dancing with the Wolfe’ series is especially great simply because ballroom lessons are very expensive and that’s the reason I stopped dancing in high school,” said Angelova, an economics and international business major.

The Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus created the “Dancing with the Wolfe” series about eight years ago.

The series offers weekly dance classes for students.

The classes take place every Monday in the Wolfe University Center Room 155 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for ballroom dancing styles, like cha-cha, tango, and rumba, and every Tuesday in the Recreation Center’s aerobics room from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. for hip-hop lessons.

All the classes are free to students.

Georgia Bedeau, SPC’s secretary, calls them “cultural entertainment.”

“Dancing with the Wolfe” is a series of workshops to teach the different dance styles, and we wanted it to be affordable for the students, so we made it free,” said Bedeau, a hospitality management major.

Alia Silvera, a senior public relations major and SPC’s treasurer, said that although the classes are meant to teach specific types of dances, students can request dance instructors to teach them different styles.

“Every semester we either add or switch a dance style,” she said. “We want to make it free, so we take care of the cost.”

Bedeau said the SPC plans on adding more styles for future semesters.

“The hip-hop lessons are kept all the time because of its numbers in attendance, but we plan on adding belly dancing soon,” Bedeau said.

During Fall 2008, the University’s Department of Dance stopped receiving applications from dance majors due to budget cuts.

Colette Hanna, a senior public relations major and the SPC marketing chair, was pursuing a minor in dance.

She said she likes the classes because the school doesn’t have a dance program anymore.

“I do modern dancing mainly,” said Hanna. “‘The Wolfe series is great because I get exposed to styles that I do not normally do because the dance program is getting cut.’

Bedeau and Silvera also want students to be more aware of the opportunity they have to take free dance classes and encourage many to attend.

“We wanted to do more and give more options for student activities, all while making it free,” Bedeau said.

The dance series has let Angelova get back to her passion and work on her dream of dancing professionally.

She said she enjoys the classes a lot.

“The styles all have their own themes to it: Argentinean tango is more of passion, and the ordinary tango is a dance of spite,” she said.

“All the dances are taught by request, so the different styles of ballroom to learn are endless.”

For more information, contact SPC at 305-919-5280.

Homecoming 2009 at BBC

Visions of Atlantis – The Lost City

Events:
• Homecoming Pep Rally, Nov. 12 at 12 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Panther Square
• Visions of Atlantis Homecoming Dance, Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms.

Free admission for students with valid Panther ID, $10 guests.

Homecoming Court
• Princess:
  2. Junior Ana Perez. Major: Journalism
• Prince:
  1. Junior Nakeia Calvert. Major: History
• Queen:
  1. Junior Melissa Pierro. Major: Public Relations
  2. Senior Ameila Patricio Harjoon. Major: Biology
• King:
  1. Senior Blayne Stone. Major: Liberal Arts

Voting for the Court takes place Nov. 9 - Nov. 11 at the SPC stand that will be located in Panther Square.
Senate wants math class to count for UCC

According to Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president, the resolution must now be approved by the administration and follow the chain of command. The provost, Douglas Wartzok, would make the final decision. Afterward, the resolution would have to be passed to the state board to see if MAC 1105 would fulfill the UCC requirement, according to Neistein.

“Just because student government passes a resolution it does not mean the faculty will approve it,” Morgan said.

The resolution also points out that students have other UCC math courses to choose from, such as Finite Math, that do not serve as prerequisites to high level courses, like Calculus for Business, according to Morgan.

The ultimate decision is up to the faculty, Morgan said.

“I think it’s great that the students are taking interest in helping each other. If it does get approved, it will help students who decide to change majors after taking College Algebra,” she said.
FIU’s annual Homecoming festivities have arrived with this year’s theme: “The Tradition Continues.”

The events begin Nov. 9 and will lead up to the Homecoming game on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. against the University of North Texas. “We want students to have more understanding of FIU tradition. FIU is a huge school and we do have traditions. Homecoming itself is a tradition,” said Cristine Ale, a junior majoring in international business and assistant director of finance for the Homecoming Committee.

The festivities commence with Monday’s pep rally at the Betty Chapman Plaza from noon to 2 p.m. The football team will be there along with music and tons of giveaways for participating students.

At 8 p.m., the annual Panther Prowl comedy show will be happening at the U.S. Century Bank Arena featuring stand-up from Daniel Tosh, Kevin Hart and Andrew Kennedy. The show is free but tickets are required for admission. They can be picked up with a valid student ID in Campus Life.

This year’s Lip Sync contest will be held on Nov. 10. FIU organizations will be rallying their most talented members and putting together an FIU-spirited performance in hopes of winning the competition. This year, the competition is also open for students to compete individually. The show will be also be at the U.S. Century Bank Arena at 8 p.m. “We have a lot of teams this year that are not just Greek-oriented, which is a big difference from last year. Lip Sync has a more international feel so it incorporates the different kinds of students we have at FIU,” said Alina Quintana, a junior majoring in psychology and the Court Affairs chair for the Homecoming Council.

On Nov. 11, the University will be closed for Veteran’s Day but those running for Homecoming court will be attending a community service event at the Tropical Audubon Society. The court, along with five members of each competing

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

EVENTS, page 10
President Rosenberg grand marshaling revamped parade

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

This year’s Homecoming Parade will focus on bringing back school pride and reflecting on the University’s accomplishments over the years.

To date, the Homecoming Parade has not been a huge success. Many students had been unaware of the event.

“I didn’t even know we had a Homecoming Parade. I think students don’t have school spirit here and we don’t get too involved in school activities,” said Fatima Campos, a junior broadcast journalism major.

So, why did the Homecoming Council decide to bring back the parade?

“For the past, the parade hasn’t been such a strong tradition within our Homecoming Week. This year, I wanted to really improve it and I’m trying to get things to motivate students to come,” said Daniela Gonzalez, sophomore criminal justice major.

This year’s grand marshal will be the University’s new president, Mark Rosenberg. FIU alumni and State House Repre- sentative Autumn Flores will also be participating and will be riding alongside student government President Anthony Rionda in a spirit car provided by the Homecoming’s sponsor, Esserman International.

Gonzalez said they chose Rosenberg as the grand marshal because he represents the good things to come for the University.

With our new president, it’s like a boost for everyone. We see a new era, a new beginning. We have a new medical school and a new student; we have so many accomplishments that don’t think anyone has really taken note of. Nobody’s really taken into consideration how much we’ve grown,” Gonzalez said.

The parade starts its route in Lot Five traveling toward the Frost Art Museum and ends at the stadium. It’s shorter than in previous years.

“I made the route shorter than previous years just because that way people have one general area to go to and they aren’t spread throughout campus. There will be less confusion on where to go. I’ve made sure for blankets to be placed near the judges in front of the Frost so they can be comfortable. I haven’t put bleachers, so try to accommodate to that as much as possible,” Gonzalez said. “We want to encourage the student body to come out and celebrate FIU.”

There will be plenty of fun going on at the event like T-shirts and other FIU memorabilia.

She added that the Homecoming Parade is an exciting way to unify the school and bring back the student and share the school spirit between the alumni and students so we can see how the FIU has come. It’s just a chance to see the ways FIU has grown from such a small university and enjoy it together,” Gonzalez said.

The parade plans on taking a retrospective look at FIU’s accomplishments.

“The way I see Homecoming Week is that it’s a way to unify the school and bring back the alumni and share the school spirit between the alumni and students so we can see how the FIU has come. It’s just a chance to see the ways FIU has grown from such a small university and enjoy it together,” Gonzalez said.

One notable addition to the parade is the new College of Medicine, which will be making a spirit car for the parade. The new addition is part of the Homecoming Council’s goal to make this year more about the University as a whole instead of just those apart of the Greek system.

Angelique Gonzalez, a senior elementary education major and member of Alpha Xi Delta, says the Homecoming Parade is important to the student body for many reasons.

“It takes a lot of time and dedication to put a Homecoming Parade together. This encourages the student body to come together to create a masterpiece that will then be displayed during the parade,”

She added that the Homecoming Parade is an exciting way to see how proud students are to be Panthers.

Daniela Gonzalez added that she feels that Homecoming Parade is all about tradition.

“Even though they are so young, our traditions unify our student body. We’ve become such a great university in such a short time,” she said.

LIP SYNC CONTEST
Contest to combine lip syncing with University traditions

ADRIANESPINOZA
Contributing Writer

During Homecoming Week, students create teams among themselves and take part in different happenings around campus. One of those events is the Lip Sync contest which draws a crowd every year with its diverse set of spirited students and upbeat performances.

The Lip Sync contest will take place in the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Nov. 10.

“I like the performances, they’re always entertaining and I always enjoy seeing all of the hard work that goes into them,” said Alma Quintero, a senior majoring in psychology and the Coast Affairs chair for the Homecoming Council.

Before the contest, each team will create an original skit or play that centers on a specific theme.

The theme this year is focused on FIU traditions.

The teams usually consist of different clubs or organizations that come together to form one powerhouse spirit machine. So far, 10 teams are on deck to pump up the crowd at the contest.

The only rules of the contest are that the music played is appropriate for the entire audience—leaving out any suggestive lyrics and material—and that each cannot exceed the time limit of seven minutes. Caro Soria, a sophomore majoring in political science is the head of the Lip Sync event and was a team member last year for a club.

“I had an amazing time, and I thought it was a fun way to show FIU spirit,” she said.

Aside from spreading school spirit and pride and getting the crowd involved, this year’s skills will incorporate FIU traditions into the performances.

“The winner is usually the loudest, funniest and most spirited of them all,” Soria said.

Although there are not any prices awarded to the winner, the objective is to be the most spirited team during Homecoming.

“Everyone is together, and packed into the arena, it’s an exciting experience,” said Kim Harvey, a sophomore majoring in biology.

Homecoming teams don’t just participate in Lip Sync, they rock up in other contests throughout the week and the winner in general is the one with the most points.

Even so, Lip Sync is a notable event because it manages to involve students in a sing and dance extravaganza and it gets the crowd on their feet and feeling proud of their school in preparation for the long-awaited football game on Saturday.

The contest has been in place for many years now and is a staple among the Homecoming events. This year promises to be especially exciting because there will be a talent contest incorporated into the main event.

Not only will teams showcase their spin on Panther pride, they will also be able to show off individual skills.

Among the various Homecoming activities, Lip Sync is one that will combine high-energy performances, highly-entertained tradition and plenty of FIU spirit to get around, according to Soria and other organizers of the event.

Homecoming Lip Sync Contest
Time: Nov. 10 at 8 p.m.
Where: U.S. Century Bank Arena
Price: Free
Theme: “Around the world”
Festivities to feature ‘Fun Run’ for charity as well as parade

**EVENTS, page 7**

**HOMECOMING PEP RALLY**
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Dugout-Plaza

**PEP RALLY**
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**FRENCH CLUB Literature Conference**
WHERE: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**INVISIBLE CHILDREN**
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**LIP SYNC AROUND THE WORLD**
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**DANCE MARATHON 100 DAY CELEBRATION**
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**HOMECOMING WEEKEND**
WHERE: Various locations
WHEN: Various times
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU

**AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION**
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**CHosen Generation**
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**TRUTH FOR LIFE**
WHERE: Chapman Ave.
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 1235

**Dance Marathon**
WHERE: GC Computer Lab
WHEN: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**
WHERE: FIU’s annual Homecoming week has arrived and one of the week’s first major events is the Panther Prowl comedy show. Panther Prowl is an annual Homecoming event. It is a free comedy show open to all students. This year’s Panther Prowl will take place on Nov. 9 in the U.S. Century Bank Arena at 8 p.m. The show will feature comedians Daniel Tosh, Kevin Hart and Andrew Kennedy. Daniel Tosh is the star of his own show on Comedy Central entitled “Tosh.0,” which airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. The show deals with all things Internet-related and often features clips from YouTube and commentary from Tosh himself.

“Daniel Tosh knows how to combine the right amount of sarcasm and truth to make his comedy not only original but addictingly hilarious,” said sophomore nursing major Patrick Luesgan.

According to the Homecoming Web site, Tosh made his debut on “The Late Show with David Letterman” and his TV credits include “The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn,” “Jimmy Kimmel Live” and “Last Call with Carson Daly.”

Kevin Hart was a shoe-in for the week’s events.

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“The council has been working very hard on this year’s Panther Prowl, and we know it will be an amazing event,” said Homecoming Council member Andrea Pesisier.

The show will feature a portion where council members will hand-out free Homecoming giveaways to the crowd. The council will also show a video at the event introducing the students involved in the Homecoming Council and a preview of the week’s events.

Panther Prowl is just the first of the Homecoming events to occur during the week of Nov. 9-14. All Homecoming events are free to students and will feature on campus throughout the week.
**Provision paves way for equality**

ODETTE BARrientos
Staff Writer

Matthew Shepard, a college student from Wyoming, was kidnapped and tortured to death simply because he was gay in October of 1998.

That same year in Texas, a black man named James Byrd Jr. was chained to a pickup truck by three white men and dragged to his death because of the color of his skin.

One can only hope that these brutal, merciless killings have not been the beginning of something.

On Oct. 28, 2009, 11 years after these heinous crimes, President Barack Obama signed into law a $680 billion defense spending bill which includes a new provision of hate crime protection for homosexuals, which were not previously protected under the law before.

This provision is known as The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which was hailed by supporters as the “first major federal gay rights legislation.”

Indeed, it is a historic move for human rights, particularly gays and lesbians in America. Similar hate crime provisions have passed the House and the Senate in previous years but have never had a vote in the Senate.

Although it isn’t the complete legalization and acceptance of gay unions, it’s a minuscule step in the right direction. The most unfortunate part is that it has taken America this long to get to the point where this could be written into law.

I don’t completely believe in the justice system, but the fact that the law is now granting protection to a heavily discriminated group of people makes me hopeful.

More than 77,000 hate crime incidents were reported by the FBI between 1998 and 2007. A reported 12,000 of those crimes were based on sexual orientation.


If being radical means giving every American the right to some kind of legislative protection no matter what their sexual preference, then there is no problem being radical. Justice, or rather equality, has always been a struggle throughout history. It seems like every era has a new group trying to gain equal rights, even native American citizens. Why does it take us so long to embrace a different color of skin or a different sexual preference? With an African-American in the White House, one would think we’d made progress. However, even that took longer than it should have.

Nevertheless, hate crimes will not stop because of one signed piece of paper. But, the fact stands that homosexuals have been blatantly disregarded when it comes to being protected by the federal government.

“There is no hate in our Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters whose lives were cut short because of hate,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese in a statement released on Oct. 28.

It will be a long time before gay men and women obtain the equal rights they’re entitled to have, but a hurdle was cleared with this provision.

Before any other equality laws are debated, it’s the hate and prejudice among the people that needs to disappear. Justice is for everyone, not just homosexuals.

**Bonuses aim to ease harm done by executives**

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

Excess is quickly becoming an issue in American public discourse: the excess of government spending, the excess of American consumerism and the excess of Wall Street all enter into our political discussions at one point or another.

Between the three though, the overindulgence of corporate executives elicits perhaps the most ire – as far as most people are concerned – such greed got us into this mess, and has gone largely unpenalized, even continuing to this very day despite the lingering economic malaise.

While several banks and companies seemed nearly enough to require billions in taxpayer aid to survive, some apparently seemed well off enough to provide their higher-ups with billions in bonuses: Goldman Sachs, for example, awarded $20 billion to its executive staff, a near-record, despite having also acquired billions in federal aid.

Even firms that are still taking a loss for shareholders, such as Citigroup and Bank of America, continue to pay hefty executive bonuses.

To add more to this injustice, many of those responsible for driving their companies to the ground – and helping bring the economy down with them – had received “golden-parachutes,” large pay packages, when they resigned or were fired.

Such extravagant bonuses were bad enough without apparently wearing failure and incompetence.

The federal government has received the most taxpayer aid. Altogether, these plans will apply to 28 of the country’s largest institutions.

The intention of all this is too much to curb high pay altogether, but to crackdown on a perverse system that awards executives massive amounts of money in return for garnering high profits.

In retrospect, this makes sense: the point of these bonuses is to attract talented people and incent them to bring in the money.

The problem was that these deals were too generous and short-sighted: execs got large rewards for short-term profits achieved by shady means.

largely taken notice of this issue and has taken several steps to address – or at least attempt to.

The Federal Reserve, which has taken up a lot of responsibility for several major corporations and banks, has announced plans to regulate executive pay and compensation. Around the same time, the Obama administration announced plans to curb executive pay for the seven companies that received the most taxpayer aid. Altogether, these plans will apply to 28 of the country’s largest institutions.

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Global warming affects less people

CHARLES VILARD
Contributing Writer

A new Pew Research survey reports that fewer voters feel global warming is a major issue, if an issue at all.

Thirty-five percent of poll-takers said that global warming was a serious problem, a significant decrease from polls in early 2008.

This coincides with an increase in naysayers of global warming, with a 26 percent drop in respon- dents who believe there is solid evidence of the environmental phenomenon – from 71 percent down to 57 percent.

Despite my urge to be politically correct, I cannot find a reason to agree. In fact, I think Americans are correct not to be worried.

The "threat" of global warming has never been so pronounced, and despite Al Gore's fabulous docu- mentary, we won't be reliving Waterworld any time soon.

The same way there was a consensus in the scientific community backing Gore's theories, science has gone further to disprove it.

According to the climate research unit at the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom, Earth's average temperature has only increased by fractions – only 0.17 degrees Celsius per decade since 1998.

While these polls do show drastic changes in interest, it only reflects a trend that has been occurring since before the issue was brought up in theaters in 2008. Gallup polls have shown a decreasing interest starting in 2000, where 72 percent believed the issue warranted concern, and continuing through 2004, where only 51 percent believed so.

After the release of Gore's docu- mentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, the public's interest remained minimal, with only 36 percent of poll-takers worrying a great deal about global warming.

So why the lack of interest? Do Americans not understand the concept of the rising average of the Earth's near-surface air and water temperatures since the 20th century due to greenhouse gases?

I don't think so, especially after year of global warming and green energy. The polls show that they do understand the consequences, with over 97 percent reporting knowledge of it.

So while science may be correct about global warming affecting the Earth, I find that putting so much stock in conjecture and predictions is wrong, and that one doesn't have to be an expert in the field to understand our science.

To those who are greatly worried about a half degree increase in temperature over the course of 30 years, I say this: get a tan.

Global warming affects less people

No more bailouts means more intervention needed

EXECUTIVES, page 11

Extrapolate this practice across several institutions nationwide, and you get the financial crash as a dramatic indication of this failed system.

Not surprisingly, the idea of an already bigger federal government calling the shots for private companies is pretty unappealing to a lot of Americans, perhaps more so than corporate excess itself. But if the government has already intervened in so many of these corporations, it might as well put in place rules that will ensure they won't have to be bailed out again.

It's not about socialist punishment against private citizens either, as more paranoid opponents suggest. As a compromise to those fearing too much government power and those who feel some regulation should be exerted, the Fed is aiming to merely change up the process of executive compensation; for example, mandating that bonuses reward transparent practices and long-term profits benefits, or requiring details of these bonuses, which are often secretive, are open to the public and company shareholders.

Besides, government already has a hand in regulating numerous business activities. The public doesn't have to object to federal break- ups of monopolies or laws against unethical practices. Why should the flawed executive pay system, which is the cause of much of this economic breakdown, be exempted?

If all Americans are being expected to persevere and patiently endure the sacrifices required to survive this recession, the same applies to those in charge of these companies. They and their salaries do with a salary of "only" a few hundred thousand dollars is hardly an unreasonable sacrifice for the good of the country.
Second year club looks to make big impression

HOW TO JOIN

There are limited fees to join, including a $10 a month payment that goes toward the coach for his services, and a one-time registration fee. You must be a student at FIU to compete, however anyone can participate in the practices.

For any information about joining the team, or any questions about the team’s schedule, feel free to contact Co-President Alexis Garo at 954-248-6532, or go to www.FIUwrestling.com.

FOOTBALL, PAGE 16

“We knew we had to contain him because he’s the heart and soul of that offense,” said linebacker Scott Bryant. “We just didn’t play assignment football.”

The Golden Panthers, without starting quarterback Paul McCull who was unable to play due to an elbow injury, struggled to produce on offense both on the air and on the ground in the first half. Quarterback Wayne Younger completed 14 of 38 passes for 178 yards.

“We were inconsistent across the board on offense and that falls on everybody,” Cristobal said. “If offensively we don’t get the ball moving against a team like that, you’re going to dig yourself into a pretty big hole. We started digging it out of it but it certainly wasn’t enough.”

The Blue Raiders would pour it on for the rest of the half until the Golden Panthers scored on a two-yard run by Kendall Berry with 24 seconds left in the second quarter. The Golden Panthers went into the locker room trailing Middle Tennessee 38-17.

The Golden Panthers began turning things around in the fourth quarter and shut down the FIU offense to seal the victory. They return to action on Nov. 14 against North Texas for their homecoming game at FIU Stadium.

BOXSCORE

FIU
MTSU
First Downs 17 23
Rushes-Yards 44-146 56-385
Passing 191 154
Comp-Att-Int 14-38-3 14-29-3
Return Yards 194 129
Points Avg. 9-38 5-410
Penalties-Yards 9-65 4-55
Fumbles-Lost 2-1 2-0
Time of Possession 29:31 30:29
RUSHING — FIU: Honeycutt 3-32, Andrews 3-20, Beyah 2-21
PASSING — FIU: Younger 11-19-231, Thigpen 1-25
RECEIVING — FIU: Ellingson 2-31, Brown 1-23
MTSU: Dasher 18-200, Kyles 22-112, Cunningham 8-60

Hopes of bowl eligibility gone

“We decided to put that in this week just to try and change up things,” Berry said. “I think we did alright, we need to work on it a little bit more.”

The Golden Panthers offense was unable to capitalize on opportunities, however, and the Blue Raiders scored twice in the fourth quarter and shut down the FIU offense to seal the victory. They return to action on Nov. 14 against North Texas for their homecoming game at FIU Stadium.

GOOD START

Panther Sports Talk L I V E !
Mon, Wed & Fri @ 10–11 p.m.
Tune in to 88.1 WRFQ.org
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES, WE HAVE OVER 100,000 MILES OF COASTLINE TO FIND THEM.

You’ve always known that you were born ready. You take the lead. You go full throttle. You seek out challenges and overcome obstacles. The U.S. Coast Guard is made up of leaders like you. We don’t ride wakes, we leave them. If you’re ready to get two years’ free tuition, medical benefits and a monthly salary of around $2,200, then you might be one of us. Jump in. Visit gocoastguard.com.

Text “Ready” to 36638 and download the mobile Coast Guard game.”
Wrestling Club has sights set on national tourney

Tom Dean
Contributing Writer

They recognize the road to the championship will be full of sweat-soaked practices. However, in just their second year of existence, Co-President Alex Garo and the rest of the FIU Wrestling Club hopes they can stay focused to reach their ultimate goal – the National Collegiate Wrestling Championship. The NCWA tournament which is held in Hampton, Va. and takes place on March 12-14, is the final tournament of the year, in which one team will be crowned NCWA champion.

While FIU’s team was formed a year ago, the team is already setting their sights on getting to the big dance and trying to make their mark in the collegiate wrestling world.

While winning is the club’s main priority, vice president and team captain Gio Barthole has another goal in mind. “We want to make our mark on the wrestling map to be a first and leave a legacy for our sons and brothers to enjoy. We are here, we are driven, and we are going to shine.”

During the regular season, the club will participate in several tournaments in which they will accumulate points to qualify for the NCWA championship. “Getting to the championship will depend on how the team does in the regular season,” Garo said. “Every tournament you do good in, the closer you get to the championship.”

The team, which consists of 15 members, is coached by Steve Babun, a two-time state wrestling champion.
Thomas era begins against defending champs

TIM REYNOLDS AP Wire

Isiah Thomas was midway through a question-and-answer session with some FIU alumni last month when someone stood up and put the Hall of Fame player on the spot.

“Now, how will you prepare for an opener against North Carolina?”

FIU’s new coach, to his credit, didn’t hesitate before giving the guy his answer.

“Well, Cinderella doesn’t have to come in March. She can come in November,” Thomas said.

Everybody laughed. Thomas laughed. The event continued.

The reality is, there are long shots, and then there’s whatever FIU will be Monday night when the Golden Panthers open the Thomas era in the 2K Sports Classic at No. 6 North Carolina, the defending national champion and a popular pick to win it all again this season.

Consider this stat: The Tar Heels are, might and likely will do what they did last year. Doesn’t do us any good to look ahead to what they’ll do later.

The odds are thickly stacked against FIU this season, despite the regime change, and Williams didn’t possibly a lot more of his accomplishments than he knows of mine, that’s for sure.

FIU lost 20 games last season for the third time in four seasons, and that’s when the school decided to make a serious splash by hiring Thomas.

“We’ve said to our guys all along, it’s about how we play together as a team and how to play together as a unit,” Thomas said. “If we can stay within our game, and if we can do the things we want defensively and offensively, I think we’ll be able to play with any team in the country this year, not just North Carolina.”

The odds are thickly stacked against FIU this season, despite the presence of a basketball icon on the sideline.

Only one of the Golden Panthers’ top four scorers is back from last season. Combine that with the regime change, and Williams didn’t mind revealing that he has “no idea” what FIU will try Monday night.

“I’m not trying to put their program down,” Williams said. “Isiah wasn’t the coach there. Last year doesn’t do us any good to look at the tape from any games that they had last year.”

Thomas isn’t all that concerned with North Carolina, either.

Let’s clarify that point: He’s absolutely concerned with what the Tar Heels can, might and likely will do to run his team out of Chapel Hill. But Thomas’ focus Monday night will be on watching his program take the first steps on what he knows will be a long road if it’s to reach college basketball’s top level.

“I’ve been a very teachable moment,” Thomas said. “In so many times in life, you run into that immovable object or you get knocked down. When you get knocked down, you’ve got to find a way to get back up.... The most important part is getting the kids ready to go in and face something they’ve never faced in their life. It’s what they all dream of, but when they walk in, it’ll be a different story.”

FOOTBALL: FIU 21, MTSU 48

Dasher dices FIU defense in blowout

JOEL DELGADO Staff Writer

The talk surrounding the Golden Panthers match against the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders was centered around one player that Sun Belt Conference opponents knew could cause serious damage.

That player is Middle Tennessee quarterback Dwight Dasher, and he did just what was expected, racking up over 300 yards of total offense on Nov. 7 at Floyd Stadium in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The game proved to be the perfect showcase of his dual-threat capabilities as the elusive quarterback threw for two touchdowns and ran for three more as the Blue Raiders (6-3, 4-1 Sun Belt) dealt the Golden Panthers (2-7, 1-4 Sun Belt) a 48-21 loss, simultaneously dashing any hopes of having a bowl-eligible season.

“He got off to a great start,” Coach Mario Cristobal said of Dasher’s performance. “He got himself pretty hot and we didn’t find a way to stop him until the end of the first half; he’s a tremendous playmaker.”

The Blue Raiders wasted no time getting points on the board as Dasher ripped through the Golden Panther defense with a 70-yard run to give the Blue Raiders a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter.

On the very next possession Dasher torched the defense again, this time through the air with a 27-yard touchdown pass to extend the lead to 14-0.

Golden Panthers one victory away from perfect SBC record

JONATHAN RAMOS Asst. Sports Director

FIU 26-2, 16-0 Sun Belt) set a goal before the 2009 season to go undefeated in conference play. Although they still have to take out FAU on Nov. 14 to accomplish that feat, the Golden Panthers assured that they clinched an Sun Belt Conference regular season title when they grinded out a 3-1 (25-24, 25-22, 25-25, 26-24) win at Middle Tennessee State on Nov. 7.

Yarimar Rosa led the team with 21 kills, and Olga Vergun was not far behind with 18 as FIU won their 19th consecutive match. Natalia Valentin had 52 assists on the night to pace the team. The victory only took four sets to complete, but FIU could not shake off a resilient MTSU team easily as each set was determined by a slim margin.

During the decisive fourth set, the Golden Panthers held off the Blue Raiders rally, and eventually took the set on a couple of MTSU service errors. The Golden Panthers avenged last season’s loss to MTSU with the win.

FIU now has just two matches left before the SBC tournament commences on Nov. 19.

FIU 3, WKU 1

The Golden Panthers surpassed their program record of 15 conference victories from last season with a 3-1 (20-25, 25-21, 25-23, 25-23) win against Western Kentucky on Nov. 6. Trailing 1-0 in a match for just the fourth time this season, FIU stormed back in the second set to take a 15-9 lead, and eventually raced up the match with a 25-22 second set victory.

From that point on, FIU took leads in each set, and with many times before this season, seemed poised as a unit as they held off a pesky WKU team playing in front of its home fans. Rosa continued to be a force as the senior recorded a double-double with 20 kills and 14 digs. Sophomore Andrea Lakovic had seven kills against a single error for a hitting percentage of .429 and recorded three solo blocks and three block assists.

Valentin picked up 35 assists to lead FIU in that category.