Ailing leader begins transition of power

North Korea’s ailing leader Kim Jong Il has laid the groundwork for a transition of power to his youngest son but it remains to be seen if the regime will retain its combative international stance.

Kill-a-watt’ competition aims to save $10,000

ZORAIDA PASTOR
Staff Writer

Beginning on Oct. 6, intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions will be challenging students at the University to "Kill-a-watt.”

According to Viktor El-Saieh, president of IDEAS, "Kill-a-watt" is an energy saving competition between all buildings on campus. The program is modeled after a similar competition held by the University of Central Florida, which has been running the program for four years now.

"I pledged to save the University $10,000 or 10 percent of their energy costs," El-Saieh said. “My plan is to reduce [students’] energy consumption for two months.” The University’s department of Housing and Residential Life is fully supporting the program as well. Prizes for participants include: Nooks, iPads, digital cameras and scholarships.

The scholarships are divided between Residential Assistants and students in the dorms. Residential Assistants will receive scholarships based on the amount of students they bring in relation to the amount they have in their building. Residential Assistants with the highest attendance rates will receive scholarships.

The student scholarships will be based on the amount of energy the entire building reduces and a two-page essay on what the student did to reduce energy, how he or she thinks the competition can be improved and suggestions for saving energy in the future.

According to El-Saieh, Residential Assistants from buildings who reduce energy consumption by 10 to 15 percent will be asked to nominate students who they have seen working to conserve energy.

“These incentives, people are really going to want to participate,” states Jenna Jennings, intern for the Office of University Sustainability.

Aside from incentives and saving energy, the kill-a-watt program aims to inform students with energy saving tips through a series of workshops.

“That’s what it’s all about, educating people,” said Jessica Okaty, vice president of Students for Environmental Action. "[People] have the power to make a change.”

The seminars will be held during the second week of October and will continue until the last week of November.

There will be several topics discussed, including reasons to save energy and different ways to do so.

"[Kill-a-watt] is worth a shot," said Okaty. "It is only a pilot program [lasting] only eight weeks, if the turn out is good we should be able to count on it continuing in future semesters.”

Senior al-Quida commander killed

A NATO air strike killed a senior al-Quida commander who coordinated attacks by Arab fighters, Abdullah Umar al-Qurashi, in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Wednesday.

Team to square off in road game

IGOR MELIO
Staff writer

Both teams have the same school colors, the same mascot and have yet to defeat a BCS opponent this season; although, these schools carry plenty of similarities, FIU and the University of Pittsburgh are completely different from each other on the gridiron.

The Golden Panthers of FIU will have its last chance to defeat a BCS school on Saturday before Sun Belt conference play begins. Pittsburgh will be FIU’s fourth consecutive BCS opponent this season, the most scheduled by any Sun Belt schools.

“We are aware of the fact that our team that plays four BCS out-of-conference opponents but our players and our staff will approach that as a challenge,” Cristobal said. According to Cristobal, no challenge will be bigger than this. He claims that Pittsburgh will be the toughest BCS opponent FIU has faced this season.

“That is about as physical of a football team we will see all year long,” Cristobal said. Although Cristobal has raved about the size of Pitt’s linemen and their physicality, running back Darriet Perry feels like they can take advantage of Pittsburgh’s size with their speed.

“We’re quicker and… I think we can outsmart them by carrying out the play fakes really well,” said Perry, who despite having 33 rushing yards has scored two touchdowns this season.

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“[Kill-a-watt] is worth a shot,” said Okaty. “It is only a pilot program [lasting] only eight weeks, if the turn out is good we should be able to count on it continuing in future semesters.”

The Senate is allowed to summon members of the executive cabinet and members of the legislative branch.

The writ was sent to the SGC-MMC Supreme Court and the constitutionality of the summons will be decided on Oct. 1, at 12:15 p.m. The comptroller may or may not be called to speak before the Senate dependent upon the court’s decision. Debate began as soon as Director of External Relations, Andrea Aldahari, came before the Senate to present her work. Some questions from Arts & Architecture Senator, Moses Alacio, about her attendance at a recent Board of Governors meeting caused a heated SUMMONS, page 2
Flu shot available for all students

University Health Services is providing students, faculty and staff the opportunity to get a flu shot without stepping off campus.

In accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, UHS is offering the shot for $16 for all students. A flu shot is considered the best protection against the flu according to the FIU HealthCare Network’s website.

The shots protect against the most common types of influenza, including the H1N1 strain that affected so many people last year. The HCN states that those most at risk include young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic illnesses.

“Due to flu seasons we’ve had in the past, it is especially important for people with chronic illnesses to get vaccinated,” said Loumtes Diaz-Bergoignan, Senior Nurse Manager at UHS. UHS suggests that anyone at high risk for the flu or in care of someone with a high risk should get vaccinated. Because the shot is open for everyone, it will be available at both Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

For more information about getting a flu shot at UHS at Biscayne Bay Campus, call 305-919-5620, extension 2. To get a shot at UHS at Modesto A. Maidique Campus, call 305-448-3831, extension 22. Faculty and staff will also be able to receive the shot through the College of Medici-

n Myths about the flu shot and the flu have spread over the years. The flu shot is the best protection against this deadly disease. By getting the flu shot, you can protect yourself and others around you from getting sick.

Audiello: hearings to ask cabinet members questions, ‘not attack them’

response from Audiello. After the commotion calmed down, the hearings were closed and the meeting moved along.

“These hearings were created for the Senate to ask questions about the summoned person and their current projects, not to attack them,” said Audiello. After the meeting, Audiello spoke to Student Media and expressed his thoughts on the summons hearing. “I feel like there are certain senators that are now worried about what everyone else is doing than what they themselves are doing for the University.” Audiello said.

Chief Information Officer, Julio Yanes, also appeared before the Senate and presented his current project to the senators.

Yanes, who was appointed during the summer of this year, is currently working on a survey to gauge the quality of customer service provided by different University departments who deal with students on a consistent basis.

Census snapshot of S. Florida: Poverty up, wealth down

A flood of Census data released Tuesday crystalized some of the trends under way as South Florida reckons with a wrenching economic downturn, a tepid recovery and a transformed real estate market, according to The Miami Herald.

Cheap houses are on the rise. Pricy ones are in retreat. Thousands of cheap urban condos built during the boom are now attracting renters and bargain hunters. The city of Miami, center of the nation’s condo building binge, saw its population surge 25 percent this year to about 433,000.

Bank heist investigation: FBI offers $50,000 reward

Bishop Eddie Long, known for his public crusades against homosexuality, faces serious allegations, according to CNN. Two young men who were members of Long’s New Birth Missionary Baptist Church filed lawsuits claiming he used his position as their spiritual counselor to coerce them into sexual relationships.

The men—Anthony Flagg, 21, and Maurice Robinson, 20—allege Long used to take them on over-night trips where they shared a bedroom and engaged in kissing, masturbation and “oral sexual contact.”

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

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**ROAD ASSESSMENT**

Panthers look to re-establish themselves vs. SBC best

**FANTASY CRUZ**

Week three of fantasy football is under way and things are heating up. Rivalries in the NFL are under hyped compared to college football and I don’t understand why.

NFL rivalries surprise many fans and fantasy owners alike when players who are usually mediocre and inconsistent explode with successful performances.

Why is it that when you go to Jets-Dolphins games in Miami, there are just as many New Yorkers there as there are fans?

As much as New Yorkers love and praise their city, it’s pretty ironic that most of them end up in South Florida.

In the past decade, the Jets and the Dolphins have been on the backburner of the AFC East behind Tom Brady and the Patriots.

Recently, the tables have turned while both Mark Sanchez and Chad Henne have “Brady-esque” performances, throwing for over 300 yards and three touchdowen each.

Antonio Cromartie was in the twilight zone on Monday night when he had to face the receiver that haunted him just a year ago by catching 18 passes in a single game against Jim Leonhard. Cromartie then played four pre-season tournaments on the court.

The road can be tough, especially against conference opponents. Coach Danjela Stutsman feels that the early season road schedule in which the team split its 12 games helped this team get battle tested.

“I think they’ll be ready. Again, we played four pre-season tournaments on the road,” Tomic said.

“It’s not gonna be much different.”

**ROAD ASSESSMENT**

Panthers look to re-establish themselves vs. SBC best

**RICO ALBARRACIN**

**Staff Writer**

The Golden Panthers will be going on the road this weekend for a two game set against Sun Belt Conference teams that are getting national recognition.

FIU (8-6, 2-0 SBC) will face Middle Tennessee State (12-4, 3-0 SBC) on Oct. 1 at 8 p.m., and they will look to gain some revenge from last year’s SBC championship game, where they fell to the Blue Raiders despite being the conference’s top seed.

The team then play at Western Kentucky on Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.

The Blue Raiders received 22 votes for the Women’s Volleyball Top 25 Poll, and it comes with good reason. Freshman Outside Hitter Una Tkutila believes it will be a challenge.

“I think it’s gonna be a tough weekend.” Tkutila said, “We have to play our best to win. We can’t be lazy.”

Isabella Kozan, the Blue Raiders’ legitimate attacking threat, leads the SBC in kills with 98. While leading the offense, Kozan has two players that can set her up for the kills.

Morgan Peterson and Angela Peyton are great setup players, with Peterson having 37 assists and Peyton having 313 assists of her own.

The defense is up to par as well, with Brynne Anderson holding down the meta-phorical fort with 212 digs.

Kozan is no slouch on defense, adding 127 digs of her own. Those are four players that can win games for the Blue Raiders and another reason they are considered a national powerhouse team.

Although they are considered a good team, Junior Middle Blocker Andrea Lakovic is not too worried about Middle Tennessee.

“They lost a lot of players, just like we lost a lot of players,” Lakovic said.

“They are beatable, just like every team is beatable.”

The Panthers will have to make a quick turnaround, as they will play the next day against Western Kentucky.

Head Coach Daniela Tomic knows the hectic nature of back to back games.

“We are beatable, just like every team is beatable.”

Lakovic was short but firm on where she believes the conference is going.

“I think they’ll be ready. Again, we played four pre-season tournaments on the road,” Tomic said.

“It’s not gonna be much different.”

**HOT PICKS**

Mark Sanchez (New York Jets) - I find it funny how a Mexican reporter wanted to interview Sanchez when he didn’t even speak Spanish.

Sanchez has thrown over 300 yards and three touchdowns in his last two games.

If the “Sanchise” is a free agent in your league, pick him up and start him if your quarterback is playing a tough defense.

Buffalo is probably the worst team in the league and he should pick them apart.

Dexter McCluster (Kansas City Chiefs) - One can use the argument that he’s a one-dimensional back.

One can also use the argument that Darren Sproles was one of the best fantasy back in 2009.

McCluster has the same potential as Sproles. He is mainly used in passing situations for screens or third-down conversions.

Robert Meachem (New Orleans Saints) - If MarquesColston is not getting his usual fantasy points so far, it’s pretty tough to Brees to get the ball to a number four or five receiver.

Last season, Meachem was a solid free agent to pick up when your go-to receiver had a bye week. Meachem only has four receptions with 38 yards this season. Se Acabo.

Jerome Harrison (Cleveland Browns) - Now that Lebron is gone, there’s no hope for Cleveland or Harrison. He is coming back from an injury, but do not get your hopes up too high.

Peyton Hillis is coming off an excellent game with 144 yards. This means split carries and if Harrison doesn’t perform, Hillis will win the starting job.

**COLUMNIST**

**BRANDON MARSHALL**

**Sports Director**

Jonathan Ramos

Jonathan.ramos@fi usm.com
WOMEN’S SOCCER

FIU shuts down North Texas

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The women’s soccer team is starting off with their best start in conference play in ten years, and are still looking for more. After beating both the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Arkansas State at home, they will now travel to both Troy and South Alabama this weekend in hopes of continuing the success they have gained thus far.

The Trojans (7-2-1) are currently riding a seven game unbeaten streak, and sit atop the conference along with FIU as being undefeated so far. The Trojans also hold the nation’s top 98 percent save percentage, allowing 1.0 goals per game so far.

Another obstacle the Golden Panthers must overcome besides playing on the road against two conference foes is the inclement weather here in Miami.

“We will hopefully be able to get some kind of training in” said Coach Chestnutt “you just have to be creative with what you do and make you of the time that you do have.”

The team has been a defense force so far, as they have two shutout victories in conference play.

They are also among the top five in the nation in save percentage, on top of getting ranked No. 9 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America South Region Rankings.

“I think we’ve been done a good job as a team up till now defending as a team, and we’ve been pretty stingy in that regard in terms of giving up goals,” Chestnutt said.

He also stated that there not going to be doing anything differently against Troy, and said “We stress team defense and that’s what we’re going to continue to do.”

FIU takes on Troy at 4 p.m. on Oct. 1, and South Alabama Oct. 3 at 2 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Ellingson steps into role

LEWIS THE HEISMAN HOPEFUL

Another point of concern for the Golden Panthers is their defensive unit. After allowing 19 points to Rutgers and 27 to Texas A&M, the Golden Panthers allowed a whopping 42 points to a struggling Maryland team. Three of Maryland’s six touchdowns came on plays over 65 yards, including a punt return.

Geoff Collins’ unit will have to focus on one of the most dynamic tailbacks in college football. Pitt’s Dion Lewis had one of the most productive seasons a freshman could ever have. Lewis, a Heisman hopeful, rushed for 1,799 yards and 17 touchdowns, only 126 yards shy of Adrian Peterson’s NCAA record for most rushing yards by a freshman in a season.

This season, Lewis isn’t even leading his team in rushing yards. Another sophomore, Ray Graham has exploded for 215 yards on 23 carries.

Although Lewis is still the starter, Cristobal will not let his defense overlook the talent of Lewis nor any other running back on Pittsburgh’s roster.

“We are very well aware of his talent and his capabilities. If you watch film of him this year, he is literally a shoe-string tackle away from having the types of games he is used to having,” Cristobal said.

CARROLL TO ELLINGSON CONNECTION

Wesley Carroll threw for a season-high 355 yards last week against Maryland and seemed to have a connection with wide out Greg Ellingson.

The senior receiver caught six passes for 93 yards last week, including a 43-yard touchdown catch.

Ellingson beat Maryland cornerback Cameron Chism off of the line of scrimmage on numerous occasions last week.

According to Cristobal, Ellingson’s role on the offense will continue to increase as the season progresses.

“The more of those guys you have, the less you can focus on one specific part of the field,” said Cristobal, who feels like the emergence of players like will help out T.Y. Hilton, the number one receiver on the team.

“We feel like we’re getting to the point where we can trust a lot of different guys to get the ball to and they can make something happen with it. The more we can do that, the more dangerous we become on offense and in turn, the more we can help our defense,” Cristobal said.

COLD WEATHER UP NORTH

Oct. 2 marks the first time FIU has faced off against Pitt in football, as well as the first time the Golden Panthers will deal with any kind of cold weather this season.

In fact, Pittsburgh will be the northernmost city the Golden Panthers will have to travel to in this entire season.

“The weather is going to be a little bit different up there in Pittsburgh. It shouldn’t be raining but it should be 45 to 50 degrees up which we welcome that,” said Cristobal.

“I’m sure for some of these South Florida kids, that’s a hand warmer game.”

Despite that, Cristobal assures the team will have no problem with that climate.

“If you try to think about the weather and make it an issue, then it will be an issue,” Cristobal said.

What do you need to succeed in today’s climate? You need to START STRONG∗ In Army ROTC, you’ll do just that. While attending college, you’ll gain strength, character, and unmatched leadership skills to lead the most well-trained individuals in any field. And when you graduate and complete Army ROTC, you can be commissioned as a U.S. Army Officer. Plus, to help pay for your education, you can earn a full-tuition, merit-based scholarship, ROTC will give you strength for a lifetime of success. There’s strong. Then there’s Army Strong.

For more information, visit goarmy.com/rotc/startstrong.

PREPARE TODAY TO LEAD FOR A LIFETIME.

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL, page 1
Six cover songs that do not live up to the originals

1. TEMPTATION BY MOBY
   (ORIGINALLY BY NEW ORDER)

   It’s as if he heard the original, and that’s why he
   embarks on an ecstatic pop song for the
   Godzilla soundtrack? “I was hearing that song,
   and thinking, ‘What a great moment in
   human history, and how can I be a part of it?’”

   Cover songs can do a lot for
   an artist such as increase their
   artistic credibility among critics
   and fans, perhaps even expose
   their adhering listeners to obscure
   music they wouldn’t necessarily
   research on their own.

   While there are so many things
   wrong here: from the deathly slow Fruit Loops drum
   sample that plods through the song, to the different
   chanteuse that just kind of breathlessly intones the
   lyrics while apparently recovering from a strop.

   Turning an ecstatic pop song into a theme song for anti-depres- 
   sant users should be a punishable crime.

2. HEROES BY THE WALL
   FLOWERS (ORIGINALLY BY DAVID BOWIE)

   This is perhaps one of David Bowie’s best known songs
   and rightfully so: the romantic longing of the lyrics
   combined with Robert Fripp’s unmistakable
   and wholly original guitar lead makes for one of the most
   beautifully realized love songs of Cold War-era pop.

   Why then did Bob Dylan’s son, Jakob Dylan, decide to re-
   record this amazing tune for the Godzilla soundtrack?

   Well, unfortunately, it wasn’t so
   his band could improve upon it.
   Much like Moby’s butchering
   of “Temptation,” this track
   manages to take the bombastic
   yearning of the original and distill it into Starbuck’s-ready
   background music.

3. AMERICAN JESUS
   BY SIMPLE PLAN (ORIGINALLY BY BAD RELIGION)

   The fact that Simple Plan can
   claim even some modicum of
   influence from a band as much
   cultural cachet as Bad Reli-
   gion only makes this cover more
   heart-wrenching to write about.

   Try searching for it on
   YouTube, if you dare, but beware:
   all you’ll find is the epitome of
   human despair, desperation and
   the worst atrocities this world has
   ever seen made sound.

   Surprisingly, that sounds
   suspiciously like what a Simple
   Plan cover band covering Green
   Day covering Bad Religion might
   sound like.

4. LAND OF CONFUSION
   BY DISTURBED (ORIGINALLY BY GEORGE MICHAEL)

   Speaking of Limp Bizkit, what
   list of the worst covers of all time
   would be complete without their particular contributions to the
   field?

   After all, not many artists, or
guys with backwards baseball
caps and silly face paint, can lay
claim to such a feat.

   “Faith!” helped break the band
at a time when the definition of
“alternative,” so it’s no surprise
that people latched onto the
metal-esque headaches that the
band so effortlessly laid to tape.

Furthereing their assault on all
things that are not as bad as Limp
Bizkit, the band tried its hand at
re-interpreting The Who by
taking a heartfelt song about the
loneliness and anger Pete Town-
shend felt about his position in
the band and adding a robotic
backing vocal that smoothly
intones “DISCOVER L-I-M-P.”

Geniuses that they are, the
band even managed to change
some of the lyrics around to give it
that Bizkit sensibility.

Did I mention that Halle
Berry appears in the music video
for this song and makes out with
Fred Durst?

And there’s only Fred Durst’s
backwards baseball cap to blame
for the songs.

Social media sites beginning to impact elections

Elections have always been difficult
to predict, even for media outlets like
CNN with their scientific polls and multi-
touch screens. However, the answer to effectively
predicting the outcome of an
election might be right under
our noses: social media.

Almost every winning candidate
in the primary
elections that occurred on
Sept. 14 has far more followers on social
media sites like Facebook than the losing one,
according to a CNN report.

The article cites the Delaware Senate
Republican primary battle between Tea Party
backed candidate and Marco Griffo, Chri-
tine O’Donnell and Republican Mike Castle.
In this case, Castle had a mere 2,453 fans on
Facebook while O’Donnell towered over him
with 9,883.

“Overall, we’ve seen that candidates are
using Facebook as a free resource to reach
voters directly, without having to go through
the traditional media filter or pay for television and
radio ads,” said Facebook spokesman Andrew
Noyes in an e-mail to CNN. “Campaigns are
using Facebook to organize and communicate with
voters in a way unimaginable a decade ago.”

Similar instances occurred in different
cities all over the country, varying from mayoral
races to primaries for vacant House of Repre-
sentatives seats; most of the winning
candidates had more fans than their opponents.

“We’ve seen the effect social media and
the Internet have had in elections since the trend
took off in the mid 2000’s. Social media has
really reshaped the political landscape. Social
media sites like Facebook and Twitter allow candidates
to reach voters instantly and for
little to no money.

In the greatest reference I can muster, what
this basically boils down to is that social media
and the Internet have upgraded the conven-
tional elections process, which some experts
dub “election 2.0.”

Voters can interact with their candidates
easily, and those candidates who interact back
win elections. The perfect, and more obvious
example of all of this is President Barack Obama’s
campaign in 2008. The president was able
to raise large amounts of money because of
two things: the American people’s willingness
to rid the White House of the scoundrel of
the Bush presidency and an aggressive web
campaign.

Obama was everywhere from Twitter to
Facebook, engaging voters and rallying
support in the form of votes and money. For
ecryiing out loud, he even had election posters
superimposed in various Electronic Arts video-
games on Xbox LIVE.

When you are ramming your friends in
the popular combat racing game, Burnout,
you can’t help but notice Shepard Fairey’s
Obama poster on walls. That’s when you know
someone has their marketing blitz together.

Before Obama, we’d be lucky if a candi-
date had a MySpace page with three comments
and a loop of Bruce Springsteen’s Born in the
USA.

Candidates in 2010 and beyond need to
have a grasp of these tools used to reach voters
if they plan to ever make it in politics. Candi-
dates need to be sharp on the Internet, under-
stand how public and easy this technology is
and capitalize on it by using it to really interact
with their voters one on one.

Social media really even the playing field,
giving even the poorest, average citizen candi-
date a chance to start his or her own grassroots
campaign.

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Photograph courtesy of MiH.origin.com
Film reveals true Dylan

During the summer of 1963 at the Newport Folk Festival, the festival announcer hailed Bob Dylan as the man who ‘had his fingers on the pulse of his generation.’ Archival footage shows the scrawny young man from the mining country of Minnesota playing his first hit song, “Blowin’ in the Wind,” on an acoustic guitar backed by a who’s who of the 1960’s folk movement: Joan Baez, and the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary among others.

Almost three years later, while on tour in England during the summer of 1966, many of the crowd members who had fallen in love with his earlier hit song booed at a fellow performer who ‘had fallen in love with’ and sometimes lover, claims Dylan no longer felt he could change the world with music. He changed again. In 1965, he plugged in and moved away from overtly political works like, “A Hard Rain’s A-Comin’,” or “Talking World War III Blues,” and moved towards more abstract, free form ideas.

The beauty of Scorsese’s documentary is in its representation of both the main subject and his effect on America. Dylan, in original interviews exclusively for the documentary, pays tribute to influences like Harry Belafonte and Odetta.

Dylan’s Triumph Motorcycle would crash near his New York home and he wouldn’t write music again or perform for over a year. Scorsese is able to give us a definitive portrait of Dylan: liar, performer and artist. He’s neither God nor the Devil in this work. Every time we think we understand Dylan, he disappears back into the shadows.
Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

JASMYN ELLIOTT  Asst. Opinion Editor

Don’t even bother bringing a lighter to campus when the new semester begins. Starting Jan. 11, smokers will have to leave their cigarettes at home due to a University-wide tobacco ban, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on Sept. 24.

According to the “FIU Tobacco-Free and Smoke-Free Campus Policy Proposal: Questions & Answers,” the ban is due to the University’s “renewed commitment to changing social norms that promote healthier campus environments.”

However, in their haste to catch up with their competition, the University has failed to adopt a truly democratic process in proposing and implementing the smoking ban. In turn, this will have negative effects on its success.

When the University of Florida adopted its smoking ban in July 2010, this was the climax of years of phasing out, which began in 2007. Furthermore, students and staff input was encouraged and received through a host of open forums.

Our university, however, did not do such thing. Although the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Steering Committee has also been around since 2007, they have chosen to not develop a plan to phase out smoking.

As of now, the 20 foot distance still stands, although very few smokers observe this Florida law and do so without consequence. Furthermore, student and staff input was limited to only two open forums open forum as the remaining forums were either cancelled or converted into educational forums in which no one could offer their opinion on the matter.

Even with the final approval, the steering committee has yet to create a plan for implementation, nor have they verbalized any penalties in place for those who repeatedly disregard the new regulation.

Additionally, the pending ban has not been advertised as fully as possible, by way of flyers, posters and the televisions in the Graham Center, which is heavily used for University announcements.

While compiling a feature on the smoking ban, I found that many students were still unaware of the campus-wide smoking ban, and I wouldn’t doubt that this is still the case.

If the University had used their time wisely, the steering committee would have also adopted a similar phasing out process to make the ban more gradual to smokers. Instead, they sat back until UF adopted their ban and engaged in a game of catch-up.

Since this ban seems to be coming out of the clear blue sky to most, campus smokers will be less likely to follow it, especially with a plan of social enforcement that lacks detailed consequences.

In theory, both universities accomplished the same goal of establishing a smoke-free campus within a similar time frame. However, poor planning on the University’s part will likely result in reluctance and outright opposition.

Blame misplaced on game developers

JUSTIN JANS  Contributing Writer

Sex is prevalent in all facets of society. Even the best of advertisements feature some sort of sexual innuendo.

Now this controversial topic is coming to the forefront of the video game scene.

In the game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, the developers had planned on including a sex mini-game as the reward for a mission called “Hot Coffee.” They decided to remove the content, but discovered that it would be too complicated to remove the code. Instead, they made it inaccessible.

A hacker was able to break the code and re-enable it, then made the modification accessible to the general public.

When people found out that this code was left in the game, parents of children started complaining about what their kids were playing.

What angers me is that the people who complained about this mod where parents of little kids who had the game.

First of all, the game is rated “M” for mature, which means those kids should not even have those games. The parents bought it for them, then complained when they discovered it’s not suited for children.

People need to let the game developers work with their own creativity and the parents need to be parents. If we start censoring the video game developers, they may become afraid to break boundaries and innovate, and the quality of this art form will decline.

I am a self-proclaimed hard-core gamer, so I tend to protect games and see them as a form of art. While I think that some content is not suitable for everyone, the developers should not be restricted from putting content into games. The ratings are in place to protect those who shouldn’t be allowed to see it.

I understand that the mini-game was tasteless and added no meaning to the story what so ever, but it takes place in a game where you can go kill hookers and take the money from them, so I’m not really expecting anything thought-out and tasteful.

When you buy a game most of the times you can tell what type of game your buying just by reading the back of the box. If you can’t understand what it’s saying on the box, then you can always ask the attendants at the store, and they will be happy to explain to you.

I have friends that work at game stores, and I’ve heard the stories of parents coming in with their kids, looking for a game. They’ll pick up a game, go to the counter, and ask the clerk what the game is about. The clerk will tell them that it’s a game not appropriate for children and describe the content in the game.

But then the kid will complain about wanting the game, and the parent buys the game just to please the child. Then they get mad when it turns out to be a horribly violent game.

It’s just not fair to the companies take the blame for parents’ laziness. People need to be aware of what they buy, and if parents want to buy these games to placate their children, they have no right to complain about the content.

“Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete”

WEIRD SCIENCE

Christine O’Donnell: “American scientific companies are cross-breeding humans and animals and coming up with mice with fully functioning human brains.”

“Wrong. They’d just have something to say about FIU!”

PERSPECTIVES

Is our University a healthy campus?

“The only unhealthy thing is the smoking, but that’s going to go next semester. I would say that the campus is pretty clean and everyone seems to be in shape and seems to take care of themselves.”

Flavia Almonte, Senior, International Relations

“Yes. It provides a healthy environment; it’s a very clean campus. The only thing is maybe there’s a little too many fast food joints. There could be a few more health options when it comes to restaurants.”

Sergio Guzman, Senior, Philosophy

“I think it is, for the most part. Food-wise, there are a variety of options, except for vegans. Environmentally, it seems okay. I think FIU overall is a healthy campus, but it could be improved.”

Sarah Shah, Sophomore, Biomedical Engineering

-Compiled by Jasmyne Elliott-
Friday, October 1, 2010

DEA: Mail workers trafficked drugs
Seven U.S. Postal Service workers have been indicted on charges they shipped thousands of parcels of heroin, cocaine and marijuana through the mail, the Drug Enforcement Administration said on Sept. 29.

VENEZUELA
No plans for recall vote
Henrique Capriles, a prominent opposition leader, dismissed Chavez’s challenge for a recall vote following congressional elections in which opposition candidates made significant gains.

CHILE
Chile rescue speeds up
A surge in the drilling of escape tunnels raised hopes the rescue of the trapped miners may come sooner than scheduled. Officials reported one of the rescue drills made twice the expected progress on Sept. 28.

PUERTO RICO
Most workers trafficked drugs

Renovated pool sees few students

BECCA GRIESEN
Staff Writer

Two years after an $800,000 renovation, the Aquatics Center still hasn’t seen a noticeable increase in the number of students using its facilities.

The renovation, which came from students’ activity and services fees, according to Elias Bardawil, director of campus recreation, were unveiled in January 2009 and consisted of a resurfaced pool shell, an updated pump room, new furniture, updated landing, color and painting, an expanded sitting area, updated diving blocks, structural repairs, and a new coating over the deck as opposed to the prior cement-like finish.

“The renovation has provided a tremendous asset to the campus and the growth of the Recreation Center,” Bardawil said.

But Daniel Lopez, aquatic supervisor, said the number of people using the pool now compared to before the renovation is about the same, but people enjoy the experience more due to the new look, atmosphere, and furniture.

During the operational hours of 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., the Aquatics Center is rented to a host of non-university entities: the Miami Waves Club, which offers synchronized swimming classes; the New Alonzo and Tracy Mounching High School swim team; a program that teaches swimming to kids; Miami-Dade Community College; American University in Washington DC, which uses the pool during winter training.

“Students are the priority of course,” Bardawil said.

Eight non-rented lanes are reserved at all times and students are welcome to use the pool during operational hours.

Yet John Brausch, an environmental studies professor who uses the pool a couple times a week, said he rarely sees University students using the pool, and likes that there are always lanes available.

“At my old school [Texas Tech], the pool was always packed with students,” he said. In addition, no children used the pool.

Funds made from organizations renting the space goes back into the revenue account for overall expenses such as chemicals, water, electrical, maintenance, and gas usage, according to Bardawil.

“None of the departments, whether it’s Athletics, student unions, or Rec Centers are funded at full capacity, and in that sense you have to go and partly generate revenue,” Bardawil said. “In that regard, the monies aren’t earmarked for any specific thing.”

Lopez agreed that a main reason the pool is rented out is money-related.

“We’re trying to stay afloat. Pools never make money, so we’re trying to make some revenue while at the same time offering programming.”

A side effect of renting the pool out is inevitable extra traffic and use of the University’s resources by people who don’t attend, such as young children.

“If the kids don’t use the locker room in the gym, they use the WUC locker room and go through the building,” Lopez said. “But they’re just kids. It’s a great deal that they’re all learning how to swim while they’re young, and a lot of those kids live in the area and end up coming to FIU.”

Danielle Brown, a senior in communications, agrees.

“I actually like seeing the kids. They’re cute and learning how to swim. What could be wrong with that?” she said.

Cohen said she has never used the pool at all and doesn’t plan to, as she’d rather go to the beach or a less crowded one.

As far as who Bardawil thinks uses the pool most between students and community members, he said there is no way for them to keep track of those demographics.

According to a newly installed body-reader on the door to the pool, it showed an approximate count of over 600 people at the pool on a Monday and 200 for a Saturday.

The pool is available at all operating hours for recreational swimming for students and community members that purchase a pass. The pool is also used for some activities that are exclusive to University students, such as the Women’s Swimming and Diving team and academic scuba classes for the Marine Biology department.

The pool’s directors are also trying to bring the water polo team back.

“We’re working on the future of the pool,” Bardawil said.

“The Aquatic Center’s renovations gave it an updated pump room, updated diving blocks, structural repairs, and other improvements.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL LOPEZ

CAMPUS TALK
Will FIU Fridays increase school spirit?

As long as people do participate, I do think people will feel more proud to wear their FIU clothes, and also they will be more excited to show their school pride.”

- Ashly Levi, Freshman, Psychology

“I think we really have to promote FIU Fridays and make it the high point of the week. People should wear their panther clothing and panther masks, and really try to go all out and make it important.”

- Kevin Camara, Freshman, Physiology/Communications

“I don’t know if [Pride Days] is such a good idea. I didn’t really know about it and the enthusiasm at this school isn’t really that big.”

- Sash Thomas, Sophomore, Pre-nursing

“If they increase the activity at the school, [Pride Days] can be effective. I know the turn out is better when they have food and activities for people to do. I mean, it’s Miami, and there are so much things here for people to do.”

- Sasha Schettini, Sophomore, Philosophy/Communications

Compiled by Matt Porsche

“Pride Days” to be new University tradition every Friday

While businesses have casual Fridays to boost employee morale, the University is starting its own tradition to boost school spirit.

“Pride Days” is a day designated for the sole purpose of University students, staff, and faculty to show their Golden Panther Pride through the use of blue-and-gold attire such as “FIU”-T-shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, hats, scarves, and pins.

It started back on March 10 when the Student Government Association hosted “Pride Days,” with the help of then Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Vice President Mykaelle Figueredo.

Now, since the start of the Fall Semester, all Fridays are designated for showing school spirit.

“This is a university effort. Not only MMC, but BBC [as well],” said Helena Ramirez, SGC-MMC president.

She added that this new tradition will “definitely invoke a sense of pride.”

Johanna Gonzales, a senior international business major at MMC, is in favor of “Pride Days.”

“I think it’s a great idea,” Gonzales said. “Something that all students can conveniently get involved in.”

Held three times since its official fall debut on Sept. 3 the idea of “Pride Days” came up at an annual SGA retreat and has since been initiated with the help of SGA, Human Resources, and Media Relations.

“Pride Days,” as described by Ramirez, is a “top-down” effort that starts with administration’s own efforts.

“In actuality, ‘Pride Day’ should be everyday,” said SGC-BBC President Christine ‘CiCi’ Battle.

With the initiation of Pride days, members of SGA hope to break the stigma of the University being limited to that of a commuter’s school.

If the University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University are more demonstrative about their school spirit, there’s no reason why FIU can’t match them, Battle said.

From large student turn out at games, bumper stickers on cars, or students sighted wearing school-T-shirts on any given weekend, many surrounding universities have already succeeded in drilling the idea of school pride to their masses.

“We need that same pride to permeate in our community in order for them to proud of [FIU too],” Battle said.

Antonio Conyers, senior business major who attends both MMC and BBC, agreed.

“They like [to go to FIU], but I do feel like I’m ‘in and out of campus,’” Conyers said.

As far as any concerns regarding the difference in campus size hindering any participation, Battle is hopeful that the size of the student body won’t make for much difference.

“I feel that it is the quality of the actual participation, not the quantity of the participants, that will play the biggest role in the success of ‘Pride Days’ at BBC,” Battle said.

Additional reporting by Vincent Fernandez.