Summons process sparks heated debate during hearing

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

On Sept. 27, the Student Government Council at Modesto A. Maidique Senate Chambers held a heated debate between SGC-MMC Vice President Nick Autiello and the rest of the senators during the senate summons process.

The Senate had previously called four members of the SGC-MMC Executive Cabinet to come before it and present their current and future projects. Although four were called, only two were present at the meeting.

Director of Campus Life, Alex Lastra, was not present at the meeting, but had warned the Senate that he would not be able to attend the hearings because it conflicted with his job schedule.

Lastra’s absence at the senate meeting called for SGC-MMC Speaker Pro Tempore, Hector Mujica, to initiate an investigation, which will be led by Internal Affairs. The report that is currently being conducted on Lastra will be submitted next Monday, Oct. 4.

SGC-MMC Comptroller Maria Rosa-Blanco was not present at the meeting since her specific hearing was held before it. A writ of certiorari submitted by SGC-MMC Attorney General Alitene Pheneclus, which questioned the legality of the Senate summoning the comptroller.

The constitution allows the Senate to summon members of the executive cabinet for review of their work; however, it states that the comptroller is not a part of the cabinet, but her own person.

According to Article four Section two of the SGC-MMC Constitution, “The Executive Branch shall be composed of a president, vice president, comptroller, executive cabinet and the elections board.”

As stated above, the comptroller is in fact not a part of the cabinet and belongs to the executive branch as a whole.

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 conversation.

‘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. The competition will be held on 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, iPods, 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.

“We have a similar program going on in the dorms,” 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.”
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.

SUMMONS, page 1

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

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

Chief Information Officer, Julio 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 305-348-2401, extension 22. Faculty and staff will also be able to receive the shot through the College of Medicine’s Faculty Practice Plan, and practice hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling 305-348-DOC.

“They are available as long as supplies last,” said Diaz-Bergouignan.

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.

SUMMONS, page 1

response from Autiello. After the commotion calmed down, the hear- ings were closed and the meeting moved along.

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

Audiello: hearings to ask cabinet members questions, ‘not attack them’
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 University (12-4, 3-0 SBC) on Oct. 1 at 8 pm, and will look to gain some revenge from last year’s 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 8pm.

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

“I think it’s gonna be a tough weekend.”

Tikijula 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 with 240. 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 378 assists and Peyton having 313 assists of her own.

The defense is up to par as well, with Brynnie Anderson holding down the metaphorical fort with 212 digs.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

Rivalries often bring out the best; pick up some Jets

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 had “Brady-esque” performances, throwing for over 300 yards and three touchdowns 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 him.

Brandon Marshall torched Cromartie once again, acquiring 10 catches for 166 yards and a touchdown.

The dumbfound look on Jason Allen’s face when he faked the interception in the fourth quarter was an all-game occurrence while Braylon Edwards embarrassed him with 87 yards and a touchdown.

Dustin Keller added to the misery with six catches for 98 yards and two touchdowns.

The Texans shocked the world with their week one win over the Colts. The Cowboys stepped in their neighbor’s yard and proved they’re still the team to beat in Texas.

Tony Romo had a phenomenal game throwing for 298 yards and two touchdowns, while Matt Schaub had a grotesque game throwing for over 200 yards and a touchdown, but threw two interceptions as well.

This far into the season I can confidently say the Cowboys receiving core is top three in the league. Dez Bryant should be labeled “Michael Irvin Jr.” after showing us what he is capable of.

After his four catches and 50 yards game on Sunday, he took the team out to dinner and raked up the bill to over $54,000. Roy Williams caught his first touchdown of the season as well.

THE TRASH BIN

Devin Aromashodu (Chicago Bears) - While he does have a really cool name, the Bears just aren’t using him all of a sudden after a productive first week. He didn’t get any playing time against the Packers and because of the way Hester and Knox are playing, his future doesn’t look too promising.

Robert Meachem (New Orleans Saints) - If Marques Colston is not getting his usual touches, it’s pretty tough for Brees to get the ball to a number four or five receiver. Last season, Meachem was a solid free agent to pick up when you 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, fantasy owners.

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.

BUFFALO

Buffalo is probably the worst team in the league and they 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 backs 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 Marques Colston is not getting his usual touches, it’s pretty tough for Brees to get the ball to a number four or five receiver. Last season, Meachem was a solid free agent to pick up when you 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, fantasy owners.

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.

HOT PICKS

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

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

If the “Sanchize” is a free agent in your league, pick him up and start him if your quarterback is playing a tough defense.
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 biggest key for the Golden Panthers will be to contain the offense of Troy, who as of now has the most goals per game in the Sun Belt Conference.

Also, junior forward Mary Morris is third in the conference for goals per game, with ten. Coach Thomas Chestnutt expects Troy to be very organized team, and says that his team must be patient when facing them.

After the battle with Troy, they will then face off against South Alabama (3-7-1). The Jaguars just recently beat Louisiana-Monroe, and have a good home record, at 2-0-1.

Carlan Jones talked about the difference between a road weekend compared to a weekend at home.

“The traveling kind of wears you out, and at home you’re more relaxed,” Jones said.

Kassandra Sorzano also commented that, “At home you’re more comfortable’ and that “On the road it takes away, but you still have a good home record.”

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 doing 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.

FIU AT TROY; USA

• Time: 4 p.m.; 2 p.m.
• When: Oct. 1; Oct. 3
• Where: Troy; USA
• TV: None

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 during the season. Lewis had one of the most impressive seasons a freshman could ever have. Lewis is the Heisman hopeful, rushed for 1,799 yards and 17 touchdowns during the season. Lewis had one of the most impressive seasons a freshman could ever have.

“Another point of concern will be to contain the offense of Troy, who are 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.”

“We 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.

Another point of concern will be to contain the offense of Troy, who are 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.

“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.

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,” Cristobal stated.

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.

“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,” Cristobal stated.

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.
Cover songs can do a lot for an artist such as increase their artistic credibility among critics and fans, perhaps even expose their adoring listeners to obscure music they wouldn’t necessarily research on their own. Well, this list isn’t about those cover songs. Instead, here is a document of the soul crushing despair that a writer must endure to bring to you these wretched examples of aural diarrhea.

1. TEMPTATION BY MOBY (ORIGINALLY BY NEW ORDER)

This is the second time that something negative has been written about Moby in these pages, and if this completely soulless rendition of a New Order classic is any indication, it won’t be the last. It’s as if he heard the original version, an upbeat electronic dance number about the disinterested chanteuse who was the last. Something negative has been stated about Moby in these pages, and if this completely soulless rendition of a New Order classic is any indication, it won’t be the last.

Turning an ecstatic pop song into a theme song for anti-depressants should be a punishable offense, right? Instead, here is a document of the soul crushing despair that a writer must endure to bring to you these wretched examples of aural diarrhea.

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 distort it into Starbucks’-ready background music. Also, it was recorded specifically for the soundtrack of a really bad movie, so there’s that.

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 leads 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?

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 Religion 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)

You could simulate the experience of hearing this travesty by playing the original and a Limp Bizkit tune at the same time. It might even be better than the Genesis version, I mean.

5. FAITH BY LIMP BIZKIT (ORIGINALLY BY GEORGE MICHAEL)

6. BEHIND BLUE EYES BY LIMP BIZKIT (ORIGINALLY BY THE WHO)

Speaking of Limp Bizkit, what list of the worst covers of all time would be complete without their attempt at re-interpreting The Who by Bigfoot.
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, a fellow performer who had fallen in love with many of the crowd members during the summer of 1966, while on tour in England; Harry Belafonte and Odetta; and other colleagues and contemporaries from “The Village,” bring to life the folk scene as Dylan arrived. Van Ronk discusses how Dylan “borrowed” his interpretation of the folk classic, “House of the Rising Sun,” which Dylan would use on his first album. “Blowin’ in the Wind,” would become the anthem of the Civil Rights movement. 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.

Reel to Reel is a weekly film review column. Look for it every Friday.
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 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 resistance 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 was 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 anger 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.

PIERSONS
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.”

“Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

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

“Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

Blame misplaced on game developers
Renovated pool sees few students

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

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

The renovation, which came from student 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 lighting and painting, an expanded sitting area, updated diving blocks, structural repairs, and a new coxing 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 Trace Mourning High School swim team; a program that teaches swimming to 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 Recreational Centers are funded at full capacity, and in that sense you have to go and parity 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 rentals.”

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 Cohen, 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 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 recre-
tional 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 directors are also trying to bring the water polo team back.

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

“Pride Days” to be new University tradition every Friday

SORAYA JOSEPH
Contributing Writer

While business 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 flaunt 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 Modesd’s Mastering 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 Christin ‘CG’ Battle.

With an 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 be proud of [FIU] too,” Battle said.

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

“I like going 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;

PUERTO RICO

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 Chávez’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.

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.”

-Ashy 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.”

-Sasha 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, Psychology

Compiled by Matt Porsche