FOOTBALL

Story lines highlight new season

The honeymoon is over. A new football year is getting set to begin at FIU. New players have begun to earn respect and take over for ones that have graduated.

With a few story lines looming prior to Thursday’s opener, it is finally time to see whether this team will be able to do it all over again.

T.Y. FOR HEISMAN

As silly as this campaign sounds, it has brought attention to the football program. With electrifying returns and elusive moves, Hilton has been the clear-cut focal point of the Golden Panther offense in the past three seasons. The Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year has all of the intangibles that you look for in a star college athlete. With the team’s success last year, Hilton was able to showcase what he can do on a national stage.

In FIU’s first ever bowl game, Hilton had three catches for 32 yards and a touchdown as well as a kick return for a touchdown. The senior has made a name for himself on ESPN and has been the clear-cut focal point of the Golden Panther offense in the past three seasons. The Golden Panthers will kick the season off against the Mean Green of North Texas on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at FIU Stadium. Last season, the Panthers beat North Texas 34-10 and hope to have a repeat performance.

OUT OF THE GATE

The Golden Panthers will kick the season off against the Mean Green of North Texas on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at FIU Stadium. With a few story lines looming prior to Thursday’s opener, it is finally time to see whether this team will be able to do it all over again.

Students worry about events in Libya

Brooklyn Middleton
Asst. Opinion Editor

Seven months of rebel fighting demanding the end of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi’s regime culminated on Aug. 21 as rebel leaders charged Tripoli. However, even with a possible victory, University students professors expressed doubt.

“It has the potential to be a really, really good thing. But descent into authoritarianism again is possible,” said Danny Bressner, senior international relations major.

The rebel group, called the National Transitional Council, announced the presidential guard had surrendered. But a Libya without a leader is a concern for Bressner.

“There is a period of euphoria and an opportunity for change may be tangible but who’s going to take Gaddafi’s assets?” Bressner said.

The NTC has emerged as the potential future government of Libya, but their cohesion, credibility and competence remains questionable.

While international support for the rebels has been abundant, the NTC suffered a blow to their credibility when they reported their triumphant capture of Saif al-Islam, Gaddafi’s son and most likely successor.

On the morning of Aug. 23, al-Islam arrived at a popular tourist hotel in Tripoli, where he interviewed with journalists, stating, “We are here. This is our

Professor warns not to leave cell phones unattended

Jessica Lopez
Contributing Writer

Faisal Kaleem says the inconspicuous hazards of the information technology era in the most least expected places: in our pockets.

Cell phone tapping has long been considered governmental intelligence, but Kaleem, professor in the College of Engineering, explains how now anyone with access to an unsuspecting individual’s handheld and a couple of minutes to spare can tap not only into a call, but into absolutely every aspect of their phone’s activity.

About two years ago Kaleem began looking into one of the least talked about and perhaps most dangerous kind of application: spyware.

Kaleem said he got into this research because of his love for information technology.

“Information Technology is my passion – especially the safety aspect of it,” Kaleem said. “So of course, I wanted to see what dangers we were facing wirelessly.”

There exists dangerous software that can be downloaded onto cellular devices in the form of an application.

“This software allows the person who installed it to listen in on conversations, as well as to access anything stored on the phone.”

In other words, text messages, photos, emails and data use – none are safe from peering eyes.

In addition to gathering information from a device, this software also enables the handheld to act as a sort of microphone.

“So, although the phone may seem as if it is idle, the person who installed the software can hear everything going on near the cell phone.”

“All you need is to grab someone’s phone for 10 to 15 minutes and you can download and install the software. The worst part is it is totally undetectable on your phone. There is no way to see...

COMING UP | Life!

Check out the food column “Food For Thought” by Jasmyne Elliott for a review on the best coffee on campus.

ONLINE | www.fiusm.com

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RADIO | Radiate FM

Tune in to Radiate FM on Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. for live coverage of the Golden Panthers season opener against North Texas.
Rebels claim victories with NATO’s help

LIBYA, page 1

Country. This is our people, and we live here, and we die here. And we are going to win, because the people are with us. That’s why we’re going to win. Look at them - look at them, in the streets, everywhere!”

When reporters inquired about his arrest, he responded, “We are going to break the backbone of the rebels.”

Events like this leave a level of general uncertainty about LTC’s possible role in Libya.

“And the people in the NTC, no one really knows these figures [people]. They’re academics and people in exile. None of them have really managed a country before,” said Bressner.

The 40-year Gaddafi regime began to crumble in February when Libyan people began to demand a change to democracy. Protests were met by acts of immense violence ordered by Gaddafi.

“There is a lot of push for democratic change because of the Middle East youth bulge,” said Francisco Zamora, associate professor and director of grad-

International Relations department, and Islam, among non-Muslim law students, the MLSA distributed invitations to the iftar event broadly at the College of Law.

The total attendance was around 50 students, with a roughly equal number of Muslims and non-Muslims – a situation which allowed Muslim students to share their understanding of the Ramadan fasts with non-Muslim class mates from outside the faith.

Many non-Muslims, naturally, expect that the fasts would simply be hard, a test of faith to be endured for 30 days until the holiday of Eid, which marks the end of the fasting month – with a feast.

Samah Abukhodeir, a second-year law student and current treasurer of the MLSA, provided a different perspective.

“Growing up,” she said, “Ramadan was always my favorite time of the year. It brings family members together. It makes you think about every action...”

Samah Abukhodeir, Vice President, Muslim Law Student Association

“I can’t say I’m surprised by the fact that the media hasn’t asked tougher questions but they operate more as cheerleaders than journalists,” Cox said.

Despite the fact that the rebels’ flag is being flown in Tripoli, it continues to remain unclear whether the NTC has sustain-

national relations major. “I hope it doesn’t lead to another Gaddafi.”

Despite tremors of embarrassment and uncertainty, the NTC soldiered on to continue garnering support.

Part of this success was because of the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In an interview with Student Media, Ronald Cox, associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Politics and International Relations depart-

ment, discussed the role of NATO in the revolution.

“NATO went well beyond what it was authorized to do. There was essentially 8,000 bombs dropped by NATO and various forces by NTC countries, all designed to help rebels come to power. The mandate was to help civilians, that’s it. They’ve clearly gone beyond that,” Cox pointed out that NATO played such an integral role in this revolution that it could affect how much the West future governments.

Dinner brought together diverse cultures

MUSLIM LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

중요한 역할을 했다. 또한 무슬림 공동체는 이스라엘의 영토에서 살면서도 이슬람 사상과 문화를 받아들이고, 이슬람의 영향력을 유지해 왔다.

MUSLIM LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Dinner brought together diverse cultures

Contributing Writer

The aroma of a multitude of dishes from as many cultures mingled in the air of the Graham Center Annex on Aug. 26 at the first event held this year by the newly re-established Muslim Law Student Association.

The meal laid out on the tables of the annex was an iftar – the evening meal which breaks the daily fasts of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, during which observant Muslims abstain from food and drink from before sunset to just after sundown.

“The MLSA tries to approach shariah [Islamic law] from an academic perspective,” said Mahira Khan, the Association’s president, “we’re more focused on Islam through an academic lens in a law school environment.”

The month-long fast, unique among the major world religions, is enjoined upon believing Muslims in the Qur’an as a way of promoting self-restraint and a sense of empathy with the needy. The fasts are held during the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, the month in which Muslims believe the Qur’an was revealed by God to the Muslim Prophet Muhammad.

The fast of Ramadan, as well as daily obligations of prayer and the annual payment of zakat – a form of tithing in which Muslims who are financially stable contribute a portion of their wealth to charity – are all aspects of what is generally referred to as shariah – generally translated as “Islamic law.”

But the term “law” is perhaps a misleading characterization of the numerous, and at times competing, judgments and edicts of Muslim clerics and scholars that together define the rules of religious practice and righteous conduct for observant Muslims who attempt to live their lives in accordance with divine will.

The word “shariah” is related to the Arabic word for “path,” and the shariah is popularly described by Muslims as the path by which a believer draws near to God.

To generate interest in the Association, and Islam, among non-Muslim law students, the MLSA distributed invitations to the iftar event broadly at the College of Law.

The total attendance was around 50 students, with a roughly equal number of Muslims and non-Muslims – a situation which allowed Muslim students to share their understanding of the Ramadan fasts with non-Muslim classmates from outside the faith.

Many non-Muslims, naturally, expect that the fasts would simply be hard, a test of faith to be endured for 30 days until the holiday of Eid, which marks the end of the fasting month - with a feast.

Samah Abukhodeir, a second-year law student and vice president of the MLSA, said, “Ramadan was always my favorite time of the year. It brings family members together. It makes you think about every action...”

Samah Abukhodeir, Vice President, Muslim Law Student Association

“Growing up,” she said, “Ramadan was always my favorite time of the year. It brings family members together. It makes you think about every action...”

Mahira Khan spoke of the difficulty of the long summer fasts.

“Fasting while going through law school – it’s very hard,” said Khan who also mentioned that it provided an opportunity to focus on spiritual growth. “I’ve been reading the Qur’an more. Fasting makes you feel spiritually lighter.”

Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan and major Muslim holidays circle through the seasons, sometimes falling in the short days of winter, when fasting is easier, and sometimes in the long, hot hours of summer, when the requirement to go without water, especially, can become a true test of forbearance.

Derrick Feinman, a third-year law student and current treasurer of the MLSA, converted to Islam in 2010 and was fasting his second Ramadan.

Feinman, who had studied the basic tenets of Islam as an undergraduate at University of Florida, converted from what he called “borderline agnosticism,” after feeling a distinct call to the faith while traveling in Europe.

“It was one of those times,” he said, “when something becomes very real. Revelation to anyone else is hearsay. But when you get something that speaks to you directly – you can’t avoid it.”

Feinman, a former Eagle Scout and state park ranger, is not one to shy away from a physical challenge. But the hours of abstention from liquids, he said, could make the Ramadan fasts difficult.

“I wake up early,” he said, so I can have my two cups of coffee [before the fasting hours begin].” When asked about water, he said, “Oh, it’s a three to one ratio, water to coffee; I’ve already figured that out.

“It’s easier,” said Feinman, “when you know you’re doing it for God.”
Spyware on cell phones a concern

New tropical storm looms; Irene leads to at least 16 deaths

ATTENDED PRESS

A tropical depression far out in the Atlantic is forecast to become a hurricane this week, but it’s too early to know if it’ll strike the U.S. or anywhere else. The depression is forecast to become Tropical Storm Katia — the name that replaced Katrina in the rotating storm roster because of the catastrophic damage in Katrina’s wake in 2005.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Monday that depression south of the Cape Verde Islands could become a tropical storm later Monday and could reach hurricane strength Thursday, still far out in the Atlantic.

Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Finner said it’s too early to know what would hit the U.S. and it will be more than a week before the system reaches the middle Atlantic.

Hurricane Irene led to the deaths of at least 26 people in eight states:

FLORIDA:

— In Volusia County, 55-year-old Frederick Hernandez died Saturday after New Smyrna Beach after he was tossed off his board by massive waves caused by Irene. The Orlando Sentinel reports the high school teacher had a large cut on his head, apparently from hitting the seal floor.

— In Flagler County, 55-year-old tourist James Palmer of New Jersey died Saturday in rough surf. Family members say they lost sight of him after he waded into the surf in North Florida. He was pulled to shore and his wife attempted CPR, but he was pronounced dead at the hospital.

CONNECTICUT:

— In Prospect, 89-year-old Charlotte Levine was killed early Sunday when a falling tree limb pulled power lines onto her house and set a fire.

— In Bristol, 46-year-old Shane Seaver died after he and another man were swept away by a fast-moving river following the canoe capsized. Seaver’s body was washed ashore late Sunday night in Plainville. The other man survived.

MARYLAND:

— In Queen Anne’s County, Md., 85-year-old Anne Bell was killed when a tree fell and killed a chimney through the glass roof of the sunroom where she and her son were sitting. They’d gone into the sunroom after the power went out in their Queenstown home. Bell was struck by debris, causing severe trauma.

NEW JERSEY:

— Celena Sylvester, 20, of Quanton, called her boyfriend and then 911 early Sunday seeking help getting out of her flooded car in Pilesgrove, police said. Her body was found eight hours later in the vehicle, which was about 150 feet off the road. police said.

— Ronald Dawkins, a 47-year-old postal worker, abandoned his vehicle when it became partly submerged in water early Sunday, Kearny police said. He then tried to wade through rising water, and witnesses said he stepped into a hidden drainage creek. His body was found about two hours later.

NEW YORK:

— A man in his 50s was electrocuted in Spring Valley when he tried to help a child who had gone into a flooded street with downed wires. The child was in very serious condition at Westchester Medical Center’s burn unit, said a spokesman for the Rockland County Emergency Operations Center.

State police said they recovered the body of a woman who apparently drowned after she fell into Oneesquethaw Creek in New Scotland, near Albany.

— Police in Suffolk County say 68-year-old Joseph Rocco of East Islip drowned while windsurfing in Bellport Bay.

— Two men were swept down the Croton River on Sunday evening after their inflatable boat capsized, and one of them died after being pulled down river by heavy currents, Croton police said.

NORTH CAROLINA:

— In Nash County, a man was killed after a tree limb fell on him outside his home Saturday morning as outer bands from the storm brought near hurricane-force gusts inland.

Goldsboro police say a 15-year-old girl died Saturday afternoon after the SUV carrying her and family members collided with another SUV at an intersection where Irene had knocked out power to traffic lights. She was one of four family members thrown from the vehicle; the family was returning to northern Virginia from Myrtle Beach, S.C.

There is no guarantee that if asked to do so, by the government for example, they wouldn’t install a spyware device themselves...

Fortunately, there are ways to prevent this from happening.

First of all, physical privacy is key,” Kaleem said. “It is necessary to keep your phone on you at all times. All it takes is a few minutes to fall victim to this.”

Kaleem also advised to password protect your phone with a strong password, as well as to only download apps from reputable sources.

Anyone is at risk according to Kaleem.

“There if you have a smart phone capable of downloading apps, it can happen to you,” he said.

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Correction: In Vol. 23, Issue 10 of The Beacon, the article titled “Lakovic, Egan strong in sweep over Fairfield to kick off season” in the Sports section, Jovana Bjelica’s name was misspelled.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Email MMC Office at 305-348-2709 or at 305-919-4722.

CELL PHONES, page 1

it installed at all,” warns Kaleem.

“I make sense; it’s just like a computer,” said Jennifer Garcia, a junior accounting and finance major. “I wouldn’t leave my phone lying around either way because people could just steal it and would steal it. However, Garcia isn’t worried about her phone being tapped into.

“I wouldn’t be a problem for me...but I can see how it can affect a lot of people,” she said.

Upon hearing about this software and the dangers it poses, one of the first questions that arises is whether cell phone companies know about these security hazards.

Kaleem said his biggest fear is cell phone companies not knowing about the potential security hazard.

“If I can install this software, imagine what the companies can do,” Kaleem said. “I have no guarantee that if asked to do so, by the government for example, they wouldn’t install a spy ware device themselves, and we’d be faced with a ‘Big Brother’ situation. Anything is possible.”

There is no way to tell whether a phone is carrying spyware, but some tell-tale signs of infection are false call-waiting signals, which occur when the spy listens on a call, as well as unexplained heating of the device when it is idle.

“It’s kind of creepy to think that you could have someone listening to you at all times without you even knowing it,” said Roly Delgado, a junior information technology major.

“It makes you wonder if any glitch your phone has is really just a glitch, or possibly something more.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kathleen is a production assistant and a junior in the Accounting and Finance major.

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E-mail to: editorinchief@fiusm.com

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ADDRESS INFORMATION

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Karel Kaleem, a junior accounting and finance major and The Beacon editor-in-chief, said the software is like a computer, saying “I wouldn’t leave my phone lying around anywhere because people could just steal it and would steal it.”

However, Garcia isn’t worried about her phone being tapped into.

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Fortunately, there are ways to prevent this from happening.

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Kaleem also advised to password protect your phone with a strong password, as well as to only download apps from reputable sources.

Anyone is at risk according to Kaleem.

“There if you have a smart phone capable of downloading apps, it can happen to you,” he said.
I cannot help but think that these numbers would be significantly lower if comprehensive sex education were the norm.

I honestly think my immediate and distant future will have benefited greatly from STIs. In the past are on the rise - 15 to 24 year-olds account for half of new STI reports in the United States, approximately 9.1 million.

I cannot help but think that these numbers would be significantly lower if comprehensive sex education were the norm.

When I was in the fifth grade, it finally came time for the “human growth and development” section of the curriculum. Each of us had a folder in which we wrote in big, block letters the word “abstinence.” Before each lesson, my teacher would have us recite the definition of abstinence, perhaps in hopes this ritual of sorts would embed this principle into our young minds.

Even as I grew up, I did not hear about condoms or oral contraceptives until I was about 17, and this information did not come from my biology teacher. As of now, most of my peers have either become teen parents or have fallen victim to a host of STIs, most likely because they lacked the knowledge of safe sex practices.

For FIU football, the price is just right

I wanted to write this letter in response to the “High ticket prices unfair to alumni” piece written by Ben F. Badger in The Beacon on Wednesday, July 13.

Miami-Dade County is a global, international city. We are a city of major importance when it comes to trade, banking and so forth. With this in mind, it is not the prices that should concern the norm. I’m guessing that Mr. Badger knows this information and then made a huge assumption that the price must charge too much for football tickets.

If Mr. Badger would have done any reading of the Sun Belt Conference, he would be in agreement with me that FIU Football is a deal.

As a fellow alumnus of FIU, I disagree with Mr. Badger’s criticism of the Athletic Department and the price of season tickets to FIU football. The focus of his complaint is on how “Athletics is making it very hard for alumni like me to really get into the FIU spirit” due to prices of football season tickets. Mr. Badger’s complaint does not paint a complete picture.

His major grievance is with the cost of the Club Level Premium seating at $500. That is the highest-priced ticket. What he fails to mention is that there are six different options that alumni can take advantage of, ranging from $42 to $500. By the way, a majority of other Sun Belt schools also require a donation component to certain level prices for season-tickets.

Secondly, to insinuate that the FIU Athletic Department is engaging in “some less than ethical practices” is just not correct. It is common practice in college athletics for a donation component to be a part of certain season ticket packages.

In fact, there are season ticket options at FIU which do not require a tax deductible donation.

Throughout my tenure of involvement with FIU, I wear the mantle of Mr. FIU proudly. I have no problem being critical of my alma matter when I perceive mistakes have been made; however Mr. Badger claims is off-base. FIU is very near and dear to my heart and I bleed blue and gold.

It is important for alumni to support FIU Athletics. Complaining about ticket prices and stating that the cost of them causes low attendance is ridiculous. We need to stand behind Head Coach Mario Cristobal and the football team as they work to grow the Panther brand and put FIU on the national map.

FIU Football has to become an event in this town. With prices as low as these and quality of play as high as it is, let the events start! Go FIU! -Eduardo “Eddie” Henard, ’88, ’00, a.a, Mr. FIU Miami, Florida

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Will the Golden Panthers repeat as SBC Champs?

T.Y. Hilton
After months of preparation and waiting over a long offseason, the Golden Panthers will finally be put to the test.

FIU takes on a once highly talked about North Texas team in their first game of the 2011 season. The Mean Green at one point were three straight Sun Belt championships in a row in the early 2000's, but now they have fallen to the middle of the pack and this year the Golden Panthers are the ones who are starting out on top.

It will be the first time ever that FIU begins a season as the once highly touted team. It will be the first time ever that FIU will finally be bowling in Bourbon Street. The Beacon – Wednesday, August 31, 2011 www.fi.usm.com

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

"It will be the first time ever that FIU begins a season as the once highly touted team. It will be the first time ever that FIU will finally be bowling in Bourbon Street." — Jackson Wolek

Golden Panthers ready for the season opener

For the Golden Panthers, times have changed. Brad Serini took over the team in penalties his first year of high school to go wherever Dwayne Times has been able to make the most out of their running backs. Although these teams have not seen the results in the standings, Lance Dunbar (North Texas) and Bobby Rainey (Texas A&M) are two of the best running backs in the Sun Belt Conference. For the time being, Wayne Times has been able to get the job done as this year's starting back, which is a huge step up compared to last year. The offense goes as the defense and vice versa. The Beacon – Wednesday, August 31, 2011 www.fi.usm.com

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"For the time being, Wayne Times has been able to get the job done as this year's starting back, which is a huge step up compared to last year. The offense goes as the defense and vice versa." — Jackson Wolek

Depth at running back

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PANTHER PULSE POLL

Which FIU Football home game are you most excited for this season?

UNT 14 %

DUKE 3 %

UCF 59 %

TROY 3 %

UL 3 %

FAU 9 %

DEPTH AT RUNNING BACK PROVIDES MANY OPTIONS

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Returns of the Champs

Return of the Champs

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Then, finally, with the first half dwindling down, a rebound off of an Akron defender allowed midfield Kim Lopez to take a quick strike that made its way in for a goal, giving FIU a 1-0 lead.

“It felt great [scoring the goal],” Lopez said. “It came in the last ten minutes so when I saw it coming; it was a lucky shot.”

In the first half concluded with FIU taking nine shots along with seven corner kicks compared to Akron’s two. The Golden Panthers continued to penetrate and kept Akron on their toes throughout the match.

Then the second half went under way and it was obvious the Golden Panthers were not going to let up on Akron as they continued to show off their offensive prowess. Despite the pressure, Akron kept up with a Panthers’ team that was going for most of the first half, but the Golden Panthers continued to penetrate and kept Akron on their toes throughout the match.

When the clock ran down and the final whistle blew, the Golden Panthers finally got their first win of their young season with a 1-0 victory.

“We knew it was going to be tough to crack them and we kept them coming and giving to their credit they bent but they didn’t break,” coach Thomas Chestnutt said. “We finally got off the rebound and Kim had a fantastic strike that proved to be very important.”

The Panthers’ defense also kept Akron from putting any points on the board as goalkeeper Calvin Savage helped FIU secure the team’s first shutout of the year.

“With a shutout, everyone likes to look at the goal, but it was a team effort so it’s always nice to get one and start off with a clean slate,” Savage said.

“Chestnutt added, “It feels good. We did a lot of good things tonight offensively. We controlled the game and we got the win and the shutout and that’s where we wanted to be.”

After dropping the first two games of the season, another much needed win, Chestnutt said: “This was really important because we needed to get this season rolling, and to get one at home is important, we just needed to start off right,” Lopez said.

Even though they had a much needed win, Chestnutt still feels there is room for improvement. “We want his team to execute more on the offensive side of the ball,” Chestnutt said. “We are happy with the result and it doesn’t matter. We are at home and we found a way to win.”

So now with the Panthers’ team not having a win, Chestnutt wants his team to execute more on some things, obviously, because with 19 shots, one goal, 14 corner kicks… that’s a little meager production,” Chestnutt said.

“We certainly broke them down, but we need to work on some things, obviously, because with 19 shots, one goal, 14 corner kicks… that’s a little meager production,” Chestnutt said.

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Tailgating 101: from the gate to the grill

KENNETH DYCHES
Staff Writer

The stands packed to capacity, the wild cheers from fans as the ball is passed from player to player until it reaches the end zone for a touchdown.

After coming off a 7-6 2010 season, with the Sun Belt Conference Championship and their first-ever Belt Conference Championship, to a variety of clubs and students, everyone with team spirit will be decked out in blue and gold and getting psyched up for the game.

“I’m trying to get ahead on all my homework so my whole day can encompass football,” said Tiffany Campana, a junior and pre-law major. “During my first tailgate was freshman year, and it was really something. There’s a ton of people that go -- lots of food. There’s music and free stuff,” said Jennie Campa, a sophomore and TV production major. “During my first tailgate, one of the fun experiences was body paint and dancing to the music that you hear from all the different parties.”

Sure enough, fans will always find plenty to do at the tailgates. One important tradition is that when the time comes to do some tailgating, fans leave their worries, stress aside and just have fun.

“We should bring food, drinks, friends and dress up for their team to support them. Also, they should bring stuff like footballs and Frisbees -- any activity that you can do outdoors; if anything, bring music to dance to,” said Campana.

And of course, along with the festivities come the basics: students are not unfamiliar with the Miami heat, so while there will be plenty of shade under tents to hide from the sun, it is always a good idea to bring some water, a hat and sunglasses to the game.

Villeta may only be a freshman, but he seems to already have what it takes.

“I’ve never been more excited about anything. I’m going to be attending every football game, and going to be looking forward to meeting new people at each game and making friends that will last a lifetime.”

Beirut’s third album, “The Rip Tide,” more personal, relatable

Lead singer of pop-folk group Beirut Zach Condon sings “sound will bring me home again,” in the soft and steady building track “East Harlem” on a brisk 3:35-minute LP by Beirut called “The Rip Tide.” The group’s third LP puts the element of swirling, pumping horns with Condon’s crooning vibrato. None of the instrumentation on the album is superfluous though, as this is a sweety coxed package.

Condon has crafted an elegant summer album that can feel airy and deep all at once, depending on what you want to discern from your listen.

From his aspiring debut “Gulp Orkestar” to the worldly, chanson-inspired follow-up “The Flying Club Cup,” Condon has demonstrated wealthy amounts of musicianship. Now, at the ripe age of 25, his maturation in songwriting is increasingly apparent. “The Rip Tide” does not go for splash or something grandiose, but hones it back with its accordion and ukulele accompaniment.

It is rich in its simplicity and Condon knows how to craft charming songs, Triumphant trumpets and a rattling drum pattern layer “A Candle’s Fire,” which breaks into Condon’s rich voice.

He sways back and forth through the track that leads to a soaring cacophony of sounds in the bridge and shuts down with the same rattling snare. There are varied levels of enjoyment on this album, but “A Candle’s Fire” personifies the album.

The most jubilant song might be the pop-folk “Santa Fe.” The trademarks of Beirut — horns, strings and piano — are retained but are now joined together in blissful merriment.

Condon declares in the chorus, “Sing me up Santa Fe,” as the trifecta of sounds that accompany his feel-good lyrics.

“Goshen” showcases Condon’s vibrato in a natural way with a teary piano back drop that raises the brass crescendo that is accustomed to Beirut. “Payne’s Bay” and “The Rip Tide” come together for events like these and stand up with our school to root on our team.

“Tailgating sounds like an opportunity to get away from the classroom setting and be able to enjoy college experience with your fellow students,” said freshman Bryan Villeta, a pictures psychology major. “It is a big school, and we all have busy schedules, but we always find that the party has already started. After 5 p.m., just east of the stadium, the festivities will already be in full swing. From fraternities, to the Alumni Association, to a variety of clubs and students, everyone with team spirit will be decked back up with “Vagabond,” another up-tempo hookey song.

This album could have ended on the melancholic track “The Peacock,” which would have given it a bittersweet sendoff but instead Condon closes it with the Port of Call” where he encapsulates the album into one song.

It begins with a smooth ukulele, with him projecting his voice with piano and brass progressively join the fray and sways you back and forth until it reaches its completion.

Condon has gone back and forth in the creative process and has reached a focal point in his career. At 25, I envy him.

Whether you listen to Beirut on the beach or when it is used as interpretive dance music on the reality TV show “So You Think You Can Dance,” this really happened: it will connect to you with its enchanting disposition.

“Tailgating” is the most personal contact Us Alfredo Aparicio Life Editor alfredo.aparicio@fiu.com www.fiusm.com The Beacon – 9 Wednesday, August 31, 2011
SEASON OPENER!

FIRST 4000
STUDENTS RECEIVE
A FREE T-SHIRT

SANDY ZAPAIA
Staff Writer

With a total number of 35 initiates, Theta Chi Fraternity is the newest member to the Interfraternity Council and Greek life at the University. Founded in 1856 at Norwich University, Theta Chi currently has 130 Chapters in the U.S. and Canada, with 10 colonies and interest groups spread throughout North America. One of those interest groups officially became a colony on Aug. 27.

Stephen Nuñez, a junior and advertising major, is one of the initial members who founded the interest group on campus. “The reason I chose this organization as opposed to any other organization already established on campus is because its ideals connected with me. ‘Truth, temperance and tolerance’ will mold you into a gentleman, which ultimately is what I strive to be.”

Nuñez, along with two others, Adrian Espinosa and Aaron Bethencourt, started the initial interest group at the University and marketed the fraternity through word of mouth until they became an official interest group this past Fall semester.

By the time the semester ended, the interest group had a total of 27 members; because of academic requirements, 14 members were let go. Theta Chi received 14 interests in the Spring semester and another nine this past Summer semester, bringing the total number of pledges to 35 pledges.

The 35 pledges made this the first official colony of Theta Chi on campus. With a total of 13 organizations as part of the Interfraternity Council, Theta Chi makes 14.

“I believe we have the most eclectic and diverse minded group on campus,” said Nuñez.

Kevin Martin, a junior finance and management information systems double major, as well as the public relations and homecoming chair in the fraternity, was very emotional.

“The main thing that hooked me was the chance to change Greek life on campus.”

Condon feels he has “found a musical home”


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Staff Writer

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DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

VMAs fashion: a few bright stars shine in the darkness

BEST

Kanye West is probably the most stylish man in pop culture. He couldn’t top the crimson suit he had on at last year’s VMAs but his Americano-themed outfit was something I’d steal right off his back.

I loved his ombre swim shirt and slim fitting jeans paired with a wrist full of bolohearn bracelets. This outfit was the right combination of casual but cool. I will definitely try to recreate this outfit on myself minus the $1,680 Nike kicks.

Katy Perry was able to look graceful in her pin-up geisha look that would have appeared to be a costume on anyone else.

Her pastel colored Atelier Versace dress was probably the most beautifully designed and constructed dress of the night and definitely the most original choice.

The thing I loved about Perry was that she made the effort to accessorize everything around her dress; she had a cherry blossom tucked in her purple hair and carried a parasol to complete the geisha theme. I’m going to try and ignore the strange Troma-teenage inspired design she wore to accept her Video of the Year award because I have no words.

Just because it was Christian Dior doesn’t make it okay.

WORST

There’s nothing I can say to defend the ridiculous dress covered with toys that Nicki Minaj arrived in on the black carpet. Not only did it seem like it was thrown together on an acid trip, it was also eerily similar to something that I’ve seen on Lady Gaga before.

Although the new queen of hip hop usually makes my jaw drop in a good way, her outfit choice to this year’s VMAs seems to be a failed attempt at appearing ground-breaking.

The only redemptively quality was her colorful, cotton candy hair; it’s too bad she couldn’t have worn something flattering and imaginative to go with it.

Britney Spears watched as dancers reenacted her hit videos during a tribute segment wearing an unflattering and boring black romper by Moschino. Spears has not worn much other than a variation of the little black dress lately.

I would not mind if it was tailored to define her waist but instead she wore a belt around her hips, which did nothing but make the look look ill fitting and uncomfortable.

Her peep toe boots were incredible but only shortened her legs in the process. Somebady-nos to get this woman a better stylist.

Mike Cyrus wore a semi-sheer sage colored velvet dress by Roberto Cavalli that looks like something Stevie Nicks donated to Goodwill.

The floor length dress was very unflattering due to unfortunately placed vertical panels down the side and too long sleeves.

The strange animal and flower print beaded me; even in fashion these two prints don’t play well. Either a lower neckline or shorter sleeves should have balanced the length of the dress out.

This dress, which made Cyrus look at least fifteen years older, had too much material and appeared to drag on the floor.

If she were even more, she wore her hair in a braid bun and heavy looking earrings. Cyrus earned herself the title of worst dressed.

Although I enjoyed watching Lady Gaga’s alter ego Jo Calderone make people uncomfortable on stage, I wished Gaga would have put on a dress or two to show the other stars who is boss.

Even if she had picked something understated like last year’s most dress, which overshadowed the incredible Alexander McQueen dress she arrived in, at least I would have something to remember this year’s totally “blah” VMAs by.

An honorable mention for best-dressed must go to crooner Tony Bennett who wore a sparkly black tuxedo.

Family and friends come support Greeks

and in the midst of it be a part of a broth-erhood that I never had a chance to expe-rience. Something that I, along with my brothers want to do is unite everyone in each council,” said Martin.

Frank Codina, a web programmer and mentor to Martin, came out to support the Theta Chi pledges with his wife, Marcela Cortesi.

“Our are proud of him [Martin] but, most importantly, that he could get his degree, so one day he could become the chief technology officer of my company,” said Frank Codina.

Roberto Socorro, a junior and civil engi-neer and president of the colony, recalls his decision to be a part of any Greek organization because he believed in the stereotypes he had heard growing up.

Once he heard the creed of Theta Chi, however, that stereotype was broken.

“It’s a stigma. People label groups by a certain stereotype or a standard, but due to the major difference in personality and interests of each member, it has been very hard for the campus to do so,” said Nuñez.

The ultimate goal for every Greek orga-nization and its members is to graduate from the university and become involved citizens wherever they may reside.

Terry A. Johnson, the national treasurer of Theta Chi Fraternity, made a joking closing statement at the reception directed at the pledges: “Graduates, that is why you are here; for all the girls and fun will come with college but if you need to step aside and focus to do it, we are here to help.”

After the ceremony was over, all the men were united with their family, friends and loved ones together at an event that seemed to flock right back to each other.

“We pride ourselves in adversity as a group and at the end of the day we love FIU and literally want it to be the best it can be,” said Nuñez.
Facebook update focuses on streamlined privacy process

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Asst. News Director

The main status box on Facebook has always asked its users “what’s on your mind?”

For Facebook executives it seems to be more privacy. Last Thursday, Facebook launched new privacy settings that will give users more control over exactly who sees what is on their profiles.

With recent innovations like the ability to tell people your exact location by “checking-in,” to the use of facial recognition technology to identify people in pictures, Facebook has seemingly transitioned from a benign and useful method to keeping up with friends to what some have called the ultimate stalking tool.

Too often, many users have felt the website has fallen short of expectations when it comes to privacy; for many who have succumbed to the cyber sharing culture, the consequences of sharing too much is often over looked.

Facebook’s new privacy settings aim to change that by allowing users to edit who can view their post even after it has gone live by using a box that appears on your profile called the “inline audience selector,” eliminating the need to navigate to a different page. The box features icons that replace the previous pull-down menu.

This new feature is intended to make it easier for Facebook’s more than 750 million users to control their privacy settings.

“It makes it easier to access the privacy features. The only bad thing about it is that you have to constantly remember to change who sees what,” said Daniel Cabrera, senior fine arts major.

Facebook’s move towards a streamlined privacy procedure comes in the wake of buzzing competition from a social network operated by Google, Inc. Launched on June 28 2011, Google+ garnered over 20 million visitors in the first 21 days, according to the research firm Comscore Inc. Google+ allows users to create “circles” of friends and with each post the user specifies which “circle” is able to view the post, giving users more control over who is viewing content on their profile.

“I heard that the privacy options are better on Google+ but no one I know is really on there, so I decided to stick with Facebook,” said junior journalism major Latoni Perris.

“I also have a twitter. Adding Google+ would be too much social networking.”

Although Facebook contests that the changes were not made in response to competition from Google+, the move towards more user-friendly privacy options couldn’t have come at a more convenient time.

Aside from the option of controlling which friends view the post thru the “inline audience selector,” users can also manage which “tags” can appear on their profile.

Making privacy setting easier to control may provide more security for users but what is released into the cyber world is released into the cyber world is ultimately up to the user.

“If you’re using Facebook, you are wanting people to see what you say” said Cabrera. If it’s private, don’t make it a status.