**NATION**

After 8 years, final homecoming for troops in sight

**ANGEL VALLEJO**
Staff Writer

"Am I going to come home?" That is the question that Lt. Col. Son Vo, battalion commander at the University says soldiers typically ask themselves once they are stationed in a war zone.

Since March 19, 2003, U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq have been asking themselves that question, but they won’t have to by the year’s end.

As part of the Status of Forces Agreement between the Iraqi government and the administration of former President George Bush, the last of the U.S. troops in Iraq are set to leave by New Year’s Day.

President Barack Obama campaigned on drawing down troops within the first 16 months in office. The agreement put that promise on hold.

This might help President Obama’s re-election campaign. As International Relations Professor Brian Fonseca noted: "He [Obama] can say "Look I kept my campaign promise." Whether that transitions into votes remains to be seen."

In the race for the White House Republican candidates are already taking swings at Obama for his decision to publicly announce the date of withdrawal.

"The last thing you want to do is put those men and women’s lives in peril," said Brian Fonseca. "I think that’s what the president’s done by making a political statement to his base that he’s going to be out of Iraq on a date certain," said Gov. Rick Perry to Fox News Sunday.

Although there will be an end to an American military presence in Iraq, there will be plenty of Americans left. Sub-contractors hired to provide security will be the new face of the occupation.

Fonseca does not like the fact sub-contractors are being left to take a "quasi" military role.

"I’m not a fan of using sub-contractors, it just makes the water murky," said Fonseca.

Eight years later and the reasons why the invasion took place still remain unclear. When the war was sold as a way to ensure freedom in the Middle East, the administration claimed that Iraq was building weapons of mass destruction. Others...

**IRAQ, page 2**

**GUARDIAN UNDERGROUND**

Gun issue triggers debate

**MARIELLA ROQUE**
Staff Writer

The balance between security and individual rights are brought into question once again with a recent lawsuit by University of North Florida student.

The lawsuit was filed against the University of North Florida on Oct. 3, 2011 on behalf of Florida Carry, Inc. and Alexandria Lainer, a student who claims she needs to carry "a firearm for the protection of herself and her child."

This lawsuit was based off a law that was passed this past summer and effective Oct. 1, enforcing that all local government laws be in accordance with federal and state gun laws.

This law was made to reinstate the 1987 Joe Carlocci Uniform Act, intending to "provide uniform firearms laws in the state to declare all ordinances and regulations null and void which have been enacted by any jurisdictions other than state and federal, which regulate firearms, ammunition, or components thereof."

"The fine for disobeying the law is $5,000.

The current Florida law also states that "it is lawful...for a person 18 years of age or older to possess a concealed firearm or other weapon for self-defense or other lawful purpose within the interior of a private conveyance."

At FIU, as well as on other public state universities, any form of weapons carried by unauthorized persons is strictly prohibited. The Student Code of Conduct states that "all students, organizations or clubs" will be charged for the "possession, storage or use of firearms..."

"There are many ways a gun could be concealed that would present a greater threat," said FIU police officer Lieutenant Ricardo Torres. "Safety is our number one concern."

If any unauthorized person is found on campus with a weapon, "they are susceptible to arrest and their case would also be forwarded to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution," said Chief of FIU Police Alexander Casas in an email to Student Media. "The student would be expelled and they would be allowed to appeal."

"I think [guns on campus] should be allowed," said exceptional education major Danny Aguilar. "If they have [a concealed weapons license], why not?"

In order to receive a concealed weapons license in the state of Florida, parents of a private conveyance.

**GUARDIAN UNDERGROUND**

**COMING UP | Sports**

Check out the Nov. 4 issue for a preview by Jackson Wolek of the football game against Western Kentucky University.

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**THE BEACON**

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 23, Issue 37

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**GUNS, page 2**
There has been much controversy over the Florida “Stand Your Ground” law passed in 2005, declaring the use of deadly force viable if the resident “is presumed to have had an able fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another without consequences.” I always tell my students to embed the law in the socio-political situation,” said Criminal Justice Professor Rosa Chang. “Florida already has a very liberal self-defense law.” Chang also said that a big proponent of more unrestricted gun rights lobbying in 2011. “The passage of laws are sometimes due to the big companies influencing lobbying for it,” said journalist Major Nicole Perez. “It’s not always what the people want.” The Student Government Association at FIU introduced a resolution at the beginning of 2011 against Florida Senate Bill 234 allowing guns on university premises. The resolution, which argued that “Weapons on University grounds present a grave safety concern to the Student Body,” passed.

“I often wonder how many ways ‘the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed’ can be interpreted,” said political science major Jesus Barroso. “It’s in the old text for a reason.”

Additional reporting by Patricia Simmons.

‘Changing political identity is not an easy thing to do’

In 2008, former President George W. Bush said he could not answer that question. Fonseca doesn’t discredit other possible justifications for the war. As he stated, “Perhaps the most honest government thought” taken out Saddam Hussein is a good thing, for the promotion of U.S. political interests.

The group of people who generally did not question the motive for the invasion were the soldiers. As Vo, a professor of military science at the University and commander of the ROTC program and Iraq War veteran stated, “Prior to deployment, most soldiers will tell you that they are focused on the training and making sure their families are prepared.”

“We start to question when we lose friends,” said Fonseca, a former Marine who is also a veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan War. The reason why this war was complicated, according to Fonseca, was mainly because the U.S. government did not know what it was getting into when it invaded Iraq. The U.S. engaged in an activity in which it had limited knowledge—nation building.

“I don’t think the U.S. had a very clear understanding of the intricate nuances of the Middle East,” said Fonseca. “Was it our right to make the decision to reform the identity of the Iraqi state?” is the question he believes the U.S. government should ask itself.

Fonseca believes an important lesson for future American leaders to learn is “changing political identity is not an easy thing to do.”

It takes time, he noted. Soldiers like Vo notes they do not have the luxury of sitting around wondering how long the war will last, as he states: “Most soldiers don’t think how long it [the war] will take, they just know they are going for 12 months and that they want to bring everyone back home safe.”

For Fonseca deciding whether or not the U.S. was successful in Iraq depends on what the mission was. “I would ask myself did we achieve what we wanted to do? I want to answer that question.”

“The one thing that Fonseca believes this war should mean to University students and the youth in general is ‘we have it good in America.’

“Our system works for us, our domestic political system works. Many people have asked to pull out of this conflict and if that’s the case that is what we have done and what we are doing. The idea that the masses have the opportunity to shape policies is a good thing.”

To many students and faculty who served in Iraq the announcement that the war came to an end is welcomed news. More than 1,200 students at the University are veterans not just of Iraq but of wars past, according to the University’s Office of Veterans Affairs.

Vo believes this is great news to anyone who served and their families.

“Any soldier will tell you war is the last resort. We train so we don’t have to go to war,” he said. “To see this war end is a blessing to us. And we’re going to come back with honor, we weren’t a defeated. We accomplished our mission.”

As Vo noted soldiers miss the little things in life like the anniversaries, birthdays, sporting events and being around family.

Now that the Iraq War will come to an end he is happy to know that some future soldier will be around to enjoy it.

“I feel very good, satisfied that we went over there, and that now we have closure. I also think about the Iraqi people and how I bonded with them and now they can live free and have a new beginning and hopefully their country could be better,” said Albert Rivas a former Marine Corps infantryman who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and an art major at the University. “[I’m] happy it’s over.”
Panthers defeat Owls in finale

**ANTHONY GUIVAS**
Staff Writer

With all the twists and turns that this season has had for the Golden Panthers, the women’s soccer team has been able to right the ship and make this 2011 season one worthwhile.

After a few bumps on the road to start the season, the Golden Panthers have been able to achieve a record of 10-6-2 overall and a record of 7-1-2 in the SBC.

“We had a couple of slip ups when we went on the road to Tennessee and Kentucky, but overall, I felt we had a great season...we just got better and better and I’m very happy with it,” head coach Thomas Chestnut said.

So with one game remaining in the season, FAU hosted the final game of the season on Oct. 28. FAU made sure that night would be memorable, as the Golden Panthers defeated FAU by a score of 3-1.

**SOCCER, page 4**

**FIU falls short of tournament berth**

With the draw, the Panthers will not be heading to Tulsa for the Conference USA tournament, along with Tulsa and Kentucky. Eketebi is disappointed that his team will not be playing next week for the conference title.

“Unfortunately, we won’t be playing,” Eketebi said.

“The bracket has been set and we didn’t qualify.”

**ONE LAST TIME**

All that is left for the Panthers to play for is pride, as they host the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles on Nov. 4. The Eagles are coming into their match fresh off their Atlantic Sun clinching victory, where they defeated North Florida 4-1 and are 10-4-2 on the season.

The Panthers will be honoring seniors Nicholas Lee, Lucas Di Croce, John Kie, Chris Lamaron, Leonardo Martinez, Mario Uribe and Jahbari Willis before the game starts.

Eketebi will not change anything in the lineup heading into this game against the Eagles.

“You always try to win every time you play,” Eketebi said. “But going into this game, our fourth strongest lineup that gives us the best chance to win.”

**Brandon Wise**
Staff Writer

With a chance to start in the position where he began the season, sophomore Eric Reyes came up big for the Panthers as they played the No. 25 University of Alabama Birmingham to a 0-0 draw on Oct. 29. Head coach Munga Eketebi was frustrated with the officiating.

“The officiating was poor,” Eketebi said.

The keeper staved a penalty in extra time, which is sudden death, and it was a battle.”

Reyes made the needed stop to keep the Panthers alive.

In the first overtime period, the Blazers had a chance to finish off the Panthers and win the match. However, Reyes stopped the shot and kept the Panthers’ hopes for points in the conference alive.

The Drawer recorded eight saves on a night that saw the Blazers take 24 shots on goal.

Reyes’ performance this weekend was good enough for Conference USA to nome him co-defensive player of the week.

Eketebi keeps presssing the right buttons.

“(Rodney) Greiling just didn’t play well against South Carolina,” Eketebi said of the freshman goalie. “If one is not playing well, you go to the other one. Just like quarterback. If one is not throwing touchdown, you have to go to the other options.”

On a night that saw the Panthers allow 24 shots to the Blazers, they themselves could only manage nine shots, a first time setting coming from freshman Colby Buntene.

**SOCCER, page 4**
Cristobal addresses offensive issues before key road test

Coming off the thrilling 23-20 overtime victory against Troy last week, the Panthers have been given 11 days off until the matchup at Western Kentucky on Nov. 5. It is perfect for both teams to rest and fix key issues that slowed down the offense versus the Trojans.

“The most important thing was the victory Tuesday night, which was big for us in terms of getting the victory Tuesday, said head coach Mario Cristobal. “The second part is getting our bodies back and hoping to get a couple of our guys back from injury as well.”

Cristobal says that defensive tackle Joshua Forney, who suffered a sprained ankle against Troy, is listed as day to day. Wide receiver Glenn Coleman is expected to be back after suffering a bruised rib on his fumble versus the Trojans, as well as Chuck Grace, who has missed five straight games due to an injury to his knee.

The main area that the Panthers worked on in Monday’s practice was trying to correct the penalties that plagued the offense in the first half of Tuesday’s game. The offensive line gave up five penalties for 40 yards on five different possessions on Tuesday night. Four of the five came on third down plays, and only one of the drives resulted in a touchdown. The problems did get fixed in the second half however, as the line was penalized only once for a false start on Ceedrick Davis.

“We try to create the same situations that we didn’t have success in and bring that to practice,” said Cristobal. “I think the second half is a pretty good indicator of what we can do, the penalties are technical and certainly are not a matter of effort or intelligence.”

Caylin Hauptmann and Rupert Bryan were the main offenders, with Hauptmann getting called two times for holding, and Bryan once for a false start.

“A lot of our focus is going towards our penalties, as it should be,” Hauptmann said. “That’s not taking away from our focus on the game against Western Kentucky...we’re not supposed to jump offside like that and it affects the team in a big way when we do. We’re just focused on getting in their [rams], honestly, we are.”

Besides the troubles facing the offensive line, quarterback Wesley Carroll’s performance of late has also been a concern.

Carroll started out the season having not thrown an interception in the first five games. He has now turned the ball over once in each of the last three games, twice in the end zone.

In an effort to mix things up on offense, FIU decided to go to the wildcat formation more than usual against Troy, and players have mixed feelings about how it worked out.

“It hasn’t been very successful obviously, Troy did a great job of stopping it and we got to find ways of getting more points,” Carroll commented. Senior wide receiver T.Y. Hilton felt like the play calling was not the issue, but rather the lack of getting it done by the players.

“I think coach calls it at the right time, he knows what he’s doing. We just got to execute,” said Hilton.

FIU finishes the season with four conference games in a row and two Sun Belt losses already on their record.

According to the history of the conference, a conference championship is out of the question. No team in the SBC has won the conference with three losses in their rear view mirror.

So with the 2011 season in the books, the Golden Panthers look ahead to the SBC tournament, which begins on Nov. 2.

As far as the tournament is concerned, we should have all the confidence in the world,” Chestnutt added.

Panthers clinch No. 2 seed in conference tournament

Chelsea Leiva [above, right] scored twice in FIU’s win over the Owls in season finale.

Joshua Forney, who suffered a sprained ankle against Troy, is listed as day to day. Wide receiver Glenn Coleman is expected to be back after suffering a bruised rib on his fumble versus the Trojans, as well as Chuck Grace, who has missed five straight games due to an injury to his knee.

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Chelsea Leiva (above, right) scored twice in FIU's win over the Owls in season finale.
Group of hackers plan attack on Facebook

Facebook users have had a few scares this year, starting with the supposed official take down on March 15 and the latest rumor that members would have to start paying user fees. As if those were not enough, Anonymous, a virtual group on 4chan.org, is an English-language imageboard that was launched in 2003. The group makes its presence known on the Internet with less restraint than in real-world situations. Trent Pepper, an unofficial spokesperson on a Canadian radio show called Search Engine, said: “We [Anonymous] just happen to be a group of people on the Internet who need an outlet to do as we wish [with what] we wouldn’t be able to do in regular society…that’s more or less the point of it.”

They have adopted the Guy Fawkes mask, popularized by the film “V for Vendetta,” to reenact the protests. In 17 century England, Fawkes was a leader of conspirators who tried to blow up the House of Parliament along with King James VI in order to practice Catholic rituals freely. Many events are associated with the group. The most notable event is Project Chanology. The group had organized to protest against the Church of Scientology and, after taking legal actions against YouTube to take down a video featuring an interview with Tom Cruise, the Church of Scientology was threatened by the group, who announced their intentions during a press release. They stated that the attacks would continue in order to protect the right to freedom of speech and end the “financial exploitation of church members.”

Another recent act was Operation Sony, which was launched after Sony sued George Hotz for hacking a PlayStation 3. They saw the lawsuits as an “unforgivable offense against free speech and Internet freedom.” On April 16, Anonymous, along with willing volunteers, hit PlayStation’s network, website and stores with a denial-of-service attack, which overwhelmed the servers with requests until they couldn’t keep up anymore, leading to an eventual crash. The event kept the PlayStation Network down for about a week, losing millions of dollars and after the operation.

During mid-July this year, proclaimed members of the group uploaded a video on YouTube announcing Operation Facebook to be launched on Nov. 5, also known as Guy Fawkes Day — during which they will attempt to take down Facebook. According to Rocco Venn from tech.com, the site can only happen if an account, I had deactivated it because it was taking up too much time and too much drama. In the sense of hackers, I was being watched by friends of friends. I don’t check in or tell people where I am. It wouldn’t affect me.

Student reactions to the “Operation Facebook” attack

Student reactions to the “Operation Facebook” attack were mixed but felt that the group had gone too far. “Wow talk about extremists. The Internet could be safe or it could be dangerous. I would be really sad because I get to know what’s going on because of Facebook. Just make sure your Facebook is set on private. Hackers make money off of hacking, but there are rules so I don’t think it’s that big of a deal.”

— Diana Arcon, Junior, Finance & Marketing

“Woah, I think it’s stupid, I don’t see what kind of message they can get across. If they want to get a message across, they should hack a government website. Who is going to care if a social networking site goes down? It will take Facebook three days to get up again. Even if Facebook goes down, people will move to Google Plus.”

— Kevin Reivi, Junior, International Relations

“I recently just got my Facebook back after six months of not having an account. I had de-activated it because it was taking up too much time and too much drama. In the sense of hackers, I was being watched by friends of friends. I don’t check in or tell people where I am. It wouldn’t affect me.”

— Karelia Garcia, Sophomore, Hospitality

Synthesizers, as musical instruments, are double-edged swords. On one hand, they may serve as a key ingredient in a much-needed musical flourish, creating vast landscapes of sound and an overwhelming sense of euphoria; as musical instruments, as musical instruments, as musical instruments.

— Ami Blank}

“M83 creates a trance-like sense of emotion

M83 creates a trance-like sense of emotion

As a key ingredient in a much-needed musical flourish, creating vast landscapes of sound and an overwhelming sense of euphoria; as musical instruments, as musical instruments, as musical instruments.

— Ami Blank

The coach told several anecdotes of his past when he shared his religion with his players and how it affected their lives. "I used to tell my boys," Bowden said. "You go to class and listen to the professors talk and they tell you who they worship and you listen to them don’t you? You don’t have to believe what they say, but you listen. Your going to listen to me.”

"I will tell you," Bowden said. "I will tell you. I will say ‘Well you’re not politically correct.’ I don’t care," said Bowden. “I’d rather be spiritually correct than politically correct.”

The event was hosted by the University’s Program in the Study of Spirituality, the College of Business Administration and Baptist Health South Florida. Dr. Nathan Katz, the director of the program in the Study of Spirituality, spoke about the importance of studying spirituality before the speech. "I was expecting a more athletic conversation," said Pierre. “But I think I received a conversation based more around spirituality and who he was as a person.”

“I’ve always been more impressed by Bobby Bowden the person than Bobby Bowden the figurehead.”

Among those in attendance for the speech was former player Wayne Messam, who played as wide receiver from 1992 to 1996 for the Seminoles. Messam is currently the commissioner of the city of Minamar and owner of Asset Builders. The former wide receiver remembered a time when he had to tell coach Bowden he was going to miss practice. “There was a movement going on called the Million Man March,” Messam said. “And I was going to have to miss a day of practice to attend the rally. You could only imagine the courage and the guts it took for me to go to coach Bowden and tell him I was going to miss practice. But, he accepted it and wanted to find out more about it. He spoke to the kind of person he was.”

“LIFE!”

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
**HAUTE TOPIC**

**Shopping ban survival guide: steps to stop spending**

Fashion lovers are materialistic. We do not let others tell us otherwise. I sometimes disparage myself with all the purchases I make or needless objects I lust over. After all, I could be dedicating my time and money to something a little more virtuous.

Before I guilt myself out of shopping every again, I should explain where these feelings are coming from. Latey, I have been doing a lot of shopping. My bank account is crippled and my weekends are shortened by the time I spend in the mall.

Ironically, my wardrobe has not improved in the slightest. Sometimes I get so carried away with the shopping part of fashion that I forget to wear the things I have bought. I can’t tell you how many times I have seen shirts and heels are sitting with tags still attached in my closet. I am also a little disturbed by how many days of the week I plan secret trips to the mall or how much time I waste looking at online stores instead of studying.

It’s clear that I have to stop and the easiest way is by committing myself to a shopping ban. For the entire month of November, I am not allowed to buy any item of clothing, shoe or accessory.

People’s privacy is at stake because everything they do on the Internet, every single click is being recorded,” said Carlos Gonzalez, a professor in the School of Computing and Information Sciences.

They have a good motive, but not everyone thinks they are completely righteous. Junior Lazzaro Herrera, a computer science major, said: “They sometimes do what is right, but that doesn’t put them above the law because it’s still illegal to hack into somebody else’s server.”

At the end of the two minute video, they seem to be confident that people will actually look convincing yourself that you do not need to go shopping just by looking in your closet. I have so many things that get very little wear and others that get too much wear. In order to balance this out, I can try to organize my closet in a way that shows my unused items alongside my overused stuff. I already started shifting things around last night and I do not think a month without buying will be too much of a challenge.

Another step to take is making a list of things that you need. By having a definitive list, I know how much money I need to save up to buy the needed items once the ban is over. This approach will also give me a more realistic idea of how much disposable income I have per month so I do not get into the habit of buying once the ban is over. Finally, I need to call down. No more shopping does not mean it is the end of the world. More than anything, I need to learn to love the things I already own. Too many times I have bought something I already own. In order to benefit from this, I have purchased some items for the sheer reason that it was on sale. This ban will allow me to reflect on my tendencies and try to eradicate them. I do not think my bad habits will disappear in one month, but it is a step forward to becoming a smarter shopper and having a more fluent idea of what I like, need and want.

**ANONYMOUS, page 5**

be vulnerable to attacks for its use of MySQL, which makes it possible to use bulk to strain its users, sells users’ information, saying the site does not criticize Facebook’s privacy policy, “People’s privacy is at stake because everything they do on the Internet, every single click is being recorded,” said Carlos Gonzalez, a professor in the School of Computing and Information Sciences.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2**
- **Women to Watch: Florida’s Entrepreneurial Leaders**, 2011: 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m., MARC Building
- **Guide to Career Management Services & Resume Writing for Business Students**: 3:30 p.m., MARC 123
- **Jazz at the Wertheim Series: FIU Latin Jazz Ensemble**: 7:30 p.m., Herbert and Nicola Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members

**THURSDAY, NOV. 3**
- **The Third Man (1949) by Carol Reed**: 6 p.m., GC 125
- **John Lennon Education Bus**: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., front of Academic 2 building
- **Wertheim Lecture Series: Annette Huang, VP of Operations, Human Resources for State Farm Insurance Companies**: 12:15 p.m., MMC 125
- **(ILSA) Roundtable on International Intervention in the Middle East**: 3:30 p.m., MMC 125
- **The Barnes & Noble Writers on the Bay Reading Series**: 8:30 p.m., BBC AC 194

**WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!**
Avenues of progress limited

ANTHONY PEREIRA
Contributing Writer

This is the land of opportunity, but by closing the avenues that are most important to our nation’s continued success, we close off the possible avenues for progress. Students that are in the United States illegally should be able to pay in-state college tuition. These students live in that state; therefore, they should pay the same as everyone else who lives there and attends a college or university.

The gray area arises when we consider that these students have an advantage over other students from outside of that state. That is an advantage many Republicans, such as former Pennsylvania Governor Rick Santorum, feel should not be given to them, because they did not get there legally. This is a debate based on moral principles more than anything else.

The difference between in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition is substantial. At the University, the out-of-state tuition, at $590.86 per credit hour, is more than three times the $177.56 per credit hour that any Florida resident would pay.

The generally conservative view is that immigrants need to get here legally, and only then can they, or their children, be offered the same benefits as citizens or legal residents. This is a view shared by the most popular right-wing figures such as Sarah Palin, Michelle Bachmann, and Mitt Romney.

Minnesota Representative Bachmann has said, “I think the American way is not to give tax-paying, subsidized benefits to people who have broken our laws, or are here in the United States illegally.”

What Bachmann is clearly missing here is that our country was founded by people arriving here whichever way they could. The view that someone is entitled to more than someone else simply because of how they arrived somewhere is ethically and morally wrong. This issue should be one left for the states to decide, so Republicans can advocate for something far-reaching as passing a federal law in a clear sign of political inconsistency.

Republican Texas Governor Rick Perry, on the other hand, believes that illegal immigrants should have their shot at the American dream for the same price. This is a completely different perspective from the majority of his Republican colleagues. On CNN’s Tea Party-sponsored debate, Perry firmly stood by his beliefs on why illegal immigrants should be paying the same as citizens, stating, “You pay in-state tuition... it doesn’t make any difference what the sound of your last name is. That is the American Way, no matter how you got into that state.”

This position is not a Republican one, so it comes as no surprise when former Senator Santorum, called Perry “soft on immigration” in the Google and FOX-sponsored Republican debate.

I would normally disagree with the majority of Perry’s policies, but he is doing the right thing on this one. Allowing these immigrants to pay in-state tuition would only make things better. It would only add more talented and well-educated people to our workforce. Competition is not something we should fear; it is something that makes every industry better, and it is the foundation for a strong capitalist nation.

Immigration is something that has made this country what it is today, and we need to decide which ideal would keep that legacy alive. Forcing illegal immigrants to pay more for college is not the way to move forward. Opening the doors for as many people to get a quality education is a much better idea, and it is the best way to keep avenues of progress open.

President Obama’s performance commendable, impressive

A wide range of words have been used to describe President Barack Obama’s approach to [the] United States’ foreign policy and national security, including, but not limited to, “naïve,” “dangerous,” and “inept.”

Some critics of the president have even gone as far as saying that he was providing “aid and comfort to the enemy,” going on to describe President Barack Obama’s approach to national security and foreign policy, although far from perfect, is not only commendable, but impressive. And it looks like a majority of Americans concur, as an Associated Press poll showed 64 percent of them approving of how the president is handling national security.

None of these developments should surprise anyone.

For example, if you paid attention to what the president was saying in debates when asked about whether he thought the U.S. should act if we found that Osama bin Laden was in Pakistan and the Pakistani government refused to act, he said that we should. This is almost exactly what happened.

Also, when Obama was asked which of his predecessors’ foreign policy that he liked, he mentioned [former] President George H.W. Bush because of how he was able to assemble a coalition of countries to help the U.S. in the First Gulf War. Obama also praised Bush for his role of multilateralism and international cooperation. This sounds a lot like the operation in Libya to me.

However, President Obama should not be subject to criticism. I think saying that he is somehow guilty of treason or that he’s making America less safe is lunacy; he is somehow guilty of treason or that he’s making America less safe is lunacy; and “naïve,” “dangerous,” and “inept” is dithering when it came to making decisions about troop levels in Afghanistan.

However, I would argue that if anyone took a closer look at the president’s performance in the realm of national security, they would find it to be commendable, especially for someone who was constantly accused of not having enough experience to answer a 3 a.m. phone call to the White House.

Some of the president’s successes include authorizing the raid on a compound in Pakistan that killed America’s most wanted terrorist Osama bin Laden, helping assemble a coalition of NATO allies for military action in Libya that eventually led to the fall and death of Muammar Qaddafi, the accelerated and largely successful use of predator drone strikes to kill top al-Qaeda operatives (including Anwar al-Awlaki) and fulfilling a campaign promise that first propelled him into the spotlight by announcing that all combat forces will be removed from Iraq by the end of this year.

With that being said, I would argue that President Obama’s approach to national security and foreign policy, although far from perfect, is not only commendable, but impressive. And it looks like a majority of Americans concur, as an Associated Press poll showed 64 percent of them approving of how the president is handling national security.

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Dining options at BBC see increase in revenue

NADRA MABROUK
Staff Writer

With the addition of Starbucks brand items to the Bay Café’s menu, Glenn Rigby, supervisor of Panther Dining Services, has seen an increase in customers since August.

According to Lorvin Ramirez, assistant food service director, there has been a 20 percent increase in revenue thus far since last year. All profits from Starbucks purchases remain with Panther Dining Services.

The cafeteria at Biscayne Bay Campus is called “Bistro on the Bay” and Rigby claims the best-selling smoothie is the Caribbean Obsession and the Starbucks lattes are getting high customer attention.

The cafeteria was renovated with new additions to Grille Works’ meals in a newly formed digital menu. Some of the different items include the spicy chicken sandwich, the Angus Cheeseburger and early ties for an extra 30 cents if it is with a combo meal ($1.99 alone).

Robert “Sunny” Laboy, sous chef at Grille Works, has noticed new faces that keep coming along with the regulars that come back. Laboy estimates if they were making $1,600 a day last year then they are now making $2,200 a day on a shift from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ramirez declined to give specific figures on revenues.

According to Sunny, all of the items from the Grille Works menu are receiving demand, although the spicy chicken sandwich has gained the most popularity among the students.

“Eat from Grille Works’ chef delight meal of the day 2 to 3 times a week, but I try to bring food from home more now,” said Odarris D’Haiti, a graduate occupational therapy student. “The prices are unjustified and I try to be more financially prudent.”

Jonathan Garcia, Junior Civil Engineering major is mainly on the Engineering Campus and eats from the Panther Pit. He claims that Grille Works is pricier than EC’s cafeteria.

Some students feel the price increases are trifling for the quality of the meals.

“They have healthy alternatives and the service is always nice,” Maria Collazo graduate student for Communications said. “The workers are always available. I enjoy [Moe’s Southwest Grill] most because I can choose the ingredients myself.”

According to Ramirez, there is a possibility that there will be a cut down in the 8 p.m. shift seeing as they do not receive that much support during the evening.

SOC’s Halloween club fair showcases organizations

REBECA GARCIA
Staff Writer

The Student Organization Council hosted the Halloween themed Club Fair on Oct. 31, at the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square for the second club fair this semester.

Amidst the various clubs, students walked around in costumes ranging from a lady bug to the fairy king from William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

Like most Biscayne Bay Campus events, this event had food involved. Students were required to get at least four stickers from the 20 clubs in attendance to get a candy apple.

“As a student organization council, we host clubs fairs throughout the semester so they can showcase their clubs and get students involved,” said Mais Kayyali, president of SOC.

“Each time we have a club fair it has a different theme, and for October, we decided to have a Halloween theme since not many events were going on during Halloween day.”

Anastasia Seldinskaya, SOC events coordinator, felt the same way and added “We’re always trying to make it more fun for students and make it something they can connect to.”

Each club had different activities and candy available for the students. SOC, for example, had Henna tattoos and the Catholic Campus Ministry had Pumpkin Bowling.

“It’s been really fun,” said Kriizia Knacker, a senior majoring in Hospitality & Tourism Management, who stopped by to give support to her club, the Catholic Campus Ministry. “I didn’t do anything this Halloween weekend and it was nice to come by and feel the festive spirit of Halloween.”

More than 150 students dropped by Panther Square for the festivities, many of which were in costume. Many had come by because of the music, but stayed to ask questions from the club representatives.

“I think it’s important for students to get involved,” said Kayyali. “For example, if a student is a biology major, they can join in a club that relates to their field of study and they can meet other students studying the same thing. Most of these clubs are made up of students that they already have in their classes so it’s a good way to network.”

Emmanuel Jerome, a sophomore computer engineering major in the Student Programming Council, walked around in a witch-like costume and lead people to different clubs in between scaring people.

“I think it’s very important for students to come to club fairs like this,” said Jerome. “They can learn about the different clubs and what events we offer on this campus.”

And like Seldinskaya said, “It’s never too late to join a club, even in the middle of the semester.”

SOC hosted its Halloween Club Fair on Oct. 31, as [above] Patrick Milord, sophomore civil engineering major, plays “pumpkin bowling,” a part of the Catholic Campus Ministry table, and [left] Academic Center tutor, Federico Lastra, dressed as Oberon for the International Scholars won best costume.