Textbook affordability still an issue

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

Textbooks are a constant concern for students and were even the focus of a two-year-old statute that came into question in a Faculty Senate meeting.

According to the statute, institutions within the Florida College System must make textbook information available to campus bookstores 45 days prior to the commencement of classes and should there be any trouble pertaining to classes posted after the 30-day deadline, textbook information is to be posted as soon as possible.

All information regarding textbooks should be made readily available to students online so that students have the ability to shop around for textbooks at lower prices.

The meeting minutes of the Textbook Affordability Committee on February 11, 2011 reveal confusion about the deadline there would be some lowering of prices. Earlier in the fall 2011 semester, there was a misunderstanding; the dean’s willingness to consider such penalties was mistaken for a certainty. Lorna Veraldi, professor in the school of Journalism and Mass Communication, was upset about the situation and sought verification as per the possibility of sanctions being imposed.

Upon further investigation and questioning the provost, it was found that it was merely hearsay and no penalties have been or are planned to be applied. “It was just a rumor, and it’s been debunked,” said Veraldi as she explained the situation. Students appear to be content with the current system.

Brandon De Souza, an undecided sophomore explained, “I only do it out of the professor’s fault if they’ve put in the order, but we sometimes run out of the books that students need for exams the next day.”

Students have the opportunity from very early on to shop and order textbooks for the classes they are taking, and exams usually take place quarter-to-quarter to mid-semester.

“IT is beyond our control,” Sandasani explained, “but customers don’t understand that and often blame FIU or the bookstore for not doing their job.”

Other students, even wait until class actually starts.

Textbook affordability still an issue

ATHLETICS

Student-athletes may earn $2,000

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Editor

Depending on what the University chooses to do, student-athletes may be walking around with a little more money in their pockets.

When the NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved a package of sweeping changes, they placed the ball on the Sun Belt Conference’s side of the court, giving major conferences to chance approve or afford a possible $2,000 stipend given to student athletes.

Now the Sun Belt has put the ball on FIU’s side of the court.

On Nov. 2, just over a week after the NCAA passed their legislation, the Sun Belt Conference became one of the first non-autonomous, university-based conferences to give the nod to its Universities to embrace these changes.

In an unanimous vote, Sun Belt Conference chief executive officers and athletic directors have agreed to give each institution the option of determining how much cost of attendance and multi-year scholarships will be allocated to their student-athletes.

“Athletically, academically, and financially the Sun Belt Conference is stronger than it has ever been. Our leadership is committed to building upon that foundation,” said Troy University Chancellor and Sun Belt Executive Committee President Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr. “We believe the new NCAA regulations will benefit student athletes and we encourage each of our member institutions to determine its level of participation. Such discretion will ensure that our athletic programs will continue to recruit and compete at a high level.”

If FIU approves these changes, the university will have the opportunity to award scholarships for multiple years.
HOPE YEN AP Staff

The wealth gap between younger and older Americans has stretched to the widest on record by a prolonged economic downturn that has wiped out job opportunities for young adults and saddled them with housing and college debt.

The typical U.S. household headed by a person age 65 or older has a net worth 47 times greater than a household headed by someone under 35, according to an analysis of census data released Monday.

While people typically accumulate assets as they age, this wealth gap is now more than double what it was in 2005 and nearly five times the 10-to-1 disparity a quarter-century ago, after adjusting for inflation.

The analysis by the Pew Research Center reflects the impact of the economic downturn, which has hit young adults particularly hard.

More are pursuing college or advanced degrees, taking on debt as they wait for the job market to recover. Others are struggling to pay mortgage costs on homes now worth less than when they were bought in the housing boom.

The report, coming out before the Nov. 23 deadline for a special committee that is proposing $1.2 trillion in budget cuts over 10 years, casts a spotlight on government saving that has buoyed older Americans and contributed to a widening wealth gap.

Graduate students must maintain nine credits a semester and undergraduate students must be full-time students, meaning no less than 12 credits a semester can be dropped.

Graduate students must maintain nine credits a semester. They are constantly being followed up by the International Student & Scholar Services. A letter is written, advising the students that they are no longer eligible for the student visa. They must then seek employment or travel.

VotoDondeSea: the majority of FIU students can make the literal translation “vote anywhere.”

With a name like this it is simple for Venezuelans to grasp what this organization is about.

VotoDondeSea works in favor of Venezuela as a non-profit organization that encourages Venezuelans that are living outside their native country to still participate in elections. Although the view of the organization is strictly democratic they are considered a non-partisan organization; it’s main goal being on advocating voting.

Mario Antonio Di Giovanni Furriol, coordinator of VotoDondeSea, expresses his desire for advancement for his native country. “Even though we may have different ways of thinking, we are all citizens of the same country, we are all inspired by the stories and traditions of Venezuela,” he said. “But also, every Venezuelan has a commitment with the future of our nation. This commitment is fulfilled through the act of voting.”

From the year 2000 to 2010, the Venezuelan population living in the U.S. rose from 91,500 to 215,000, mostly in South Florida. The Venezuelan Community of Miami requires a photocopy of certificate of U.S. citizenship, permanent residence card or passport of Venezuela. VotoDondeSea aspires to raise the number of Venezuelan voters from 57,000 to about 500,000 that are living abroad.

The U.S. has the largest Hispanic community, the majority being ones who came after President Hugo Chavez took office in 1999. The presidencial elections of 2006 at the age of 15,000, Venezuelan American voters, 98 percent voted for Manuel Rosales, of the Acción Democratica party and the candidate who opposed Hugo Chavez.

Since Chavez already announced he will run again International students face distinct challenges on campus

HECTOR INFANTE Contributing Writer

Being an international student is no easy task.

Different cultures and languages are just a couple. Challenging but international students are faced with when making the transition.

The University receives more than 2,500 international applications each year, 190 scholars from over 125 countries, according to the International Student and Scholar Services.

A set of rules must be followed to the letter for students to be eligible to stay and study.

To maintain their status, undergraduate students must be full time students, meaning no less than 12 credits a semester can be dropped. Graduate students must maintain nine credits a semester.

Living in Miami itself is an experience. You do not feel different because the majority of students are from different parts of the world. In a way, we’re all the same.

Hodeil Baesahn public health graduate student Saudi Arabia

by the International Students & Scholar Services and their academic advisers to keep them on track.

Ana M. Sippin, director of the Office of International Student & Scholar Services at Modesto Maidique Campus makes sure things always run smoothly.

“International students have their own orientation and events. There’s a U.S. culture class students can take to help with the transition. There’s also the International Student Club that local events can meet and help one another,” she said.

One of the first challenges students face is leaving their families behind. Wenda Xu, a Chinese major in mathematics, remembers his first days in Miami. “I was really homesick. I came with my girlfriend, but it’s never the same,” he admitted.

Luckily for Xu, he found a group of Chinese students who helped him get grants to low-income students has risen somewhat, but covers a very small portion of the actual cost of attending college.

“The elderly have a comprehensive safety net that most adults, especially young adults, lack,” Danziger said.

Paul Taylor, director of Pew Social & Demographic Trends and co-author of the analysis, said the report shows that today’s young adults are starting out in a very difficult economic position.

“If this pattern continues, it will call into question one of the most basic tenets of the American Dream—the idea that each generation does better than the one that came before,” he said.

Other findings:

— Households headed by someone under age 35 had their median net worth reduced by 27 percent in 2009 as a result of unsecured liabilities, mostly a combination of credit card debt and student loans.

— No other age group had anywhere near that level of unsecured liability acting as a drag on net worth; the next closest was the 35-to-44 age group, at 10 percent.

— Wealth inequality is increasing within all age groups.

Among the younger-age households, those living in debt have grown the fastest while the share of households with net worth of at least $250,000 edged up slightly to 2 percent.

Among the older-age households, the wealth gap has risen from nearly five times to 21 in 2007, with the median net worth of net worth of households with net worth of at least $250,000.

The median net worth of households headed by someone 65 or older was $170,494. That is 42 percent more than in 1984, when the Census Bureau first began measuring wealth broken down by age.

The median net worth for the younger-age households was $3,662, down by 68 percent from a quarter-century ago, according to the Pew analysis.

Net worth includes the value of a person’s home, possessions and savings accumulated over the years, including stocks, bank accounts, real estate, cars, boats and other property, minus any debt such as mortgages, college loans and credit card bills.

Older Americans tend to hold more net worth because they are more likely to have paid off their mortgages and built up more savings from salary, stocks and other investments over time.

The median is the midpoint, and thus refers to a typical household.

The 47-to-1 wealth gap widening gradually due to delayed marriage and increases in single parenting among young adults, the housing bust and recession have made it significantly worse.

For young adults, the main asset is their home. Their housing bust and recession have made it significantly worse.

In contrast, Americans 65 or older were more likely to have bought homes long before the housing boom and thus saw a 57 percent gain in housing wealth even after the bust.

Older Americans are staying in jobs longer, while young adults now face the highest unemployment rate since World War II. As a result, the median income of older-age households has grown at four times the rate of those headed by the under-35 age group.

The Medicare Security benefit accounts for 55 percent of the annual income for older-age households, unchanged since 1984. The retirement benefit, which are indexed for inflation, have been a consistent source of income even as safety-net benefits for other groups.

The elderly have a comprehensive safety net that most adults, especially young adults, lack.

Sheldon Danziger, public policy professor University of Michigan

Organization brings election to Venezuelan students

STEPHANIE ARAUJO Contributing Writer

VotoDondeSea: the majority of FIU students can make the literal translation “vote anywhere.”

With a name like this it is simple for Venezuelans to grasp what this organization is about.

VotoDondeSea works and falling home values.

Since Chavez already announced he will run again
Students vote for VotoDondeSea

VOTO, page 2

for the elections of 2012, it is very important that Venezuelans receive the greatest number of voters.

Carlos Herrera, a founder of VotoDondeSea explained the organization’s non-partisanship.

If there is something that young people want, VotoDondeSea want is to make clear that we are not aligned politically with anyone. They say they do not receive money from any political party, working as volunteers and are funded by small donations from its members to allow them to pay banners, and business cards of the organization.”

VotoDondeSea believes every Venezuelan has a commitment to fulfill through the act of voting.

“Well personally, what I get from participating in VotoDondeSea is the satisfaction that even though I am not living in Venezuela, I have not forgotten my country and I am involved in its future,” said Furiati. “It is specifically important for college students to participate as they are the next generation to provide for the success of their family’s native country and being in college expects their knowledge on elections and the electoral process.”

Their tactics include promoting their message on college campuses and participating in different public events. They put together videos to trigger reminiscence in every Venezuelan: bringing up specific characteristics of Venezuela and how it is “their” country. VotoDondeSea is also expanding the times at which Venezuelans can register to vote. They have achieved interviews through television, radio and the Internet to help them promote their goals.

“El Venezolano Vota Donde Sea,” the saying for the he organization, translated on college campuses and particularly in universities: “Venezuelans anywhere,” said VotoDondeSea. VotoDondeSea have proven to be successful according to statistics and will continue to promote their message for the 2012 elections.

MINOR TASKS NOT FOR INTERNATIONALS

INTERNATIONAL, page 2

acclimated to the culture, which he had so eagerly wanted to live in.

“I like Miami and its weather. I also enjoy the typical foods including Cuban food.” said Xu, with a smile on his face. “It has been one of the best decisions of my life.”

As students arrive to FIU, their next task is picking classes.

“It was very stressful, you’ve got so many options”, admitted Fernanda Mideros, a junior from Ecuador studying International Relations.

This is where the academic advisers come in and guide students.

Mideros quickly figured out which courses she wanted to take and now feels the relief of being done with that process.

Once on campus, students say one of the biggest shocks in the great number of students that attend the school, from football games and activities to classes with over four hundred students.

“It was really different. I was used to classes with fifty students at most,” said Mideros.

Another challenge students face while living in the U.S. is they aren’t allowed to work outside of FIU, making it harder for them to have any form of steady income. The few that work must also report taxes to the IRS.

Students also receive little financial aid from the University. Most of the time it comes from special scholarships their countries offer for international students. Students also agree that having a car makes life much easier.

Given that distances around South Florida can be very far, a car is necessary an international student to explore and see what Miami has to offer.

“Living in Miami itself is an experience” said Hadeel Baeshan, a Saudi Arabian-born graduate student majoring in public health.

“You don’t feel different because the majority of the students are from different parts of the world, in a way we’re all the same,” said Baeshan.

The “International” in the University’s name doesn’t disappoint, taking in students from every corner of the world.

“It was one of the reasons I chose this particular university,” confessed Mideros.
Three players record career-highs in FIU road loss

ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT

Thomas: “I’m more concerned with graduating students”

imposing higher academic standards on future recruits. Under the current system, athletic scholarships are renewed annually and can be dropped for any reason. If the University accepts, they could award scholarships for the student athlete's entire collegiate career, losing the power to revoke it based solely on their on-field performance. However, scholarships could still be pulled for academic misconduct, low grades or other forms of inappropriate behavior. “This presents us with another opportunity to enhance the well-being of our student-athletes by increasing our economic support to help them support academically from the NCAA. This is because if her team is going to lose, it had heartbreak written all over. Though three Panthers notched double doubles, only one, senior Sabrina Gonzalez, had a hitting percentage above .300. Junior Jovana Bjelica had 28 kills and 21 digs, setter Jessica Egan had 60 assists and 11 digs, and Marija Proa had 16 kills and 19 digs. The Ragin’ Cajuns punished the Panthers to the tune of a 9-1 lead to open the first set. FIU was behind for the majority of the set, albeit cutting the deficit even more slowly. Gonzalez managed to close the gap to five points, 21-16, with her first kill of the game. Proa committed an error to give back the point to the Cajuns, and Egan committed a service error to complete a tremendous comeback. With the help of some sloppy Cajun plays, the Panthers rounded back to tie the game 22-22.UL span off two straight points, but two kills by Bjelica tied it again. UL choked and committed two straight errors to give FIU a huge first-set win. Judging by the finish of the set, one would think there was no way FIU could lose the match. It was a close affair in the second set until back-to-back kills by Proa launched FIU to a healthy 18-10 lead. The Cajuns tried to fight back, but the Panthers answered every opposition kill with two of their own. Bjelica and middle blocker Silvia Carlisi slammed down two kills to win the second set 25-15. The Panthers, clearly benefiting from the momentum behind them, claimed another big lead when they saw themselves jump to a 20-14 lead in the third set. Then came the collapse. The Cajuns scored six consecutive points to tie the match and sent FIU scrambling to a timeout. Out of the break, the match became an anxious tug of war, as both teams sent the set into extra points. Starting from 23-23, the teams tied five times. With the score 27-27, UL broke through with a kill and an FIU error to capture the third set. The Panthers were still dazed from having the rug pulled from under them when the fourth set began. FIU was never able to build a lead in the set, often falling victim to errors on their side of the net. Though FIU did not fall behind by more than five points in the entire set, they could not mount any momentum either, eventually losing 25-21. As the pivotal fifth set opened, Egan fed a pass to Gonzalez that she proceeded to slam down for the first point of the game. Unfortunately for FIU, that was the only lead they would have. UL quickly grabbed a lead on a Panther error and never looked back, eventually capping their dramatic comeback with a 15-11 win.

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Wednesday, November 9, 2011

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Three players record career-highs in FIU road loss

VOLLEYBALL

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

Danijela Torrice, head coach of the Panthers’ volleyball team, has often said that if her team is going to lose, it had better be in five sets. Well, her team met the criterion when they lost in five sets to University of Louisiana on Nov. 6. The problem, however, is that this loss was to a team that was 4-9 in Sun Belt Conference play. FIU was already ahead 2-0 before its complete collapse and it had heartbreak written all over. The Panthers (17-8, 9-5 SBC) lost all the momentum they picked up after a tremendous first-set comeback to lose to the Ragin’ Cajuns (13-17, 5-9 SBC) in five sets, (26-24, 25-16, 27-29, 21-25, 11-15). The loss snapped FIU’s six-game winning streak. It was also the first time the team lost when leading 2-0 this season.

The Panthers tallied 28 errors, the most since Sept. 2 against Auburn, which ironically was the last time they lost a five-set match.

Though three players notched double doubles, only one, senior Sabrina Gonzalez, had a hitting percentage above .300. Junior Jovana Bjelica had 28 kills and 21 digs, setter Jessica Egan had 60 assists and 11 digs, and Marija Proa had 16 kills and 19 digs.

The Ragin’ Cajuns punished the Panthers to the tune of a 9-1 lead to open the first set. FIU was behind for the majority of the set, albeit cutting the deficit ever so slowly. Gonzalez managed to close the gap to five points, 21-16, with her first kill of the game.

Proa committed an error to give back the point to the Cajuns, and Egan committed a service error to complete a tremendous comeback. With the help of some sloppy Cajun plays, the Panthers rounded back to tie the game 22-22. UL span off two straight points, but two kills by Bjelica tied it again.

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Then came the collapse. The Cajuns scored six consecutive points to tie the match and sent FIU scrambling to a timeout. Out of the break, the match became an anxious tug of war, as both teams sent the set into extra points. Starting from 23-23, the teams tied five times. With the score 27-27, UL broke through with a kill and an FIU error to capture the third set.

The Panthers were still dazed from having the rug pulled from under them when the fourth set began. FIU was never able to build a lead in the set, often falling victim to errors on their side of the net. Though FIU did not fall behind by more than five points in the entire set, they could not mount any momentum either, eventually losing 25-21. As the pivotal fifth set opened, Egan fed a pass to Gonzalez that she proceeded to slam down for the first point of the game. Unfortunately for FIU, that was the only lead they would have. UL quickly grabbed a lead on a Panther error and never looked back, eventually capping their dramatic comeback with a 15-11 win.
FIU will travel to UCF for NCAA first-round match

The women’s soccer team sat on the edge of their seats glued to the screen at FIU Stadium, waiting to see where they would be slotted to begin the NCAA tournament.

FIU was selected among the field of 64 to represent the Sun Belt Conference in the NCAA Women’s Soccer Tournament. The Panthers will travel 238 miles north to face UCF on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

UCF is 11-4 overall and was eliminated in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament to East Carolina, 2-1. They were the fourth overall seed in the conference.

“They are a good opponent. It’s a great opportunity for us, but it really doesn’t matter who the opponent is, we have to come out and play our game and give our best,” head coach Thomas Chestnutt said. “It will be a great in-state game.”

The last time these two teams faced one another was back in 2009. It was a lopsided loss for the Panthers as they were shutout by UCF 5-0.

The team earned an automatic birth to the NCAA Tournament after clinching their first Sun Belt Championship crown since 2000, defeating Western Kentucky in penalty kicks 4-3 after 110 minutes of scoreless soccer.

“I try to read the player the best way I can, but at the end it’s an educated guess on which way you go. I guess in our penalty kicks, I read the players well,” goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage said.

But much has changed from then to now as FIU has matured under Chestnutt and is now standing atop of the SBC.

“We made a team promise to always play for each other, play as hard as you can...back each other up and be true teammates,” Savage said.

Savage saved two penalty kicks against the Hilltoppers in the SBC Tournament. The SBC also awarded Nicole DiPerna, Chelsea Leiva, Kim Lopez, Ashleigh Shim, and Johanna Volz first-team all-SBC Tournament team.

Even though FIU’s 2011 squad is much improved since 2009, the Golden Panthers cannot overlook the Golden Knights.

The Knights boost a great squad with two perennial shooting forwards, Tishia Jewell and Nicolette Radovic. Nicolette leads the team in goals with seven. Tishia is not that far behind with six on the year.

But if the Golden Panthers proved anything when they faced off against WKU in the SBC final, it is that their defense is hard to score against. FIU’s defense has saved a total of 107 shots, 104 of them have been saved by Savage.

UCF has scored 30 times in their 15 games this season, averaging two goals per game. Their high-scoring offense and FIU’s stingy goalkeeping will clash in the first round.
**FOOTBALL**

**Team focusing on bowl berth, finishing season strong**

**JACKSON WOLEK**  
Staff Writer

In a matter of 11 days, the Panthers went from kicking a game winning field goal against co-defending conference champion from a year ago, Troy, to having the exact same happen the other way around at Western Kentucky. The kick versus the Trojans’ kick FIU’s hopes of repeating as Sun Belt champions alive, and the 34-yard field goal off the foot of WKU’s Casey Tinius killed it.

With no shot of obtaining first place in the conference, now that the team sits four wins behind Louisiana with just three SBC games to go, the focus has turned to finishing the season off strong and getting into a bowl game.

“The most important part is not even worrying about any of that stuff, just play better football,” said head coach Mario Cristobal. “We’re fighting a lot of the games hard and a lot of the games....”

The only time the Sun Belt had three teams make it to a bowl game in the same year was in 2010 with Troy, FIU and Middle Tennessee. Right now, FIU’s only opportunity of coming third in the conference is to win out the rest of the schedule and have WKU lose to North Texas and Troy so that both teams will be tied in third, but even then, WKU would hold the tiebreaker.

“You win six games and you’re bowl eligible. We definitely feel that we’re still bowl eligible and that we’re a real good football team,” said right end Jonathan Faucher.

The offense, which had been giving up over 20 points per game to opponents in seven out of eight games, gave up just 10 versus WKU in the loss on Saturday. However, the offense only managed three field goals and 180 yards of offense. The last time the offense generated such low numbers was against Florida in 2009 when only 182 yards were gained.

Although the defense gave up just one touchdown, WKU running back Bobby Rainey rushed for 155 yards on 28 carries and was flagged seven times. “I thought at the end of one call on Isame [Faciane], that’s just playing hard football,” Cristobal said. “I’m in no way taking about it, I don’t even worry about the play because he was playing as hard as he could and he was trying to stop that guy (Rainey), and he did everything he could so I could never take that away from him and I’m proud of him and the whole defense,” said senior defense back Jonathan Cyprien.

The defense, which had been giving up average of over 32 points per game to opponents in seven out of eight games, gave up just 10 versus WKU in the loss on Saturday. However, the offense only managed three field goals and 180 yards of offense. The last time the offense generated such low numbers was against Florida in 2009 when only 182 yards were gained.

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T.Y. TO SENIOR BOWL  

According to FIUSports.com, receiver and return specialist T.Y. Hilton was invited to the annual Under Armour Senior Bowl. Hilton is the first player in FIU history to be invited to the game, which gives NFL prospects a chance to improve their stock for the NFL draft.

The Senior Bowl will take place on Jan. 28, 2012 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala.

**Offense has disappeared after a strong start to the season**

**BRANDON Wise**  

Just when the Panthers seemed to be peaking and becoming a legitimate football power for the next few years, they found a way to stumble and show us how far they still have to go. Dating back to last season, the Panthers had won 10 of their last 12 games. Now, they have lost four of their last six. There is a reason for this: offense. The old saying in football is “Offense wins games and defense wins championships.” The only problem with that is you have to win games before you can even get to a championship. Right now, the offense is simply not getting it done.

The offense came into this season with the hype of being an unstoppable force that no one could contain. That is laughable looking at it now because this offense seems like it cannot score on anyone.

Wesley Carroll has become the Carroll of old. After starting red hot, the red shirt senior has been exposed for being a game manager. He has catered to what has been asked of him in the passing game, now that the team sits first place in the conference, with just three SBC games to go, the focus has turned to finishing the season off strong and getting into a bowl game.

Offense has disappeared after a strong start to the season.

**WHERE ARE THOU T.Y.?**

Over the past few weeks, Hilton has been playing a different role in the offense than he is used to seeing from him. It is almost like he is a decoy. The explosiveness that fans have grown accustomed to seeing over the past few years with the legend has disappeared. It is almost as if Mr. Electricity has passed the torch onto Wayne Times and Jacob Younger because they have become the two leading receivers on the team, besides a few deep balls to Hilton.

Those glimpses are becoming like Haley’s comet, only making an appearance every few weeks. Now, only getting those glimpses from Hilton could have cost the Panthers a chance at back-to-back bowl bids.

**SAD ENDING**

This season had so much promise, so many opportunities. Now, they are going to have to settle with a mediocre record and possibly no bowl game. For all the publicity that surrounded this team to begin the year, finishing 7-5, their best record ever, would be a disappointment.

Right now, they could miss a bowl game simply because there is no room for them to go to a game. There are only two bowl ties for the Sun Belt and even the third team, Western Kentucky, will be fighting for their own bowl position.

It is just the worst way imaginable for the Panthers to finish a season with so much hope in such disgrace.
Longboards used increasingly to cruise around campus

**HAUTE TOPIC**

**Inspiring blogs the cure to fashion blahs**

Remember when I said to cut down on fashion blogs to avoid fruitless spending? I couldn’t do it. In order to survive without hitting the stores, I have needed some outfit inspiration. The best way to do this is by observing bloggers’ style. I look at many blogs daily, ranging from fashion photography to beauty. It seems like there are millions of them out there, some better than others. Here are some of my “real girl” favorites. **GARANCE DORE, WWW.GARANCEDORE.FR**

Garance Dore is who I want to be when I grow up. She is funny, stylish, talented and French. Her blog features all of her cool friends from around the world and their personal style, along with funny rants about her hair salon or debates about which shoes to buy. Although she is probably best known for her photography, Dore started off as an illustrator for a magazine, so her blog is littered with really chic drawings of models in the new collections. In addition to clothes, she features beauty, art and sometimes even health, proving fashion is not limited to simply garments. Dore is also the girlfriend of uber popular street style photographer Scott Schuman of The Sartorialist (www.thesartorialist.com). They are a perfect match made in fashion heaven. If you are a fan of wearable style with a twist, Garance Dore is for you. **LUXIRARE, WWW.LUXIRARE.COM**

Luxirare is home to a nameless, faceless fashion designer who has a penchant for fine dining. In a world of over sharing on the internet, it is really refreshing to see someone with a mysterious aura. I have deduced that she lives in New York City and has graduated from a design school because of her restaurant reviews and impressive workshop. Her style is pretty consistent, a mix of classic style and neutral colors with the influence of progressive designers like Yohji Yamamoto, Viktor and Rolf and Maison Martin Margiela. What really intrigues me about Luxirare is her label; she designs and constructs her own clothes, shoes and accessories. Seeing longboards on campus is a common site. Some think it is the best way to travel, others find them annoying. Whether the longboard helps students get to class sooner, or almost crashes into others while students walk to their next class, it is an extremely present accessory for students. As a means of transportation, this peculiar board proves to be a fashionable form of transportation.

**UNDERGROUND**

Students create Film Initiative

**HOLLY MCCOACH, Contributing Writer**

The word on campus is that there is an underground club that meets in secluded, dark areas to go about their business. It may seem sketchy, but it is not trouble that they plan on bringing to the table. The students gather because of the Film Initiative: Underground at FIU. Students who enjoy seeing the likes of Clark Gable or Katharine Hepburn light up the screen should take note of this newly developed group at the University. Although the club was recently started, a system has already been established as to how and what films are shown. Due to the lack of a film presence on campus, Juan Barquin and Robert Colom decided to collaborate and immerse others into the world of film. They did so by offering a film showing once a week – free of charge. However, lack of funding and a small budget have caused their creation to have a rocky start, but their passion for entertaining folks on film proved to overcome any obstacle. Juniors Juan Barquin, an English major, and Robert Colom, an anthropology major, are both pursuing the Film Studies Certificate, the only film-related certification any student can obtain from the University. The lack of film degrees offered has not stopped them in pursuing the group in order to further their interest on the subject. With the help of Professor Barbara Weitz and a six-member staff, the group has been gaining interest. Screenings of various movies began only with a handful of people, but have slowly been flourishing. “We noticed we had a good program, so to speak. It was a rocky start. [During] our first time screening, we got escorted out by a security guard in the building.”

Robert Colom, Junior, Anthropology

**BLOGS, page 8**

**FILM STUDIES**

**UNDERGROUND**

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**The Beacon – 7**

**www.fiu.edu**

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Wednesday, November 9, 2011

**LIFE!**

**CAMPUS LIFE**

**VANESSA PAREDES, Asst. Life! Editor**

His right foot is used to increase the speed as he cruises on his Landy-acht on the paved paths around campus. With each stride his board rocks, and the students walking, and finally arrived to his class in a fraction of the time.

With a campus stretching 342 acres, riding a long board around campus is not uncommon. Many students have fallen into this trend, saying their farewells to walking around campus.

Unlike the skateboard, many riders claim the longboard is easier to master and more efficient for getting from point A to point B.

“What is different from the skateboard is that although both can be ridden, longboards go much faster for longer distances while the skateboard is more commonly used for doing tricks on it,” said sopho-

more Alejandro Carrizales.

The longboard has various key differences from other boards, making it efficient from cruising. An obvious trait is the elongated deck, which allows the rider to have more foot room, enhancing the deck, which allows for the rider to sit down for a little,” said sopho-

more communications major, Luis Canducci.

Longboarding and walking aren’t the only ways of transpor-

tation seen around the University though. Riding a bike is a more traditional way to get around, but students argue that the bike less convenient.

Sophomore Cynthia Fuentes said, “I think riding a longboard is much more efficient because it’s not so much of a hassle compared to locking up a bike somewhere on campus.”

Due to a growing number of longboarders on campus, it is likely to see longboarders while strolling from class to class. Some believe that longboarding poses no threat to the rest of the student body, yet others find it bothersome. Aido Stimamiglio, junior and international relations major, does not longboard on campus but has no animosity towards those who do. “I really don’t feel any anger towards them if anything they’re getting around quicker,” he said.

On the other hand, Mady Calvo, freshman in business administra-

tion, has not had pleasant experiences with the riders on campus.

“Students who use longboards throughout the University may fine it convenient for them, but are much of nuisance to others walking around campus. Last week, I was almost run over by someone on a longboard on the way to class,” she said.

Seeing longboards on campus is a common site. Some think it is the best way to travel, others find them annoying.

The students gather in a fraction of the time.

Asst. Life! Editor

Esra Erdogan

Contact Us

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Contact Us
Spotlight On... Aspiring rapper does not let obstacles slow him down

Akiel Griffith Staff Writer

"Hip-hop has always been controversial, and for good reason," wrote artist Jay-Z in his book, "Decoded." Nonetheless, one hip-hop artist that might be seen as controversial is Nicholas "Sain’t" Brown because of his style and criticisms about a variety of topics.

Just take a look at one of his recent recordings, "For the Fallen," which the rapper describes as "...truth being spoken in those 52 bars of realness."

Brown is a senior current at the University, majoring in English, and is expected to graduate in spring 2012. Music has always been a passion for the Bahamian-born rapper, and has never let any obstacle stop him from pursing his dream.

He is a meticulous planner with a great entrepreneurial mind, has a thriving music career and notes that he was "good at business." Brown because of his style and criticisms about a variety of topics.

In 2003, Brown had signed his first record deal with a small, local independent label, but unfortunately, the venture didn't have any success.

Around 2006, Brown started working on a mixtape titled "Collection Tape: Can't Afford Beats Vol. 1," which offers the listener with a collection of songs compared to the usual hip-hop track.

One of his greatest achievements was the mixtape, which he even sold his car to fund it. "Go hard or go home, because if you aren't serious, then you're wasting time and energy that could have gone into something constructive like a solid education," the rapper explained.

Not wanting to fail, Brown chose to work on what would become "Collection Tape: Can’t Afford Beats Vol. 1." The mixtape was inspired by rapper Dave Storm and his beat box remake of a song from Drake’s “So Far Gone” mixtape. Brown said it took about a month and a half to write, but took a rough eight to nine months to produce.

When asked about his greatest accomplishment so far, he said, "I have been following Jane Aldridge www.seaofshoes.com

Rumi Neely of Fashion Toast

On Tumblr. Neely's blog gives me the doors who you are secretly envious of. Dabbles in design, is the cool girl next to Sarinana, who is also a model and dabbles in design.

Sarinana's style is easy to imitate and high sandals and piling on the jewelry. She introduced me to that," said Barquin.

"We've got a few plans for December; a theme for each month, and a theme for December has been established but is being kept as a surprise for the audience.

As his new project picks up steam online, Brown also has other plans in the works. He is currently working on his new mixtape, "Water into Mind," and an album named "The First Miracle EP." In the future, he hopes to take his movement worldwide and into the hearts of millions.

When asked about why he is so determined, he said, "It's instinctive. A moth to a flame, if you will. When you don't see yourself doing anything else except what makes you happy, you go for it 100 percent and never say sorry."
During an interview with Stephen Colbert on “The Colbert Report,” Coldplay’s front man Chris Martin was discussing the influences and similarities between them and fellow British contemporaries Radiohead.

Regarding this, he remarked, “We are not as good musically, but much more attractive.”

For being on a facetious show and acting in similar tone, Martin ironically expressed some truth to that statement. Coldplay has received those backhanded compliments of “Radiohead-lite” throughout their career, from the earnest efforts of “Parachutes” to the anthem styles of “Viva La Vida...” and now “Mylo Xyloto.” “Hurts Like Heaven” automatically catches your attention with lively precision with Martin’s fans-inspirational singing of the lyric “Don’t let it take control.” He acts like a voice of generational youths that never necessarily wanted him to speak for them, but we still accept his preachy timbre that comes off more earnest than it does enforced.

A cascade of synths and ubiquitous “oohs” wash over “Paradise,” which is a song ripped for epic chorus singalongs and claps at their stadium shows. On record, it is a production piece of art that implements arching pianos and crescendo guitars with cranked-up drums on the mix that offers more to the listener. “Us Against the World” expands on their sound — but by its minimalist approach. It plays like a swooning lullaby that stretches for a “Hallelujah”-type feeling.

“Up in Flames” features a beat from Will Champion that grooves and echoes like hip-hop percussion resonating against Martin’s tender vocals about (you guessed it) a relationship going up in flames. Simplicity can always be counted on, even if they are pop art superstars. Having achieved success in the avenues of commercial and critical gives Coldplay extra license to teeter the line of ambitious and audacious. This is the case for “Princess of China,” featuring Rihanna. Yes, Rihanna. Are you surprised? The biggest modern rock band in the world with one of the biggest names in the pop world seems like a match waiting to set fire — and it does.

The mechanical sonics mash up against one another like people will be mashing up with each other when this one is juicing up the club. I can imagine the countless number of fans going, “Oh, my God, I love this song!” turning their radio up when this hits No. 3 on “On Air with Ryan Seacrest” (you know who you are). Crowd pleasing is something Coldplay can do admirably that it is hard to find fault in a band who knows what they can give: music that is heartwarming and pleasant listening that does not cross the edge of too adventurous or indulgent. “Mylo Xyloto” might not actually mean anything, but the music absolutely does. It highlights a band who has amassed worldwide appeal and never seems to let up, offering a mix of pleasant, enriched pop rock that is entertaining as it is uplifting. Apparently, “Mylo Xyloto” does mean something after all.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this fall.
DENISE HALPIN, president of the Student Government Council at the Bishop’s Student Center, attended the Nov. 4 University-wide meeting via telephone. Calling from what sounded like the center of a Cambodian street market, she was not about to keep her phone on mute throughout most of the meeting, thus making her the greatest contribution to the proceedings by not saying anything.

In the pursuit of brevity, the details will have to go unmentioned in referring back to the cover-your-ears-and-shut-your-eyes embarrassment of watching the SGC-BBC conduct itself at the Oct. 21 University-wide meeting, sporting a deficiency of professionalism like a vacuum has of oxygen.

That meeting—which every issue was tabled and not even brought up for erudition of watching the SGC-BBC conduct itself at the Oct. 21 University-wide meeting, sporting a deficiency of professionalism like a vacuum has of oxygen.

That meeting—which every issue was tabled and not even brought up for the opinions of student government is to keep in mind that the rising tuition costs are an issue. Was it not so expensive to go to college, there would be no need for students to borrow funds to offset the costs. That being said, if these trends continue, there will come a time when students cannot get loans at all, thus disenfranchising thousands of potential college graduates, which would then drive the economy even further downward, because many rising industries that require innovative thinkers also require at least a Master’s degree, if not higher.

As college students, there are a couple of ways we can avoid this financial hardship. To begin with, we must resist the urge to borrow more than we actually need for tuition. I know it is tempting to borrow several loans to pay off some bills, especially since many loans are subsidized and are not due for repayment until six months after graduation. However, with the economy in such a disrepair, there is no guarantee that a post-grad will be employed right after graduation, thus making it even more difficult to pay back the loans in a timely fashion. It makes little sense, then, to increase the hardship by over-borrowing, especially from multiple lenders. Sorry to burst your bubble, but keep the borrowing at bay.

Furthermore, search diligently for scholarships and grants. With enough research and a good grade point average, students could acquire enough “free money” to pay for college. Even if a scholarship only covers $500 per semester, it will still make all the difference when it’s time to purchasing books.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama’s student debt relief plan, which reduces minimum payments and forgives debt after 20 years instead of 25, could be the solution to current and future students, thus giving college graduates a fair chance to pay their debt. Even with this reform, we must borrow responsibly and fully understand what we are getting ourselves into when we borrow funds for college. Otherwise, we will have a heavy debt that comes along with our diploma.

CLASS DISMISSED
THE FALL COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE HAS BEEN REVISED TO ACCOMMODATE MORE GUESTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011
10:00 a.m.
College of Education (was originally scheduled at 3p.m.)
College of Engineering & Computing

3:00 p.m.
College of Arts & Sciences
• School of Environment, Arts & Society (SEAS)
• School of Integrated Science & Humanity (SISH)

7:30 p.m.
College of Arts & Sciences (was originally scheduled at 10:00a.m.)
• School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011
10:00 a.m.
College of Business Administration
• Landon Undergraduate School of Business

3:00 p.m.
College of Architecture + The Arts (was originally scheduled at 10:00a.m.)
School of Journalism & Mass Communication
College of Business Administration
• Chapman Graduate School of Business

7:30 p.m.
Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
(was originally scheduled at 3:00p.m.)
College of Nursing & Health Sciences (was originally scheduled at 3:00p.m.)
School of Hospitality & Tourism Management
(was originally scheduled at 10:00a.m.)

For more information, please visit
http://commencement.fiu.edu
Student embraces music while balancing school

Cristina Miralles
Staff Writer

Daniel Alejandro Sandler has spent half of his life in Argentina and the other half in Miami as a singer/songwriter and a student. Sandler grew up in a family of musicians; his father and grandfather used to sing and his great grandfather was a member of the Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlin. Their influences helped him grow into a musician in his own right.

By 2004, Sandler was playing the guitar and the piano, but it wasn’t until 2006 when he began writing his own songs. As of now, he has around 40 original songs in both English and Spanish, and like any other composer, his songs come from personal experiences.

“My lyrics mostly come from my experiences with girls. Every time I like a girl I get inspired to write lyrics and create a melody. If it is not about a girl, then it has to touch my inner feelings, and if it happens to be a girl that touches my inner feelings, then the song will most likely come out better,” said Sandler.

Sandler’s inspiration also comes from a few of his favorite bands like Queen, Los Enanitos Verdes, Fito Paez, Hawthorne Heights and Avenged Sevenfold.

On Nov. 7, Sandler preformed at Rock Out with SPC, where he performed acoustic covers of alternative bands mixed in with his own original songs.

Sandler has had the chance to perform at the Hollywood Beach Bandshell, at local coffee shops, parties and at weddings, between his regular gig at The Coffee Scene where he used to play every Friday night.

When he is not writing his own music and performing, he’s a student in his senior year at FIU majoring in Spanish. Sandler wants to become a Spanish teacher in the future.

“It’s hard trying to do both at the same time. They both interfere with each other, but I try to manage my time so that both come out well.”

Sandler says that just like any other aspiring student or musician, he has goals of his own that keep him on his feet.

“I have various goals in my life; I’ve wanted to become a musician for the five years. I still believe I can become a successful musician, [it might be hard] but not impossible.”

Rebecca Garcia
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Programming Council hosted Rock Out with SPC, which showcased the talents of singer Daniel Sandler, on Nov. 7.

Rock Out with SPC is part of the Student Programming Council’s series of Square Days.

“Square Days are a series of events that aims to bring out different entertainers brought for students to enjoy,” Maria Reynaga, SPC-BBC secretary, said. “Today’s theme was Rock Out with SPC.”

The singer for the event was Daniel Sandler, a University senior majoring in Spanish, who covered a series of alternative and rock songs.

“Daniel had been to one of our previous events and he walked into the office and spoke to the council and said ‘Make me a vendor, I want to perform for you,’” said Cherri Vega, SPC-BBC President, on how they booked him. “At first we were a little hesitant, but when he brought his guitar in and sang for us, we were on board.”

Along with the talents of Daniel Sandler, Rock Band and Just Dance were made available to students to play. Giveaways, including candy, Rock N’ Roll themed rubber bracelets, Vitamin Water, laptop cases and movie promotional items were given out as well.

There were around 30 students at the event, with several more walking by at any given moment.

Estefa Pinares, junior sociology major, was just walking by and when she heard the music.

“I liked what I was hearing and decided to stay,” Pinares said. “I think it’s nice that SPC does series like these because it brings more talent to the students.”

General curiosity brought Chad Samlalsingh, a junior sociology major, to the event.

“I think it’s important to support events like this,” said Samlalsingh. “It’s a great way to help social interaction in BBC community, and that’s important in a campus that’s primarily made up of commuters.”

Friends Bianca Varjas and Michelle Muskus, both junior journalism majors, were listening to the music while studying for their next class.

“We were studying and heard the music,” said Varjas. “Since there is always giving away free things at events like this, we decided to check it out and were pleasantly surprised by the performer.”

[Above] Ned Chandler, sophomore art major, and Maria Del Sol, biology sophomore, play ‘Rock Band’.