**Golden Panther Express raises price, concern**

**SAM SMITH AND NICOLE MONTERO**

**FISU STAFF**

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Moses Shumow takes the Golden Panther Express shuttle twice a week to teach classes at both the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“It’s going to end up costing me $300 a semester,” said Shumow, a professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Shumow also has meetings on both campuses, requiring more use of the GPE.

The per-trip price for faculty, staff and guests of the University to use the GPE doubled to $5 last month, though the fee remains the same for students.

“Shumow’s biggest concern was that he wasn’t informed prior to the increase. ‘Above everything, it could’ve been handled better,’ he said. ‘It was a shock to learn right before the semester started.’

BBC Campus Life Office Manager, Sarah David-Williams, also uses the GPE regularly. She said she was unhappy with the notification faculty and staff received from the Parking and Transportation Department.

‘We would have appreciated advance notice,’ said David-Williams.

The first email she received regarding the price increase was sent Aug. 26, but the subject of the email read “Fall Parking Update.” The email said not to emphasize the change.

The next time staff were informed of the change was Sept. 5, three days before the price change took effect.

“I tried to spread the word because it wasn’t well advertised,” David-Williams said.

This was followed by an email from Lissette Soto Hernandez, the Department of Parking and Transportation’s Director of Administrative Services explaining, though not apologizing for the change.

“I understand they have to do it,” David-Williams said. “It’s just a matter of delivery.”

Thomas Hartley, executive director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, said the changes were based on the cost of providing the service, calculating that each trip would be $5 per person.

But, because students already pay transportation fees each semester, their fees are subsidized and cut in half.

“Vendors and employees, folks like me, have to pay the full cost,” he said. “We’re happy to provide the service and happy to let employees and others use the service, but they have to cover the cost.”

FJU does not own the shuttles, but rents charter vehicles from Academiy, a private transportation company originally based in New Jersey.

“We hired Academy bus,” said Hartley. “That’s what the cost of providing the service is. If you charged everybody who rode, you’d have to charge everybody $5. But students get it at $2.50 because the other $2.50 comes from student fees.”

But students have also raised complaints.

“I’d like it if they lowered the cost or made it free,” said Alissa Hugues, a freshman hospitality major.

Unless enrolled in a fully-online curriculum, students cannot exempt from the Transportation Access Fee included in their tuition, which rings up at $90.55. For those without cars, like Hugues, these charges add up quickly.

“I have class at BBC every day, I pay $25 a week,” she said.

This semester, Hughes will pay nearly $400 more to attend classes than students whose majors are based at MMC.

Although students who previously lived on-campus housing at BBC were reimbursed for their traveling expenses, not everyone who used the service was. And without a housing option on BBC until 2016, many have no choice but to continue using the GPE.

The new Parking and Transportation website advertises improvements to the shuttle service, including “40 times faster” Wi-Fi.

But, sometimes, the Wi-Fi doesn’t work.

“There’s still at least one of the shuttles an air-conditioning unit leaks water into the shuttle’s roof, prompting riders to warn one another to avoid sitting in certain areas of the bus.

Free shuttle service was provided for those who wished to attend the football game between the Panthers and North Carolina Central University, for example.

Both the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida offer shuttle services to their various campuses, free of charge.

“It’s to be expected in America,” Hugues said of the charges. “If they tried to do that in France, they’d have a revolt.”
Performing Arts Center honors Katrina victims

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This year marks the ten-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center is hosting a concert in honor of those devastated.

“The concert is an all-encompassing musical journey that celebrates people that are still struggling to overcome the hardship that we face,” said Brenton Alston, School of Music assistant professor.

“All in Congress who support the state of California,” he added. “McCarthy would bring California clout as House speaker”

George McCarthy was inspired by Bob Dylan’s “Answer,” a question the curator for that night can answer.”


“Music serves a public,” said Rodriguez. “Music brings people together in spite of other differences. It’s a treat to have this caliber in entertainment, emotional, instructional, and educational – and it’s our job to do all of those things, ” she said.

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The University’s Wind Ensemble, which consists of students playing wind and percussion instruments, will showcase their talent at the concert. The music has some jazz influence, while still including other musical genres like Calypso.

Calypso is West Indian music using African rhythms, typically with words improvised on a topical theme. Alston said that even though the concert is titled after the hurricane, the music shows messages aimed at preventing such other natural historical disasters.

Regardless of its topical theme, this concert is not only about “Hurricane Katrina,” she said.

“Katrina, sure, but it’s always been a recurring occurrence in history and disaster. Both Alston and Vires agree that natural disasters have been a recurring feature in the news and that this concert will shed light on the devastations and foster a sense of community among those who attend the event. The concert yearns to create a connection through music, said Vires.

“Music serves a variety of purposes – for entertainment, instructional, educational – and it’s our job to do all of those things,” she said.

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Standardized tests don’t determine your capabilities

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What was intended to provide universities with a universal way of identifying whether a prospective student was prepared for college level course work has become public enemy number one. With an overwhelming record of complaints, students have simply had enough. Why should their admission come down to the mere fact of a number? Who is to say that a four and a half hour examination can accurately determine a student’s preparedness for college? What if a student is sick, or is overwhelmed with nerves and can’t seem to come to a reasonable answer? A timed essay cannot accurately determine a student’s ability to write. It is not fair to expect a student to write a lavish and well-thought essay under such scrutiny and stressful circumstances.

These examinations are too far fetched and do not accurately measure a student’s capability to succeed; rather, the exams connotate a “rite of passage” to college and perpetuate a realm of angst and inferiority.

Over the last few years, universities nationwide have made the significant decision to make standardized testing scores an optional portion of the application process. However, many universities still require students to submit their scores. Therefore, a phenomenon of stress and anxiety experienced when preparing and taking these exams is still very prevalent.

As significant changes have been made to the exam, there has been an increasing demand for test preparedness— tutoring.

In recent years, families have not only invested in their children’s education and their college applications but they are also investing in severe test preparation due to the expectations of not only the exam itself but the universities who base their acceptances on such exams.

Not only are students bombarded with tedious and abstruse concepts with strict time constraints, but they are also stricken with pressure to perform according to prepperated standards. Some students may have the stability to endure and perform sufficiently under such stress, but the reality of the matter is that the majority of students who sit to take these examinations may not perform sufficiently under such constraining conditions and do not deserve to be penalized.

It is unfortunate that constructive and well-intended ideas have surfaced other troubling dynamics. However, adjustments have been made and I hope they continue to be made. Although standardized tests give universities a backbone to their tedious and lengthy admissions processes, there must be room for compromise. A student is more than what they bubble in on a scantron.

Each student is unique with their own identity, their own mindset and their own thought process which cannot be measured, or even conceptually understood, by standardized examinations. Once universities and test makers give themselves the opportunity to hear students internal voices, change will be made.


derived from truth to it – not specifically to Asians, but to everyone in the world. People don’t like to share their problems or tell others the stress they carry on their shoulders. Everyone keeps difficult things to speak about inside and carry the burden alone.

People commit suicide everywhere in the world, but it’s widely known that Japan and South Korea have some of the highest rates. According to Petr Habarta on List25, South Korea comes in third in the third in the world. The causes of this can be anything from social to family problems. Perhaps, though, the main reason people can’t find anywhere to turn is because they don’t talk about their lives.

Inner Voice is a card game created by Jung Sub Park and Dong Hoon Lee. I received a copy of this game as a gift a friend in Korea and I absolutely love it – it’s creative, intriguing and wonderfully helpful.

The point of the game is to discuss problems or worries you are facing and make up a story out of them. Sounds confusing? Well, for starters, this game is for 2-4 players and it contains a deck of cards which have abstract art on it and some tokens depicting various things, a house, a cat, a girl, a boy, a key and so on. To start the game, you play “rock, paper, scissors” with the players to find out the order each player will take their turns, then spread the shuffled deck of cards and the tokens in the middle of your group.

The first player states a problem they are facing with some detail and the other players ask a question in order to discuss for a while. The other players then have three minutes to grab 4 cards and tell a story using them and the information they received from the first player. After the first player listens to the stories, they give each player a token to use for their next story. This process is repeated until everyone talks through their problems – there are no winners or losers.

So, let’s say you are in the middle of drama between friends. It’s stressing you out because you like them both, but you don’t want to upset them and you think they don’t want you to hang out with the other. Without this game you know what your friends are thinking or how to say how you feel, you might not get any relief. That’s where Inner Voice comes in. I believe Inner Voice is a great game to talk about issues you are facing and let go of the stress a bit by speaking about it with your friends or family, while simultaneously receiving feedback or advice from them. Even better, Inner Voice helps release worries through helpful discussion and humor.

The instructions were in Korean for me, so it was a bit difficult to understand, but even though the game isn’t sold in English, anyone can play something similar with a little creativity – or hope that a translated version comes to the United States. Not only is this game a great way to reduce your stress or talk to friends and family about life, but to safeguard one’s health. It is not healthy to keep negativity and stress bottled up because it can cause extreme depression. We should all live happier with a bright smile on our faces – and maybe playing a game now and again could do that.

New game could help you solve your problems

Stephanie Montes de Oca
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Usually, people perceive Asian countries as having hard working, studious people who don’t speak about their problems or feelings – a bottled up society.

It’s widely known that Japan and South Korea have some of the highest rates. According to Petr Habarta on List25, South Korea comes in third in the world. The causes of this can be anything from social to family problems. Perhaps, though, the main reason people can’t find anywhere to turn is because they don’t talk about their lives.

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Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Successful entrepreneur gives insight to students

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Although she would have never imagined a cleaning company being her dream, Kristen Hadeed is leading one of the fastest growing businesses that started because of a pair of jeans.

On Thursday, Oct. 1 in the Graham Center ballrooms, Hadeed spoke to students about how she became the leader of an amazing opportunity. She talked about the struggle of starting a company, the obstacles she faced, the opportunities she turned down and her views on how to keep a business successful.

From a very young age, Hadeed was all about business.

“I wanted to learn about the way things worked, the people around me, and I was particularly interested in making money,” she said in her TEDxUF speech in February 2012.

As a Finance major in her junior year at the University of Florida, Hadeed asked her parents for some money so she could purchase the latest “Lucky Brand” jeans. As most parents would, they laughed it off, said no and told her to get a job.

Having no time between her already busy schedule, Hadeed opted against getting a job and instead posted an ad on Craigslist offering a cleaning service for houses at a reasonable fee. As time went on, she had so many requests that she started needing help from friends. But the real obstacle came when Paradigm Properties, a property management group in Gainesville, Florida, asked her to clean the apartments of moved out residents throughout the summer.

In less than a month, Hadeed had to hire 60 students to handle the workflow for Paradigm. Doing a phenomenal job, Hadeed and her team were asked to come back a year later for the same contract, and this is where Student Maid began.

Hadeed explained that to be successful, there were four key points that have to be remembered. One, your company has to have a vision. Two, there has to be a value system set in place for the company to grow. She shared her company’s personal values, saying that thanks to noting what she wanted her company, employees, and herself to stand for, made a world of a difference in the success of her business. Three, there has to be some tough love in a working environment because that’s how people better themselves. The last key point and probably the most crucial is the ability to network and form relationships with people.

“She runs on who you know,” Hadeed said.

Hadeed gave the young entrepreneurs advice on how to create a business and also reminded them that it’s not simple but it’s worth it.

“Remember, leadership is not an excuse to do less, it’s a responsibility to do more,” Hadeed said.
Eduardo Marturet is entering his tenth year as the lead conductor for the Miami Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Oct. 4. He received his degree in Piano, Percussion, Composition and Conducting from the University of East Anglia while studying in Cambridge, England. Eduardo’s career has spanned three continents and 20 countries. He succeeded the late Maestro Manuel Ochoa, at his request, in 2006.

The Beacon interviewed Marturet and asked him about his own experience with music, MISO’s future, and what we can expect this season from MISO.

Beacon: Where does your passion for music come from?

Marturet: It comes from my genes, my DNA. I was born into a family of businessmen; I was programmed to be another businessman. I was lucky enough to be born the sixth child of eight siblings. I guess my parents were relaxed after educating their children and I snuck out and became an artist. Since I was born, music had a huge role in my life.

Beacon: You once said that you considered a “concert” an obsolete form of expression. Why is that?

Marturet: I believe that the classical concert in terms of the normal, not classical in terms of what they play but classical in terms of people playing on stage, I think it’s very stale. It needs to have more of a connection with the audience. It has to have the engagement of the visuals and the challenge of really presenting music in a different fashion. That’s why, for example, using videos on stage connects music in a very organic way. It’s not artificial.

Beacon: This upcoming season will be your tenth season with MISO. What have these past nine years meant to you?

Marturet: It’s meant a lot of work in terms of raising money for the orchestra, which I have to get involved in. But, also a great pleasure because they’re an amazing bunch of musicians, I love them all. I trust in them. I have a deep appreciation and respect for them. It’s been a real pleasure and luxury to count on these great human beings.

Beacon: How far do you envision MISO?

Marturet: My vision of the orchestra is for the next 50 years, not beyond my tenure. I’m already looking at my successors, the future of the orchestra. I believe that we’ve created a brand for the city, an organization that didn’t exist before, which is very important for the city.

Beacon: What can the audience expect this season from yourself and the rest of the orchestra?

Marturet: It’s a rendition of my ten years. I’ve reinforced my vision of having new works performed in almost every program. We play music for the community. I strongly believe that our role here is not to educate the community, but to challenge the community in an entertaining way, and enhance the quality of life as a result.

Beacon: Any words of advice that you would give current or future musicians?

Marturet: It’s very important to enjoy life and have a very positive approach towards life. That of course is very much a responsibility of the parents, if your parents give you a secure childhood, a happy childhood. It’s very likely that you will have the sufficient tools to carry on in life being a secure and happy person.

MISO kicks off their season this Sunday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m., at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami Dade County. The season runs from October 2015 through May 2016.
University team beats Knights 2-1

The #14 men’s soccer team (7-2-0, 2-0-0 in Conference USA) downed the University of Central Florida Knights on Sept. 29 in a 2-1 victory. A goal in the 59th minute by University junior forward Jamar Campion-Hinds in the 77th minute. The University played a solid defense the rest of the way and held on to the 2-1 victory in Orlando.

The game was fairly even as far as opportunities go. The University attempted 14 shots in the contest, landing six on goal. The Knights recorded nine shots overall and five on the goal. In fact, both teams attempted four corners and both keepers made four saves.

In the end, a little magic from the current C-USA Offensive Player of the Week won our University the match.
FIJI and Pikapp lead thrilling game

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Driving into the University you can see two buildings that each house their own fraternity. This past Wednesday, both of those houses were empty and in the gym to witness one of the most thrilling volleyball games to have taken place at the University. The talent was insane, the teams were in post season form, and this matchup between FIJI and Pikapp was one for the ages.

Both teams should have left the match with their heads held high. To say it was a hard fought game would be an understatement. If there hadn’t been a net separating the two squads, these guys would’ve been at each other’s throats. That was the kind of ferocious competition the packed Rec Center was lucky to witness.

The match started off with Pikapp dominating the court. Their teamwork was professional. Their defense was stellar. Pikapp was able to hold the lead throughout the entire first set. That is, until they only needed one more point to win the set. Trailling with a score of 24-21, FIJI came back with three consecutive scores to tie it up at 24-24.

“Pikapp capitalized on our errors. We didn’t play well the entire set and we shot ourselves in the foot,” Asecio said.

Needling to win by two, FIJI did exactly that, taking the next point and the first set.

The second set reversed the storyline. FIJI, riding the momentum from their first set, held a comfortable lead nearing halfway into the set with a score of 10-7. Pikapp decided to start playing and went on an 8-1 run, taking their first lead of the set, a lead they would not relinquish. FIJI, keeping it close, was unable to pull off another comeback, falling to 25-21. FIJI captain, Joaquin Asecio, said the reason they lost the second set was simple.

“Pikapp capitalized on our errors. We didn’t play well the entire set and we shot ourselves in the foot,” Asecio said.

Clearly, that foot wound wasn’t a factor, because the third set of this match was more stressful than finals week. The third, tie-breaking set only went up to 15 points. It had 14 lead changes. This set was so tight, the biggest lead that any team could hold was 2 points, until the end. Holding a 13-11 lead, FIJI was able to earn the biggest lead the game would see. Getting their 14th point, FIJI was one point away from victory. This situation was oddly similar to that of the first set, where Pikapp needed one more point to win, holding a lead by 3 points. Just like the first set, the team that was down, this time Pikapp, came back to tie the game up. However, FIJI was the only team to get a come back victory that night, scoring the next two points to win by a score of 16-14 and winning the match.

According to Asecio, FIJI’s key to victory is simple.

“We just have great chemistry. Three of us were on the Coral Reef State Champion team, and everyone else just stepped up when they needed to,” Asecio said.

It was a hard fought game by two teams that deserved a win, but at the end of the day, they both have to go back home and be neighbors. That must be an awkward walk home for Pikapp.

Panthers running game needs to start rolling

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald

No matter where FIU throws the ball – wide, short, occasionally deep -- the foundation of success usually remains with the running game. That foundation has gotten a little soggy against the past two FBS opponents.

Now comes the University of Massachusetts, an FBS opponent that loves its offense and likes the ball in the air. The conventional strategy song remains the same against such teams -- run the ball, get first downs, keep their offense off the field and out of rhythm.

FIU can’t do that getting just 18 carries for 38 yards from the running back position, as sophomore Alex Gardner, senior Anthon Samuel and freshman Anthony Jones combined for against Louisiana Tech.

“We went against a very good team last week,” FIU coach Ron Turner said. “I thought we had a good plan. At times, we executed well, at times we didn’t. We’ve got to execute better and just be patient with it. The first two games, we ran it well. Last week, not quite so much.”

“They had a veteran team that won their division last year and almost everybody back -- their secondary backbone,” he later said of that facet, Mike Montero said. But “everyone has to know that declared person. There’s three or four little different pieces for that run that have to be done -- having your head on the right side, little things like that -- to have a successful run. There’s a lot of intricate components to the run game.”

The FIU symphony has featured many different players in many different chairs: four offensive line combinations started in the Panthers’ first four games.

With Trenton Saunders, who started all four games at right guard, still hobbling around on crutches after Saturday’s loss, bet on this Saturday being five lineups in five games.

And those combinations included redshirt freshmen Daquan Wilkie and Kat Absheer in their first college games.

FIU attempted to exploit the Indiana pattern. FIU hit on a 75-yard touchdown pass and a 28-yard TD pass. The Panthers hit on a 64-yard scoring pass against North Carolina Central the drive after missing on the same pattern.

But FIU put away the rocket launchers last Saturday against Louisiana Tech.

“We had some called, but they didn’t give us the coverage to give us a shot,” Turner said. “[Quarterback] Alex [McGoough] is getting to the point where he’s not going to throw unless we get the look we want. I think they were determined not to give us big plays.”

FIU’s longest completion was a 25-yarder to tight end Jonnu Smith in the first quarter, and even that was a pyrrhic victory as Smith sustained a thigh contusion that took him out for the third quarter. Smith practiced Wednesday after sitting out Tuesday.

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Reeaaallly.
University to host 14th annual Diversity Day

CHRISTINA BROWN
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On Tuesday October 6, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Florida International University will be hosting its 14th Annual Diversity Day. Diversity is defined as the inclusion of individuals representing more than one national origin, color, religion, or socioeconomic stratum. This event is open to all current students, faculty and staff. It is a free event. There will also be a full lunch, including dessert.

There will be speakers from many different backgrounds to discuss the many issues that affect our community. All students are encouraged to come out and support this event. There will be a spoken word performance. This event will also cover the sex trafficking of women and children here in Miami and County. This is something that has become an epidemic here in South Florida.

The scheduled guest will be Dr. Stacey Rosenfeld, who is a clinical psychologist who specializes in treating eating disorders, body image concerns, addictions, anxiety, and mood disorders. Her segment will be asking, “Does every woman have an eating disorder?”

The next speaker will be Nancy Ratan, who is a lawyer and community organizer who represents children’s rights and social injustice.

Ratan’s speech is titled, “How not to be a Silent Bystander: Seeing Sex Trafficking Children in our Community.”

Next, there will be a Spoken Word/Poet performance by Katie Wasing. She is a nationally ranked spoken word poet who focuses on issues including gender, love, sexuality, and spirituality.

There will also be an overview of the “Common Reading” which is a book designated for the freshman experience class.

Our very own FIU alumna Richard Blanco will be discussing, “The Prince of Los Cocoyos: A Miami Childhood.”

He is the fifth inaugural poet in the US, and first Latino, to be designated for the freshman experience class. His speech is titled, “How not to be a Silent Bystander: Seeing Sex Trafficking Children in our Community.”

I asked the organizer of this event Andres Blanco what Diversity Day means to him. He said, “It means accepting the differences of others and embracing the fact that this is a Multicultural World.”

He also said that everyone should view the world in a multicultural set of lenses. This will allow individuals to be culturally diverse.

This event will also include a question and answer section. This will allow students to participate in the discussions being held throughout the day.

These topics not only affect our FIU community, but they also affect our communities outside of school. Society will never change if people don’t talk about what is going on in it. We have to change our perceptions in order for change to be implemented.

“Diversity Day means celebrating and honoring our differences and similarities,” said Danielle Gomez.

“It also means giving the time and awareness to issues that connect us and make us stand out.”

With all of the different meanings of diversity it has one common theme uniting others in a positive way.