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CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Week of Welcome employee Hugo Hernandez interviews senior Kristian Reister, a mechanical engineering major at the grand opening of PG5's Market Station on Aug. 23.

University graduation rates 'not strong'

NATALIA LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

According to the Associated Press, the state of Florida ranked 10th in the nation with one of the highest graduation rates, but year after year Florida International University's rates continue to drop.

In response, a new plan has been implemented to help increase these rates.

"Our graduation rate is not strong," said Dr. Kandell Malocsay, FIU's Director of Retention and Student Success. "This problem has become FIU's number one priority."

Of the incoming freshmen that began at FIU in fall 2002, only 18.6 percent had graduated in four years. By 2008, however, the data shows that this number doubled to 46 percent.

Consuelo B. Boronat, Director of Assessment & Evaluation for Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education at FIU, explained what the University has done and is planning to do to facilitate the process of graduating.

Boronat explained that the goal is for the students to move through their degree as quickly as possible.

"What seems critical is for students to go to school full time or as close to full time as possible so that they graduate quickly," said Boronat.

The bridge adviser program is one of the steps FIU has taken to assist students in graduating at a smoother and faster pace.

Charlie Andrews, Director of the Advising Center reported that FIU began hiring bridge advisers in the year 2009.

Bridge advisers help students make the transition into the junior year and to be fully accepted into their major. These advisers will be helping students choose majors that are suitable to a student's interest, personality, and capabilities.

Currently, the goal is to have 32 lower division advisers and 14 bridge advisers, at least one per college. Three selected advisers were assigned to the Business, Arts and Science, and Education programs in 2009 and an additional five bridge advisers were added this past June to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Engineering programs.

Bridge advisers were also hired at the Transfer and Transition Office to help transfer students from Miami Dade College. Next year FIU will be hiring six more bridge advisers.

The current ratio is one adviser for

New act to help students save on textbooks

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

The Higher Education Opportunity Act was reauthorized and changed in a way that might mean cheaper textbooks for college students in the United States in 2008.

The act requires publishers to provide university faculty with the wholesale price and retail price of selected textbooks. It also obligates the institution to give students options to save money on textbooks.

"My textbooks eat up my paycheck," said FIU freshman Mario Canals. Textbook prices have become a largely discussed issue at the university level and there is no exception at FIU.

"I think textbooks are overpriced," said junior international relations major Karola Fonseca, "I'm international so I already have to pay a lot for tuition."

In an effort to make textbooks more affordable, the FIU Bookstore launched its pilot textbook renting program last spring semester. Students who do not require their books for further studies are able to rent them at more than 50 percent of their whole sale price.

"FIU requested it to give students more options," said FIU Bookstore's general manager Meaghan Connolly, "we had a lot of positive feedback, that's why we increased the amount of titles."

In order to rent the textbook in



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Junior Sabrina Saint-Louis, an accounting major, browses through books for her courses this fall semester in the bookstore.

the spring semester, students were required to insert their information online and allow it to process using a secure credit card.

This semester, however, students were able to use netbooks available at certain cash registers and fill out a form, and instead of using a credit card, the student was able to use his or her panther card.

"Ten percent of [textbook] titles are now rentals, about 300," Connolly said, "we started out with about 50."

A student is able to rent the book until 10 days after the last day of finals. Failure to return the rental results in a processing fee.

"Publishers don't want us to be in [the rental] business," Connolly added, "They don't make money

off it." Some professors have also taken it upon themselves to require cheaper textbooks for their classes, one of these being chemistry department head, Dr. Palmer Graves.

"What I did was I talked to the publisher and their price was out of line so I talked to another for better prices," Graves said.

Dr. Brian Peterson from the history department acted in a similar manner.

"I wasn't using all the chapters in the textbook so I asked the publisher to make a special edition with only the ones I needed," Peterson said, "It cost about half as much."

"In the process between the publisher and the bookstore,

there's no advocate [to negotiate the price] except the department," Graves said, "I fight with the bookstore because they tend to overprice."

When a student sells a textbook back to the bookstore, he or she receives half of what they pay for and the bookstore resells it based on the national whole sale price.

"[The bookstore's] reselling is ridiculous," said graduate student Alejandro Mejia, "I personally keep all my books."

"One of the things I really don't like [about textbook selections] is that companies have ways to bribe professors to buy their books like taking you to lunch or flying you out at their expense," Peterson said, "Its a covert way of bribery."

Some publishers sell their textbooks at a higher price by giving online and CD-ROM options to university students that purchase the product.

"We should have stricter policies against textbook bribery," Peterson said, "I brought it up at the Faculty Senate but the administration said it wasn't a problem—I feel it is."

Textbook purchasing varies from directly buying from the bookstore to selling one's book to another student or looking for more affordable prices online.

"There should be a better trading system between students," Mejia said.

WEIRD NEWS

Pig wrestling canceled

According to the Associated Press, a county fair in north Montana was forced to cancel its pig wrestling competition after the 30 porkers escaped from fair officials. The wild pigs, which spend the year on a 10-mile free-range property along the Marias River, are usually captured the day of the scheduled event reported by fair office manager Shirley Embleton. But this year, fair officials were only able to locate one boar, despite flying the river. The event was postponed until Saturday, but neither the landowner nor fair officials could locate the absent pigs. Embleton says next year, organizers will devise a new plan to locate and capture the animals earlier in the week.

Anglers mourn the death of “the marriage wrecker.”

Anglers are mourning the death of a carp believed to be Britain’s largest freshwater fish, who tipped the scales at almost 70 pounds and was nicknamed “the marriage wrecker.”

According to Reuters, Two Tone, a mirror carp who weighed 67 pounds, 14 ounces, was found floating on the surface of Conningbrook Lake in Kent, England where it lived. It was believed to be about 45 years old and to have died from old age.

The fish, named for its skin color, was only caught once or twice a year and no more than 50 times in its lifetime, which made him a prize catch among anglers across the country. Two Tone will be buried next to the lake next Sunday with anglers sending online tributes to the fish that got away.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Major fairs to aid students with careers

GRADUATION, page 1

every 1,200 students, but in the span of two to three years it will be one advisor for every 288 students.

Major fairs will be held the first few weeks of class to help students gain a better understanding of what career or field they might want to focus on.

Besides increasing the number of advisers and major fairs, the student body at FIU will be expanding in the next five to ten years.

FIU President, Mark B. Rosenberg, decided that over the next five years, the student body will increase from 40,000 to 50,000 students. Over the next ten years, this number will increase by yet another 10,000 students.

“We are actually going to be seeing big increases in the number of students,” said Boronat, “but standards aren’t going to be lowered.”

In collaboration with this plan, Boronat explained that the idea is to have quality professors teach a larger number of students.

“We need to make sure that teachers are ready to teach,” said Boronat. She explained that FIU is also going to offer courses for professors on how to teach the selected material in a more efficient, effective manner. A specialist in faculty development is also looking to be hired by the dean of undergraduate education.

The steps mentioned, which FIU has begun to implement, are somewhat similar to those revealed in the College

Board reports such as improving teacher quality, increasing college completion rates and keeping college affordable.

Although FIU’s graduation rates have declined over the past year, College Board reports revealed that with the proper effort and guidance 55 percent of 25 to 34-year-olds should have an associate degree or higher by the year 2025. This would make America the leader in educational attainment around the world.

“We have been slipping,” said President Barack Obama during his speech on higher education at the University of Texas. “In a single generation, we have fallen from first place to 12th place in college graduation rates. That is unacceptable, but not irreversible.”

Health department pending approval

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

A new addition to the FIU medical program will be emerging, as the Miami Dade County Health Department begins to establish an Academic Health Department within the University for students as well as the surrounding community.

The merger, which has been in initial discussion for about five years, will increase joint teaching, research and clinical training opportunities for medical students in the University while also opening doors to internships and academic grants. The department will include an academic facility and a clinic, which are both still in its design stages.

“The opportunities that it will bring to the College of Medicine [as well as Nursing and Public Health and Social Work], to work hand-in-hand with professionals in the Miami Dade County Health Department is exceptional,” said FIU Chief Finance Officer, Kenneth Jessell, at the presentation of the project during the Finance and Audit Committee meeting of the FIU Board of Trustees.

According to a press release, the Academic Health Sciences Center is expected to generate 66,000 new jobs and have an annual economic impact of more than \$8.9 billion by 2025.

At the moment, offices for the organization are located in eight different locations across the county. Even though there are

universities who have ties to local public health departments, this would be the first partnership that results in the construction of a building within a college campus.

“Our students would have access to internships, to clinical trials and research with MDCD that they would not easily have without this opportunity. In addition, the health professionals

group, the [University] president, the trustees, and the chancellor helped in getting the appropriate language in both the house and the senate, which then passed. That will allow for the construction of this facility.”

An academic health department is known as “an organized partnership between schools of public health, medicine, nursing, and allied health sciences with

since the 1940’s under various organizational structures.

Within the University, the MDC Health Department will house its offices and provide educational teaching along with an environmental laboratory and a nutrition/breast feeding program.

“We will have a fulltime breast feeding clinic, where mothers will come to learn how to breast feed while

the later life of an individual that if we could get more folks to breast feed, we will definitely have a direct impact on the issue of childhood obesity.”

Dr. Rivera, the administrator of the health department since 2002, said that she had approached Dr. Mark Rosenberg about the idea of the merger while he was still provost of the University and has been developing the

“The opportunities that it will bring to the College of Medicine to work hand-in-hand with professionals... is exceptional

Kenneth Jessell
Chief Finance Officer,



in MDCD will be teaching our students as part of the collaborative teaching, research and clinical opportunities,” said Jessell.

Currently, the project is awaiting the approval from the governor of Florida.

The building, estimated to be 90,000 square feet, comes with an authorized budget of up to \$32.5 million. The project is included within the 2010-2011 budget passed by the Florida Legislature. The building will be financed through a bond and repaid through Department of Health lease payments.

“Last year, we were 50% successful in getting authorization in the house but we were not able to get that in the senate,” stated Jessell. “[But] the Miami Dade County Health Department, our governmental relations

public health departments.” The Miami-Dade County Health Department, which encompasses not only Miami Dade County, but also the entire state of Florida, has been active in the community

they are pregnant or afterward when they have their baby, said MDC Health Department director Dr. Lillian Rivera. “Breast-feeding is more important than people think. It has a lot to do with obesity and

idea since. “It is a type of venture between academia, applied aspects of public health, and will bring many good things for our local environment,” she said.

THE BEACON

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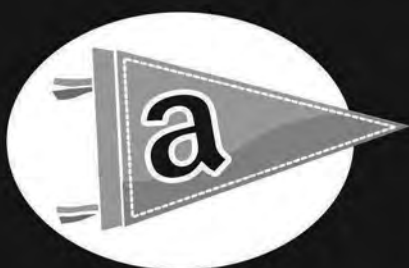
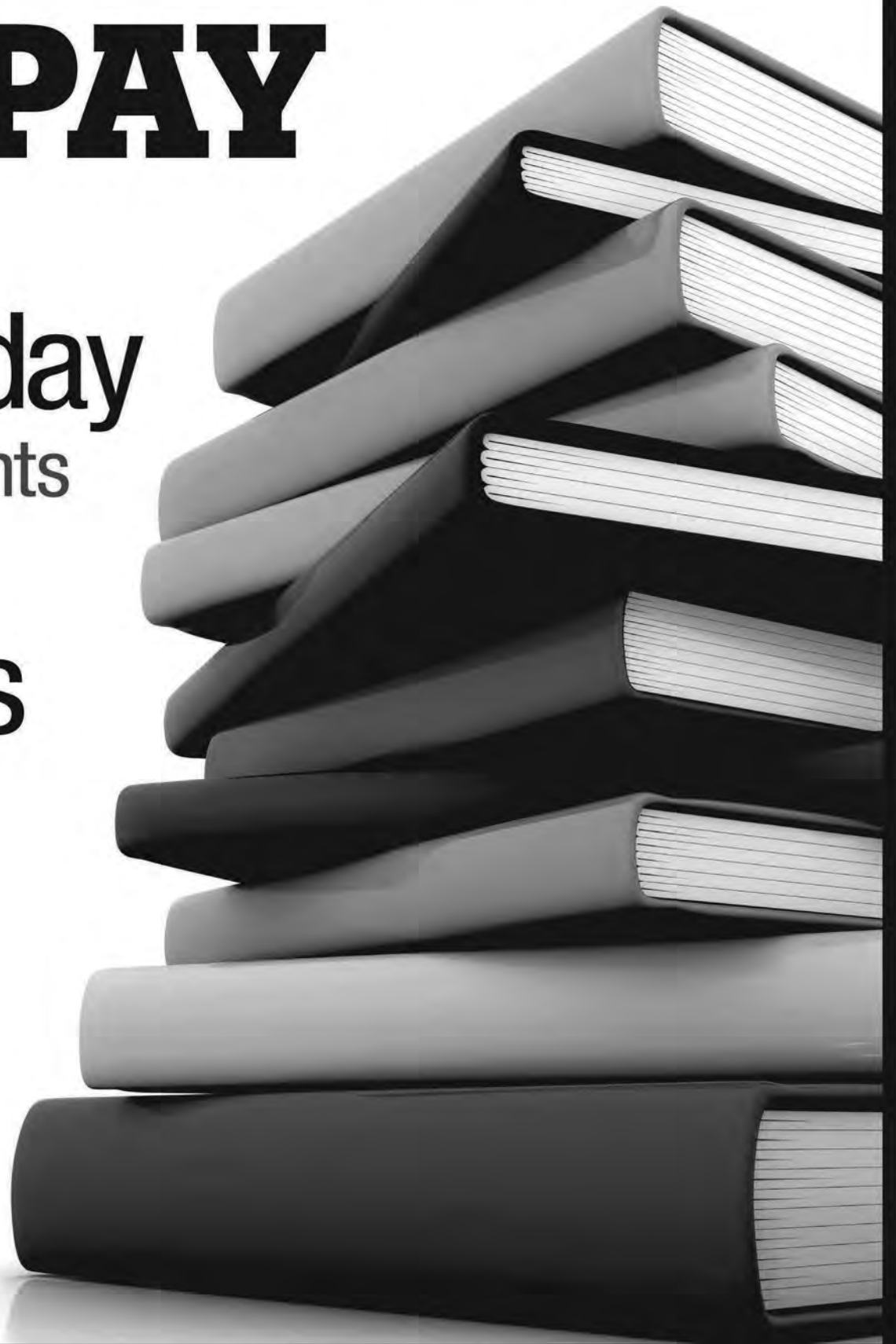
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FIU SPORTS

FIU fans misplacing anger about local media coverage

A few weeks back, a minor reporter for *The Miami Herald* who had been covering a relatively insignificant beat that he was nonetheless extremely passionate about posted a 2,700

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

word rant on his blog. This rant doubled as a clearing of the air for his readers and a "screw you" to his now former employer. In this blog, he took the time to let his readers know that he fought for them and tried to do his best to give them the coverage he felt they deserved. He showed numerous examples of what he considered an institutional bias inside of the halls of one of the most revered papers in the area.

Normally, this wouldn't be relevant to this paper at all. Note that, while we appreciate and sympathize with anyone who takes an opportunity to get back at an oppressive employer, nobody has as of yet mentioned the Jet Blue employee who made a similarly public exit from his job in recent weeks.

The interest here is not with his departure, but rather that the "relatively insignificant beat" - my words - he happened to be covering was FIU Sports.

Pete Pelegrin had been considered by many fans to be the go-to source for up to date FIU news up until his abrupt exit, and he had a relatively small but rabid following on *The Miami Herald's* FIU Sports blog.

Pelegrin's terse and angry send off vindicated many who believe that, over time, *The Miami Herald* has worked against FIU due to an ingrained bias towards a "competing" institution nine miles across town, the University of Miami.

A large part of me wants to reject this as ridiculous on its face. It is in *The Miami Herald's* best interest for the some 100,000 plus alumni of this University to want to pick up their paper and read about FIU. Why would they actively work to undermine such a potentially valuable audience?

After all, despite whatever high-minded aspirations the heads of journalistic institutions around the nation pay lip service to, at the end of the day, *The Miami Herald* is a business. Yes, it is a business

that should hold itself to a higher standard of ethics and morality, but in an era where every newspaper is fighting to survive, the bottom line is that money trumps all.

And readership equals money in the newspaper business, so *The Miami Herald* would be insane to alienate such a large audience. It would be self defeating, it would be bad business, and it would never fly amongst the higher ups.

Forgive my cynicism, then, but the real issue here has nothing to do with *The Miami Herald*. They are a business. While every college journalism student learns in their basic Intro to Journalism classes about the importance of ethics and fairness in reporting, when newspapers are losing business and being forced to cut corners to save money, those things fall by the wayside.

Putting the sad decline of the American newspaper aside, we have before us a group of fans who honestly believes a major daily newspaper would purposefully deny themselves potential consumers because they are too busy being fans of the other team.

The passion of these fans has

to be admired, but their disdain is focused in the wrong place. They see miles of empty blue bleachers at the new football stadium.

They see a sea of garnet, gold, blue, orange, and green as they walk through the Graham Center, representing every college in the state but their own.

And they get mad.

And that is a perfectly reasonable response. FIU has a large, apathetic and pathetic fan base that is too busy rooting for other schools to go to stadiums and arenas that they drive past every day when going to class or may even have class in and root for the school they attend.

The idea of it upsets the sports fan in me, too.

However, this isn't *The Miami Herald's* fault. Until FIU starts to matter in a big way, in a way that UM matters, there will never be that same coverage, at least not in the sports page.

FIU might be more important to the structure of the community of Miami as a whole, graduating far more native Miami residents than UM and placing those same people right back into the Miami populace as educated and capable citizens, but the sports pages

don't care about that. All that matters is that people are going to pick up the paper when the school is featured.

Perhaps we should hold our publications up to a higher standard, but when you have ESPN essentially acting as a marketing arm for the NFL, NBA and MLB and their biggest stars, as well as a new Sports arm of the TMZ celebrity gossip brand, we're too far gone from that higher standard, which may never have existed in the first place. This is where my cynicism comes from, and why I struggle to sympathize with those who can't see the dollar signs when this issue is brought up.

The small but vocal fans who have voiced these concerns about *The Miami Herald* represent the most die hard of the fan base, and every fan base needs people like that. In many ways, they represent the potential FIU has for a large fan base some day.

But until your everyday FIU student or alumni begins to care in a significant way and specifically until it affects *The Miami Herald's* bottom line, they'll continue to pay that other school more attention.

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Griffin is frontrunner for kicking duties

IGOR MELLO
Staff Writer

Although the quarterback race is still up for grabs, the competition for the team's starting kicking job is clearing up. But nothing is guaranteed yet, according to head coach Mario Cristobal.

After Friday's open practice, Cristobal announced that sophomore Jack Griffin is the front-runner for FIU's field goal duties.

"As of this point and time, Jack Griffin is the leader in terms of field goals," said Cristobal.

According to Cristobal, the kickers have been attempting around 25 to 30 kicks a day. Griffin completed more field goals than Michael Cal, Dylan Lynch and Julio Moraga during Friday's practice, including a 47-yard field goal during the scrimmage.

Despite having the upper hand in the race to become the starting field goal kicker, Jack Griffin has not separated from the pack to assume kickoff duties.

In fact, no one has. According to Cristobal, Cal, Lynch and Moraga are still in contention with Griffin to take the kickoffs.

GAITOR'S SIDEKICK

Cristobal is still searching for a starter at cornerback opposite of Anthony Gaitor.

"We're finding roles for guys. A guy that may be battling for a starting spot at one place, can contribute somewhere else as well," said Cristobal.

Cristobal expects to throw in most of his cornerbacks in to the mix, especially Jose

Cheseborough who is doing a "phenomenal job," according to the head coach.

Freshmen Khambrel McGee and Sam Miller have also done a "great job" at cornerback, according to Cristobal. Miller had an interception during Friday's scrimmage.

Emmanuel Souarin has also earned praises from Cristobal.

"A guy that needs a lot of mention, because of his play in camp, is Emmanuel Souarin," said Cristobal. "Emmanuel has come a long way."

Souarin started in Friday's scrimmage and saw most of his playing time opposite Gaitor at cornerback. The 5'11", 175 pound red-shirt sophomore racked up sack as well during the scrimmage.

FRASER'S BIG DAY

The secondary wasn't the only unit that shined in Friday's scrimmage. Linebacker Winston Fraser grabbed two interceptions in the first five minutes of the scrimmage.

"He is one of our leaders ... he could be dangerous in the passing game as well. He's not just a run-stopper," added Cristobal, who is hoping that Fraser stays healthy this season after missing significant time in 2010.

INJURY UPDATE

Outside of Kevin Van Kirk's significant knee injury, the Golden Panthers have ended fall training camp practically healthy. Cristobal expects his team to be back at full strength by today's practice.

Tight end Dudley LaPorte spent most of training camp wearing an orange injury jersey, but has come back and participated

in Friday's scrimmage.

Running backs Jeremiah Harden and Darriet Perry have also returned to practice and participated during the scrimmage after spending a short period of time hurt. Harden had a sprained ankle and Perry suffered a mild back sprain.

CLASSIFIEDS

HONOR STUDENTS

Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org

SEEKING PLAYING TIME



DAVID LOPEZ/THE BEACON

FIU defensive backs from left to right: Jonathan Cyprien, Chuck Grace, Ash Parker, Jose Cheesborough, Derrick Jones Jr. and Marquis Rolle warm up during a practice on Aug. 14. The team is currently sorting out its defensive backfield.

Summer festival stays away from the mainstream



PHOTO BY ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Back in June, the Alternative Theater Festival kicked off its summer season and debuted three studio productions as well as a reading of David Rabe's "In the Boom Boom Room."

The program, which commenced in 2006, provides students with the opportunity to experience and work in an environment that emulates that of an actual theater company.

The plays, Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls," Nilo Cruz's "A Bicycle Country" and Edward G. Excaliber's "Prodigal: the Execution of William Spencer" highlight the range and diversity of the program, as well as its ability to cater to a variety of audiences.

Philip Church, one of the program's founders and directors, described this season's line up as being very ambitious.

"We went for broke," he said, referring to the number of shows the company opted to produce this summer.

"In the past we focused on one production, but this year we found we had students who wanted to take over more of the responsibilities, directing and producing and that is closer to the original mission of ATF – a place where students can get opportunities to take the lead, not to depend on faculty, and make responsible decisions and learn to work as cohesive ensembles," he said.

The selection of shows was mostly drawn from student suggestion rather than directorial command, the exception being "A Bicycle Country" which was proposed

by the Chairperson.

Church describes seeing this form of collaboration as being very rewarding and one that makes him proud. Church describes the three to four week period required to prepare each show as a balancing act.

"We actually should be offering our theater students an Introduction to Rubic's Cube 101! I think if you learn how to successfully align all the right colors together, you will be well ahead of the game when it comes to scheduling rehearsals and production calls," he said.

Aside from providing an outlet for creative expression and entertainment, the Alternative Theater Festival also reached out to the Hope for Haiti drive. One dollar of every ticket sold this summer was donated and matched, meaning the \$600 raised by

the program will be converted to \$1200.

"Theater has an opportunity to directly impact social change. To do just this little bit for the terrible suffering taking place in Haiti was very rewarding. We are committed to finding future causes and having similar fundraising efforts for our community," Church proclaims.

As for the remainder of the money raised, it goes back into the ATF account for future productions and projects.

Some of the profits are going towards bringing in author of "The Secret Confessions of Anne Shakespeare," Arliss Ryan, for an event sponsored in conjunction with SGA and SPC.

As for the future, Church expresses his

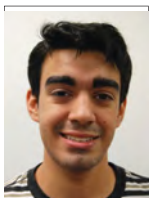
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PANEL PANEL

Literature inspires comic book

I've always been a fan of team-ups. Two heroes who have nothing to do with one another really brings the sprawling worlds that comics contain together.

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

Even better than showcasing a universe that was designed to be in one piece is when a writer puts together random fragments into something, that not only entertains, but also makes sense.

A stunning example of this would be Alan Moore's League of Extraordinary Gentleman. Putting Jekyll and Hyde in the same adventures as Captain Nemo against Sherlock Holmes' greatest enemy was inspired to say the least.

IDW Publishing's new original series is nearly based on the same idea but instead of drawing characters from English literature, the heroes of Kill Shakespeare come from a more specific origin.

In issue one the reader is introduced to Hamlet, who had been visited by his father's ghost the night before. Being shaken by the story of deception and betrayal his father told him, Hamlet sets out into the ocean with his friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

True to form, Hamlet's decision-making skills wane and a shipwreck leaves him in the care of King Richard the III.

The amazing back-story is then explained to both Hamlet as well as the reader. An evil wizard named William Shakespeare magically controls the denizens of this universe's England. Using his magic quill, he writes death and tragedy into the lives of the people.

King Richard, as well as an array of other well-known characters, wishes to put an end to Shakespeare's reign.

Hamlet is supposedly the chosen one to defeat Shakespeare and he immediately sets forth on his quest soon after accepting his

fate.

As silly as the plot may originally seem, Kill Shakespeare provides an entertaining adaptation of some very well known Shakespearean characters.

Later on, the reader is introduced to a bumbling Falstaff, a traitorous Iago, and a naïve Juliet.

Though seeing these renditions of these characters is one of the best parts of the book, it is also its greatest weakness.

The reader's enjoyment of the book depends on how well they know Shakespearean works. This may leave the book to fail in its very small niche market.

As it is, the book seems to be hard to get a hold; requiring special orders from comic shops or online distributors, but I encourage anyone who might be mildly interested to make the effort of supporting this book. Not only to keep this original and fun series alive, but also to make the market for independent comics that much more diverse.

Now I would hate to scare away anyone who might be worried they're lacking an ability of catching Shakespearean allusions. I recommend giving the book a try and checking Wikipedia on the occasion that you get lost.

This may seem like a horrible quality for a published work to have, but I would defend the work by stating that the comic book industry has always been defined by experimentation.

The cookie cutter slop that is mass produced, falls to the wayside while the strangest stuff of its time becomes groundbreaking, popular, and works of art such as Spiderman or Watchmen.

There's no assurance that you'll love the book, but don't let the series pass you by while you're deciding.

Panel Panel is a bi-weekly column discussing everything associated with the world of comic books.



TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS
Where curiously creative minds meet.

KICKOFF

September 1, 2010

Student Day / 12-3pm

Target Wednesday After Hours kicks off its second season with a full day of events. Students join us for a special welcome back bash. FIU students enjoy a free BBQ and tons of giveaways from Target, Career Services, Athletics, Alumni Association and Student Government. Music, food, and games take place on the Avenue of the Arts right in front of The Museum's doors.

Faculty Exhibition Opening Reception / 6-9pm

Then join us in the evening for our first Target Wednesday of the season with two new faculty exhibitions: *After History* by Jacek Kolasiński and *DEMONS nature/nurture* by Kathy Dambach.

Target has teamed up with The Frost Art Museum to sponsor its popular programming series Target Wednesday After Hours. Designed to complement The Frost Art Museum's exhibitions, these events give visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, and performance art.

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full list of events please visit <http://thefrost.fiu.edu>



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Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

Alternative Theater Festival a success in its fourth year

FESTIVAL, page 5

desire to develop new playwrights. "Next summer, I will recommend that out of the three productions we include an FIU student-written play.

Doing popular titles is convenient for [the] box office, but we are keeping to a mission that doesn't always play to the commercial choice like what is known as 'summer stock.'"

One of the plays showcased this summer, "Prodigal: the Execution of William Spencer," was written by FIU alumni Edward G. Excaliber, who also worked as an assistant director for the show.

When asked about the writing process, Excaliber said, "I had to close myself off from everything and everyone to concen-

trate and bring these voices to life."

He recently completed a second script and hopes that it can be a part of next year's festival.

In regards to the program, Church said, "ATF definitely offers a chance to let go of a dependency which is essential for the future professional theater person.

Ultimately, you are on your own and you have to know how to make things happen without waiting for someone else to put the pieces together for you."

While only four years old, the program clearly proves that it has nothing short of potential for expansion and further growth.

Nilo Cruz's "A Bicycle Country" will be returning to the stage for two weekends at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester. It is directed by ATF co-founder Marina Pareja.

British band past its prime

HECTOR MOJENA
Staff Writer

Blur, Lush, Moose, Suede, Verve (pre The-), Pulp, Ride, Curve: if you grew up with your ear turned toward the sounds of British rock music in the '90s, chances are you listened to these bands intently while skimming the pages of some worn out music rag like NME.

Monosyllabic band names were all the rage way back when, so buying patches and pins to prominently display on your book bag would have left most people scratching their heads over the brevity of such names.

"There's a band just called Ride? Seriously?"

I know all this from personal experience considering that during high school, I truly was enamored by these bands and their one-word revolution.

However, out of the endless sea of artists there was always one band that was sure to make me gnash my teeth in irritation, a group of imitators that somehow managed to sound worse than a band called Lush ever could.

I speak, of course, about those mall-rock purveyors known as Muse.

It must be understood: the late '90s were a very different time.

Bill Clinton was our president, Friends was still on TV, and some of us paid actual "people" money to go to a Dishwalla concert.

In all of this, I don't think anyone was actually begging for another mono-syllabic British band to come rolling into town with some slick, new album of recycled glam and maudlin pop tropes.

But that they did do, and so the world was introduced to Muse via *Showbiz*, a hopelessly pandering slice of 90's Britpop whose best tracks sound like Radiohead's throwaways.

Did I mention that one of

the songs is called "Muscle Museum"?

So what if their first album was utter crap? Every band is as much entitled to their failures as they are their successes.

Even my good friend Chris Cornell was once a respected musician before he started purporting that he looked a hurricane in the eye.

What about Muse's second record? Maybe they would stop writing cookie cutter Thom Yorke imitations and come up with their own bold, original vision.

On Origin of Symmetry, the bands treat us to a suite of songs that can simply be described as frustrating.

In that sense, listening to a song like "Bliss" or "Plug in Baby" for more than seconds at a time would be equivalent to having gastritis or passing a stone.

And wouldn't you know it, lead singer Matthew Bellamy belts out the sort of nonsensical falsetto cries that victims of Muse-related illness might too elicit.

Muse's next three albums play like a musical Hindenburg disaster of overcooked '70s progressive rock and melodramatic baroque pop.

On Absolution, the band manages to rip off just about every band that was popular around its release. We have Radiohead (*Blackout*), Rage Against the Machine (*Hysteria*), late era REM (*Endlessly*).

If late period R.E.M. is something you aspire to, it's time to stop making records.

Black Holes and Revelations and their latest, *The Resistance*, keep the histrionics and throw out the vaguely palatable aspects of their sound for fist pumping mall rock.

These days, Matthew Bellamy would rather scream about fighting the power and rising up to defeat. I don't know who he is fighting exactly, but his lyrics have always retained a maddening vagueness just catchy enough to get a whole arena singing but not deep enough to hold your attention.

Maybe he has realized what a disaster Muse has become, what with proclamations about taking down the powers that be.

Muse, you guys are the powers that be. You guys sold out Wembley Stadium. Your last couple of albums went platinum!

The Resistance, with its Queen-lite stupidity, will be another certifiable success!

It's no excuse getting angry, right?

Just think of the band as post-Apocalypse Now Marlon Brando.

Sure, they're past whatever prime they may have achieved at one point and maybe they've lost the plot completely, but who doesn't want to witness a trainwreck?

Perhaps *The Resistance* is their "Island of Dr. Moreau".



THE SWEATSHOP

Chi discusses turning point from sedentary life

In the spectrum of health, fitness, and nutrition, there are winners and losers.

As a young child, I was always active so the weight issue wasn't there. But at 10 years old, there was less playing outdoors and more time spent in front of the TV with the same overload of sugary snacks and no way for my body to burn it off.

At the time, I had no idea what true exercise was and I generally dismissed six-pack abs as a vain concept.

By the time I was 15, I weighed a staggering 285 pounds with a body fat percentage over 30. Just to give everyone some knowledge, an elite athlete would have somewhere between 6% and 10% while a normal man would have between 18% and 25%. For the ladies, a healthy percentage would fall between 14 and 31.

In high school, I grew increasingly self-conscious about my body while at the same time my self-esteem took a nosedive.

Trips to the beach? No way, Jose. Pool parties? Forget about it.

Not only did I suffer from my looks, but my general health was also a huge concern. I was constantly told by doctors to drop the weight or I could be diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure, or worse.

At the time, I paid little attention because I thought major diseases were reserved for old people. I was about to receive a crash-course in the school of reality checks.

The very beginning of my transformation took place during my junior year of high school. I convinced a friend to join me in coaching an elementary school soccer team. As a coach, I would show the players how to run the drills correctly and how to become conditioned athletes.

Ironically, I would be the one huffing and puffing at the end while my players still had energy.

I thought to myself, "If seven-year-olds can beat me athletically, where will I be in another 10 years?"

That was exactly the jump start I needed

to improve my health and well-being.

Starting senior year, I joined the badminton and track and field teams in order to get me moving. With an iron mindset and indomitable will, I gradually lost almost 30 pounds in my senior year.

All the sprints and drills I put myself through had paid off, but I wasn't satisfied.

After high school, there were no more organized sports that I could join so instead of reverting back to my old lifestyle and wasting away all the work I had put in, I decided to join my local L.A. Fitness.

It's at the gym where I discovered my second home and truly embraced fitness.

During my early years I still suffered from sporadic stress and similar issues. I found peace of mind in one of my favorite hobbies: weightlifting.

Along with a mostly clean diet and hours upon hours spent within the walls of that godforsaken sweat factory, I rediscovered the person hidden under all my self-confidence issues and anxiety.

To this day, I am a firm believer that hard work does indeed pay off. To my knowledge, nothing bad comes from a healthy diet coupled with regular exercise, while the benefits remain plentiful.

As of right now, I weigh 180 pounds with a body-fat percentage between 11 and 13.

I hope that I have inspired some of you to re-evaluate your life and strive to push yourself each and every day.

Remember that every mile run, every dumbbell pressed, and every sore muscle is an investment to yourself that will be paid back tenfold.

If you have any concerns at all about anything related to health, exercise, or nutrition, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

If you have a question, I have an answer. Until next time, stay motivated, be strong, and live life to the fullest.

The Sweatshop will run every Wednesday. Chi is a certified personal trainer with the National Council on Strength and Fitness in the state of Florida.

COLUMNIST



LOUIS ALEX CHI

WEEK OF WELCOME

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25



Chili's Dinner Deals
Enjoy's dinner at Chili's Too
WHEN: 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.
WHERE: Chili's Too

PANTHER CLASH

WHEN: 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn

LASER TAG



WHEN: 2 p.m.- 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn

KNOCK KNOCK

Meet your new RA's during RHA's Knock Knock event.
WHEN: 5:00 pm- 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Residence Halls



Stay. Eat. ROCK!
Karaoke & concert
WHEN: 7 p.m.- 11 p.m.
WHERE: Chili's Too

THURSDAY, AUG. 26



BBC FRESHMAN LUAV
Get lei-ed.
WHEN: 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Panther Square

Wii SPORTS

WHEN: 3 p.m.- 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

DECODING YOUR SASS REPORT

WHEN: 2 p.m.- 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC 243
WHERE: GC 243

TRAFFIC JAM

WHEN: 5 p.m.- 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

TRAIL OF THE TORCH



Join in on one of FIU's oldest traditions.
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.- 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Housing Quad

HYPNOTIST SAILESH



Be hypnotized by Sailesh.
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: GL 100

Google's new motto: "Don't be honest"

JORGE VALENS
Editor in Chief

In the months ahead, network neutrality, or the idea of a free uninhibited Internet, will become a hot button issue. However, with decisions and discussions going on around us, key players are forgetting that they don't own the Internet, we do.

Telcos are busy watching out for themselves, Internet companies are busy fighting for an open Internet, or so we think, and the Federal Communications Commission is powerlessly standing by, like a pitbull with no teeth.

Recently, telecommunications giant Verizon and supposedly Google, which I will here-in refer to as "Googizon," jumped in bed together and released a policy proposal to lawmakers regarding what should be done about net neutrality.

These two companies make strange bedfellows as it is. Verizon has been the vocal telco in the war on the neutral Internet and Google has been its staunch adversary; fighting for users rights and living by the mantra "don't be evil."

It's amazing how much a couple of million Android phones sold changes things.

In the proposal, Googizon, made it clear that wired Internet services, such as DSL and Cable Internet, are going to be subject to net neutrality; no content or bandwidth discrimination and complete transparency.

ISPs will be able to "to address traffic that is unwanted by or harmful to users, the provider's network, or the Internet," according to the agreement. A similar mention earlier in the document also mentions that ISPs will be prevented from interfering with "lawful" content.

I don't feel comfortable with the idea that a corporate entity is determining what is "lawful" or "wanted" by the users, who pay for the service. Aside from this minor nit pick, wired Internet access has dodged a large bullet. Sadly, I can't say the same for wireless.

When it comes to wireless Internet, the one accessed through carriers by most mobile devices, net neutrality will simply not apply, according to Googizon.

"Because of the unique technical and operational characteristics of wireless networks, and the competitive and still-developing nature of wireless broadband services, only the transparency principle would apply to wireless broadband at this time."

Carving out wireless from the Internet as a whole is completely contrary to the direction the Internet is going.

As many experts put it, this is looking to create two Internets; one that is open, competitive, and advertising drive and one that is closed, non-competitive, and hidden behind pay walls. This shift in thinking that the Internet is dictated by the device you use and the carrier you are on is an idea that would stifle innovation.

The lines between mobile and wired Internet service are starting to blur, which would take us another step toward a connected, convenient life where all our devices, all our content, will be on an even playing field. This proposal only serves to hinder that.

"Mobile is the internet. Mobile will very soon become a meaningless word when — well, if telcos allow it, that is — we are connected everywhere all the time," said Jeff Jarvis, journalism professor at City University of New York on his blog, *BuzzMachine.com*.

Ultimately this proposal is just that, a proposal and nothing has weaseled its way on the desks of lawmakers just yet. But what worries me the most is that, at the end of the day, the people who are most affected, the users, have no say in the future of the Internet.

The Internet doesn't belong to any one particular company or government, but to the people, the citizens that use it.

CABRALITICS

FIU: a playground for car thieves

When it comes to catching car thieves, FIU police will literally stop at nothing.

COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL

After a recent car burglary, an FIU graduate student asked an FIU police officer what they would do to catch those responsible. According to the student, the officer told her that campus police had "no intention of catching the culprits,

since they want to maintain the 'crime free' status of the campus."

This has some people outraged. However, when it comes to not catching criminals, the FIU police department is perfectly equipped to get the job done. They've been given sub-standard radios, and a recent story in the *Miami New Times* quoted a campus police officer who complained of the department's lack of funding.

In light of their lack of resources, it seems that not even trying to catch criminals may be the wisest strategy. FIU Police Chief King has denounced the comments made by the officer, and has apologized for them.

However, maybe FIU should embrace its status as the number one educational institution in the state for aspiring car thieves. Perhaps students could learn something from the nearly 30% increase in vehicle-related crimes on campus since 2008.

In fact, students at other schools with

low crime rates often graduate dangerously unprepared for attacks from burglars and other hoodlums. FIU can provide something other schools just can't: the skills it takes to survive on the mean streets of Doral.

Thanks to the threat of thievery, FIU students will learn not to leave their valuables near their car windows, or to stop taking expensive electronics to school. Perhaps their best strategy would be to stop driving cars or owning valuables all

For the time being, we will have to rely on our underfunded police department, or just stop owning automobiles.

together. The key to not being robbed, studies have shown, is to not own anything anyone would want.

However, if FIU decides to implement a radical "catch the criminals" strategy to stop on campus crime, there is a cheap method of doing so.

FIU could offer an undergraduate course in vigilante justice. The class could be made mandatory, like Freshman Experience, and provide skills far more valuable in the outside world.

Rather than learn how to join a student

club or attend a lecture, students could learn how to subdue an armed miscreant using only a ballpoint pen. That's something students won't be learning at fancy schools like MIT, Harvard, or Carlos Albizu University. FIU would be breaking ground (not to mention a few laws).

Well-trained students would wander parking garages at night, brandishing FIU-brand tasers and meting out violence to any car thief they happened to stumble upon.

With these students acting as the equivalent of college-level hall monitors, people would not have to trouble FIU police with their problems.

If this course were to become a reality, FIU students would be respected throughout the country, if not for the quality of their education then for their fighting prowess.

Sadly, for certain legal, moral and ethical considerations, the vigilante course may never come to pass.

For the time being, we will have to rely on our underfunded police department, or just stop owning automobiles.

For that reason, some may want FIU students to flood administrators with e-mails demanding greater resources for the FIU police department and maybe even the resignation of the officer who spoke to the car theft victim.

Yet maybe, just maybe, that officer had a point. Perhaps students should take a moment, stare at the empty parking space where they left their car, and thank God that our campus is crime-free.

Freshman groups needed to adjust

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Asst. Opinion Editor

When a student first enters FIU, they may become a part of a First Year Interest Group, in which they join a set of students in taking a

As someone who participated in a FIG during my first semester, I know that without it, I would have had a very difficult time...

preset selection of classes. Some may see this as a major inconvenience, as the element of choice and independence seems to be taken away.

In reality, FIGs are an important part of the college experience, as it aids greatly in the transition from high school to college.

According to *About-OurKids.org*, sources of stress

during a student's first year of college includes the need to fit in, balancing their workload with their social life, adjusting to a new schedule and knowing when and where to get help for campus-related problems.

The FIG program addresses those needs. Since those in the FIG program are taking classes with a core group of students, it is much easier to create friendships with these people rather than starting from scratch.

Furthermore, the Freshman Experience course offers lessons in time management and University services.

Also, by having a set schedule with the same group of students and the same professors, the high school structure of classes is somewhat mimicked, making it easier for a student to learn time management skills within a set framework of familiar faces.

As someone who participated in a FIG during my first fall semester, I know hat

without it, I would have had a very difficult time adjusting to college life.

When I attended orientation, the description of college life given to me by the University was vastly different from the explanation given to me by my high school counselors.

They said very little about the registration process. Instead they filled my head with ambiguous tales of picking whatever classes I wanted, strict professors and a heavier workload.

Although the idea of being free to create my own schedule appealed to me, I was more worried with how I would make new friends, as many of the ones I made during high school were going elsewhere. I had the image of being stuck in a room with 200 people, but not knowing a single soul.

Keep in mind that I have lived in Miami my entire life, so just imagine how a student from out-of-state may feel when they leave their friends

and family behind.

Within the FIG program, the class registration process was finally demystified and it was a relief to know that, in a sense, I wouldn't be alone in all of my classes.

Also, as one who had some college credits via AP courses, my needs were further met in which I was able to be in a partial FIG, in which had some liberal arts classes with my FIG, but had room to take an extra elective.

As for the students within my FIG they turned out to be a diverse, supportive, friendly group of individuals that I would have never met otherwise.

Within the FIG I was able to overcome my shyness, resulting in friendships that I maintain to this day and the ability to continue making friends now.

Sure, a freshman may think that they have the whole "college thing" figured out, but a FIG offers the tools necessary to fully enjoy college free from worry.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

PUBLIC REASON

A radio show gathering opinions and promoting discussion every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 p.m. on Radiate FM, 95.3 in Miami, 88.1 in Homestead, 96.9 in North Miami and streaming live on FIUSM.com.

VERBATIM

"You know what got our country into this mess in the first place? Tolerance... We are tolerating ourselves out of existence."

-Glenn Beck, conservative pundit, intolerant of tolerance

Cafeteria to be remodeled

BRIAN CORREIA
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus has initiated a project to further enhance the cafeteria at BBC. This new section of the cafeteria will be named the "Panther Den."

The "Panther Den" renovation start date has not been determined yet, however, the goal for completion is set for August 31, which will be shortly after the start of the fall semester for students.

"The purpose of the 'Panther Den' is to create an ambiance for all students on the campus as well as to increase the demand for SGA which will ultimately increase our services provided to the students," Christin 'Cici' Battle, SGC-BBC president said.

This project was initiated due to the number of complaints received by students to SGC who do not feel that the cafeteria is open long enough and does not offer enough different vendor services. Once the 'Panther Den' has officially opened, SGC has planned a marketing campaign geared towards students to share their feedback on the cafeteria services currently being offered. Once the survey results have been compiled, SGC will relay that information to Student Services to answer the students' requests on the cafeteria services.

The 'Panther Den' is expected to offer students and faculty an area for relaxing and lounging when they're in between various activities on or off campus. There is also expected to be flat screen televisions and a stereo system to help liven up the mood in the cafeteria.

At the moment, there is currently only one flat screen television which was donated to SGC from the recent Chili's Too renovation at the MMC Graham Center. Different types of media are expected to be displayed on the TVs including: campus events, current events and

different advertisements.

"We are not completely sure of what type of advertisements will be displayed [on] the TVs at this time," said Oehleo Higgs, SGC-BBC press secretary.

It is also expected that students will still be able to utilize the cafeteria for regular services while the renovations are taking place as there will not be any real construction going on.

Some students feel this isn't a proper use of funds.

"I would rather see SGC use the money and put it to use in a study area or recreation area, which will ultimately serve as a better purpose to the students," said Andrea Franklin, graduate Law Program student.

"It is increasingly challenging around finals time to find a quiet and low traffic area for students to study for upcoming exams," Franklin continued.

Since SGC-BBC is only in the planning and development stages of the renovations, many questions regarding the funding for the project, are still undefined. However, SGA is responsible for collecting the student activities and services fee, which is posted on all students' tuition costs, and distributing those funds to the University's various student organizations.

"At this time, we are still awaiting back quotes from various vendors for all the different types of amenities being offered at the 'Panther Den.' So we are still unsure as to where the money for the entire project will come from," Battle said.

Once the 'Panther Den' has opened, SGC has planned a re-branding campaign to help students become acclimated with the new set-up and to help increase students on campus to utilize the cafeteria services more.

"Once the renovations are over, SGA is planning to have a special ribbon cutting day to welcome students into the 'Panther Den,'" Higgs said.

PLAYING WITH SAND



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Gregory Ram, junior nursing major (left), and Maria Reynaga, junior international relations major, work together to make a sand pen during Campus Life and Orientation's Welcome Back Barbecue on Aug. 23 in Panther Square.

Campus Talk



Wendina Eyma
Freshman, Crminal Justice

"I cant imagine going to the other campus, its friendly here."



Angelica Pizarro
Sophmore, Criminal Justice

"I like it because it's quaint, ... I'm really happy that they finally cleared up the construction in the buildings."



Christine Tormey
Transfer, Public Relations

"I was a little disappointed because I toured MMC and this campus seems a little bit older and quieter."



Adrianna Gamboa
Transfer, Journalism

"I think there should be more of a "union" between both campuses, feels almost like another community college"

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 25

Restaurnt Sampling Fair: 12 p.m., Panther Square, Free



THURSDAY • AUGUST 26

Freshman Luau: 11:30 a.m., Panther Square, Free
SPC Movie Series: IRON MAN 2 2 p.m. & 7p.m., WUC Theatre, Free

FRIDAY • AUGUST 27

Game Day: 11 a.m. - 2p.m., Panther Square, Free
Kayaking: 12-2 p.m., Bay, Free



SATURDAY • AUGUST 28

Kayak on the Bay: 10 a.m., Bay, Free

MONDAY • AUGUST 30

Involvement Fair: 11 a.m. - 2p.m., Panther Square
Career Services Open House: 2 -4p.m., Career Services

TUESDAY • AUGUST 31

SGA Day: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Throughtout BBC