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COMMUNITY DRIVEN
Club tutors underprivileged kids

A BAD DEAL
Seminole pact invalidated

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iPhone sweeps market

PROVEN WINNER
Tennis player championship tested

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ONLINE FEES CUT

State moving toward more online classes

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

As recent national trends show students flocking to online courses due to increasing gas prices, FIU students have more reason to migrate online as a new state law has forced the University to lower online tuition fees for the 2008-09 school year.

Previously, FIU's \$299 fee paid for faculty salary as well as the development and delivery of the University's online courses, said Joyce Elam, vice provost of FIU Online. The new

law limits online fees to cover only operational costs.

The law, however, is a small section encompassed in a broad online learning bill that shows a growing statewide interest toward online programs at universities.

"The price of gas will make [online courses] more attractive," said Elam, "but our classes have been full in the past even before the economy went into its tailspin."

For the fall semester, the reduction translates to a \$199 fee for a three-credit online course, but Elam does not believe the charge ever deterred

students considering online classes in the first place.

Enrollment at FIU has grown exponentially since the program's inception in 1999 and has peaked to 37,000 students in 2007-08, Elam said.

FIU's numbers reflect a statewide trend. Enrollment in the same period reached a total of 290,000 students in 10 state universities.

As well as regulating online fees, the still nameless bill establishes the Florida Distance Learning Task Force. The Task

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TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM

Emergency alerts will now reach cell phones

ANDREW CALIENES
Contributing Writer

Starting this fall FIU will implement a text message system for all its campuses as a means of contacting students during emergencies.

Students and faculty must register their phone numbers online in order to receive alerts. Emergency officials, including campus police, housing and other departments, have added a link to the FIU Web site and registration page for the upcoming fall. All phone numbers entered will be stored in a massive database that allows for emergency officials to send out mass text messages at a moment's notice.

The system would be used to notify students of not only school closures due to hurricanes and other natural disasters, but also inform students of other emergencies on campus. University officials hope that the new system will dispel the potential mass confusion students experience during a hurricane threat as well as save lives in the event of a violent tragedy, like Virginia Tech.

"This system is more efficient than other means of communication like e-mail alerts," said Director of Media Relations Maydel Santana-Bravo. "The e-mail alerts take about four hours to send, where in the case of text messages it takes only minutes, which could help save countless lives and hours of confusion."

According to Santana-Bravo, although the system is more efficient and helpful in crisis situations, it does not allow for two-way communication between the recipient of an alert and emergency officials. Santana-Bravo said that when Miami-Dade County acquired this new technology, they offered it to municipalities and schools throughout the county. "This new technology has been offered to FIU for free by Miami-Dade County," Santana-Bravo said.

The University decided to partner with Miami-Dade in order to enhance the emergency response system currently in place at the University.

"I think it's great that administrators are taking campus safety seriously," said sophomore Felix Rodriguez "It shows that [the University is] apparently taking all the steps it can to make sure this campus is safe."

This new system is one of the many tools emergency officials use to get crucial time sensitive information out to the public. These tools include emergency phones in every classroom, loudspeakers for emergency broadcasts and urgent e-mail alerts to the University community.

To register for the new text-messaging system, visit http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/fiufwens.cfm?ep_id=other.

CAMPUS CRUSADERS



GIOVANI GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

HOLE IN ONE: Sophomore Sergio Gonzalez (far right), Junior Paolo Ribero (far left), freshman Rick Beaudouim (front left), and other members of the Campus Crusade For Christ, a non-denominational group, play a game of Corn Hole to draw in students and talk to them about their religious beliefs.

Center awards first doctoral degree

EDUARDO MORALES
Staff Writer

Passing through the Green Library, it's hard not to notice prominent posters of accomplished men and women in business attire, declaring, "I'm an investor, I'm also an entrepreneur."

These displays sum up what students can expect from the Eugino Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center, and as of recently, it now has a doctorate to prove it.

Alumna Maija Renko is the first FIU student to receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree in management with a concentration

in entrepreneurship after she presented her thesis, "The Role of Market Knowledge in Recognizing and Exploiting Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Technology Intensive Firms" in March 2008.



RENKO

"We're very proud of Maija," said Executive Director Dr. Alan Carsrud. "She's one of the better students across the country."

This is Renko's second doctoral thesis. In 2006, she has earned a Doctor of Science degree in the field of marketing in international business at the Turku School of Economics. Her current research focuses on predicting and explaining the failures and

successes of high potential startup ventures based on technology.

"Alan, as well as others at the Center, have always been extremely supportive of my research interests, and I have received both great guidance as well as financial support," Renko said. "Maybe one day I will be building an entrepreneurship center somewhere else."

She is currently an Assistant Professor in Entrepreneurship at the University of Illinois. In 2004, Renko was a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University's Scandinavian Consortium for

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FIU entrepreneur snags second Ph.D.

RENKO, page 1

Organizational Research.

Founded in 2003 with a grant from the Kauffman Foundation, the entrepreneurial program provides campus-wide awareness of entrepreneurship as an approach to life that enhances and transcends traditional academic experiences, according to its Web site. The Entrepreneurship Center promises to "address the unique entrepreneurial needs of one of the nation's largest ethnically diverse academic institutions." It received its name from Eugenio Pino, a Cuban-American serial entrepreneur and his family.

Renko agrees with the center's sentiment.

"Many of [the professors] are extremely well connected in the academia, which has been very helpful when applying to different kinds of consortia and scholarships," Renko said. "Also, I taught many entrepreneurship courses to undergraduate students when I was a graduate assistant, an integrated part of the Ph.D. program."

The program encourages to be

coupled with the student's career path to open more possibilities in the future.

The advertisements in the Green Library display several of the alumni entrepreneurs who have done exactly that. The program has been combined with the likes of investor, producer, educator, attorney, dancer, journalist and several others.

There are three Ph.Ds currently in the program; two in adult education and the other in economics.

"A Ph.D. program is a lot of work," said Renko. "It helps if you are curious [about] a lot of different kinds of phenomena. I think the successful senior professors that I have observed all have one characteristic in common - academic curiosity."

While these are tough times for the University, Carsrud stated that the program is "battling the budget crisis," adding that it is a "stable program."

For more information, visit the program's Web site can be found at <http://entrepreneurship.fiu.edu/>. The office is located at University Park in Vierdes Haus, room 130.

DUCK, DUCK...



GIO GUADARAMA/THE BEACON

GOOSE! Young students run around the Graham Center Pit in a game of "Duck, Duck Goose."

Site can affect professors' teaching

JUAN PRADO
Staff Writer

Students who visit the popular Web site *RateMyProfessors.com* can find comments like "Didn't learn anything in this class!" or "Great professor; makes class so much fun."

For many students, the site serves as a vehicle to post comments about their professors' teaching styles.

But what students may not realize is how powerful their opinions can be; these comments can have an effect on the professors who read them, as well as on students who take the site into consideration when registering for classes.

According to the Web site, *Rate My Professors* is the largest listing of college professor ratings available on the Internet. Since its inception in 1999, it has grown to showcase over one million comments on professors from 6,000 schools across the United States, Canada, England, Scotland and Wales.

"I think that some of the comments might be misleading or unfair to some professors, as 'not too serious students' or students with biased opinions about a teacher

may be easily inserted," said FIU political science professor Bertin Kouadio.

While some professors avoid reading comments about themselves on the Web because they consider them irrelevant, others can internalize these comments, which results in changes of teaching styles and classroom interaction.

"If the person is a good professor, he or she would feel singled out, judged and classified. But if the professor doesn't care much about his or her job, he or she could take actions against the students in many ways," said Ricardo Portillo, a retired psychologist.

According to Portillo, professors who read the comments posted on the site are subject to possible effects that can be either positive or negative, and that can result in the professors changing their methods of teaching in several ways.

"Bad comments can result in harder exams, tougher attitude in class and less turnout of students; while good comments can translate into easier tests, more dedication to the class and a higher turnout of students," Portillo said.

RateMyProfessors.com was created with the purpose of helping

students with their class schedules as well as to serve as an opportunity to rate professors in different categories such as fairness of teaching, helpfulness and clarity.

In the case of professors, opinions are mixed considering the Web site's usefulness or credibility.

"I have never looked at it," said professor Polly Phillips, a member of the Biological Sciences Department at FIU. "But it seems like it is probably a place for students to vent more than anything."

For some, *Rate My Professors* has a strong influence on students because it gives them preconceived ideas about the professors.

"I don't think students should rate a professor solely by *RateMyProfessors.com*," said Scott Kass, University librarian and Honors College professor. "It gives a very broad portrait of the professor. It's like a cartoon of the professor."

But not all students use this Web site as an indicator of a professor's style of teaching. Some, in fact, prefer not to use the Web site at all.

"I don't use it at all since I think the comments there are mostly biased," said junior Corina Moreno.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • JULY 23

Last Day To Drop Summer Classes: 5 p.m.
SGA Council Meeting: 2 p.m., GC 150
Music Saves Lives General Meeting: 1 p.m. GC 314

THURSDAY • JULY 24

Truth Of Life, Bible Study: Noon, AMC sunset place
Nicaraguan Student Association General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 340
Cuban American Student Association General Meeting: 7 p.m., GC 343

FRIDAY • JULY 25

Accounting Association Meeting: 7:00 p.m., GC 150
Pantherage presents Heatstroke: 1:00 p.m., The Housing Quad

SATURDAY • JULY 26

Butterfly Days at Fairchild: 9:30 a.m., Coral Gables \$20
Brian Mcknight and Tamia: 8 p.m., Bank Atlantic Center

MONDAY • JULY 28

Fall registration begins: 8 a.m.,

- Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado

State, FIU scrutinize E-classes

ONLINE FEE, page 1

Force is mandated to present the Legislature a report recommending statewide guidelines for higher education online learning by March 2009.

The Task Force will ensure that online courses comply with accreditation standards but questions about the quality of online education compared to traditional instruction has propelled FIU's Faculty Senate to set up its own Online Learning Committee.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Douglas Wartzok said FIU offers online courses to facilitate the completion of degrees but monitoring academic quality of these courses is crucial to the University and the main reason for creating the Committee.

Wartzok explained in an e-mail that contradictory studies leave the quality question unanswered. He assured, "[FIU] gives a lot of attention to quality of presentation and meeting student learning objectives."

At the state level, the State University System is looking to expand and improve online offerings by integrating programs from different universities, through programs like Orange Grove, a digital collection of education resources that are shared by Florida educators, said the Board of Governors' Director of Communications Bill Edmonds.

"With gas prices alone, even if that wasn't an issue, we would still expect distance learning to continue to grow," Edmonds said. "It's really the convenience of it for some students."

Because of this interest, the BOG

is exploring online cost issues and inter-university sharing of technology but class quality issues need to be dealt with by individual universities, said Edmonds. He added, "We are not unaware about that kind of complaint but I'm not even sure whether [quality fears are] valid or not."

Nonetheless, Elam expects online enrollment to continue to grow. Because the FIU community is heavily based on non-traditional students who must balance multiple responsibilities, online options will be in demand, Elam said.

The reduced fee will force FIU Online to pay its faculty with its \$4 million instructional budget.

Yet, even with the current budget crisis, the University is steadfast in offering online courses if the demand is there, Wartzok said.

THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-6994. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at www.fiusm.com

Science club makes subject fun, helps community

CHRISTOPHER ADAMS
Contributing Writer

Most students do not see science as a social subject, but when the tally came in for the Student Organizations Council to decide the 2007-2008 club of the year, the Biscayne Bay science club, along with the international students club, were one of the two in a draw for Club of the Year.

"They really had earned top of their points and they had come highly recommended," said Didier Georges, president of SOC. "They had attended all the fairs, had great advisors, got the crowd involved and really stood out among the rest."

In order for a club to win FIU's Club of the Year title, the club needs to earn points for attending events on campus, be reviewed on its involvement

within the community, be recommended on behalf of the club itself, and of course win the vote of the SOC board in the end.

"We actually do a lot as a club: reaching out to the community, tutoring, competitions and not to mention the fun experiments we show at festivals," said Ameera Juman, president of the science club and a biology major.

On their off time, the science club members spend a lot of time visiting local public schools.

"We love to go out and teach the neighboring underprivileged schools about the sciences and getting them interested," Juman said. "Some of us came from these underfunded schools, and we wish someone would have come to show us cool experiments then."

But it is not all about the fun

and games.

"We also help tutor the kids so that they get better scores on their FCATs," said Lorilee Valientes, vice president of the science club. "The Biscayne Bay Campus does not facilitate the higher level sciences, so we even help out FIU students who need a little tutoring with the higher level courses." Valientes is currently a senior majoring in chemistry.

Besides community service, the science club competes yearly in the American Chemical Society, a nationally based competition among science clubs within colleges and universities for "top three" cash prizes.

This year, competing schools must start an "Adopt-A-Stream" campaign where they get the community involved in cleaning up a lake, stream or other body of water.

"Last year, the University Park campus got third place and we got second, which is weird because all the upper level science courses and the departments are located down south," Juman said.

The club is not just limited to science majors; it welcomes non-science majors as well.

"Anyone who wishes can join, really. Non-majors are more than welcome to join. As a matter of fact, our club president last year was an engineering major, and our treasurer this year is an engineering major also," Juman said.

According to Valientes, the club hopes to reach out to more kids in the neighboring communities and to recruit more students.

"A lot of our past members graduated, so we have lost a few," Valientes said. "We are really pushing to recruit new members."

"We really are shooting to get first place in the American Chemical Society this year. We also would like to have more events for the minority kids, and give them more exposure," Juman said.

The club members meet once a month for a general discussion, but they keep in contact frequently through e-mails and phone calls because many students do not have the time to meet every week.

"When I joined, I was just looking for a club, and I happened to come across the science club," Juman said. "They were really nice and supportive; they are like a small family."

For information on upcoming events and meetings, visit the science club's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/bbcsoc.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

TICKLING IVORIES: Hubert Phanord plays the piano in the Wolfe University Center student lounge area.

Finding a direction with music

KISHORE SAWH
Contributing Writer

Self described on his business card as a "revolutionary, poet, actor, screen writer and pianist," business student Hubert Phanord's life thus far reads like that of a comic book hero.

"I used to talk with a thick slang, have a grill, long hair and was always in trouble," said Phanord. "I started noticing my experiences with women and then friends and family dying and I just thought, wow, there must be something more than this."

Phanord now focuses on the future and has grand plans. He is currently putting himself through business school by working as a custodian at BBC.

A fellowship in his church motivated Phanord to go forth and "do good in this world."

"I came into Christ through a series of bad events which led to good people," he said.

After finding a direction through his beliefs, music helped him focus. Phanord said he found peace in spoken-

word lyricism and piano.

"In my poetry, I don't waste words. I have hope. [You] gotta reach out to people for hope. There are people out there struggling who can be helped," he said.

One of the ways Phanord furthers his passion is by playing the piano.

"I love jazz," Phanord said. "I have only been playing for a year now and I can't read music well, but I learned all the jazz chords."

But where Phanord's passion for jazz comes from is a mystery.

"Growin' up," he said, "my mom wouldn't let us listen to hip-hop or rap because she didn't want us to have anything to do with that lifestyle."

A lifestyle that Phanord claims to have had for the better part of his life. His early childhood was marked by the death of his father and other matters he does not discuss.

Phanord began playing piano when he was at a friend's house and found the notes and keys on the piano. A few months later, his friend gave him a small, old keyboard. That keyboard turned things around for him. He prac-

ticed for five hours a day for the first five months.

"I was able to practice at home, and I pulled a lot of information about playing from the internet that helped me to verbalize the chords I already knew," Phanord said.

"To stumble upon Phanord playing piano in the midst of a frantic Biscayne Bay Campus class day is like hacking your way through a bustling jungle, then arriving at Blue Lagoon. He is amazing," said Ryan Jagessar, a fellow FIU senior business student.

He also credits his faith in God for moving him away from his past and onto his current path.

"God is my life," he said. "I have plans, man. I want to make a religious clothing line that will make people think and also say, 'That's hot!' Just because I'm Christian doesn't mean I don't have style!"

You can catch Phanord playing the piano at BBC or at Literary Café in North Miami, where he performs regularly.

Students cooled down with free foam, food

JULIA CARDENUTO
Asst. News Director

With finals right around the corner and temperatures rising, the Biscayne Bay Campus is offering students an opportunity to cool down and get wet.

On July 25, students will gather by the Bay Vista dormitories to enjoy free food, music and a foam machine.

Water guns and bathing suits are only the beginning at the BBC Foam Party.

"It is an event for freshmen students to come and enjoy themselves, meet each other, hangout and have fun.

"It is like a regular party but with FIU students," said Ryan Lyttle, president of Student Programming Council.

DJ Skip will be performing during the outdoor event, next to the volleyball courts.

Bay Vista Housing will provide the facility and barbecue will be served to all guests.

"Basically, it is a fun night in the dorms for stu-

dents to chill and have fun before finals," said Didier Georges, president of SOC-BBC.

Lyttle said that 100 to 150 students are expected to attend the event.

The party is being advertised with posters around both campuses and on Facebook.

The yearly event is held every summer and sponsored by SPC, SOC, Panther

Power and the Black Students Union.

All students are welcome to attend the party, which will take place from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Everybody will be required to sign a waiver for safety

Ryan Lyttle, President
Student Programming Council

and legal reasons.

A limited amount of water guns will be provided to students but they are also encouraged to bring their own.

"Don't come to be pretty, come to get wet because that will make the event so much better," Lyttle said.

For more information, contact SPC-BBC at 305-919-5280.

Don't come to be pretty, come to get wet because that will make the event so much better.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Student participation necessary for text message alert system's success

In an era when campus security demands proaction, the University should be lauded for its recently implemented emergency text message system.

The system would send a mass text message to all students, faculty and friends of the University whenever urgent announcements such as class cancellations, severe weather alerts and when an emergency situation is present.

There are several things about this program that are positive.

First and foremost, it is free to the University. Miami-Dade County offers the system to municipalities and educational institutions without charge.

With campus tragedies so fresh in the minds of academia, such a useful system that would not only benefit a school but also garner positive publicity for the institution, the text message system could easily have been exploited for a large profit.

Luckily, Miami-Dade had safety in mind and deserves recognition for facilitating the proliferation of this technology.

From an operational standpoint, the emergency text mes-

sages stand to be the most useful and effective form of mass communication to the University community.

Prior to the launch of the text message registrations, University officials could send out e-mails to every student and faculty member.

An example of an emergency e-mail that appeared in inboxes last school year is when a fatal shooting occurred at the Shell station across the street from University Park.

Almost everyone has a cell phone on them at any given time, so a text message is the quickest way to reach everyone who needs certain information.

A public announcement system, such as a loudspeaker, only reaches those within earshot of the speaker, and many students and faculty may not be checking their e-mail at the time that an urgent situation is occurring, if they check their official FIU e-mail address at all.

The short amount of time that it takes for people to check a text message versus an e-mail is particularly important during an emergency situation, such as a security threat on campus that requires immediate action.

RateMyProfessor.com merely provides glimpse into instructors' classrooms

As students sit before their computer monitors waiting for their enrollment appointment to near, there are different methods that are used to pick classes.

Some are very adamant about getting their schedule to exact specifications, while others care more about their professors' track records.

One way that many students at both FIU and around the country get opinions about instructors is through the Web site *RateMyProfessors.com*.

The most positive aspect of this site is its accessibility.

While all students do get to fill in an evaluation regarding their instructors at the end of every course, the results of the evaluations are controlled by the college's dean, and may or may not be readily posted for students' use.

Rate My Professors, however, offers quick access to a multitude of opinions regarding an instructors clarity, preparedness and knowledge.

Just log on and click away. This is not to say that the information on the site is that useful, or accurate for that

matter.

Many comments are of questionable intelligence, and considering that there is no accountability for those who post comments, the evaluations you read on the site may be biased, incoherent or contradict one another.

Just like using a reporting site like CarFax before buying a car, Rate My Professors may be somewhat useful for a preview of what your class may be like, but is not reliable enough to decide which classes to pick without any other knowledge of that professor.

Rate My Professors is also adapting to the growing niche of online courses.

Since students and professors have very little face-to-face interaction, professors may receive inaccurate ratings from students whose disdain for a course may have come primarily from failing to meet the standards of self-motivation required from an online course rather than an objective view of the instructor.

So, students, when using this tool, take it with a grain of salt.

BAD HAND

Potential revenue from Hard Rock justifies Crist's compact

KISHORE SAWH
Contributing Writer

A fusspot is someone extremely worrisome, and there are many in the state legislature who think that they can decide how others live their lives by placing warning labels for everything that could go wrong, and restricting activities.

They tell us that we can't drive over 55 mph, and shouldn't drink more than a syringe worth of Chablis with dinner.

It is not entirely clear where these people come from but their most recent target is gamblers.

Last November, Gov. Charlie Crist brokered a deal with the Seminole tribe leaders that would allow them to expand its gambling operation to include card games at its Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and casino-like blackjack and baccarat as well as some more Vegas Style slot machines not legal in the rest of the state. This deal would greatly benefit our struggling state financially while giving Floridians greater freedom over how to spend their leisure time in a severely gambling-restricted state.

According to tribal spokesman Gary Bitner, the public has shown interest in playing these games.

"We had 40,000 people play the table games the first week. That shows demand," Bitner was quoted as saying in an article by *Sun-Sentinel* writer Nick Sortal. To give an idea of how much money the state would receive, *The Palm Beach Post* offered some round ones. Under the terms of Crist's compact, Florida would receive \$175 million in the first year, \$150 million for the next two and \$100 million for each subsequent year from the Seminoles. Not to mention the initial \$50 million which was given on the spot.

Now that you have considered the things that can be done with this money and how many Floridians are interested in gambling, it should be a serious blow to find out that Florida House Speaker Mario Rubio questioned Crist's authority to make such a deal shortly after it was brokered and was struck down July 3 by the state Supreme Court.

There is a 15 day grace period where the table games can continue and during which an appeal to the decision can be filed but there stands a chance that the state might have to return the \$50 million that it already received from the tribe due to the invalidation of the compact.

This hurts, especially for students, since the state education budget, which was already cut more than \$300 million this year, is a major loser in the compact. Yet, the Hard Rock and all the games it offers are still open for business, while the legal status of the card games is in limbo.

The Seminoles have to be allowed to offer slots regardless of Florida's approval due to federal law that entitles them to the same gambling systems allowed anywhere in the state.

Because some facilities, such as race tracks, have slots, the federal Department of the Interior would allow the Seminoles to have slot machines, regardless. The important distinction to make here is that the state would not make any money from the casino if mandated by the federal government. If Crist's original compact does

of gambling ranging from slot machines to betting on horses and dogs. Adding a deck of cards to the matter is hardly the last straw.

It seems the fret is of becoming a super casino, which apparently will create new addicts. The problem with this idea is that it's saying people are not in control of themselves. Worrying about a new casino adding more games because it might create more gambling addicts is like worrying that every new bar that pops up with new drinks will create more alcoholics. This idea making people feel they have no control over themselves is a disease-model that makes everything into an accident or an affliction. Then this tells them there isn't much they can do to take charge. This works much like satellite navigation in cars. When you rely on it you stop realizing the streets are going in the wrong direction. You stop using your intuition and innate sense



not stand, the slots will stay, but we will not see the money.

The games will stay for now but the money is to be given back to the Seminoles. So nothing changes now except for state revenues and educational funding decreasing yet again. Cheers Rubio, I've seen better-looking wounds than the hand you've dealt us.

What's the big deal with offering these games anyway especially with the handsome return to our education? They already offer some types

which hit the card tables only for a spot of fun with no addiction on the horizon. So, Rubio and all your consorts, leaving the games is a win-win, which brings fun and lots of money. Let the regular people who do regular things alone. Stop worrying about us who gamble for fun and worry about those who gamble to live and spend some of the money to be made from this deal on addiction education and resources.



Phone Frenzy

Sleek new update a crowd pleaser

CHRIS TOWERS
Life! Editor

If, as some Christian theologians have suggested, the diversions of modern life are the work of darker forces, then the iPhone must surely be Beezlebub's greatest achievement.

In fact, I'm pretty sure Steve Jobs is actually the Fallen One in a turtleneck, as he has recently given me the gift of the Internet, YouTube and a myriad of addicting games and thousands of songs in my pocket, thus assuring I will never have a productive day of work in my life again.

I may have been the last person in the world to still have a phone that's most powerful feature was the ability to send a text message to multiple people at once, so the transition from that to the iPhone was quite a shock.

Of course, there was a cost to this type of technology (aside from the \$200 price tag for the 8 GB model, \$300 for the 16 GB). Lines at Aventura Mall for the iPhone's release stretched as far as the eye could see, with waiting times reported of up to four hours.

I say "reported" because as much as I did want this device, I wasn't willing to fight crowds to get it. After a few days' patience, the crowds were gone and I walked right up to the store and picked out the black 8 GB model.

You really have to hand it to Apple's designers. Since the introduction of the origi-

nal iPod, they have yet to miss on product design; their devices feature simple, streamlined, yet futuristic models that have become very popular so much so that some of the character designs in Pixar's recent film *Wall-E* show an obvious nod to Apple.

And boy, is this thing a beauty. The large display has excellent resolution, and due to it being a touch screen, there is only one button on the face of the machine.

However, the large screen also has its drawbacks. Namely, collecting fingerprints and dirt pretty easily, though it seems nearly scratch resistant.

The main draw on the new model was the introduction of the speedier 3G wireless network, which allows for sub-broadband Web browsing and downloads.

This is a vast improvement over the previous incarnation, which bordered on 56k speeds at times while surfing the Net.

Now, while this is an excellent feature that, for the most part, works great, it might not be enough to justify an upgrade from the first generation iPhone, especially not with the software upgrade released simultaneously for the original device.

However, for those who didn't get in on the first wave, there are very few reasons not to pony up for the phone. One of the added draws for me was the much improved built-in speaker, which fairly gives high quality sound without the necessity of external speakers.

If you are easily amused (like me), the best feature has to be the "App Store," which allows you to download and purchase countless applications to enhance and change the way your phone works.

Two of my favorites for sheer amusement are the "phonesaber," which uses the built-in motion sensing technology to recreate the sounds of a light saber, and "iPint," which turns your phone's screen into an interactive glass of beer which you can spill, shake or "drink."

Obviously, this isn't a phone geared to the businessmen of the world, but there aren't many better diversions out there, and it is fully functional as a phone and performs more than admirably for e-mail and text messages.

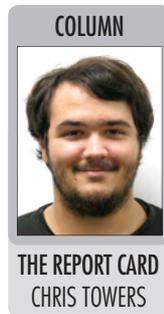
Of course, the fact that you can send and receive phone calls is the last thing on anyone's mind when picking one of these up, and that's just because of the seemingly limitless amount of things you can do above and beyond that.

Even if the two-year contract I had to sign felt like I was signing my soul over to the devil, when I neglect my job and loved ones to watch cartoon theme songs on a 4-inch screen, I can't help but think that in the long run, it's probably a fair deal.

So, enjoy my soul, Steve. I'm not sure what your plan is for the stockpile you are building, but I'm OK with it as long as you don't drop the price a week and a half after I buy it like you did with the last one.

Dr. Dog meets its "Fate"

So I've got this one friend who I constantly discuss the nature of art with. It sounds pretentious, and it probably would be if we weren't using Lauryn Hill and the *Saw* series of movies as the basis of our



discussions. What we specifically discuss is whether or not there exists any room in art for objectivity. I tend to believe objectivity can't exist in art, and I've gone so far as to say that the usage of genre labels and comparisons is a pointless exercise when discussing music.

I try to stay consistent with my beliefs, in other words.

However, how do you describe a band like Dr. Dog without giving into temptation and admitting that they are basically The Beatles with more distinctive voices?

Obviously it would be unfair to try to imply there is any relationship in the quality of the music, but with their jangly guitars, jagged solos and three part harmonies, you'd be hard pressed to believe any of these boys listened to anything but *Revolver* when they were growing up.

And the same mostly goes for their fifth studio release, "Fate," due out on July 22.

A majority of the songs reflect this Beatles influence - though I would also argue that due to their distinctive voices, they often sound more vocally similar to Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young - and these are obviously the songs that are right in the band's wheelhouse.

"From" echoes "Here, There, And Everywhere," while "The Rabbit, The Bat and The Reindeer" sounds like a Lennon-penned *White Album* outtake. These are the songs that first grab you - and for good reason.

This is a band that knows what they are doing and they've perfected the 3-minute guitar pop song.

But the songs that really hint at what this band might someday be capable of are the songs that veer away from this sound and go for a darker, more ominous feel.

Songs like "The Ark" capture more of the band's raw live sound, which is really where the

Honor society seeks growth at FIU

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

With a not-so-average size and heavy key in the right hand, a person is tapped on the right shoulder while facing the person tapping them.

This isn't the initiation to some kind of cult, but that of a national leadership honor society.

Omicron Delta Kappa was nationally founded on December 3, 1914 at Washington and

Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Publicly known as "The Circle," FIU established the ODK honor society on April 21, 1985.

According to president of ODK, Senior Cleo Monique Fernandez, tapping can take place anywhere, but only occurs twice a year.

"Personally, I think it's the suspense of being tapped into the circle that makes the process that much more exciting," said

Fernandez.

The purpose of the honor society is to recognize individuals who have attained a high standard of leadership in collegiate activities and to encourage them to aspire to higher achievements.

This year the group intends to increase awareness of ODK among students and faculty. By doing so,



Fernandez feels that students will realize and feel the prestige that comes with being a member of the ODK circle as well as have faculty assist with nominations for potential members.

Ranking in as

Potential members are tapped to join ODK

ODK, page 5

the number three most prestigious honor society, the group is very selective when it comes to picking new members, stated junior and vice president of membership, Jenise Fernandez.

This past spring, 15 students applied and only six were selected to become a part of ODK.

Three of the six students were recently tapped at the Greek BBQ that was held on July 10 in front of the Graham Center ballrooms. The remaining three will be tapped sometime in the fall.

When all the selective students have been tapped, they get inducted in either the Fall or Spring semesters, depending on which semester they applied in.

Once students have been tapped, they go through a new member orientation explaining their expectations and what the honor society entails. At this point students who feel they will not be able to commit to the honor society can drop and not become a part of the circle.

Applications are out during the Fall and Spring semesters. Students interested in applying must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 as well as at least 60 credits and show lead-

ership roles in at least one of the five areas: scholarship; athletics; campus or community service, social and religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and the mass media; and creative and performing arts.

Currently the circle at FIU has approximately 30 active members. The group hopes to expand on campus and stay active for the years to come.

"We feel that people don't know who we are and how prestigious it is to be a member - we want members who will contribute to the group and recognize the leaders on campus," Jenise said.

Jenise feels that this year has started with a positive step and hopes the morale keeps up throughout the year.

According to Fernandez, the members of the circle should expect for the standards to be raised and commitment to be implanted.

Students interested in joining or getting more information should expect to see the ODK Circle more on campus.

"We have a couple of ideas for events to do with students and faculty, but that is a surprise," Fernandez said.

WHY SO POPULAR?



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS PICTURES

RECORD BREAKER: On the strength of Heath Ledger's historic performance as the Joker and months of hype, Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* shattered every box office record on its opening weekend, bringing in \$158 million. To read the Beacon's review go to FIUSM.com.

Pop/rock band diverges from its Beatles roots

DR. DOG. page 5

band is at its best. The introduction of the organ has added an atmosphere and depth

The Beatles, for crying out loud - but as my tastes have grown outward, I've found myself drawn less often to that type of sound.

The songs that really hint at what this band might someday be capable of are the songs that veer away from this sound and go for a darker, more ominous feel.

to their songs not previously noted.

"100 Years" is probably the best merge of the two sounds explored on the record.

Mostly ditching the guitars for a piano and organ based sound, it manages to be catchy without being quite too poppy but, since it is being carried by such a sparse arrangement (and a seemingly out of tune bassline), it also has enough interesting bits to keep you coming back for more.

Sure, I'm a sucker for harmonies and bright, sunny chords - I was raised on

So while Dr. Dog may have been in danger of losing my interest before long, their new direction - while ultimately, still firmly rooted in the influence of the past - has given me more appreciation of their work, both new and old.

Chris Towers can be reached at Chris.Towers@fiusm.com.

THIS WEEK IN MIAMI

WEDNESDAY • JULY 23

WHAT: Yoga lessons
WHERE: The Standard Hotel
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Whole Wheat Bread
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15

THURSDAY • JULY 24

WHAT: Battle of the Bands
WHERE: Museum of Contemporary Art
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

FRIDAY • JULY 25

WHAT: Secondhand Senerade and My American Heart
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

SATURDAY • JULY 26

WHAT: Jerry Seinfeld
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$47

SUNDAY • JULY 27

WHAT: Aquapalooza
WHERE: Haulover Beach Park
WHEN: 11:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: An Egyptian Adventure Family Program
WHERE: Lower Art Museum
WHEN: 2:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 for students with I.D

MONDAY • JULY 28

WHAT: Music Movies Monday
WHERE: Sweat Records
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Yoga Lessons
WHERE: The Standard Miami
WHEN: 4:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

TUESDAY • JULY 29

WHAT: Urban Theatre Entertainment Festival
WHERE: Hyatt Regency Hotel
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$55

WHAT: Slava's Snow show
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50

WEDNESDAY • JULY 30

WHAT: Return to Forever
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50

WHAT: Flobots with Busdriver
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$12

WHAT: Can you Rock a little Softer
WHERE: Churchills Pub Beach
WHEN: 9:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

-Compiled by
Rosalyn Delgado

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Volleyball adds new assistant coach

REPLAY, page 8

led the Sun Belt Conference with 74 home runs. That was a huge leap from the previous season when the team hit a total of 32.

She will not add much power to the lineup, as she hit four home runs last season, but she will provide a contact hitter.

The new recruits will try to help the Golden Panthers improve on last season's fourth place finish.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball head coach Danijela Tomic announced the appointment of the team's new assistant coach, Eve Rackham on July 16.

She comes from East Carolina University where she was an assistant coach for the last three years.

"She brings with her a very impressive resume in the sport, both as a student-athlete at North Carolina and as a coach," Tomic said.

At ECU, she was the program's recruiting coordinator and helped identify and develop three first-team All-Conference USA selections, a pair of second-team all-league picks and a third-team C-USA honoree.

Rackham worked specifically with two-time All-conference USA

selection Heidi Krug.

She was responsible for developing the young star for the East Carolina University Pirates.

She comes to a Golden Panthers squad coming off two consecutive trips to the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

As a player, Rackham played for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels program. She was part of a team that won three ACC Tournament championships and had four straight NCAA appearances. As the starting setter at UNC from 1999-2002, the Tar Heels posted a 115-22 record.

GOLF

Golden Panther Monica Arreaza was named to the National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar Team on July 14.

The minimum cumulative GPA to qualify is a 3.5. The criteria for the selection to the NGCA's All-Scholar Team are considered some of the most stringent in college athletics.

Arreaza is a three-year letter winner for the Golden Panthers. Despite a knee injury last season, she averaged a 80.56 per round.

Her head coach Joe Vogel understands the difficulty of Arreaza's



VIRGINIA LEGENDS/COURTESY PHOTO

SHUTTING OUT: Recruit Jennifer Gniadek will bring her high school championship to FIU.

accomplishment.

"Despite playing hurt all year long, she competed in every match for us," Vogel said. "She truly epitomizes what it means to be a student-athlete."

Brito striving to lead women's tennis to championship, improve on last season

BRITO, page 8

"That was when I decided to bring my game to FIU," Brito said.

Brito joined a Golden Panthers women's tennis team that has an all-time winning percentage of over .575 over thirty seasons. The pressure of college classes and the NCAA tennis ranks made Brito's freshman year at FIU difficult.

"Freshman year was very hard for me. It was tough balancing the academics and tennis, and sometimes I couldn't

tell which was harder," Brito said. "I ended up changing my major from interior design to sports management. I guess it makes perfect sense."

Taken under the wing of head coach Carlos Casely, Brito is quick to acknowledge the fact that staying in shape is a top priority to her coach.

"We have practices every morning during the season.

He stresses conditioning and being in good physical shape. During the fall I put in a good four to five hours a day, and that's still not enough," she said.

And this past season, as a Golden Panther, Brito defeated the school that once tried to recruit her, Baylor University.

In the season opener, she defeated Miami's then No. 29 ranked Laura Vallverdu in three sets, and in the home opener won against the University of Central Florida, by a score of 6-1.

The women's tennis team was ranked as high as No. 31 in the nation in 2008.

Brito's championship background, combined with NCAA tournament experience, gives her hope for redeeming last season's abrupt end.

"I really want to make it to the NCAA tournament, that's my dream," Brito said. "FIU qualifies for regionals, and after winning in the first two rounds, you get in. Why not us? I've only gotten better and faster since last year."

Freshman year was very hard for me. It was tough balancing academics and tennis, and sometimes I couldn't tell which was harder.

Liset Brito, freshman tennis player

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Ximenes brings 'A' game to FIU

XIMENES, page 8

chooses not to talk about his childhood in detail.

"There were a lot of killings ... like shootings," Ximenes said.

He said he was fortunate enough to have a strong support system with his parents, who attended every soccer game he played in, no matter the family's circumstances.

Amid a crime and poverty stricken city, Ximenes' silent personality could not change.

Coach Eketebi can attest to that.

"He mentioned that he was from Kingston and that there were some problems, but I didn't know about it right away," Eketebi said. "Let's just say this: I knew that he wasn't born with the golden spoon in his mouth."

Before graduating high school, Ximenes was a member of the Under-17 Jamaican National Team, then after graduating from Excelsior High School in Kingston, he began his collegiate career playing for the San Jacinto Gators in Houston. It was unfamiliar territory for him, but he soon adapted with ease.

"Houston was great," he said. "I got to know a lot of people and I learned a lot of Spanish."

It was in Houston where he continued to impress and caught the eyes of Eketebi.

"I first saw him two years ago at a tournament being held at Richmond College which is in Dallas," he said. "I saw him score goals, and he was just a freshman at the time."

Eketebi saw him play again last year and after FIU's offensive struggles last season (just 15 goals in 18 games), decided that finding a goal scorer was definitely a top priority.

"He [Eketebi] told me that FIU was a pretty good school and that the soccer was alright. He also said that there are enough challenges ahead so you have to be on top of your game."

So two years since arriving to the United States, the latest phase of Ximenes' soccer career brings him to Miami in August. The move makes it easier for him to visit his hometown.

When asked if he foresees Ximenes having difficulty adjusting to a different location and atmosphere, Eketebi responded, "There's no reason why he should. There have always been Caribbean students here at FIU; he's not the first and he won't be the last."

After receiving Junior College All-American honors last year, Ximenes will try and exceed those numbers for the Golden Panthers in the upcoming season.

Both Ximenes and Eketebi will also hope that the team can reach the conference championship again, except this time around hoisting the winner's trophy.

Eketebi hopes that his new offensive weapon will catapult the Golden Panthers from painful runner-ups to champions.

INTERNATIONAL STAR

Brito leads by example, elevates her game

ANDREW SOLOMON
Contributing Writer

Standing on the tennis courts of Oklahoma, freshman Liset Brito saw her first season of FIU tennis come to an end.

Her loss at the the NCAA Women's Tennis Championships alongside doubles partner senior Egle Petrauskaite was not the first taste of championship defeat for Brito.

She once lost a U.S. Open Juniors tournament in straight sets, but this loss only prepared her for future losses and gave her a taste of international competition.

Born in Cuba to a father who was captain of his own tennis team, Liset came to the United States at the age of nine to pursue her dream of playing tennis professionally.

Spending two years in El Salvador in her downtime between moving from Cuba to America, Brito began her career in tennis.

She played well enough to earn a sponsorship to play internationally, which made her eligible for a world ranking.

Constant exposure to the demanding physical aspects of the game - the stamina, the sweat, coupled with the support of her family - inspired Brito.

"My dad would always play, and I would go see him with my sister, Gisel," Brito said. "I come from a tennis family really, because my mother was out there playing too."

Brito has played against some of the most competitive talent in Florida, the

United States and the entire world.

After being ranked No. 2 in Miami, according to *The Miami Herald*, she competed in the U.S. Open Juniors tournament, where she lost to an American opponent in straight sets.

"Obviously losing isn't fun, but every loss is another lesson that's just going to make me better the next time around," says Brito.

Following her defeat in the U.S. Open Juniors tournament, she won doubles tournaments in Brazil, Paraguay and Ecuador.

Her final international tournament was in France, where she reached the quarter finals as a 13-year-old.

"Being able to travel the world is great by itself, but doing it to play tennis is what made it amazing for me, and winning at that young age topped it all off," Brito said.

Britos' parents decided to home school her after returning from France.

Home schooling enabled Brito to focus on athletics and develop her tennis game.

When her parents decided home schooling was unnecessary, Brito attended Miami Senior High School and captured the regional tournament championship during her senior year.

Once Brito graduated from high school, it was time for her to make a serious decision about her future. She started looking at the universities that would best enable her to showcase her talent in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

BRITO, page 7



RICHARD LEWIS/FIU ATHLETICS

Transfer midfielder poised to spark men's soccer offense

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

While his team's vocal leaders are screaming and directing players on the field, he is silent and prefers to let his skills do all the talking.

When ordered to help his team as a freshman, he scored 11 goals at San Jacinto Community College.

New Golden Panthers men's soccer recruit, junior Ricardo Ximenes, brings his silent demeanor and offensive prowess to the 2008 squad. This past offseason, head coach Munga Eketebi recruited a player with an introverted leadership voice.

"He's pretty much low key and will lead by example, but we're bringing him in to make some noise," said Eketebi, who in his second season, will try and help the Golden Panthers make another miracle run at the Conference USA Championship.

The team finished with a 3-13-2 record but managed to pull off three consecutive upsets to make it to the conference championship game.

He's powerful. He's got a tremendous shot. He has great technical ability and his job is to put the ball in the back of the net.

Munga Eketebi
men's soccer head coach

They led powerhouse and No. 1 seeded Tulsa 2-1 with just 10 minutes left, but a depleted defense couldn't

sustain the lead as FIU eventually lost 3-2.

With Ximenes on the field for FIU, the team has the scoring option it needed much of last season, as it scored only 15 goals in 18 regular season games in 2007.

"He's powerful. He's got a tremendous shot. He has great technical ability and his job is to put the ball in the back of the net," Eketebi said.

Growing up in the hostile streets of Kingston, Jamaica, Ximenes has experienced his share of violence. Jamaica has one of the highest murder rates in the world and 1/3 of murders occur within Kingston, according to the Department of Correctional Services, Jamaica.

Despite the numerous murders committed where he grew up and learned to love soccer at age five, he

XIMENES, page 7

SPORTS REPLAY

New softball recruits show promise, want to improve lineup

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Two of FIU's new softball recruits received All-State honors in Virginia and Florida respectively.

Pitcher Jennifer Gniadek and third baseman Kelsey Grabiak will be suiting up for head coach Beth McClendon this upcoming 2008 season.

Gniadek led her team to the Virginia AAA State Championship when she earned the victory and hit a home run in the Hickory High School 4-2 championship victory.

During the playoffs, she pitched 43 consecutive scoreless innings, including 18 hitless innings and two no-hitters. The

hurler allowed just three earned runs for the whole regular season.

Gniadek was voted the Virginia AAA Pitcher of the Year. She joins the FIU pitching staff that compiled a 3.93 ERA, but struck out 248 batters in 423 2/3 innings.

She will be paired up with starter Kasey Barrett, who compiled a 16-18 record in 263 innings.

Third baseman Grabiak was named to the Florida State Class 5A First Team and was District Player of the Year playing for Lakewood Ranch High School. In her senior year, she batted .436 with four home runs.

Last season, the Golden Panthers power oriented offense

REPLAY, page 7