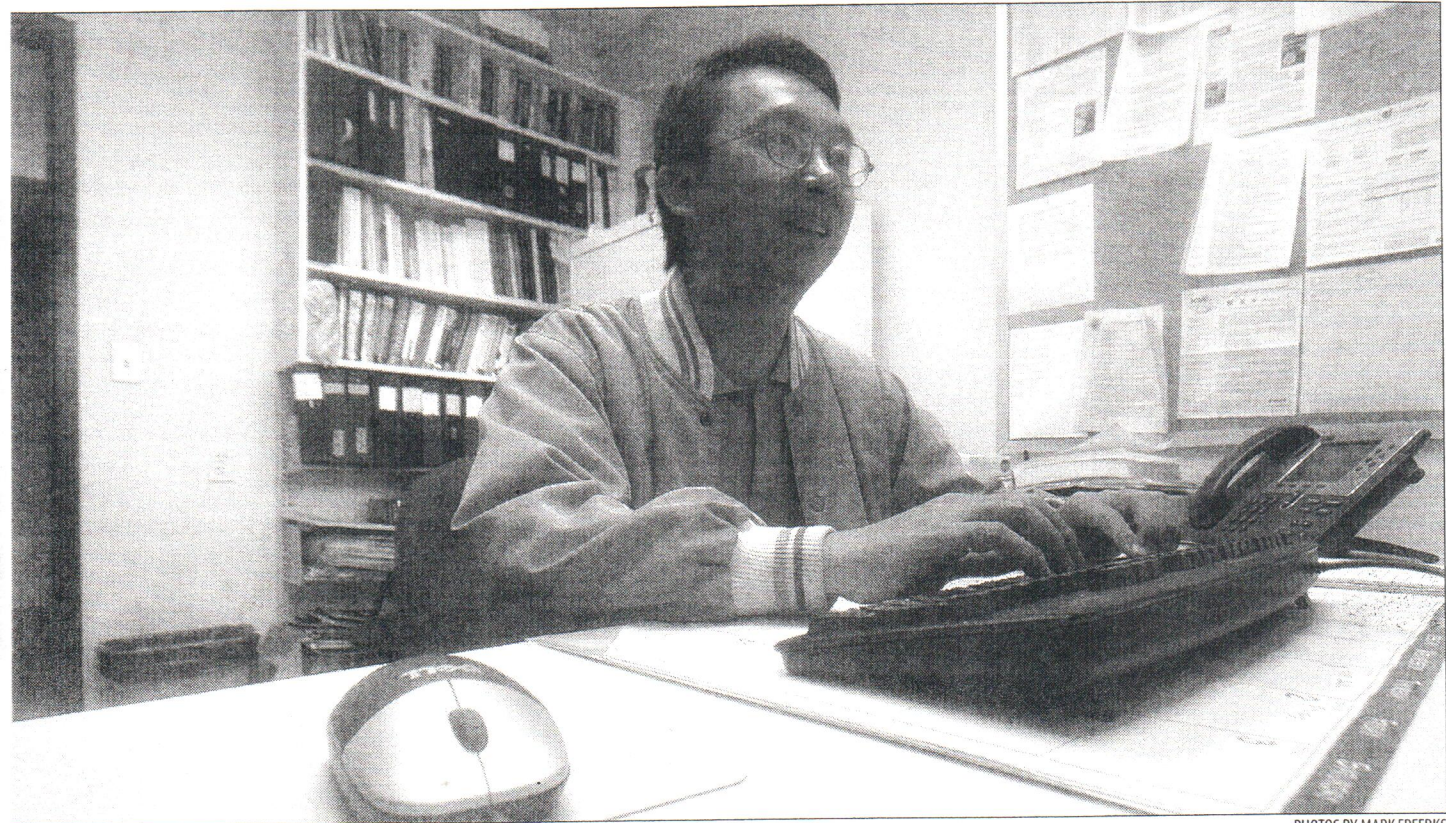


Boosts up computer power at FIU



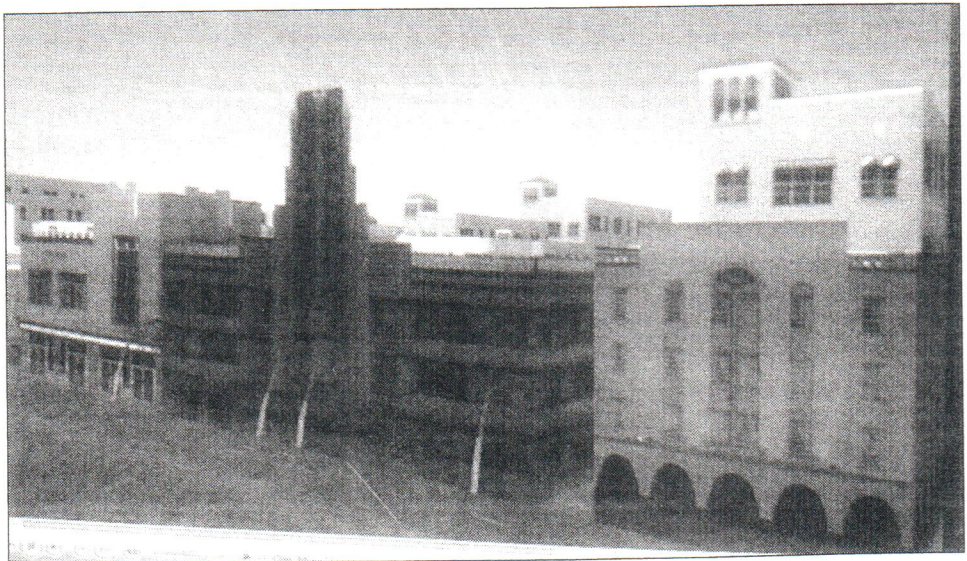
PHOTOS BY MARK FREERKS

Above, FIU associate professor Shu-Ching Chen. Bottom, Ph.D. student Khalid Saleem runs the hurricane model, seen below.

urge Hispanic enrollment anywhere in the world, it's very selective in choosing its partners, said P.L. "Pete" Martinez, senior executive at IBM's Boca Raton office. The last grid the company set up is helping a Scripps Research Institute scientist from California study the AIDS virus.

"Every university in the grid has some very strong areas of research under way and this is a natural way to enhance it," Martinez said. "We chose South Florida because of the presence of these two large institutions that provide a lot of talent for us."

IBM is donating much of the software and equipment to the universities, but the worldwide technology leader sees the project as more of an investment than a donation, he said. It's determined to build a pipeline of Hispanic talent, which is underrepresented in computer educa-



tion. In addition to providing students with access to the grid for training, IBM will have one-on-one mentoring between Hispanic students and Hispanic IBM executives that could lead to internships and jobs, Martinez said.

"This is very much a living laboratory for the creation of new ideas and the potential to go to market."

IBM also views the LA Grid as an opportunity to form new business partnerships. The first beneficiary of this is Tege, which

without touching a key.

"Doctors want to focus on the patient, not typing and transcribing," White said.

Researchers at FIU and IBM will help Tege take the next step. Using the powerful network of LA Grid, they're developing a system where I-Rounds can be voice-commanded to contact other doctors, using multiple numbers to quickly track them down and video conference them in with the operating room. The

