FIU may switch to three day class schedule

JOSE DE WIT
Opinion Editor

Students may be taking classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by the start of next year’s Fall semester after the Faculty Senate passed a measure expanding class schedules in order to bring more money to the University.

The decision was reached Oct. 24 after the senate voted to approve a special committee’s report that recommended the University switch to the new schedule to fill up classrooms vacant on Fridays.

The amount of state funding the University receives for construction depends on how efficiently it uses classroom space.

The issue caused great debate. Most senators opposed to the measure cited concern for the students.

“We need to assess how this may affect our students,” said professor Laurie Richardson of the biological sciences department.

According to Richardson, she has discussed the issue with students in her microbiology classes and received a unanimously negative response. Her students argued that the new schedule would clash with work, internships and volunteering schedules and also result in more time and gas spent commuting an additional day each week.

Other senators argued that FIU’s current Monday/Wednesday schedule format gives it an edge over other universities. They mentioned that faculty at other universities often express envy toward FIU professors over their convenient schedules. According to Joan Baker of the English department, FIU’s current schedule format attracts many adjunct faculty members who might choose to work elsewhere.

Still, there was a general consensus among senate members that FIU needs to concentrate on securing state funds in upcoming years.

“The bottom line is the money, and we need the money,” said Willie Haskins of the physical therapy department.

The Classroom Space Utilization Committee – the entity that submitted the report on which the decision was based – was created in Spring 2006 to do just that: help the University find ways to improve the use of classroom space, thus securing increased funds.


Eleven Zeno (left), Gabriela Correa (right)/The Beacon

AFTER THE MOVE

New dorm invokes mixed feelings

NICOLE ACOSTA
BBC Assistant

Freshman Mindy Kang lives in Lakeview Hall and hates it. She gives her experience living in Lakeview on a scale of one to 10, one being the lowest, a negative five.

“I hate it. It’s almost suicidal. I feel like I’m back in high school,” Kang said.

In May 2005, construction began for what would become the newest residence hall at FIU. After 16 months of construction, and despite being set back a few months due to the active 2005 hurricane season, Lakeview Hall was approved for official occupancy by the fire marshal last August. 16 and students began to move in four days later.

However, minor projects are still being completed throughout the building, such as replacing carpets, fixing cracking elevators, touching up walls with paint and adding the finishing touches on the surrounding landscape.

Although not fully finished, Lakeview Hall has been selected for several prestigious recognitions. The American School and University magazine selected Lakeview for Outstanding Design in New Residence Hall Construction, and its the only residence hall to be published by the magazine this year. Lakeview Hall has also received recognition from the Southern Builders Association for Residential Construction for a public entity. The Southern College and University Planners Association also decided to honor Lakeview Hall be selecting the project to be part of the showcase in Atlanta next week for Residence Hall Design.

Despite the accolades for its construction, some students, like freshman Vanessa Robinson, said they would “like to see it finished.”

“Lakeview Hall looks like a rehab facility, but not as nice,” Kang said.

According to James Wassenaar, executive director of student affairs operations and auxiliary services, it usually takes about two months to take care of minor problems that may come with opening a new building. Knowing this, the decision was made to open Lakeview Hall to students in the fall semester rather than have them situated somewhere off-campus while the minor projects were being fixed.

“It’s more important to have students on-campus and being taken care of by University staff than to be placed off-campus in facilities not owned and operated by the University,” Wassenaar said.

Accommodating students into a newly opened building meant the students would have to endure the temporary inconveniences Lakeview had to offer along with its brand new facilities.

LAKEVIEW, page 3

Banners promote FAFSA

BEN BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

Students seem to forget about or miss the deadline to turn in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, popularly known as FAFSA. This inspired Travis Stokes, the Communications Committee Chair, to use more creative means such as banners to remind them to do it.

Stokes proposed banners that would cost roughly $1300 each, with the bills being paid by the Student Government Association.

“Placing banners at the main entrances to the school will really draw attention,” Stokes said.

The FAFSA is one of the most important documents a student seeking financial aid will need. The multi-page electronic document consists of many questions about a student’s financial status.

FAFSA’s goal: to determine student’s expected family contribution, and in turn, how much grant money the government will allocate each student.

However, FIU has had trouble getting students to turn the application in on time for several years. While the delay in students turning in their FAFSA causes delays for Enrollment Services, the delays primarily hurts the late students.

“It’s basically first come first serve when it comes to grants from FIU,” said Michelle Pestaina of the enrollment office.

According to Pestaina, the various grants that FIU offers have budgets they must conform to such as the National Merit and National Hispanic/Achiever grants.

As a result, students submitting their FAFSA in February will have a higher chance of receiving more aid than those submitting the documents in May.

During an Oct. 13 meeting, Stokes reviewed several ideas for Informing students of the March 1 FAFSA deadline.

The banner idea won out.
The Beacon – October 26, 2006
www.beaconnewspaper.com

NEWS

FLU

Hispanic Heritage month continues with on-campus performances

Residence Hall Association will host Latinos Unidos, an annual celebration of the Latino culture, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. in the GC Ballroom.

The theme of this year is Back to Our Roots, celebrating not only Hispanic roots, but also African and Asian.

The annual event features student performances, and this year will have a tango and salsa performance, performance by FIU’s String Quartet, and a fashion show among other things.

The event is free and open to everyone.

LOCAL

Florida polling law is declared unconstitutional

A federal judge on Oct. 17 declared a Florida law prohibiting exit polling within 100 feet of a voting place.

U.S. District Judge Paul C. Huck concluded that the 2005 law prohibiting exit polling violates the First Amendment’s freedom of the press.

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

The new ruling came after a lawsuit brought by The Associated Press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County’s failure to build affordable housing.

Along with tents, tarps, and banners that read, “Take back the Land,” the group said it planned to build a shantytown to house hundreds of the neighborhood.

The group, which includes members of Hope for the Homeless and Hopeless, Inc. and the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Food Not Bombs, intends to provide shelter and food indefinitely.

Following North Korea, the worst offenders, in order, were Turkmenistan, Eritrea, Cuba, Burma, Iceland and the Netherlands enjoy the most liberty.

North Korea rated worst violator of press freedom

An index released this week by Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based advocacy group, rely on its network of 130 correspondents, plus journalists, legal experts and human rights activists.

Panama Canal approved for expansion

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

About two-thirds of shipping traffic passing through the canal is headed to or coming back from the United States, a figure that will grow after the expansion.

The associated press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County’s failure to build affordable housing.

The group, which includes members of Hope for the Homeless and Hopeless, Inc. and the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Food Not Bombs, intends to provide shelter and food indefinitely.

Following North Korea, the worst offenders, in order, were Turkmenistan, Eritrea, Cuba, Burma, Iceland and the Netherlands enjoy the most liberty.

North Korea rated worst violator of press freedom

An index released this week by Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based advocacy group, relies on its network of 130 correspondents, plus journalists, legal experts and human rights activists.

Panama Canal approved for expansion

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

About two-thirds of shipping traffic passing through the canal is headed to or coming back from the United States, a figure that will grow after the expansion.

The associated press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County’s failure to build affordable housing.

The group, which includes members of Hope for the Homeless and Hopeless, Inc. and the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Food Not Bombs, intends to provide shelter and food indefinitely.

Following North Korea, the worst offenders, in order, were Turkmenistan, Eritrea, Cuba, Burma, Iceland and the Netherlands enjoy the most liberty.

North Korea rated worst violator of press freedom

An index released this week by Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based advocacy group, relies on its network of 130 correspondents, plus journalists, legal experts and human rights activists.

Panama Canal approved for expansion

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

About two-thirds of shipping traffic passing through the canal is headed to or coming back from the United States, a figure that will grow after the expansion.

The associated press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County’s failure to build affordable housing.

The group, which includes members of Hope for the Homeless and Hopeless, Inc. and the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Food Not Bombs, intends to provide shelter and food indefinitely.

Following North Korea, the worst offenders, in order, were Turkmenistan, Eritrea, Cuba, Burma, Iceland and the Netherlands enjoy the most liberty.

North Korea rated worst violator of press freedom

An index released this week by Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based advocacy group, relies on its network of 130 correspondents, plus journalists, legal experts and human rights activists.

Panama Canal approved for expansion

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

About two-thirds of shipping traffic passing through the canal is headed to or coming back from the United States, a figure that will grow after the expansion.

The associated press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County’s failure to build affordable housing.

The group, which includes members of Hope for the Homeless and Hopeless, Inc. and the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Food Not Bombs, intends to provide shelter and food indefinitely.

Following North Korea, the worst offenders, in order, were Turkmenistan, Eritrea, Cuba, Burma, Iceland and the Netherlands enjoy the most liberty.

North Korea rated worst violator of press freedom

An index released this week by Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based advocacy group, relies on its network of 130 correspondents, plus journalists, legal experts and human rights activists.

Panama Canal approved for expansion

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

About two-thirds of shipping traffic passing through the canal is headed to or coming back from the United States, a figure that will grow after the expansion.

The associated press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County’s failure to build affordable housing.

The group, which includes members of Hope for the Homeless and Hopeless, Inc. and the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Food Not Bombs, intends to provide shelter and food indefinitely.

Following North Korea, the worst offenders, in order, were Turkmenistan, Eritrea, Cuba, Burma, Iceland and the Netherlands enjoy the most liberty.

North Korea rated worst violator of press freedom

An index released this week by Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based advocacy group, relies on its network of 130 correspondents, plus journalists, legal experts and human rights activists.

Panama Canal approved for expansion

As a result, the 2005 law will not be enforced in the Nov. 7 elections, but it will remain in effect to limit other activities such as solicitation, distribution of campaign materials or peddling.

About two-thirds of shipping traffic passing through the canal is headed to or coming back from the United States, a figure that will grow after the expansion.

The associated press and five television networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox who want to conduct exit polls at about 40 Florida precincts during the November elections.

Activists protest city's lack of affordable housing

A group of 40 activists set up a camp in a vacant lot at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue, in the heart of Liberty City, on Oct. 16 to protest against the city of Miami and Miami-Dade Count...
Banners remind of FAFSA deadline

FAFSA, page 1

“IThink it depends on how much attention the students pay to the banners,” said senior Milene Martinez. “I always turned my FAFSA in on time anyway.”

“I turned my last FAFSA documents in late due to an error in filling them out,” said sophomore Joel Baez. “I was lucky that I wasn’t too severely affected. But $1300 for a banner seems too much to pay, even if they keep the FAFSA fresh in your mind.”

Students can still submit FAFSA documents for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Submissions for the 2007-2008 year start July 1, so students have until the day before to turn in their documents for 2006-2007, although most likely, turning in them in so late would result in receiving zero aid, according to Pestaina.

“It is critically important for students to turn in their FAFSA documents on time,” said Webb, vice president of enrollment services. “There are approximately 20,000 students who turn in FAFSA documents and it takes a lot of effort to go over them all.”

Webb also suggests submitting FAFSA documents via the Internet, which ensures that FIU receives them earlier. Hard copies could take weeks to be processed and in turn delay grants.

It’s not uncommon to worry about an abnormal Pap test result, which could be caused by a number of things. This includes high-risk HPV (Human Papillomavirus), a common sexually transmitted infection which may cause problems of the cervix, and rarely, even cancer. A medical research study for women with cervical high-risk HPV is being conducted by physicians in your area. To find out more, call Segal Institute for Clinical Research at 1-877-SEGAL-88 or visit www.indigo4women.com today.

FRESHMEN CHRISTIAN LOBUE had nothing but positive things to say about Lakeview’s student interactions.

“Everyone is really open and willing to talk. They’re personable, especially the Resident Assistants. They’re always there to help you out,” Lobue said.

Kang said one of the many problems she has had to face since moving in Lakeview Hall is the resident advisors and the staff.

“There are unnecessary authoritative rules. I want to come home and do what I do,” Kang said. “People are rude in the (front desk) when they don’t need to be, and sometimes, the way the RA’s talk to you is not even okay.”

Kang and her roommates had to deal with difficulties such as plumbing issues, broken towel racks and malfunctioning Internet connections. She felt the construction in Lakeview Hall is an annoyance that she should be reimbursed for.

“I haven’t had any compensation for any kind of inconvenience that we’ve had,” Kang said. “There’s this guy drilling in my floor at 8 a.m. on a Saturday. I didn’t pay for it.”

Kang also couldn’t believe any of Lakeview Hall’s residents could actually be satisfied with the building’s facilities and operations in general.

“I don’t know where they came from, because every person I talk to hates it,”
Diversity day teaches tolerance

ALEXANDRA MCMANNEY
Contributing Writer

When Judith Williams, founder of Cared Creations in Miami and FIU alumna, spoke about prejudices she has personally experienced during the seventh annual Diversity Day, she spoke of the tribulations she and her partner faced when adopting her son.

"[The Home] said they would rather have him adopted by an alcoholic than by lesbians," Williams said.

Teaching tolerance towards people of different races, cultural backgrounds and sexual orientations is why Diversity Day, hosted by the office of multicultural programs and services, was held Oct. 19 at the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms.

Diversity is truly at the heart of the University," said Vice Provost Damian Fernandez as students and faculty milled around eating lunch.

The food, which consisted of meatballs, rice, salad and chocolate cake, was put together by Diann Newman, an assistant professor for the school of hospitality management.

Diversity Day began with an activity organized by Susan McCarthy-Miller, a professor at Springfield College in Massachusetts.

The activity, called "Bafa, Bafa," was a cultural simulation game, where students split into two groups assuming a new culture and spoke of the assumptions each student made of the other. They traded currency and tried to understand each other's language to no avail.

Biomedical engineering major Steven Kumar found the "Bafa, Bafa" game intriguing.

"People shouldn't talk about people they don't know," Kumar said. "I'm Colombian Indian; it's an uncommon mix. It was a very interesting experiment that they had."

Following the game, a piece was performed by the FIU step dancers, who stomped rhythmically on the stage as well as a Hindi dance performed by Arminda Pravida, the chair of the Diversity Day event.

Several speakers were seated on stage headed by Al Costa, the graduate assistant for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allied Association, to present a sexual orientation panel.

Among the speakers were Williams, Daniel Anzueto, a resident advisor for Bay Vista Housing, and Oscar Laynez, an FIU alumnuus and associate director for the Health and Wellness Center.

The panel spoke of their life experiences being gay or straight, their home life and their workplace.

Costa talked about how her mother helped her become an advocate for the LGBTQ community.

"Since [youth], the [LGBTQ community] has been a part of my life when I realized at age 10 that my mom and her partner were not just roommates," she said.

Following the discussions presented by the guests, students were able to ask provocative questions about homosexual civil rights, equality in the workplace and government cover ups in recent cases of violence towards homosexuals.

Laynez was happy to be of assistance in answering students' questions about LGBTQ issues.

"Whenever there's an opportunity to see things in a different light I'm glad to help," Laynez said.

A scene from the Pulitzer Prize winning play Anna in the Tropics was presented. The play was about a married couple in the 1920's who work as cigar rollers in Florida.

The play, performed by drama students Maritxel Tarrero and Danush Saparaju, was the final event on the itinerary of Diversity Day.

"We realized many clubs they have for students at FIU are weak, so we got a group of talented guys together and did something not necessarily different but unique," said Mike Pina, the club's vice-president.

According to the club members, their beginnings were random. However, once the focus was found on spreading the word about Media-On-Demand via e-mail and through MySpace.

"I filmed a video during a marketing class that [Steven Ramirez], the club president, helped out in. I gave him a copy of the tape as a thanks for helping out and like a week later he called me and said we should do something different for FIU media students," Pina said.

"I realized there was no official club for students at FIU are weak, so we got a group of talented guys together and did something not necessarily different but unique," said Mike Pina, the club's vice-president.

According to Pina, opportunities to network at scale: a club on campus that served all students and changing the atmosphere of the school," Pina said.

"Our main purpose is to build a network of media students, work among the students to provide real world experience such as outside agencies speaking to the students and changing the atmosphere of the school," Pina said.

Though the project started out as a promotions committee intended to promote events for the Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay Campus, it soon became something more.

"Ramirez created something on a larger scale: a club on campus that served all other media clubs."

"Realized there was no official club for [students majoring in communications] to attend, so I went for it," said Ramirez.

Organizations like this one benefit the student body by allowing fellow students to meet people they might not meet otherwise, Ramirez said.

Junior Tiffany Parks said she wants more from a club than just social interaction.

"It has to bring something new to the table, because I can always meet new people elsewhere, though free food is always a strong draw."

Junior Shaun Wright shares some of Tiffany’s concerns.

"If it is only about people meeting up and chatting, I am not interested. Now, if it is about getting people together to create better things – say, two people from different majors in media to make a TV show on a website – then that sparks anyone’s interest," he said.

Ramirez is enthusiastic about Media-On-Demand’s long term goals.

"My greatest goal is to create an organization that encompasses all clubs within the SJMC here at BBC," he said. "We are making the presence felt so far, but it is an ongoing effort. Nobody has done this before, the possibilities are endless."
Nuclear ambitions stand in the way of effective diplomacy

Bush administration fails at compromise with North Korea

In 1994, North Korea was months away from building an atomic bomb and had publicly pulled out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They expelled United Nations weapons inspectors and made clear their nuclear intentions. President Clinton demanded that the United States impose sanctions – sanctions which the North Koreans claimed would mean war. To prepare for such a scenario, plans were drawn up for a possible invasion. However, it was the gullible public that Bush said no. North Korea pulled out of the agreement. Bush decided to pull out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They expelled Chinese, imposing long overtures. The United States only pulled out of the agreement, label the North Koreans claimed would be an economic pariah, as was made evident by the agreed framework’s guidelines. Although you could work on resurrecting the old agreed framework, Bush is unlikely to take this route. Sadly, the best time to solve this difficult situation with few appealing options.

In 1994, North Korea was quite frankly, they blew it. For diplomacy to even stand a chance, we must make sure that the citizens of the United States understand that the action of their government, a reclusive nation must pay for their own education by working on their exams in 50 minutes, while the class length isn't worth your effort to attend.

The Faculty Senate convened Oct. 24 to debate schedule changes to FIU classes. The approved schedule, which has yet to be adopted by the University, would alter classes from a Monday and Wednesday schedule to a new Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule. The schedule approved by the Faculty Senate would limit classes between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. from the approximate 75-minute blocks to 30-minute blocks. Night classes would not be affected, but the schedule would push many daytime classes to meet three times a week rather than twice.

The issue originated from the University’s endless expansion and need for funds. As FIU continues to grow without an end in sight, University officials are pushing for more funding from the government. One idea that would help FIU receive more money is to increase its use of classroom space. By using class space more efficiently, FIU hopes to earn more funds from the Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. This would mean having more classes on Fridays, when the campus is usually empty.

While this may appeal to the University’s thirst for money, it does not seem to have the students’ best interest in mind. The average FIU student is 27-years old. The average FIU student is likely to be married, have kids, have a full-time job and have to battle through Miami traffic to get to class. Taking time off from the chaos of the everyday may be worth it for a few classes taken twice a week, but who wants to drive through rush hour, scrounging for parking and bike across campus three times a week for a class that lasts just long enough to catch your breath?

The fact of the matter is that FIU’s current schedule must make changes. Do new facilities and renovated classrooms sound good? Without a doubt, yes. But what the Faculty Senate hasn’t realized is how students incorporate their education into an already busy lifestyle. Proponents of the new schedule argue that the funds will give FIU the necessary means to renovate classrooms, build campus-wide Internet access and create a more leverage on the old agreed class schedule. However, what good will all of that technology do when the teacher doesn’t have any time to teach? What’s the point of making a cleaner schedule when the class length isn’t worth your effort to attend?

In addition, many students should be concerned that the new class schedule would severely handicap a student’s abilities to pay for their own education by removing a day that may be used for work. If such a desperate measure needs to be taken to increase funding, the Faculty Senate should better understand the serious inconvenience that this new schedule will cause. If students sit by and let this decision go unchallenged, we may all be regretting it next year – 50 minutes at a time.

In 1994, North Korea was under the impression that the United States was willing to negotiate. The United States was willing to back in and give up their weapons to permanently lock up their nuclear weapons. Carter during the Clinton administration negotiated a possible invasion. Such a scenario, plans were drawn up for a massive exodus of refugees into China – a serious problem for the Chinese.

North Korea clearly does not want to be an international economic pariah, as was made evident by the agreed framework’s guidelines. The United States made sure that the regime would make no compromises with North Korea. Bush stated repeatedly that they would not stop their weapons program if the United States pledged not to invade them. Bush, refusing to compromise, said no. North Korea offered to halt the program if the United States re-established the old agreement. Bush said no. Time and time again, the Bush administration demanded that North Korea comply with its demands – not because North Korea had anything to gain from cooperating, but simply because Bush said so.

Our leaders need to work on resurrecting the old agreed framework, but Bush is unlikely to take this route. Sadly, the best time to solve this difficult situation with few appealing options.

The United States only pulled out of this agreement after it discovered that the North was secretly enriching uranium, an act that was in clear violation of the 1994 Agreed Framework. Close, Bill, but no cigar.

Four years later, they are testing a nuclear device. The size of the actual test, though still under investigation, is estimated to be less than 1 kiloton. Upon first receiving news of the explosion, most international bodies were not even sure it was actually a nuclear explosion. The blast was later confirmed to be of a nuclear nature when the U.S. Geological Survey found radioactive isotopes in the air.

Though an embarrassment as far as nuclear explosions go, North Korea’s test was a nuclear test nonetheless, and should be treated as such. Although you don’t have to worry about a Taepodong-2 missile landing in your backyard anytime soon – North Korea uses 1940s missile technology incapable of even successfully reaching its destination, let alone deliver a warhead – the notion that Kim Jong-II wants to put one there should be frightening enough.

The intentions of the rogue nation are a greater concern than its actual military capabilities. The fact that North Korea is seeking to increase its military capabilities shows that the U.S. and its allies in war is particularly troubling. It poses a threat not just to national security, but even more so to international security.

Sanctions should only be the beginning. Though it is unfortunate that the citizens of the exclusive nation must pay for the actions of their government, social unrest may be the ultimate leverage in getting the North to cooperate.

As a global leader and a member of the international community, the United States must make sure that the menace of North Korea is not allowed to intimidate and bully other countries with threats of war – especially nuclear war. Diplomacy is the key, but it has to be the kind of diplomacy that is unfair to stand up and show that the civilized world will not tolerate this type of behavior. For diplomacy to even stand a chance, we have to stop North Korea now.
Real-life murder stories saturate entertainment, desensitize audience

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life! Editor

When asked to name a serial killer, junior Luis Guerrero replied swiftly.

“That’s easy. Jeffrey Dahmer.”

With Halloween around the corner, carved pumpkins, fake skeletons and excessive amounts of sugary treats are making their appearances in stores and homes. However, the spooky holiday also brings focus to other Halloween staples that aren’t as lighthearted as “The Monster Mash.” Murder and death are recurrent themes permeating many Halloween celebrations and events.

This year, Universal Studios Orlando is hosting its sixteenth annual “Halloween Horror Nights” celebration, an event that invites visitors to go through various haunted houses, including one dedicated to the fictional murderer Norman Bates, the killer from the film Psycho. Similarly, horror movies such as The Grudge 2 and Saw 3 have been or are set to be released around the holiday. Other movies with a focus on murder, such as The Black Dahlia, which tells the story of an unsolved California killing, were released earlier this year.

So why is society willing to experience violent entertainment?

Psychology professor Jeremy Holm believes people partake in such entertainment for the emotional responses it elicits.

“People like to watch violence on television and film for the same reason they enjoy watching athletic events; we find violence fascinating. For example, we stare at car accidents as we drive past them. Even the news has lots of coverage on murders and accidents but we drive past them. Even the news has lots of coverage on murders and accidents but we don’t watch television and other mediums.

“It’s fun to watch violence on film because it’s so outrageous that it can’t be taken seriously,” she said. “It’s very imaginative, and in the end, you know that no one is really dying.”

Nevertheless, the murderers from films such as Psycho and The Black Dahlia are based on real-life characters. Bates, the killer in Psycho, is based on Wisconsin serial killer Edward Gein. According to CrimeLibrary.com, Gein was known for gutting bodies and decapitating his victims, particularly women. He even made clothing items from his victims’ bodies; at his home, police discovered a suit made of human skin and a belt made of nipples, according to the website.

Another serial killer glamorized by the media is David Berkowitz, otherwise known as the “Son of Sam,” who was a focal point of Spike Lee’s Summer of Sam. Berkowitz gained notoriety by killing six people and injuring several others in New York City, according to Crime Library.

The website CrimeSpider.com contains links to sites detailing the murders committed not only by these two murderers, but also other infamous killers such as Jeffrey Dahmer, who engaged in necrophilia and cannibalism. With so many websites offering in-depth data about these murderers’ crimes, could people emulate past killers by using this information?

Junior Ociel Corada thinks so.

“There’s a lot of information available on the Internet at people’s disposal,” he said. “If someone who isn’t right in the head reads in detail about the way someone was killed, they might want to copy it.”

According to Holm, some people may not be able to distinguish between violence in television and violence in real life.

“Research over the past 30 years on television violence has shown that it can lead to kids mimicking that sort of violence,” Holm said. “There hasn’t been enough research done to show the same connection in adults, but children are susceptible.”

Holm stresses that, aside from the possibilities of mimicry, overexposure to violence results in desensitization.

“What we do know is that the more we watch violence, the less shocked we are when we experience it in real life,” he said. “It desensitizes both children and adults.”

---

For students like sophomore Lillian Marquez, violence can be both horrifying and intriguing.

“Even though we don’t like to admit it, we find violence fascinating,” she said. “For example, we stare at car accidents as we drive past them. Even the news has lots of coverage on murders and accidents but we don’t watch violence, the less shocked we are when we experience it in real life,” he said. “It desensitizes both children and adults.”

“Even though we don’t like to admit it, we find violence fascinating. For example, we stare at car accidents as we drive past them.”

– Sophomore Lillian Marquez
So you’ve just realized it’s 5 p.m. on Halloween, and you don’t have a costume. The party of the year won’t wait for you or your mission through the war-torn battle zone that is Party City. Not to mention, even if you went now, you’d only have the option of buying the over-priced, partially missing costumes that no one wants or haven’t been relevant for years – a *Scream* mask, half of a horse or a Neo-from-*The Matrix* costume aren’t worth buying. Here are some ideas to make your last-minute outfit a memorable one.

**CONCEPTS**

Now that you are immersed in higher education, why not reflect it with your costume? Take a concept you learned in class and embody it. If you look disheveled yet indifferent you could go as “nihilism.” If you’re feeling controlling and organized, be “socialism.” Just don’t forget to pass out equal amounts of candy to everyone. If you want, roll around in various paints and be “abstract expressionism.” The possibilities are endless.

**MUMMY**

Even if you had to stop by a gas station on the way to the party, this would be an easy costume to pull off. You could assemble this costume en route. The trick? Toilet paper. Two-ply if you’re feeling fancy. Just unravel around your limbs and body, tuck in the ends and you’ve got a bona fide mummy ready for undead action. Take caution, however; this costume rips easily. If it unravels, you can say you’re a vandalized house or stand in front of the bathroom and charge people for a piece.

**YOUR MOM**

Everyone has one at one point, and usually they try to indulge us, so why not pay tribute to those who brought us into the world? All you have to do is walk into her closet and pick out an outfit. Grab some oven mitts and an apron if you’re going for the traditional look. The costume is purely for the dialogue: “Who are you supposed to be?” they will ask, to which you reply, “Your mom.” I’d dress up as my mom, but I have a hard time mimicking her “why aren’t you a pre-med major?” face.

**ANOTHER HOLIDAY**

It’s hard to find Halloween costumes on Halloween, but boy is it easy to find Christmas decorations. Just wrap yourself in lights and tinsel and be a tree. Add a cardboard box and you could be “everyone’s attic for 11 months of the year.”

**ADAM OR EVE**

Your birthday suit is the cheapest and most readily available costume you have. All you need to add is some strategically placed foliage. Just make sure it’s not poisonous or will cause you to break out in hives. On the seventh day, God rested, not invented Benadryl.

**PAPER BOY**

The late ‘90s and early ‘00s assured that everyone has a messenger bag. Just grab a timely stack of *The Beacon* and spread the joy that is college media. What better way to inform your student body of topical information that affects your everyday life? I know we’d appreciate it.
Apathy felt toward useless holiday

I’ve never understood the appeal of Halloween. Maybe it’s because I’ve never dressed up or maybe it’s because I’m just too cheap to go out and buy an antelope outfit and look like a moron. It could be the fact that I didn’t grow up in this country. After all, Halloween is a predominantly American holiday. It could be every one of the above reasons but to keep it straightforward – I guess not on a holiday that primarily involves kids.

Today’s Halloween is a multi-billion dollar gold mine for retailers – costumes, greeting cards, parties, decorations for not being creative enough. If it weren’t for the legal issues and the liabilities, the event would be a much bigger business. For guys, the less said, the better. We don’t have much of a choice outside pirates, grim reapers and zombies, unless you want to spend more than $100 dollars for that Care Bear outfit that’ll get you a couple of hugs, bad body odor and nothing more.

Every year I try to get into the spirit of Halloween and actually think about what I’m going to wear. Every year, it doesn’t pan out because I don’t have the time or the money. This year sounds like it’ll be a stretch.

Even the last week of September. Today’s Halloween is a multi-billion dollar gold mine for retailers come up with an idea to mimic Christmas carols. That’s something that requires a little bit of creativity. Does Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” make the cut anymore? I don’t think so. Halloween is the only holiday of the year where they can look like a slut and get away with it.

That would explain the abundance of French maids, dominatrices and bunnies at every Halloween party. It’s that one time of the year when no one will judge them by what they wear. And women say men are hypocrites.

For guys, the less said, the better. We don’t have much of a choice outside pirates, grim reapers and zombies, unless you want to spend more than $100 dollars for that Care Bear outfit that’ll get you a couple of hugs, bad body odor and nothing more.

Every year I try to get into the spirit of Halloween and actually think about what I’m going to wear. Every year, it doesn’t pan out because I don’t have the time or the money. This year sounds promising. Well, maybe not. Who knows, maybe, I’ll dress up as a “party pooper nerd”. It wouldn’t be a stretch.
Students’ lives disrupted by irrational fears, phobias

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

Are you afraid of crossing bridges? If so, then you have gephyrophobia. Afraid of strangers? Xenophobia. Afraid of sunlight? Helio-phobia. And you might even be a vampire.

The list goes on as there are hundreds of named phobias out there and countless more that have yet to be named. "Phobias are a fear of a situation or object that go to extensive levels," said psychology professor Lindsay Ham.

"There is a combination of genetic and environmental factors that contribute to whether or not someone will develop a phobia," Ham said.

"I’m afraid of car accidents," said sophomore Melissa Cordova. "I was in a car accident once, and I almost died in it."

In Cordova’s case, her fear of being in a car accident is justified as she went through the experience once before – this is known as a rational fear.

On the other hand, if she were simply afraid of cars, it would be considered an irrational fear.

When one looks at fear from an economical point of view, it’s big business and in high demand. Movies like The Grudge 2 and Saw 2 brought in $20 and $30 million, respectively, in their opening weekends, and haunted theme parks such as Universal Studio’s Halloween Horror Nights have also been profitable.

"I had a lot of fun there," said sophomore Jade Garcia. "I was on edge the whole time, not knowing if someone was going to jump out at me. It was a good feeling."

This leaves some to wonder what the appeal of it all is. "[The appeal of fear is that] it’s kind of the same thing as people who like to take risks," Ham said. "Bungee jumping, for example – for some, it feels scary but for others, it’s a good feeling."

While some moviemakers revel in the frightfully unnerving, depending on who you are.

"No one wants to hear it, but you have to face it regularly," Ham said. "If you’re afraid of heights then you should go to the top of a high building. In some severe cases, though, one may have to see a therapist."

FIU students who need help getting over a phobia can go to the University’s Counseling Services Center in the Health and Wellness Center.

"The first time a student comes into the office, they would see the psychologist on call for walk-in students," said University Psychologist Seth Grossman.

From there, the psychologist would evaluate the student to determine the severity of the phobia, if one even exists.

"For the simple phobias, a student would see someone here," Grossman said.

The course of treatment for simple or specific phobias would first be to talk about the phobia. If it were a phobia about rats, for example, the next step would be for the psychologist to show the student a picture of a rat.

"The point of the therapy would be to get the patient more comfortable with whatever it is they are afraid of," Grossman said. "But if it’s determined to be a serious phobia, we would perform what we call a medical rule out. This is to make sure that the symptoms we observe are not due to a medical condition."

The most extreme cases of phobias can cause students to have panic attacks at the mere thought of the phobia, according to Grossman.

In those extreme cases, students could continue treatment at the Counseling Center or be referred to an outside therapist by the center.

"The student would have panic attacks at the mere thought of the phobia."
The Beacon – October 26, 2006 www.beaconnewspaper.com

Men’s soccer suffers another late game break down

ANDREW KAMKA
Staff Writer

Forgive the men’s soccer team if players aren’t of the fan number 102. Kentucky forward Ryan O’Neill scored a game-winning goal in the 102nd minute, handing FIU its second loss of the season to come at that point in the match.

The game was the 6-1, 2-4 Conference USA suffered an identical fate against Southern Methodist, and the 2-1 loss to Kentucky (10-4-2, 3-2-1) is a bit too familiar for a team that has lost four hard-fought games to late goals.

“I’ve never seen such a string of bad luck in my life,” said head coach Karl Kremser. “We’ve played plenty of teams tough and lost late. We’ve got a great group of kids and a good team, but some players aren’t fans of the number 102. We’ve got a great group of kids and a good team, but some players aren’t fans of the number 102.

O’Neill added to the Golden Panthers’ misfortune with a cracking header early in double overtime. Senior midfielder Nathan Li floated a cleared ball back into the box, which found O’Neill near the right post. The 6’2” 18-yard jumper headed the ball past goal-keeper Kyle Thomas and gave Kentucky the win.

The Wildcats made the first cut with a Michael D’Agostino goal in the 17th minute. After controlling a long kick from keeper Matt Troop, D’Agostino dribbled down the left flank and fired an 18-yard shot that bested Thomas. The ball zipped into the top of the right goal post to give Kentucky a 1-0 lead.

“It was difficult to play them because they make no qualms about sending the ball long,” Kremser said. “It was a belter of a shot, which is the ( toughest) kind of goal you can imagine. We had chances to win, too, but the ball doesn’t always bounce your way.”

Sophomore midfielder Öli Birgisson gave FIU new life in the 35th minute and scored the first goal of his collegiate career. The ball found it’s way into the box, which went wide or were blocked, before O’Neill scored.

Kentucky’s victory stumped several FIU players, who stood in disbelief after the late goal. FIU also surrendered late game-losers to then No. 18 Illinois-Chicago and No. 9 South Carolina. Kremser said that after losing yet another hard-fought game, team morale has taken a hit.

If players aren’t fans of the number 102, that’s OK. If they aren’t fans of the number 102, that’s OK. But the team was really, really hard to watch. It’s sudden death, which is really an ominous thing. The team was really, really hard to watch. It’s sudden death, which is really an ominous thing.

Team-leading scorer if they hope to earn a victory.

And that card has been thrown around the past few days.

The day of the UM and FIU fight, Cal-Cross and Durham got into a scuffle after Holy Cross players celebrated an overtime victory by jumping on Dartmouth’s midfield logo.

Coincidentally, there was no video of the fight, no ESPN highlights of it and almost no mention of it in national media.

“Most people are still unaware of it. It’s an unusual double standard,” Kremser said. “In hockey, a day doesn’t pass without someone drawing a level for the team. But if there’s nothing to do with race, it had to do with the situational environment.”

Though both universities have yet to announce if they will proceed with the Oct. rematch, it will be in their best interest if they did.

School officials are afraid of another fight, but what would say about both universities, as well as their coaches, if they couldn’t give it another try?

There is no other way for UM to pack the Orange Bowl with that many fans if some other small team like Arkansas State plays them. The hometown rivalry will do more good than bad for the community.

“If the presidents can’t control their coaches and the coaches can’t control their athletes, then there really isn’t any place for sports in high education,” DeFrancisco said. “This could have been a really great series, the start of something really great.”

Just don’t let the columnist from Around the Horn make that decision.

National media’s post brawl reaction is too ‘gangsta’

I have often questioned why journalists aren’t held in higher regards, but after witnessing how the national media handled the brawl, I can understand people’s gripe.

ESPN and sports writers from across the country have been slamming the University of Miami while handing FIU a pass— even though FIU players threw the first punches and were more than willing to play the chaos that took place Oct. 14 at the Orange Bowl. On ESPN’s “Around the Horn,” columnists from around the country weighed in on different subjects, often making knee-jerk remarks to make the show more interesting. No facts, just dumb ranting and raving to see who can make the loudest noise.

Among the dumb comments made on the show were by Chicago Sun-Times columnist Jay Mariotti, who called for UM to suspend the rest of the season. Others took it a step further. Former Denver Post columnist Woody Paige announced it and illustrated it. Mainstream athletes, then there really isn’t any place for sports in high education, DeFrancisco said.

“I think people are uneducated and one bad apple doesn’t spoil a whole bunch. But in sports unfortunately you do something in the lime light and you’re going to get that reputa-

tion,” DeFrancisco said.

“Yes, there were black guys, white guys and yellow guys all on that pile. And that’s the way it was. If there were polka-dotted guys, I’m sure they would be on that pile, too. It had nothing to do with race, it had to do with the situational environment.”

Through both universities have yet to announce if they will proceed with the Oct. rematch, it will be in their best interest if they did.

School officials are afraid of another fight, but what would say about both universities, as well as their coaches, if they couldn’t give it another try?

There is no other way for UM to pack the Orange Bowl with that many fans if some other small team like Arkansas State plays them. The hometown rivalry will do more good than bad for the community.

“If the presidents can’t control their coaches and the coaches can’t control their athletes, then there really isn’t any place for sports in high education,” DeFrancisco said. “This could have been a really great series, the start of something really great.”

Just don’t let the columnist from Around the Horn make that decision.
At midseason, defense is lone bright spot for wireless team

REPORT CARD, page 12

stepping up their play as of late, and the numerous opportunities they are going to have with Williams and McKinney suspended, look for this core to be better as games go by late in the season. Their grade, so far, is a B.

DEFENSIVE LINE: B

If there is one thing that is true about this defensive group from this team is their solid defensive performance. As of the bi-week following the Miami game, the defense ranks 27 in the country in total defense – 289.71 ypg – and 18 in pass defense – 159.29 ypg.

They have forced 12 turnovers, which can be attributed to the pressure put on the quarterback by this group of men. Led by senior Antwan Barnes, with a team leading 13 tackles for loss and who kicked off the season with a four-sack game against Middle Tennessee, this group has sacked the opposing signal caller 17 times.

Though they have been tired due to lack of offensive support, they have held strong and have, most importantly, kept this team in games they should have not even been close in the way the offense was performing. Their grade is a B and only because of some costly personal foul penalties in precious moments.

LINEBACKERS: B+

The linebacking core, led by pre-season Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year Keyvynous Bouie, has lived up to what was expected coming in.

The same that was said for the D-line can be repeated for them. They are quick, they are strong and they have great on-field leadership, thanks to Alexander Bostic III. Bouie leads the way with 70 tackles on the season; Bostic ranks third with 59 and 43. The two have also combined for 24 tackles for a loss and seven of the team’s 17 sacks.

SECONDARY: B

If there is one group that has stepped up beyond what was expected of them coming in it has been this secondary.

The losses of Chris Smith (62 total tackles and four breakups) and Marquall McClain (19 tackles and a fumble recovery) will hurt them severely, but one cannot forget what others have done.

Following Miami game, sophomore Lionell Singleton has been a one man wrecking crew with interceptions in...
Golden Panthers not making the grade

It's been a long year for coach Don Stock and his staff: a new offensive line that has had to learn the ropes; a quarterback position that has struggled to find protection so far and, with two of its starting members dismissed from the team, it's hard to think that things will get any better.

QUARTERBACK: D+

For Josh Padrick, his senior season has been all but what he expected. Following a 2005 campaign that saw him complete 221 passes on 366 attempts for 2,241 yards, 13 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Thus the grade can be no higher than a D+.

So far, however, Padrick has struggled to make good decisions while rolling out of the pocket and making poor throws inside the pocket.

One of the main reasons for his struggles can be attributed to the new offensive line that was put in front of him and their adaptation to the speed of the college game.

Another could be his overdependence on seniors Chandler Williams and Cory McKinney to make catches, overlooking freshman receivers early on in the season.

His game has become predictable and has faced, this receiving core's numbers are slightly lower than what they could have been. Having said that, before the suspension following the brawl, Williams was second in the Sun Belt in receptions – 6.14 per game and showed his speed on an 89-yard touchdown reception at Maryland highlighting his season.

However, this core has been susceptible at times, mostly because of their youth and mental mistakes in certain situations (the dropped passes late in overtime against North Texas and Miami). With freshman Ashley Parker, John Houston Whiddon and Jeremy Dickens four bright parts of the season.

RUNNING BACKS: D

Like the quarterback position, the running game has really struggled because of a lack of nice holes. The sophomore tandem of Julian Reams and A'mod Ned has seen their list of tough defenses, but clutch turnovers in key moments have really changed the outcome in games.

Ned was sidelined halfway through the loss to Arkansas State with a knee injury and Reams has carried the load since against North Texas and Miami. His combined yardage thus far: 282 yards on 81 carries. Prior to the injury Ned was averaging 55.2 yards per game.

For Josh Padrick, his senior season has been all but what he expected. Following a 2005 campaign that saw him complete 221 passes on 366 attempts for 2,241 yards, 13 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Thus the grade can be no higher than a D+.

So far, however, Padrick has struggled to make good decisions while rolling out of the pocket and making poor throws inside the pocket.

One of the main reasons for his struggles can be attributed to the new offensive line that was put in front of him and their adaptation to the speed of the college game.

Another could be his overdependence on seniors Chandler Williams and Cory McKinney to make catches, overlooking freshman receivers early on in the season.

His game has become predictable and has faced, this receiving core's numbers are slightly lower than what they could have been. Having said that, before the suspension following the brawl, Williams was second in the Sun Belt in receptions – 6.14 per game and showed his speed on an 89-yard touchdown reception at Maryland highlighting his season.

However, this core has been susceptible at times, mostly because of their youth and mental mistakes in certain situations (the dropped passes late in overtime against North Texas and Miami). With freshman Ashley Parker, John Houston Whiddon and Jeremy Dickens four bright parts of the season.

Running backs: D

Like the quarterback position, the running game has really struggled because of a lack of nice holes. The sophomore tandem of Julian Reams and A’mod Ned has seen their list of tough defenses, but clutch turnovers in key moments have really changed the outcome in games.

Ned was sidelined halfway through the loss to Arkansas State with a knee injury and Reams has carried the load since against North Texas and Miami. His combined yardage thus far: 282 yards on 81 carries. Prior to the injury Ned was averaging 55.2 yards per game.

For Josh Padrick, his senior season has been all but what he expected. Following a 2005 campaign that saw him complete 221 passes on 366 attempts for 2,241 yards, 13 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Thus the grade can be no higher than a D+.

So far, however, Padrick has struggled to make good decisions while rolling out of the pocket and making poor throws inside the pocket.

One of the main reasons for his struggles can be attributed to the new offensive line that was put in front of him and their adaptation to the speed of the college game.

Another could be his overdependence on seniors Chandler Williams and Cory McKinney to make catches, overlooking freshman receivers early on in the season.

His game has become predictable and has faced, this receiving core's numbers are slightly lower than what they could have been. Having said that, before the suspension following the brawl, Williams was second in the Sun Belt in receptions – 6.14 per game and showed his speed on an 89-yard touchdown reception at Maryland highlighting his season.

However, this core has been susceptible at times, mostly because of their youth and mental mistakes in certain situations (the dropped passes late in overtime against North Texas and Miami). With freshman Ashley Parker, John Houston Whiddon and Jeremy Dickens four bright parts of the season.

SECOND MIET

FIRST MEET

REPORT CARD, page 11

Volleyball peaking at the right time

Following two dismal performances away from home against conference power houses Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee, Golden Panther women’s volleyball head coach Danijela Tomic answered their coach’s call by picking up two impressive wins in their final road games of the season.

Riding the back of explosive outside hitter freshman Yarimar Rosa, the Golden Panthers answered their coach’s call by picking up two impressive wins in their final road games of the season.

After a strong showing in a 3-1 (27-30, 30-27, 30-25, 34-32) win over Arkansas State University Lady Indians Oct. 20, the Golden Panthers drubbed the University of Arkansas Little Rock 3-0 (30-22, 30-18, 33-31) Oct. 22 to improve to 10-2 in Sun Belt Conference play.

Tomic says she believes the speech she gave after the let down on the road may have ignited the budding team.

“I told them it wasn’t the end of the world and we lose to one of top teams and all we had to do was go out and play hard,” Tomic said. “I told them the best way to bounce back and feel good about yourself is to win. I challenged them to win those two matches and they went out and did it.”

FIU 3, ASU 1

With 12 consecutive wins to their credit, the Lady Indians entered the contest against the Golden Panthers eager to keep up their winning ways. However, Rosa and the hungry Golden Panthers had other plans. In what was her 12th 20 plus kill performance.