FIU may switch to three day class schedule

JOSE DE WIT
Opinion Editor

Students may be taking classes Monday, Wednesday 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, internship 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.


AFTER THE MOVE

FRESH START: Lakeview Hall residents Noel Bloomfield and Michael D’Amour use one of the new facility’s lounges for recreation (above). Lakeview entrance (right).

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 and students began to move in months due to the active 2005 hurricane season, Lakeview Hall was approved for official occupancy by the fire marshal last August and students began to move in

However, minor projects are still being completed throughout the building, such as replacing carpets, fixing creaking 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 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 by 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 Wassenen, 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,” Wassenen 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.
Club rallies against Coca-Cola

The United Students Against Sweatshops at FIU are gearing up for a major campaign against Coca-Cola. The fledging chapter of USAS began during the 2006 Spring semester and has just recently begun more active strides in reaching its goals.

Nationally, there are over 200 chapters of USAS. The organization is an international student movement of campuses and individual students fighting for sweat-free labor conditions and workers’ rights, according to www.studentsagainstsweatshops.org.

“Take back the Land,” the group said it planned to do. “We want students to understand that we are fighting for human rights,” said sophomore Yaniv Kleinman, a member of the FIU chapter of USAS.

Coca-Cola has been accused of supporting military groups responsible for killing labor union leaders in Colombia and pressuring workers who sign documents of resignation with Coca-Cola letterheads.

Due to such business practice, USAS is determined to get Coca-Cola out of universities through a campaign called Killer Coke.

According to Laura Garcia, a member of USAS, FIU is one of six Coca-Cola universities in Florida while some of the larger universities, such as Harvard and New York University, have dropped Coca-Cola due to other USAs actions.

“We hope to make the name of Coca-Cola universities in Florida five,” Garcia said.

One tactic USAs has been using is to try and raise awareness about Coca-Cola on a graphic cardboard replica of a Coca-Cola vending machine.

“It gets people to ask questions,” Garcia said.

“One day we had over 60 people ask for information about Coca-Cola.”

“We are being very ambitious,” said sophomore and club member Zalisky Mokim. “We’re an infant at FIU, but I hope to help achieve progressive change.”

The Killer Coke campaign isn’t the only thing USAS has been up to. Recently members of FIUs USAS protested the Dole Fresh Flowers Company’s decision to close down several factories in Ecuador and Colombia and lay-off 3,500 workers.

Allegedly Dole decided to close the factories when the workers there finally formed labor unions.

While the number of consistently active members of USAS remains small at FIU, the current members are very optimistic about their chapter of USAS.

“Joining USAS has opened my eyes to the many righteous causes out there that I had drifted in the past,” said junior Isidro. “I think it’s a big feature to try and raise awareness about what Coca-Cola is really about.”

Unlike most other clubs and organizations at FIU, USAS does not have the typical structure of organization.

There are no presidents, secretaries or treasurers and everything is decided by a majority rule vote.

USAS members meet every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the English Language Institute, room 309, at University Park.

Facility senate debates new schedule

BOARD, page 1

Florida awards these funds to public educational institutions specifically for the acquisition, renovation and utilization of buildings. The state determines the amount of PECO funds allocated to each institution according to OPPAGA’s Spring 2005 report. In order to secure the PECO funding, Florida’s educational institutions specifically ranked above the state median in class utilization among all state universities, according to OPPAGA’s Spring 2005 report.

“Regardless of money, it’s about time we look at our scheduling,” he said.

“We need consistency in our scheduling,” said professor Helen Comley of the Physical Therapy Department. “Regardless of money, it’s about time we look at our scheduling.”

Interim Provost Ronald Berkman agreed.

“We have to accommodate nearly 39,000 students. Scheduling needs to be as straightforward and simplistic as possible for students,” he said.

The report provided four other recommendations to improve FIU’s classroom problem. These included technological improvements to classrooms, scheduling priorities, publishing and implementing an annual class schedule and elimination of non-standard class durations.

These four recommendations were well-received by the senate.

However, the debate over whether to accept the schedule change was complicated by confusion over how classroom utilization is measured.

OPPAGA released its classroom analysis across the statewide university system, but refused to supply any details regarding the methodology used in gathering data or the formulas it used in making its calculations, arguing that its investigations are exempt from Florida Sunshine Law.

“It’s impossible to understand the score if we don’t know what’s tabulated,” said professor Martha Centeno of the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department.

Berkman pushed the debate forward, arguing that, though OPPAGA’s analysis could be flawed, the fact remains that money is the standard according to which the University’s funds are allocated.

“Maybe OPPAGA’s methodology is faulty or bogus, but at least it is bogus across the board,” the methodology is the same for all universities,” she said.

As the debate came to a close, senate members expressed frustration and indecision.

“We’re debating in a fog here,” said professor Grover Larkins of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

“Without sufficient information, I don’t feel comfortable indicating or supporting the recommendation.”

In his closing remarks before the motion came to a vote, Berkman eased senate members doubts by hinting that the new scheduling format may not be permanent.

“If we find this isn’t advantageous to the community, if we find this is hurting students, I’m serious, I’ll stop it,” he said.

His history department argued that some classes are better taught in shorter, 50-minute class periods held three times a week.

“Some of our younger students in lower-division introductory courses have shorter attention spans, and they have trouble listening for 75 minutes,” he said.

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Banners remind of FAFSA deadline

FAFSA, page 1

“It think it depends on how much attention the students pay to the banners,” said senior Milene Martinez. “I always tune my FAFSA in on time anyways.”

“I turned my last FAFSA documents in late due to an error in filling them out,” said sophomore Joel Baca. “I was lucky that I wasn’t 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 so late would result in receiving zero aid, according to Pestainia.

“It is critically important for students to turn in their FAFSA documents on time,” said Webb, vice president of enrollment services. “There are approximately 30,000 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 copy could take weeks to be processed and in turn delay grants.

Lakeview still not completed

Lakeview, page 1

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

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

“There are unnecessary authoritative rules. I want to come home and do whatever I do,” Kang said. “People are rude in the front desk when they don’t need to be, and sometimes, the way the RAs 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,” said Webb. “There’s no way I’m going to have a drink in my floor at 8 a.m. on a Saturday. I didn’t pay for that.”

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

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

ALEXANDRA MCANARNEY
Contributing Writer

When Judith Williams, founder of Catered 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, began, 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 Danni Newman, an assistant professor for the school of hospitality management.

Diversity Day began with an activity organized by Susan McCarthy-Miller, a professor at Northeastern 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.

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

“I 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.

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“There was always a strong draw.”

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Contributing Writer

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Media-On-Demand is a gateway for media students to access networking connections.

According to the club members, their first meeting was a huge success. “We have made our presence felt so far, but it is an ongoing effort. Nobody has done this before, the possibilities are endless.”
It wasn’t an ideal agreement, but it worked. North Korea locked up its fuel rods and international inspectors confirmed that the nation had ceased its nuclear program.

Once Bush took office, however, he decided to take a different approach. The United States would make no compromises with North Korea. Bush decided to pull out of the agreement, label the country as part of an axis of evil and cease one-on-one negotiations with them.

North Korea decided to unlock its fuel rods and start building a nuclear weapon. The regime stated repeatedly that they would 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 the old agreed framework, but Bush is unlikely to take this route.

Sadly, the best time to solve this problem was while the Bush administration had an opportunity to prevent this situation and, quite frankly, they blew it.

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 Nations 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.

Today, we don’t talk of the North Korean War of 1994. Such a disaster was averted because the United States was willing to negotiate.

In a deal brokered by Jimmy Carter during the Clinton administration, the North Koreans agreed to permanently lock up their radioactive fuel rods, let inspectors back in and give up their weapons program. In exchange, the United States promised to normalize economic relations, the North Koreans agreed and the Clinton 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.

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 is not the bomb itself, but the ability to deliver the payload. The United States 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 relucant 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.
SPECIAL HALLOWEEN PRESENTATION: entertainment, desensitize audience

Real-life murder stories saturate the entertainment landscape, desensitizing the audience. Asst. Life! Editor GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR. explores the intersection of real-life and fictional terror.

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 participate 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,” he said. “Being shocked by a horror film can give people the emotional rush they look for.”

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 dedicates only a few minutes to ‘soft’ stories like kittens stuck up a tree.”

While some people admit being fascinated by violence, others such as freshman Jenny Bahija find entertainment value in watching such violent acts depicted on 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 Crime Library, 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 CrimeSpider.com.

Other 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 more information on the website CrimeLibrary.com, please see the article "Rely on Research" in this issue of The Beacon.

LIFE!
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 some 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 and simple, I’ve never cared much about the holiday—I apart from some of the fun parties that it brings.

In the past, Halloween used to be a one-night thing where children dressed up in their favorite “scary” costumes, visiting neighbors for “Trick or Treating.” What kids never realized was that the holiday is only for a day where they could get away with it. They’d be getting a bad deal regardless of for not being creative enough. 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 and simple, I’ve never cared much about the holiday—I apart from some of the fun parties that it brings.

Every year, Halloween starts to resemble Christmas, only replace the Christmas trees with pumpkins. The entire month of October can be considered Halloween now. In some cases, even the last week of September. Just like Christmas, you can’t escape it—pumpkins, cobwebs, tombstones and witches, they’re everywhere. People actually send out greeting cards wishing each other a very “Happy Halloween.” It’s only a matter of time before retailers come up with an idea to mimic Christmas cards. That’s something that requires a little bit of creativity. Does Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” make the cut anymore? I guess not on a holiday that primarily involves kids.

Every year, the media finds some excuse to expand the celebrations by at least an additional week. Just look at Universal Studios’ Halloween Horror Nights. It used to be a week of events that were a waste of money. Now, it’s an entire month that’s a waste of money. Standing in line for two hours only to end up walking through a cold, gloomy pathway accent by actors moaning and grunting isn’t my cup of tea. If they weren’t for the legal issues and liabilities, the event would be a much darker, thrilling event.

To many adults and teens, costumes are the best part of Halloween apart from getting drunk and being made fun of for not being creative enough. Just the other day at work, a colleague of mine was ecstatic about receiving her French maid outfit in the mail—an item that she spent more than $60 on. Minutes later, she received a call from the costume company saying that they’ve run out of French maid outfits. Her mood took a 180 degree turn after that call. It looked like she’d have to settle for her $70 Queen of Hearts outfit. Bummer!

To most women, 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.

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Students’ lives disrupted by irrational fears, phobias

Are you afraid of crossing bridges? If so, then you have gephyrophobia. Afraid of strangers? Xenophobia. Afraid of sunlight? Heliophobia, and you just might 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.

“Object that go to extensive levels,” said psychology professor Lindsay Ham.

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 economic 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.”

With Halloween right around the corner, it’s no surprise to see a lot of scary movies playing in theaters.

“Scary movies are more exciting than regular movies,” said freshman Jenni Gamas. “They get your adrenaline pumping.”

While some moviemakers revel in fake horror, others live them daily. The appeal of it all is.

“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.

**November 24, 2006 – The Beacon – Page 9**

**Ben F. Badger Jr.**
**Staff Writer**

**At Nova Southeastern University, a student seeks help with a phobia.**

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Men’s soccer suffers another late game break down

ANDREW KAMEKA
Staff Writer

Forgive the men’s soccer team if players aren’t of the fan number 102. Kentucky forward Ryan O’Neil 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 match, between FIU (6-7-1, 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 sometimes you need a bit of luck. Unfortunately for us, the only luck we’ve got is the ball flying over.

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 punch, according to video of the fight that took place Oct. 14 at the Orange Bowl. On ESPN’s “Around the Horn,” columnists from around the country weigh 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 program for several years.

“I’m sure they would be on the pile, too. It had nothing to do with race, it had to do with the community,” Mariotti said.

“Don’t they have no sports in high education?” DeFrancesco said.

“It’s sad to say, but when the country thinks of FIU, the first things that come to mind are images from the fight and the O’Neil 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 skeletal match, which is the [tough- est] kind of soccer imaginable. We had chances to win, too, but the ball doesn’t always bounce your way.”

Sopomophore midfielder Öli Birgisson gave FIU new life in the 35th minute and scored the first goal of his collegiate career. Birgisson got open eight yards in front of the goal and knocked in a headed pass from senior forward David Hope to knot the score at 1-1.

But FIU couldn’t find the net and ended the match with a total of eight shots. The defense almost maintained the stalemate and stood a barrage of 18 shots, most of which went wide or were blocked, before O’Neil scored.

Kentucky’s victory stunned several FIU players, who stood in disbelief after the late goal. FIU also surrendered late game-winners 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.

“She’s a great player, but she can’t handle it. She’s always a little temperamental. She’s not a quitter, but she can’t handle the pressure. She’s good, but she’s not a leader,” Kremser said.

The team was really, really good this year, and team morale has taken a hit. With only two games remaining in the season and a C-USA Tournament berth up for grabs, FIU is focused on its games against Central Florida and UAB on the road.

“It can win them both, but then again, you never know. Those games are going to be super critical,” Kremser said.

Here’s a scouting report for each game, including the regular-season finale that could very well determine if the postseason is in the Golden Panthers’ future.

Oct. 25 at Central Florida: Much like FIU, UCF has lost its last two games recently. The Golden Knights have lost 2-1 to South Carolina and Kentucky, and will look to end the skid when they host their rivals from Miami. Sophomore forward Zack Baggott is the biggest offensive threat, so FIU will have to neutralize the team-leading scorer if they hope to earn a victory.

Oct. 30 vs. UAB: C-USA positioning will be a stake for both teams, so this could possibly be the most important game of the season. UM upset Kentucky and nearly repeated the feat against Tulsa, so FIU can expect a tough match. The Blazers have plenty of speed, especially with C-USA leading-scorer Jerson Monteiro. The Golden Panthers will have to match if they plan to oust UAB in the conference race.

My View

CHARLIE GRAU
STAFF WRITER

“We have 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 that would be on the pile, too. It had nothing to do with race, it had to do with the situation.”

Though both universities have yet to announce if they will proceed with the Oct. 6 game, DeFrancesco said it would be in their best interest if they did.

School officials are afraid of another fight, but what would that 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,” DeFrancesco 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.

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At midseason, defense is lone bright spot for wireless team

REPORT CARD, page 12

Coaching: F

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 in the season. Their grade, so far, is a

DEFENSIVE LINE: B

If there is one thing that has really stood out to the coaching staff so far this season is the defensive line. Led by senior Antwan Barnes, this group has terrorized the offensive talent they have faced. With defense ranking 27th in the nation in total defense – 289.71 ypg. – and 18 in pass defense – 159.29 ypg. – the line has clearly been a key component to the team's success.

Students have been a one man wrecking crew offensively with a defen- sive player that has stepped up to the occasion. With Williams' one man wrecking crew, the defensive line has taken advantage of the opportunities they have had. A key component to the team's success has been the defensive line's ability to pressure the quarterback and force turnovers. Their grade is a B-

LINEBACKERS: B+

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

The same that was said for the D-line can be reiterated for them. They are quick, they are strong and they have not been held back in the way the offense was performing. Their grade is a B+

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 interceptions) and Mar- shall McDaniel (19 tackles and a fumble recovery) will hurt them severely, but one cannot forget what others have done.

Following Miami's loss to Rice, Senior Lambda Wolker has been on fire offensively for the Lady Indians with 22 kills at a .381 clip, while Robin Aaron and Jessel Payne added 15 and 13 kills respectively.

Volleyball back-to-back winners

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

The offense has struggled to put points up on the board and so that has given the special teams a chance to see some playing time.

The kicking game was a nightmare early on, with two missed extra points costing the team two wins. Dustin Rive's has since become their man and too he has struggled at times, it seems as though this team is confident in their kicker. Rive's numbers this season: four of nine with a long of 37. One must remember that, like their punter, their Cook (averaging 35.6 yards per punt), they are both fresh and have not even been close in the way the offense was performing. Their grade is a B

COACHES: F

As far as the coaching staff is concerned, are there any positives in a 0-7 start? This team has consistently made the same mistakes and shows no signs of change.

Clock management has been horrible, especially late in the Maryland game, and too many excuses are being made about this team's struggles because of the youth of their program. When you lose five games by a combined 14 points, it comes down to coaching. The loss of control of the team that led to the brawl against Miami is just icing on the cake. Their grade is a F

DEFENSIVE LINE: C-

The return game has also come down to coaching. Their grade is a C-

SECONDARY: D

The same that was said for the D-line can be reiterated for them. They are quick, they are strong and they have not even been close in the way the offense was performing. Their grade is a D

COACHES: F

They too have been a challenge but if we play up to our potential it will be a challenge but if we play up to our potential it is hard to beat them.
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 that has struggled to find protection to make the right decision; and a running game that has been anything but decent.

The defense has been the only bright part of the season 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 2461 yards, 13 touchdowns and 11 interceptions, his final season looked to be his breakout year. He was named one of the best in the conference and though everyone knew that he had a new group in front of him and some new receivers, it all looked to be going his way.

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 in crucial situations, and forcing the ball into double or triple coverage.

His game has become predictable and the defenses have taken advantage.

So far, the season numbers are as follows: 129 completions on 229 attempts for 1247 yards, three touchdowns and 10 miserable interceptions. Thus the grade can be no higher than a D+.

**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 and showed his speed on an 80-yard run against Bowling Green. However, their lack of production, regardless of the reasons, has led this offense to stutter and thus lose close football games. Because of that, their grade can’t be any higher than a D.

**WIDE RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS: C**

Because of the struggles that Padrick has faced, this receiving core’s numbers are slightly lower than what they could have been. Having said that, before the suspensions following the brawl, Williams was second in the Sun Belt in receptions – 6.14 and has managed 62.4 yards per game. McKinney’s numbers are also fantastic, with an unbelievable 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 and in overtime against North Texas standouts).

With freshman Ashlyn Parker, John Houston Whiddon and Jeremy Dickens the Golden Panthers not making the grade

**FUTURE MEET**

**SPORTS**

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