Three-day class schedule official

JOSE DE WIT
Opinion Editor

It’s official: beginning Fall 2007, FIU will switch to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class schedule, according to a Nov. 27 University-wide e-mail from Interim Provost Ronald Berkman.

Under the current class schedule, classes meet twice a week, either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, for 75-minute class periods. The schedule change will shorten Monday/Wednesday daytime class periods to 50 minutes and add a third weekly class meeting on Fridays. Tuesday/Thursday classes, as well as classes that meet on Saturday or on Monday and Wednesday after 5 p.m., will not experience any schedule changes.

According to Bruce Hauptfi, the Faculty Senate chair, administrators and faculty had been contemplating the change for the past two to three years as part of an initiative to improve the efficiency of classroom use, which also includes giving classrooms technological upgrades and making available an annual class schedule.

The faculty Senate voted in favor of these measures Oct. 24, and Berkman’s announcement that he accepted the Senate’s recommendation was made in the e-mail. Now that it has been decided that FIU’s class schedule will change, what remains is to determine how that change will come into effect.

“Will it start with freshmen? Will it start with seniors and sophomores? Will it start with everyone at once?” Berkman said.

The job of answering these questions is in the hands of an implementation committee that includes, along with representatives from different administrative departments, two faculty members, three deans and one student representative — Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Camilo Silva.

According to Corinne Webb, SPC Vice President Micaela Ancewicz says she feels caught off guard.

SPC, page 3

Preparations begin for AIDS Day

EDDITH SEVILLA AND ANGELINA TROFF
Beacon Staff

Though World AIDS Day is not until Dec. 1, FIU has already started promoting AIDS awareness for students.

With World AIDS Day right around the corner, University Park held two separate events, the Be HIV Educated Project and the Voicing Opinions and Cultural Equality Fashion Show Nov. 28, to educate students on the facts concerning AIDS.

B-HIVE, as the project is called, offered students a chance to learn about the virus through speakers, skits and testimonials.

“The personal stories really made it real — it’s not just people trying to scare you,” said Aarti Chhantlani, a junior at FIU. “Although the testimonials were not given by students, Matthew Parisi, a senior and co-chair of B-HIVE, was grateful for those who did speak.

“It’s tough to find people who want to speak. The Center for Positive Connections was kind enough to provide us with three of their regular clients and I felt that was a good option for us,” Parisi said.

The Project also offered free HIV testing, with results available in 20 minutes. Rachel Olmedo, a sophomore, found it a simple and non-threatening procedure.

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SCHEDULE, page 1

The committee’s chair, a big responsibility the committee will be charged with is running academically departments program to provide an annual class schedule. The yearly schedule is set to predict what courses will be available up to two semesters ahead of time, what time they will be offered and who will teach them.

The committee will help departments avoid making last-minute schedule changes and provide a just-in-time demand prediction for specific courses, Webb said.

According to Berkman, the most significant change to the schedule change is financial. In the State Legislature’s past session, a bill was approved that universities using their classroom space inefficiently could not receive funds for construction and renovation, called PECO funds. FIU ranks as the lowest among Florida state universities in classroom space utilization. The bill did not pass, but according to Haspil, it became clear that FIU needed to use its classroom space more efficiently to become more competitive for funding in the future.

“In the next year, we’ll almost certainly see legislation if the law3 doesn’t say who don’t use at least 65 to 75 percent of their classroom space will receive no PECO funds,” Berkman said. “It’s a reality that we have to confront and make sure we are meeting the students who are furthest ahead.”

Among new additions planned for FIU in the near future are a $55 million science building and a $23 million social sciences building. It is believed that funds will be financed with PECO funds.

Berkman hopes that beyond any financial benefits, the schedule change, in conjunction with the annual schedule, will prove over time to be a “student-friendly” change for the University.

State funding affects scheduling

FIU offers free HIV testing

“Three times your name hits the wire card with how HIV is transmitted and a ‘join the fight’ promoting safer sexual choices,” said Casandra Roache, senior health educator and advisor for Students Health Advocates for Peer Education, programs designed to promote healthy activities including fitness, sex education and stress management, among others.

According to Roache, UP’s Health and Wellness Center collaborates with Care Resources, an outside community-based organization to provide free HIV tests for students.

HIV tests are not limited to UP students only. Students at Biscayne Bay Campus can also take advantage of the free tests every Tuesday, according to Elvis Velev, director of health administration.

Although UP got a head start on AIDS awareness, AIDS presentations at the University are not limited until the actual date of the commemoration.

Claudia Uribe, associate director of Reach 2012, an HIV primary prevention and research project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said a tabling event will take place Dec. 1 in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square.

“Health education pamphlets will be handed out to students as well as free condoms and information on how to use them.”

So far this semester, the Wolfie, Florida ranks third – after New York and California – in the highest number of AIDS cases in the nation. Also according to Uribe, Miami-Dade county has the highest number of AIDS cases in South Florida.

University offers free HIV testing

Lecture addresses terrorism sponsoring

Shlomi Dinar, associate professor and MES director

By bringing different speakers to campus, MES’s ultimate goal is to help secure FIU’s place as a center of debate and learning on matters concerning the Middle East.

According to a report from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as of December 2005, more than $471 million in assets associated with known state-sponsored terrorists were located within U.S. jurisdiction. Of that total, $368.9 million had been blocked through sanctions, while the remaining amount of $101.2 million represents assets of individuals and entities from Iran and Syria.

The MES, a component of the
Middle East Society fosters cultural awareness

LEcTure, page 2

The lack of experience hurt the club’s organization and attendance but we still had the events to keep students entertained,” Boubou said.

Sophomore Antonio Carrillo, current president of ISC, says this year is an improvement and more events are in store for students this school year.

“There has been a rise in participation, and we try to have three to four events every month, from beach trips to intramural games,” Carrillo said.

There aren’t really any clubs that cater to the entire international community at the University, and a lot of current clubs don’t really offer much programming dedicated to international students. Boubou said, “ISC wants to unite that whole community to international students,” Boubou said.

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“Creating a bridge between SGA and SPC is a major part of the president’s job,” Buchanan said. During his time at the council, he soon discovered that there exists a difference between military direction and civilian management.

“My leadership style was very militaristic,” said Buchanan. “SPC taught me how to be a civilian leader.”

Surprisingly, what led him to become involved with SPC was far more congenial: the free food. That, along with the benefit for fellow students, pulled him into the council, where he decided to get students involved in a non-traditional university where “not a lot goes on,” as he puts it.

Within a few months, his active involvement and militaristic guidance led SPC to become a functioning council once more.

“But I was just there. All the accomplishments have little to do with me; they have everything to do with my chairperson,” Buchanan said.

Hoping that the program continues to grow after his departure, Buchanan also optimistically has run itself.

“There’s only so long that the same leader can make an impact,” he said.

Club helps international students adjust to new life

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life Editor

Born and raised in Peru, sophomore Gabriella Santos came to Miami to study at FIU Spring 2005, without knowing anybody in the University. Underneath the international students orientation session, she learned about a club that programmed events specifically for international students. On a whim, she attended an event that the organization hosted. Santos eventually became the 2005-2006 secretary of that very group – the International Students Club.

To Santos, the club provided a sense of belonging that helped her connect with FIU’s international student population.

“The main reason I joined was the people,” Santos said. “The students I met through the club shared the same experiences as me because we were all international students. We’re all attending a school in a different country than the one we were raised in.”

Overseen by the Student Organizations Council, the governing body of more than 200 clubs, ISC at University Park strives to provide a fun environment for international students such as Santos. According to ISC Vice President Jose Boubou, the club has more than 200 members but admits not all of the members are active.

“We have over 200 members signed up to our e-mail list, but obviously not all of them come to our events or attend the meetings,” Boubou said. “We’re 100% students, and we’re trying to lead them to the club not the club doesn’t work out.”

Although some members fail to partake in the club’s events, other members participate in the activities, which include student gallery visits and intramural soccer games as well as dinners and parties held throughout each semester. The club’s most recent activity was a Thanksgiving dinner held in the University Park Towers. Prior to the event, the club helped organize a Nov. 9 party at Gracie’s Grill known as “Unidad: The Traffic Light Edition.” That party, according to Boubou, was a huge step for the club because of the collaboration involved.

“That party was a big success for our 

Students worry gay initiatives ignored

JESSICA SOUS Contributing Writer

For students like sophomore Danny Anzueto, being gay in college has been a positive experience. He is a leader on campus, taking part in events like Diversity Day. He is also a resident assistant at Bay Vista housing at the Biscayne Bay Campus, and often organizes events for residents.

“I have never really been a problem. I have found my space in school with my group of friends that all share the common bond of understanding and openness,” Anzueto said.

Anzueto admits, however, that the reason he has not met with any negativity about being gay at BBC is because the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning community has no voice on campus.

“It’s pretty sad to think we’re a minority on campus and other minorities on campus have more representation,” he said.

“We don’t have anybody that wants to represent us, so we want to represent us.”

Anzueto is one of several students spearheading an effort to establish an organization at BBC for LGBTQ students, possibly by the spring semester.

In the past, a club for LGBTQ student had success at the campus, but graduating students and shifts in leadership caused the club to become inactive, eventually disbanding.

Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, along with other administrators, want to see LGBTQ students have that social outlet at BBC.

“The division has had to respond to concern from students who basically express an interest in having a greater support,” Akens said.

Students involved in creating the student organization hope that the club can become a place for students to talk to each other and relate to one another's experiences.

“It is such a scary thought to come into college and to be thrown into this whole new world that you really don’t know anything about. Add to this being a student that happens to be gay, or lesbian, or bisexual, or transgender only makes the transition into college all that much harder,” Anzueto said.

Anzueto and Zena Duque, a senior doing an internship at the Women’s Center at BBC have brainstorming since October about obtaining a center for LGBTQ students and making the office the BBC Stonewall’s home base.

Stonewall Pride Alliance is an active organization on South campus and aids the needs of GLBTQ students and their allies in FIU and the community.

“Students want an outlet to be able to express themselves and have a comfortable environment to congregate without any harassment or anything with negative connotations to it. It would be a safe place for them to come and talk and get resources or just hang out,” Duque said.

Creating a new chapter of Stonewall rather than forming a completely separate organization would also unite both campuses, according to Anzueto.

On Oct. 11, Bronwen Bares, coordinator for the Center for Leadership and Service and the Women’s Center at BBC and Duque helped set up tables for the campus’ National Coming Out Day at two locations within and around the Wolfe University Center.

She said the Women’s Center was the only office at BBC who did anything for the event.

Bares also said the apparent silence from administrators and staff at BBC during National Coming Out Day is a persistent occurrence concerning LGBTQ issues.

“At least on this campus, nobody recognizes these issues and we had very few people come to our tables that day,” Bares said.

“They really aren’t any offices that are perceived by the students as a resource [for LGBTQ students].”

Duque has also worked closely with LGBTQ issues, including attending receptions, workshops and Diversity Day on both campuses.

“I think the students are more afraid and intimidated by being able to be who they truly are because they think something negative would come along with it,” Duque said.

“Honestly don’t see the administrators doing anything to promote the support of students that are LGBTQ or questioning or whatever.”

Nevertheless, Dr. Rosa Jones, vice-president of student affairs, and the task force to address these issues after students approached the office concerned with their status last spring.

“A group of students actually came to me to talk about their experiences, to share that they felt that they were not being served as well as they could,” Jones said.

To better accommodate the task force’s objectives, a new position was created in the office of multicultural programs and services.

A.J. Costa is a graduate assistant working on LGBTQ issues through the MPAS office, though she is based at University Park.

Costa and the MPAS office have started sharing information with the FIU community.

“It’s important to make sure that the University community is learning about LGBTQ students and the issues they may face while at FIU in order to create a more welcoming and affirming environment,” Costa said.

There is currently no graduate assistant dealing specifically with LGBTQ issues at BBC.

Anzueto welcomed the possibility of acceptance that the organization can bring.

“This organization would create another facet of diversity within the FIU culture that isn’t represented as of yet,” Anzueto said.

Anzueto also realized the negative repercussions they might face.

“It’s a minority within a minority, so it’s something we have to deal with,” Anzueto said.

“We want to make other people understand that everyone wants to belong somewhere. There’s a population [at BBC] that doesn’t feel like they belong because they don’t have representation on this campus,” Anzueto said.
Draft would diminish support for war

Christopher Edral
On the call

With countless lives lost and billions of dollars spent in Iraq, it’s only natural to wonder why President Bush and so many other politicians continue to support this war. Would they be so quick to start a war if it were their own sons and daughters in the line of fire? Charles Rangel, Democratic congressman of New York, does not think so. That’s why he called for the reinstatement of the military draft.

“There’s no question in my mind that this president and this administration would never have invaded Iraq, especially on the flimsy evidence that was presented to the Congress, if indeed we had a draft and members of Congress and the administration thought that their kids from their communities would be placed in harm’s way,” said Rangel in The Nation.

This is a valuable point that needs to be made, and I thank Rangel for making it. I am also thankful that his resolution hasn’t had a chance in bell of passing. While a draft would spread the burden of war more evenly – at least in theory – neither party seems likely to support it, and I’m glad the draft would also put others at risk as well. Young people who were wise enough to oppose this war from the very beginning should not be forced to help perpetuate it.

So while I oppose the draft, I support Rangel’s decision to propose it. He is raising important questions, and helps promote much needed debate regarding the merits of the continuation of this war.

Discussions of the draft evoke memories of Vietnam, Korea, and other wars of questionable motives. Like the generations before us, today there are those who oppose the war and those who support it.

Yet there is one crucial difference between today’s pro-war youth and the youth of your past: unlike previous generations, many of the war’s young supporters are free to advocate the war without having to worry that if their next person sent to fight, and possibly die, for motives grounded in the either of political ideology. For them, the war is a concept, a preference, and just a part of personal taste, like supporting a rock band or a certain brand of soda. Yet when it comes to actually serving in Iraq, far too many of them would rather stay home.

In light of the apparent shortage of troops needed to fight a war they so vocally endorse, it is time for those young partisans who like to call their opponents “cut and run” to demonstrate their bravery by joining the Marines.

Perhaps a few might oblige. However, something tells me that most would rather say they support the troops than become one.

To those pro-war students I must confess that I am not willing to fight and die in Iraq, why are you so eager to let others die for you?

SGA did little to inform of class schedule changes

C. Joel Marino
Editor in Chief

On Nov. 27, Interim Provost Ronald Berkman sent a University-wide e-mail announcing that as of Fall 2007, FIU will switch to a daytime Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule.

Faculty and administrators have been discussing this change since Spring 2005, when a commission was formed to find ways to reduce classroom space more efficiently. The committee presented a set of recommendations, which included the schedule change, to the Faculty Senate. The senate turned it down. After more than a year of discussion among faculty members, the senate recently voted in favor of the schedule change.

Throughout the course of such a long process, shouldn’t students’ voice be heard in the decision-making process? This makes sense: as the elected representatives of the student body, they were asked to represent the students.

However, it was the student representatives themselves who decided to distance themselves from the discussion.

Asked why the Student Government Association has failed to take any initiative to inform students of the schedule change, its possible implications and the reasons for its implementation, Student Government Council at University Park President Alfonso “Ali” Leon said that he knew little more than what Berkman announced in the e-mail.

“I haven’t taken any steps to inform students because my own council isn’t even very well-informed about this. We don’t want to go to students when we don’t know the basics ourselves,” Leon said.

According to Bruce Haupli, the senate chair, Leon was invited to all the Faculty Senate meetings where the schedule change was discussed.

Leon would have been free to voice his comments then, but the decision was made before he even attended the meeting where the change was decided.

He was also provided with the same committee reports on which the faculty based its decision to vote in favor of the change. In case he misinterpreted these reports, which contained extensive and detailed information on the schedule change, he could have found them online on the Faculty Senate’s webpage, where they are available to the public.

Leon wasn’t the only SGA member invited to the table. Berkman said he went to SGA’s annual retreat this summer where he talked to them about the upcoming change for two and a half hours. According to Berkman, he also discussed the topic on multiple occasions with Leon and SGC-BBC President Camilo Silva.

If all after this, our student government has had nothing substantial to share with their constituents, or in case they had any questions they wanted cleared up, they could also have taken Berkman up on his offer to attend an SGA meeting and talk about the upcoming change.

“And I would have been glad to go, but they never invited me,” Berkman said.

SGA did not take any steps to learn what its constituents thought about the change either.

Leon disagrees.

“Actually, we did receive student input on this,” Leon said. “On our [SGA] webpage, we have a place where students can leave comments for us, and we got between 10 and 12 comments on the schedule change.

Inded. In a remarkable display of statesmanship, he also went so far as to speak to as many as four or five of them personally in his office.

The purpose of student government is to serve as the students’ voice in University affairs. In this crucial instance, however, the so-called students’ voice did not raise so much as a whisper.

Whether this happened out of negligence or out of a desire to be team players, in failing to speak for the students, SGA failed to honor its commitment to its constituents.

To their credit, SGA will host at least one student forum about the schedule change early in the Spring semester. However, this is too little, too late.

Not to worry, though. The implementation committee, which will determine how the new schedule will be put into practice, will hold its first meeting at 9 a.m. on Dec. 1 in MARC 530, and under state law, it is open to the public.

Students who wish to speak for themselves when no one else is speaking for them are encouraged to attend.

Chavez regime threatens democracy

Juan Camilo Estrada
Contributing Writer

Venezuela will be holding its presidential elections Dec. 3, and it is imperative that current President Hugo Chavez be replaced. The stakes: for Latin America to remain free of radical governments that resemble the current Soviet Union and present-day Cuba.

The outcome of these elections is relevant to the general South Florida community, given that, for instance, one of our roots lie in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Argentina and other Latin American countries.

Chavez came to power in 1999. Since then, he has polarized Venezuela, alienated and oppressed his opponents, limited the democratic system, mismanaged resources and killed government branches with electoral procedures.

Chavez has rampantly suppressed his opposition through violence. According to The Wall Street Journal, there have been over 100 protests demonstrating against irregularities in a national referendum were killed by a militia of Chavez supporters that had been threatening and threatening protesters throughout the day.

In 2005, he legalized censorship.
OUT OF IDEAS?
Some thoughts for the thoughtless gift giver

With the season of yuletide buying in full swing, there’s a very common trend in Miami where the gift recipient already has your well-intentioned gift. To your left, you’ll find an assortment of offbeat items that are more than likely not on your relative’s gift list.

A. THE MEAT ENTHUSIAST FATHER
Possessive carnivores everywhere can appreciate a personalized branding iron bearing their initials to remind everyone that they prepared every part of your meal – with the exception of actually slaughtering the animal. Not recommended for vegan dads.
$39.95 by Personalized Creations

B. THE IPOD INFATUATED FRIEND
You know the guy: he’s got the leather case, the converters, those tiny earbuds that produce an amphitheater of sound. But does he have the accessibility of music and two-ply all in one place? This iPod dock assures he can.
$180.99 on amazon.com

C. THE SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED BROTHER
Ok, so not all Star Wars fans are maladjusted ... but if you need Darth Vader to hold all your term papers with the proofreading power of the force, then this galactic USB flash drive is for you.
$79.95 for 1 GB by Mimoco

D. THE OVERLY ATTRACTION SISTER
She’s 18 now, but you don’t have to like it. This sweater is both stylish and tells her warmth and full coverage can be sexy. It also tells that to your increasingly interested friends.
$88 by lux on urbanoutfitters.com

E. THE GADGET-LOVING UNCLE
This “Ambient Stock Orb” connects wirelessly to the internet and changes colors based on how well the stock market is doing. When it crashes the market or the internet you can also use it as a projectile.
$149.95 on gifts.com

F. THE SPIRITUAL MOTHER
There’s nothing like solid pewter to remind you that success is a journey, not a destination. These inspirational paperweights will remind her of her favorite mantra — and hold down her mail.
$10.99 by Perpetual Kid

G. THE SPOILED PET
Once you left home, that little rascal got your room, your bed and your parents’ love (and money). The Ralph Lauren cashmere dog sweater will make your parents’ dog almost the furry child they never had.
$95 from polo.com

H. THE “ALWAYS WORKING LATE” SIGNIFICANT OTHER
No law office is open at 2 a.m. Fuel your insecurity and distrust with the Shocking Liar electronic game. If she lies, she dies – or at least receives slight discomfort in her dominant hand.
$16.99 by Perpetual Kid

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CAMPUS TALK

Jean Roseme
Sophomore
“An FIU sweater because it’s getting cold outside.”

Anthony Munyaka
Junior
“Either a PlayStation 3 or a money order.”

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17-hour shift nearly kills seasonal employee

MY LIFE! EXPERIENCE
So this is the price I pay to make an extra couple of dollars for the holidays. The Friday that follows Thanksgiving is infamously known as Black Friday, one of the busiest shopping days of the year where stores usually offer some of the best sales of the holiday season.

If the prices for televisions, clothes, shoes, toys and all sorts of fancy gadgets are lowered for this particular day, then what’s there not to love about it? Just ask the guy standing behind the register that day. Better yet, ask me.

That day, I worked a 17-hour shift (4 a.m. – 10 p.m.) in the MP3 players section at the Circuit City in Pembroke Pines – it felt like an eternity plus four hours. The experience was horrible mainly because of my aching feet. The mere sight of one iPod after another didn’t help either.

BLACK FRIDAY, page 8

INTELLIGENT MEDIATOR. EXCEPTIONAL ADMINISTRATOR. UM MBA.

The University of Miami’s MBA Program was ranked #1 in Florida by corporate recruiters in The Wall Street Journal. Which means you’ll gain more than the knowledge to lead, manage and motivate. You’ll be part of a renewed alma matter that can open doors across the nation — and around the world.

And you can do it with the convenience of choosing from a One or Two Year Program. Both programs are fully accredited by AACSB International — the most prestigious accrediting association for business schools in the world.

APPLY NOW

The Beacon – November 30, 2006
Black Friday turns editor into electronics store doormat

Instead of selling iPods, I felt like throwing them against the nearest wall. Twice.

My morning or night (whatever you want to consider 4 a.m.) started when I pulled in through the back of the plaza so I could avoid any long lines.

Talk about false expectations. There was a line of people that stretched all the way to the back of the store at 3:45 a.m. Unfortunately, I didn’t go to sleep the previous night because I was forced myself to wake up the next day, I chose to pull an all-nighter before heading out to Circuit City for work.

The whole time I was thinking, “How hectic could it be, right?”

As soon as the doors opened at 5 a.m., a wave of people flooded my section, which was manned by my coworker Willy and me.

Watching dozens of people rush me simultaneously, I realized what a mistake I had made by not getting any sleep. I really could have used those three or four hours of rest prior to this impending onslaught.

I have must have answered a million questions about MP3 players and billions about the iPod (I hope Steve Jobs knows he ruined my life that day). Did I mention how bad my feet were hurting?

But whenever everything seemed to overwhelm me, some customer managed to brighten my day with some dumb question or comment that made me smile for a split second before realizing I had 15 hours left until my shift finished.

Despite the long lines, there were some memorable moments.

The funniest thing I heard all day was someone screaming at another Circuit City employee that he had been waiting in line for three hours to buy a computer even though we had just opened the doors half an hour ago.

And then there were those customers who loved to lecture employees when an item was out of stock.

Some old man started preaching to me: “How are you going to sell something with no accessories? It’s like buying a car with no tires.”

Thanks for the analogy sir, but we just ran out, so get over it.

Besides those incidents and the 25 other times I wanted to slap somebody upside the head, it was a pretty normal day.

But unfortunately for me, I got lucky because nobody really fought or got nasty with one another.

I managed to escape the chaotic sales floor by taking any type of break I could think of: lunch break, bathroom break, water break and cigarette break, even though I don’t even smoke.

Sometimes the journey coming back from my breaks took longer than my actual breaks because 40 customers would sack me before reaching the end zone.

Once I was back at my post, I had to deal with the most annoying part of my job: the broken sliding glass door to the MP3 case. Talk about embarrassing: a line of agitated and impatient people, and you can’t open a simple sliding glass door.

It’s almost like they want me to look like a seasonal untrained employee.

But it wasn’t all that bad, I made a couple of people smile that day and made some extra cash.

Scratch that last sentence; my feet are starting to hurt again.

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**WEEK end**

**THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 30**

WHAT: Eddie Gosling at the Improv

WHERE: 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club

HOW MUCH: $16.05

**FRIDAY • DECEMBER 1**

WHAT: Skabrawl Tour featuring The Toasters and the Pie Tasters

WHERE: Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Culture Room

HOW MUCH: $15

**SATURDAY • DECEMBER 2**

WHAT: Papa Groove Funk

WHERE: Doors open at 8 p.m.

WHERE: The Culture Room

HOW MUCH: Free

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 3**

WHAT: Remembering Never, Full Blown Chaos, The Warriors

WHERE: Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Culture Room

HOW MUCH: $12

WHAT: Eddie Gosling at the Improv

WHERE: 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club

HOW MUCH: $16.05

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**GRAPHIC BY MICHELLE DIAZ / THE BEACON**
First, Shaq sat. To take a load off his surgically repaired left knee, he settled into a chair outside the Miami Heat locker room Tuesday.

Then he spoke barely above a whisper into a cluster of microphones inches from his face. For those straining to hear, the message was nonetheless clear: Shaquille O'Neal's latest injury shouldn't be interpreted as a sign that he's in decline.

“They've been saying that the last 10 years,” said O'Neal, speaking publicly for the first time since his surgery Nov. 19. “I'm going to stick to my formula. I know what I've been doing, and nobody does it better, even at the tender age of 34.”

O'Neal has been sidelined since Nov. 12, when he tore knee cartilage against Houston, and he's expected to be out until at least Dec. 23.

A year ago, when O'Neal sprained his ankle in Miami's home opener and missed 18 games, there was talk that his body was breaking down. He recovered, sat out only five more games and led the Heat to the NBA title for his fourth championship ring.

Now that he's in the midst of another layoff, rumblings about slippage in his productivity have resurfaced. He dismisses detractors.

“I don't say anything to people that could never do the stuff that I can,” he said.

Miami's sub-.500 record in O'Neal's absence suggests that his value remains high. The Heat went 10-13 without him a year ago, and they're 4-6 without him this month.

“My brothers are out there struggling right now, and I should be out there with them,” he said. “It's very, very difficult to watch.”

He's expected to remain on the bench for a while. The injury was originally diagnosed as a hyperextended knee, and O'Neal said he was surprised when an MRI exam revealed the need for surgery.

His layoff is projected to be four to six weeks following the operation, and O'Neal has yet to resume running.

“It's like starting over,” he said. “A couple of days before I got the second diagnosis, I made the comment that my leg was dead. Usually when you have a knee injury, your quads and everything just shut down. That's what was happening. Now I just have to rebuild all that back up.”

O'Neal has missed 185 games during his 15-year NBA career, but this is the first time he needed rehabilitation therapy following an operation.

“I hope his thought process is that he tries to almost reinvent himself physically,” coach Pat Riley said. “He has to come back a lot lighter, a lot leaner. Those kinds of things are really important now.”

No problem, O'Neal said. “I'll be in shape good enough to help the team out and help win games and further what we're trying to do,” he said.

Miami lost four consecutive home games, but Dwyane Wade’s move to point guard last week revved the offense. Wade has totaled at least 30 points in 10 assists in three consecutive games, and the Shaq-less Heat have won two in a row.

“We just have to develop a certain style right now and develop some consistency,” O'Neal said. “We're getting better and moving the ball better, and Dwyane is playing phenomenal. Everyone else just has to do more and step up. We all have to step up. And we will.”

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices at the Biscayne Bay or University Park campuses to pick up an application. All majors are accepted.
Men’s basketball falls to 2006 Final Four team

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

Despite a strong start to the game, a series of scoring droughts handi-capped the Golden Panthers’ basketball squad in their effort to upset 2006 final four participants to George Mason University on Monday.

Versatile junior Chris Fuller had a season high 13 points and five boards, but it wasn’t nearly enough as the Golden Panthers fell 65-39 at the Patriot Center in Fairfax, Va.

The Golden Panthers took an early 7-6 lead off a three-pointer from sharp shooting sophomore guard Elvis Lora.

Unfortunately, it would prove to be Lora’s only three-point hit for the game on just two attempts and it ignited the Patriots to respond with a resounding 9-0 run.

For the Patriots, it was their 6’5” senior guard Gabe Norwood who got things going with three consecutive buckets in the early run for them.

With the possibility of an early blowout already on the minds of the Patri-ots, Fuller began to become more aggressive on the offensive end and it paid off. After converting a lay-up, Fuller swished a three-pointer from sharp angle to pull the Golden Panthers within five at 17-12.

However, the Patriots had another run in store for much of the game, but it mattered most.

In the second half, the Golden Panthers seemed poised to get back in the game as they put up six consecutive points out of the gates.

Unfortunately for them, the first half trend would continue as the Patriots answered with a 12-0 run of their own to put the Golden Panthers in a deep 47-23 hole, one that would prove to be too deep to get out of.

The Golden Panthers had a good chance to pull off the upset as they were within striking distance for much of the game, but the Patriots just unleashed their offensive attack when it mattered most.

The Golden Panthers got little from their bench as they were outscored 41-19 in bench points.

Athletic junior guard Dejon Prejean continued to make his presence felt in his first season with the Golden Panthers as he contributed eight points and two boards in the losing effort.

However, other than Fuller and Prejean, nobody else was even near the double digit mark.

Senior guard John Villegas, who is the team’s leading scorer, was held scoreless for the first time this season as he had a forgettable 0-5 night from the field in 23 minutes of action.

Sophomore guard Alex Galindo, who has been impressive early on in the season, was a woeful 1-9 from the field, as he finished with just four points and two rebounds, and senior forward Facundo Giorgi didn’t even attempt a shot in just 14 minutes of action.

Ironically, both Villegas and Galindo were coming off their arguably best per-formances of the season in their previous game, a 70-68 win at Kennesaw State. In that game, Villegas led all scorers with 23 points, and Galindo put up 14 second half points to propel the Golden Panthers to the slim win.

For the Patriots, it was Smith who did the bulk of the damage as he finished with a career high 20 points on 8-14 shooting.

Darryl Munroe chipped in with nine points and a-game high eight rebounds to help his team improve to 3-2 and pick up their first home win of the season.

At 3-4, the Golden Panthers will look to get back to the .500 mark with a win at Wisconsin on Saturday before returning home to face junior talent El Murray and Florida Tech on Dec 5.
Football shutout for second time in three games

A’mod Ned led the FIU running game with 40 yards on 10 carries. Quarterback Josh Patrick was held under 100 yards passing for the first time this year, managing just 92 on 11 of 23 passing.

Red shirt freshman Rusty Smith led the Owls offense finishing the night 13 of 20 for 178 and two touchdowns and back-up tailback B.J. Manley led three FAU rushers who went over 40 yards with 53 on 10 carries.

Right from the start, Smith showed what was in store for the Golden Panthers. The Owls rolled down the field on their opening drive as Smith connected with wide receiver Frantz Simeon on a 13-yard touchdown pass giving the home side an early 7-0 lead.

Though the Golden Panthers did move the ball better in the second half and made some plays,” Strock said, “but the same thing hurt us tonight that’s been hurting us all season: protecting the quarterback, misrun routes, missed tackles – all the same things.”

Antwan Barnes led the way on defense for FIU with 11 tackles, three and a half for a loss, and a sack. Freshman Michael Dominguez, stepping in for the injured Bouie, had nine tackles. Florida Atlantic racked up 361 yards of offense and went a perfect five-for-five in the red zone. They converted nine of 14 third downs compared to FIU’s two of 10.

Time of possession was once again a deciding factor for the Golden Panthers as their defense was worn out, having to control the Owls for over 34 minutes. The Golden Panther offense managed to have the ball for just 22:41 and move the ball 203 yards.

On a positive note, the Golden Panthers did not turn the ball over for the first time this season. However, they were shutout for the second time in three games.

The Golden Panthers will close out their season against conference leaders Troy at FIU stadium Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. If Troy beats FIU, coming off their win over previously unbeaten Middle Tennessee Nov. 25, the Trojans would win the Sun Belt Conference and play in the New Orleans Bowl Dec. 22. A loss would hand the title to MTSU.

FIU looks to leave Duke (0-12) as the only winless team in the country.

FOOTBALL, page 12

THIS WEEKEND IN FIU SPORTS

DECEMBER 1
Tennis: UM Fall Classic (Day 1)
Coral Gables, FL

Volleyball vs.
Troy (7p.m.)
Home games in bold

DECEMBER 2
Volleyball vs.
South Alabama (1p.m.)

M Basketball vs. UM (7:30 p.m.)

Football vs.
Louisiana-Monroe (7p.m.)
Conference game

DECEMBER 3
Tennis: UM Fall Classic (Day 2)
Coral Gables, FL

FOOTBALL, page 12

THE BURN: Senior linebacker Alexander Bostic III sits on the sideline, frustrated.
Football handed 11th straight loss of season

ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

After handling Florida Atlantic last season 52-6, the Golden Panthers thought that the Nov. 25 date at Dolphin Stadium in the annual Shula Bowl could be the night they got their first win of the season.

Head coach Howard Schnellenberger and his Owls squad had other ideas.

FIU (0-11, 0-6) was dominated from start to finish in front of 9,655 fans as rival FAU (5-7, 4-3) finished their first Sun Belt season with a two-game winning streak by handing the Golden Panthers their third shutout loss of the season, 31-0.

“I told our team every day this week that FAU would come in here tonight ready to play and they must not have listened,” said FIU head coach Don Strock. “FAU came in ready to play and we thought we came in ready to play, but there was a difference. That group came out and had something to prove.”

Over the last five games dating back to the infamous Oct. 14 match-up with the University of Miami, Strock’s team has been outscored 156-10, including three shutout losses.

The Golden Panthers’ inability to move the ball on the ground once again proved to be their crutch as they managed just 50 yards rushing on the night.

Football handed 11th straight loss of season

TAKEN DOWN: Backup quarterback Paul McCall gets sacked by FAU defensive end Michael Hancock in the fourth quarter of FIU’s 31-0 loss to the Owls.