Public Safety uses faulty radio system

NAHORE GONZALEZ Staff Writer

Officer Alex Silva was working at a high school football game at the FIU Stadium when a fight broke out. He called for back-up on his new radio as he restrained one of the girls, who became violent. He received no response.

The struggle continued, and in seconds Silva was cornered by six people who ordered him to let the girl go. He called for back-up again and tried to press the emergency button on his new radio, but there was no response. As they inched in, the group demanded he let the girl go a second time. After four failed calls for help, Silva decided to release the girl and watched her disappear into the crowd.

“True, no officer was injured, but due to the bad radio communication I did not get help until after the fact,” wrote Silva in a correspondence through the FIU webpage to his supervisor requesting an internal investigation of the Sept. 9 incident. He also requested the e-mail be sent “up the chain of command.”

Since June, the Department of Public Safety has been dealing with a faulty new radio communications system. New equipment was purchased from Motorola to make the conversion from the State of Florida system the department had previously used.

“Before we were on the state radio system, but then they changed vendors. If we were to continue with it, we would have had to purchase all new equipment, but we also had pockets on both campuses where we had trouble with communication,” said Captain Michael Wright, interim chief from February to August 2005, on the need for conversion.

According to various sources, since the change took place, radio communication has been “unreliable” at both the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses.

“You could be standing next to another officer, or even the dispatcher, and the transmission wouldn’t work. And the times I’ve been at [BBC] the radios were worse than at [UP] — you couldn’t hear any transmission whatsoever,” said Officer Frank Torres.

Chief Bill King said that “glitches” do exist in the new system, but that this is not uncommon.

“Before we were on the state radio system, but then they changed vendors. If we were to continue with it, we would have had to purchase all new equipment, but we also had pockets on both campuses where we had trouble with communication,” said Captain Michael Wright, interim chief from February to August 2005, on the need for conversion.

According to various sources, since the change took place, radio communication has been “unreliable” at both the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses.

“You could be standing next to another officer, or even the dispatcher, and the transmission wouldn’t work. And the times I’ve been at [BBC] the radios were worse than at [UP] — you couldn’t hear any transmission whatsoever,” said Officer Frank Torres.

Chief Bill King said that “glitches” do exist in the new system, but that this is not uncommon.
Leon: M/W/F schedule needed to increase funding

Alfonso “Alfi” Leon, president of the Student Government Council at University Park, sat down with The Beacon to discuss the recent controversy surrounding the decision to switch to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class schedule for Fall 2007.

Q: Can you let me know a little bit about the history of the decision to switch to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule? It’s something that has been happening for the last 15 years …

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability surveys the utilization of different institutions across the state, and one thing that they noticed is that FIU is drastically not using our classroom space to its highest capability.

That’s when this became an issue, when legislators were pretty much asking FIU that they wanted to increase our [Public Education Capital Outlay] funding, but that’s not possible if we don’t use our space to the maximum that we can … So two years ago, our legislative body was telling FIU that we need to start making the right moves to start using our space correctly so we can continue garnering funding for the University.

Q: So pretty much the schedule change is an issue of space utilization? Nothing else?

The state of Florida is telling us that we’re the worst in the state in using space. Currently, we use all the classes we have 42 percent of the time …

It’s strictly a funding matter because, if we don’t receive PECO funding we can’t build new buildings where we can house new students. We have students right now that complain about their classes as it is because their rooms don’t fit the standards of that student or because they’re not capable or ready to handle PowerPoint presentations … [students] can’t have the full spectrum of what they’d like to be doing in the classroom because we need to have outside resources brought in, and that’s unfortunate because other universities have state-of-the-art facilities for their classrooms and we don’t, and we’re a university with one of the highest enrollments, and the more we grow, the more build-
Late breakfasts offered during finals week

BEN F. BADGER JR. Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again when the students at FIU are up until late hours of the night studying for their final exams. Also around this time of year the Student Government Association throws an event called Cram Jam to alleviate the stress caused by final examinations, and this year is no exception.

Cram Jam is an annual event where students who stay up late to study are given free breakfast, drinks, and giveaways, and are encouraged to take a study-break while listening to music and hanging out at the Graham Center.

This year’s Cram Jam will take place Dec. 11 and 12 from 11:45 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. in the GC Pit. The Fresh Food Company will provide food for the event.

The goal of Cram Jam, according to SGA President Alfonso “Alfi e” Jam, according to SGA Academic Affairs Chair Melissa Sabatier, this year’s Cram Jam coordinator, the event will have the largest selection of giveaways including Cold Stone Ice cream, Cafe Bustello items, Rock Energy Drinks, and perhaps one of the most useful of the free give-aways, free Blue Books, said Sabatier.

“That’s a great incentive for me to go,” said senior Chris Perez. “Cram Jam was for me to go,” said senior Jessica Moore. “That’s a great incentive for me to go,” said senior Chris Perez. “Cram Jam was for me to go,” said senior Jessica Moore.

All students are welcome to participate, but in order to enter the Fresh Food Company for the all you can eat midnight breakfast, they must have their student ID. Anticipating the possibility that some students won’t be carrying their IDs with them, the Panther ID office will be open selling duplicate ID cards for only $5. The normal cost of duplicate IDs is $15, so this will also be a good opportunity for those students who lost their IDs to get a new one.

According to SGA Academic Affairs Chair Melissa Sabatier, this year’s Cram Jam coordinator, the event will have the largest selection of giveaways including Cold Stone Ice cream, Cafe Bustello items, Rock Energy Drinks, and perhaps one of the most useful of the free giveaway, free Blue Books, said Sabatier.

“Films we’re going to need to have. So that’s what it came down to.”

Q: What’re some of the things that past Student Governments have done in regards to this issue?

The issue of space utilization was directed to the University about two years ago.

There was an article that was published by the Provost’s Office April 6, 2006, and at that time I wasn’t president, but past president, Alex Prado, at a Faculty Senate meeting, announced that he had gone over the space utilization report and said there was Student Government support because of the fact that we notice that if the University didn’t move in this direction, we’d lose funding.

And that was the biggest issue that we had. It was something that was approved by the past Student Government administration.

Q: You mentioned the benefits that this new schedule would bring to the University. What are some of the problems?

We haven’t discussed all the benefits, but the drawbacks that could occur due to this M/W/F scheduling, we are aware that it’s going to cause some student groups, especially the upper classmen who might be taking 1000 or 2000 level course ... More important than anything is the lack of student knowledge on the issue, that’s the biggest drawback.

Even Student Government, we didn’t know what was going to be occurring until it was approved by Interim Provost Ronald Berkman.

We don’t know the entire drawbacks to the new schedule, because, until it’s implemented or until we start running test ideas on how it’s going to work, we’ll see the drawbacks.

That’s why an Implementation Committee was made.

Q: Are you a part of the Implementation Committee?

As of last Thursday, both myself and Camilo Silva, the president at Biscayne Bay Campus, sit on the committee.

We are the only two student votes on the committee, but all students have input on that committee, if it’s through us, seeing runs through the week, or coming to the meetings Fridays at 9 a.m. at the MARC building.

One thing I can tell you is that having the meeting at 9 a.m. is not conducive to the students.

What I can tell them is that Camilo and I are representing them there, we have the ability to put some input for the first time and we want to hear all the student issues.

We have from January to July to put as much input in and then once the Implementation Committee sees the policy that we want, we’ll be able to show it to the Provost’s office.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Dec. 4, the date of the College of Law’s accreditation should have been given as Dec. 1. In the At the Bay section, Arun Gandhi’s name was misspelled.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

DRAWBACKS TO SCHEDULE CHANGES, LEON SAYS

Q: What were some of the problems?

We haven’t discussed all the benefits, but the drawbacks that could occur due to this M/W/F scheduling, we are aware that it’s going to cause some student groups, especially the upper classmen who might be taking 1000 or 2000 level course ...

More important than anything is that having the meeting at 9 a.m. is not conducive to the students.

What I can tell them is that having the meeting at 9 a.m. is not conducive to the students.

We have from January to July to put as much input in and then once the Implementation Committee sees the policy that we want, we’ll be able to show it to the Provost’s office.
Professor featured on C-SPAN for writing book

JOSE PAGUERY
Staff Writer

Not all writers can claim to have something in common with authors Isabel Allende and Noam Chomsky, but FIU creative writing professor Dan Wakefield does after Nov. 29, when he was spotlighted by the famous C-SPAN Book TV Bus, known around the country for its coverage of non-fiction literature.

A screenwriter and author, Wakefield is best known for his 1970 novel, Going All The Way, which was adapted to the screen in 1997 and stars Jeremy Davies and Ben Affleck. That novel was honored with a forward by Kurt Vonnegut, and apparently, is not his only hit. His 1992 memoir, New York in the Fifties, deals with the city and time that once graced the souls of Allen Ginsberg, William Buckley and C. Wright Mills, who were all personal acquaintances of the author.

Wakefield’s latest book details the neo-conservative distortion of Christian faith and how Jesus, who once stood for peace, love and empathy, is now being used for Republican re-elections.

Wakefield, once an atheist and now a devout Christian, writes about his concerns over the silence of Christians and Catholics in the wake of a bloody war in Iraq and what he sees as the Patriot Act’s disregard for civil rights.

The ongoing debate over faith and politics has infuriated churches and homes across the country, many times separating families and friends. Some Christians have even conducted “speaker’s boycotts,” refusing to speak in churches that host political candidates.

Mikaela Louve, a senior studying political science, remembers when Mayor Carlos Alvarez visited her church, where he campaigned and had the pastor’s full support.

“The leadership of the church shouldn’t use the pulpit for politics, because the pastor is a political party.”

Also a Christian, senior Ana Sanchez believes that Christianity has little to do with party affiliation.

“Jesus was neither Republican nor Demo-cratic, I think it’s unfortunate that the Republican party manipulated the Christian community by appealing to their emotions and morals,” Sanchez said.

Wakefield was once a journalist before he was a paperback author and scriptwriter, receiving a Neiman Fellowship in Journalism at Harvard University.

Since then, he has written for The Nation Magazine and The Atlantic Monthly. He currently teaches fiction and non-fiction writing.

The Book TV Bus, which has been on a non-stop tour of the country since September 2005, is currently on tour throughout Florida.

Police officers request new communication system

POLICE, page 1

The Miami-Dade county system; and reverting to the department’s old Ultra High Frequency system and purchasing new equipment.

Though Public Safety does have a permanent Technology Committee – which is in charge of assessing problems with communications equipment and making plans for new equipment – it was left to the department to make the decision. On Feb. 24, 2005, Wright called an open department meeting to discuss the options. According to Wright, only 15 people came, and of those only one was a line officer.

Wright also invited representatives from the Public Safety, show that $157,438 has been spent on the radio system. Aside from the initial $54 radios with the county system would have cost $101,438, according to documents provided to Wright. To date, estimates provided by Scott and Leidy Cabrera, accountants for Public Safety, show that $157,438 has been spent on the radio system. Aside from the initial $54,745 investment on 56 Motorola radios and five mobiles, Public Safety contracted Code 3 Technology to install new repeaters and make other enhancements.

Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs and undergraduate education, who currently oversees Public Safety, said in an interview with The Beacon that the radio situation is a “high priority” for her.

“It is at the top of my list, and we have contracted with a company that is in the process of doing some retrofitting,” Jones said.

Both King and Wright acknowledged that Code 3 Technology, which was hired in July, is yet to bring the communications system to the desired level. As a result, Public Safety is in the process of consulting other companies.

On Dec. 6, Rapid Wireless of Florida were scheduled to visit both campuses to “audit the system.” As a result, the department’s “inability to communicate interoperably ... we should have things going by the FIU graduation [Dec. 18].”

In a Dec. 4 e-mail sent out on the FIU webmail to his staff, King announced that the department is “needing the fiscalization of the work on the radio system.”

However, some officers have doubts.

“The officers are frustrated because they want to go with what Miami-Dade county - not back to our old system from almost thirty years ago,” Ochipsa said. “We keep hearing the same story that it’s getting fixed, but we’re on the same boat we were five months ago.”

Perez was unavailable for comment.
New class explores Middle East media

AGUSTINA PRIGOSHIN
Contributing Writer

A new class this Spring will offer students a chance to communicate with journalists in the Middle East to discuss social and political issues surrounding the media.

The Middle East Media and Coverage is an interdisciplinary course and part of the Middle East Certificate program offered through the College of Arts and Sciences and part of the Middle East Center's Program for the Study of Middle Eastern Media and Coverages.

According to Diament, though born in Argentina, some of his adolescent years and Diament, born in Israel for several years and spent one year as a phone correspondent for a group of Argentine magazines covering both Israel and Egypt.

Diament, course professor.

The Middle East is very important these days,” said Mario Diament, course professor. “There’s a lot of ignorance with press operations, which is why we hope to analyze it and the government’s manipulation over the press.”

Students will be expected to interact with the reporters to listen and learn about the political processes of each country through journalism.

The approach of the class, however, is not the typical lecture style. According to Diament, they plan that social and political issues relating to the press will be an essential aspect to students’ understandings of the region.

“The class will be shown documentaries on the Middle East. Afterwards, they will research, share their findings and conduct interviews with reporters for Al Jazeera, Al Hurraer (an Israeli publication), The Daily Star in Lebanon and other news organizations.

“Students will have to research each country before speaking to the journalists. We will also bring together different interest groups to hear their opinions about the conflicts in the region,” he said.

The class will be shown documentaries on the Middle East. Afterwards, they will research, share their findings and conduct interviews with reporters for Al Jazeera, Al Hurraer (an Israeli publication), The Daily Star in Lebanon and other news organizations.

“The class will be taught in a very unique way,” Reisner said. “They will be very excited to do this.”

An important aspect to many students and part of the Middle East classes focus on the entire region,” Malik said. “They mainly focus on one or two countries, which is why this class would be different.”

Reisner and Diament will be teaching the class Wednesday evenings from 5 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. According to Reisner, the time difference between the class and the reporters shouldn’t be a problem.

“They will be very excited to talk to us,” Reisner said.

An important aspect to many Arab and Muslim Americans, Reisner emphasized that biases that will be left out of the class.

Palestinian student Lina Alqa- debouni, a sophomore majoring in journalism, has experienced biases in her past mass media classes and hopes this one is different.

“It means a lot to me that my country’s media and people are portrayed in the right way,” said Alqa-debouni.

“I’m looking forward to seeing what the class will be like.”

For more information contact Reisner at 305-919-5625 or Dia- ment at 305-919-5601.

NEWS FLASH

Flu vaccinations now available at BBCC

Flu shots are now available at the University Health Services by appointment only. They cost $12 for students and $16 for faculty and staff. A Panther ID is required.

For more information, visit www.flu.edu/~health/ flu_update or call the BBCC Health Center Building at 305-919-5620.

Haitian folk dancing comes to the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre

On Dec. 9 at 8 p.m., The Louines Louinis Haitian Dance Theatre will be presenting “An Evening of Authentic Haitian Folk Dances,” part of the “VIH-100 Series,” held at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre at WUC. Tickets are available at the door and cost $22 for general admission, $15 for BBCC faculty and students, $12 for children 12 years old or younger.

For more information, call 305-919-5400.

Bill Foster holds forum addressing parking and transportation concerns

A forum of 12 students met with William “Bill” Foster, director of the department of parking and transportation, and Lazaro Rodriguez, coordinator of the department of parking and transportation on Nov. 79 by request of BBC Student Government Council. It was the first time the forum was held at BBCC to discuss concerns with parking and transportation.

Compiled by Nicole Acosta

Center educates on Sephardic Judaism

ALEXANDRA MCNARNEY
Contributing Writer

The Jewish community has a presence in the North Miami area. There are kosher delica- tessestions such as Shalom Haifa near Aventura, and Jewish synagogues such as the Syrian Saffra Synagogue.

“North Miami has the larg- est concentration of [Sep- hardic/Oriental] Jews; that is why the program is here,” said professor Zain Zohar, director and president of the Navon Program for the Study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry at the Biscayne Bay.

However, not everyone is aware of this branch of Juda- ism, which many consider to be an ethnic identification.

“At this point, we are trying to do it,” says Dr. Jeffrey Zohar, who teaches the course.

“The class will be taught in a very unique way,” Zohar said. “Historically, the word “Sephardim” is a Jew who of Spanish descent. In 1492, the Jews were forced to leave Spain.

All of the Jews were either expelled from Spain or conver- ted to Christianity under the rule of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castille. Those who did not convert or leave remained secretly Jewish.

These Jews who still prac- ticed their religion were called marranos or pigs; the Jews who did not convert called themselves amounsa, which meant that they were forced to live a life that was false.

These people who fled Spain migrated to the Ottoman Empire or North Africa, and wherever they went, they mixed with the Jewish community that was there,” Zohar said.

Zohar said more could be done in order to educate people about the Jewish community and the availability of classes on Judaism at BBCC.

“We need more Jewish stu- dents, more demand. There are 2,000 to 3,000 Jewish students in FIU and we usually get non-Jews in the classroom. If stu- dents came in and demanded their needs, there would be more things offered,” Zohar said.

Informing students and doing research about Sephardic Jewry is what the center is geared towards.

“This center is invested in the research of Sephardic and Oriental aspects of Jewish culture, the world view and to teach a part of heritage,” Zohar said. “We’re here to educate Jews and Non-Jews.”

Many FIU students, such as Laura Jinnuken, who didn’t know much about Juda- ism, let alone that there even was a Sephardic and Oriental Jewry Center at BBCC.

“I really don’t know much about Jewish culture,” Jinnuken said.

“They’re part of the community here, and it’s important to know about them. I know about the Holocaust, and how they were marked [by tattoos],” and their persecution, but I don’t really know about the history.”

In order to make an impact at BBCC, the Center has been holding meetings since Oct. 19. A movie is shown every month, followed by a discussion about the content. All the movies relate to Sephardic and Oriental Jewry.

The next meeting and film, “Turn Left at the End of the World,” will be shown Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center’s Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. Those who attend must either show a Panther ID or give a $5 donation.

Junior Rebecca Rubi, who is Jewish, was glad that the Center is doing something to raise awareness.

“My family and I aren’t too traditional. It’s important to know you’re heritage though, I think more should be done to teach us about history,” Rubi said.
School of Computing and Information Sciences

Fortune 100 companies are in shortage of computing degree graduates.

Now is the best time to pursue a degree in computing at F.I.U.

Facts:
* Computing is one of the fastest growing and best paid job categories
* The demand for computing professionals far exceeds the supply graduates
* We have the best computing program in South Florida
* Our graduates are employed throughout the country by national and international companies

School of Computing and Information Sciences
Offers:
* BS in Computer Science
* BS in Information Technology
* BA in Information Technology (as a second major)
* Combined BS/MS program in Computer Science

Our courses offer hands-on experience in our state of the art classrooms and laboratories.
For more information call 305-348-2744 or visit www.cis.fiu.edu

College of Engineering & Computing
Iraqi government silences press

When the United States went to war with Iraq, our president told us it was because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. When we did not find any WMDs, he told us that it was good enough that Iraqis experience democracy.

But what democracy was he referring to? We could assume that “democracy,” he meant the kind of government we are used to here in America. Essential to such an idea of democracy is the existence of a free press.

On Oct. 16, Iraq’s parliament recommended to Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki that Azzaman, Iraq’s most prominent newspaper, and Al-Sharqiya, its affiliated TV network, should be closed down due to allegations that they were interfering with the country’s political process by stirring up undue controversy.

On Oct. 4, the Iraqi parliament passed legislation to divide the country by ethnicity into autononomous states. This goes against the wishes of impoverished regions, since it could spell economic disaster for them due to unequal accumulation of wealth. Currently, Shiites occupy the area of the country that has the most oil reserves. Sunnis would like the constitution to try that has the most oil reserves.

Azzaman, it has only set the outward appearance of a democratic state, then the media should be kept out because it may increase tension,” said Iraq’s National Security Council, which includes Iraqi and American advisers. The measure to keep the media out of parliament chambers will stay in effect indefinitely.

So this is the democracy that we’ve spent three and a half years fighting for? We’ve lost nearly 3,000 U.S. troops and nearly 50,000 Iraqis killed for a so-called democracy that doesn’t even support a free press.

Most disturbing, however, is that American leadership in Iraq is not just silently standing by, allowing the crime to happen. Through the National Security Council, it has approved and supported the parliament’s request for censorship.

Our president promised a democracy for Iraq, but he has failed to deliver it. At best, he has only set the outward appearance of a democracy...

Our president promised a democracy for Iraq, but he has failed to deliver it. At best, he has only set the outward appearance of a democracy...

Iraqi government silences press

On Nov. 2, The Beacon published a news article and an editorial outlining the shortage of police officers on campus. In the article, we reported that Public Safety employs only 35 officers to patrol all FIU campuses and that only three are on duty at the University Park campus at any given time.

In the editorial, we concluded that 35 officers could not humanly ensure the safety of more than 37,000 students.

FIU’s understaffed and overburdened police force has been unable to stem a rash of vehicle break-ins that has developed at University Park over the past semester.

Just over a year ago, Public Safety replaced its 30-year-old radio communications system. The replacement was a dud: the department’s state-of-the-art replacement doesn’t work properly.

Now, the three officers patrolling campus can’t even talk to each other and communicate to work together.

What’s most frustrating is that this could have easily been avoided. The cause, it seems, is that Public Safety has a communication problem of its own.

When shopping around for a new radio system in early 2005, Captain Michael Wright, interim police chief at the time, held a meeting to discuss options with department members.

Why is it that we went to war with Iraq?

Iraqi government silences press

On Nov. 2, The Beacon published a news article and an editorial outlining the shortage of police officers on campus. In the article, we reported that Public Safety employs only 35 officers to patrol all FIU campuses and that only three are on duty at the University Park campus at any given time.

In the editorial, we concluded that 35 officers could not humanly ensure the safety of more than 37,000 students.

FIU’s understaffed and overburdened police force has been unable to stem a rash of vehicle break-ins that has developed at University Park over the past semester.

Just over a year ago, Public Safety replaced its 30-year-old radio communications system. The replacement was a dud: the department’s state-of-the-art replacement doesn’t work properly.

Now, the three officers patrolling campus can’t even talk to each other and communicate to work together.

What’s most frustrating is that this could have easily been avoided. The cause, it seems, is that Public Safety has a communication problem of its own.

When shopping around for a new radio system in early 2005, Captain Michael Wright, interim police chief at the time, held a meeting to discuss options with department members.

Why is it that we went to war with Iraq?

Iraqi government silences press

On Nov. 2, The Beacon published a news article and an editorial outlining the shortage of police officers on campus. In the article, we reported that Public Safety employs only 35 officers to patrol all FIU campuses and that only three are on duty at the University Park campus at any given time.

In the editorial, we concluded that 35 officers could not humanly ensure the safety of more than 37,000 students.

FIU’s understaffed and overburdened police force has been unable to stem a rash of vehicle break-ins that has developed at University Park over the past semester.

Just over a year ago, Public Safety replaced its 30-year-old radio communications system. The replacement was a dud: the department’s state-of-the-art replacement doesn’t work properly.

Now, the three officers patrolling campus can’t even talk to each other and communicate to work together.

What’s most frustrating is that this could have easily been avoided. The cause, it seems, is that Public Safety has a communication problem of its own.

When shopping around for a new radio system in early 2005, Captain Michael Wright, interim police chief at the time, held a meeting to discuss options with department members.

Why is it that we went to war with Iraq?
The Year in Headlines

During this particular term, the Beacon has noticed certain changes that have affected our reporting. We've shifted from simple stories to news with a bigger mission: taking on the role of the students' voice. We've published a variety of pieces on our student government – some positive, some negative – in an effort to hold our elected officials accountable for their actions, one of the main purposes of any newspaper.

Our coverage of administrative affairs has also increased since it's our belief that students should be aware of decisions made by our University leaders – after all, it's the financial implications of those decisions that affect our educational impact. The Life! section has followed its original purpose of covering issues that define what it means to live the college life, from serious topics such as health and sexual health to lighter fare such as hurricane parties and how to tell a friend you just want to stay pals.

Of course, being an entity run by students learning our craft, The Beacon will carry mistakes and errors. We've run wrong information, misspelled names, mixed up headlines and announced wrong dates for events, facts that are always brought to our attention by dedicated readers.

We don't mean to do these things on purpose or to anger anyone. As some of our more upset readers have found out, we're willing to publish any critique submitted, so long as our humanity is written, even if we disagree with the opinion.

But there's exactly why The Beacon exists, why students fund it every year. Because, as our new slogan states on the front page, our newspaper needs “a forum for free student expression.”

Though I've been working at the paper since my freshman year in 2003 (back when I covered such bylines as “spies”), this is my first semester as the paper's editor in chief, a job I'll continue in the Spring.

My staff and I will do our best to cover whatever the new year will bring. However, we can't do it without your help and support.

For the upcoming year, I invite readers to stop by either our UP office at the Graham Center 210 or Beacon at the Wolfe University Center 124 on Tuesdays and Fridays, our most productive days, to see exactly what it takes to produce the paper.

We work hard to produce the pages you're now holding in your hands, and I hope you'll appreciate our work. We tell it like it is, whether you want to stay pals or not. Happy reading, and I hope you have a good year!
Procrastination, lack of sleep mark last week of semester

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life! Editor

For students like senior Rajiv Kirpalani, cramming is essential to getting through your last class when you haven't attended since your first.

"It's studying eight hours before a final exam when I haven't touched the test all semester," he said.

Junior Richard Lopez has a similar description of finals week.

"[Finals week] is grabbing your friends' notes the night before the test and waking up late before trying to grasp eight months of material in 30 minutes before the exam," Lopez said.

The reasons behind students' procrastination can vary greatly. Some do it to avoid the work, such as Kirpalani, while others simply find it hard to find the time before waiting until the last minute.

"When I procrastinate, I do anything from cleaning my room to using Instant Messenger – stuff just comes up," he said. "Once I have nothing else to do is when I sit down and work."

"I do it because I have a hectic life," freshman Kassandra Nuñez said.

Although it's common for students to have procrastinated at least once with positive results, such as in Kirpalani's case, others affirm that the practice may have its drawbacks.

Center for Leadership and Service Coordinator and graduate student Angel Garcia helps coordinate seminars and workshops that deal with the topic of time management and other organizational skills. He acknowledges the negative effects of delaying important tasks.

"One of the things procrastination impacts is a person's stress level. Sometimes, we can get away with procrastinating a task, but eventually it can become an issue because the job may not come out as successful as it could have been," Garcia said.

Some students like Nuñez admit that the practice has become a habit in college without serious repercussions. Post-graduation, however, can be a different story, according to Garcia.

"If you work for a big company and you’re working on a big project for them, procrastination could definitely impact your results. Employers will find out that everything was rushed by the quality of the work," he said.

In addition, prolonged procrastination after leaving college can become counterproductive to higher education's purpose: retaining what you're learned, Garcia said.

"When you cram, you commit everything to short-term memory. You're not learning, only memorizing. After a while, you're going to forget everything you crammed," Garcia said.

The act of cramming can lead to more severe consequences than merely forgetting information after an exam. Florence Cardinal, a sleep disorders researcher on the general interest website About.com, warns against staying up late at night to do last-minute studying because of the potential to develop sleep disorders.

"Too many nights of forced wakefulness can eventually lead to a case of full blown insomnia and other sleep abnormalities," she said.

Of course, there are ways to curb this propensity to delay long-term projects. Lopez recommends keeping a schedule as a good start. "My advice to all who procrastinate is to get an agenda," he said. "If you're the type who loses your agenda – buy several."

---

TIME MANAGEMENT

A continuous cycle of cramming for tests can be a symptom of having poor time management skills.

Procrastination is in essence a disorder, which both leads to and is caused by disorganization and anxiety, therefore creating an unmanageable cycle. The following are ideas meant to keep in mind when organizing:

- Time management is life management.
- Make "To Do" Lists: Make tomorrow’s list at the end of today.
- Prioritize your tasks: Refuse to accomplish your second priority before you finish your first.
- When tackling a project, clear your workspace of everything except what you’re working on.
- Repetition leads to action: It takes 21 days for a behavior to become a habit (this applies for both good and bad habits).
- Get your own goal or you’ll always be working for another’s.
- Law of belief: there’s a positive relationship between how intensely you believe your goal is achievable and how rapidly your goal will manifest in your reality.
- Time management ensures you work smarter, not harder.

-- Compiled by Alicia Bustamante with additional reporting by Charlie Grau
Yet another semester has come and gone and here you are one step closer to graduation ... you think. But just like past years, you are dreading finals and studying for them. Here are some tips to help you get through the end of the semester with minimal damage:

Go to Cram Jam
Free breakfast at midnight is always a plus – especially when you should be studying but all you can think about are scrambled eggs with cheese. Cram Jam might be the only event in which a large portion of students are expected to attend so make sure to get there early with your FIU ID close by to avoid a long wait.

Get Comfortable
Make sure your spot is free of interruptions, distractions, has the perfect temperature for you and has a not-too-comfortable-chair. The last thing you need is to wake up an hour before your final with an eraser in your ear and the formula “y=mx+b” inked on your forehead.

Teach to Learn
Do you have to digest a lot of information in a short period of time? Then teach your study guide to a friend or relative. You will find that explaining something to someone is always a good way of demonstrating what you’ve learned. Besides, your aunt probably admires Madame Marie Currie and would love to know that she was the first person ever to win two Nobel Prizes.

Take a Break
If your final is tomorrow and you haven’t even bought the book yet, chances are you’re going to fail. You might as well feel relaxed during your academic downfall.
Stop by the Wellness Center on Monday or Wednesday for a free massage or schedule an acupuncture appointment. It is impossible to be completely stress free during finals. One needs a little stress to stay alert and motivated. The key is keeping the stress levels low.
Staying hydrated while studying is a good way to keep your mind leveled. If you’re going to sit down with a Frito Lay variety box next to your textbook all night, drink some vitamin water and put back some of the nutrients you are losing. Your best bet, though, would be to lose the chips and snack on some carrots or granola bars. If your body feels strong, your mind will follow.
Abortion clinic defense entails eternal damnation

MY LIFE! EXPERIENCE

I never thought the priest who gave me my first communion when I was 8 years old would try to have me arrested 12 years later in front of an abortion clinic.

I was accused of being a “misguided animal that was feeding into a culture of death” by the priest, and when I replied with my beliefs, he hailed a nearby policeman to arrest me.

After the policeman left, the priest and other pro-lifers prayed and insulted me. When my mother called, the priest started yelling near the phone, “Your daughter is going to Hell!”

Every Saturday in October, I met with other pro-choice defenders at 6660 SW 117 Avenue, the site of the A Choice For Women abortion clinic. The clinic, once almost completely hidden by trees and a concrete gate, had turned into a battle site between Catholic fundamentalism and the secular right for women to choose.

After hearing that the Miami Clinic Access Project, who was serving as a buffer to the pro-life protesters, was requesting for the FIU Women’s Studies Department to recruit students to defend the right to have safe abortions, I joined the cause.

Our job was to use our blue “Keep Abortion Legal” rounders (signs) to help block the pro-life signs from obstructing the driveway and make sure every woman who had an appointment was safely escorted into and out of the clinic.

During the early morning before sunrise, the scene was quiet. Some of the pro-lifers would stand to one side of the driveway with their signs, while others would stand around a three-foot statue of the Virgin Mary and pray in hushed tones.

The pro-choicers and I would either be sitting in folding chairs on the other side of the driveway, helping to hold the “Keep Abortion Legal” banner or standing while holding the blue rounders displaying the same message.

Things would start to get heated after sunrise, however. Always outnumbering us in vast quantities, the pro-lifers made their way to our side of the driveway and began to repeatedly recite the Hail Mary until it became incoherent noise.

When cars passed, I made sure to look into the eyes of the woman in the car. I wanted her to see me. I wanted her to know that by my sign and by my actions, I was there to help defend her choice.

Some of the women were in tears, and others smiled back. All of them looked scared.

We would leave when all of the women who came for procedures were safely escorted out of the clinic. The pro-lifers would stay, holding their signs and praying, but we wouldn’t. We had accomplished what we had set out to do.

Although I was damned, I knew that the only way I would go to Hell is if, according to Dante, I didn’t stand up for my beliefs. My choice to have an abortion is my decision, but I feel that people who impose their religious beliefs in this secular society are taking my personal rights away.

Once one group of people has their rights taken away, other groups will soon have their rights taken away. Abortion rights are the inalienable rights of every woman, and they represent the freedoms of everyone, regardless of their background.

And what’s so wrong with being a feminist fighting for equal rights, anyway?
Men’s basketball loses game and uniforms at Wisconsin

RENALDO SMITH  Staff Writer

After a delayed flight, lost luggage and freezing climate changes, the men’s basketball team still had enough energy to give No. 12 Wisconsin a scare, before falling 79-63 Dec. 2 at the Kohl Center in Madison, Wis.

The Golden Panthers were forced to play in black and white uniforms and new tennis shoes (courtesy of the University of Wisconsin), and senior guard Johnenvilleges looked as comfortable as he has been all season in the new threads.

Villeges tied a season high with 24 points, making good on 7-of-10 attempts from beyond the arc – setting a new Kohl Center record.

The Golden Panthers jumped out to a 9-5 lead, thanks to early three-point hits from Villeges and senior center Facundo Giorgi. Despite that promising start, things began to go downhill for the Golden Panthers who shot a dismal 9-31 (29 percent) from the field in the first half.

The Badgers, on the other hand, had their offense in gear behind Kamron Taylor as they opened up a 13-point advantage and led by as many as 16 with just over five minutes remaining in the half.

The Badgers, on the other hand, had their offense in gear behind Kamron Taylor as they opened up a 13-point advantage and led by as many as 16 with just over five minutes remaining in the half.

Junior Dejean Prejean poured in three baskets, and Villeges swished a 3-pointer to ignite a run that pulled the Golden Panthers within eleven at halftime.

In the second half, Villeges poured in four 3-pointers, guard Chris Fuller attacked the hoop recklessly and Prejean continued to make his presence felt.

Despite all of those factors, the Badgers, who were equally as productive on their offensive end, still managed to pull away.

Prejean was the lone Golden Panther beside Villeges in double figures as he finished with 11 points and four boards in the tough loss. Fuller, who went scoreless in the first half, finished with 8 points on 4-7 shooting.

After swishing a trey early, Giorgi cooled off in a hurry. He finished the game with just 7 points on 2-10 shooting, and sophomore forward Alex Galindo struggled as well with just 2 points on 1-6 shooting from the field.

The game marked the end of the careers of several important Golden Panthers both offensively and defensively.

In his final game, Strock found the same things that had plagued the team all season long.

“As far as the game was concerned it’s the same thing; the kicking game and protection. Hopefully, through maturity they will begin to understand what we were trying to get across to them and they’ll get better in the future.”

FOOTBALL, page 14

Torus Rutledge caught a 13-yard touchdown from Haugabook giving Troy the conference crown.

The Golden Panthers wrapped up their four-game road trip 1-3, with the lone win a 70-68 thriller against Kennesaw State Nov. 25.

The team will travel to Troy, Ala., to face the Tojans Dec. 17, before returning home for a three-game stretch of home games against Palm Beach Atlantic, Florida Atlantic and Middle Ten-

nessee beginning Dec. 22.
Football finishes as one of two winless teams in nation

Quarterback Josh Padrick, making his final start, equaled a program record he set himself last season against Troy with 51 pass attempts. The senior completed 30-of-51 passes for 225 yards a touchdown and an interception.

Classmate Chandler Williams, who led the Sun Belt Conference in receptions per game, managed 90 yards on 11 catches and had the lone FIU offensive score with 4:18 to play when he caught a Padrick pass from 5 yards.

The running game was once again non-existent for the hosts as the sophomore tandem of A’mod Ned and Julian Reams combined for 52 yards on 13 carries.

The defense, without leading tackler and captain Keyonvis Bouie for the second game in a row, was led by fellow senior Alexander Bostic III’s 11 tackles. Scott Bryant and Michael Dominguez filled the void left by Bouie and managed 10 and 9 tackles, respectively.

Defensive end Antwan Barnes recovered a fumble while fellow defensive linemen Roland Clarke and Justin West were both credited with sacks.

Haugabook led Troy, having his way both on the ground and through the air. The junior completed just 9-of-23 passes for 53 yards but had two touchdowns through the air to go along with 107 net yards on the ground.

FIU came in giving up almost 145 yards per game on the ground and were torched by a Troy team that managed 263.

Kenny Cattouse looked sure to break over the 100 yard mark early in the third quarter but sat for much of the fourth, finishing the night with 91 yards rushing.

In his final FIU game, Strock was thankful for the opportunity to start a tradition at the University.

“I tried to coach to the best of my ability and I thank President [Modesto A.] Maidique and FIU for letting me start a football program here. Most people will never get that opportunity and I did. I am proud of what we have done.”

The Golden Panthers finished the season tied with Duke for the worst mark in Division I-A.

Athletic Director Pete Garcia and his department are currently in search of a coach to fill the void left by Strock’s resignation.
Shorinji Kempo club teaches students balance

XAVIER E. MARTINEZ
Contributing Writing

For thousands of years mankind has sought after complete harmony between the body and mind. Many Asian teachings constantly stress the importance of mental and physical balance. Through the FIU Shorinji Kempo Club, FIU students now have an opportunity to join in this spiritual pursuit.

Shorinji Kempo was created in Japan at the end of World War II. Directly translated into English, it stands for “the small woods temple law of fist.” Like many other martial arts, its origins can be traced to the Chinese Shaolin Temple styles. It’s one of the only Japanese martial arts that incorporate both striking and grappling techniques.

“Ideally, women should practice Shorinji Kempo because it teaches how to apply large amounts of damage with little strength,” said Sempai Clovis Tondo, who is not an FIU student. He has studied Shorinji Kempo for 30 years, and said he still enjoys training because he’s never stopped learning. All kenshi or students are asked to follow four basic philosophical teachings. The first states the answer lies in man, meaning one cannot blame society for his problems; everyone is responsible for their own being. The second teaching focuses on the unity of Ken (body) and Zen (mind). The third explains the importance of unity between strength and love. The final teaching states one should live half for himself and half for others, or people must always think of the welfare of others before they act.

“Shorinji Kempo is not simply a technology of self defense, but a method of cultivating one’s character,” said the official WSKO website. The average class session lasts approximately two hours. It consists of warm-up, basic technique, goho (thrusts and kicks), juho (throws and pinning), lecture and clean up. “I can do anything for exercise, but this isn’t boring and I can meet people,” said white belt William Zhu, who is not an FIU student. He will be testing for his next rank Dec. 17. Practices are held on the second floor of the Recreation Center on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. There are no fees for FIU students to observe or participate, so everyone is welcome.

“If you are looking for a complete martial art, one with a philosophical base, then Shorinji Kempo is the perfect way to build a strong body and mind,” Sensei Eric said.

For further information please visit http://www.technicalsynergy.com/Shorinji/index.cfm.

Contributing Writing: Mike Kirgan, UTS manager (on the floor) allows Kempo student Andrew Irgang to practice some new techniques on him.

BLACK BELT: Mike Kirgan, UTS manager (on the floor) allows Kempo student Andrew Irgang to practice some new techniques on him.

EDDIE ZENG/THE BEACON

NEW 2007 CHEVY AVEO
With 37 EPA estimated highway MPG. A standard iPod® input jack. And room to seat five comfortably. The Chevy™ Aveo™ LS Sedan is one surprisingly big car. And now, Aveo is backed by the GM® 100,000 mile/5-year Powertrain Limited Warranty. Starting at just $12,515 ¹ LT as shown $14,125 ¹ Go big at chevyaaveo.com

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

IT'S SURPRISINGLY BIG.

With room for expansion. Price, style and advanced technology. The Aveo is a remarkable new car. The Aveo is GM’s new small car. And big on value. To learn more, visit your local Chevrolet Dealer.
PAY IT FORWARD WITH TEXTBOOKS!

That’s right – your contribution to the environment could be as simple as selling back your textbooks! Every used book you pass along will be available to fellow students next semester. That means lower prices for your homies and a higher population of trees for the world! Not to mention that we have partnered with The National Arbor Day Foundation – and for every used textbook sold back, a portion of your transaction will be donated to help build a forest of 100,000 trees in the Greater Yellowstone Region. That sure puts a smile on Mother Nature’s face. Sell those books back and find out where what goes around comes around!

WE BUY EVERY BOOK GUARANTEED

LEMOX
College Book & Supply, Inc.
10872 SW 104th Street
305-595-9779
www.lemox.com

SELL A BOOK, BUILD A FOREST
For each used (recycled) book transaction, Nebraska Book Company will make a donation to The National Arbor Day Foundation. Total donation amount not to exceed $100,000. See store for official “Sell a Book, Build a Forest” details.