Affordable flu shots to be available at UP, BBC

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Staff Writer

Flu season is just around the corner, but concerned students need not worry about catching the bug. From October to January, the health centers at both the Biscayne Bay and University Park campuses will be offering flu vaccines at a reduced price for students, faculty and staff, who can take advantage of the offer by making an appointment with their campus’ Health Center.

Influenza, most commonly known as the flu, is an airborne virus that causes respiratory infections. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people who get the flu may experience fever, chills, dry cough, muscle aches and headache, among other symptoms. Not to be confused with the common cold, the flu can be prevented through yearly vaccination, as the different strands of the virus that affect people may change from year to year, according to Donna Weidema, advanced registered nurse practitioner at the BBC Health Center.

The cost is $16 for students and $20 for faculty and staff.

The campaign against flu contraction has been a staple at FIU’s health centers since their openings.

“The flu is so prevalent that the offer for the vaccine stands every year,” Weidema said.

The campaign is meant to target anyone who wants to prevent the flu, but it is primarily aimed at “people with weak immune systems, older men and women and people in confined spaces,” where it’s easier for the flu to get around, according to Weidema.

While other viruses spread year-round, the flu has a determined peak time. “After October, the risk [of contracting the flu] increases markedly,” said Elvira Velez, ARNP and health administration director at BBC.

Because the virus changes every year, disease surveillance is used in order to detect which strains of the virus are most prevalent. As a result, the vaccine changes every year. “We use herd immunity in order to prevent the virus from spreading out because different viruses become more popular each year,” said Velez.

The flu can be spread by coughing, sneezing or nasal secretions, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Health Center recommends avoiding close contact with infected people, according to Weidema.

I have tried it out and I’ve talked to several faculty members who have gotten the chance to try out the new PantherSoft, and they said it was alright,” said Carlos Suris, director of Student Services at BBC campus.

“The PantherSoft [software] that we currently have is perfectly fine. Why fix it, if it is not broken?” Suris said. However, Jones believes this new version will be beneficial to both students and faculty.

Currently, when a student visits an academic adviser, the adviser does not see the same page that the student sees on their own PantherSoft. Students will only be able to view their courses and required classes, and will not be able to order transcripts over the system.

According to Suris, the new version will be released on Oct. 18. Starting Oct. 18, the PantherSoft system will undergo a system “freeze” in which students will only be able to view their profile, but not be able to change or upgrade it.

This system freeze is performed in preparation of an upgrading PeopleSoft Student Administration System version 9.0 to Campus Solutions 9.0.

During the freeze period, which will take place between Oct. 18-27, students may not complete any transactions on PantherSoft or update any information.

The information or transactions students will be able to view on PantherSoft will only reflect those made or changed as of Friday, Oct. 17. If students need to make a payment, they will have to go to the Cashier’s Office at either campus.

However, the current balance after the transaction cannot be seen on PantherSoft until the freeze period is over.

The Student Financials Office and the Enrollment Services Office is recommending that all students hold on to their receipts in order to make sure that payments are properly credited to their account.

According to an e-mail sent to all students from Vice President for Student Affairs & Undergraduate Education Rosa Jones, students will also not be able to order transcripts over the system.

Amid all the restrictions, students can still send and receive e-mails on PantherMail, which will not be affected by the freeze.

Some faculty members have been able to get a small preview of the Campus Solutions 90. “I have tried it out and I’ve talked to several faculty members who have gotten the chance to try out the new PantherSoft, and they said it was alright,” said Carlos Suris, Director of Student Services.

PANTHERSOFT, page 2

PantherSoft ‘freeze’ makes way for upgrade

MILVIONNE CHERY
Staff Writer

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PANTHERSOFT, page 2
People are beginning to understand education is important to advance in, with the way conditions are nowadays, and they’ve begun to realize that investing $5,000 in education outweighs those of a $50,000 education investment,” Berkman said to present the logic behind the increase.

He explained that the increase would be beneficial because it would provide greater income to the University without creating more cuts to the budget.

Another topic raised at the meeting was the issue of the SACS Review. “We’re up for SACS Review in 2010, but we have to begin preparing for it now,” said Jaime Canaves, a professor for the School of Architecture.

SACS is a council that provides accreditation to schools and colleges around the South.

With FIU’s current ranking as a fourth-tier university (the lowest for ranked schools), the faculty present at the meeting look to create programs and agendas that will hopefully help boost the University to a higher ranking.

Also present at the meeting was Student Government Association President Arthur “AJ” Meyer.

He spoke to faculty members about a new project plan he and his committee are working on called “Panther TV,” which he hopes to have finished by December or the first week of January.

Improved software adds new features to help students

PantherSoft.

“Now with 9.0, advisors are able to see what students see,” Jones said.

Students have also expressed relief with some of the new changes.

“If I have a problem and want to know, it’s out in order to be on track with the new version and have no confusions between the two programs,” said Melissa Prieto.

“The new version will also find this useful for attendance, testing and security purposes. “This program is much better than SASS [Student Academic Support System],” said Jones.

The new version will also allow professors to have a picture ID of each student on their class roster. Most professors would find this useful for attendance, testing and security purposes.

“One of my professors did that, and it helped him remember our names,” said sophomore Melissa Prieto.

The switch to Campus Solutions 9.0 will take place on Oct. 27.
Health Services gives advice on what to do in case the flu strikes

**FLU, page 1**

If already sick, the Health Center recommends covering the mouth and nose, and if possible, staying home to avoid spreading the virus. The Health Center usually expects about 100 people each year for flu vaccines, but if everyone doesn’t get the vaccine, the virus may spread to more people.

The virus is contagious, but the school has a preventive method to avoid it, and as Donna Weidema said, “Just do it.”

To make an appointment at FIU’s BBC Health Center call 305-919-5620 or (305) 348-2401 at UP.

**SEASIDE SPOTS:** The Blue Marlin will soon offer kayak rentals for general use as well as its regular menu options.

**DANCING WITH THE MARIACHIS**

Friday, Oct. 17, 2008

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Supreme Court has the final say

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

A presidential candidate’s stance on abortion is as important to the freshmen experience course at FIU, which is said to be not important at all. For some reason, every four years, one of the hottest topics is abortion. Republicans preach about anti-abortion laws and the Democrats advocate it should remain legal.

This discussion, however, creates a large misconception of power. If an issue, whether its social security, Iraq, the economy or even abortion laws, becomes debatable then it was to be safe to assume that the reason it is debatable is because those debating it can impact it significantly. Of course, any and all discussions regarding abortion and the president’s preference toward it, whether pro-life or pro-choice needs to stop.

In the case of abortion, the president has as much of a fighting chance to change or affect abortion laws as a pregnant woman versus Mitchie Tyson. The only branch of the government with any power to decide the legality of abortions is the Supreme Court.

If Roe were to be overturned, the man responsible for the deaths of over a million abortions a year would be安倍晋三. If a woman wants to get an abortion, the only way to reverse this decision is by the new appointees. If an issue, whether its social security, Iraq, the economy or even abortion laws, becomes debatable then it was to be safe to assume that the reason it is debatable is because those debating it can impact it significantly.

The easiest way would be to fly to London and get an abortion there. Flights to London range from $333 to $1,080, plus the added bonus of some sightseeing.

Regardless of what the politicians promise you in regard to abortion, they can’t do anything and neither can you. So when deciding on who to throw your vote behind, consider some of the more pressing issues that have an impact on your daily life.

“Bye, Bye Baby”

BYE, BYE BABY

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NWEAMO*

Experimental music group explores sex in art

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

Prepare to have your minds blown away. The experimental music and arts group, New West Electronic Arts and Music Organization, is heading to Miami this weekend, and the first performance will be at University Park.

Founded in 1998, NWEAMO is a non-profit organization that hosts a festival every year with a unified theme in various cities. This year, dates will be in California, New York, Oregon, Germany, Mexico and Italy.

On Oct. 17, the concert New Connections will take place in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at 8:30 p.m. New Connections will be introducing the unique concept of a NWEAMO concert by merging different areas in the arts, like a collaboration between a video artist and a composer, or the awe-inspiring arrangements of electronic music with classical elements. These acts will be performed by students and professionals alike, blending their different styles.

“I feel like we can definitely appreciate this festival, since we’re so Miami-centric. I think it would be cool to experience something different than the normal weekends. I am especially excited to see what students and people from different backgrounds can bring to the table,” said Stephanie Arauzo, a senior photography student.

The theme for this year’s festival is “Innuendo Intended,” and that issue will be addressed on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Harold Golden Gallery in the design district at 8 p.m. This second concert, named Can Art Be About Sex?, is inspired by the acts that have been looked down upon in the past because of their sexual nature, such as “Madame Butterfly” and “Tristan and Isolde,” which have content different from the usual themes found in operas.

The organization plans to tackle the stereotypes and propaganda associated with sex in the arts and music.

There will be art displayed and musical performances in the same nature as the show at UP. Electronic music will be played on a laptop by Kristine H. Burns and the University’s Laptop and Electronic Arts Ensemble, British cabaret musician Eleanor Williams and other acts.

Finally, that same night will be the closing concert at PS 14 – 28 NE 14 St. in Downtown Miami – at 10:30 p.m. Once again, experimental music will be played by acts such as Otto Von Schirach, Joshua Fried, SWARMiUS and Eric DeLuca and the TM Sisters, who all bring world influences into their music and use unconventional techniques.

The event was brought to the University by NWEAMO board member Paula Mattiasen, an aspiring composer, along with graduate students Juraj Kojs and Eric De Luca, who are both performing in the Harold Golden Gallery and PS 14, respectively.

The University was chosen to kick off the festival because of the musical interest on campus and the openness to diverse programming and new styles.

However, the event does not appeal only to the artistically inclined – it appeals to everyone.

“I’m pretty excited about this festival because FIU is having here. I often look for new things to do. Plus, I think everyone should get a chance to see what they really love,” said Reinaldo Hernandez, a senior from marketing.

For more information, visit the NWEAMO Web site www.nweamo.org.

Freshman addresses frat labels

REAL FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE
JASON CACERES

Party animals, drunkards and rapists. These are the stereotypes that movies and TV shows such as “Greeks” and “Pledge This” have given to fraternities and sororities.

When most people think of “frat,” what comes to mind are vapid misconceptions and shallow misinterpretations. Some people choose to believe that they resemble cults and that they slowly brainwash their pledges and then force them to partake in heinous acts that could potentially lead to serious injuries or death.

Sure, I am not going to deny the facts that in the history of Greek organizations such occurrences haven’t happened, but then again, where don’t they? Woe these things have happened in other professional and elite circles.

However, here at the University, such occurrences are near obsolete.

I was walking down the halls of the Graham Center a few weeks ago and was handed a flyer: “Go Greek.” It is what it said. With rash week around the corner, I decided to go check it out.

Rush week is a weeklong event that is held by fraternities and sororities which enables...
Fraternity stereotypes untrue

Last week’s horror film “Quarantine” continues in the rich tradition of previous horror films with the motto of “Keep the camera on, we’re not dead yet!”

Like “The Blair Witch Project” and the most recent example of “Cloverfield,” a series of misfortunes befalls the cast of relative unknowns as a camera catches all of the acts of random violence and confusion.

The film takes place in Los Angeles as a news crew of two shadows the local fire department as firemen go out on a routine call to an apartment building.

The sensation that it won’t be an average call becomes less subtle once the apartment where the call originated from is inspected, revealing a single elderly woman covered in blood and shrieking hysterically. What ensues is the grandest example of personal chaos in recent film-making: people falling from the top floor of the building and into the lobby, excersive shots of jagged bleeding, ear-stomping frustration, language barriers, sledgehammers and government conspiracies.

The film fails weakly on its attempt to bring the struggle down to a personal level. There is a quick cycling of back stories for each of the characters, including everything from African immigrants (we assume since there is no clarification) to an opera student and her mentor. Yet for all of these nuggets of information, the lack of information is only meant to heighten confusion.

The predictable film struggles to provide any real frights or deep thought because it feels the only way to scare people is through a night vision lens and strategically placed monsters that the audience can see while a character fumbles around and the entire theatre is shrieking “Look! Look!”

“Quarantine” is caught between two styles of filmmaking. On the one hand, it strives to be among the latest wave of turgid terror films like “Hostel” or “Pineapple Express” or “Cloverfield,” but it fails in its connection with the audience.

On the other hand, it seeks to scare through over the top cutaways and effects, but it doesn’t capture the sensationalism of “torture porn” films like “Hostel” or “Saw.”

This rift in ideas leaves “Quarantine” in the end, still deciding what it wants to be for the audience without ever coming close to it.

MOVIE

Quarantine

Hi again,

Isn’t the cartoon version of myself cute? This week, we have not one, not two, but three Sudokus for you, conquer and put up on your fridge. We’ll have more comics for you next week.

Cheers.

—Jonathan Davilla,
Life! Editor

MOVIE

Sex Drive

Whether you prefer Ben Stiller’s sense of humor or the stylings of Judd Apatow, a new hat has been thrown into the preverbal comedy ring with “Sex Drive,” another R-rated comedy in the tradition of “Tropic Thunder” and “Forgetting Sarah Marshall.”

Shot in Florida, including a scene at Dolphin Mall, “Sex Drive” is reminiscent of many 80s teen sex comedies such as “Porky’s,” in which the protagonist’s sole mission is to get laid.

In this case, in order for that to happen, the protagonist has to travel 500 miles to reach that goal. Why 500 miles? Ian (Josh Zuckerman) is told by a woman with whom he has been chatting online that if he travels from Chicago to Knoxville, he will lose his virginity. Obviously, Ian tells her via computer that he will be there in two days.

In most sex comedies, the protagonist surrounds himself with testosterone-driven best friends. In “Sex Drive,” Ian’s companions are Lance (Clark Duke), Ian’s suave and debonair male friend and Felicia (Amanda Crew), Ian’s best female friend. The plot picks up when Ian, Lance and Felicia constitute the key to his brother’s (James Marsden) cherished Pontiac GTO to travel to Ian’s destination.

While “Superbad” has the comedic timing and “Pineapple Express”‘s comedy cameos, “Sex Drive” capitalizes on tradition and is a silly, slapdash slumber party film’s laughs come at the expense of the humiliation that takes a toll on Ian throughout the movie. Whether he is forced to parade around the mall or he works at a ridiculous donut costume or caught humping a punching bag by his mother, it works. The humor that comes from “Sex Drive” is very gratuitous where there are gaps that include a big fake phallic on Ian’s donut costume and bloody fluids used as an alternative to cool down a car’s engine.

While the romance is at a minimum in this movie, its presence is felt. Zuckerman, Crew have great chemistry with each other as Ian and Felicia, who have the awkward and suppressed relationship that asks the question: Can a friendship become more than just a friendship? Their relationship creates a conflict within Ian because he has to decide if he can have sex with the girl of his dreams and still have sexual relations with his best friend.

Clark Duke became an Internet sensation with the web series “Clark & Michael,” co-starring “Superbad” star Michael Cera. Just like the show, “Sex Drive” is a true comedic actor, like Cera, Duke is a true comedic actor at the top of his game. Lance may not be the most handsome man in the world, but he uses his charm to woo any women he finds interesting, including the Amish.

Other funny actors in this film that should be recognized are “X-Men”‘s James Marsden as Ian’s jerk brother - almost reminiscent of Seann William Scott’s performances in the “American Pie” movies. Breaking the mold shaped by Lukas Hass in “Witness” and Randy Quaid in “Kingpin,” Seth Green plays a sarcastic Amish worker with a real knack for car engineering and familiarity to today’s technology.

As for cameos, look for David Kochereth (“Anchorman”) as a disgruntled hitchhiker, Brian Posehn (“The Sarah Silverman Program”) as a carnival worker and a performance from the band Fall Out Boy in an Amish farmhouse.

Hilarious moments and funny performances turn “Sex Drive” into one of the funniest films this year.
Hilton brings much needed speed and sparks to improving offense

HILTON, page 8

for 14 years, plays the position opposite to Hilton.
In order to hone each other's skills, they often engage in one-on-one battles to see if Gaitor could stop the speedy freshman.

"Knowing I'm a good defensive player and he's a good offensive player, we help each other out," Gaitor said. "Facing a player with his type of speed prepares me for my opponents.

Gaitor, being older than Hilton, has always felt a duty to look after the freshman.

"That's my godbrother. I feel like he's my little brother (too) so I look out for him, make sure his skills are improving." Listed at 5-foot-10 and 175 pounds, Hilton does not use his physical mass to get to the end zone — rather, he relies on the speed he says he's had his whole life.

"That's a God-given gift," Hilton said. His former coach Pacheco said no matter what position Hilton played, he would produce.

Hilton brings much needed speed and sparks to improving offense.

MOJO GOLDBERG

For example, Maurice Jones-Drew dominates the Broncos, but hasn't done anything all year. Is this the year to finally get the Featuring Chris Johnson, RB, Tennessee Titans (vs. Oakland Raiders)

Matt Schaub, QB, Houston Texans (vs. Detroit Lions) — Schaub torched the Dolphins defense last week for 379 yards and a score, and the Lions defense is much worse than the "Iron D." He is finally back on the same page with Andre Johnson, and Kevin Walter has become a very solid number two (and is worth a look as a week three bye-week fill-in). Among the establishment of a good running game with Steve Slaton and Alman Green, look for Schaub to put up big numbers in the Sun Bowl high-challenging afternoon schedule. Among those teams, UCLA and Miami are expected to be among the top 25 nationally, with Washington and Georgetown on the outside looking in. The Golden Panthers will play a slew of challenging opponents on the road this season. Trips to Washington, Miami (Fla.), UCLA, and Georgetown highlight a challenging away schedule. Among those teams, UCLA and Miami are expected to be among the top 25 nationally, with Washington and Georgetown on the outside looking in.

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Double duty
Freshman T.Y. Hilton, who is an FIU football player, will be playing basketball for the Golden Panthers as well. The former All-Dade basketball selection in high school will bring his athletic ability to the football field. "That was part of the agreement," said head coach Sergio Rosco. "T.Y. came to play football and basketball. It was one of the reasons he came." Hilton averaged 16 points per game and 5 assists per game during his time at Miami Springs High.

Come out of exciting week, injuries are the talk of the owners

JONATHAN RAMOS

ASS'T SPORTS DIRECTOR

In his first season at FIU, center Russell Hicks scored 12.5 points per game and led the Sun Belt Conference with 12.5 blocks per contest.
After having one of the best statistical seasons for a big man in the history of the program, he was named to the pre-season men's all-Sun Belt team.

The senior, who played two seasons at Pepperdine University prior to his transfer to FIU, became the 52nd player in FIU history to score 300 or more points in a single season in 2007-08.
Hicks was also ranked in the top 60 nationwide in field goal percentage with a .539 clip from the field.
The 7-foot Ontario native is joined by Carlos Monroe (Florida Atlantic), Desmond Yates (Middle Tennessee) and Brandon Davis (South Alabama) on the pre-season team.
Yates was named Preseason Player of the Year for the conference. There were no other players from the Golden Panthers on any of the men's pre-season teams.

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With six games left in the season, the Golden Panthers have won one game in two seasons, to becoming Sun-Belt Conference contenders. Hilton said the whole team is responsible for winning, not just one player.

"The things I can do to help this team, I do to perfection because everybody else sees that," Hilton said.
Hilton's role as a wide receiver is the latest addition to the offense, but FIU fans sitting in the student section know exactly when he's about to return a punt.

During home games, like a maestro conducting a symphony, he moves his hands and directs students to make more noise.
FIU fans have come to rely on Hilton's promise, Gaitor told coach to have confidence in his long-time friend.

"Coach, whatever the kid says, I believe it," Gaitor said.

Hicks earns all-Sun Belt honor; Hilton to play hoops

SPARK PLUG: Freshman receiver and returner T.Y. Hilton has made a major impact in his first season at FIU. He has 366 yards this season.

NOTEPAD: MEN'S BASKETBALL

Comming out of exciting week, injuries are the talk of the owners
True freshman has made a true veteran impact in ‘08

**Andrew Julian**

**Sports Director**

FIU (3-3, 2-0 Sun Belt) will travel to Troy on October 17, 2008, to play biggest conference game in school history at Troy. The game is projected to be a defensive struggle. It will come down to who can make big plays at the right moments, and maintain their focus as far as not turning the ball over, avoiding penalties and with penalties being near even FIU holds the advantage in turnovers.

The hidden yardage that’ll be the difference, but not by as much a margin as the Golden Panthers have over the past three games.

FIU’s defense will turnover Troy’s offense, and its offense will take advantage of a short field.

Troy’s defense will limit long drives, but T.Y. Hilton will make a big play on special teams that will secure the game for the Golden Panthers, who will take a step forward in the Sun Belt conference.

Final score: FIU 14, Troy 10.