New online requirement for incoming students

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Starting the summer of 2015, all incoming students will be required to take an online prevention workshop on sexual assault, relationship abuse and other emotional distress before enrolling at FIU.

“The program will be required for all incoming students, starting with those who enroll Summer 2015. It will be launched by the division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Victim Empowerment Program at FIU. “Because the workshop is required and everyone has to complete it, then all students will learn about the resources that are available to them on campus,” said Victoria Carney-Paine, health educator for the Victim Empowerment Program and FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. “This is one way that we’re hoping provides that extra prevention and awareness about these topics.”

The Victim Empowerment Program provides confidential assistance to FIU students, faculty, staff and University visitors who have been victimized through threatened or actual violence and helps them support the healing process. The center takes part in outreach activities to educate the FIU community on the resources available to them, while also raising awareness on topics like sexual assault.

“When people are told that they shouldn’t talk about sexual assault, it’s like shaming and blaming the victim. We’re saying it’s their fault and they did wrong — and that isn’t true,” said Carney-Paine. “If we don’t talk about it, we’re not going to learn how to prevent it and it’s never going to end.”

“One of the programs that the center offers, other than its confidential services, is the Peer Education Program. The center interviews, trains and hires students to be ambassadors across the University. Those ambassadors then educate others on topics of sexual assault and mental health.

“The ambassadors are involved in lengthy training sessions and become very familiar with victimization issues,” Carney-Paine said. “When they’re ready, they go out and do presentations and help us raise awareness across our campuses.”

Zoey Laren, junior sociology major, has heard about the Peer Education Program and believes that it’s a great way to spread awareness on issues of mental health and sexual violence.

“I would love to be part of that one day because it’s making a huge difference. I’ve met some of those ambassadors in passing and they have brilliant ideas,” she said. “The way in which they captivate you and help you understand how to deal with these issues is inspiring.”

Ana Moran, senior majoring in special education, is especially fond of the new requirement for incoming students and believes that it’s a great way to spread awareness to the FIU community on the resources available to them. She thinks that the new requirement will make FIU a safer place for students.

“We’re alerting them about places they can go,” said Moran. “That’s why we were so behind on this issue. This is helping us move forward.”

The program is part of the Victim Empowerment Program at FIU, which offers confidential assistance to FIU students, faculty, staff and University visitors who have been victimized through threatened or actual violence and helps them support the healing process.

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Faculty senate discuss sex assault, FIU Global

Cleveland assured the senate that the number of students would always fall within the University’s capacity. The first batch of students would start next fall semester for the pilot program. The goal is to bring between 50 and 100 students for the first year of the program, Cleveland said.

The number of students admitted into the program would eventually grow, depending on the University capacity.

“The worst we could do is get more students than the capacity to teach and have a bad educational experience,” Cleveland said.

Also at the meeting, the Title IX team at the University made a presentation. They spoke about the University’s involvement with the national “It’s on us” campaign.

The teams are made up of the University’s general counsel, the title IX coordinator, student affairs, members of student conduct, victim empowerment and the police department.

For years, the University has included training pertaining to sex assault on campus in the freshman orientation program. Recent with scads of reports from college campuses nationwide, the University will be giving more training sessions to comply with new Title IX requirements.

For one, there will be online training for faculty, said Shirlion McWhorter, the University Title IX Coordinator. Larry Lunsford, vice president of student affairs said that all greek pledges recently received an hour-and-a-half sexual assault seminar.

Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director and deputy title IX coordinator, said that all student athletes also receive training.

Other efforts include alerting students about potential dangers, like the incidents with the cyclist roper earlier this semester.

“About 80 schools are under investigation due to Title IX violations,” McWhorter said. “FIU is not one of them.”

According to the 2013 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, there were five sexual assault cases reported on campus and in the study abroad program.

However, sexual assault is a daily concern for any university, because students can be assaulted on or off campus.

According to the Victim Empowerment, one woman and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted in college and only 13-percent of rape suspects report assault.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20 in the Wertheim Conservatory, room 130 at MMC.

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University furthers sexual assault initiative into 2015

SEX ASSAULT, PAGE 1

wishes it would have been installed sooner.

“I feel like a lot of people are so clueless about sexual assault and about how this is for our generation,” said Moran. “The online workshop would do a phenomenal job of raising the general level of awareness for all these topics. People won’t be clueless anymore.”

There’s always been a concern over sex assault on college campuses, but Moran thinks that there is a renewed interest because of the pressure placed by the Obama administration this year.

“It’s always been important, but people are just talking about it now because it’s when Obama decided to talk about it,” she said.

The center also offers a 24-hour hotline for students and the general public. Those needing assistance can call (305) 348-3000.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Raised hands shouldn’t raise tempers

SAMANTHA SMITH
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In recent years, I have noticed a discouraging and unhealthy habit that has formed in nearly every classroom I have attended. This is not about putting gum under your desks (which — come on — you should have stopped doing by now), but about asking questions.

Everyone has experienced it. A curious hand raised during class almost always elicits a roll of the eyes or a groan from someone in the room. Even I have caught myself mentally demonizing fellow students who ask professors about concepts I already understand, as if incomprehension were inherently evil.

When did it become a bad thing to clarify something you did not quite grasp?

Probably when your school system, friends or family made you feel stupid for not knowing something they did. A lot has stopped asking questions a long time ago to save themselves from embarrassment.

Contrary to popular belief, asking questions does not make you an idiot. Yes, there will be people who try to make it seem as though you are of lesser intelligence for not knowing something, but those people can be described with four-letter words. Ask any belittler why it makes you dumb to try to understand something and, overwhelmingly, you will find that it simply does not.

Of course, there are instances in which the main reason for confusion stems from a lack of attention being paid. Even if these are annoying, consider that one person asking for repetition or clarification is highly unlikely to derail an entire class period, let alone any statistically significant part of your day. In the grand scheme of things, no one is getting hurt.

Everyone has reasons for and against asking questions, but instead of demeaning or becoming exasperated with those who do not understand a concept, it would be a better practice to help them achieve a higher level of knowledge—not just in the classroom, but in all walks of life.

No one should have to pretend to know something for the sake of pride. Pursuit of knowledge is an everyday endeavor, and the best way to get answers is to ask for them.

There is an elementary school adage I had nearly forgotten about on this subject: “Listen to what people ask. You might find you had the same question.” Or, you might find, that someone else in the room might have social anxiety and are unable to ask for themselves.

Please do not be afraid to ask for help. There are millions of people who do not understand something, and be patient with those who do the same.

From now on, I pledge not to think questions are bad. I just wish I had figured that out before I got to college.

Tis the season to go shopping: Black Friday

ALAN DI DIEGO
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After a great day of eating platefuls of food, drinking wine and spending quality time with friends and family, we should take a moment to reflect on how grateful we truly are. After all, that is the whole point of Thanksgiving: to slow down and be thankful.

Sadly, millions of Americans are not grateful with what they have and, in turn, want more—casting a dark cloud over themselves on material possessions because they want to establish tents with food, water and pillows outside a store to buy things?

We've let ourselves become self-absorbed consumerist machines, priding ourselves on material possessions because we believe it adds value to who we are as people. If we don’t own the latest tablet, the newest computer or the coolest sneakers, we feel outworn and subordinate. Black Friday has accelerated this learned notion and simultaneously placed Thanksgiving in the backdrop.

It only gets worse. Companies love Black Friday, as expected. Last year alone, people spent more than $50 billion on Black Friday, and while this helps to the economy is fine, we pay a price for it—many times the safety of others.

In 2008, a man was killed at a Wal-Mart in New York as a wild mob broke the doors off its glass insides. He was run over by over 200 unstoppable shoppers.

Since its beginning, Black Friday has seen multiple deaths and over 90 injuries.

What we need to do as a society and as a nation is stop giving into the madness that is Black Friday. Let’s not be mocked and criticized by other countries who see us as the country of irony, wherein one day we criticize by other countries who see us as the country of irony, wherein one day we give thanks and the very other we remain indulgent and selfishness. Let’s refocus and never forget about Thanksgiving, which is meant to be about friends and family, not iPhones and televisions.

Many of us students have part-time jobs, and we know what it feels like to work an 8-10 hour shift on Black Friday at 2 a.m., literally hours after you finished family, not iPhones and televisions.

We, especially, should boycott Black Friday. Yes, this is a country where money talks and money matters, but as a young generation of students we have the power to change how things are run. We have that ability.

Next year, let’s remember this, and tell our friends in our classes, our professors in our lectures, our TAs in the math lab; Black Friday is not helping our society. It only takes one to tip the balance, so if we can influence millions of college students to influence other teenagers and adults across the country, we can make a difference.
With two performances in, student says her eyes are set on Broadway

Word Alive vocalist describes experience as a singer
As a 3-year-old in Miami, Aileen Quintana would rummage through the drawers in her mother’s bathroom, grab any cosmetics she could find and stealthily apply them to her father’s face while he slept on the couch.

“He would wake up in drag,” Quintana laughs. “That’s my earliest memory of makeup.”

That was over 20 years ago. Quintana’s obsession with painting faces has continued to grow, which is something that she says perplexed her Cuban parents.

“They didn’t understand it. They migrated from Cuba, where a life in art is not a really promising career,” Quintana said.

Now, after 10 years of experience and featured work in Vogue and Elle magazine, both Quintana and her parents know art was her only option.

“I live my life as art— it’s completely conceptual,” she said. And as Quintana has grown, so has her concept. She has collaborated with big names such as YSL Cosmetics, Fendi and Betsey Johnson.

“My life runs further than makeup. I do way more. It started out as a platform for production and then creative direction,” Quintana said.

One of her favorite moments was working for Indian designer Manish Arora during Art Basel in Miami four years ago.

“At Basel in Miami, I had to design 15 makeup looks. I went mad trying to figure it out but I did it,” she laughs.

Quintana currently manages multiple art installations around the world that have a reflection of beauty and fashion.

“It’s cool how makeup opened up my world to so many more possibilities,” Quintana said.

This past year, she has been working with Dwyane Wade’s personal stylist, Calyann Barnett, on the creative direction for his new collection of sneakers to be debuted this upcoming Art Basel in Miami.

“I stopped dreaming a long time ago. I feel like I am already living my dream.”

“I have epiphanies every day.”
Panthers look for strong home stretch

STEFANO RIVERA
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Coming off a second place finish at the Mizou Invite hosted by the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., the Panthers will look to improve on their (4-0) start. While students are home for winter break, the team has a busy schedule. The team will host a total of four events.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, they will face off against University of North Florida. The Ospreys have started off the season (0-3) but have been led by senior swimmer Maria Bernard and junior swimmer Amy Taylor. UNF Head Coach Ian Coffey will do all he can against the Panthers.

On Saturday, Jan. 3, they will play host to the FIU Sprint Invite. The win over the Panthers.

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On Monday night, averting a year-wrecking embarrassment on national television.

The win improved the Dolphins to 7-5, and for the time being, slid them into the sixth seed in the AAF; they haven’t been to the playoffs since 2008. The Jets fell to 2-16 in their loss. So how did it happen? Because the defense made the play it hadn’t all year.

And because Tannehill stepped up. He completed 5 of 8 passes for 68 yards in the first half resurrecting a troubling trend from early in the season. Nick Foles boosted through a 40-yarder to again put the Dolphins down by two scores in the first half resurrecting a troubling trend from early in the season.

The only way the Dolphins could stop the Jets was when the Jets needed Smith to throw. He horribly overthrew Percy Harvin for a would-be touchdown, and Foles missed a long field goal on the ensuing play. Sturgis did connect from 43 yards to put the Dolphins on the board before halftime.

Miami went into the lead more on the opening possession of the second half but should have had a touchdown instead of a 44-yard Sturgis field goal. Mike Wallace had a score in his grasp but couldn’t pull it in a slightly off-target pass from Tannehill. Compounding failures, Sturgis sent the ensuing kickoff out of bounds, giving the Jets a short field. They converted that gift into three points of their own; Folk’s 45-yard attempt bounced over the crossbar to stretch the lead back to seven. Then, the game just got wacky. On consecutive plays, Dion Jordan deflected a punt and Tannehill threw a pick-six.

Ryan Tannehill saved the Miami Dolphins’ season with a huge assist from Dion Sims and Miami’s resilient defense. Tannehill directed the Dolphins to a touchdown and a field goal on their final two true drives to rally Miami past the Jets 16-13 on Monday night, averting a year-wrecking embarrassment on national television. The win improved the Dolphins to 7-5, and for the time being, slid them into the sixth seed in the AAF; they haven’t been to the playoffs since 2008. The Jets fell to 2-16 in their loss. So how did it happen? Because the defense made the play it hadn’t all year.

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Women’s basketball struggles for first win

REBECCA CHARUR
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The start of winter break for students means the end of finals and the end of an eternal fall semester. However, winter break for the women’s basketball team means more basketball.

Fresh off the Thanksgiving Classic, the Panthers are set to play in-state rival University of Central Florida on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Knights have proved that they are a strong home team this season, opening the season with a 4-1 record at home and an overall record of 4-2. UCF’s last loss came on the road against University of Massachusetts, who they kept up with for the most part but stumbled late in the second half.

After an 0-5 start to the season, FIU is looking for any spark to get them over the hump and earn them their first victory. They may take advantage of catching the Knights at the U.S. Century Bank Arena instead of away where UCF won their last game against University of North Florida 60-56.

With 37 bench points, this game showed UCF’s competitors that their underclassmen are poised and capable of leading a rally to secure a victory for their team.

Following the rivalry game, the Panthers will go on the road to face Jacksonville University, Western Carolina University, and Wofford College in consecutive road games. The first game of the winter break road rally will be played at Jacksonville on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Jacksonville Dolphins have had a mediocre start at 2-4; nonetheless, University of Florida, who both boast a 5-1 record on the season.

On the other hand, Jacksonville’s two wins thus far came against Bethune-Cookman University and Trinity Baptist College. A record was broken in their most recent game of the season against Trinity Baptist, as the Dolphins tallied their largest winning margin in school history with a 98-24 victory. They held their opponent, who now sits at 3-5, to only seven points in the first half.

FIU will then remain in Jacksonville to play Western Carolina (3-3) and Wofford (1-5) on back-to-back days. These games will be played as a part of UNF’s Holiday Tournament and are also the Panther’s best chance to get a win before the start of Conference USA play.

Wofford’s only win came in their home opener against Big South Conference rival Charleston Southern University. Since then, they have dropped three games against Jacksonville State University, Gardner Webb University and South Carolina State University.

Finally, the Panthers will make the drive back home, hopefully with a few wins under their belt, to host Hampton University on Monday, Dec. 29, and either Hampton University or Bowling Green State University on the following day. With the final buzzer of this game, FIU will conclude their play of non-conference opponents and will begin to face off against their much anticipated C-USA foes.

Over winter break and continued through the remainder of the season, the first of these conference games will be played against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University on Sunday, Jan. 4 and Middle Tennessee State University on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Panthers find juice in energetic win over Red Wings

TNS STAFF

The lights went out Tuesday morning at Joe Louis Arena.

They came back on for the Florida Panthers in the evening as they salvaged the second night of a back-to-back tour through the Midwest with a 4-3 victory against the Red Wings.

It took Detroit’s Pubic Lighting Department five hours to get the power back on following a widespread outage that darkened most of the downtown area.

The Panthers likewise found the juice that was missing the previous night when they looked lost in the dark in Columbus.

Goals by Jimmy Hayes, Sean Bergenheim, Vincent Trocheck and Aaron Ekblad provided the impetus and Roberto Luongo, back in goal after missing two games and part of another with a strained arm, stopped 36 shots.

Hayes set up Trocheck 27 seconds into the third period off a turnover deep in the Detroit zone for the goal that enabled the Panthers to seize control of a closely contested game.

Trocheck faked a backhand and slipped a forehand around Jimmy Howard for his second goal.

Ekblad applied the crusher with 12 minutes remaining with his second goal in two nights. The 18-year-old rookie, who grew up across the river in Windsor, Ontario, fired a slapper from the left point that brought a roar of boos from the home crowd.

The Red Wings showed some life when Pavel Datsyuk clanked the puck over a fallen Luongo, and Gustav Nyquist added one in the final minute with the goal pulled. But the Panthers had enough energy in reserve to close out a much-needed win.

Bergenheim gave the Panthers their first lead on the trip midway through the second period (12:21 mark) on a nifty centering pass from Jussi Jokinen. Even though Bergenheim mishit the shot he had the net wide open with Jimmy Howard drawn to the other side. The puck completed a slow-motion passage inside the right post before the Red Wings goalie could react.

The outage was part of a widespread blackout that left more than 100 downtown buildings in the dark. Power was restored to the arena just after 3 p.m. and the Panthers’ game against the Red Wings went off schedule.

The Red Wings canceled their morning skate. The Panthers were not planning a pregame workout after making the trip from Columbus following a dispassionate 2-1 loss Monday, but were in the building for a meeting.

After losing to a Blue Jackets team that had dropped 15 of their previous 17, the challenge on the second night of Florida’s second back-to-back set of the season was considerably more imposing with the hot Red Wings riding a four-game winning streak and six of their previous seven.

Panthers captain Willie Mitchell tangled with Johan Franzen in front of the Panthers net early in the opening period and drew a pair of minors for roughing and high sticking.

Mitchell was outspoken in his disgust for the way the team played the previous night, saying they lacked fire and played down to the level of the Blue Jackets.

He may have been trying to light a fire in his teammates, but the penalties put his team in an early hole.

The Red Wings took advantage of the power play as Tomas Tatar deflected Datsyuk’s shot past Luongo 6:47 into the game. Former Panther Stephen Weiss got an assist, his sixth point in six games this season since returning from a groin injury.

The Panthers showed the compulsion that was missing Monday and outshot the Red Wings 14-13 in the opening period. They had five shots on goal in the first three minutes and created some chances early, but Howard turned them away.

They got one past him at 15:11 on Hayes’ sixth goal. It came like most the big right wing scores as he drove to the net and pounced on the rebound of Vincent Trocheck’s shot. With Howard going down, Hayes lifted it over the goalie’s left shoulder. Dmitry Kulikov got the second assist.

“We didn’t have our legs and didn’t have our jump [at Columbus],” Gallant said. “It’s disappointing because it was a game that was right there for us. You think your team is going to turn the corner. But you talk to every coach and it’s the same thing, some nights you’re just not there.”

The Panthers were without center Aleksander Barkov, who injured a hand blocking a shot Monday. There was some swelling but x-rays showed no fracture, Gallant said. Shawn Thornton returned to the lineup after missing Monday’s game with facial injuries and a slight groin strain.

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For-profit college used strippers as recruiters, feds say

**TNS STAFF**

Some Florida for-profit colleges have used highly aggressive techniques to recruit students -- including non-stop phone calls, misleading promises and $500 refunds for referrals.

But according to a federal lawsuit, Miami-based FastTrain College added a new wrinkle: hiring strippers as “admissions representatives.”

The “exotic dancer” allegation comes from the U.S Attorney’s Office and Florida’s attorney general, who this week both joined a pending whistle-blower lawsuit against FastTrain. A civil complaint filed by the two agencies say at least one FastTrain campus used strippers to attract students, though it did not identify the campus.

The college “purposely hired attractive women and sometimes exotic dancers and encouraged them to dress provocatively while they recruited young men in neighborhoods to attend FastTrain,” the lawsuit states.

FastTrain closed shortly after being raided by the FBI in 2012. It had operated seven Florida campuses in Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Duval counties. The company’s CEO was Alejandro Amor de Coral Gables. Amor was criminally indicted in October, and faces pending charges of conspiracy and theft of government money.

Amor has denied wrongdoing.

Neither Amor nor his attorney could be immediately reached for comment Wednesday.

Between 2009 and mid-2012, FastTrain received more than $35 million in Pell grants and other federal financial aid, the lawsuit states. The federal government now says that millions of that money was fraudulently obtained -- frequently by FastTrain falsifying high school diplomas for students who didn’t have one. Because those students did not graduate from high school, they should have never qualified for student aid in the first place, according to the suit.

Aside from the unconventional use of strippers, the federal lawsuit accuses FastTrain executives of falsifying documents, coaching students to lie on financial aid forms, and employing a “corporate strategy focused on increased admissions and profits above all else.”

To gain access to taxpayer dollars, FastTrain needed first-time students to attend classes for at least 30 days, according to the lawsuit. If students didn’t show, the federal government says FastTrain would falsify attendance records, or backdate the enrollment so the school could collect the money quicker.

The whistle-blower lawsuit was initially filed by Juan Pena, a former admissions employee at the Plantation campus and the Flagler campus, which operated at 5555 West Flagler St. in Miami.