



AL DIAZ/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

**TAKING ERNESTO SERIOUSLY:** Adam Meltzer, owner of The Daily restaurant at 2001 Biscayne Blvd., closed shop early on Tuesday due to Tropical Storm Ernesto.

# UNCERTAINTY

■ **Employers had a lot of different ideas about how their workforces should respond to Ernesto.**

BY JOHN DORSCHNER,  
ELAINE WALKER  
AND PATRICK DANNER  
jdorschner@MiamiHerald.com

If it's not quite a hurricane, what's an employer to do?

Bosses had a lot of answers on what to do Tuesday and today as Tropical Storm Ernesto bore down on South Florida.

For today, plans were varied and at times uncertain.

Some employers told workers to be in by noon. Others planned to be shut all day, and many asked workers to call a hot line to see what was happening.

Company responses were also all over the map on Tuesday. A few businesses simply closed their offices. Others made the day optional or switched plans midday. Many more required workers to show up, but then let them go in mid-afternoon, before the winds picked up.

And, some, like a Walgreen's at Miller Road and

■ **BALANCING ACT: ERNESTO GIVES WORKING PARENTS ANOTHER CHANCE TO PRACTICE THE CHILD-CARE/HURRICANE DRILL, 6C**

Southwest 93rd Avenue in Miami-Dade, had no plans to close at all, at least that employees were aware of. A cashier who didn't give her name rolled her eyes when questioned by a Miami Herald reporter and said workers might be stuck overnight.

Many companies use an

• **TURN TO EMPLOYERS, 6C**