



Places to go, things to do this Valentine's Day

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Softball searches for five wins this weekend

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Five-course meals at a great deal

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## SPOTLIGHT

### AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Broken Hearts Club: Students open up about their Valentine's candy, cards and regrets.

### OPINION PAGE 6

Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich isn't the only one responsible for suspicious Senate seat fillings.

### SPORTS PAGE 12



Freshman pitcher Jennifer Gniadek began her career scorching hot. In three games she has a .42 ERA. She hopes to improve her 1-2 record.

### AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SGC-BBC Speaker of the Senate opens up about his loyalty toward BBC.

### OPINION PAGE 6

A U.S. Representative is pushing legislation that would require camera phones to make noise when taking photos. Should America follow the footsteps of Japan and Korea?

### LIFE! PAGE 9

Special Edition of Pulse: Special guest writer Charlie Grau gets past the fantasy to share how relationships work.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Yonder Mountain String Band, Feb. 13, 9 p.m.:** Make an escape from the Miami music scene and enjoy a bluegrass band from Colorado for a change, at Revolution Live.

**Valentine's Day Canoe and Campfire, Feb. 14, 4:30 p.m.:** Shake things up on Valentine's Day by going canoeing and roasting marshmallows by the fire at Bill Saowski Park. Just remember to bring the bug spray!

**Under-the-Stars Jazz concert featuring Arturo Sandoval, Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m.:** Woo your sweetheart with the delicious sounds of Arturo Sandoval's music at Fairchild Botanical Gardens, if he can't do the trick then you're on your own buddy!

**Don King's St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 5:50 p.m.:** Nothing to do on the most romantic day of the year? Watch some sweaty guys use scripts to bad mouth each other at this event at Bank Atlantic Center.

**Coconut Grove Arts Festival, Feb. 15, 9 a.m.:** Spend your hangover day relaxing and enjoying art and kabobs at this festival in Coconut Grove.

For the complete calendar, please see page 8 or visit FIUSM.com.

## WEATHER



**FRIDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 63 HIGH: 81



**SATURDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 62 HIGH: 82



**SUNDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 59 HIGH: 80

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## FEEL THE LOVE



JAVIER DE LA VEGA/THE BEACON

**STAND BY ME:** Luis Alvarez, senior majoring in health sciences (left) and Guadalupe Zelaya, senior in psychology on Feb. 11.

## SGC-UP SENATE

# Roseme expedites key legislation ratification

**DAVID BARRIOS**  
Senior Staff Writer

Two small posters, stating the annual goals of the Student Government Association and the Student Government Council at University Park hang on the conference room wall of the SGC-UP office.

"I know for a fact that I go into that conference room everyday and look at those goals for SGA and the Senate and keep them in mind," said Jean Roseme, 22, Senate speaker for SGC-UP.

Roseme's position calls on him to oversee the Senate

and control the body when it convenes weekly. Calling meetings to order, maintaining it throughout the meetings and guiding the direction of the Senate are some of the tasks that he assumes.



ROSEME

Roseme, elected by the Senate to his position in March 2008, is proud of legislations passed during his time as speaker, such as the Speed-Pass Act and the Hearings Bill, along with several events held during that period.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is an event we held in which we allowed all students the opportunity to meet the dean

of their colleges, something that could take at least a few weeks to arrange for," Roseme said.

The Speed-Pass Act allows for a bill to be voted upon during the same meeting that it is first read; the Hearings Bill allows the Senate to hold hearings on cabinet and governing council members.

Prior to Roseme's term as speaker, the legislature for SGA was known as the House of Representatives, with one senator representing each of the colleges that held a seat in the body and the president of SGC-UP overseeing all of their meetings.

ROSEME, page 2

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

# Local funding facilitates program extension

**JOSHUA BALLANTINE**  
Contributing Writer

The University's Foreign-Educated Physicians to Nurses Program, the only one of its kind in the country, received a \$470,000 donation to continue an extension of its Miami-based program in Florida's Tampa Bay region.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida donated \$250,000 in direct funding and the Largo Medical Center – part of Hospital Corporation of America West Florida Division – donated \$220,000 in scholarships to certify foreign-educated physicians to become nurses and work at Largo.

"The extension in Tampa is an exciting program because of the unique solution it offers to the community," said Divina Grossman, dean for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The FEPN program in Tampa began in January of this year and is an accelerated five-semester program; it began at the University in May 2002 in response to the nursing shortage and health disparities for the increasing diversity of South Florida.

There are 20 students currently enrolled.

The current Tampa class includes two people who are unemployed, a patient care technician, an electrocardiogram monitor technician, nursing assistants and a salesperson.

Largo Medical Center, which is providing the facilities to teach the courses, is confident about their investment to the program and its importance for the community.

"We felt strongly that this is a valuable need that was otherwise unmet in the community," said Carol Negoshian, chief nursing officer of Largo Medical Center.

That need is made clear in an article in the December 2008 issue of the *Journal of Nursing Education*. Grossman and nursing Professor Mary Jorda wrote, "Although minority individuals currently comprise approximately 32 percent of the Florida population, only 18 percent of registered nurses in Florida come from minority groups."

The article also cited a survey by the American College of Health Executives that claimed, "85 percent of hospital CEOs reported a shortage of registered nurses."

"We are excited about funding this program because it will position those who are going into nursing to succeed, and it helps resolve the pending shortage in nurses," said Mark Wright, spokesman for BCBSF.

Grossman explained a common misconception about the program.

"The students are not recruited from abroad," she said. "The applicants are Florida

NURSING, page 3



## NEWS FLASH

## FIU

**Students may have more time to shop for textbooks**

Students at universities may be getting a break on textbooks. According to the *Sun Sentinel*, the governing boards for the state university and community college systems released guidelines that would require state universities to provide students' textbook information at least 30 days before classes start. This would give students a chance to shop around for the best prices. Universities would also have to make sure free textbooks are available for those who can't afford them. The guidelines from the Board of Governors is expected to be approved this spring.

## LOCAL

**Jurors being selected for third terror trial**

Jurors are being selected in Miami for the third trial of six men accused of plotting to destroy Chicago's Sears Tower and bomb FBI offices.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys are making final choices for the 12-person panel Wednesday. They began interviewing prospective panelists Jan. 27 but the ethnic makeup of the panel has been contentious because all six defendants are black.

Two previous trials of the "Liberty City Six" have ended in mistrials, with a seventh man acquitted after the first trial. Prosecutors say they sought to ignite an anti-government war by staging major terror attacks.

Alleged ringleader Narseal Batiste testified he was faking interest in terrorism to get money from an FBI informant posing as an al-Qaeda operative.

## NATIONAL

**Senate stimulus package will be \$3 billion less for state**

The governor's budget director says a stimulus bill passed by the U.S. Senate would be about \$3 billion less stimulating for Florida than the House version.

Jerry McDaniel told Gov. Charlie Crist and other top state officials Wednesday that Florida would get about \$10.4 billion under the Senate measure. The estimate for the House bill is \$13.7 billion.

Florida also still could lose up to \$4.55 billion in education stimulus money because it isn't spending as much on education as it did in 2006. The legislation requires at least a 2006 spending level to get stimulus money.

The state is lobbying congressional negotiators to drop that provision or let U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan waive it on a case-by-case basis.

—Compiled by Charlie Grau

## ENGINEERING CENTER

**Expo provides hands-on experience**

**OLGA VELEZ**  
Staff Writer

The Engineering Center at the University Park campus is opening its doors for the eighth time on Feb. 20 to show students the latest in engineering.

"It is a day where all of the students from the engineering department get involved and volunteer to show the public schools what engineering is about and what you do as an engineer," said Brenda Solis, a sophomore and the tour guide coordinator for the event.

The expo will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"On the day of the event, over 800 students from Miami-Dade and Broward County public schools come to the FIU Engineering Center for an interactive, multi-faceted program lasting five hours," said Assistant Director of Recruitment and Retention Stephanie Strange.

"The event starts with opening ceremonies that include a color honor guard, a stirring call to action by the

dean and an inspiring speech by a special guest speaker."

Some of the past guest speakers were the former state of Florida Commissioner of Education Jim Horne, National Science Foundation Deputy Director Joseph Bordogna and Division Director Bruce Kramer. Lunch will also be included in the event.

"After the opening ceremony, groups of 20 to 30 students are led by undergraduate engineering student volunteers to visit the various research and teaching labs and participate in hands-on events and contests," Strange said.

These hands-on events can range from creating a functioning catapult to a Lego building contest for kids.

Some of the labs that will be open are the nano lab, the heart valve lab and the civil engineering lab.

"The students get to learn about all of the different labs with different engineering societies," Solis said. "Civil engineering department, for example, will have

a lab for the students. There are different activities, lab demonstrations and some are hands-on. This is where the students can see how engineering is used in every day life."

This event has already been awarded the coveted President's Award for Diversity.

"ABET is the Accreditation Bureau for Engineering and Technology," Strange said. "Programs in engineering have to be accredited by ABET. All of the FIU engineering programs are accredited by ABET. We submitted to them the 2006 expo as being a model for outreach in a diverse community. They agreed."

The idea for the event originally came from the dean of engineering.

"The dean wanted to show how exciting engineering really is and how much it really is a part of people's lives," Strange said.

As part of its commitment to diversity, the Engineering Expo is willing to having new schools from Miami-

Dade and Broward Counties attend.

"Over the year, as the recruiter of the college, I have developed a relationship with different schools and teachers," Strange said. "I am very democratic about who comes because I want to get different schools. I like to keep it open access so who is interested and willing to come can come."

"I do think it's a good idea to bring students from Miami-Dade and Broward to FIU to learn about engineering," said Aneysi Fernandez, a sophomore. "It will not only broaden their minds, but it will expose them to different teaching methods as well as different career fields. Coming to FIU will also give these students an opportunity to experience FIU's engineering program and hopefully have FIU on their choice of universities to apply for."

The event is also open to University students. Anyone who is interested in attending can e-mail Stephanie Strange at [sstra001@fiu.edu](mailto:sstra001@fiu.edu).

**Political parties considered in Senate**

ROSEME, page 1

During a previous interview with *The Beacon*, SGC-UP President Arthur J. Meyer simply said that "this process just didn't make sense."

Following a constitutional revision in 2008, the Senate now holds a proportional representation system in which the amount of seats for each college is determined by the amount of students in that college.

Additional changes to the constitution are currently being planned, including the addition of political parties into the mix to support chosen candidates representing their party's ideals as they run for their positions, much as in U.S. politics.

"The way it is now, a senator has individual ... ideas on the issues. With political parties, however, candidates can maintain these ideas but align with others with similar ideas, instead of it being every man for himself," Roseme said.

There have been challenges, however, as the Senate has assumed more power during the past year. Four senators were removed from their positions while six others resigned honorably during Fall 2008.

Senate Speaker Pro-Tempe Christopher Ponce assumes Roseme's tasks when he is absent or unavailable.

"Working with him in SGA this year

I won't lie. I've considered running [for president] seriously, but I have yet to make a decision.

Jean Roseme, Senate Speaker  
SGC-UP

has had its challenges because of all the vacancies we have had to fill but he is unwavering about doing things the right way, in the right manner, even though there has been some trouble getting members to meetings," Ponce said.

During a Senate meeting held Jan. 26 to include special elections to fill the vacant seats, senators debated for more than an hour, eventually deciding to postpone the elections until the following meeting.

There were protests by several members of SGC-UP referring to the debates as "disorganized," noting that the candidates who waited to speak to the body and get elected had to leave.

"We felt like we needed more information, and it was within the senators' rights to call for a postponement. And they did so," Roseme explained.

At the following meeting, elections were held in a process that lasted four hours.

"This was a beautiful meeting. This is how a Senate meeting is supposed to

be held. We really stuck it out tonight and really talked about the issues. We got different perspectives about different ideas and acted like a Senate would, ideally," Roseme said, following the Feb. 2 meeting.

Robert Chung, comptroller for SGC-UP, shares an office with Roseme and works closely with him on a day-to-day basis. They are also members of the same business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi.

"Outside of working closely with him and being in the same fraternity, Jean is very passionate about his position. He brings a lot of ideas and changes and has a vision that he wants to push forward with the Senate," Chung said.

With upcoming elections in April, Roseme has considered running for president of SGC-UP but hasn't made a final decision.

"I won't lie. I've considered running [for president] seriously, but I have yet to make a decision. When I make up my mind, I'll let everyone know," Roseme said.

## THE BEACON

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## CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 11 article titled "Foundation struggles with economy," the info box wrongly stated that University of Florida and Florida State University lost \$1.25 billion and \$447 million in funds respectively. UF actually lost \$104 million and FSU lost \$129 million of their funds.



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# Toshiba furnishes printing supplies for new copy center

**CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA**  
Staff Writer

As it grows by leaps and bounds, the University continues to find it must upgrade its services in order to keep up with the growing demands of its students and faculty.

The most recent renovation to come to FIU is its new copy center.

Last year, the University went through a request-for-proposal process in order to find a service provider willing to replace the fleet of copiers, scanners and printers.

Toshiba beat out FIU's current print service provider, Ikon, in the bidding process for both proposals.

The new fleet of copy, scan and print machines as well as management of the Toshiba Copy Center, formerly Panther Print, located at the Graham Center, will be provided by Toshiba Business Solutions.

According to Matt Barnes, vice president of sales for Toshiba Florida, it made sense for Toshiba to tackle both of the requests.

"Besides putting people on site to manage the copy centers, we would also have dedicated technicians on site," Barnes said.

According to Barnes, each walk-up machine will be equipped with a USB port and will be capable of scanning, copying and printing in both black-and-white and color.

The new lot of machines to be installed at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus will also be networked. This would allow students and faculty to effortlessly move documents around electronically.

"It gives [FIU] a tremendous return on [its] investment because of the capabilities of the product," Barnes said.

Additionally, Toshiba is renovating the former Panther Print room. Barnes said they will repaint and re-carpet the print center as well as install their new walk-up machines and a row of workstations featuring online capable Toshiba laptops, available for use by students and faculty.

"There's a myriad of things we will be doing in terms of services in the copy center," Barnes said.

In terms of managed services, the new print center will offer wide format printing, expanded coloring and finishing capabilities.

In addition to innovative print and

document solutions, the copy center will also feature FedEx and U.S. Mail self-service stations.

"What we're trying to come up with is more of the Kinko's concept," Barnes said.

Barnes said nearly all the old machines have already been replaced with the exception of the ones in the library. He said those machines will be replaced in the coming days.

"Those are high traffic areas and we want to make sure they have little down time," he said.

Renovations to the print center are going according to schedule and should be finished by mid-February.

"A target grand opening would be

**Besides putting people on site to manage the copy centers, we would also have dedicated technicians on site.**

*Matt Barnes, vice president of sales  
Toshiba Florida*

around Feb. 15," Barnes said.

Under Toshiba's management, the cost of printing will change slightly. Black-and-white prints will come out to 10 cents per page. Color prints will come out to 50 cents per page.

Accepted methods of payment will include cash, credit cards and Panther cards. Faculty will be allowed to use a special card called a Pro-Card, or P-card.

The P-cards will give each University department a means of accounting for the printing expenses of its instructors.

Though the majority of students have yet to utilize the Toshiba Copy Center, those who have leave quickly with their projects in order.

Vanessa Marie, a junior majoring in occupational therapy, said the new staff is very friendly and helpful.

"I believe it's a step up from the old [print center]," Marie said.

## GO HEALTHY



JAVIER DE LA VEGA/THE BEACON

**CAN I HAVE ONE?:** Junior and environmental studies major, Ian Wogan, opens coconuts for people to enjoy. The coconuts were free at the weekly Organic Farmers Market on Feb. 11.

## Nursing program seeks to offer joint accelerated degree

**NURSING, page 1**

residents who are either unemployed or underemployed, often times working in non-healthcare fields."

One student from the original graduating class worked as a public health doctor in Haiti for 17 years.

When he came to the United States, he began working as an orange-picker and then a vacuum cleaner salesman.

After graduating the program, he was able to get a job as a neo-natal care nurse.

The program has graduated more than 300 nurses in Miami – where the program is located – and Tampa and Orlando, where the program has been expanded through live video conferencing.

The program started when six Cuban foreign-educated physicians, who had been working in low-paying medical jobs

or unrelated fields in Florida, approached the University to implement the program.

Grossman, who has been working with Miami health care since 1979, initially pursued and obtained the startup \$600,000 for the program and its 40 admitted students from the HCA East Florida Division in 2002.

"Since I have taken over in 2000 as dean of the college, this program has captured the most attention," Grossman said, citing a BBC interview aired by National Public Radio about the FEPN program and requests to start similar programs in Texas, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Because many of the nurses have gone on to get their master's degrees, Grossman is hoping to take the program to the next level by making the program a joint BSN-MSN accelerated program.

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## A better deal for a classy Valentine's Day dinner

LORENA ESTRADA  
Contributing Writer

For those looking to treat that special someone on Valentine's Day without driving to a remote area, some restaurants near the Biscayne Bay Campus may just seal the deal.

Gone are the days when singles had to experience spasms of depression on Valentine's Day at the site of couples romancing as they exchange gifts, candies and love notes. This holiday, however, there's something for everyone to do.

Chef Allen's, a modern seafood bistro, will be offering a Valentine's Day five-course menu featuring a variety of entrées, including chateaubriand with toasted saffron aroncini and ox tail ragout, pistachio crusted grouper and roasted duck breast with stir fried green vegetables. All main courses include a bouquet of Chef Allen's hand-rolled breadsticks and a "sexy dark chocolate trio" dessert. The five-course menu will cost \$75 per person. For the full menu, visit [www.chefallens.com](http://www.chefallens.com).

This restaurant, which has a casual elegant dining style, also offers a list of approximately 60 wines from a variety of countries, including France, Australia and Argentina.

Chef Allen's is located at 19088 NE 29th Ave. in Aventura. For reservations or more information, call (305) 935-2900.

For those whose significant other is more of an exotic foods kind of gal or fella, Timo Restaurant, a bistro with an inspired Mediterranean and Italian cuisine, may be the place to go.

The bistro, which is owned by FIU graduate Tim Andriola, will offer not one, but two Valentine's Day five-course menus.

The first option consists of a \$75 three-course menu featuring a choice of entrées that includes confit and seared duck with roasted sweet potatoes, Chilean sea bass or a goat cheese and sweet herb crusted rack of lamb.

The second option, which is budget-friendly, is a \$55 three-course menu featuring a choice of entrées that includes skirt steak, black grouper with shrimp ravioli or sautéed veal scallopini.

Jamaloan Romero, a senior hospitality major, has eaten at Timo on several occasions and believes the restaurant "truly brings the bold flavors of Greece and Italy to the table."

The restaurant is located at 17624 Collins Ave. in Sunny Isles Beach and reservations are suggested. For more information, call (305) 936-1008 or visit [www.timorestaurant.com](http://www.timorestaurant.com).

For singles who won't be romancing on Valentine's Day, the romantic-themed weekend can also be another excuse to party with friends.

To keep couples out of sight, Justin's Bar & Lounge in Aventura can provide a fun-filled night without the bitterness of a Valentine's Day without Cupid's touch.

Justin's will be offering free admission for men until 11 p.m., and women get in free all night and can drink martinis on the house.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, bottle service at Justin's will be available for \$150 instead of its usual price of \$200-250.

Justin's is located at 17813 Biscayne Blvd. in Aventura. For more information, call (305) 931-1900 or visit [www.justinsaventura.com](http://www.justinsaventura.com).

## Cupid brings love, lust, regrets

SHERVIN BAIN  
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day isn't just chocolate-filled hearts, cards and flowers. For some students, it's a time to regret their lustful past or ignore the day altogether.

Andrés Bermeo, a senior advertising major, remembers his past Valentine's Day celebrations in high school.

"It was just a normal day, nothing that special. It would be a who-receives-more-balloons-and-flowers thing," Bermeo said. "You would see those popular girls and guys walking with a bunch of chocolates. I wasn't one of those guys."

Those times have past, though. This year, the arrow hit Bermeo hard.

He is spending this upcoming Valentine's Day with his girlfriend, whom he has been dating for a year.

"I'm going to Naples ... to see my girl," he said. "We're going to a Valentine's Day party. I'm going to get her something ... maybe an Abercrombie & Fitch shirt."

But Bermeo wasn't the only student struck by Cupid this year. Jessica Rodriguez, a senior public relations major, had one of her first dates four years ago on Valentine's Day.

"We went to a restaur-

ant, then went to walk on a little pond area. It was nice, romantic," said Rodriguez, whose relationship lasted a year and a half. "I hate the guy now! We had our differences."

This year, Rodriguez is going out with her new boyfriend.

"I plan to take him out to the beach," Rodriguez said. "I'm not a big fan. I'm doing it because he wants to. It's dumb, just a good way to waste money."

Some singles choose to travel as a means of escaping Cupid.

"Hopefully, I'll be going out of town with a friend to not worry about Valentine's Day," said Danielle Jebelean, a junior occupational therapy major. "I don't have a boyfriend right now. Guys are crazy, so I would rather just spend it with friends."

Others protect themselves from Valentine's Day by seeking refuge with family.

"My mom is my valentine," said Eric Turner, a senior advertising major. "I picnic with my mom."

"I've forgotten Valentine's Day," said Sean Sawicki, a first-year master's student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication's integrated communication program. "I'm probably going to see Disturbed with some

### TREATS ON THE CHEAP



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**DROP A HEART:** Esther Hamilton, a hospitality management junior, purchased a box of chocolates from the Society of Women Engineers Valentine's fundraiser in Panther Square, Feb. 10.

buddies; we're all single."

This is not the first time Sawicki has been unarmed for the Valentine's Day battle. He's forgotten the day before, while he was in a relationship.

"I got that whole 'it's OK, it's not-a-big-deal thing,' but it really was," Sawicki said. "I had to make it up to her."

"I got my wisdom teeth taken out on Valentine's Day," said David Berry, SJMC marketing

coordinator. "I didn't think I would have a valentine! She brought me stuff that I could eat. At that point I looked like a chipmunk."

This year, Berry is going to keep himself occupied by writing.

"I might be covering a boxing match," Berry said. "It will keep me from binging on chocolate chip cookies."

### SGC-BBC

## Senate speaker takes aim at presidency

MIKIALA TENNIE  
Staff Writer

Elections for positions on the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus are around the corner, and the current speaker of the Senate is making plans to run for president.

"I feel like I can really reach some goals," said Sholom Neistein. "I wouldn't run if I felt someone else could do a better job."

Neistein's term as speaker of the Senate will come to an end in April, as the coming elections will take place on the first and second days of that month.

He began his involvement in SGC-BBC as an intern one year ago.

This past summer, he was elected to the Senate as the arts and sciences representative. The Senate then appointed him as the speaker of the Senate.

"I can do much more for the students than a regular senator," Neistein said.

His position allows him to voice the ideas and concerns of the Senate during SGC-BBC general meetings, which take place on a weekly basis. He also has the responsibility of residing over Senate

meetings where bills and resolutions are discussed.

During his term as speaker, Neistein has gained a great appreciation for the diversity at the University.

"Many at FIU are minorities and it's not like that in the real world. Here, there's a mutual respect for culture," Neistein said. "I'm representing numerous amounts of ethnicities, not just mine - we are one."

Neistein attributes his appreciation for diversity to his surroundings while growing up in South Florida. He has lived in Miami-Dade County all his life. He has six other siblings of which he is the second youngest and 15 nieces and nephews.



NEISTEIN

A junior majoring in biology and psychology, Neistein hopes to attend medical school to become a cardiologist. He currently holds an internship at the University of Miami in the department of cardiology where he interacts with patients.

"I like it a lot. I really want to help people," Neistein said.

But he believes that his plans to run for SGC-BBC president could slow down his future career goals because if he were to be elected he would have to take fewer

classes. Neistein's role as the speaker of the Senate allows him to take five to six classes per semester.

"The sacrifice will be worth it if we have policies that will help the student body," Neistein said.

Neistein's hard work and efforts are noticed by his peers, including SGC-BBC President Ana Maria Silva.

"He's a very hard-working individual. Not only does he have high goals for the Senate this year, but he plans to accomplish them this year," Silva said.

Currently, SGC-BBC members are approaching the end of their terms and the end of the fiscal year.

"We are remodeling statutes, putting new laws in the constitution and trying to spend money wisely," Neistein said.

Although Neistein expresses a desire to continue his involvement in SGC-BBC, he does not have a desire to enter politics outside of the University.

"I wouldn't want to run on a federal level because of corruption," he said. "It's appalling what they have to go through."

However, Neistein speaks highly about his co-workers at SGC-BBC.

"This SGA is unparalleled to the past just by how much work we do," Neistein said.



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## MUSICAL CHAIRS

### Congress disputing on how to appoint Senate seats

**OLGA VELEZ**  
Staff Writer

Following the impeachment of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Americans are scrutinizing the way in which vacant Senate seats are being filled. If a senator is elected to major office – as former senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden were this year – the state’s governor picks an individual to fill the empty seat.

The Blagojevich scandal forced many Americans – including members of Congress – to reconsider the legitimacy of this method. Though the system of appointing Senate vacancies is not perfect, it may not necessarily be the best idea to replace it with popular election.

According to a Feb. 3 article in *The New York Times*, Russ Feingold, a senator from Wisconsin, introduced an amendment that would require all states to fill Senate seats through popular election. The amendment is cosponsored by Senator John McCain and Senator Mark Begich, a Democrat from Alaska.

Not only would this new amendment to the Constitution, if passed, put the power of filling a Senate seat back into the hands of constituents, but it would also put a permanent end to the ridiculous nature in which Senate seats were filled in the past year.

When I say ridiculous, I am not only referring to the appointment of Ronald Burr to the Illinois Senate by Blagojevich, who was impeached on Jan. 30 after being found guilty of abusing the power of his office.

I am also referring to the other perfectly legal deals that are taking place in other states to fill these seats.

One example of this can be seen in the way the seat was chosen in New Hampshire. According to the same *New York Times* article, Senator Judd Gregg, a New Hampshire Republican, would only take the position of commerce secretary if Democrat Gov. John Lynch would replace him with another Republican.

The article stated, “That is an unusual concession by the governor – and arguably out of touch with his increasingly Democratic state.”

Gregg’s replacement was not chosen because she would best represent the views of her constituents, but because Gregg would not leave his position to anyone other than another Republican.

According to an article in *The Economist* published Jan. 29, another vacancy within the Senate – New York’s seat, since Hillary Clinton joined President Obama’s cabinet – might have been used as a tool to help garner support for reelection by Gov. David Paterson.

The article stated that the appointment of Kristen Gillibrand for New York’s Senate seat was out of touch with the state’s constituents and that the only “good” Gov. Patterson would have gotten from the appointment was the support from Gillibrand’s more conservative base; she is supported by the National Rifle Association and is considered anti-immigrant.

According to the same article in *The Economist*, “Since 1913 more than 180 senators have been appointed by governors, according to Fair Vote, a voting-rights advocacy group. Only four states – Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Oregon and Wisconsin – fill vacancies purely by special election.”

There is no way of knowing now if these 180 seats were filled similarly – motivated by dreams of political success.

However, the issue is more complex than whether we should take the power of filling a Senate seat away from the states.

Special elections are expen-

sive and they would take away money that needs to be spent on projects such as health care and education.

Another issue is that the need for a new senator can come at any moment. A special election would increase the amount of time that a state is without both representatives in the Senate when important legislation that affects the state might be voted on.

“The problem is that appointment can occur for several reasons and at any time. These special elections also cost the states and taxpayers money,” said Christopher Warren, an associate professor of political science at FIU.

On top of that, turnout for special elections is usually extremely low. So in the end, would a senator chosen during a special election really represent the state better than one appointed by a governor?

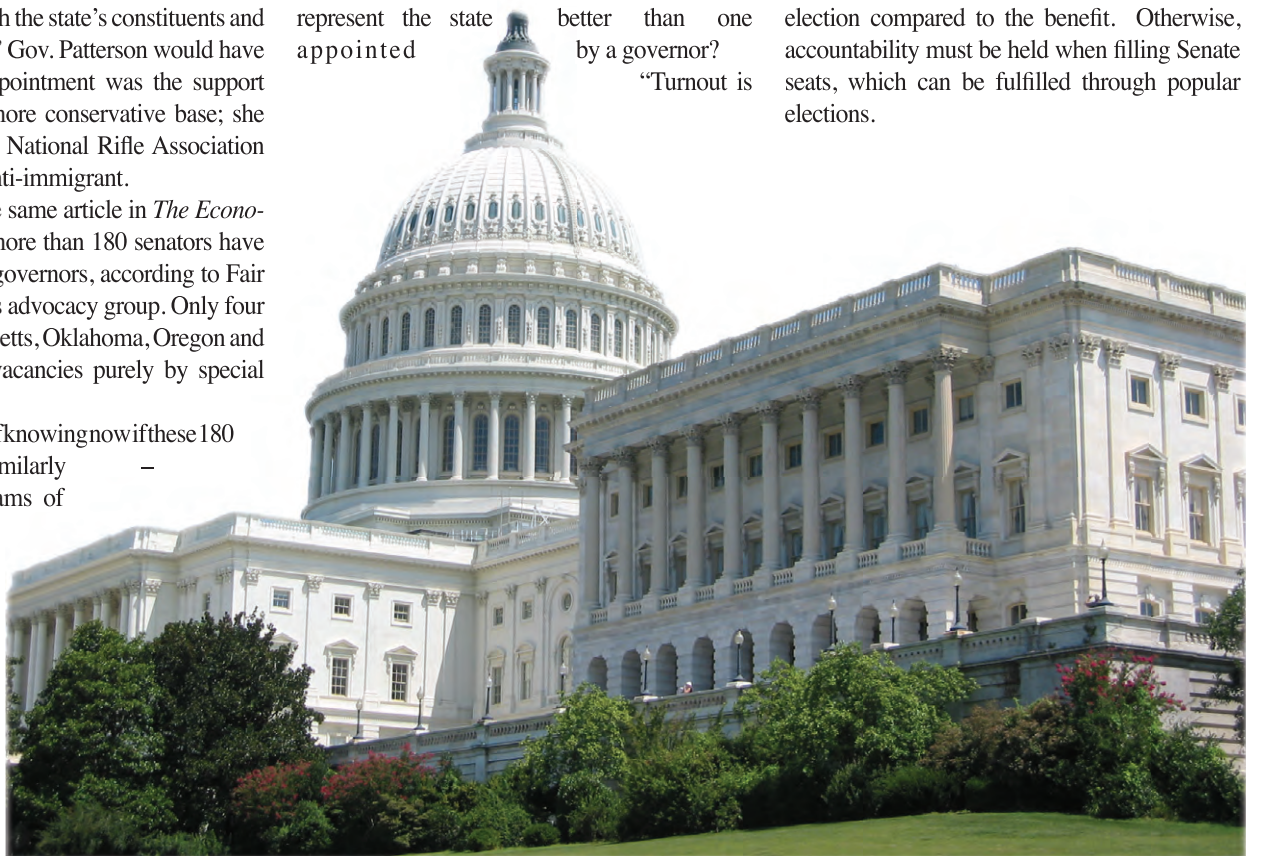
“Turnout is

usually around 20 percent,” said Warren. “Is that really more representative of the state than having the senator picked by the state governor?”

According to a Feb. 5 CNN article, Tom Mann, a congressional scholar of the Brookings Institution, a non-profit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C., also stated that the special elections were probably not worth it.

“Special elections are difficult,” Mann said. “They tend not to be particularly competitive. ... It’s better to schedule these during a regular election cycle when turnout will be higher and when there is more time, opportunity and resources.”

Before the states are ready to ratify such an amendment, they need to look at their budgets and see what is the cost of having a special election compared to the benefit. Otherwise, accountability must be held when filling Senate seats, which can be fulfilled through popular elections.



## Passing of new cell phone law may put our silence at stake

**KIMBERLY ENGELHARDT**  
Staff Writer

Imagine you’re at your sibling’s wedding. Everybody, from grandpa to that annoying 2-year-old nephew, is in tears. While the two love birds exchange their rings, you discover the perfect angle for a picture. However, you don’t have a camera in your possession. Biting your

lower lip at the thought of letting the Kodak moment slip away from your hands, you decide to take out your handy-dandy camera phone and click away, rather loudly due to the shutter sound that the phone’s camera makes.

In an instant, the golden silence disintegrated.

Feeling hundreds of pairs of eyes all around your back, you stop in your tracks. You’ve been caught red-handed. Your face, of course, is redder than the tomato the newly-weds feel they should throw at you.

What a wonderful way to interrupt a ceremony, don’t you think? The perfect moment – obliterated.

Japan and Korea already require that camera phones click when a photo is taken. U.S. House Representative Peter King also believes that the United States should follow the footsteps of these countries.

According to ABC News, “the congressman has introduced the Camera Phone Predator Alert Act, which would require cell

phones with built-in digital cameras to make a sound when a picture is taken.”

In an e-mail interview with ABC News, King said, “I introduced the Camera Phone Predator Alert Act so that parents and children can be alerted when these criminals try to exploit our children in public places.”

This proposition needs to be rejected. We live in a nation entitled to silence. If people talk too much, we tell them to shut up. When dogs bark too much, we tell them to shut up. Camera phones, as wonderful as they are, should also have the option of shutting up. After all, not everybody has ill intentions with a camera phone. Why should we pay the price for a couple of perverts who deserve to rot in jail?

The only reason Japan and Korea passed this law was in response to mounting reports of “underskirting” and “downblousing.” They didn’t pass the law to protect children; they were protecting women in extremely crowded areas.

Perverts were taking advantage of

**We live in a nation entitled to silence. If people talk too much, we tell them to shut up. ... Camera phones, as wonderful as they are, should also have the option of shutting up.**

this, not law-abiding citizens. Who can guarantee that a person can hear the camera phone sound in a crowded place? I have a hard time listening to my iPod on the bus. Having the camera phone sound would only help if you’re in a quiet area, without any distractions. Perverts prefer busy areas where one can get easily distracted. Sounds are not that effective.

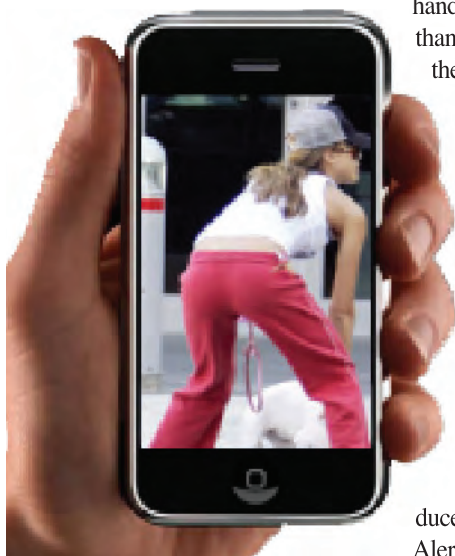
Smile, you may be photographed by the wrong person. Back in 2007, an individual was caught sliding a camera phone under dressing room doors to snap pictures. One thing I can

tell you for sure is that malls need to beef up their security. I guarantee you that by having a clerk by the entrance of the fitting room, we could avoid situations like this. However, as the economy worsens, we are less likely to see security around mall areas.

At the center of this controversial proposition lies an even deeper question: What about plain old digital cameras? Since digital cameras are getting smaller, criminals can use them to accomplish what they do with camera phones. Might as well extend that bill to include our digital cameras. Oh, and our parent’s film cameras should also make a sound.

By the way, our laptops should also make a sound when we take pictures. (Of course, that’s silly; it’s really hard to take unsuspecting pictures with your laptop.)

I have an even better proposal: Why don’t we make camera phones have a strong flash? My camera phone has no flash and it takes horrible pictures. Not only are strong flashes better at alerting people, the picture quality would be much better upon uploading pictures.





## A recipe for romance

# Hot spots to take your sweetie this V-Day

**LUCIA SASTRE**  
Staff Writer

Whether what's on the menu is a high class restaurant, a cozy atmosphere or high energy night club, there is absolutely no reason why anyone should stay home on Valentine's Day. This is a time to celebrate with a special person or friends and family in a place that will make the evening memorable.

Here are some good spots to pick from and aid you in your search. Presenting the six best places in Miami to go on Valentine's Day:

### MELTING POT

From a romantic date to an outing with friends, The Melting Pot offers a relaxed atmosphere along with a wide variety of fondue dinners.

"Valentine's Day is a special day. We will be having a romantic decoration along with a bouquet of roses for each table, and several other commodities. The ultimate dining experience," said Melting Pot employee Bret Smith.

So, if you are looking for a perfect evening filled with private tables, attentive service, fine wines and extraordinary four-course fondue dinners, The Melting Pot is the way to go. Come dip into something different. The Melting Pot is located on 11520 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL. For reservations and further information visit: [www.meltingpot.com](http://www.meltingpot.com).

### BONGOS CUBAN CAFÉ

Located next to the American Airlines Arena, Bongos Cuban Café offers an energetic scene for both dinner and dancing.

"This place is ideal to go on Valentine's Day with friends. It offers a wide variety of foods and the plates are big enough to share. Plus, after dinner, Bongos turns in to a nightclub," said Marta Suarez, a junior who attends Bongos regularly.

Bongos transforms from a family restaurant into the city's hottest 21-and-over salsa nightclub, where live shows are

common and entrance charge is affordable. This place is ideal for those salsa lovers who are looking for a low budget and fun night out.

### TANTRA RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Ready for an exotic experience? If you want your Valentine's Day to be out of the ordinary, a day like no other, then opt for Tantra Restaurant and Lounge.

Equipped with exotic Middle Eastern décor, including live grass floors and water walls, sensual music and the acclaimed aphrodisiac cuisine, Tantra offers an out-of-this-world experience.

"This place is truly amazing. The ambiance is very liberating. There's [the] smell of jasmine and fresh grass everywhere that gives rise to a spiritual experience," said Selma Martinez, an FIU student and a frequent visitor.

Tantra is at 1445 Pennsylvania Avenue in Miami Beach and serves dinner nightly from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., with a late night menu available from 1:00 a.m. to closing. The lounge is open until 5:00 a.m.

### CHEESECAKE FACTORY

Looking for a casual dinner with mouth watering desserts and a sophisticated atmosphere? Then Cheesecake Factory may be the place to go on this special day. With more than 200 dinner options such as pizzas, salads, burgers, pasta and seafood, the Cheesecake Factory offers great service and cuisine at an affordable price.

"I love this place. Every time I go, it makes me want to come back. The cheesecakes are great and the best thing is that there's wide variety of options," said Jenna Reeves, a freshman and self-proclaimed No. 1 fan of the Cheesecake Factory.

Located on 7497 Dadeland Blvd, the Cheesecake Factory is only a short drive away from the University Park campus.

### SPIGA

Best known for its elaborate pastas, Spiga offers fancy Italian dinners at reasonable prices. Located on 1228 Collins Ave. in Miami Beach, Spiga offers its guests a picturesque atmosphere where they may relax and enjoy the romantic decorations. The complimentary bruschetta with grilled eggplant, served to you at one of the few tables is the first of many culinary treats. Spiga offers seating both inside and outside and is known for its hospitable service.

### BAHAMA BREEZE

Located on 12395 S.W. 88th St, Bahama Breeze offers a tropical setting filled with energy and liveliness, ideal for a casual dinner on Valentine's Day or an outing with friends. This place offers a wide variety of meats, seafood and pastas, also at reasonable prices.

With live music, nothing can beat a tropical evening with your lover(s).

Pick your destination and enjoy an evening of love celebrations. Whether it's with friends, family or a special person, remember that these places offer great service at a decent price.



**Melting Pot**  
11520 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL  
(305) 279-8816

**Bongos Cuban Cafe**  
601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL  
(786) 777-2100

**Tantra Restaurant and Lounge**  
1445 Pennsylvania Ave, Miami Beach FL  
(305) 672-4765

**Cheesecake Factory**  
7497 Dadeland Blvd, Miami, FL  
(305) 665-5400

**Spiga**  
1228 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL  
(305) 534-0079

**Bahama Breeze**  
12395 SW 88th St, Miami, FL  
(305) 598-4040

# Games to play with your lover this Valentine's Day

**JONATHAN DAVILA**  
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day has traditionally been a day for extravagant flowers, rich chocolates, expensive restaurants and plus-size teddy bears.

It's usually unconventional to change the aforementioned formula for a typical Valentine's Day, but we gamers are unconventional – aren't we?

So let's slap Cupid's crossbow out of his short, pudgy hands and hand him a controller – we're injecting some gaming into this year's V-Day.

But what games should you play with your significant other?

Surely, slaying Axis troops in *Call of Duty* isn't "ideal lover gaming."

Not to worry – I have answers.

### MARIO PARTY

I won't include a number because any *Mario Party* will suffice. This game is ideal for lovey-dovey gaming because the gameplay isn't as competitive as, oh say, *Gears of War*, so conflicts won't be a major concern.

There's also no bloodshed, and with gameplay so simple, the game is a perfect fit for significant others who usually don't "do that videogaming thing."

If you're looking for the latest *Mario Party*, the eighth iteration is only on the Wii.

Gamecube owners will have to shoot for seven, and if you're still in the dark ages with a Nintendo 64, you'll have to search the

bargain bins for *Mario Party 3* (and proceed to buy a Wii).

### GUITAR HERO / ROCK BAND

Chances are, if your significant other doesn't think highly of your gaming addiction, she'll still love the *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band* series.

The game caters to both hardcore and casual gamers thanks to the tiers of difficulty levels, which works perfectly whether your boo is "leet" or a "noob."

Maybe his or her favorite song is in the game.

They'll be impressed if you memorized parts of the song and played it while staring deep into their eyes (or maybe they won't, but they'll at least find it hysterical).

If you're playing the most

recent *Guitar Hero* or one of the *Rock Band* games, let them try singing or playing the drums if guitar-strumming isn't their thing.

You may want to check out the vast library of downloadable tracks online (in case your honey's favorite band isn't already featured in the game).

### LITTLEBIGPLANET

If you're a PS3 owner, there is no reason why *LittleBigPlanet* should not be a part of your library and there is no reason this shouldn't be what you're playing with your shnookums tomorrow.

You'll both spend more time than you should dressing up and critiquing your sackboys and sackgirls, and you'll have even more fun exploring Media Mole-

cule's levels together.

Take a stroll through the online community's user-created levels too – I'm sure there will be a few creative souls who made some lover-themed levels.

If you really want to get into it, check out the *LittleBigStore* online – for \$2.99, you can buy Valentine's Day-themed costumes for your sackpeople.

And if Media Molecule's stages don't do it for you and the online community doesn't turn you on with their creations, why don't you and your loved one try to create your own level?

You could base the level's story on how the two of you met or on your first date.

Much like the game itself, the possibilities for Valentine's fun in *LittleBigPlanet* are endless.



# 9-year-old doles out advice on relationships, love

LEANNE ITALIE  
AP WIRE

“A crush is like a love disease. It can drive you mad,” warns 9-year-old love doctor Alec Greven in his best-selling book *How to Talk to Girls*.

Based on a school essay, recess observations and personal experience, Alec’s book joins a crowded field of books out in time for Valentine’s Day from grown-up mating experts, raising the question: Are they smarter than a fourth grader?

Andrew Trees — journalist, one-time serial monogamist and new father — turns a scientific lens on the whys, whens and hows of mating in “Decoding Love,” delving into the influences of everything from biology and economics to game theory and psychology.

“We are sophisticated and advanced in so many ways, yet when it comes to love, it often seems as if we haven’t left the sandbox,” Trees writes.

Helen Fisher, an anthropologist and chief scientific adviser for the Web site Chemistry.com, relied in “Why Him? Why Her?” on the impact of brain chemistry and a survey she developed to come up with four broad personality styles that have unique pushes and pulls: Explorers, Builders, Directors and Negotiators.

“Explorers like being curious and spontaneous; Builders like being cautious, loyal and traditional; Directors like their decisiveness, logic and exactitude,” she offers. “Eleanor Roosevelt said, ‘I think somehow we learn who we really are and then live

with that decision.’ We more than live with it; we like it.”

Other insights from the work of our trio: Alec: “If you like a girl, comb your hair and don’t wear sweats.”

Trees: “Although sweatpants ARE comfortable, think about putting on something a little nicer. When women were shown pictures of men, the better dressed the subject was the higher they were inclined to rank him in all sorts of areas.”

Fisher: “Looks count. The male brain is particularly well built for sizing up potential mates by looking at them.”

Alec: “Many boys go for the pretty girls. It is easy to spot pretty girls because they have the big earrings, fancy dresses, and all the jewelry. Use caution! When you see a pretty girl, don’t let her tractor beam pull you in.”

Trees: “Don’t obsess about how you look. Obsess about how you act. A recent study showed that while attractiveness, emotional expressiveness, and social skills all contributed to someone’s likeability, attractiveness was the least important of the three.”

Fisher: “Studies show that we tend to regard people we find attractive as confident, smart, stable, friendly, generous, self-effacing, sensitive, financially secure, healthy and popular — traits most people seek in a mate. And we are particularly drawn to those with symmetrical features. Chimpanzees share our taste.”

Alec: “If you want to start a conversation with a girl, first you have to stay something like ‘hi.’ If she says ‘hi’ back, you are off to a good start.”

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY •  
FEBRUARY 13

WHAT: Love Fest  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 243  
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

WHAT: Carmen  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts  
CONTACT: 305-949-6722

WHAT: Tokyo Monster Control  
WHEN: 5 p.m.  
WHERE: Falls Shopping Center  
CONTACT: 305-255-4570

WHAT: Yonder Mountain String Band  
WHEN: 9 p.m.  
WHERE: Revolution Live  
CONTACT: 305-866-6925

WHAT: Laughing Gas Comedy Improve  
WHEN: 11 p.m.  
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse  
CONTACT: 305-461-1161

SATURDAY •  
FEBRUARY 14

WHAT: Don King’s St. Valentine’s Day  
WHEN: 5:50 p.m.  
WHERE: Bank Atlantic Center  
CONTACT: 954-835-7825

WHAT: Valentine’s Day Canoe and Campfire  
WHEN: 4:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Bill Sadowski Park  
CONTACT: 305-255-4767

WHAT: Disturbed  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Pompano Beach Amphitheatre  
CONTACT: 305-621-5566

WHAT: Under-the-Stars jazz concert featuring Arturo Sandoval  
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Fairchild Botanical Gardens  
CONTACT: 305-667-1651

WHAT: “Moonlight and Music” jazz concert  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
WHERE: The Deering Estate  
CONTACT: 305-235-1688

WHAT: One Love  
WHEN: 9 p.m.  
WHERE: Voyage Ultra lounge  
CONTACT: 305-986-9837

SUNDAY •  
FEBRUARY 15

WHAT: Escape the Fate  
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Culture Room  
CONTACT: 305-442-9671

WHAT: A Bronx Tale  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Parker Playhouse  
CONTACT: 954-462-0222

WHAT: Gala for Two Pianos  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
WHERE: United Methodist Church  
CONTACT: 786-303-5397

WHAT: Coconut Grove Arts Festival  
WHEN: 9am  
WHERE: Coconut Grove  
CONTACT: 305-447-0401

WHAT: Coconut Grove Arts Festival  
WHEN: 9am  
WHERE: Coconut Grove  
CONTACT: 305-447-0401

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

# LOVE LETTERS

Valentine's  
Day  
Dedications

To Natasha a.k.a. My Love Bunny  
I thank God everyday for a beautiful angel like you. I will always love you lots and lots. Hugs and kisses.  
Forever yours,  
George

To Paolo:  
I've known you for four years and it only keeps on getting better, let's continue this awesome ride.  
Love you forever,  
Francesca

Querida Susa,  
You are the star fruit of my eye. Every minute with you brings me joy, and every minute without you leaves me thinking blissfully of thee.  
Con Amor,  
Gio

To Gretel Vigo,  
If I was to choose between loving you and breathing, I would use my last breath to say: I LOVE YOU!  
Love, Roberto

My beloved Edd, Without you my life would be duller than dull! You bring me love, laughs & panic attacks! Besitos, your beloved Xuxa

My Gio,  
I feel the same as when we first met: butterflies at the thought of spending the rest of our days together!  
ILU! Susa



**Pulse**



# Relationships, not fantasies, need work

I'm sure everyone has seen Cinderella before. Prince Charming slips on the glass shoe, they fall in love and live happily ever after. Right?

What Disney fails to tell you is that Charming loses his job in the castle and takes up drinking and gambling as a hobby. Cinderella gains 20 pounds and constantly nags Charming about his laziness. Then Charming gets tired of all the bellyaching and runs off with Pocahontas.

So is this really happily ever after?

It's really up to you and your partner.

What a lot of people don't understand is that relationships take a lot of work. And not just at the beginning when you're trying to grab Mr. or Mrs. Right, but throughout the entire partnership.

Losing weight and learning how to play an instrument have a lot of things in common with relationships: they take practice, patience, persistence and a lot of studying.

I love it when my girlfriend, Eddith, anticipates something I may need or want. Being able to satisfy your partner's needs doesn't happen over night.

I remember going to a diner with Eddith one night and she ordered a burger and fries. When her food arrived, I asked the waiter if he could bring her some mayo. Later, she told me she was impressed that I remembered she likes her burgers with mayo.

This takes attention to detail, but it earns you brownie points.

Too often, we chase hard after that person that's had our attention for a while, but once we get them, we lose that ambition. It's normal; people get tired of things after a while. Relationships are no different. The person you are today may not be the person you will be two or three years from now.

The same is the case with your partner. That's often why relationships are more about the journey instead of the destination. If you're not growing together, you're sure to grow apart. And there are going to be a lot of bumps during the ride, but it's those bumps that make the ride memorable.

It's not always going to go the way you want it to go. Trust me.

I remember my first date (she didn't think it was a date) with Eddith. It was a disaster.

We went to a little 24-hour Cuban restaurant called Chicos. I brought my A-game. She was laughing at all my jokes and was into the conversation. As I was taking a bite of my *pan tostado*, an angry customer gets into a fight with a waiter. Next thing I know, a glass cup is thrown at the waiter's ear and blood splatters everywhere.

She freaks out and immediately says we have to leave.

And what do I say?

"Relax, chill. I'm hungry. I didn't pay for this food for someone else to ruin it." She just gave me a crazy look.

Now she gives me another crazy look that makes me smile. I don't always get that smile though. Our journey's been filled with lots of good times, but there have been some rough patches. It should be expected and it's OK.

Let me be the first to tell you that your partner is going to let you

down.

I'm not a big fan of confrontations, so until recently, I didn't like to deal with it.

Who said it's bad to go to bed angry? Sometimes it's better to sleep on it before you say something you may regret. I used to get upset with Eddith because she was always running late. Instead of arguing about it then, we enjoyed our night out and talked about it the next day. Sometimes biting your tongue goes a long way.

A good friend once told me that love is knowing how much of someone's crap you're willing to put up with. And it's partially true.

Eddith hates it when I speed, when I forget to hold the door for her or if I kiss her with morning breath. I can't stand it when she worries so much or when she's careless.

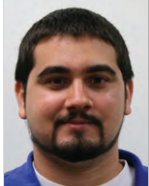
Despite these little annoyances, we see beyond them and focus on the bigger picture.

But it's these imperfections that make us who we really are. And I've got to say I've got the most perfect imperfect gal there is.

So are you ready to go work for happily ever after? I know I am.

Happy Valentine's Day.

**COLUMN**



CHARLIE GRAU

## METALCALYPSE



JONAS THOMPSON/THE BEACON

**HEAD BANGING:** Bassist Ola Flink performed with Swedish death metal band "Soilwork" at the Witore Room on Thursday Feb. 5 2009.

## diversions



**THE CINEMATIC**

# Friday the 13th pays homage, brings clichés to theaters

The hockey-masked killer with mama issues is wreaking havoc on the unluckiest day of the year in the re-imagining of the 1980 classic horror film, Friday the 13th.

The film opens in black and white on Camp Crystal Lake in 1980, with a woman being chased by someone brandishing a machete. The woman turns out to be Pamela Voorhees, who held the camp counselors responsible for her son Jason's accidental drowning.

In the middle of Mrs. Voorhees' rambling on why she is doing this, a terrified camp counselor fights back and beheads Mrs. Voorhees. Alive and living in the woods, Jason sees this and vows to avenge his mother's death by killing anyone who gets near Camp Crystal Lake.

Two decades later, a group of college kids settle in a cabin near the lake to have a great weekend of sex, booze and drugs. When a lonely traveler (Jared Padalecki) stops by their cabin in search of his missing sister, things take a turn for the worse as Jason Voorhees (Derek

Mears) goes on a legendary killing spree.

The film's writers, Damian Shannon and Mark Swift, manage to create a different mythology for the Jason Voorhees' evolution by taking different aspects of the first three original *Friday the 13th* movies and putting those references into the remake. They manage to take everything that Jason fans love about the franchise, whether it's the grisly kills that befall unlucky victims or gratuitous sex scenes.

References to the franchise include Jason covering his head with a sack as in *Friday the 13th Part 2* to a climactic showdown in a barn which is a homage to *Friday the 13th Part 3*. The screenwriters manage to keep the same formula that made the *Friday the 13th* franchise famous: If you have sex or take drugs during the movie, it is guaranteed that you are doomed beyond all recognition.

The acting in the movie is average, but by the time it reaches its climax, the performances dwindle down to people screaming, crying and

being on alert for Jason. Eventually, it becomes acting that you would expect in any other horror film, no matter what franchise it is.

The characters in the film are cliché as they are the same kind that would usually show up in a movie like this. They range from the slutty girl who likes to take off her clothes to the comedic relief of the movie, who happens to be a pothead.

The first 10 minutes of the film feature Jason dispatching a group of unlucky campers in a brutal and ruthless sequence to watch.

The movie continues at a slow pace as another group of characters are introduced. The pace eventually picks up when Jason resumes gruesomely picking out the college kids one by one.

An element that makes the film more intense than its predecessors is the rejuvenation of Jason Voorhees. In all the *Friday*

*the 13th* films that Jason appeared stalking his prey, he would walk slow and eventually catch up to them. This time around, he is a lean, mean killing machine and moves as fast as a NFL lineman. Even if you were trying to outrun Jason, there would be no escape because he can move as fast as you can, which is really scary.

He can also maneuver throughout Camp Crystal Lake via a built-in tunnel system that gives him an advantage in hunting his target. Jason dispatches his prey in a ruthless and realistic fashion, even going as far as using hunting equipment – bear trap and bow and arrow – to kill those who trespass the ground he lives and feeds off of.

Though this film has typical cliché characters and barely passable acting, *Friday the 13th* manages to conjure up inventive kills, pay tribute to the first three *Friday the 13th* films and make Jason Voorhees scary again.



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SPRING INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

**MEN'S OPEN # 1**

TEAM	OVERALL
We Love Shones	3-0
Operation Repo	2-1
Lakeview Goons	1-1
Mickey Mouse Club	0-2
Gamma Phi Gamma	0-2

**MEN'S OPEN # 4**

TEAM	OVERALL
Rig City	1-0
Chaos	0-0
Undrafted	0-1
DSU	0-0-1
Underestimated	0-0-1

**SORORITY/WOMEN'S #2**

TEAM	OVERALL
Aaaahh-sssss	2-0
Phi Mu	1-1-1
Alpha Omicron Pi	1-1-1
Sigma Kappa	0-2

**MEN'S OPEN # 2**

TEAM	OVERALL
ESPN	2-0
I Don't Know Dawg	0-0
Sammy A. S. S.	0-1
Army ROTC	0-0
ArchiBallers	0-1

**MEN'S OPEN # 5**

TEAM	OVERALL
Here Snowflake	1-0
Miami Lakes Legends	1-0
Nemesis	0-1
Hustlin'...Like Rick Ross	0-1
The Other Guys	0-0

**CO-REC**

TEAM	OVERALL
Cleveland Steamers	2-0
Air Jordan	2-0
FIUSM	0-2
IHOPness	0-2

**MEN'S OPEN # 3**

TEAM	OVERALL
No Dumbish	2-0
Ballers	2-0
Dark Knight	1-1
Tenacious D	1-1
The Ninja Turtles	0-2
Good Ol' Days	0-2

**SORORITY/WOMEN'S #1**

TEAM	OVERALL
Ballin'	3-0
Delta Phi Epsilon	2-1
Alpha Xi Delta	1-2
Phi Sigma Sigma	0-3

**FRATERNITY**

TEAM	OVERALL
Phi Sigma Kappa	2-0-1
Pi Kappa Alpha	2-0
Kappa Alpha Psi	1-0-1
Sigma Alpha Mu	2-1
Tau Delta	1-1
Pi Kappa Phi	1-1
Lambda Theta Phi	1-1
Sigma Phi Epsilon	0-2
FIJI	0-3

All stats for intramural basketball leagues up to date as of Feb. 11

# Golden Panthers look to win with offense

**SOFTBALL, page 12**

program history last year with 21 wins. FIU will close out the tournament with Florida Gulf Coast on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Eagles won the Atlantic Sun Conference championship last season and are led by All-A Sun Player of the Year Cheyenne Jenks.

She posted a .398 batting average along with 16 homers last year.

Florida Gulf Coast is coming off a loss to University of South Florida in their opener last weekend.

The Golden Panthers will look to pose a threat on the offensive end against all of these teams.

FIU ranked ninth in the NCAA last season in home-runs per game (1.17) and 16th in slugging percentage (.481).

The pitching staff has also strengthened with newcomers Jennifer Gniadek and Ashley McClain. Both players made their freshmen debuts last weekend; they combined for just two earned runs so far this season.

Gniadek, the freshman from Virginia, commented on

last weekend's performance.

"The offense will come around as long as we stay the way we are pitching and defense-wise," Gniadek said.

FIU is starting out the season with some tougher non-conference teams but McClendon is clear that each weekend will bring more experience to her team.

"We definitely had tougher competition the first weekend, not to say that they're not some good teams but I feel we'll be more prepared after having one weekend under our belt."

# Junior leads in threes; guard unfazed by TOs

**WOMEN'S, page 12**

Bosilj is sixth in the conference in scoring at 15.6 points per game.

**GIVEAWAYS**

Sophomore point guard and first-year Golden Panther Michelle Gonzalez

continued to struggle with holding the basketball as she turned the ball over seven times against ASU.

In the last six games, Gonzalez had at least three turnovers, something Russo stressed despite the team's recent improvement.

Although Gonzalez has

had a knack for fumbling, she continues to carry the load at her position and has been able to rank third in the conference in assists per game (4.6), and force turnovers of her own with her team-leading two steals per contest.



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## WEEKEND MATCHUPS



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**SWINGING AHEAD:** Third baseman Jessica Landau fouls a pitch against Auburn on Feb. 7. The Golden Panthers lost 2-1 in nine innings of play. The team's record is now 2-3. Head coach Beth McClendon hopes her team's record is 7-3 by the end of the weekend.

## Golden Panthers hope to sweep five-game series

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**  
Staff Writer

After picking up two wins last weekend against Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Jacksonville, head coach Beth McClendon has a big appetite for the games on the menu this weekend as well.

"I expect to win five games," she said. "Four of the five teams haven't played yet, this will be their opening weekend and I think that alone gives us a little bit more of an advantage."

FIU will look to improve their 2-3 record in this weekend's Blue & Gold Felsberg

Memorial.

First up to bat against the Golden Panthers is Michigan State on Feb. 13 at 6:00 p.m. at University Park.

The Spartans of Michigan State posted a 27-29 record last year while going 8-8 in the Big Ten, marking their best conference finish in five years. This weekend will be their season opener.

FIU will follow up with St. John's, also on Feb. 13, starting at 8:00 p.m. St. John's finished 5-17 in the Big East Conference last season. Pitcher Kat Lawrence will be a key player; she finished top 10 in the conference in innings

pitched (164.1), games started (28) and strikeouts (163). The Golden Panthers will face Temple and Georgetown on Feb. 14 at 6 and 8 p.m. respectively.

Temple struggled last Spring, dropping 15 conference games for the first time in program history with a roster plagued by injuries. Their main contributor, Courtney Norene, was a second team All-Atlantic 10 selection last year and currently leads her club in all-time homers with 22.

Georgetown put up their best season in

**SOFTBALL, page 11**

### NOTEBOOK: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Wins spark newfound momentum

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

From a record standpoint, this season has been the worst for FIU since Cindy Russo arrived on campus 33 years ago. While losing 18 of 22 games, Russo went through stretches of not talking to the media as her team struggled to find an identity on both sides of the court.

After back-to-back Sun Belt Conference victories, the veteran coach is glad to talk about her upstart team and their newfound defensive prowess.

"We're just hungry and scrappy," Russo told *fiusports.com*. "We're playing some really good defense and rebounding well but it's all about being energetic right now."

The Golden Panthers held the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State University to just 44 points each in the two wins and forced both opponents to shoot under 40 percent shooting from the field, which included holding the ULL under 30 percent.

The defensive effort has lead Russo to believe her team can make a run, and the Golden Panthers will have the advantage of playing three of their last four games at home, beginning with a Feb. 8 meeting vs. Troy at 6 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

### 3-POINT TEAR

Leading scorer Monika Bosilj has made a living at the three-point line this season, leading the SBC with 2.5 three-pointers a game as of Feb. 9. The junior forward padded her league leading 60 three-pointers as she has converted on nine of them over the last two games, six coming against ASU.

**WOMEN'S, page 11**

## Freshman wows coach with debut performance; confuses opponents

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. Sports Director

In her first start at the Division I level, she shut down the No. 18 ranked team in the nation.

Freshman Jennifer Gniadek held the University of North Carolina to three hits in 6.1 innings, yet head coach Beth McClendon was somewhat surprised.

"I don't know that we were expecting as much as we got from her," second-year coach McClendon said. "I think in the long run we were, but to have it this early is a really nice surprise."

For Gniadek, the transition from high school to the college ranks is a process made easier by her head coach.

"No mistakes, she [McClendon] doesn't take anything but the best," Gniadek said.

McClendon vouches for the starting pitcher out of Hickory High

School in Virginia.

During the first opening five games, Gniadek made an appearance in three. She lost against UNC, then came on in relief the next day against Auburn only to lose her second game of the season. At this point, she had pitched 11.1 innings with an earned run average (ERA) of .81.

But it was in the last game of the weekend series against Jacksonville that Gniadek would not be denied her first collegiate win.

She entered the game in the third inning and disposed of nearly every Jacksonville batter she faced. In five innings of work, she allowed one hit, no runs and struck out 10 batters.

Still, Gniadek says she needs to work on some technical aspects of her windup.

"My mechanics aren't all that great right now so we're going to spend the next couple of weeks working on that," she said.

Established starter Kasey Barrett's

arm is perhaps benefiting the most from Gniadek's contributions to the team; Barrett is no longer pressured to pitch complete games like she did so many times last season.

Gniadek believes the change of pace both pitchers bring in a game is confusing opponents.

While Barrett feeds batters several rise-balls, Gniadek redirects their eyes to the ground with an overpowering drop-ball.

She hopes the next five-game weekend series, starting today, will yield better results from a win-loss standpoint, but is not discouraged by her 1-2 record.

"The record wasn't that good but personally I thought it was OK," Gniadek said. "We had some really close games, it would have been nice to come out on top but those will come later in the season; the offense will come around as long as we stay the way we are pitching and defense-wise."



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**STARTING STRONG:** Freshman Jennifer Gniadek winds up against No. 18 ranked University of North Carolina.