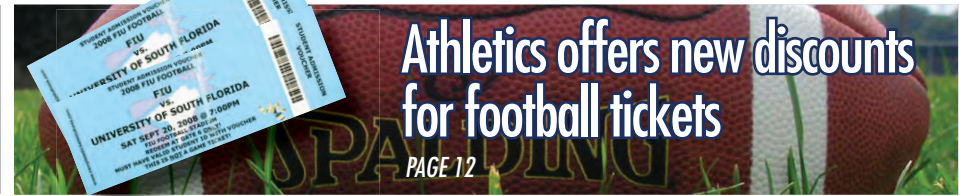




Sexuality, strength to be discussed in Vagina Monologues

PAGE 7



Athletics offers new discounts for football tickets

PAGE 12

SPOTLIGHT

LIFE! PAGE 9



i can has date nao?

COLUMN: Technolust shows you new, geeky ways to say "I love you" this weekend.

OPINION PAGE 6

Even at a university as diverse as FIU, gay acceptance — or rather, the lack thereof — is a challenge many students face.

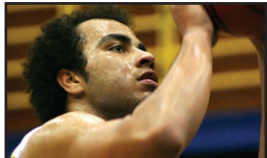
AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Students learn about self-esteem and appreciation for others with blue ribbons at the 2009 Leadership Summit.

OPINION PAGE 6

A Muslim-American offers personal insight on the conflict in Gaza and the future of the countries at stake.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Freshman center Asprilla still not cleared to play due to recurring back issues; new transfer already on campus.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

There's no reason to go hungry at the SoBe Wine and Food Festival with plenty of hotspots that offer tasty, cheap eats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Students for Environmental Action Workshop, Feb. 11, 11am.: Jump on the Green bandwagon by going to this event at GC 305.

Marilyn Manson's Trismegistus, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.: Enjoy art by Brian Hugh Warner — yes that's his real name and yes he paints. This very eventful event will be happening at the 101 Exhibit.

Ne-Yo, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.: Spend a night with a man that proudly sings about loving "Miss Independent" — we think he just wants to be assured a pre-nup.

Battle of the Sexes Comedy Show, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.: You're invited by Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity to attend their fundraising comedy show in the GC ballrooms!

International Noise Conference, Feb. 12, 10 p.m.: Enjoy a whole bunch of noise to challenge your eardrums or just freak you out a bit at Churchill's Pub.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 65 HIGH: 76

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 65 HIGH: 82

FRIDAY
Isolated t-storms
LOW: 64 HIGH: 80

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GREEKS GO GREEN



RENEWING:

Veronique Nydam, sophomore and Hollis Bubla (right) recycle their plastic bottle for Go Green! hosted by Sigma Kappa and Lambda Chi.

ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Competition spurs recycling race

JORGE VALENS
Contributing Writer

The Betty Chapman Plaza is usually the forefront for many organizations to spread the word about their respective worthy causes.

For this entire week, Go Green, a multi-organization effort to promote on-campus awareness for recycling and the environment, will occupy the area in front of the Graham Center with a message for the environment and unity among all campus organizations.

This project is a joint venture between Sigma Kappa and Lambda Chi.

"This is a Greek led project that shows that Greek organizations want what's best for FIU and the world," said Adrian Torres, chapter relations president for Lambda Ki Alpha.

These two Greek organizations united due to a mutual interest in preserving the envi-

ronment and are hoping that other organizations on campus will follow suit.

"We're just trying to be good to the environment, doing what

of competition and a strict measurement procedure to track the progress of on-campus organizations to see who can collect the most recyclable

"We're just trying to be good to the environment, doing what we can to recycle by competing with other universities."

Steven Fernandez
Lambda Chi, external vice president

we can to recycle by competing with other universities," said Steven Fernandez, external vice president for Lambda Chi.

Upon hearing about the project, Recyclemania, an organization that promotes recycling and environmental activism on college and university campuses, decided to contribute their resources.

Recyclemania uses a spirit

material. This maximizes the amount of recyclables collected and unites campus organizations in a race.

Their goal is to use this method not only to make an environmental impact on campus, but ultimately on a grander scale.

Go Green hopes that this will

RECYCLE, page 3

SGC-UP

Night with Legend postponed indefinitely

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

John Legend's lecture at FIU scheduled for Feb. 11 was postponed due to his grandfather's death.

As of press time, the Student Government Council at University Park, sponsor of the event, does not have a reschedule date for the performance.

According to SGC-UP, 1,100 students already bought tickets to the event that was to be held at the U.S. Century Bank Arena at 5 p.m..

Nivv Oudit, the main coordinator of the event and SGC-UP speakers bureau, said he received an e-mail from Legend's agent Monday at 1 a.m.

"We formulated a plan of action," he said.

The first step, according to Oudit and Ben Badger, SGC-UP press secretary, is to postpone the event and find out when Legend will be available next.

A possible conflict is the fact that Legend is leaving the country on a world tour on Feb. 26 and coming back April 6, according to his Web site.

SGC-UP is waiting for his agency's response concerning a reschedule of the event.

"There are a lot of things in the equation," Oudit said. "This is the harsh reality of the entertainment industry and we're trying really hard to address that."

Oudit said Legend's agency offered the option of replacing him with another artist. But he said it was "impractical" because of all the publicity done for Legend's performance.

LEGEND, page 3

SGC-UP SENATE

Speed-Pass Act approved, other bills tabled

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

After much debate in their chambers, Student Government Council at University Park voted to approve the Senate Speed-Pass Act during a meeting that also saw the postponement of voting on the Elections Code Reform Act of 2009.

The Speed-Pass Act, written by Senate Speaker Jean Roseme and Senate Speaker Pro-Tempe Christo-

pher Ponce, is intended to allow the Senate the chance to vote for a bill during the same meeting that it is first read.

Under the current bylaws, each bill introduced into the body must be read and then voted upon during a later meeting, with the intention that senators will have enough time to study the bill.

Senators debated for half an hour on amending the bill, some claiming that the bill needed to be reworded.

"How ironic is it that this bill, intended to speed the voting system up, will be tabled again and held back until next meeting?" said Loren Fraute, Student Government Association graduate senator.

Another major piece of legislation passed at the meeting included the Senate Hearings Bill, allowing senators to hold hearings on all cabinet members and governing council members that belong to the executive branch of SGC-UP.

"How often have you heard of or seen governing councils come here and give us a report on how they spend their money?" said David Dial, senator for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, co-sponsor of the Senate Hearings Bill.

One of the largest bills tabled during the meeting included the Elections Code Reform Act, calling upon the creation of political parties among

SGC-UP, page 3

THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

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CABRALITICS

Maidique contract incites ultimatum

Dear *Beacon*,
I was reading your front page this past Monday when I stumbled upon a story about FIU's president, Modesto Maidique, who has renegotiated his contract so that he'll be paid almost half a million dollars a year through 2015. This is despite the fact that he is stepping down as president as soon as a replacement has been named later this year. This deal, already ratified by the Board of Trustees, was made during a lean economic period when majors are being cut and employees are being

let go, which brings me to the purpose of this article: We need to negotiate a contract.

I mean, I know these are tough economic times, but the fact is, in order for a school to have an awesome president and a paper to have a decent columnist, you've got to spend a little money.

The following is a list of my demands. Some of them are a bit costly and you're going to have to cut back on some things to accommodate me, but that's a sacrifice I'm perfectly willing for you to make.



CHRIS CABRAL

DEMAND NUMBER ONE:

One year's paid vacation: As you already know, Maidique's contract includes the right to take a one-year sabbatical with one year's full pay. That's a year-long paid vacation. That's my first demand. I want the right to take a year off without losing out on the money I make as a columnist.

Now, I know \$162 a year is a lot of money. But there are so many things I want to do! With \$162 and some free time, I can see all of Dade County through the windows of a public bus, and still have enough money

left over to build my dog the dream house she's always wanted.

DEMAND NUMBER TWO:

Assistants: *The Miami Herald* noted in an article on Maidique's contract that it includes raises for his two top lieutenants. That brings me to my next point. I don't even have lieutenants. Or assistants. Or even henchmen. You guys (and girls) can't expect me to keep writing this drivel by myself. I need help.

CABRALITICS, page 9

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POLICE NOTES

Jan. 30
A \$15,000 2004 Honda was reported stolen from the east side of the football stadium, after being left in park for about three hours. The vehicle was later located in Parking Lot 6 by the owner of the vehicle.

Feb. 3
A student reported a lost wallet at Biscayne Bay Campus. The contents of the wallet included a student ID, driver's license, debit card and \$200.

Feb. 4
Unknown suspects damaged a parking decal, removing the word "housing" by use of an unknown tool. The decal damage is valued at \$15.

A student was transported to Kendall Regional Hospital by a Miami-Dade ambulance after reporting having abdominal pain.

-Compiled by Cheryl Malone

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 6 article, "Legislature should consider facts before taking action," a student's name was spelled incorrectly. The actual name of the senior who formerly received Bright Futures benefits should have been Farrel Liger.

In the Feb. 9 article, "Forum focuses on academic concerns," Ramirez's first name, Helena, was omitted. Also, Robert Chung did not help coordinate the event.

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

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Gas prices on the rise again

Gas prices have gone up about 17 cents in Florida over the past month, according to the American Automobile Association.

AAA states that the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas is about \$1.99 in Florida, up from \$1.82 in January. West Palm Beach recorded the highest per gallon average in the state at about \$2.08.

Florida's prices are above the national average, which AAA states is about \$1.92 per gallon. It is still lower than the \$3.05 per gallon average from last year.

African honeybees call South Florida home

Seven years after first being spotted in the Tampa Bay area, African honeybees have established themselves across South Florida.

Experts estimate up to 80 percent of wild bee colonies in the region are now hybridized with the aggressive strain.

Florida recorded its first death caused by Africanized bees last April when a man from Fort Lauderdale was stung more than 100 times while working in Okeechobee County.

NATIONAL

FBI assists salmonella outbreak case

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said that it will assist in the investigation of the salmonella outbreak that has been linked to a southern Georgia plant on Feb. 9.

More than 1,300 foods that used ingredients from the Peanut Corporation of America's processing plant in Blakely, Georgia, have been recalled.

Federal and state officials confirmed that the plant knowingly shipped tainted products after salmonella in the plant was found. More cases of illnesses are still being reported.

- Compiled by Paulo O'Swath

Foundation struggles with economy

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

As the U.S. economy struggles, so have the University endowments.

The FIU Foundation Inc., a non-profit organization in charge of soliciting funds and gifts for projects important to the University's goals, has seen a 23 percent decrease in its investment pool.

Its loss of funds may lead to less money for different projects funded by endowments, such as need-based scholarships sponsored by an endowment account in the Foundation.

The non-profit organization's losses are a direct result of the fledging economy and fluctuations in the stock market, which has affected its many investments, which include stocks, bonds and real estate.

"We have a very diverse portfolio, which is comparable to other portfolio's [of other universities] around the nation," said Aimee Martinez, the FIU Foundation business manager and assistant treasurer.

An endowment is money that is donated and then invested into an account. The FIU Foundation is split into three different types of reserves: the general reserve, the endowment reserve and administrative reserve.

The general reserve absorbs any market irregularities that may occur in the endowment reserve and is controlled by the Board of Directors, while administrative reserves have funds that are not affected by the market fluctuations.

According to Martinez, the administrative reserve handles faculty research, lobbying, advancement operations and the president's salary, which the state matches.

FUNDS LOST

Harvard University: \$8 billion loss

University of Florida: \$1.25 billion loss

Florida State University: \$447 million loss

University of Virginia: \$1 billion loss

University of California system: \$1 billion loss

Dartmouth University: \$220 million loss

Penn State University: \$300 million loss

In the past, the Foundation has been able to receive excellent returns for its investments, with nearly a 16.7 percent return going toward various accounts.

"We were able to distribute more money," said Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, the current executive director of the organization.

But according to Martinez, the FIU Foundation's 2008-2009 estimated budget was \$37.2 million. As of Dec. 31, the organization has been 20 percent below its \$17.3 million projected expenses.

"We are looking at ways to save money. We're looking at every expense," Gonzalez-Levy said.

The FIU Foundation has tried to find ways to save on costs by downsizing on areas such as traveling, conferences and training. In terms of staff layoffs, however, employees' fates lie with the University and not the organization.

"All Foundation employees are University employees," Martinez said, citing herself and Gonzalez-Levy as examples.

While it seems that only endowment funded operations will experience losses, some sectors not tied to market fluctuations may feel the brunt of the lagging economy.

According to Gonzalez-Levy, scholarships funded by unrestricted donations may have difficulties in locating funding.

"That's the trickle effect of a bad economy," Martinez said.

While the University struggles with its endowment issues, they are not alone.

According to the *Palm Beach Post*, the University of Florida, which has the largest endowment in the state university system, lost \$104 million from its \$1.25 billion budget.

Ivy League schools have experienced similar fates as they have seen a decrease in their investment pools, with Harvard University experiencing an \$8 billion loss in its \$36.9 billion endowment.

According to a study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, university endowments worth more than \$1 billion have seen an average of a 20 percent decrease while colleges with \$100 million-\$500 million endowments experienced an average of a 23 percent loss.

"Everyone is hurting," Gonzalez-Levy said. "Other universities are going through what we are going through, both public and private."

The University did not respond to repeated attempts by *The Beacon* to inquire on its total endowment and the losses that occurred.

Elections bill tabled again

SGC-UP, page 1

student government and calling for members of the Student Elections Board to hold a neutral position by not affiliating themselves with a party or candidate.

Senators in the body agreed to table the Elections Act after it was agreed among the Senate that the bill, a two and a half page document, was too large to be amended and closely examined during one meeting.

"There were some things that just needed to be tabled. After the last Senate meeting, a lot of senators may not have been prepared for this meeting, especially on the readings about the elections [bill]. I am open to hearing

students debate about the elections," Dial said.

"It's a normal Senate procedure that when you want to, you can table a vote. I don't blame the senators. These bills will be part of our bylaws, so we want our senators to be aware of them," Roseme said after the meeting.

Christopher Cabral, senator for the College of Arts and Sciences and co-sponsor of the bill, shares a different point of view on the issue.

"I understand the fact that some students were not aware about some of the things being discussed in the bill. But this bill, in some form of fashion, has been passed around to senators for the past three

months," Cabral said.

A resolution was also passed during the meeting, condemning the beating of a student during a football game by an athletics employee during a game in October.

"Of course, we had the Speed-Pass Act approved at least. Hopefully, that'll prevent a resolution like this one from being held back for three months, when the topic and controversy dies down," Cabral said.

The meeting concluded with hearings to approve Cristina Loreto into the cabinet position of director of academic affairs. The former students' advocate was elected into her position by a unanimous vote in the body.

Legend reschedule uncertain

LEGEND, page 1

"People bought tickets to see John Legend, not anybody else," Badger added.

Oudit then contacted other "relevant parties" such as the production company and FIU band, scheduled to play at the event.

Even if a reschedule was possible, it is uncertain if the event would be held in the U.S. Century Bank arena, its original location. Oudit mentioned the FIU Stadium and the Kovens Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus as possibilities, but excluded the Graham Center Ballrooms as an option as it does not have the capacity.

"There are a lot of different things to consider," Badger said. "We don't have an answer right now and everything is still being discussed."

SGC-UP will be informing the student body via mass e-mails and by using the Web sites they initially used to advertise the event, including the University home page.

"It is very unfortunate because everybody was looking forward to it and we were just ready to go," Oudit said. "Unfortunately this happens, but our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Legend and his family."

Raymond E. Lloyd Sr., Legend's maternal grandfather, passed away Feb. 7 at the age of 88.

Go Green promotes activism

RECYCLE, page 1

extend not just to Greek organizations, but also to any and all organizations on campus willing to contribute.

Go Green will only be accepting glass and plastics for the competition. They will also be accepting paper, but it will not be counting toward any organization's running total.

The organization that

submits the most recyclables according to the tallies will win a prize yet to be determined by Go Green.

"We want everyone to go green with us," said Sigma Kappa Philanthropy Chair Blair Abascal.

Ultimately, Torres wants to see University goers continue this project without the need for any specific leadership.

"The purpose of this of course is to raise awareness in the sense of getting campus re-involved into [recycling]," Torres said. "We are trying not to build any barriers, we want mutual participation."

Go Green will be collecting recyclables from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 9-13.


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Student Leadership Summit a blue ribbon event

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

"I'm good enough, smart enough, and, doggone, people like me."

That's the message students, faculty and staff got at the Sixth Annual Student Leadership Summit, which took place Feb. 7 at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. About 300 people participated, according to Beverly Dalrymple, director for the Center for Leadership and Service.

The summit, a collaboration between different departments within the Division of Student Affairs and Johnson & Wales University, was mostly funded by the Student Government Association. Although SGA funded most of the event, this year the summit had to look for other sources of funding, Dalrymple said.

"This year we had budget cuts and we were looking at ways that we could still have the funding," Dalrymple said. "Johnson & Wales held a leadership summit at this campus last year on their own, and we decided that if we did it together we could share some of the costs, so we invited them to join in."

All the organizations involved in the planning of the summit received a \$5,000 grant from Target, as well as sponsorships and door prizes from Aramark, Panorama Travel and Omicron Delta Kappa Society the FIU chapter, among others.

The summit was free and open to all

students and staff who completed a pre-registration form on the Wolfe Center online portal. Check-in began at 8 a.m. and participants received free breakfast and coffee, lunch, refreshments and a closing reception buffet.

This year's summit was made up of three concurrent blocks of eight sessions each, and an opening keynote session with speaker Karin Malkowski Stende, president of Stende Inspirations, an organization dedicated to helping enhance the quality of student life on campus through speakers and trainers, according to its Web site.

"I was thrilled to be invited because I think there is so much potential for college students in particular to change the world and make it a more positive place," said Stende, who was visiting the University for the first time.

Stende lead the participants through several introductory activities and ice breakers.

"The programs that are here at this particular leadership summit offer the students so many opportunities to enhance their leadership skills," Stende said. "They help them become better human beings, better citizens and better leaders."

Participants could choose three from a choice of 24 learning sessions - with topics ranging from leadership and communication skills to resume writing and interviewing strategies - and were all required

to attend the keynote session.

"Today I learned about the four different communication styles. I am an expressive, and my opposite would be a driver," said Noel Mauro, a junior public relations major and vice president of professional development for the Public Relations Student Society of America. "I have been involved in leadership for a long time, and I've been feeling like I've reached a plateau, but this is showing me that there is more to learn."

At the beginning of the day, each participant was given three ribbons, which they were supposed to hand out to those they wished to acknowledge.

"We spend a lot of time seeing the bad in people and when we take the time off our day to acknowledge others, it's a really nice thing," said Andrea Miranda, a freshman psychology major.

Miranda is also a 2009 Panther Camp facilitator and member of Phi Sigma Sigma.

Around 50 students from Johnson & Wales participated in the summit. Iasia Jenkins, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, had some trouble getting around BBC.

"We got lost and students were willing to help us find how to get back to the lunch area and the different rooms that we needed to go to," said Jenkins, who is also the editor in chief of the Johnson & Wales school newspaper, *The Wildcat Chronicles*. "I am a leader at my campus, so I thought

coming here would help me broaden my point of view, and I wanted to see how a different campus works and meet other students."

At the end of the summit, most participants, including staff members, were wearing a blue ribbon with gold lettering that read "Who I am Makes a Difference." The concept of the blue ribbons was created by Helice Bridges, who also trained Stende as a "blue ribbon ambassador," in the 1980s.

The blue ribbon ceremony consists of taking a minute to acknowledge people who may have made an impact on a person's life and presenting them with a blue ribbon, according to Stende. Those people are then given another three ribbons so they can pass them along to others.

The "Who I am Makes a Difference" acknowledgement process has been translated into 12 languages and received the 2005 Mahatma Gandhi Global Nonviolence Award, according to its Web site.

"I already see students taking more ribbons and saying, 'I want to send it to my teachers,' or 'I want to acknowledge my mom or somebody else I know,'" said Stende. "And I really do believe that the students here are going to take those ribbons and paint Florida blue."

For more information on the "Who I am Makes a Difference" blue ribbon, visit www.blueribbon.org.

FOODGASM

Eating late on a budget during the wine, food festival

I am exhausted. Midterms are coming up for most students, the "February blues" are descending and we just can't believe that there are two more months of the semester left until summer.

For me, midterms are secondary to my number one task -

coordinating the Perrier Jouet BubbleQ, hosted by Tom Collichio and friends, for the South Beach Wine & Food Festival happening on the beach between Feb. 19-22. We are just nine days out from the big event - a beachside blowout serving only barbecue and Perrier-Jouet champagne to more than 3,000 guests. It's a lot of pressure to make this party run smoothly, but in the end it is so highly satisfying that it outweighs any amount of sleep-deprived crankiness I get.

I will be on South Beach starting next Monday, getting ready for Friday's big event with 150 fellow classmates.

We have to organize the student associates, prep the food for all the chefs at the Miami Beach Convention Center and get the site ready. But when we head home on those late nights throughout the week, where do we eat?

As student coordinators or associates for the festival, our number one worry as we leave South Beach, sometimes close to 1 a.m., is where we can get some dinner. Although I am a resident BBC girl, I have done some research so that we can all find some eats on the

beach on our meager student budgets.

One of my favorite grazing sites is Cheeseburger Baby (1505 Washington Ave., Miami Beach).

One of the celebrity hot spots, this back-to-basics burger joint is an underrated South Beach staple. Cheeseburger Baby is open until 4 a.m. on weeknights and 6 a.m. on weekends, so even when the festival is over, it is perfect for that post-club hop, pre-hang-over 5 a.m. second dinner.

And did I mention it is dirt cheap? This is a college student mecca: \$6.50 for a half-pound cheeseburger, fast food-like service, open all night. For the students on the beach for this event, it is the perfect stop.

You can also go for free delivery service from South Beach favorite Big Pink (157 Collins Ave., at Second St., Miami Beach). Although they are on the southernmost tip of

FEATURED RESTAURANTS

CheeseBurger Baby
1675 Alton Rd.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(305) 534-1406

Big Pink
157 Collins Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(305) 532-4700

Sultan Kabob
1903 Collins Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(305) 531-8598



South Beach, their delivery option makes dinner quick and easy - you don't even have to leave your chair.

They only deliver in the South Beach area, so unless you live on the beach, BBC students can only use this service if they are staying on the beach for the South Beach Wine & Food Festival.

Big Pink is a traditional American restaurant, specializing in big-as-your-head burgers, but also serving everything from meatloaf and mashed potatoes to buckets of buffalo chicken wings. The prices are moderate.

If you are looking for the college freshman scrimp, you can definitely eat for under \$10.

And when you want to splurge, there are lots of delicious options on the menu. My favorite item is the Big Pink turkey burger with brie, which shows the diversity of its menu.

This burger tastes like fancy Thanksgiving, with the brie giving it a salty edge. Add some tomatoes and a side of Big Pink bucket chips and dip and exhaustion melts off of you, replaced only with foodgasms.

This 10 ounce burger, which was voted "Best on the Beach" in 2004 by *The New Times*, costs \$10.50 and you can get it until midnight Monday-Wednesday and until 5:30 a.m. the rest of the week.

Finally, one restaurant

might be a little more expensive, but for the festival associates staying at the Days Inn on Collins Ave., it is the closest spot for late-night eats.

Sultan Kabob (1903 Collins Ave., Miami Beach) is a Greek and Turkish restaurant that serves a good variety of ethnic foods from hearty gyros to a dip platter, falafel and kabobs.

Although it costs an average of \$16 per person for dinner, it is a two-block walk from the festival hotel and is the cheapest option on a block that contains nothing but boutique hotels with fancy \$100 dinner restaurants, like The Setai and The Shore Club.

This is the best restaurant for when the exhaustion kicks in and you are teetering on the edge of a coma, so you waddle the few blocks and blindly choose food off the menu, ignoring the prices just so you can have dinner before passing

out on the floor.

When I am totally worn out, eating is just a bodily function to me. When I feel like this, it is hard to stop and have the time to find and a quality experience, but even in the glam of South Beach, college-priced foodgasms are available. I had to look for them, but South Beach has its secrets, its hidden gems, its hole-in-the-wall favorites.

Keep your eyes peeled and eat on the beach on a budget during the South Beach Wine & Food Festival. I'll be too busy with the festival to write next time, but expect my post-festival, well-rested, column back March 11.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com

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READ THIS NOW!

Acceptance of gay community saves lives

A little piece of me changed on Jan. 7, as I found myself sitting in a meeting room at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

I was at the Student Leadership Summit, hosted by FIU and Johnson and Wales University, a conference for student leaders from both schools to convene, and one session would have a great impact on how I saw the world.

As we walked in, the presenter told us to grab a paper star and write our names on it. Later, we would have to write the names of very important things to us on each point of the star: our best friend, a close family member, our community and our career goals, for example.

We were about to come out of the closet.

This session had the very catchy title “Yay for Gay,” and in it, we were all playing the part of someone in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and queer, or GLBTQ, community, and we were about to “come out” to those who were most important to us.

All of a sudden you could feel a bit of tension even among the non-GLBTQ people in the room, people that would never have to do this in real life, wondering how to go about this and what people will think.

The first person we had to tell was our best friend. How he or she reacted depended on the color of our star. If it was blue, our friend accepted us.

Other colors were for friends that were a bit hesitant but ultimately supported who we were. Those in the room with a red star had to rip their friend's name off and throw it on the ground. That friend walked out of their lives.

The exercise continued similarly for all of the other tenants of our lives: family, community, coworkers, etcetera. Blue stars were lucky and were accepted by all. Red stars had their entire lives ripped up and destroyed on the ground in front of them, careers included, with nothing to look forward to in life.

The pieces of red star scattered across the carpeted floor represented a shattered life, as the participants now represented one of the about 30 percent of suicide victims that are identified as GLBTQ.

It wasn't until I looked up, however, that that moment would forever impact how

I looked at the world. Some students looked more impacted, others were literally crying.

It suddenly became clear to which students these pieces of paper merely represented an exercise and which students had actually lived this exercise.

Luckily for everyone involved, some of the students were willing to speak up very bravely and openly about their lives.

We heard stories from those who literally had to rip off points from their stars; they really did have family members reject them, friends disown them and jobs terminate them because their sexual orientation became known.

I have considered myself an “ally” for some time. An ally is someone who supports equality and acceptance for members of the GLBTQ community, without necessarily being GLBTQ themselves. Even so, this touched me.

When I meet someone who is GLBTQ here at FIU, I tend to assume that their lives have not been too severely impacted by their orientation, because, more or less, FIU is very diverse and accepting.

But I never stop to think what they may have been through before they got here. How many friends or family members put them through hell, what opportunities may have been deprived from them and what torment they have been put through by peers.

It is time for this to stop. Twenty-first century America is no place for people's lives to be destroyed for who they are.

I realize that it may be very difficult for people who were raised with certain religious values to accept homosexuality, but there is no excuse for demeaning a person's value. How can you justify driving someone to suicide?

I had to think about whether or not to write about this experience because I feel like everyone in that room formed a certain kind of bond, but determined that the message was too powerful to keep to myself.

Some people still tell jokes, or say “that's so gay,” and maybe you are just too timid to say anything when such a comment is made. But whatever your excuse, it's time to stop.

COLUMN



ERIC FELDMAN

HOPES TO AN END

Middle East can achieve peace

ANDREW SOLOMON
Staff Writer

As a Muslim-American, no conflict is more heartbreaking than the situation in the Holy Land, where the children of Palestine feel like nobody cares if they die or live. In a densely populated region like Gaza, it is fear, grief and chaos that dominate the mind-set of the average citizen. It is a conflict that I never thought could or would end peacefully, until now.

Enter my household in Coral Springs. My father is a Jew from New York City of Russian background and my mother is a Muslim from Guyana, a Third World country in South America. Coming from two people of such different backgrounds, religious and national, it is not a surprise that disagreements about world issues are commonplace under our roof.

There is a certain feeling that exists to my father when Hamas, the political party classified as a terrorist organization by the United States that controls the Gaza Strip, seeks to wipe Israel off the map. It is the same relevance he sees when Iran, a country whose president continues to deny the Holocaust, pledges his support to Hamas and calls Israel a “stinking corpse,” or when his parents told him about how their forefathers were forced to flee Russia and the prosecution they faced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

It is anti-Semitism, something he encountered while growing up in an Italian neighborhood in Brooklyn, and every so often during his career as a

public school teacher.

He sees that same hate that causes Hamas to use their own people – the Palestinians whom they claim they want freed – as human shields. When an Israeli strike causes mass Palestinian casualties, Hamas can use it as propaganda to pursue their “anti-Zionist” agenda. That's his view, at least.

Let's bring my mom into the picture. Ever since Sept. 11, 2001, the most prevalent image of Muslims in this country has been that of a terrorist: suicide bombers, airline hijackers and those who behead their enemies in the name of Allah. I am Muslim and I have always rejected this stereotype, but it isn't so easy as saying that Muslims are mostly peaceful people and hoping people are open-minded enough to accept this, because most people I encounter already are.

My mother and I recognize that there are two sides to every story, and there is not necessarily always a pure good against a pure evil; there is good and evil on both sides, which is the reason for ongoing conflict. Most non-Muslim Americans, whether they see Muslims as mostly peaceful or mostly extreme and violent, do not know or cannot identify with the mind-set of a Palestinian child. They don't know the feeling of knowing that most people do not care whether you die or live.

I do not know what it's like to know that I can turn into just another statistic that will be forgotten as tomorrow brings new headlines. What my mother and I do know, however, is that nearly a thousand Palestinian civilians have lost their lives because of Israel “protecting” itself. Thousands more have been injured; it is unfair, considering that there is not nearly as many Israeli casualties due to Palestinian offensives. But this is not a numbers game; every life is just as precious as the next and Israel does have every right to defend itself.

When you consider that one of Israel's strongest allies is the most powerful nation on Earth, the United States (and they have a fairly advanced military), my mother and I find it puzzling that they cannot specifically target the real enemy – Hamas – not the innocent civilians, without killing men, women and children who mean no harm to anybody.

We see Israel as a bully and my father sees Hamas as a terrorist organization, with which we also agree. And all three of us agree that Israel has every right to defend its citizens, as does every nation.

But at what point is the line being crossed?

The ideal scenario would be a peaceful coexistence, or even an alliance of the separate states of Israel and Palestine. As the product of such an unlikely and uncommon union, I represent the very possibility for peace.

And what has definitely not improved the situation over the past eight years is precisely what will help the situation in at least the next four: the man Americans call their president. Obama has made it clear that the cowboy diplomacy days of the Bush administration are over.

Israel will remain our ally, he said, but now he is actively doing something that George W. Bush only did in passive rhetoric. Obama is reaching out a hand to both sides, engaging discussion and recognizing our enemies as also having a voice; he feels for the people of Palestine.

No more of the ideology that any anti-American sentiment is automatically dismissed as evil. It is good to know that the person in the Oval Office could walk into my living room and see where my family and I are coming from. President Obama and I, both products of interracial unions, can agree that despite differences in culture, religion and politics, we all share common hopes that in the end should triumph over any evil.



STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX



Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official? Have something to say?

Contact us at opinion@fiusm.com and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.



Play helps foster awareness about domestic violence, gender issues

EDDITH SEVILLA
Asst. Life! Editor

This Friday, while Guadalupe Juarez directs her actresses for *The Vagina Monologues*, she will keep a special woman on her mind: her aunt.

Juarez's aunt is a victim of violence.

Knowing this motivates Juarez while she directs the students performing as part of *The Vagina Monologues*, a presentation aimed at ending violence against women and girls around the world.

"It pushes me. It gives me strength to move forward and raise awareness to contribute to this big issue," Juarez said.

The monologues will present women's experiences with their vaginas and are neither vulgar nor offensive.

One monologue will be about a woman who shaves her vagina because her husband makes her. When she stops, her husband has an affair. Another will be on the

lack of appreciation for the vagina during childbirth, according to Juarez.

The Vagina Monologues were written by Eve Ensler, a playwright, performer and activist, who has devoted her life to end violence. The program is based on Ensler's interviews with more than 200 women and celebrates women's sexuality and strength, according to *VDAY.org*. V-Day is a global movement that supports anti-violence organizations worldwide.

Maria Lopez-Boada, the program's producer, hopes that those who attend will change their social attitudes.

"Hopefully through [the performances], we change perceptions to create a better world where there is less violence and all men and women live on more equal and happier terms," Lopez-Boada said.

Although the monologues are about women, Lopez-Boada expects 50 percent of the audience to be comprised of men.

"I think men have been gener-

ally supportive because they too want a different world where the women that they know, date or are just related to don't suffer because of violence," Lopez-Boada said.

Proceeds will go toward the University's Victim Advocacy Center, the Women's Studies Center, *VDAY.org* and Kristi House, an organization dedicated to end child abuse in Miami-Dade County.

The Vagina Monologues will be presented Feb. 13-15. Cost is \$10.



Stay mindful of your weight on Valentine's

This Saturday millions of people will profess their undying love for their partners with cards, dinner and some lucky – or not-so-lucky – girls will even get an engagement ring.

COLUMN



EDDITH SEVILLA

But rest assured that even if you don't have a partner, somehow your fingers will end up unwrapping a handful of sweets. And if you're miserable because you're lonely on Valentine's Day, you may just end up consuming more sugar than you can burn off in just one workout.

Beware.

Walgreen's isle six, as my coworker refers to it, is filled with the kind of baddies – no, not goodies – that will end up in your hips and thighs. If you are one of those lucky people blessed with a fast metabolism, calories may not concern you too much but your sugar intake should.

Either way, before you open that heart shaped box of chocolates in celebration of your love, take a few minutes for a hypothetical walk down isle six to find sweet treats that won't expand your waistline.

Sweethearts Conversation Hearts are probably the most popular candies on Valentine's Day.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, Sweethearts are the small heart candies you gave your third-grade crush on Valentine's Day before they told you they didn't like you.

Their messages, ranging from "Love You" to "Be Mine," will make this treat a big hit on Saturday, especially with those of us who want to keep it low-cal. The candies are fat-free and sodium-free. The small hearts have three calories and the large hearts have six. What could be better

PULSE, page 8

Sex Carnival

02-09-09



SEXY TIMES: Using distorted goggles, students sift through colored condoms and won prizes for being the first to properly put it on a dildo. A student dressed up as a penis walked around promoting the 2009 sex carnival. The carnival informed students about safe sex practices.

Low-calorie candies help you stay on weight loss track

PULSE, page 7

than sugar-free Sweatharts made with Splenda? Now there's a sweet buy.

Some of us absolutely must have our chocolate, especially on the day we laud our love for one another.

If you don't believe me, continue reading. According to

the National Confectioners Association, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.

Now maybe not all the chocolate purchased will be from people whose partner is a chocaholic, but the point is that chocolate will reign this Saturday.

Back on isle six we may find Russell Stover's Net Carb Variety

packs. These sugar and carbohydrate-friendly chocolates and candies come in the form of Truffle Cups, Peanut Butter Cups, Toffee Squares, Mint Patties and more.

But if you want to go all out and have regular chocolate, make wise choices. For example, it might not be wise to consume the nine Hershey's kisses that will add 230 calories and 14 grams of fat to

your precious body.

While these small kisses may contribute to romantic moments, the high sugar content should encourage anyone to consume them in moderation.

When you hit the store this week, be mindful of your lover's health. I know I will. And because I'm also mindful of you, I have decided to give you a special

treat.

This Friday you will have part two of sweets that will rot your teeth, make you gain a few pounds and fill your mind with love thoughts. Stay tuned.

Check your Pulse for health, wellness and fitness every Wednesday. E-mail Eddith at eddith.sevilla@fiusm.com.

diversions

HONEST ABE has an unhappy birthday. by michelle diaz

A NOTE FROM THE ARTIST: February 12, 2009 is Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday!

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

<p>WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 11</p> <p>WHAT: Indian Society Students Association meeting WHEN: 3pm WHERE: GC 314 CONTACT: 305-348-1069</p> <p>WHAT: Students for Environmental Action workshop WHEN: 11am WHERE: GC 305 CONTACT: 305-348-1069</p> <p>WHAT: European Film Festival WHEN: 1:30pm WHERE: GC 150 CONTACT: 305-348-1069</p> <p>WHAT: Ne-Yo WHEN: 8:00pm WHERE: American Airlines Arena CONTACT: 786-777-1000</p> <p>WHAT: Marilyn Manson's Trismegistus WHEN: 11pm WHERE: 101 Exhibit CONTACT: 305-573-2101</p> <p><i>Compiled By: Mariana Ochoa</i></p>	<p>THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 12</p> <p>WHAT: Bahamian Student Organization WHEN: 3pm WHERE: GC 343 CONTACT: 305-348-1069</p> <p>WHAT: FIU Theatre Presents: The Birds WHEN: 8pm WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center CONTACT: 305-348-0496</p> <p>WHAT: International Noise Conference WHEN: 10pm WHERE: Churchill's Pub CONTACT: 305 757 1807</p> <p>WHAT: Tony Rock WHEN: 8:30pm WHERE: Miami Improv CONTACT: 305-441-8200</p> <p>WHAT: Alpha Kappa Psi Fundraising Comedy Show - Battle of the Sexes WHEN: 7pm WHERE: GC Ballrooms CONTACT: 305-348-2138</p>
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CABRALITICS

Column at risk if demands not met soon

NEWS, page 2

Two assistants at the low cost of \$52 a year would not only help me but also stimulate the economy by creating two jobs. Don't just do it for me, do it for the economy.

And if you can't give me two assistants, at least give the copy editors a raise. It can't be easy editing this column.

DEMAND NUMBER THREE:

Money to find a replacement: As you've already reported, our University's president will remain in power until his replacement is selected by a special committee.

This brings to mind the irrefutable truth that I can't keep writing "Cabralitics" forever. Some day I'll graduate, and right now the column is without a successor. Finding a replacement won't be as easy as it sounds, either.

After all, this column is called "Cabralitics," a not-all-that-clever combination of my last name and the word politics. Which means this column must be written by a Cabral or at the very least, a Cabrera.

Finding a competent person with the right name could take lengthy and expensive research and I'm going to need at least

another \$30 to do it right. Of course, there is another way to find a replacement.

We could just breed another Cabral.

But that would also cost money. I'd have to find the right person, although that's usually free (unless you use *eharmony.com*). Then I'd have to take her out to a nice dinner. And a night's stay at the luxurious Miami Executive Motel isn't cheap.

All this would cost more, of course. But a 100 percent, grade-A Cabral is worth it. You can't put a price on that (but it'd be at least \$50 minimum).

That's all I want *Beacon*. If you want me to keep writing for you, you're going to have to meet these demands.

Sure times are hard, but as FIU's administration has been pointing out, during tough times you have to make necessary sacrifices.

And like our administrators' example demonstrates, you're going to have to make the sacrifices, not me.

If you don't agree to these terms, I promise you won't see another column from me for at least another week and a half.

The ball's in your court now, *Beacon*.

TECHNOLUST

Geeky forms of expression for lovers this Valentine's Day

Before you snuggle up to the one you love this Saturday, think about surprising them with a unique, geeky way to say "I love you."

Technolust is here to help you on this, the sweetest of days, with new ways to say those three little words we all long to hear.

SAY IT WITH A LOLCAT

What better way to spread the love than with a Lolcat: a funny picture of your feline friend and a caption in silly kitty pidgin? This is a light, fun way to share your feelings with a new love or a partner with a great sense of humor.

Swing by www.icanhascheezburger.com for some inspiration and get your cat ready to pose for you. If you don't have a cat, run a google search for "funny cat pictures" and find one that makes you giggle.

Dog owners can do the same with their canine companion and get inspiration at the canine equivalent of the Internet Lolcat phenomenon, www.ihashotdog.com.

Don't know what to caption the photo with? How about, "Love, I feels it for you," "Kisses, I gives them" or "I can has hugs?"

Try "Is you wanting to be my

valentine?" if you're looking for a way to declare love for that special someone but don't quite know how to break the ice!

SAY IT WITH A SECRET

Take a cue from www.postsecret.com and make a collage on the back of a postcard that says how you feel. The Internet community is known for letting people say how they feel anonymously through postcards, revealing personal secrets and even proposing marriage.

Secrets aren't posted by request so to guarantee your Valentine sees it you're going to have to show them yourself.

You can slip your postcard between the pages of a book so they can be surprised when it falls out onto their lap or even snail mail it as love letters were meant to be.

If you're going to use either of these methods you need to be aware of two things. First, don't forget that local mail takes two days to get where it's going so you have until Thursday the latest to mail out your secret.

Second, if you're gonna go the book route and thinking of getting a poetry collection—don't! It would be love overkill.

SAY IT IN GOOGLE STREET

Surveillance issues aside, using Google's street cameras to say "I love you" is a great way to share your love with the world. Just ask Michael Weiss-Malik, a Google employee, who proposed to his wife by holding up a banner that popped the question in front of a Google street camera.

Marriage might not be your goal, then asking someone out on a date is fair game. Grab some poster board and write up your message, head down to 1325 Ocean Drive in Miami Beach to hold up your sign for Google to see.

Don't forget to tell the person you're asking out to check in at www.maps.google.com/help/maps/street-view/ so they can see you!

SAY IT IN PUBLIC

There is no geekier way to say "I love you" than by baring your feelings in public and not caring what anyone thinks. It's sweet and shows that you care enough to make a complete fool of yourself in the name of love.

So grab a boom box and hold it over your head to let the world know how you feel.

In fact, I'll lead the way: Sean Gonzalez, will you be my valentine?

COLUMN



SUSANA RODRIGUEZ

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BALANCED ATTACK



GIOVANI GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

EVEN STEVEN: Sophomore Liset Brito makes a play during a game this season. The Golden Panthers defeated No. 42 Long Beach State on Feb. 7, but lost to California Irving on Feb. 8.

Alumni get stadium section; Family Plan options available

TICKETS, page 12

supporters cost \$100, this season a minimum \$50 donation is required.

In addition, the outside sideline seats were \$100 last season, now a minimum \$25 donation is necessary. Also, end-zone seats were also reduced to \$50 per seat.

“That’s \$10 per game,” Cisco said. “What can you do in Miami on a Saturday for less than \$10?”

Ticket holders can avoid the additional donation fee if they purchase tickets before April 10.

Included in a wide range of season ticket pricing options is

the Family Plan that allows up to two adults and three children to be admitted for the price of \$300.

Meanwhile, students are still allowed to bring a guest for free. Students helped fill up the renovated football stadium in 2008, but the total ticket sales are not available.

Cisco said that last year’s season ticket sales can only be disclosed by Athletic Director Pete Garcia, who said they don’t want to concentrate on the past; they’re just looking forward now.

Tickets for football season can be purchased at the U.S Century Bank Arena. FIU had a record of 5-7 last season.

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Rodriguez admits use of performance enhancing drugs

RONALD BLUM
AP Wire

Alex Rodriguez, the player who would restore integrity to baseball's home run record, admitted Monday to using performance-enhancing drugs himself.

The All-Star third baseman said in an interview with ESPN that he used steroids with the Texas Rangers for three years, from 2001-03, in an attempt to justify his status as the game's highest-paid player after signing a 10-year, \$252 million contract.

"Back then it was a different culture," Rodriguez said. "It was very loose. I was young. I was stupid. I was naive, and I wanted to prove to everyone that, you know, I was worth, you know — and being one of the greatest players of all time."

He said he quit after 2003, his first of three AL MVP seasons, because "I've proved to myself and to everyone that I don't need any of that." He was traded to the New York Yankees before the 2004 season.

The admission came two days after Sports Illustrated reported on its Web site that Rodriguez was among 104 names on a list of players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball. The results weren't subject to discipline and were supposed to remain anonymous.

"When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt an enormous amount of pressure. I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me and I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day," Rodriguez said.

"And I did take a banned substance and, you know, for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful. And although it was the culture back then and Major League Baseball overall was very — I just feel that — You know, I'm just sorry. I'm sorry for that time. I'm sorry to fans. I'm sorry for my fans in Texas. It wasn't until then that I ever thought about substance of any kind."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks said the admission caught him by surprise.

"I feel personally betrayed. I feel deceived by Alex," Hicks said in a conference call. "He assured me that he had far too much respect for his own body to ever do that to himself. ... I certainly don't believe that if he's now admitting that he started using when he came to the Texas Rangers, why should I believe that it didn't start before he came to the Texas Rangers?"

The 33-year-old Rodriguez ranks 12th on the career list with 553 homers, including 52, 57 and 47 in his three seasons with the Rangers. He is 209 behind Barry Bonds' record 762.

Now, though, he's on top of a much different list — the highest-profile player to confess to doping, joining teammates Jason Giambi and Andy Pettitte.

Rodriguez's admission is in stark contrast to the denials of former teammate Roger Clemens and Bonds.

Bonds, a seven-time MVP, is scheduled for trial next month on charges he lied when he told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Another federal grand jury is considering whether to indict seven-time AL Cy Young Award winner Clemens on charges he lied when he told

a congressional committee last year that he never used steroids or human growth hormone.

SI.com reported Rodriguez tested positive for Primobolan and testosterone.

"It was such a loosey-goosey era. I'm guilty for a lot of things. I'm guilty for being negligent, naive, not asking all the right questions," Rodriguez said. "And to be quite honest, I don't know exactly what substance I was guilty of using."

Rather than hold a news conference, as Giambi and Pettitte did for their confessions, Rodriguez chose the controlled setting of an interview with ESPN, one of Major League Baseball's television partners.

The interview left open many questions:

— Whom did Rodriguez obtain steroids from?

— How did he pay for them?

— Did anyone help him to obtain them?

ESPN was scheduled to broadcast the full interview later Monday.

Monday's ESPN interview directly contradicted a December 2007 interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," when Rodriguez said "No" when asked if he had ever used steroids, human growth hormone or any other performance-enhancing substance.

In his 2008 book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," Jose Canseco claimed he introduced Rodriguez to a steroids dealer. Canseco, who has admitted using steroids, subsequently said he had no knowledge of any drug use by Rodriguez.

"They are looking in the wrong places,"

Canseco said in a text message to The Associated Press. "This is a 25-year cover-up. The true criminals are Gene Orza, (union head) Donald Fehr and (commissioner) Bud (Selig). Investigate them, and you will have all the answers."

SI said that Orza, the union's chief operating officer, tipped off three players in September 2004 that they would be tested. Orza has repeatedly denied that he tipped off players, saying he merely reminded them late in the season that if they had not yet been tested, baseball's drug agreement required them to be tested by the end of the regular season.

On Friday, Rodriguez is still expected to attend an event at the University of Miami, which is renaming its baseball field in his honor.

He gave \$3.9 million to the school in 2003, the largest gift ever to the Hurricanes' baseball program and money that provided much of the resources needed for renovating the existing on-campus stadium. In return, the baseball complex will be called Mark Light Field at Alex Rodriguez Park.

Despite the scandal, the facility will continue to bear Rodriguez's name, a university official said Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitive nature.

Miami baseball players and coaches were not available for comment, spokesman Mark Pray said.

Associated Press Sports Writers Tim Reynolds in Miami, Dan Gelston in Philadelphia and Stephen Hawkins in Dallas contributed to this report.

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Department cuts season ticket prices for staff

LEILANI LAUREANO
Contributing Writer

In order to sell more football tickets at an affordable rate, the Athletics Ticket Office decided to cut season ticket prices for the 2009 football season almost in half for University faculty and staff.

"We know the economy is tough now, so we wanted to make it easier for everyone," said Steve Cisco, assistant athletic director for Ticket Sales and Operations.

The school is trying to get more fans in the stands by lowering the prices and giving faculty and staff more variety.

This past season the average student attendance per game was 13,852, nearly double the average from the 2008 season, according to www.ncaa.org.

Last year all season tickets cost \$100 for everyone except students, who have free access to all intercollegiate games.

"We wanted to give the fans more options than last year," said Cisco. "Our goal is to sell out every game."

This season there will be two new package deals available for alumni and faculty and staff.

The first deal gives faculty and staff members a 50 percent discount for

NEW DEALS

Details of the athletic departments price cuts for season tickets:

- Faculty and Staff can sit at 50-yard line for \$50 with a mandatory \$50 donation
- Alumni can acquire season tickets for \$75 in addition to having a new alumni section at the stadium
- End zone seats reduced to \$50 per seat
- Students still allowed to bring one guest for free

-Compiled by Leilani Laureano

season tickets, and they will be able to sit on the 50-yard line for \$50 and a

minimum \$50 donation.

The first package also allows them to sit on the

outsides of the 50-yard line for \$50 and a \$25 donation.

The second deal for alumni, who will sit in the alumni section next to the student section, sells season tickets for \$75.

"We listened to the fans and alumni," said Cisco. "They wanted a section for alumni, and we gave it to them."

Jeremy Rowan, professor of Modern Britain, was intrigued to learn more about the new deal available for faculty.

"It's a great deal, and I will consider looking into it," Rowan said.

The faculty and staff have not been informed

about the new deals in place for them.

Maria Del Mar Logrono Narbono, professor of European History was one of the faculty members unaware of the new package.

"I had no idea," Narbona said. "I haven't received any e-mails."

The main target for the school is the faculty and staff because they are intertwined in the FIU community.

"We want the faculty and staff, the people on campus, to come and support the team," Cisco said.

Whereas last season sideline seats for FIU

TICKETS, page 10

MENS BASKETBALL: NOTEBOOK

Asprilla still not ready for return; Essola plays key role off bench

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

As the Golden Panthers' season comes to a close, the status of center Freddy Asprilla's back injury is beginning to clear up.

And it doesn't look good for FIU.

"He had two epidural shots on his spine last week, so supposedly he needs five days of recovery," said head coach Sergio Rouco. "But we don't know when he is going to be cleared by the doctors."

Asprilla has not been on the court since a home meeting with Denver on Jan. 17, where he scored 20 points. The freshman was attempting to play through the discomfort, but Rouco was not taking chances.

"I am not, under any circumstances risking one of my players," he said. "I wouldn't risk a senior and I wouldn't risk a freshman."

Asprilla himself does not want to take any risks with two herniated discs in his back.

"I can only rest my back, rehab, exercise and take medicine. That is all I can do right now," Asprilla said. "If I jump, it hurts and it keeps on hurting for a while and I can't play."

He remains the leader in rebounds per game in the Sun-Belt Conference at 8.6 boards, but the Golden Panthers will have to attempt to replace his production with senior Russell Hicks at the position down the stretch. Asprilla said his back is improving though.

"I'm feeling much better," he said. "It barely hurts anymore, but it's better to not take any risks. The doctor said that when I feel I'm ready, I can play."

Point guard Josue Soto misses the center's aggressive play inside the paint. He cannot wait for the big man to return for the remaining games in the Sun Belt Conference.

"It's been difficult because we don't have an inside presence like him," Soto said. "He's a big guy who can score, pass and rebound, just giving the ball to him. That's my job, give to him and let him work



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

A BIG PRESENCE: Freddy Asprilla and his SBC-leading rebounding average have been absent due to injury. He is doubtful to play soon.

because I know he will make us a better team."

Rouco and his staff.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

The Golden Panthers are looking to make noise in this year's SBC tournament, but they already have a player enrolled and on campus who will be eligible to wear an FIU uniform next season.

Martavis Kee, a transfer from Temple University, will be allowed to play in the Spring semester of next season after he sits out a year per NCAA transfer rules. Kee, who will be a sophomore, is a local product who attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale. The former Sun-Sentinel 6A-4A Player of the Year is a 6-foot-3 combo guard.

OLD RELIABLE

Forward Cedric Essola has battled a nagging groin injury nearly all season, but it has not stopped the junior from becoming arguably the most reliable option off the bench. Essola is averaging career highs in points (5.3) and rebounds (3.5) for the Golden Panthers in a season in which numerous injuries have forced him to have his first season with 400 minutes played.

Essola started the second half of FIU's 21-point comeback win on Feb. 7 vs. Arkansas State, replacing Hicks in the lineup, showing the trust he has earned from

SOFTBALL

Team reaches second victory in comeback

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers continued play in the Combat Classic against Jacksonville on Feb. 8 at the University Park campus. The softball team was looking for their second win of the weekend after losing to Louisville, North Carolina and Auburn. Their first win came against Texas A&M Corpus Christi on Feb. 7.

FIU freshman Jennifer Gniadek (1-2) pitched 5.1 innings in relief of starter Kasey Barrett. Gniadek came into the game after Barrett gave up the first run of the game in the top of the third.

Gniadek totaled 10 strikeouts along with one hit and zero runs to earn the win and help the Golden Panthers secure a 2-1 win in extra innings.

"She absolutely dominated from the moment she came into the game," said head coach Beth McClendon to FIUsports.com. "I feel like she was the reason we got this done today. That was one of the best pitching performances we had since I've been to FIU."

The FIU offense was able to lay down a late comeback in the bottom of the seventh inning. Soph-

omore Iriseldis Soberon got the rally started after singling to left. Then Lana Lazar's sacrifice bunt moved Soberon to second base.

With two outs, All-Sun Belt first team selection Katie Bell hit an RBI double on the first pitch from Sara Sigrest (1-2). Soberon ran in to tie the score at 1-1. With the bases loaded, FIU freshman Lauren Spiers popped up a ball to the catcher, ending the inning.

Heading into the eighth, Gniadek was able to close out the Dolphins, leaving the FIU offense in charge of closing out the night.

Soberon wailed one into the outfield and Jenny Alfonso, who was at second, tried to score, but was thrown out at the plate.

Lazar was then walked intentionally which brought Desiree Fink up to bat. With the bases loaded, Fink walked after four pitches, sending Ashley McClain automatically home from third base for the win, the final score 2-1.

"That says a lot about the heart and fight of the team," said McClendon to FIUsports.com. "We'll take it however we can get it."