Valentines Schmalentines!

Jose Canseco steroid issue,

2/12/05   6:36:00 PM

Gertz dedicated her final years to promoting AIDS awareness among young Americans. She died in 1992. The Health and Wellness Center promotes AIDS awareness among students as well as about their rights and benefits in the healthcare system, is an important concern for Velez and the nurses she oversees at the Health and Wellness Center. Since the law protects people over 18-years-old from having their health information divulged to anyone, even their parents, the clinic is a safe place for students to talk about any health-related problems.

According to Velez, she and her staff have a non-judgmental attitude and will do their best to “explore what [students] can work through,” referring them to specialists if needed.

The Health and Wellness Center also offers prescriptions and works closely with doctors performed every test except the one for HIV – until the right time, the right conditions, and you could be infected.” The financial support for the Health and Wellness Center comes from the $54 health fee added to each student’s tuition every semester. This ensures students won’t need to pay for their visits to the center. Also, at reduced prices, they have access to various types of medical services if needed.

Most students do not perceive themselves at risk for being infected by the HIV virus.

FIU students, particularly commuters, used to have a place to go after an extremely long day of school. Many, however, don’t notice the little corner in the back of the Graham Center as they rush past it to go into Gracie’s Grill. Because several offices in the building moved, the former Porter Davis Game Room has been closed since the summer of 2004. It is now spring 2005 and various students are speaking out about the fact that the school has not given them back their hang-out.

“Part of it is because they see [the AIDS patients] as someone outside their social milieu ... They see [them] as people who may be in the streets, poor people who are drinking and boosting all the time ... [or as] gays, lesbians, and people from other countries ... It just takes one encounter, the right time, the right conditions, and you could be infected.”
Commuter students face another semester without game room

GAME, from page 1

sion, if the video games are being used and even worse for people trying to study,” said sophomore Pedro Cortez, who frequents the game area. Torres is also asking for help from various honors councils and SGA to distribute the petition and then return it to the Honor’s Council secretary, sophomore Alejandra Serna, a former game room regular.

“It was kind of a watering hole for our little group as well as various other cliques, so when it closed, everyone kind of dispersed, and it makes it even more difficult to see one another,” said Alena

SGA president George Rosario also backs Torres’s efforts to bring the students back their room.

“We support their endeavors, and our role is to be that voice that allows the link between the students and the administrators,” said Rosario.

Commuter students were especially affected by this change. This was an area for all students, but particularly for those who did not want to drive all the way back home just to come back to school.

“Not everyone is in a fraternity or sorority or certain other organizations on campus and yet, these were the ones participating in tournaments of chess, pool and ping pong… For some this was the only de-stressing moment they had to relax and just hang out. It almost feels like we’ve truly now become a commuter school without this community,” said Lisa Alvarez, the former game room coordinator.

The game room also participating in the ACUI regional tournaments. This organization is known for the activities they offer schools who are active members. In past years, FIU has received first place in many of their game room competitions such as chess, pool and table tennis.

According to Hamilton, there hope that the game room will reopen.

“We envision [the] game room being open for the fall term, and hopefully then, our next project will be looking at the needs of the students regarding improvement on their indoor recreation to bring it up to par with other universities,” she said.

EMPTY GAME ROOM: All that is left inside the Graham Center’s Portis Davis Game Room are abandoned pool tables and cardboard boxes.

Isa Pimentel/The Beacon

WEATHER

MONDAY

HI/LOW

76°F/62°F

Mostly sunny

TUESDAY

HI/LOW

77°F/62°F

Sunny

WEDNESDAY

HI/LOW

76°F/60°F

Mostly sunny

THURSDAY

HI/LOW

76°F/61°F

Sunny

FRIDAY

HI/LOW

75°F/61°F

Mostly sunny

SATURDAY

HI/LOW

75°F/62°F

Mostly sunny

SUNDAY

HI/LOW

75°F/61°F

Mostly sunny

This image is provided courtesy of weather.com

CORRECTIONS

In the “Halting of program results in protest” story, the names should have read: Lennim Cecelli and Eliane Ramos.

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

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210 at the University Park campus. Members of the editorial and production staff are not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

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The short clip, narrated by Morgan Freer, captivated the luncheon audience with a look at post-Civil War reconstruction.

Williams invited everyone to watch the program’s debut later that night and assured them that it would be “a riveting time in television.”

After that, guests adjusted their seating positions and leaned forward to fully absorb the Afro-Brazilian dance performance of the BrazDance Theatre, coordinated by Augusto Soledad. The performers, Mama De Victory (percussion) and Willy Brown (dancer), put on a heart-pounding show with a world-class drum beat. Soledad’s dance style, which he describes as Afro Fusion, is the newest addition to FIU’s curriculum. “Afro dance has been hidden in modern dance,” said Soledad.

He also expressed his desire to help his students develop their creativity. “I hope to bring forth the strong presence of African culture in dance, with an eye for freedom to create,” he said. As guests sat down to lunch, acclaimed actor Larry Robinson gave a short performance. It was supposed to be the grand finale, but technical problems (mostly from malfunctioning audio equipment) plagued it from the start. Nevertheless, Robinson went on with the show.

Robinson used the performance to educate his audience about various African American heroes by becoming each hero on stage. “About 80 persons out of an expected 100 attended the luncheon,” said program coordinator Rosa Henriquez. “The departments were very responsive to our invitations.”

The African New World Studies program, which is one of the only to offer a major in modern dance, is the newest addition to FIU’s curriculum. “I want to bring forth black culture in dance, in a way that was in its ancient traditions,” he said.

Soledad

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Contributing Writer

Florida International University was presented with a new treat on Feb. 9 when the African New World Studies Department along with the Black Student Association held FIU’s first African American History Month Luncheon entitled “Discovering Past Heroes.” The affair took place at the Wolf University Centre Ballroom at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The luncheon kicked off with a few welcoming words from the vice provost of BBC, Dr. Raul Moncarz.

Then performing arts student Larissa Lockhart sang the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Following the anthem, Dr. Carol Boyce Davies, director of African New World Studies program, promptly took the microphone and thanked the individuals and departments that came together to make the luncheon possible.

She then introduced the afternoon’s first guest speaker, Ed Williams, a host and announcer on the public television network WPBT. Williams surprised the guests with a sneak preview of a new WPBT show entitled “Slavery and the Making of America.”

The Student Health and Wellness Center continues to be given awards for its services. Students now have thorough experience with Adobe Page Maker.

Free Massage: 11 a.m., Panther Square

For more information, contact C. Joil Marino at beaconnewspaper@yahoo.com or stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application.

Free condoms and HIV testing stir up AIDS awareness

AIDS, from page 1

and Wellness Center first when they feel depressed or have been sexually assaulted.

In Velez’s opinion, a lot has changed since the 1980s.

“Students are much more likely to use barrier protection [now] than they were [then],” she said. “Students wouldn’t come near a condom. We had to teach them how to have some comfort level with condoms, how to handle them, to play with them, because that’s part of it.”

Velez said that in the 1980s, when the Health and Wellness Center was still restricted to a little room in the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus, women would come in and refuse to talk about their sexuality partners, or “what was in their genitals.” A patient’s main concern was pregnancy. The Student Health and Wellness Center periodically organizes events around the university to address the issue of AIDS and other STDs.

This week is their Sexual Responsibility Week at BBC. The kickoff was Feb. 10, when Wellness Center assistant Melissa Michel and Christine Anderson gave away 50 free “sexual health kits” in front of and inside the library. The package consisted of a condom, instructions on how to use it and 10 tips on how to have “smart sex.”

Casey Hill Graver, the Wellness Team Leader at the center said that the purpose of the event is to promote awareness about safe sex.

“We want to let students know that it’s okay to have sex as long as they do it in a healthy way. We want to make sex less taboo,” said Graver. On Feb. 14 there will be an activity named “Sexual Health Jeopardy,” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Panther Square. Winners will receive prizes with a Valentine’s Day theme.

Meanwhile, free condoms continue to be given out, along with information on healthy sex and relationships. Sexual Responsibility Week ends Feb. 16.

The Student Health and Wellness Center offers free male and female condoms year-round, and free HIV-testing on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It even offers free 10-minute massages to relieve stress.

Besides Sexual Responsibility Week, the center will host its annual expo, with more special activities and resources, March 15 and 16.

For more information on the events, including this week’s, students can go to www.fiu.edu/~wellness.
SURVIVING

A LOVELESS

The only girl that had a

valentine was the “hot girl.”

She had a miraculously perfect

complexion and somehow

found clothes that flaunted her

lean figure, rather than accentuating all the wrong

places, like the clothes the rest of us wore. Certainly all

the inferior girls had some jealousy toward her, yet it was

more of an infatuation with her flawlessness.

As we got older, we visited the dermatologist more often

and the orthodontist less. Evidently, this worked wonders

for most girls. But it only wasted oodles of my parents’

money after we all realized that there was no hope for me.

So now, there are numerous “hot girls.”

Luckily, I have grown out of my childish infatuation

and graduated into something more mature ... namely,

jealousy. Of course, my life would solely revolve around

flaunting myself if I had their figure. Lose the tube-tops

and mini-skirts – bring on the Brazilian bikinis!

Until the day I can bounce a penny off my abs, and my

ass somehow gains a spheri-

cal curvature, I will complain

endlessly. Some part of me

has always hoped that one

year the cute boys would get

bored of the pretty girls and

take a break, if only once, for

the homely ones. It still has

not happened.

This brings up an eternally

perplexing question: would

you rather fool around with

a homely person who knows

what they are doing or a hot

person who just lies there?

While you ponder that,

I have a present for you. In

honor of all of the other val-

tenine-less college students,

I’ve compiled a Valentine’s

day survival guide for all of

us:

• Make sure you look hot.

In case you run into an ex or

your crush magically shows up

on your doorstep, you do not

want to look like a pre-rehab

Robert Downey, Jr.

• Visit a Hallmark store

and rope off the card area.

Threaten to light yourself on

fire if someone buys a card

without giving you one too.

• Visit a homeless shelter.

Make sure you are dressed to

impress and bring pictures

of your summer home in the

Bahamas. Bring along some

cisco to get them in the

mood.

• Compile a list of phone

numbers of every crush who

ever turned you down. Spend

at least two hours prank call-

ing them and making the

“most annoying sound in the

world” according to Lloyd

(Jim Carrey) in the movie

“Dumb and Dumber.”

• Do not associate with

anyone in your life who has

as a significant other or hot

person. But remember, be

honest. I’ll be frank with you sir; we

ladies are a tricky bunch.

We want sensitivity and

strength, playfulness and seri-

ousness, and we want to be

appreciated.

Mostly, though, we want

honesty. As for colognes, the only

thing I ask is that you not bathe

in it. No one wants to be hit

in the face with a malodorous

sledgehammer.

Our Two

Cents

by Leoncio Alvarez

and Alicia Bustamante

Write to us at beaconopinion@yahoo.com!

We kinda know what we’re doing.

Dear Leoncio and Alicia,

Lately, I’ve been having trou-

ble making it to the ladies. Can

you please give me some point-

ers so that I can pick up some

chicks?

What colognes should I wear?

Should I start going to the gym?

Do the ladies want a tough guy

or a sensitive guy? Please help.

Sincerely,

Hunting in Hialeah

Leoncio says:

Macking it to the ladies seems
to be a problem that most

guys have lately. Girls are much

pickier now-a-days, but it’s a

problem that can be fixed.

It never hurt anyone to go
to the gym. It’s something that

you would benefit from both

physically and mentally, and who

knows, you just might snag your

lady love. But remember, be

yourself, and don’t change just
to satisfy a woman’s taste.

Alicia says:

I’ll be frank with you sir; we

ladies are a tricky bunch.

We want sensitivity and

strength, playfulness and seri-

ousness, and we want to be

appreciated.

Mostly, though, we want

honesty.

As for colognes, the only

thing I ask is that you not bathe

in it. No one wants to be hit

in the face with a malodorous

sledgehammer.
Past war efforts share similarities with recent war on Iraq problems

By ANDRES NATALINO
Contributing Writer

During last October’s vice-presidential debate, moderator Gwen Ifill asked Vice President Dick Cheney what the Bush administration’s specific plans were for dealing with the then-growing insurgency in Iraq. The following is an edited transcript of Cheney’s response: “Twenty years ago we had a similar situation in El Salvador. We had a guerilla insurgency that controlled roughly a third of the country, 75,000 people dead and we [still] held free elections. I was there as an observer on behalf of the Congress. The human drive for freedom, the determination of these people to vote, was unbelievable … Today El Salvador is a whole of a lot better because we held free elections … the lessons we learned will apply in Afghanistan, and it will apply as well in Iraq.” I was a bit confused. I vaguely knew the sad history of El Salvador but needed to learn more about the subject, so I could understand what the lessons were that Dick Cheney gloated about in front of cameras during the vice presidential debate.

Over 70,000 civilians were slaughtered in El Salvador by CIA-trained Salvadoran government troops during the 1980s. The CIA also has a long, proud history of repelling foreign invading armies, the last army being the British one in the 1920s. According to the January issue of Newsweek, the Bush administration is actively seeking to employ the “Salvador Option.” According to the article, one Pentagon proposal would send Special Forces teams to advise, support and possibly train Iraqi squads, most likely hand-picked Kurdish Pehmerga fighters and Shiite militia, to target Sunni insurgents and their sympathizers, even across the border in Syria. By employing the Salvador Option in Iraq, the U.S. military would increase the pressure on the Iraqi people to submit to democracy, especially in Sunni Muslim areas where resistance to the U.S. occupation has been the strongest.

In effect, the Bush administration would assign non-Sunni Muslims the job of leading the “death squad” campaign in Iraq against the Sunnis. So in the name of defending the U.S. against Iraq’s terrorists, the CIA will train our own brand of Iraqi terrorists.

If the Bush administration is allowed to sponsor inter-Iraqi terrorism, a civil war will ultimately break out and the American people will end up with even more of its sons and daughters coming home in body bags.

One macabre lesson that the American people can learn from El Salvador is that the body dumps unearthed from El Mozote are not that much different from the mass graves blamed on Saddam Hussein in Iraq, except that they represent the tip of the spear of American foreign policy, and they like received much less time in the mainstream media.
Valentine’s Day is a holiday that demands binging. You are either gobbling up its shrink-wrapped romance or projectile vomiting over all this sappy idiot-fest.

To both sides, I say: It does not have to be this way! This year I urge you to think out of the heart-shaped box of chocolates and indulge in all things cheap.

I hereby designate Feb. 15 as Discount Valentine’s Day – Schmalentine’s Day, if you will. For those who aren’t in the know about post-holiday discount frenzies, listen up. The day after major holidays, convenience stores, like Wal-Mart and Target, chop their prices by 50-75 percent. This means you can buy cheesy Hallmark paraphernalia at prices so low, they transcend logic. Such is the way of Shamlentine’s day! (Speaking in rhymes is not required, but recommended.)

But say you aren’t fully comfortable with straying from the ordinary. Say you want to spend $50 on roses. Why not try my romantic variation on this popular tradition? Skip the rose petal bath tub or bed sheets.

Surprise your beau with a soft path of rose petals that start at the front door and then trail up the stairs and down the hall to a candle-lit bathroom and a very naked you on the porcelain throne.

Yes, bathroom humor – probably the sweetest of Schmalentine’s day treats. A variation of this is a similar rose petal path through your house that actually leads to your bedroom, granted your whole family lives with you. With a little Celine Dion in the mix, you will undoubtedly feel the love. And the sexual tension.

If that is not enough for you, perhaps hacking at a cake that bleeds will do the trick. That’s right, a Bleeding Heart Cake. Chocolate that bleeds raspberry syrup! If you can say no to that, chocolate that bleeds raspberry right, a Bleeding Heart Cake. That’s probably hacking at a cake that actually leads to your bed and room, granted your whole family lives with you. With a little Celine Dion in the mix, you will undoubtedly feel the love. And the sexual tension.

The Bleeding Heart cake is basically two layers of heart-shaped chocolate cake with raspberry syrup trapped in the middle. Once the bottom layer of the cake has cooled, carve a dip on its surface deep enough to contain the desired amount of syrup. Before adding syrup, line the dip you carved with a cream cheese frosting, which will act as a sealant.

Chill the sealant for a few hours or until it has hardened. Pour the syrup into the dip and place the second cake on top. To finish it off, cover the entire cake with the cream cheese frosting.

On the big day, invite your friends over to exchange schmalentine treats. At this point, you all should have gone to Wal-Mart and picked up your very own children’s style valentines, a-la-walmart.

Feast on discount lollipops and chocolates and your Bleeding Heart, but remember to thank me for such a totally awesome Schmalentine’s Day.

VALENTINE RECEIPE FOR THE CHEAPSKEATE GOURMET

**CHOCOLATE-MOCHA SWEETHEARTS**

**Total Time:** 45 minutes

Makes 17 servings, about 2 hearts each

- 4 squares unsweetened baking chocolate
- 3/4 cup [1-1/2 stick] butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup coffee, mocha flavor, or any other flavor
- 6 squares semi-sweet baking chocolate, melted

**PREHEAT** oven to 350°F if using a 13x9-inch baking pan (or to 325°F if using a glass baking dish). Line pan with foil. Grease foil. Microwave unsweetened chocolate and butter in large microwaveable bowl on HIGH 2 min. or until butter is melted; stir until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in sugar. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Add flour and flavored instant coffee; stir until well blended. Spread into prepared pan.

**BAKE** 30 to 35 min. or until toothpick inserted in center comes out with fudgy crumbs. (Do not overbake.)

Cool in pan.

**CUT** brownie into heart-shapes using a 1-1/2-inch cookie cutter. [Reserve scraps for snacking or another use.] Dip the top of each brownie heart into melted semi-sweet chocolate. Refrigerate until chocolate is set.

**THE BEST GIFTS POCKET-CHANGE CAN BUY, FROM THE FIU BOOKSTORE**

- **$29.95 – “101 NIGHTS OF GREAT SEX”** by Laura Corin
- **$29.98 – POKER SET**
- **$14 – SPOLIED GIRL SPA KIT**
- **$13 – JOURNAL**
- **$12.50 – GODIVA CHOCOLATES**
- **$10.95 – QUOTABLE MUGS**
- **$10.98 – SPOILED GIRL SPA KIT**
- **$10.98 – CHAMPAGNE STYLE, SCENTED CANDLE**
- **$7.98 – “INVISIBLE GAME CARDS”** (THEY’RE COOLER THAN YOU THINK)
- **$5.95 – HOT SEX COUPONS**
Revenge, the legal way

By BETHY MARTINEZ Assistant Life Editor

Author Alison James provides dva advice.

She is the Kleenex to the side, ladies. Pull out the lascivious lip gloss the ex-boyfriend didn’t let you wear and pick up her book, “I Used to Miss Him.”

“Keep the Jewelry” and “Grieve-a Like a Diva,” written on special stationary with James in “full shiny pennies.”

As soon as I got his mail I felt that Matt chose me. We'd been together for two years before we parted him 100 percent, and that I would see him soon. I knew I had more years to celebrate Valentine’s Day with him. He said he would come home with me and how being with me makes him miss me more.

I stayed home that night and did homework. Matt did not know what day it was but knew Valentine’s Day was coming up when he received my letter. He told me that he thought of the things he would have done if she were back home with me and how being alone on Valentine’s Day made him miss me more.

My boyfriend has not told me his plans for this Valentine’s Day, because he wants them to be a surprise, and I can’t wait.

Later this month he will leave to jump school, and after he returns he will go to Iraq for seven months. He’s happy to go, but laments leaving me again.

The Marine Girlfriend Hymn advises: “Tell him that you’ll always love him and respect what he must do, when he’s fighting for this nation to protect the red, white and blue…”

New chance at V-day for Marine girlfriend

By MAELYN MEDIROS Contributing Writer

Matthew Conway dreamed of becoming a U. S. Marine since childhood.

He enlisted in December 2003, three months after I became his girlfriend.

When Matt left to boot camp, I was depressed, not only because of his departure, but because my grandfather had recently died. My grandfather meant everything to me, when he died I felt lost and lonesome.

Matt helped me in the beginning but quickly had to leave. I was not going to see him for three months.

Then, he would come back home on a 10-day leave and return to Marine combat training and to his military occupation school for four months.

I felt that Matt chose the worst time to join the Marine Corps, but I knew it was his dream. I supported him 100 percent, even though it depressed me. We’d been together for a year and a half, and we’d known each other for two years before we started dating. It is hard to have a boyfriend who comes and goes frequently, but in our hearts we are always together. There are times when I really want to see him and hear him, but can’t, and so I look through our pictures and feel a bit better.

While Matt was away I found a boot camp schedule and a chat place for people whose loved ones are in the Marines. I checked the schedule daily to see what he was up to. I educated myself about the Marine Corps. I spent my time exercising, studying and working. I barely went out with my friends.

As soon as I got his mail I wrote him my first letter a week after he shipped off. I would write him or two times a week. In the letters, sometimes written on special stationary paper, I included poems, cards, pictures, Marine Corps jokes and extra stamps and envelopes. I sprayed them with my perfume, thinking it would make him feel closer to me. He told me the smell of my perfume on the letters reminded him of hugging me and other moments we shared.

Matt said that he received letters at night on the day they arrived. He would get on his rack, go under his covers and carefully read the letters with a flashlight. He did not have any other time to read them and pretended to be sleeping. He was never caught. Usually, he wrote back to me after reading the letters, but sometimes could not, because he had to get some sleep. He said that receiving letters felt like “a piece of home.”

I sent Matt a Valentine’s Day card a few days before Valentine’s Day, so it arrived on time. I included confetti hearts and pictures of me sending him a kiss.

On Feb. 14, I was lonely and sad, but I knew that he was following his dream and that I would see him soon. I knew I had more years to celebrate Valentine’s Day with him. He said that he thought of the things he would have done if she were back home with me and how being alone on Valentine’s Day made him miss me more.

My boyfriend has not told me his plans for this Valentine’s Day, because he wants them to be a surprise, and I can’t wait.

Later this month he will leave to jump school, and after he returns he will go to Iraq for seven months. He’s happy to go, but laments leaving me again.

The Marine Girlfriend Hymn advises: “Tell him that you’ll always love him and respect what he must do, when he’s fighting for this nation to protect the red, white and blue…”
Love hardships can take you by storm

By GRETLE SARMENTO
Contributing Writer

Some people call it an illusion. Others see it as a curse. I think it is both. Love can bring happiness and joy as it slowly transforms your life into a powerful storm that is both beautiful and disastrous. Love has been the cause of many misfortunes throughout history, even war.

Why is it then, that we spend our lives trying to find a feeling that can bring us so much grief? As the music of The Beatles tells us, “All you need is love.”

Exactly. Not everything else comes out on Mondays and Thursdays. If only it would stay the way you wanted it to be.

Love can be classified as a powerful storm or even a tornado ranging from F1, the feeblest condition, to F5, where life seems to be beyond your control and a tornado ranging from F1, an F2, an F3, an F4, an F5 storm like your last romantic episode.

This stage of love can indeed make you blind. You refuse to abandon the feeling that once made you happy. Love is now your worst enemy. It is time to face the reality of the situation and understand that something needs to be done. You, hope there might be a way to save the relationship. At this point you have suffered severe damage. You cannot concentrate or perform any other activity if your partner is not involved. The roots of your foundation are being destroyed, and you feel lost in the middle of the storm. There may be frequent strong arguments, many stupid fights and some broken windows and glass. You refuse to abandon the feeling that once made you feel so happy. Love indeed makes us blind.

It is too late if you have reached the fifth phase. Now you are in the center of the storm, and there is no escape. You have lost all sense of time, identity and space. You are completely dependent on your partner, and happiness only seems to be possible with him or her. It is time to face the consequences of your irresponsibility.

Love is now your worst nightmare. Your partner’s every action or gesture irritates you. You have grown selfish, irrational and paranoid. Heated arguments over an unanswered phone call or a lunch with friends are now daily events. The storm is now a fact, and all you can do is wait. Days pass. Weeks pass. Months pass.

Suddenly the storm is gone, and has left behind ruins and a world of regret. You contemplate the devastating damage. You are left with nothing but a great sense of emptiness and isolation. You can see the mistakes you made so clearly now. There is a lot of anger. You realize how stupid you were and cannot forgive yourself for trusting someone thinking this love was perfect. You tell yourself that next time you will be more prepared and promise not to trust again.

What follows is a process of recuperation in which you will regain confidence in yourself and learn that the world is not always a dark place. Life will start to show colors again, and just when you have forgotten the consequences of love and how badly it hurt you, you will find yourself in the face of another storm.

Love can bring happiness and joy as it slowly transforms your life into a powerful storm that is both beautiful and disastrous.

F1
Weak construction and no damage characterize the first stage of love. Curiosity and uncertainty reign, but there is nothing to fear as long as you remain calm and in control. You hope this time love is real and will not become an F5 storm like your last romantic episode.

You feel excited, but you must keep in mind the feeling might dissipate, and in the end, it might not be real. Major areas of your life are not yet affected, and rather, you stay focused and perform your daily activities with no difficulty. You tell yourself you will be cautious and not take big risks.

This stage of love can actually be very beneficial. It creates so much motivation and enthusiasm that you are able to make big positive changes in your life.

F2
In the second phase of love, the feeling has grown and gained strength. It has become more stable and now promises a future. Your expectations increase and you begin to imagine a wedding, a beautiful home and kids.

Some light damage starts to occur, but you do not seem to notice. Love has started to invade different areas of your life and you start to adopt not only your partner’s good qualities but his or her bad habits as well.

The unknown excites you, and now your goal is to find out more. Your principles and ideals begin to shake. By now you have decided to risk it all and accept everything because “Oh, it’s nothing.”

F3
The third phase reveals more than what you can handle. Love has conquered your body and mind. You seem unable to do your job or enjoy an afternoon, because all you think about is romance, and all you want to do is be with the person you love. You have forgotten to secure windows and doors, and when people criticize your behavior, you ignore them.

By now you have become a slave to passion and desire. Your goals and vision of the future become obscure, and suddenly your judgment, which used to be definitive and precise, vanishes according to your partner’s views.

Suddenly you cannot think or see for yourself. Instead, you see everything through the eyes of the other person. You begin to have moments of clarity in which you consider the possibility that love will indeed harm you if you do not have control. Your mind sends you messages: STOP! WARNING! CAUTION! But even when you see them you refuse to believe you are wrong.

F4
Once you reach stage four, you realize the chaos that is ruling your life. You finally become aware of the situation and understand that something needs to be done. Yet, you hope there might be a way to save the relationship.

At this point you have suffered severe damage. You cannot concentrate or perform any other activity if your partner is not involved. The roots of your foundation are being destroyed, and you feel lost in the middle of the storm. There may be frequent strong arguments, many stupid fights and some broken windows and glass.

You refuse to abandon the feeling that once made you feel so happy. Love indeed makes us blind.

F5
It is too late if you have reached the fifth phase. Now you are in the center of the storm, and there is...
Guys remember stats, not Valentine’s Day

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Staff Writer

How does sports tie in with Valentine’s Day? Well, it is no coincidence that Valentine’s Day is right in the middle of February. With the NFL season two weeks past and MLB spring training about a month away, this is the slowest sports month of the year.

Now, I know what you’re thinking: “That idiot forgot about the NBA and NHL!”

Of course I didn’t, but who watches the NBA anyway? Honestly, can you name me two people you know who would drop whatever they’re doing because the New York Knicks are playing the Houston Rockets?

And as for the NHL, even if they weren’t in a lockout, can you name six teams for me? I didn’t think so either.

When I asked my friend Miguel how sports and Valentine’s Day are connected, it led to this exchange:

Miguel: Why would you ask such a random question?
Me: Because Valentine’s Day is in 5 days.
Miguel: Oh [foul language]!

Now, if I were to ask Miguel how many passing yards Dan Marino had in his career, he’d answer 61,361 before I even finished the question. This is a dilemma that has bugged women for ages, or since the beginning of televised sporting events.

So when greeting card companies invented Valentine’s Day, they chose Feb. 14 in with the hope that men’s minds would not be polluted by arbitrary sports statistics. They lumped Valentine’s Day together with birthdays and anniversaries as things guys are most likely to forget about their significant other.

But why is it that guys can remember that Barry Bonds’s MLB debut was on May 30, 1986, but can’t remember their anniversary, even if it falls on the exact same day?

For one thing, neither Dan Marino nor Barry Bonds have ever made a man stand outside a Victoria’s Secret holding shopping bags. They also have never asked a man if their new pants make them look fat. Nor have they ever gotten upset, because you didn’t notice their new hair style.

The funny thing is, women don’t really care that men forget those dates, even though it doesn’t seem like it. They know that the man must make up for it, which means that a plain gold bracelet becomes a diamond tennis bracelet.

The gift-giving, however, should go both ways, and if by some highly unlikely chance you girls forget Valentine’s Day, have no fear. We men are simple. Just cook for us in the nude. On second thought, screw the cooking.

It will feel less constricting at a great job.
Intramural sports connect FIU students

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Most afternoons, freshman Dimitri Daddoud puts on his cleats and runs through the muddy soccer fields with his teammates, practicing the sport even though the official soccer season ended last semester.

However, these students are not members of the FIU soccer team. They are the members of Junglis Massize, one of several student-run groups that compete in the annual intramural sporting events.

The intramural events, sponsored by Campus Recreation, include a variety of sports each semester. The department offers flag football and volleyball in the Fall term. Soccer, basketball, softball and the newly added dodgeball are played in Spring. Teams are divided into male and female groups, the only exceptions are volleyball and softball.

“Soccer’s the best sport. I play [in intramurals] because it’s a good way to be part of the game I like and to keep up practice,” Daddoud said.

As part of the open league, Daddoud’s team competes every week against other teams made up of volunteer players from all years from all over the campus. Other leagues include the fraternity and sorority leagues and the newly established housing league.

“One of the biggest things in housing is that we want to continue offering services that would make students feel connected to the university, and we believe intramurals is one of the many programs we can offer to the residents, so they can feel that connection,” said Murillo Soranso, assistant Resident Life coordinator for the University Park Apartments and head of housing intramurals.

In the residential version of the games, inaugurated during the 2003 school year, sports teams from such UP residence halls as Everglades and the Towers compete against each other in order to reach the final tournament.

“Resident students find that playing an intramural game is fun and healthy,” Soranso said. “If you’re a little competitive, it’s a great way to get involved and meet new people.”

Though students from the Biscayne Bay Campus participate in the open leagues, the Bay Vista residence halls have not been incorporated into the housing league, though Soranso said their inclusion is being planned.

“I’ve been playing for a lot of semesters, and I could keep on playing even more,” said James Wang, a sophomore who plays soccer in the open league.

“There are always injuries, but that’s just part of the game.”

Students must pay a $30 entrance fee and attend tryouts and all practices in order to compete towards their respective league’s championships. Despite all the effort, though, some students see intramurals more as entertainment than competition.

“There are people who can’t run, and they go out there and play. There are also people who are good enough to be on the FIU soccer team,” Daddoud said.

“Everyone goes out there and everybody has fun.”

For more information regarding intramural sports and tournament dates call (305) 348-1054.

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Check out The Beacon every Monday for full coverage of Biscayne Bay Campus news, features and upcoming events.
Jose Canseco exposes steroids in book

By ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

The baseball world really does not have much to say these days. Two weeks before pitchers and catchers report to spring training, the hierarchy of Major League Baseball is doing a lot of listening. Former six time all-star and 466 career homerun hitter Jose Canseco is finished with his tell-all book and is set to release it.

It’s just an anthology of tattletales, snitching and backstabbing. The book has an air of whining and jealousy that can only be generated by the biggest and most juiced-up baby the city of Miami has ever produced.

NOT A CREDIBLE SOURCE

Maybe we’re being a little too quick to judge, but how can you not? This is the same person who used to charge his fam $625 to hang out, because he was dead broke.

Does it matter, Canseco has never been well liked in the baseball world. Through-out his career he’s been passed around in ball clubs like Madonna in the 80s (with whom he claims to have made out in his book).

He has been a problem on and off the field at every point in his career and has never showed decent character.

On his resume of homeruns, all-star appearances and balls hit off his head for homeruns, there are charges of felony, assault and battery and rape. There was also that incident where he was caught raving 120 miles per hour in his Jaguar with a loaded gun.

I have to tell you, watching Canseco after his prime with the Oakland A’s has been gut wrenching as a Cuban living in South Florida.

The sole pride of our Cuban community was suddenly becoming the punch line of jokes and the disgrace of our culture.

THE BOOK

After all that Canseco is (or isn’t), I still find it hard to believe that all of the book is a lie.

The former general manager of the Texas Rangers said on “Sportscenter”, “One thing I have never been able to say about [Canseco] is that he’s a liar.”

It’s hard to shy away from the truth. Here’s a guy that admitted to taking steroids and has been around in the baseball world.

If anybody knew what was going on, it was him.

His allegations in the book include that he introduced steroids to Rafael Palmeiro, Ivan Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez of the Texas Rangers organization.

After hearing about all the allegations, Rodriguez has lost twenty-two pounds. He says it’s because he helps to be more mobile behind the plate, but I think somebody is scared of failing a drug test or two.

Canseco also mentions that he actually shot up Mark McGwire with steroids in the bathroom stalls at Oakland.

I know McGwire is not the cleanest baseball player. After all, he did admit to using illegal substances, but I never imagined Canseco actually injecting him with steroids.

WHY THE BOOK?

What has MLB done to him? Why would somebody tarnish the relation-ships they’ve made and get on so many people’s hit lists just to get the truth out? It’s a very simple question with an even simpler answer.

When Jose Canseco limped out of the minor leagues and finally called it quits, he carried a rather large chip on his broad shoulders.

He was just 34 homeruns away from the exclusive 500-homerun club and probably short-ended from Cooperstown.

Right after his retirement, the bitter Canseco went on a sports talk show and mentioned that he was blackballed from baseball.

He felt as if commissioner Bud Selig wanted him out of the game and made it impossible for him to hit his fifth hun-dredth homerun because he didn’t want him in the Hall of Fame. (Twenty-four of the 25 players who have hit over 500 homeruns are either still active or in the Hall of Fame.)

Never mind that Canseco finished his last four seasons barely hitting a .250 batting average and struck out nearly once every three at bats.

Never mind that his body was so old and juiced up with chemicals that he couldn’t even put on deodorant in the morning.

Let’s just look back at the last image we have of Canseco: a brutish, muscular guy with a Los Angeles Dodgers batting helmet in a public park trying to make a living by selling survey’s, easy work. NO SALES

I think he black-balled himself out of the game.

NEGATIVE OPINIONS

As you might have guessed, the book was not well-received in the baseball community.

Every single player the book mentions denied Canseco’s accusations.

Rodriguez went on record and stated: “I was his friend when he was in jail. I was the only one that visited him and brought him magazines. It hurts to hear him say those things.”

Calling out Mark McGwire was probably not a good idea either. Nobody is more respected in the clubhouse than Big Mac is, and nobody is given more credit for resurrecting baseball than he is.

“I’ve never met anybody that has wanted to win more than [McGwire],” said Tony LaRussa, Mark McGwire’s former manager in Oakland and with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Canseco is just hopeless in this situation. It’s like Ron Artest publishing a book about violence in the NBA and saying LeBron James has a short temper.

There is just no way this black horse with a street named after him who doesn’t even show up to the for the naming ceremony, can get credibility on a hot-button issue like this one.

As for Major League Baseball, there is not much they can do.

They will continue to implement their new steroid regulations and simply move on.

The city of Miami is finished with Jose Canseco.

Just when we thought he couldn’t plunge himself deeper, he loses all self-respect and pride with this squelching book.

The tri-county area will focus on more beloved heroes that can display good character, like Alex Rodriguez or Dwyane Wade.
As a special treat for Valentine’s Day, The Beacon decided to break down the hottest male and female athletes in the sports world. Here are the top five hunks and babes of today.

1. SHAQUILLE O’NEAL
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   Between that shiny bald head and that unexpected sense of humor, this “gentle giant” won my heart quite a while ago. You can’t miss him, and it’s not just because of his skyscraper height of 7’1”, but because he has been in movies and commercials, released albums, and oh yeah, he’s a mighty powerful basketball player. His sarcastic comments and stupid jokes always leave me laughing.

   His intelligence won me over the most. The former number one pick and NBA Finals MVP is currently finishing his Master’s degree. Wow. Now that’s a real man.

2. DAVID BECKHAM
   By HARRY COLEMAN
   Sports Editor

   Whether his hair is spiky, braided, parted to the side, short with a fade, or even a mohawk, the English soccer superstar looks great. Beckham is to the sports world what Brad Pitt is to Hollywood—the sexiest man in the business. Despite being a soccer mega star, Beckham takes care of his sons and his wife. With his adorable accent and blond streaks of hair, Beckham is certainly something special.

3. TOM BRADY
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   Even though I rooted for the Eagles during the Super Bowl, inside I cheered for this good-looking Patriots quarterback. Despite his innocent look which makes him oh-too-cute, he is one tough hunk who takes hit after hit on the football field. After reading that he was close to his family, my heart melted. With three Super Bowl rings on his fingers, I wouldn’t mind wearing one for him.

4. JASON TAYLOR
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   He’s six feet, six inches tall, has six-pack abs and rides a Harley Davidson. End of story. I am in love. Between the gorgeous eyes behind his helmet and his stature, there is something riveting about this Miami Dolphins Pro Bowl player. Even though he is not as big as the other defensive linemen in the NFL, his lightning speed has made him an elite player. When he speaks, all attention (or at least all of mine) hangs on his every word.

5. JOSH BECKETT
   By HARRY COLEMAN
   Sports Editor

   This 2003 World Series MVP captured my heart with his fierce look and demeanor as he single-handedly defeated the New York Yankees in Game Six of the World Series. This Texas farm boy is the reason the Marlins won the championship. His confidence and overpowering fastball makes him the ultimate man.

1. JENNIE FINCH
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   As a special treat for Valentine’s Day, The Beacon decided to break down the hottest male and female athletes in the sports world. Here are the top five hunks and babes of today.

2. SERENA WILLIAMS
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   No athlete is as attractive as this Team USA softball player. Not only is she a four-time gold medalist, but she is the hottest female athlete to ever play a professional sport. With her long beach-blonde hair and mysterious blue eyes, Finch not only stands out on the softball diamond (where she holds the NCAA record for consecutive wins with 60), but also on any red carpet among the most stunning movie stars.

3. HEATHER MITTS
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   With a physique like no other player, Williams can out-power any player on the tennis court, but she can also tame any man (well at least me) that she pleases.

   Williams has captured the hearts of men everywhere by not only winning the four major grand slams in a row, but also by displaying her voluptuous curves in sexy tennis outfits.

   She’s so built that she could probably kick the crap out of me, but hey, I wouldn’t mind that at all.

4. ANNA KOURNIKOVA
   By HARRY COLEMAN
   Sports Editor

   Yes, I know she has never won a WTA tennis tournament, but no one can deny that she’s popularized the women’s tennis game. Her intense green eyes and blonde streaks have landed her on the cover of almost every magazine that’s worth reading for the last eight years. This Russian bombshell is perfect from head to toe. Her favorite foods include sushi and steak, and she likes chocolate for dessert. What can I say? She’s the perfect girl to take out to dinner and more.

5. MARIA SHARAPOVA
   By JENIFFER GALASSO
   Staff Writer

   She is another blonde on my list, but what can I say? Blondes are hot. The 18-year-old Wimbledon champion has an innocent look that begs to show her wildness. Because she is constantly traveling, she is trying to finish high school through Internet classes. A girl that stays in school is a girl that stays in my heart.