 ups and downs. Students have to be patient and the wait will be worth it. This is a great opportunity to hear one of the greatest musical talents in the entertainment industry.”

Meanwhile, SGC-UP spokesperson Ben Badger echoed the sentiments and said the event will go forward. “We are confident that this event will be a success and we appreciate the support and understanding of the campus community,” he said.

John Legend’s lecture at FIU scheduled for Feb. 11 was postponed due to his grandfathers 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.

Nirv Oudit, the main coordinator of the event and SGC-UP press secretary, 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.

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 Rosene and Senator Speaker Pro-Tempore Christopher 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 reordered.

“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 Lorenzo Finarte, 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.

“I wonder how often have you heard of or even seen governments councils here come 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
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.

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.

CHRIS CABRAL

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.

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. 3

A 2008 Mazda was damaged at a $1,000 value. The vehicle was scratched on both sides and on the hood.

A student was parked in the parking lot of the PC building when her auto tag was stolen off her motorcycle.

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.

-Copied 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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YOU CAN DO IT FOR YOURSELF — AND YOUR FAMILY.
Go Green promotes activism

The non-profit organization’s losses have been substantial, according to Gonzalez-Levy, the current executive director of the organization. "We were able to distribute more money," said Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, the current executive director of the organization. "People are 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 endowment and the losses that occurred.

Navigation:

*Go to the next page*

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**Federal and state officials confirm that the plant affected by the market fluctuations.**

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**Legends reschedule uncertain**

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**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."

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**Legend reschedule uncertain**

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**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."
Eating late during the wine and food festival:

I am exhausted. Midnights are coming-up-for-no-students, the “frumpy blue” language is descending and we just can’t believe that there are more months of the semester left until summer.

In my life, midnights are secondary to my number one task - coordinating the Perrier Jouet reception buffet as student coordinators or the festival, our number one worry as student leaders is food. The “I will be on South Beach checking out some of the 100 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 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 giving it a salty edge.

Although it costs an average of $16 per person for dinner, it 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 tentering on the edge of a coma, so you wuddle 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 the only bodily function to me. When I feel like this, it is hard to stop and have the time to find a quality experience, but even in the glam of South Beach, college-priced foodgasm is available. I am going to look for these South Beach has its secrets, its hidden gems, its hole-in-the-wall favorites.

Keep your eyes peeled and eat on the beach 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.

———

Ready to take a break from the festival madness.

As student coordinators and associates for the festival, our number one worry as student leaders is food. The “I will be on South Beach checking out some of the 100

To attend the keynote session.

“I thrilled to be invited because I think there is so much potential for college students in 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.

“I learned about the four different communication styles. I am an expressive, mouthy presenter so this was really a driver,” said Jenkin Jenkins, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, who 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 calls herself “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 Nonviolent Award, according to its Web site.

“We spend a lot of time seeing the students here are going to take these ribbons and paint Florida blue.”

For more information on the “Who I Am Makes a Difference” blue ribbon, visit www.blueribbon.org.

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FIU Federal School Code: 009635
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 Universities, a conference for any student free to 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 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, transgender 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 to 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 friends name off the ground. That person walked out of their lives.

The exercise continued similarly for all of the other tenants of our lives: family, community, coworkers, et cetera. Blue stars were lucky and were accepted by all. Red stars had their entire career as a public school teacher.

He sees that same hate that creates 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.

I brought 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 berate the enemies in the name of Allah. I am Muslim and I have always respected 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, and the two sides that make up the whole are in this case: a terrorist and a country whose president continues to deny the Holocaust, pledges his support to Hamas and calls Israel “a disgusting corpse,” or when his government announced that how their forefathers were forced to flee Israel and the prosecution they faced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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

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 through this.

We heard stories from those who literally had to rip off points from their stars; they really did have family members reject them, friends down 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 why they have been through what they 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 important not to share.

Some people still tell jokes, or say “that’s so gay,” and as the saying goes, you are just too scared to say anything when such a comment is made. But whatever your excuse, it’s time to stop.

A step onto the soapbox

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

Contact us at opinion@fiu.com and we’ll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.
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. 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—not, 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.

---

**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

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 chocoholic, but the point is that chocolate will reign this Saturday.

Back on Isle six we may find Russel 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@fiu.edu.
**CABRALITICS**

**Column at risk if demands not met soon**

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 “Cabraltics” 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 “Cabraltics,” 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. 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 is pointing out, during tough times you have to make necessary sacrifices.

And like our administrators’ excuse 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, Cabrera.

Before you snuggle up to the one you love this Valentine’s Day, think about surprising them with a unique, geeky way to say “I love you.”

**TECHNOLOST**

**Geeky forms of expression for lovers this Valentine’s Day**

Saying “I love you” can be difficult, but there are many ways to express your affection. Here are some unique, geeky ways to show your love for that special someone:

- **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.icanhastechars.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.

- **Say It with a Secret**

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

  Don’t know what to caption the photo with? How about, “Love, I feel 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 Poster**

  Take a cue from www.posters.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 the card, 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 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**

There is no geekier way to say “I love you” than by having 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?

---

**AMIGAS is a health program that creates a comfortable setting for women to discuss topics related with health, in particular the risks dealing with HIV/Sida.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who can participate in AMIGAS?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Hispanic women from 20 to 44 years of age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For your participation you can receive certificates with a value up to $270.00

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Applications due by February 16, 2009.
The Beacon – Wednesday, February 11, 2009

**BALANCED ATTACK**

**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.

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**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 in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Another federal grand jury is considering whether to indict him 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?
— When did he start using steroids?
— When did he stop?

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.

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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Cal (305) 471.TIPS (8477)
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 that 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 intramural 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 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.

Marla Del Mar Lognomo Nabono, professor of European History was one of the faculty members unaware of the new package.

“I had no idea,” Nabono 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

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

MENS BASKETBALL: NOTEBOOK

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

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

At 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 Roso.

“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 Roso 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 Jose 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, to give him and let him work because I know he will make us a better team.”

OLD RELIABLE

Forward Cedric Essola has battled a nagging groin injury nearly all season, but he stepped up 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 24-point comeback win on Feb. 7 vs. Arkansas State, replacing Hicks in the lineup, showing the trust he has earned from Roso 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 on campus who will be eligible to wear a 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.

TEAM REACHES SECOND VICTORY IN COMEBACK

STEFANIE 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 Louis ville, 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 eighth.

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

“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 waited 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 hitting a pitch from Ashley McClanahan 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.”

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

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SSPORTS

Team reaches second victory in comeback

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