Greeks Go Green

Jorge Valens
Contributing Writer

The Betsy 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 environment,” said Adrian Torres, chair of Lambda Ki Alpha.

Two of these Greek organizations united due to a mutual interest in preserving the environment and are hoping that other organizations on campus will follow suit.

“We’re just trying to be good to the environment, doing what 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 competition and a strict measurement procedure to track the progress of on-campus organizations to see who can collect the most recyclable 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 be a success and some other organizations will follow.

RENEWING:
Veronique Nylam, sophomore and Hollis Bubla (right), recycle their plastic bottles for Go Green and hosted by Sigma Kappa and Lambda Chi.

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.

Niv 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 rescheduling 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

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 Senate Speaker Pre-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 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 Lorraine Franke, 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 Dall, 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
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 will 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.

Let me rephrase that, 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

CABRALITICS, page 9

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 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.

-Corrections from 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.
Go Green promotes activism

Recycle, page 1

Even though some assemblies may not have had the time to pass the resolutions, the organization that submits the most recyclables according to the tally will win a prize yet to be determined by Go Green.

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

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

Legend reschedule uncertain

SGC-UP, page 1

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

“Everyone is hurting,” Gonzalez-Levy said. “We were able to distribute more money,” said Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, the current executive director of the organization.

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.

According to the National Association of College and University Business Officers, university endowments 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.

“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.

The FIU Foundation, in an effort to save money, has cut expenses to the point that its $17.3 million projected expenses has been cut to $16.8 million. As of Dec. 31, the endowment is down to $37.2 million.

“People bought tickets to see John Legend, not anybody else,” Badger added. “We don’t have an answer right now and everything is still being discussed.”

“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,” Cabrals said.

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

Elections bill tabled again

SGC-UP, page 1

As the U.S. economy struggles, so have the University’s 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 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 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 is matched.

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.

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.

“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,” Cabrals said.

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

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“You can table a resolution that when you come back to that resolution there are three options: that you rescind it, you vote against it, or you table it again. So if you do it at an executive session, it’s considered tabled.”

Blake Badger, the FIU Council’s director of student programs, said the council can table a resolution, but it can only be reconsidered in the body that tabled it.

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I am exhausted. Midterms are coming up for most students, so many are descending and we just can’t believe that there are more months of the semester left until summer.

In my mind, midterms are secondary to my number one task—coordinating the Perrier Jouet representatives staying at the Days Inn on Collins Ave., Miami Beach. It is the closest delivery service from South Beach, between Feb. 19-22. You can also go for free by finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasms ideas to bianca.rojas@fiu.com

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. Around 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 thought 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 $4,000 grant from Target, as well as sponsorships and door prizes from Aramark, Panorama Travel and Omnicons 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 Student Affairs and an organizing committee 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—topics ranging from leadership and communication skills to resume writing and interview strategies—and were all required to attend the keynote session.

“Today I learned about the different communication styles. I am an expressive, I participate in every discussion and I am 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 something that there is more to learn.”

At the beginning of the day, each participant was given three ribbons, which were supposed to be handed 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 on 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 founded 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, saying ‘I want to send it to my teachers,’” 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.

As student coordinators or the festival, our number one goal is that we leave South Beach, sometimes close to 1 a.m., is where we can get some sleep. Although I am a resident BBC girl, I have some friends that go so that we can all find some eats on the beach on our meager student budgets.

One of my favorite grilling sites is Cheesburger Baby (1905 Washington Ave., Miami Beach). One of the celebrity hot dogs is a bun-backs burger joint is an undated South Beach staple. Cheesburger Baby is open until 4 a.m. on weekends and 10 a.m. on weekdays, so even when the festival is over, it is perfect for that post-club hop, pre-hang, over 5 a.m. second breakfast.

And did I mention it is dirt cheap? This is a college student mecca. $6.50 for a half-pound cheeseburger, feet like food, for little service, all open late. 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 southwestern 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 block or in the hotel giving them a safety edge. Add some tomatoes and a side of Big Pink duck bucket chips and you are ready to go. For a table this size, it is hard to stop and have dinner out on the floor.

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And when you want to splash, there are lots of delicious options on the menu. My favorite item is the Big Pink turkey burger with brie, which comes with 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 duck bucket chips and you are ready to go. For a table this size, it is hard to stop and have dinner out on the floor.

When I am totally worn out, eating is 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 foodgasmus are available. I always look for those, 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.

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Help with need a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasms ideas to bianca.rojas@fiu.com
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Acceptance of gay community saves lives

ERIC FELDMAN
COLUMN

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 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 catch phrase, “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 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 they 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 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 why 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 powerful to keep to myself.

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

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 Iran, a country whose president continues to deny that there is a Holocaust, pledges his support to Hamas and calls Israel a “killing 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. Even 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 beheld the enemies in the name of Allah. I am Muslim and I have always rejected this stereotype, but it is 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 the 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.

Do I 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 barely – if at all – 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 has definitely not improved the situation over the past two years. But Obama might be able to 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 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 intercultural 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.

www.fi usm.com

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

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.
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 – 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. 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.

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. 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

www.fiuam.com

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 generally 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.

SEX CARNIVAL

02-09-09

SEX 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 Sweethearts 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 chocoholic, 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 not 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.com.
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 “Cabralitics” forever. Some day I’ll graduate, and right now the column is without a successor. I’ll graduate, and right now the column is without a successor. Finding a replacement won’t be 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.

If you don’t agree to these demands, you’re going to have to make the sacrifices.

All long to hear.

Say It With A Secret

Say it in Google Street

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?

You are thinking big about the kind of social impact you want to have after you graduate;

you want to be a leader for business and society;

you are a future nurse, poet, businessperson, doctor, engineer, teacher, lawyer, politician; you are committed to diversity in public and private management;

you are ready to work and play with engaging students from a variety of backgrounds; you are in or beyond your sophomore year. We want you to come to New Haven, Connecticut, for a fully funded, two-week session in June to discover how an MBA could prepare you to change the world.

Learn more and apply online at sem.yale.edu/pemba. Applications due by February 16, 2009.

Yale School of Management

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.”

Technologist 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.susanahochs汉堡er.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.phusahotdog.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 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 Public

There is no greener way to say “I love you” than by people saying how they feel 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.

Take a cue from 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 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.

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Do you like sports?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cover a sporting event?

If you answered “yes” to both these questions, join our staff!

Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124

Alumni get stadium section; Family Plan options available

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.

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.

THE STRENGTH TO HEAL begins with good nutrition.

As a dietitian in the U.S. Army Reserve, you’ll have the opportunity to work with outstanding health care professionals, participate in humanitarian missions and continue your education. You’ll improve the health of our Soldiers, as well as local populations. You’ll be able to work in your community and serve when needed.

To learn more about the U.S. Army Reserve Health Care Team, call Capt. David Moore at 877-266-0081, email david.moores5@usarc.army.mil, or visit healthcare.goarmy.com/info/ardiet1.
Rodriguez admits use of performance enhancing drugs

RONALD BLUM
AP Writer

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.

“When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt I was extremely 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 year with the Rangers, after signing a 10-year, $252 million contract.

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?
— Did he ever follow a strict regimen to mask the use of steroids?
— Has anyone else been involved in a scheme to profit from Rodriguez’s iffy past?

Why should I believe that it didn’t start to the New York Yankees before the 2004 season?

The 33-year-old Rodriguez ranks 12th on the career list with 553 home runs, including 52, 57 and 47 in his three seasons with the Rangers. He is 209 behind Barry Bonds’ career list with 563 home runs, including 52, 57 and 47 in his three seasons with the Rangers.

Rodriguez chose the controlled substances, Rodriguez chose the controlled setting of an interview with ESPN, one of Major League Baseball’s television partners.

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.

“Troy Papi” — Why should I believe that it didn’t start when he was with the Texas Rangers before the 2004 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 Pry 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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Reciba una recompensa de $1,000 por su información que conduzca a una persona con un arma ilegal.

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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.

“His back is hurting for a while and I can’t take any risks. The doctor said that when I jump, it hurts and I have to take medicine. That is all I can do right now,” Asprilla said. “If I jump, it hurts and I can’t take it however we can get it, so I will consider looking into it,” Rowan said.

The faculty and staff have not been informed about the new deals in place for them.

Sports Director

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.

“I am not, under any circumstances risking one of my players,” he said. “I wouldn’t risk a senior and I wouldn’t risk his production, but Rouco was not taking chances.

Asprilla has not been on the court since his first season with 400 minutes played. He cannot wait for the big man to return to the lineup, showing the trust he has earned from the coach.

As prilla 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 for season tickets, and they will be able to sit on the 50-yard line for $50 and a minimum $50 donation.

The 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 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.

MEN’S BASKETBALL: NOTEBOOK

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

JONATHAN RAMOS
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“He had back problems on his spin since he was five days of recovery,” said head coach Sergio Ronco. “But we don’t know when he is going to be cleared by the doctors.”

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SPORTS

Department cuts season ticket prices for staff

LEILANI LAUREANO
Contributing Writer

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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 Louisi- 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 third.

Gniadek totaled 10 strikeouts along with one hit and zero runs to earn the win as 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 have since I’ve been to FIU.”

The FIU offense was able to lay down a late comeback in the bottom of the seventh inning. Sophomore 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 Belt 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 Simpsons 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 game.

Soberon walled 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 two pitches sending Ashley McClain automatic- ally 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.”

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.

(Courtesy of Leilani Laureano)

The faculty and staff have not been informed about the new deals in place for them.

Maria Del Mar Logroño Nabono, professor of Euro- pean 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.