Vincent Family Center, Caracara and Compadres, Feb. 14, 10 p.m. The scene will be hot for the annual Valentine’s Day party bringing dancing and much-needed fun. Bring your date and your romantic partner to share how relationships work.

For more information, contact the Student Government Association and keep them in mind, “I know for a fact that I go into that conference room wall which we allowed all students to attend to read; the  Hearings Bill allows for a bill to be voted upon during the same meeting that it is first read, the Hearings Bill allows the Senate to hold hearings on the same issue that was earlier heard,” said Divina Grossman, dean for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The University’s Foreign-Educated Physicians to Nurses Program, the only one of its kind in the country, received a $470,000 donation to continue an extension of its Miami-based program in Florida’s Tampa Bay region. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida donated $250,000 in direct funding and the Largo Medical Center – part of Hospital Corporation of America West Florida Division – donated $220,000 in scholarships to certify foreign-educated physicians to become nurses and work at Largo.

“The extension in Tampa is an exciting program because of the unique solution it offers to the community,” said Carol Negoshian, chief nursing officer of Largo Medical Center. The FEPN program in Tampa began in January of this year and is an accelerated five-semester program; it began at the University in May 2002 in response to the nursing shortage and health disparities for the increasing diversity of South Florida.

There are 20 students currently enrolled. The current Tampa class includes two people who are unemployed, a patient care technician, an electrocardiogram monitor technician, nursing assistants and a salesperson.

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

“We felt strongly that this is a valuable need that was otherwise unmet in the community,” said Carol Negoshian, chief nursing officer of Largo Medical Center. That need is made clear in an article in the December 2008 issue of the Journal of Nursing Education. Grossman and nursing Professor Mary Jorda wrote, “Although minority individuals currently comprise approximately 32 percent of the Florida population, only 18 percent of registered nurses in Florida come from minority groups.”

The article also cited a survey by the American College of Health Executives that claimed, “85 percent of hospital CEOs reported a pending shortage in nurses,” said Mark Wright, spokesman for BCBSF.

“Foreign-educated physicians to become nurses because it will position those who are going abroad, “The applicants are Florida,” said Divina Grossman, dean for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

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Those who can't afford them. The guidelines from community college systems released guidelines that would ensure free textbooks are available for around for the best prices. Universities would also have to make sure free textbooks are available for those who can't afford them. The guidelines from the Board of Governors is expected to be approved this spring.

Local
Jursors being selected for third terror trial

Jursors are being selected in Miami for the third trial of six men accused of plotting to destroy Chica- go’s Sears Tower and bomb FBI offices.

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

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

Allergic ringleader Narseal Batiste testified he was taking interest in terrorism to get money from an FBI informant posing as an Al-Qaeda operative.

National
Senate stimulus package will be $3 billion less for state

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

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

Florida also still could lose up to $4.5 billion in education stimulus money because it isn’t spending as much on education as it did in 2006. The legisla-
tion requires at least a 2006 spending level to get stimulus money.

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

– Compiled by Charlie Grau

Expo provides hands-on experience

THE BEACON – Friday, February 13, 2009

OLGA VELEZ Staff Writer

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

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

The expo will take place from noon to 2 p.m.

“The day of the event, over 800 students from Miami-Dade and Broward County public schools come to the FIU Engineering Center for an interactive, multi-faceted program lasting five hours,” said Assistant Director of Recruitment and Retention Stephanie Strange. “The event is filled with opening ceremonies that include a color honor guard, a stirring call to action by the dean and an inspiring speech by a special guest speaker.”

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

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

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

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

“The students get to learn about all of the different areas under the Senate engineering societies,” Solis said.

“A civil engineering department, for example, will have a lab for the students. There are different activities, lab demonstrations and some are hands-on. This is where the students can see how engineering is used in everyday life.”

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

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

The idea for the event originated from the dean of engineering.

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

“The idea was for the students to learn something different and to diversity, the Expo is willing to have new schools from Miami-Dade and Broward Counties attend.”

“Over the year, as the recruiter of the college, I have developed a relationship with different schools and teachers,” Strange said.

“I am very democratic about who comes because I want to get different schools. I like to keep it open access so who is interested and willing to come can come.”

“I do think it’s a good idea to bring students from Miami-Dade and Broward to FIU to learn more about engineering.”

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CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

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NEWS FLASH

Students may have more time to shop for textbooks

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

Political parties considered in Senate

During a previous interview with The Beacon, SGC-UP President Arthur 3. Meyer simply said that “this process just didn’t make sense.”

Following a constitutional revision in 2008, the Senate now holds a proposi-
tional representation system in which the amount of seats for each college is deter-
mined by the amount of students in that college.

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

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

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

Senate Speaker Pro-Tem Christopher Ponce assumes Roseme’s tasks of the Senate. Ponce is interested and willing to make hard decisions, but he is unwavering about doing things the right way, in the right manner, even though there has been some trouble getting members to meetings,” Ponce said.

During a Senate meeting held Jan. 26 to include special elections to fill the vacant seats, senators debated for more than five hours, eventually deciding to post-
pone the elections until the following meeting.

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

“We felt like we needed more infor-

mation, and it was within the senators’ rights to not allow the meeting. And they did so,” Roseme explained.

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

“This was a beautiful meeting. This is how a Senate meeting is supposed to be held. We really stuck it out tonight and really talked about the issues. We got different perspectives about different ideas and acted like a Senate would,” Robert Chung, comptroller for SGC-

UP, shares an office with Roseme and works closely with him on a day-to-day basis.

They are also members of the same business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi.

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

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

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

Jean Roseme, Senate Speaker, SGC-UP

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

Jean Roseme, Senate Speaker, SGC-UP
Toshiba furnishes printing supplies for new copy center

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

The new fleet of copy, scan and print machines as well as management of the Toshiba Copy Center, formerly Panther Print, located at the Graham Center, will be provided by Toshiba Business Solutions. According to Matt Barnes, vice president of sales for Toshiba Florida, it made sense for Toshiba to tackle both of the requests.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to innovative print and document solutions, the copy center will also feature FedEx and U.S. Mail self-service stations.

“What we’re trying to come up with is more of the Kinko’s concept,” Barnes said.

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

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

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

“A target grand opening would be around Feb. 15,” Barnes said.

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

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

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

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

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

“I believe it’s a step up from the old [print center],” Marie said.

GO HEALTHY

Nursing program seeks to offer joint accelerated degree

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

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

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

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

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

The program started when six Cuban foreign-educated physicians, who had been working in low-paying medical jobs or unrelated fields in Florida, approached the University to implement the program.

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

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

Because many of the nurses have gone on to get their master’s degrees, Grossman is hoping to take the program to the next level by making the program a joint BSN-MSN accelerated program.
A better deal for a class Valentine's Day dinner

LORENA ESTRADA Contributing Writer

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

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

Chef Allen’s, a modern seafood bistro, will be offering a Valentine’s Day five-course menu featuring a variety of entrees, including chateaubriand with toasted saffron arancini and ox tail ragout, pistachio crusted grouper and roasted duck breast with stir fried green vegetables. All main courses include a bouquet of Chef Allen’s hand-rolled breadsticks and a “sexy dark chocolate dice.”

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

Chef Allen’s is located at 1908 NE 29th Ave in Aventura. For reservations or more information, call (305) 935-2900.

The second option is a $55 three-course menu featuring a choice of entrees that includes confit and seared duck with roasted sweet potatoes, Chilean sea bass or a goat cheese and sweet herb crusted rack of lamb.

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

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TREATS ON THE CHEAP

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

Nathan Valentine/THE BEACON

Aventura. For more information, call (305) 931-

SHERVIN BAIN Staff Writer

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

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

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

Those times have past, though. This year, the arrow bit Bermudo hard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I’ve forgotten Valentine’s Day,” said Sean Sawicki, a first-year master’s student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s integrated communication program. “I probably going to see Disturbed with some buddies; we’re all single.”

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

“I got that whole ‘it’s okay, it’s not a-big-deal thing,’ but it really was,” Sawicki said. “I had to make it up to her.”

“I got my wisdom teeth taken out on Valentine’s Day,” said David Berry. SIMC marketing coordinator. “I didn’t think I would have a valentine! She brought me stuff that I could eat. At that point I looked like a chipmunk.”

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

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

SFC GCC Senate speaker takes aim at presidency

MIKAILA TENNIE Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Neistein attributes his appreciation for diversity to his surroundings while growing up in South Florida. He has lived in Miami-Dade County all his life. He has six other siblings of which he is the second youngest and 115 nieces and nephews.

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

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

But he believes that his plans to run for SGC-BCC president could slow down his future career goals because if he were to be elected he would have to take fewer classes. Neistein’s role as the speaker of the Senate allows him to take five to six classes per semester.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“This SGA is unparalleled to the past just by how much work we do,” Neistein said.
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FIU Federal School Code: 009635
Following the impeachment of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Americans are scrutinizing the way in which vacant Senate seats are being filled. If a senator is elected to major office—such as former senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden were this year—the state’s governor picks an individual to fill the empty seat.

The Blagojevich scandal forced many Americans—including members of Congress—to reconsider the legitimacy of this method. Through the system of appointing Senate vacancies is not perfect, it may not necessarily be the best idea to replace it with popular election. According to a Feb. 3 article in The New York Times, Russ Feingold, a senator from Wisconsin, introduced an amendment that would require all states to fill Senate seats through popular election. The amendment is cosponsored by Senator John McCain and Senator Mark Begich, a Democrat from Alaska.

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

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

I am also referring to the other perfectly legal appointments of senators during the special election by Gov. David Paterson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, the issue is more complex than whether we should take the power of filling a Senate seat away from the states. Special elections are expensive and they would take away money that needs to be spent on projects such as health care and education.

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

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

On top of that, special elections are usually extremely low. So is the end, would a senator chosen during a special election really represent the state better than one appointed by a governor? “Turnout is usually around 20 percent,” said Warren. “Is that really more representative of the state than having the senator picked by the state governor?”

According to a Feb. 5 CNN article, Tom Mann, a congressional scholar of the Brookings Institution, a non-profit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C., also stated that the special elections were probably not worth it. “Special elections are difficult,” Mann said. “They tend not to be particularly competitive...It’s better to schedule these during a regular election cycle when turnout will be higher and when there is more time, opportunity and resources.”

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

Congress disputing on how to appoint Senate seats

OLGA VELEZ
Staff Writer

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

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

On top of that, special elections are usually extremely low. So is the end, would a senator chosen during a special election really represent the state better than one appointed by a governor? “Turnout is usually around 20 percent,” said Warren. “Is that really more representative of the state than having the senator picked by the state governor?”

According to a Feb. 5 CNN article, Tom Mann, a congressional scholar of the Brookings Institution, a non-profit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C., also stated that the special elections were probably not worth it. “Special elections are difficult,” Mann said. “They tend not to be particularly competitive...It’s better to schedule these during a regular election cycle when turnout will be higher and when there is more time, opportunity and resources.”

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

Musical Chairs

KIMBERLY ENGELHARDT
Staff Writer

Imagine you’re at your sibling’s wedding. Everybody, from grandpa to that annoying 2-year-old nephew, is in tears. While the two love birds exchange their rings, you discover the perfect angle for a picture. However, you don’t have a camera in your possession. Raising your lower lip at the thought of letting slip the Kodak moment slip away from your hands, you decide to take out your handy-dandy camera phone and click away, rather loudly due to the shutter sound that the phone’s camera makes.

In an instant, the golden silence disintegrated.

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

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

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

According to ABC News, “the congressman has introduced the Camera Phone Predator Alert Act, which would require cell phones with built-in digital cameras to make a sound when a picture is taken.”

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

This proposition needs to be rejected. We live in a nation entitled to silence. If people talk too much, we tell them to shut up. When dogs bark too much, we tell them to shut up. Camera phones, as wonderful as they are, should also have the option of shutting up.

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

We live in a nation entitled to silence. If people talk too much, we tell them to shut up... Camera phones, as wonderful as they are, should also have the option of shutting up.
Hot spots to take your sweety this V-Day

LUCIA SASTRE / Staff Writer

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

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

MELTING POT

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

“Valentine’s Day is a special day. We will be having a romantic decoration along with a bouquet of roses for each table, and several other common North American traditions are in the making,” said Melting Pot employee Brett Smith.

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

BONGOS CUBAN CAFÉ

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

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

Bongos transforms from a family restaurant into the city’s hottest 21-and-over salsa nightclub, were live shows are common and entrance charge is affordable. This place is ideal for those sala lovers looking for a low budget and fun night out.

TANTRA RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

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

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

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

Tantra is at 1445 Pennsylvania Avenue in Miami Beach and serves dinner nightly from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., with a late night menu available from 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. “The lounge is open until 3:00 a.m.”

CHEESECAKE FACTORY

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

“I love this place. Every time I go, it makes me want to come back. The cheesecakes are great and the best thing is that they are always bringing out new options,” said Jenna Reeves, a freshman and self-proclaimed No.1 fan of the Cheesecake Factory.

Located on 1497 Dadeland Blvd, the Cheesecake Factory is only a short drive away from the University Park campus.

SPIGA

Spiga offers fancy Italian dinners at reasonable prices. The complimentary bruschetta with grilled eggplant, served to you at one of the few tables is the first of many culinary treats. The complimentary bruschetta with grilled eggplant is known for its hospitable service.

BAHAMA BREEZE

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

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

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

Games to play with your lover this Valentine’s Day

Not to worry – I have answers.

MARO PARY

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

There’s also no bloodshed, and with gameplay so simple, the game is a perfect fit for significant others who usually don’t “do” video gaming.

If you’re looking for the latest Mario Pary, the eighth iteration is only on the Wii. Gamecube owners will have to shoot for seven, and if you’re still in the dark ages with a Nintendo 64, you’ll have to search the bargain bins for Mario Pary 3 (and proceed to buy a Wii).

GUITAR HERO / ROCK BAND

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

The game caters to both hardcore and casual gamers thanks to the tiers of difficulty levels, who are looking for perfection works for your boo is “feet” or “noob.”

Maybe his or her favorite song is in the game.

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

If you’re playing the most recent Guitar Hero or one of the Rock Band games, let them try singing or playing the drums if guitar-strumming isn’t their thing.

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

LITTLEBIGPLANET

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

You’ll both spend more time talking than you should dressing up and critiquing your sackboys and sackgirls, and you’ll have even more fun exploring Media Molecule’s levels together.

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

If you really want to get into it, check out the LittleBigStore online – for $2.99, you can buy any LittleBigDay-themed costumes for your sackpeople.

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

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

Much like the game itself, the possibilities for Valentine’s fun in LittleBigPlanet are endless.
“A crush is like a love disease. It can drive you mad.” warns 9-year-old love doctor Alec Greven in his best-selling book How to Talk to Girls.

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

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

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

Helen Fisher, an anthropologist and chief scientific adviser for the Web site Chemistry.com, relied in “Why Him? Why Her?” on the impact of brain chemistry and a survey of hundreds of thousands of people’s responses to online dating profiles. Fisher’s book, on human mating, is easy to spot pretty girls because they have the big earrings, fancy dresses, and all the jewelry. Use caution! When you see a pretty girl, don’t let her tractor beam pull you in.”

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

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

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

### This Week on Campus

**Friday, February 13**

**WHAT:** Love Fest
**WHERE:** 8 p.m.
**WHERE:** UC 243

Contact: 305-348-2297

**WHAT:** Garrn
**WHERE:** 8 p.m.
**WHERE:** Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Contact: 305-949-6722

**WHAT:** Toyo Monkey Control
**WHERE:** 5 p.m.
**WHERE:** Falls Shopping Center

Contact: 305-255-4570

**WHAT:** Yonder Mountain String Band
**WHERE:** 9 p.m.
**WHERE:** Revolution Live

Contact: 305-866-6925

**WHAT:** Laughing Gas Comedy Improv
**WHERE:** 11 p.m.
**WHERE:** Main Street Playhouse

Contact: 305-461-1161

**Saturday, February 14**

**WHAT:** Don King’s St. Valentine’s Day Campfire
**WHERE:** Bank Atlantic Center

Contact: 954-835-7825

**WHAT:** Valentine’s Day Canoe and Campfire
**WHERE:** Bill Sadowski Park

Contact: 305-255-4767

**WHAT:** Disturbed
**WHERE:** 7:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Pompano Beach Amphitheatre

Contact: 305-621-5566

**WHAT:** Under the Stars jazz concert featuring Arturo Sandoval
**WHERE:** 5:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Fairchild Botanical Gardens

Contact: 305-667-1651

**WHAT:** “Moonlight and Music” jazz concert
**WHERE:** 8 p.m.
**WHERE:** The Deering Estate

Contact: 305-235-1688

**Sunday, February 15**

**WHAT:** One Love
**WHERE:** 9 p.m.
**WHERE:** Voyage Ultra lounge

Contact: 305-986-9837

**WHAT:** Escape the Fate
**WHERE:** 6:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Culture Room

Contact: 305-442-9671

**WHAT:** A Bronx Tale
**WHERE:** 7:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Parker Playhouse

Contact: 954-462-0222

**WHAT:** Gala for Two Pianos
**WHERE:** 9 p.m.
**WHERE:** United Methodist Church

Contact: 786-303-5397

**WHAT:** Coconut Grove Arts Festival
**WHERE:** 9 p.m.
**WHERE:** Coconut Grove

Contact: 305-447-0401

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa
The Beacon – Friday, February 13, 2009

**METALOCYCLPE**

**HEAD BANGING:** Bassist Olga Flink performed with Swedish death metal band “Solvkorn” at the V/Wave Room on Thursda. Feb. 5 2009.

**diversions**

**art by iris amelie / story by susana rodriguez**

**Happy Valentine’s Day**

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

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

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

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

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

The film’s writers, Damon Shannon and Mark Swift, manage to create a different mythology for the Jason Voorhees’ evolution by taking different aspects of the first three original Friday the 13th movies and putting these references into the remake. They make an attempt to take everything that fans love about the franchise and make it frighteningly realistic.

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

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

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

An element that makes the film more intense than its predecessors is the rejuvenation of Jason Voorhees. In all the Friday the 13th films that Jason appeared stalking his prey, he would walk slow and eventually catch up to them. This time around, he is a lean, mean killing machine and moves as fast as a NFL linebacker. Even if you were trying to outrun Jason, there would be no escape because he can move as fast as you can, which is really scary.

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

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

Relationships, not fantasies, need work

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

Well, Disney fails to tell you that is Charming loses his job in the castle and constantly nags Charming about his laziness. Then Charming gets out to be Pamela Voorhees, who held a machete. The woman turns out to be the unluckiest day of the year in the re-imagination of the 1980 classic horror film, Friday the 13th.

Friday the 13th pays homage, brings clichés to theaters

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

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

The acting in the movie is average, but by the time it reaches its climax, the performances dwindle down to people screaming, crying and being on alert for Jason. Eventually, it becomes acting that you would expect in any other horror film, no matter what franchise it is.

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MEN’S OPEN # 1

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

MEN’S OPEN # 2

TEAM | OVERALL
--- | ---
Big City | 1-0
Cheese | 0-0
Undrafted | 0-1
DSU | 0-0-1
Underestimated | 0-0-1

MEN’S OPEN # 5

TEAM | OVERALL
--- | ---
Here Snowflake | 1-0
Miami Lakes Legends | 1-0
Nemesia | 0-1
Hustler...Like Rick Ross | 0-1
The Other Guys | 0-0

MEN’S OPEN # 3

TEAM | OVERALL
--- | ---
No Dumbish | 2-0
Bollers | 2-0
Dark Knight | 1-1
Tenacious D | 1-1
The Ninja Turtles | 0-2
Good Of Days | 0-2

SORORITY/ WOMEN’S #1

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

SORORITY/ WOMEN’S #2

TEAM | OVERALL
--- | ---
Aasahh-sass | 2-0
Phi Mu | 1-1-1
Alpha Omicron Pi | 1-1-1
Sigma Kappa | 0-2

CO-REC

TEAM | OVERALL
--- | ---
Cleveland Steamers | 2-0
Air Jordan | 2-0
FRUSM | 0-2
HOPness | 0-2

FRATERNITY

TEAM | OVERALL
--- | ---
Phi Sigma Kappa | 2-0-1
Pi Kappa Alpha | 2-0
Kappa Alpha Psi | 1-0-1
Sigma Alpha Mu | 2-1
Tou Delta | 1-1
Pi Kappa Phi | 1-1
Lambda Theta Phi | 1-1
Sigma Phi Epsilon | 0-2
FIU | 0-3

JOIN OUR STAFF!

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

Golden Panthers look to win with offense

SOFTBALL, page 12

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

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

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

Gniadek, the freshman from Virginia, commented on last weekend’s performance.

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

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

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

Junior leads in threes; guard unfazed by TOs

WOMEN’S, page 12

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

GIVEAWAYS

Sophomore point guard and first-year Golden Panther Michelle Gonzalez continued to struggle with holding the basketball as she turned the ball over seven times against ASU.

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

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

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Freshman wows coach with debut performance; confuses opponents

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In her first start at the Division 1 level, she shut down the No. 18 ranked team in the nation.

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

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

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

“No mistakes, she [McClendon] doesn’t take anything but the best,” Gniadek said.

McClendon vouches for the starting pitcher out of Hickory High School in Virginia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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