Protests bring down Mubarak’s regime

Egypt exploded with joy and tears of relief after pro-democracy protesters brought down President Hosni Mubarak with a momentous march after he finally resigned Friday.

Changes to GRE have some students changing plans

Rodolfo Martinez’s newly purchased cap and gown hung over a stack of Princeton Review GRE prep books from 2008 that cluttered his desk.

“Sudan uses a lot of rocket-propelled grenade attacks in the south, and we had been afraid of being hit,” said King, who believes having people to openly carry weapons, “is the right setting for the other students who are here.”

Lee Weiss, director of Pre-Graduate Programs said the test will focus on math that you apply to the Quantitative Reasoning section, “I don’t have time [to study] but there is no way I’m not taking the GRE after August.”

“By the time employee,” Martinez said. “I don’t have time to study but there is no way I’m not taking the GRE after August.”

This announcement has set students at FIU in motion as many change their plans to take the GRE earlier than anticipated. “I would say we’ve definitely seen a high level of enrollment in the last few months,” said Lee Weiss, director of Pre-Graduate Programs at Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, a company that provides tutoring services for students. “Our enrollment has been growing.”

Rodolfo Martinez, 23, a Florida International University student who graduated in December, plans on taking the GRE General Test in March, “I was planning on taking the GRE General Test in March, but the revised test will focus on math that you can apply to real-life scenarios and will require students to be able to interpret more data. The new version of the GRE will provide an on-screen calculator.

The multiple-choice questions will include more than one correct answer and students will have to choose all the right answers from the given choices. There will also be new numeric entry questions, which will require the student to enter the answer and then check it.

The more drastic changes can be seen in the Verbal Reasoning section of the revised GRE, which is the same concept of basic math will still apply to the Quantitative Reasoning section, but the revised test will focus on math that you can apply to real-life scenarios and will require students to be able to interpret more data. The new version of the GRE will provide an on-screen calculator.

GRE, page 2
Students, faculty oppose new ‘open-carry’ legislation

stryers to acts of violence, such as the regrettable stabbing of Kendall Berry, which is why we feel strongly as a Student Senate that we should take a strong stance against any legal acts that could facilitate further acts of violence at our University,” said SGM-MMC Senate Speaker Hector Mujica, who proposed the resolution.

The resolution’s co-sponsor, College of Arts and Sciences Senator Chris Cahral, agrees with Mujica’s sentiments.

“I’ve seen people almost come to blows over a parking space at FIU, and now you want to give these people guns? I’m pretty used to leaders at the state level making terrible decisions, but this actually surprised me,” said Cabral, who believes SB 234 would have a profound impact on in-class discussions and cause professors to be intimidated.

“It’s hard to give constructive criticisms to someone who has a gun on them,” said Cabral. “I’m not opposed to guns in general, but I’m opposed to them being carried around in the public sphere.”

Thomas Breslin, chairman of the University’s Faculty Senate, shares similar concerns and told Student Media that there is “no appreciable faculty support” for SB 234.

“We add the fear of being shot to already a tension existing on deadlines, grades, academic conduct, refusal to write letters of recommendation or discussion of controversial topics,” asks Breslin. “I personally would look on someone other than a police officer carrying a gun at the University as somewhat disturbed and anti-social, and, if carrying it openly, sending a threatening message to fellow students and professors.”

While the measure would only allow those who have been issued concealed weapon permits the ability to carry guns openly, King argues that it is “very easy” to get a weapons permit in Florida.

According to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Division of Licensing, to be eligible for a concealed weapon permit the applicant must be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and be able to demonstrate competency with a firearm.

Possible reasons for eligibility include: prior felony conviction, misdemeanor crime of violence within the last three years, two or more DUI convictions within the last three years, being committed to a mental institution or judged mentally incompetent, or having a record of alcohol and drug abuse.

Florida prohibits concealed weapons on all school campuses, making it one of 49 states that either bar them outright or let the individual schools decide on the matter.

Currently, Utah is the only state that allows concealed weapons on its college campuses. This includes nine degree-granting public colleges and one public technology college. For a combined total of one hundred semesters, none of these schools reported a single act of violence (including threats and suicides), gun accidents or gun thefts.

While those statistics may serve to defend the deterrence argument of SB 234 proponents, King believes this argument doesn’t “hold any weight at all.”

“All it takes is that one incident where you and your gun battle in a classroom and you’ll have an uproar,” said King.

He hopes the measure will fail but believes it has a chance to pass due to Florida’s mostly conservative legislature and the strength of pro-gun lobbyists like the National Rifle Association.

“The legislation is irresponsible, a test that grad schools won’t know how to properly evaluate,” Salle said.

“I think that instead of taking the GRE, I’m just going to apply to an MFA program where my portfolio sways the admissions committee. I hope that the legislature, protected by metal detectors and squads of armed guns, does not pass this legislation.”

Students dislike highway

Barbara Kellner countered that these lanes actu-
ally alleviate another problem — taking the GRE is bad for too many people.

While there might be too many drivers, Sindy Vazquez, a biology major who took the GRE for 95 and school work, says there’s too much construction.

“Maintenance is the problem — that and terrible driving — but mainly mainte-
ance,” Vazquez said. “There are cracks everywhere and potholes everywhere. How do you have potholes on a road where people are going 60?”

She, along with many others, says that as long as there are potholes, they create a traffic backup — traffic backs up and roads create a traffic backup.

“Either you have poor roads or a construction crew taking up too much space,” Vazquez said. “Either way, we’re screwed.”

Romulo Aparicio, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing class taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

GRE, page 1

GRE, page 1

broaden scale of the current version, while big differences are still able to stand out. “Basically, everything is changing about the test,” Kaplan’s Weiss said. “Anytime anything changes, students have some uncertainty of have a test right now that’s a very predictable test.”

“It hasn’t changed for a very long time,” he said. “Why take something new that’s a little undefined? I think a lot of students would rather take the test now.”

This is the situation facing FIU graduate Jose Bantula, 23, who moved to New York City in the summer of 2009 to pursue a career in photog-

raphy. Working as a concierge at Ace Hotel, Bantula hopes to take the GRE before the changes take place.

“If I take it now, the results will be good for the next five years,” Bantula said. “It’s a good back-up plan.”

Even though the revised GRE is being advertised by ETS as “good news” for the student who will take it in August, the new format is already alienating some. James Salle, 24, an English major at FIU, has started looking at other options.

“The problem I face is that there are few ways to prepare for a test that nobody has taken before,” he said. “So I become the beta-class and they can work out the kinks for future test-takers.”

“Where does that leave me? Getting a mediocre score on a test that grad schools won’t know how to properly evaluate,” Salle said.

“I think that instead of taking the GRE, I’m just going to apply to an MFA program where my portfolio sways the admissions committee. I hope that the legislature, protected by metal detectors and squads of armed guns, does not pass this legislation.”
**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

More of the same in home loss

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

Despite missing four players due to injury and suspensions, the Golden Panthers still had a chance to tie or win the shooting against the Red Wolves. Instead, a traveling violation was called on senior guard Phil Gary with two seconds remaining as FIU lost a 72-68 nail biter to Louisiana.

Following the turnover, a pair of free-throws from Louisiana’s La’Ryan Gary with over a second left, iced the game for the Ragin’ Cajuns. He finished the game with 12 points.

Head Coach Isiah Thomas did not agree with the late game call by the officials.

“I thought he was fouled. If he did travel, I though he was fouled before he traveled. I thought he was bumped several times on that play, driving to the basket,” Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers (9-15, 4-8 Sun Belt) have hit their lowest point of the season, having lost eight of their last nine contests, including a current two-game losing skid.

With the loss, FIU is now currently in fifth place in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference, with four games in the regular season remaining.

**PLAYERS ARRIVE LATE**

To make matters worse for the Golden Panthers, Eric Fredericks and Brandon Moore were suspended for the game. "Frederick and Moore were late for the game, so I didn’t play them,” Thomas said.

Fredericks were spotted entering the U.S. Century Bank Arena minutes prior to tip-off. It is unknown if Moore and Frederick will miss any action in the future.

As a result, Thomas didn’t play them. Fredericks lead the team in rebounds with 5.4 per game, and Moore leads the team in blocked shots with 21 this season. The Golden Panthers were downsized that night, relying more on youth and athleticism than some of their bigger players.

If that wasn’t enough to put them in a tough position, FIU’s third leading scorer Marvin Roberts was still out with a knee injury he suffered against FAU on Feb. 5.

FIU only had 15 points from the bench that night while Louisiana (19-4, 10-2 Sun Belt) had 20.

**SMALL LINEUP**

During the game, Thomas threw in a much-needed spark by starting Dominique Ferguson.

It took a while for Ferguson to make his presence known on the court as he finished the game with 16 points and four rebounds on 37 minutes of play.

With the Golden Panthers choosing a smaller line up, Ferguson was the only player standing above 6-5.

The 6-8 freshman, has become a regular for FIU in the last couple of games.

“Something the same thing keeps happening—we are capable of being a really good team. Our record could be flipped around after all of these tough losses,” said Ferguson. “We keep fighting hard, but the end result hasn’t been in our favor.”

**FREE-THROW WOES**

According to Thomas, his team’s weakness as of late has been finishing games on the charity line. FIU were 21-30 from the line against Louisiana.

**MEN’S SOFTBALL**

Golden Panthers’ season begins with mixed results

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers took the field for the first time on this weekend as they hosted No. 22 Ohio State and Kentucky on opening night and took on Memphis and DePaul the following day as they prepared for the 2011 MLS season, when Stephen King scored in the 12th minute to put them on the board. Just three minutes later they would add another goal when Yang Men scored off a cross pass from Kurt Morsink. Two more goals would help secure a win for D.C. United.

It was not the first time the FIU has squared off against an MLS team. In 2009, FC Dallas defeated FIU by a score of 9-0 in similar exhibition match.

But just a year later the Golden Panthers would avenge themselves with a 1-0 victory in a rematch with FC Dallas.

The Buckeyes would strike first in the top of the second as Rachael Shepherd hit a home run down the left field line to give the Buckeyes a 1-0 lead.

“It was a pitch that I missed,” Gniadek said of Shepherds home run. “It was not my dominant pitch and...”

**BASEBALL**

Garrett Wittels was given Preseason Player of the Year honors by the Sun Belt Conference while teammate Mike Martinez was named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt team.

Wittels is currently two games away from breaking the NCAA hit streak record of 58 games set by Robin Ventura. The FIU infielder was named the Sun Belt Player of the Year in 2010 after hitting in every game of the season and finishing with a team-best .410 batting average.

With a .375 average and nine home runs to go with his 59 RBIs, Martinez has proven to be a valuable member of the FIU offense and will look to build on those numbers going into his junior season.

The Golden Panthers, who won the SBC tournament last summer and earned a regional berth, were predicted in a preseason coaches poll to finish second in the conference, only trailing Florida Atlantic. FIU received one out of 10 possible first place votes.

**TENNIS**

After weather delay, FIU earns first conference win

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

After having the weather delay the start of the match against the Red Wolves, The Golden Panthers got a much need win.

FIU swept Arkansas State 7-0 to gain their first win in Sun Belt conference play. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’as was impressed with her team’s performance.

“Coming into the match, the girls were very prepared,” Applebaum-Dall’as said. “Their level expectations was one of excellence and high standard. They came out focused and ready to win every match, and they did.”

Liset Brito started the momentum for the Golden Panthers, as she able to overpower Arkansas State’s Emily Croye in straight sets (6-2, 6-0).

Christine Seredu had an easier time with Jenny Herring, as Seredu won in straight sets (6-1, 6-1) to put FIU up 2-0.

Lina Nocera started the match by winning the first set against Janie Nowland 6-1. Nowland made a furious comeback in the second set, but it was not enough as Johnson put the finishing touches to the set to win 6-4, giving the Golden Panthers a commanding 3-0 lead.

Giulietta Boha would continue the streak of straight set wins for FIU, this time against Brijana Miloshkova, with a straight set 6-3, 6-0. Maria Spenceley would mirror Boha’s match win, as she won in straight sets 6-0, 6-3 over Ceara Howey.

ASU’s Loana Teu was able to break the Golden Panthers straight-set streak by taking the first set 6-4 over Rita Maisak. Maisak responded in the second set with an overpowering 6-1 win.

The third set saw the two players go into a tiebreaker situation, with Maisak coming on top 10-6.

The Panthers finished off the afternoon with a doubles sweep with a come-from-behind victory by the duo of Giulietta Boha and Christine Seredu, who overcame a 3-0 deficit to beat ASU’s Newland and Miloshkova 8-6. This is the first win in conference play for FIU.

“The same thing keeps happening—we are capable of being a really good team. Our record could be flipped around after all of these tough losses,” said Ferguson. “We keep fighting hard, but the end result hasn’t been in our favor.”

**FREE-THROW WOES**

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**SOFTHALL, page 4**

Golden Panthers drop exhibition with D.C. United

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers continued their offseason training with an offseason match against D.C. United of Major League Soccer on Feb. 9. Things didn’t go very well for FIU, failing to score a goal in a 4-0 shutout at Lockhart Stadium in Ft. Lauderdale.

The scoring started early for D.C. United, which is currently training in South Florida as they prepare for the 2011 MLS season, when Stephen King scored in the 12th minute to put them on the board. Just three minutes later they would add another goal when Yang Men scored off a cross pass from Kurt Morsink. Two more goals would help secure a win for D.C. United.

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**SOFTBALL**

Golden Panthers’ season begins with mixed results

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers took the field for the first time on this weekend as they hosted No. 22 Ohio State and Kentucky on opening night and took on Memphis and DePaul the following day as part of the Classic Tournament.

**OHIO STATE 2, FIU 1**

The Golden Panthers would lose to Ohio State in a pitcher’s duel by a score of 2-1. Jenn Gniadek would pitch a complete game for FIU, giving up six hits over seven innings and recorded eight strikeouts.

“I think I did pretty good,” Gniadek said after the game. “Our hitting was a little off but catch us on any other day and it’s a win.”

**SOFTBALL, page 4**

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First win of season comes in thriller vs. Memphis

SOFTBALL, page 3

She's 16. Wittels was with a group of friends, old girl. The age of consent in the Bahamas was the hardest day of my life,” Wittels said afterwards. “We were told, it’s Ohio State, it’s Kentucky and we are [the type of team] where we want to win. We will relax (on Saturday) and be us.”

FIU 7, MEMPHIS 6

The Golden Panthers offense finally came to life as they defeated the Memphis Tigers in a thrilling 7-6 ballgame on Feb. 12. The Panthers would score four runs in the bottom of the first. Beth Peller, would notch the one of the four runs on a single to right field which scored Brie Rojas.

The Tigers would fight back by scoring two runs in the sixth and four more runs in the ninth inning to give themselves a 6-4 lead late in the game.

With one more opportunity in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Golden Panthers would get consecutive hits by Rojas, Ashley McClain and Welch to cut the lead to 6-5. FIU would load the bases and Slowik would single to right in the game.

The game would end moments later on a wild pitch by relief pitcher Lauren Carley to seal the 7-6 victory.

DEPAUL 6, FIU 4

The Golden Panthers were unable to put consecutive hits together as pitcher Jeni Gnaidek would struggle against DePaul, giving up four runs in two innings of work in a 6-4 loss to the Blue Demons on Feb. 11.

Ashley McClain would come in to slow the Blue Demon offense. The Golden Panthers would score on a double by Slowik which plated two in the fourth to cut the lead to 4-3. Depaul would score in the sixth and seventh to seal a 6-4 victory.

BASEBALL

Wittels prepares for new season amidst accusations

He's been tempted over the past eight months. The dark locks now extend well below the helmet of college baseball's reigning hit king. But superstitions, and Wittels vowed not to get into those. The only thing that the Panthers are focused on is continuing their record streak set in 1987 — is still going from last season.’ ends.

No. 1 thing I've learned throughout this whole thing, really, is that you just have to know who you are and that the people who are around you are your backbone. You've got your fans, your haters, all these people... but the people around you are the ones who'll have your back.”

That includes the FIU clubhouse. The attention Wittels' streak generated last season never seemed to truly bother teammates. The only thing that the Panthers regularly bicker over is the type of music that shall blare pregame, rap, country or reggae.

“We're focused on the whole team and that's really what's important,” Thomas said. “But the hair remains.

“I can't quit,” Wittels said.

But the hair remains.

You can’t really worry about what people think about you... you just have to know who you are and that the people who are around you are your backbone.”

Garrett Wittels
FIU Infielder
ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

The pressure to have a perfect Valentine’s Day can take its toll on any one, but it seems that one kiss at the University’s “Kissing Bridge” is all it takes to ensure romantic bliss.

Linking the Ryder Business and College of Law with the rest of campus, the lovingly dubbed “Kissing Bridge” has sparked true love for over 40 years. According to the Student Alumni Association tradition, this bridge has crossed over the heart-shaped pool, also known as Turtle Pond, since the opening of the Modesto Maidique Campus in 1972.

Students, much like they do today, chose to sit along the pond with friends or significant others. Soon enough, the pond’s charming ambiance attracted more couples, attracting more and more people to choose it as a kissing spot.

Since this trend started back in the 1970’s, SAA has reported several alumni coming back to FIU to tell the story of their first kiss on the bridge. They come back not only to share a revered memory, but to warn of its supernatural “powers” to legitimize everlasting love. SAA supports the idea, and shares its legend that every couple who kisses on the bridge will be together for life.

Whether students buy into it or not, the kissing bridge has been a part of the University’s celebration of Valentine’s Day for years. Students and faculty are always welcomed to enjoy the spontaneous moments when they first met, Elizabeth thanked us and we just started talking, eventually he asked me to get some lunch with him,” said Charlene.

Being together for 2 years and going to the same school, Wertman enjoys the spontaneous moments when she sees Revales throughout her day. “What I like best is when we accidentally run into each other in between classes.”

Although tests are going to prevent them from celebrating on Monday, Wertman is excited to “get dressed up” and go to dinner and ballet this weekend.

While Wertman and Revales enjoyed their first encounter in class, the story for Charlene Blevens, assistant vice president and interim controller, and her husband, Dr. Fred Blevens, honors fellow and journalism professor, was somewhat different.

“He was an instructor, and I took a journalism course of his but I had enrolled in the wrong class. He kept trying to kick me out of class, but I refused to go. Maybe if I would have listened, I’d have done better. He gave me a B,” said Charlene.

Long after that class ended, Charlene was dating someone else when she encountered Fred again.

“That was pretty weird. He was actually one of my students too, and he remained a very good friend for some time,” said Dr. Blevens.

The Blevens duo doesn’t need to “make a big deal” out of Valentine’s Day, because they’ll be celebrating 29 years of marriage in April.

Upon hearing the tradition associated with the kissing bridge, Charlene excitedly said, “I guess we better get over there but I think we’ve had a pretty good start so far.”

What people do is blow the whole day out of proportion. Maybe what should be happening is that we should tone down all the hype and keep it simple.

I am in no way insinuating that all this love is fake. What makes people dislike Valentine’s Day? For some, such as myself, it’s the memory of horrible past dates.

“What makes people dislike Valentine’s Day? For some, such as myself, it’s the memory of horrible past dates.”

“Yes. I consider myself a hopeless romantic. I am someone who listens to love songs, such as “Haven’t Met You Yet” by Michael Bublé. I get sucked into romantic comedies, like How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days and You’ve Got Mail, and I honestly ask myself “Could that happen to me?” I don’t hate the holiday. It is a way of reaffirming your love to someone. What people do is blow the whole day out of proportion. Maybe what should be happening is that we should tone down all of the hype and keep it simple.

“I have friends that go out and celebrate the day, regardless if they had someone or not,” said junior Patrick Benedetti, a psychology major at FIU. “They would go out and be with friends or people they considered loved ones. Doesn’t have to be a boyfriend or girlfriend, just someone you really care about.”

Benedetti might be on to something.

A bad Valentine can leave a permanent scar

The time of year is here for flowers, balloons, candy and hearts. People are running around, trying to muster up the courage to show affection towards special people. Couples wait to sit down at a place to eat. To after all that, then what?

Valentine’s Day is the one official day out of the year for men and women to declare love for one another.

With all honesty, this has not been a good day for me in the past. My first true Valentine’s Day memory was in high school, when I found out that my then-girlfriend was cheating on me.

A couple of years later, I was dumped on Valentine’s Day and ended up watching the movie Hitch with a male coworker. Also, a girl walked up on a dinner date, and the most asinine excuse was that she was invited to a movie with a friend. All of these instances occurred within a five-year span and left me wondering...”With some people, I think Valentine’s Day really cares about, said Wertman.

“If people believe that for Valentine’s Day, sometimes miracles happen” Mangual said.

"FIU really did bring us together," said Elizabeth before her husband added, “It’s a really big part of who we were, and being on campus reminds us of us at all.”

Another reason for the hate on Valentine’s Day may be that some people have past loves that scarred them.

The pressure doesn’t just fall on people who are single and looking for something to do, but also for couples who look to make this a memorable day.

Am I guilty of having expectations for Valentine’s Day? Yes. I consider myself a hopeless romantic. I am someone who listens to love songs, such as “Haven’t Met You Yet” by Michael Bublé. I get sucked into romantic comedies, like How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days and You’ve Got Mail, and I honestly ask myself “Could that happen to me?”

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Benedetti might be on to something. If you’re in a relationship, show them your love for them, but don’t overdo it. Take time to enjoy the people around you.

It may be a holiday that may have hurt you, but why not do something special for someone close to you? With all that being said, I will probably be roped into finding a way to make this day memorable.

No matter what has happened in the past, I look forward to the day that Valentine’s Day means something special to me.

Maybe I just want to be part of something special. People believe that for Valentine’s Day, sometimes miracles happen” Mangual said.
FASHION FINDS

Romantic holiday is just an excuse to wear a flirty dress

I’m not a big Valentine’s Day girl. It’s probably because I really hate the color pink and this holiday decides to shove it in my face for weeks.

But being the clotheshorse I am, I love Valentine’s Day only because I get the chance to buy a flirty dress and heels and someone buys me flowers. That I can handle. Whether you have a date or not, you should relish in this cutey vibe of the holiday and go out. The Valentine’s day feeling is absolutely divine; it’s a party with plenty of food, my girlfriends and lots of wine.

That being said, here are my tips for looking great on Valentine’s Day.

• Buy yourself a bouquet of your favorite flowers and indulge in your own company.
• Love yourself. If you can’t do that, make a pretty penny, but it can also be a day of great self-realization.
• If you’re single on Valentine’s remember this:
  • Love yourself. If you can’t do this simple task, you won’t be able to successfully dedicate yourself to loving anyone else.
  • Buy yourself a bouquet of your favorite chocolates and indulge in your own company.
• Having a date or not, you should relish in the Valentine’s Day feeling and introduce yourself to the masses. It’s a nice way to look great on Valentine’s Day.

Don’t fret being single on Valentine’s; throw a party instead

Being alone on Valentine’s Day isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Yes, it’s a stupid, commercialized excuse for the flower, chocolate and greeting cards industry to make a pretty penny, but it can also be a day of great self-realization.

If you’re single on Valentine’s remember this:

• Love yourself. If you can’t do this simple task, you won’t be able to successfully dedicate yourself to loving anyone else.
• Buy yourself a bouquet of your favorite flowers or a box of your favorite chocolates and indulge in your own company.
• Don’t let anyone make you feel bad about being alone today. I’ve been single for a few years now and they’ve been the best of my life. After being in two long-term relationships back-to-back, I had forgotten how great it felt to be single and that being a little selfish was totally acceptable. I’ve been able to focus on planning for my future and enjoying my friendships in the present.
• When you get home from your long day today, do something nice for yourself like taking a long candlelit bath or just pull out your credit card and splurge on yourself a little.
• Afterwards, make a list of what you love about being single or write yourself a type of love letter with all the things you love about being single or write yourself a type of love letter with all the things you love about you. Once you’re finished, re-read it and keep it safe for future reference.

WEAR A DRESS

Wear a dress simply because you can wear jeans any other date night. Valentine’s is a lot like New Year’s where girls indulge in getting gussied up and putting on a dress. Keep the style flirty with an A-line style skirt. I love the look of a mini A-line skirt because it has the sexiness of a mini but it’s not as provocative as a body-con.

The key to a good mini is to keep the skirt short and the top covered. If you’re showing leg, strap away from showing cleavage. If exhibitionism is your thing, try a backless dress. Urban Oufitters offers several versions of the style at a moderate price. Like I mentioned earlier I despise the color pink, but I’m not against wearing red on this romantic day.

Urban Oufitters and American Apparel made body-con style dresses famous after ripping off high-end designer Hervé Leger’s style and introducing it to the masses. It’s a skintight dress that is designed to look like the dress was “bandaged” to the body.

I am a fan of body-con dresses because they are flattering despite what you may think. The dress is so tight that it gives the body a nice hourglass shape whether you have one or not.

KEEP ACCESSORIES TO A MINIMUM

If you’re wearing a patterned dress (by the way, where else can you wearless floral?), keep your accessories neutral. I consider metallics to be neutral so stick with a pewter or gold clutch and shoes to keep your accessories from competing with your dress.

I’ll be wearing a nude color dress and match it with beaded clutch and red shoes to just up the outfit. As for jewelry, I’m really into chunky necklaces right now. I wouldn’t pair it with anything other than simple diamond studs and a watch.

The same goes for cocktail rings. The oversized ring doesn’t need help from any other accessories to make an outfit complete.

Fashion Finds is a weekly column on all things fashion. Look for it every Monday.
Student involvement needed to fight gun bill

Our economy has suffered and states are finding ways to compensate. Over the last few years, we all have seen the effects of statewide budget cuts to education. Our tuition has risen 15 percent annually, and it looks like it will continue to rise for the foreseeable future. The variety of courses offered across different majors has diminished, leaving students with less options and difficulty enrolling. Many students who rely on the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program have seen their aid reduced.

Student Government understands these are the utmost importance for many families. While tough times have affected us all, education must not be viewed as an easy or acceptable place to make cuts. We at Student Government are engaging Florida Senators and Representatives, letting them know of student concerns, especially regarding upcoming legislation.

For instance, textbooks are currently not included in the upcoming tax-free week. This is a concern. We at Student Government are working with representatives, letting them know of student concerns, especially regarding upcoming legislation.

Ultimately, if Student Government is going to have an impact on... the overall quality of student life, we are going to need your help.

The mission of Save a Child's Heart is to improve the quality of medical care for children in developing countries who suffer from heart disease and to create centers for competence in these countries. SACH has treated more than 2,500 children from over 40 countries where adequate medical care is unavailable.

According to its website, 40 percent of the children who underwent cardiac surgeries are from Africa, 49 percent are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco. 4 percent are from Eastern Europe and the Americas and 7 percent are from Asia.

Cupcakes and heart shaped cards will be given away on Valentine’s Day. If you would like to help Save a Child’s Heart, send a message to shalom@fiusm.edu or visit the Shalom FIU org website. For more information about SACH go to saveachildsheart.org.

Save a Child’s Heart, a pro-Israel student organization.
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Negro League Exhibit brings baseball fever to campus**

**KATIE LAWRENCE**  
Contributing Writer

Baseball fever started early at the Biscayne Bay Campus as an event showcasing the Negro Baseball League and their accomplishments was hosted in the Wolf University Center as part of the University’s Black History Month activities.

Students wandered through booths of photos and memorabilia on the afternoon of Feb. 8 in the Wolfe University Center while television stations showed movies during the historic accomplishments of the Negro League. Even some former league players were on hand to take pictures and share stories of their time in a tumultuous era playing America’s greatest game.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Campus Recreation in partnership with More Than a Game, a non-profit organization based in Fort Lauderdale that educates the community about the history of blacks in baseball and promotes the game to inner-city children.

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“Kids today want to play basketball or football, so we try to remind them that this is their future and to give them knowledge about how fun baseball can be.”

Phillip, a former minor league player, coach, and lifelong baseball fan, founded More Than a Game in 2004. The organization has since put on numerous events with the African-American Library in Fort Lauderdale, worked with Old Dillard Museum and private collectors to bring memorabilia to the masses, and even started inner-city youth little league teams, the last of which Phillip said brought almost 200 kids out.

Derek Davis, the curator of Old Dillard Museum in Fort Lauderdale, said she buys a drink everyday on campus but doesn’t always recycle. “I try,” Bonami said. “If there were more recycle bins, I’d definitely recycle every time because I’d feel good throwing something in the trash when there is a bin to next to.”

Once the Panther Pickup bill is passed and funds are appropriated, Hernandez said he will meet with a graphic artists to design a new theme for a recycling campaign.

He will work with Jennifer Grimn, the environmental coordinator in the Office of the Provost, BBC. “I hope [Grimn and I develop] some type of trust system there, where I can just go to her and can help me out,” Hernandez said. “She knows a lot more about the environment than I know, and about what’s going on around campus.”

This is the third resolution Hernandez has presented in two semesters on the council. The first resolution was to provide nicotine gum for smokers during the transition to a smoke-free campus.

Working on the Panther Pickup resolution has made an impact with Hernandez. “It inspired me to write a paper about everything a day’s Pacific trash island, where trash is being collected in the water, forming almost an island of garbage” Hernandez said. “I’m really interested in the environment.”

Hernandez hopes to make a career out of engineering innovation, such as making gasless cars and incorporating photosynthesis into electronics.

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**Council passes resolution to add more recycling bins**

**BECCA GRIESEMER**  
Staff Writer

Camilo Hernandez, a biomedical engineering freshman, wants Biscayne Bay Campus to run on natural energy by the time he graduates. For now, the lower division senator from Columbia just wants everyone on campus to recycle more.

Hernandez presented, and the Senate passed, a resolution for the Panther Pickup Recycling Campaign on Feb. 7, which proposes to add new recycling bins and move old ones to higher collection areas.

Hernandez said the Panther Pickup bill would need to be allocated about $500 from the senate discretionary fund to cover costs of advertising and doubling the amount of bins on campus, from about 15 to 30.

“Maybe we could throw in pictures,” Hernandez said. “We want to encourage students in a new way, and to give them knowledge about our recycling system so it could better benefit everyone.”

Hernandez based the recycling bin reform on a resolution Michelle Reyes, former SGC-BBC lower division senator, was working on to support the green movement made at BBC.

“Not that many students in this campus know that our recycling system is single stream, which means you can place anything in any of the bins,” Hernandez said.

Single stream is possible because the materials will be sorted out at a recycling compound. This means even though some bins are shaped like a bottle and have a bottle-sized hole for discarding materials, anything recyclable is acceptable.

According to the Recycling Program Outline from the University’s Custodial Services, Recycling & Solid Waste Management, the single stream project was implemented in June 2009 after a single stream recycling plant was opened in South Florida. Hernandez is improving a map Reyes made of BBC that shows high, medium, and low circulation areas.

The two-story walkway from the Wolfe University Center to the Glenn H. Fox Student Center, which is classified as high circulation, and is for having three trashcans on both levels, but no recycle bins in sight.

In a paper Reyes wrote on what’s wrong with the campus recycling system, she listed areas with a lack of, or incorrectly labeled bins. The paper ends: “and the list goes on.”

While the bins were originally placed by SGA, Hernandez said it needs to be strategized and discussed with building managers to make sure there are no false hazards.

Ruth Bonami, an English senior, said she buys a drink everyday on campus, but doesn’t always recycle. “I try,” Bonami said. “If there were more recycle bins, I’d definitely recycle every time because I’d feel good throwing something in the trash when there is a bin to next to.”

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**I-95 sits atop list of nation’s most dangerous roadways**

**RONNIE FIGUEROA**  
Contributing Writer

Although University students taking Interstate 95 to and from campus face a less dangerous commute to school today than they did in years past, accident and fatality rates on the highway still soar above the national average.

During the past five years, more than 20,000 accidents and 163 fatalities occurred on Miami-Dade and Broward counties’ 42-mile stretch of I-95, according to data compiled by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Last year, however, marked a low in both categories for the past 10 years, with most officials attributing the drop to road and traffic flow improvements. The improvements, however, aren’t enough to decrease South Florida’s 88-mile stretch, which includes Palm Beach County, from the top spot in the United States in terms of fatalities per mile over the past five years with 3.13.

The next closest is New Jersey’s Interstate 76 with 1.64 fatalities per mile.

The National Highway Safety Administration ranked it the most dangerous highway from 2004 through 2008. During that span, Miami-Dade County alone averaged more than 100 injuries per mile.

With the majority of FIU’s 42,000 students living off its two campuses, driving to class can pose a greater challenge than school itself.

Fort Lauderdale native, Patterson Murphree, treks I-95 every weekday to get to Biscayne Bay Campus.

“There’s never a dull moment on I-95,” he says. “You’re either getting cut off or flipped off. I think I see an accident every day.”

Murphree considers himself lucky...