Competing for Miss FIU title

The seven contestants of the Second Annual Miss Florida International University Pageant strutted their stuff as they circled the stage showing their beautiful smiles and looks to impress the five judges.

The event was held at the University Park Graham Center Ballroom on Jan. 15.

Over one hundred family members and friends attended the event to cheer on their favorite beauty. Many family members held pictures with the names of their preferred contestant that read...”for 2005 Miss FIU.”

Many important individuals of the beauty pageant world witnessed the event, such as Aaron Fowler, former Miss West Palm Beach, Aaron Fowler and Mary Sullivan executive director of the Miss Florida Scholarship program.

Also in attendance was the first Miss FIU, Merissa Amkraut, who gave two violin performances with her brother Ross, as well as a farewell speech. Later that night, Amkraut was acclaimed for representing FIU and received a standing ovation when she gave her final walk as Miss FIU.

“Being part of Miss FIU and Miss America, offered me scholarship money,” said Amkraut. “I judged many FIU events and was a part of them. Also, I represented FIU at the Miss Florida Pageant and placed in the top 15.”

This year’s pageant, had fewer competitors, but according to Allison L. Choban, the executive director of the second Annual Miss FIU Pageant, it was more successful than last year’s.

“We really had a lot of help from the students and the university. Student government funded most of the pageant,” said Choban. “Even though we had fewer competitors, this year’s event went a lot smoother. I feel that with the help of the university, the pageant will grow.”

The seven contestants that competed for the grand prize of $750 in scholarship money, a trophy and gift certificates included: Mfonobong Essiet, Christie Fox, Evelyn Danford, Rachel Louissaint, Annabelle Delgado, Megan Alonge, and Robyn Luck.

As part of the grand prize contestants competed for a chance to represent FIU at this year’s Miss America pageant which will be held at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium on June 26 - July 2.

“The beauty pageant is important for FIU because she [Miss FIU] will be an ambassador to the school,” said Choban. “She will represent us in Miss Florida and in Miss America.”

TAKING THE CATWALK BY STORM:
Meggie Alonge shu's the stuff to become the 2005 Miss FIU (above). Along with being crowned by last year's pageant winner Merissa Amkraut (right), Alonge received $750 in scholarship money, a trophy and gift certificates.

Christie Fox, Evelyn Danford, Allison Louisaiant, Annabelle Delgado, Megan Alonge, and Robyn Luck.

By MICHELLE M. AREAN
Contributing Writer

FIU professor exposes undiscovered ingredient in OTC drug

By MICHELLE M. AREAN
Contributing Writer

FIU Professor Albert Sabucedo, Ph.D., found that the dietary supplement, Actra RX, also known as Yilishen, is not 100 percent natural, as it claims to be, but contains large amounts of sildenafil citrate, the active ingredient found in Viagra. This could be lethal to some.

The professor began his research, which exposed Body Basics, the manufacturer of these dietary supplements containing sildenafil citrate, when former FIU student Mauricio Gutierrez brought his concerns about the pills to Sabucedo’s attention.

“Mauricio is the brain-child behind all of this,” said Sabucedo. “Sometimes you just have to listen to the little people.”

Actra RX used to be known as Naigara, a product that promotes sexual enhancement, but after Body Basics was sued by Pfizer Inc., the company that produces Viagra, a small, white sticker was added to each label to cover the name.

Actra RX has the same amount of sildenafil as Viagra, which is legally available by prescription only in the U.S. People who are taking nitrates for conditions such as diabetes, blood pressure and many heart conditions, such as angina, should not take Viagra.

Actra RX does not contain any prescription medications containing nitrates. Many patients who suffer from these diseases find that erectile dysfunction is often also a condition pain takes this dietary supplement, it can send his or her blood pressure to plummet to cardiac arrest.

An article by Health-Day.com quotes a letter by the chairman of the board of Body Basics, Frank Estrada, stating: “The manufacturer has unequivocally assured us that Actra Rx DOES NOT contain sildenafil.”

The article also states that Pfizer Inc. sued Body Basics two years ago, claiming that the product contained sildenafil citrate. The two parties settled out of court, and as part of the settlement Body Basics was no longer able to use the name Niagra.

Sabucedo’s research ultimately caused the Food and Drug Administration to recall Actra-RX, yet it took them about a year to act after his initial letter reporting his findings.

In November, the FDA issued a warning against Actra-RX for containing an undeclared prescription drug ingredient. A month later, they issued an urgent recall.

Sabucedo plans to continue researching the product until he can prove that the lethal ingredient has been removed or at least a warning sign is added to the bottle.
NEWS

NEWSFLASH

By C. JOEL MARINO

Senior Staff Writer

Spotsight

National

New intelligence reports raise questions about U.S. mission in Iraq

A series of new U.S. intelligence assessments on Iraq paints a grim picture of the road ahead and concludes that there’s little likelihood that President Bush’s goals can be attained in the near future.

Instead of stabilizing the country, national elections Jan. 30 are likely to be followed by more violence and could provoke a civil war between majority Shiite Muslims and minority Sunni Muslims, the CIA and other intelligence agencies predict, according to senior officials who’ve seen the classified reports.

A new public report by the National Intelligence Council concludes that instead of diminishing terrorism, U.S.-occupied Iraq has replaced prewar Afghanistan as a breeding and training ground for terrorists who may disperse to conduct attacks elsewhere.

Two senior officials with access to classified reporting said Islamic militias allied with or inspired by Osama bin Laden were forging ties to Iraqi nationalists and remnants of former dictator Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party. The linkage is similar to the one that so-called “Arab Arabs” formed with Afghanistan’s Taliban regime after the Soviet Union withdrew from that country, they said.

“The sad thing is we have created what the administration claimed we were intervening to prevent: an Arab-Islam linkage,” one of the senior officials said.

The United States faces an agonizing choice, they say, because an American withdrawal would hand militant Islam a huge victory and probably doom the Iraqi government.

Another possibility is that the transitional government, expected to be dominated by Shiites, could give the United States a timetable to leave. But the White House says the ultimate decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Even with the new intelligence reports, Bush has given no sign that he plans to change approaches in Iraq and has declined to set his own timeline for American troops to withdraw.

INTERNATIONAL

More children killed in tsunami than first thought, aid workers fear

Relief workers are finding fewer children in camps for tsunami refugees than they’d hoped and fear that children make up an even greater percentage of the dead than was estimated earlier.

Hard numbers are difficult to come by. Relief workers originally estimated that children made up 3 of every 10 people killed when an earthquake triggered a tsunami that swept the coasts of 12 countries Dec. 26.

But as relief workers canvass camps in Indonesia to tally the number of children, they’re beginning to reassess their first estimates.

“In all the camps, the number of children is low,” said Frederic Sizaret, a child-protection officer with the United Nations Children’s Fund, better known as UNICEF.

Relief workers hope for a more accurate picture of the child death toll later this month, when schools reopen and they can compare this year’s enrollment with last year’s.

“Even at the beginning of the semester, they are always our busiest times,” said Joanna Ervin, the Copy Center’s manager.

“We have to work over-time, especially at the start, when students are just getting to know the campus and asking questions that have a lot of [assignments] to turn in,” said the Copy Center’s manager.

The Copy Center next to the Panther Stop on the first floor in GC, has been operating at full capacity for almost eight years. The machines, though, are not the only services it provides.

Besides offering access to various self-service photocopy machines, the center also offers text binding and mailbox rental. It will laminate paper and frame wall art, including the art for sale on its own business cards. The center also has faxing services and is the only place on campus from which students can ship outgoing mail via Federal Express.

“We’ve been adding services ever since we started, looking out for students’ demands and concerns,” Ervin said.

James Bier, an FIU student upset by the lack of office supply machines at the school, founded the center in 1998.

According to Ervin, Bier needed to make photocopies for a paper after one of his classes and realized that he had to get in his car and probably lose his parking space to waste time to go off campus to make his copies.

Bier opened the first Copy Center with his father, Joseph Bier, at BBC, but due to lack of business, it closed in 2000 and relocated to the UP spot it still occupies.

BBC opened its own smaller copy center after the first center’s departure, a unit called the Panther Print and Mail, located in WUC 135, that offers photocopying and printing. It also has a postal service and sells shuttle bus passes.

While catering to the FIU community, the UP center is not owned or operated by the university and remains a family business.

“When students ask us what we’re all about, we tell them that the main theme of our business is service,” said Joseph Bier, who helps at the center as a technician.

Though the tiny room can sometimes get packed with students and faculty trying to make photocopiers, Ervin says that the center, no matter how limited its space may be, is still the best option for FIU.

“It’s the convenience factor they’re after—that we’re here, and they don’t have to go off campus,” she said. “They can just get it done, get in and get out, and we try to accommodate everyone as best we can.”

Spotlight on UP Copy Center

PAGEANT, from page 1

Contestants were judged on their answers to interview questions, a talent competition, their modeling of nightgown wear and on a lifestyle and fitness competition.

Among the process of evaluation and the final drum roll, Megan Alonge was announced the winner of the pageant with first runner-up Evelyn Danke.

“I am very excited and glad that I will be able to represent FIU,” said Alonge. “I began competing about five years ago, when I wanted to set my platform and center myself as a public speaker to promote my blood donation program.”

In addition to the crowning of Miss FIU, the Mistress of Ceremonies, Miami Heat dancer Kelly Gaudet, announced the winner of a raffle in which the audience participated. The winner received $69, half of what was raised from the raffle ticket sales. The other $69 went to the new Miss FIU.

Aside from what people speak about beauty pageants, there seems to be a lot of anxiety behind the curtain of the stage throughout the entire night.

“I have met some remarkable young women throughout competing in this business. I have even attended a few weddings of one of my closest friends, in which I worked in this program. I would really say there is no jealousy, because we help each other and we all want one of us to succeed,” said Armkraut.

BEAUTIES of FIU: The seven contestants of the second Annual Miss FIU Pageant pose for a picture, including this year’s winner Megan Alonge, along with first runner-up Evelyn Danke.

As for next year’s event, Choban said, “I don’t have any plans yet, but it will go on. For now, I just need some sleep.”

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Rushed Iraqi election hazards may outweigh freedom benefits

By DARA BRAMSON
Contributing Writer

When someone says “Iraq,” distinct images and feelings flood my mind. I think of war, blood, fear and chaos, not to mention the large part of the U.S.’s economy that revolves around the remote country.

The date for Iraq’s first election under free rule is Jan. 30. Though I strongly believe in freedom of speech, I question whether Iraq is ready to handle a voting situation.

Provided that the U.S., a country so indigenous in its roots, can barely handle an election — how will Iraq?

The purpose of the vote in Iraq is to elect a 275 member national assembly that will construct a new, contemporary constitution. Out of Iraq’s estimated 12 million voters, the census is likely far from correct. Because of time constraints, instead of conducting a proper census, the electoral rolls are being based on the United Nation’s “Oil for Food” lists, which were calculated in the 1990s by Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Accurate? Far from it! Reportedly, many on the voters list may even be deceased. There could be millions of new voters that have become eligible since the last census.

Additionally, it is speculated that little or no voting will take place in some provinces. An additional 4,000 security troops, including the National Guard and regular army troops, have been added to the predominant voting areas.

Amid heavy military presence, there is still much concern for danger. General Carter Ham said, that if Iraqi security forces find themselves in a situation beyond their capability, then multi-national forces will be postured and prepared and well-rehearsed to reinforce those Iraqi security forces. Perceptibly, any significant political issue is always downplayed to decrease panic.

If the U.S. government was completely open and honest with the American people during 2001, the Sept. 11 attacks probably would not have come as much of a shock.

 Understandably, the world would be chaotic if everybody knew everything. However, I do believe that small hints can give us insight into the bigger picture. When a knowledgeable authority makes a statement about the preparation for additional troops, I interpret that as him saying “when needed” rather than “if needed.”

At what point should an authority decide to postpone the election? With all the casualties from the war, it seems to me that carrying out an election should not take precedence over the risk of losing more lives. I do not think I would risk my life just to vote with such high risks.

Regardless of the danger that Iraq may face due to the election, the officials are relentless. According to a CNN report, Iraqi and U.S. officials have vowed not to delay the Jan. 30 election. To increase security measures as much as possible, a three-day travel ban has even been considered. Even with the uncertainty of the consequences of the election, officials seem to be taking as many positive steps as possible toward making the election a success.

They even secured Iraqi women political representation. To guarantee that at least 25 percent of the seats in the elected assembly go to women, every third name must be that of a woman. Individuals with a petition of as few as 500 signatures are allowed to run.

This can potentially bring new, optimistic voices into the Iraq government.

I am completely supportive of a country taking the necessary steps to become a free society. However, the dangers involved in the Iraq election seem to overpower the importance of getting the election done so quickly. Furthermore, even if the election is carried out, will the constitution be realistically implemented with Iraq in the condition it is in? Although the election in Iraq has the potential to be dangerous, we can only hope that it will bring positive changes for the Iraqi people.

Provided that the U.S., a country so indigenous in its roots, can barely handle an election — how will Iraq?
By SHANE HOWARD
Staff Writer

Miami Dade College has a long, rich history of involvement in the cultural arts, providing South Florida with events such as The Miami International Book Fair, Cultura del Lobo and The Cuban Cinema Series. It is also home to the School of Entertainment and Design Technology.

That involvement will continue this February when the college will present the 22nd Annual Miami International Film Festival, Feb. 4-13. “The 2005 Miami International Film Festival will bring us a program that explores where and who we are in the world, our place not only here in South Florida, but also in the Americas and beyond,” said MDC president, Eduardo Padron. He said the festival will “foster greater awareness and acceptance of the diversity that enriches our entire community.”

The film festival gives a wide range of cultural perspectives by showcasing films from all over the world. “We are pleased to announce a richly diverse slate of films, all of which are eminently worthy of this year’s festival,” said Festival Director, Nicole Guillermot. 118 films – 87 features and 31 shorts – from 47 countries will be shown. At this year’s MIFF, screenings will take place at six locations throughout the city: The Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami, Regal South Beach Cinema in South Beach, Tower Theater in Little Havana, Sunrise Intracoastal Cinema in North Miami Beach, Bill Cosford Cinema at the University of Miami in Coral Gables and the Wolfsonian-FIU in Miami Beach.

Mick Davis’ “Modigliani” (UK), starring Andy Garcia (“Ocean’s Twelve,” “The Untouchables”), will open the 10-day event. Garcia takes on the role of Amedeo Modigliani whose passions fuel his work but consume his soul as he dares to challenge Pablo Picasso in defining the cubist art movement.

Day two will see the premiere of Rebecca Miller’s “The Ballad of Jack and Rose” (US), starring Daniel Day-Lewis (“Gangs of New York,” “Last of the Mohicans”) and Catherine Keener (“Full Frontal,” “Death to Smoochy”). The movie focuses on a man who has isolated himself from a world he feels has not lived up to his ideals, while his 16-year-old daughter tries to find her place in it.

Another highly-anticipated film is Charles Dante’s “Ladies in Lavender” (UK), starring Dames Maggie Smith and Judi Dench. The period drama fol-
By MARYLIN MEDEROS
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 20th, the Hearst Distinquished Lecture series will present The Language of Music. The forum will include Miami filmmaker Mark Moormann and Allan Richards, FIU Journalism and Broadcasting interim chairman.

Together they will discuss the life and work of legendary producer/recording pioneer Tom Dowd, compare interviewing techniques, view parts of the documentary “Tom Dowd & The Language of Music,” and play excerpts from Dowd’s 40 years of music.

Moormann, director Jorge Gagge, producer Mark Mandoki and songstress Diana Vargas.

The presentation is open to the public and is free. It will begin at 6 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Movie trailers for “Tom Dowd & The Language of Music” can be viewed at www.thelanguageofmusic.com.

“l am looking forward to attending the lecture [about] Tom Dowd that will be held in FIU. I don’t know much about Tom Dowd, so I want to see parts of the documentary. I love many different types of music,” said junior Diana Vargas.

The documentary will air on the Sundance Channel throughout the month of January.

Annual film festival largest ever

Local-made documentary nominated for Grammy

By MARYLIN MEDEROS
Contributing Writer

The first presidential news conference is filmed for television and newsreels.

Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the first president to hold news conferences to be filmed by TV and newsreels. On this day in 1955, Eisenhower gave a 33-minute conference in the Treaty Room at the State Department, recorded by NBC and shared with CBS, ABC and the DuMont Network.

– www.historychannel.com
The new year is overflowing with glitz and glam, and the catch phrase for designers this season seems to be “all that glitters is gold.” Metallic shades are in, such as silver, gold and bronze, while dull, fall colors are out.

Wherever you turn you will find a shiny bag and matching shoes, especially in such a fashionable city like Miami.

Fur has also become very big this season, even though in Florida’s ever-sunny weather, fur fur coats seem more like a curse.

In the business world, shoes, of course, are probably the most important part of a girl’s wardrobe. For the casual work environment, moccasins are definitely in, not only in typical shades, such as beige or brown, but also in bright colors like real and hot pink; they can also come embellished with fringe or beads. Bakers offers these stylish new shoes for a mere $39.95.

Find a shiny bag and matching shoes. Especially in such a fashionable city like Miami.

Fur & faux fur coats are real or faux fur is appearing on many fall color coats. They are not only popular, but also very practical and can be dressed up or down with jeans or a simple tank top. Pointy or round toed, these flat and exotic shoes come beaded or embroidered in nearly every vibrant color of the spectrum.

“Beaded shoes help accentuate all my outfits. They give me that special little something,” said freshman Beena Kazi. Moroccan and Indian inspired slippers have become all the rage this season. They are not only popular, but also very practical and can be dressed up or down with jeans or a simple tank top. Pointy or round toed, these flat and exotic shoes come beaded or embroidered in nearly every vibrant color of the spectrum.

Whether you prefer the glitz and glam of metallic colors or the classic cowboy look, adding a little personal style to every outfit will give you that special je ne sais quoi.
Shooting woes continue to hunt team

MEN, from page 8

shot from behind the arc. He added eight points from the stripe on a perfect night.

FIU’s 50 points were its second lowest total of the year, just two points ahead of the 48 it scored against the University of Connecticut.

Attendance at Pharmed Arena just surpassed one thousand on a night that saw the Golden Panthers open their Sun Belt Conference home schedule.

NORTH TEXAS 68 FIU 60

Another night, same story. FIU dropped its fifth game in a row, continuing the team’s longest losing streak of the season with a 68-60 loss to North Texas on Jan. 17.

North Texas started the game shooting 1-of-9 over the first four minutes of play, but the Golden Panthers failed to capitalize, turning the ball over three times.

The rest of the first half saw turnover after turnover on countless errors by Rouco’s team.

“Too many turnovers,” said Rouco. “We had a higher shooting percentage than they did. We out-rebounded, and we still lose.”

The Golden Panthers trailed by one, 25-24 at the half, following a sloppy opening session of play. FIU turned the ball over 15 times leading to nine North Texas points.

FIU was led at the half by junior Ivan Alm nonce who notched 15 points on 6-9 shooting. The Golden Panthers were plagued by a lack of offensive output. Apart from Almonte, no player had more than two points at the half.

North Texas shot a dismal 8-of-33 from the floor in the opening frame, something that has plagued it all season as it ranks dead last in the Sun Belt Conference in shooting percentage.

Even with the bad shooting, the team took the lead with 7.2 seconds left in the half on a lay-up by junior forward Ron Harris. From then on, it never looked back.

North Texas leading scorer Leonard Hopkins was limited to just 10 minutes of play and three points in the opening half after quickly accumulating two fouls. He shot 7-of-7 from the free throw line the rest of the game and finished the game with a team-high 17 points.

Mean Green second leading scorer for the season, guard Calvin Watson, was also in double figures for the visitors with 13 points, all of which came after the break.

FIU clearly missed senior guard Marion, who was a late scratch in the lineup after suffering pain in his left leg following the loss to Denver. Freshmen Chavez-Jacobo got the start in his place.

“It was a lack of focus,” said forward Sheldon Bailey. “It’s not the effort or the system. It’s just people putting extra pressure on themselves and trying to do too much.”

North Texas Mean Green came out a different team following the break, starting the second half on a 10-0 run. Hopkins scored six of the 10 points.

It was not until there was 15:23 left in the game that FIU finally got back on the board. N’Deye connected on two free throws to end the Mean Green run.

N’Deye came alive in the second half for FIU with 22 points after a first half that saw him manage just two. Almonte lead the way for FIU with his seventh double-double of the year with 25 points and 13 rebounds.

FIU forced 13 turnovers but only capitalized once, while North Texas had 21 points off 26 FIU turnovers, nine of which came in the deciding half.

FIU drops to 7-10 on the season and 0-4 in the Sun Belt Conference. North Texas moves to its best record since the 1994-95 season at 9-5 and 2-1 in the conference. FIU continues its schedule on Jan. 22 in Louisiana, facing conference foe Louisiana-Lafayette.

The next two home games, against New Mexico State and Arkansas-Little Rock, take place on Jan. 24 and Jan. 30 respectively.

Graduating is top priority for African forward

JOURNEY, from page 8

thing is coming out well.

Q. You have the rest of this season and another one next year. What’s the plan after your stay at FIU?

First of all, I am going to try and get my degree, and hopefully try and play pro somewhere, maybe overseas. If I could play pro over here that would be even better, but the most important thing is to get my degree.

Q. What are your expectations, both personally and for the team this season?

Our expectations for the team are to win the Sun Belt. My expectation is to just enjoy the season and have a great year.

Q. What is the most memorable game you have ever played in high school or college?

My most memorable game was my first time in the U.S. when I was 17-years-old. We went to a tournament in Chicago with my team from back home. I think I scored about 45 points in that game, so I’d say that was the most memorable game of my life.

Q. How do you like playing for coach Sergio Rouco, and how is he different from other coaches you have had in the past?

I like him. He is more of a personal guy. He doesn’t just care about the team and winning. He cares more about the person than about the team. I know everybody likes that. With most coaches all they care about is their career and not about individuals and their players.

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LONG ROAD: After playing his first season at UMi, N’Deye played his second season in Los Angeles. Now for his third year, N’Deye is happy to be back in Miami. GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON
Losing streak hits five in a row for Rouco’s team

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Incredible, amazing and ugly. These words describe the Golden Panthers performance against the University of Denver on Jan. 15.

Coach Sergio Rouco’s men dropped their fourth straight when they lost 65-59 to the conference rivals.

The loss drops the Golden Panthers to 7-9 on the season and 0-3 in the Sun Belt Conference. Denver moves to 8-6 and into the lead in the Sun Belt West with a 3-0 mark.

The Golden Panthers struggled from the start and shot poorly all night.

It was not until Cesar Chavez-Jacobo hit a three at the 12:05 mark of the first half that FIU got on the board. Luckily enough, thanks to quality defense, the Golden Panthers found itself down by only seven.

FIU shot a miserable 7-33 in the first half and found themselves trailing by 10, 28-18 at the half, despite 14 offensive rebounds.

Starters Ivan Almonte, Ismael N’Diaye and Junior Matias shot a combined 5-of-24 for 13 points in the opening period.

Unfortunately for Rouco, the shooting didn’t get any better in the second half.

Almonte shot 3-of-15 for the game and was held to only nine points despite having 15 boards, six of which were on the offensive side of the court.

N’Diaye struggled as well in the second half, finishing the game 4-of-11 from the field.

Rouco seemed shell-shocked following FIU’s 34 percent shooting night and knew exactly who should shoulder the blame.

“It wasn’t their defense that stopped us,” said Rouco. “It was us not making shots, us being intimidated and us not taking it to them.”

Incredibly enough the Golden Panthers out-rebounded the Pioneers 43-27, including a 22-5 edge on offensive boards.

The Pioneers were led by forward Yemi Nicholson who shot 6-9 from the field, contributing 13 points, 10 of which came in the first half.

Guard Erik Benzel came alive in the second half for Denver with 15 points, including 4-9

See MEN, page 7

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Hands-on coach and united team end player’s long journey

Ivy Coast, Ismael N’Diaye has found his way to the United States.

Ismael N’Diaye has found his way to the United States.

When we got caught we got recruited to go there.

Senior Milena Tomova scored a career-high 43 points to lead the women’s basketball team past Denver, 74-59, in Sun Belt Conference action on Jan. 17. Tomova’s 43 points are the most by a Division I women’s basketball player this season. With the victory, the team improved to 12-5 on the year and 2-2 in Sun Belt Conference play.

MILESTONE: Senior Milena Tomova scored a career-high 43 points to lead the women’s basketball team past Denver, 74-59, in Sun Belt Conference action on Jan. 17. Tomova’s 43 points are the most by a Division I women’s basketball player this season. With the victory, the team improved to 12-5 on the year and 2-2 in Sun Belt Conference play.

GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

Senior Milena Tomova scored a career-high 43 points to lead the women’s basketball team past Denver, 74-59, in Sun Belt Conference action on Jan. 17. Tomova’s 43 points are the most by a Division I women’s basketball player this season. With the victory, the team improved to 12-5 on the year and 2-2 in Sun Belt Conference play.