Fraternity Rush Week 2005 attracts new members

By CRISTELA GUERRA
Staff Writer

Within walking around campus this past week, you might have noticed that everywhere you turned there was a Greek letter. This is because it was Fraternity Rush Week 2005. All the fraternities around campus held activities to show pride for their brotherhood and to attract potential new members.

Fraternities participate in many events on campus including those for well-known charities. One such event is “Dance Marathon,” which the Children’s Miracle Fund plans. It raises money for the Miami Children’s Hospital.

Their experience with campus life is vast, from the Student Government Association to the Student Organizations Council. They also have three of their own councils: the Pan Hellenic Council (PHC), the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

Each fraternity takes the mission to recruit seriously. “New members are the life blood of the organization,” said Junior Brian Swensen, who majors in public administration and is a member of Pi Kappa Phi.

This is one of the main reasons it is a “dry rush,” in other words, none of the pledges are allowed to drink alcohol. According to Pi Kappa Phi members, they would never want someone making this lifetime decision while inebriated.

Each fraternity also has its own special events during Rush Week. They invite those pledging and those who are not, to come out and support them. They begin planning these outings four weeks in advance to prepare and allocate funds from their budget, normally $1,000-$4,000 dollars.

This budget also pays for the hundreds of flyers, t-shirts and buttons one sees around campus. For Delta Lambda Phi, this is particularly exciting. “This is the first semester that we have real flyers. Our theme is top secret, and we’re making it our number one priority to be visible. We’ve also been...”

See PLEDGES, page 2

Research TV to highlight faculty

By ANA SANCHEZ
BBC Editor

While flipping through channels on Mondays and Wednesdays, you may just find one of your professors on television. Working together with graduate students and the Miami-Dade Cable-Tap channel, some FIU professors have begun producing a show entitled the “Impact of Research on Society.”

The documentary, which is produced by professor M.O. Thirunaranayan is run by Miami Dade College’s School of Entertainment and Design Technology and airs at 2 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The documentary was filmed, produced and edited by the Broadcast Video Services at FIU, which is part of University Technology Services. Thirunaranayan, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, birthed this idea last summer. Dr. Doug Wartzk, Dean for Graduate Studies, approved the idea and they submitted a request to Cable-Tap. So far, there have been eight 28-minute shows, each profiling professors’ research projects.

During the first segment, two professors presented their research, followed by a second segment consisting of graduate students from the lab supporting the research. “The documentary was a result of students graduating with bachelor degrees and who are trying to decide whether or not they want a graduate degree,” said Thirunaranayan. “This will give them the idea of the kind of research done at FIU by our faculty and what they can expect to do.”

Not only the program geared toward students but the professors hope to the documentary is watched by the public – people interested in technological advances. The research done in the documentary may be useful for public health, diet, and environmental concerns.

“We are highlighting practical applications of research which can be beneficial to the public on a personal level,” Thirunaranayan said. “This project is...”

See PROGRAM, page 2
campus

Public Lecture by Dr. Werner Gundersheimer - Phi Beta Visiting Scholar: 6:30 p.m., Werthemer Conservatory, UP
Pan African Heritage Art Show “Dimensions of Love”: 7 p.m., CC, Gallery, UP

Corrections
The story entitled “Tire fad,” should have read as follows “...some residents have even chosen to exercise their second amendment right to bear arms...”

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Weather

Monday
Hi/low 75°F/56°F mostly sunny

Tuesday
Hi/low 76°F/59°F partly cloudy

Wednesday
Hi/low 75°F/58°F partly cloudy

Thursday
Hi/low 76°F/59°F cloudy

Friday
Hi/low 75°F/56°F partly cloudy

Saturday
Hi/low 73°F/56°F partly cloudy

Sunday
Hi/low 71°F/57°F partly cloudy

Professors produce TV program

From PROGRAM, page 1
is [meant] to inform the public that the FIU faculty is doing good research.

Dr. Janvier Gasana from the Department of Public Health, presented research leading to a positional paper on the show.

Gasana, a native of the impoverished Rwanda, says he was inspired to research health hazards, such as lead poisoning in low-income family homes.

“My ongoing research work [is] aimed at uplifting children suffering from environmental health hazards,” Gasana said. “My active involvement with various agencies and health centers, with the goal of improving the environmental conditions of low-income families, speaks to my vision and commitment to improve the standard of the living poor and needy families.”

Another show featured Dr. Helen Cornely, Associate Professor from the Department of Physical Therapy, who dedicated her research to preventing the elderly from falling.

“The Nursing is a major problem in older adults,” Cornely said. “We are now working on analyzing what falls of older adults in the Lauderdale Airport. This is very exciting because this is a new area of fall prevention and a very important issue, as the baby boomers know no other ways of traveling but by air.”

The ninth show is presented this Saturday, and is scheduled to air in the second half of February. Cable Tap approved three more FIU shows, however, there is no funding for them at this time.

Weather

Monday
Hi/low 75°F/56°F mostly sunny

Tuesday
Hi/low 76°F/59°F partly cloudy

Wednesday
Hi/low 75°F/58°F partly cloudy

Thursday
Hi/low 76°F/59°F cloudy

Friday
Hi/low 75°F/56°F partly cloudy

Saturday
Hi/low 73°F/56°F partly cloudy

Sunday
Hi/low 71°F/57°F partly cloudy

Corrections
The story entitled “Tire fad,” should have read as follows “...some residents have even chosen to exercise their second amendment right to bear arms...”

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Mon, Feb 1, 2005
WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Erikimo clientele: The 66th Parallel, a restaurant made completely out of ice, has opened its doors in Saakashvili, Russia. The restaurant includes tables, chairs and even bars made out of ice. All food items are ice oriented, which makes for a surprisingly large “low carb” menu.

LOSER
Closed-Nose Detrotites: Citizens of Detroit, Michigan are experiencing a foul odor around the whole city. The tar-dough to energy incinerator seems to be the root of the problem. The sale of clothes pins has dramatically risen since the incident.

QUOTEABLES
"They would get me to do naughty things and I miss that." — Emma “Baby Spice” Bunton, on her ex-days as a Spice Girl, in an interview with New York Daily News.

A lot of people have told me my whole life I should just be a pretty girl and have a boob job, and I was like, ‘No, I’m going to keep on writing and not get a boob job!’” — Billie Joe Armstrong, on his days as a Green Day frontman, whose band is nominated for six Grammy awards.

"I liquefied a donut once. I pureed it ... and then sucked it through a straw."

— Julie Delpy, co-writer of “Before the Sunset”, on her first Oscar nomination.

I thought the new Spanish book I bought, back in 2003, with highlighting from a previous owner was a rare occasion, and I let it slide. But Stephanie Guzman’s Letter to the Editor last week in The Beacon not only startled me, it enraged me. In the letter, Guzman said her sister, who previously worked at the bookstore, acknowledged that the company is run by thieves who pay peanuts for used books, but they also package used books as new and resell them to unsuspecting students at new book prices.

There is something much bigger going on here than what meets the eye. At best, a few bookstore employees who want to maximize profits are guilty of swindling FIU students. At worst, bookstore management encourages its entire staff to follow this practice with every passable book. I’m no lawyer, but I’m sure that if that’s the situation there is definitely an attorney out there salivating at the chance to take such a case.

I have no evidence to accuse the bookstore of anything. It’s hard to imagine that used books are mistakenly wrapped nice and tight with no “used” stamps displayed on them. This university should seriously consider the experience Guzman had and, if necessary, launch its own investigation into the matter.

With university tuition increases proposed by Governor Jeb Bush, FIU should assert its support for its students, like it has throughout the years. However, this time around, FIU has been completely lack of respect toward its bookstore. They have shown a complete lack of regard toward the university’s students and their bookstores. At best, bookstore management employees would jump at the chance to maximize profits and give back little money for used books, but they also package used books as new and resell them to unsuspecting students at new book prices. I thought the new Spanish book I bought, back in 2003, with highlighting from a previous owner was a rare occasion, and I let it slide. But Stephanie Guzman’s Letter to the Editor last week in The Beacon not only startled me, it enraged me. In the letter, Guzman said her sister, who previously worked at the bookstore, acknowledged that the company is run by thieves who pay peanuts for used books, but they also package used books as new and resell them to unsuspecting students at new book prices.

There is something much bigger going on here than what meets the eye. At best, a few bookstore employees who want to maximize profits are guilty of swindling FIU students. At worst, bookstore management encourages its entire staff to follow this practice with every passable book. I’m no lawyer, but I’m sure that if that’s the situation there is definitely an attorney out there salivating at the chance to take such a case.

I have no evidence to accuse the bookstore of anything. It’s hard to imagine that used books are mistakenly wrapped nice and tight with no “used” stamps displayed on them. This university should seriously consider the experience Guzman had and, if necessary, launch its own investigation into the matter.

With university tuition increases proposed by Governor Jeb Bush, FIU should assert its support for its students, like it has throughout the years. However, this time around, FIU has been completely lack of respect toward its university’s students and until the administration takes a stand on our behalf, we’re on our own.

I guarantee if they watch their profits dwindle, prices will come down, and they’ll start making the extra effort to make sure those annoying little “used” stamps are not removed on those darn used books.
If you haven’t heard of the Facebook, you’ve been living under a rock. And if you’re not addicted to it, then you’re a far more normal person than most people will ever be.

Since February 4, 2004, www.thefacebook.com, has quickly become popular in over 200 universities which is about one million students nationwide. It started out as a personal project for Mark Zuckerberg of Harvard University.

In a Current Magazine interview in November 2004, Zuckerberg said Harvard was “a fairly unfriendly place.” So, he wanted to create an online directory for all students.

One of the more popular features is the high school search engine. The Facebook allows you to search for users in different high schools and graduating class of the person for whom you are searching, and see a list of people who meet this criteria. You’d never believe how many old friends you can dig up.

The Facebook creates a network of people that you might otherwise never know. The site allows you to send messages, similar to e-mails, that appear in the message section of your account. During the first week of this semester many FIU users sent messages advertising books for sale.

After you find the person you are looking for there are also full, in-depth profiles to browse that Facebook users post, giving every bit of detail, from whether or not they are in relationships, to their hobbies and favorite movies. Of course, you can keep your profile skimpy if you wish to remain “mysterious,” but the juicy ones are always fun to read. Additionally, you can click on a certain interest and it will list all other users with that same interest in the university community.

Perhaps the most random aspect of the Facebook is the “poking” option. It has no specific purpose but can be interpreted in many ways. For example, poking someone could mean “Hi,” “Just thinking of you” or it could simply mean “I obviously, have nothing better to do, so I’m randomly poking and you’re IT!”

Users on the Facebook can also choose to join groups within the main university community. These groups can become incredibly specific ranging from a group for WRGP, the campus radio station, to people whose name starts with the letter J. For fans of “Zoolander,” there’s a Derek Zoolander’s Center for Kids Who Can’t Read Good and Wanna Learn to Do Other Stuff Good Too group.

“I love Facebook because I was able to create my own group for the Orange County fans. I’ve met different kinds of people through it,” said sophomore Christine Guzman. “It is also funny because I have a few friends that failed finite math, and there’s even a group [for] that.”

A new feature on the Facebook is the ability to send messages to friends’ mobile phones. By inputting your mobile phone number, messages can be sent to and from other users as text messages via their mobile phone.

All you need is a university e-mail to be part of your university’s Facebook community. Create a profile, post a hot photo of yourself and start adding friends. It’s really that simple. It’s difficult to describe why joining the Facebook is fun and addicting; it just is. Once you start, it’ll be hard to pull away and you’ll soon find yourself checking your wall and message board a few times a day.

SOME POPULAR GROUPS IN THE FIU COMMUNITY

- CONAN O’BRIEN WILL HAVE MY CHILDREN, EVEN IF I AM A MAN
- I LOVE CHEESY POOPS ... AND CARTMAN
- SLURPEES ARE MY BEST FRIEND
- I FAILED FINITE MATH AT FIU
- PROCRASTINATORS R US
- PANTHERSOFT SUCKS
- MY NAME BEGINS WITH THE LETTER J
- THE BEACON STUDENT NEWSPAPER
- FACEBOOK WILL BE THE REASON I FLUNK OUT OF FIU
- I GO TO FIU FOR MONEY
- I’M SICK OF EATING IN FIU
- THE FIU, THE PROUD, THE DRUNK
DIRTY, DIRTY: The album, Critics: The Official Mixtape depicts Ol’ Dirty Bastard as the Pharaoh Osirus and proves to be a successful comeback even after his death. COURTESY PHOTO

Legacy left behind in Rap star’s Mixtape

By JARROD MILLER-DEAN
Staff Writer

“I’ve never saw so many people tonight. Y’all got it all crowded up in here, and that’s good. I’m glad y’all giving it up. Y’all make me want to cry or something. Ladies and gentlemen, tonight is a special night. Let me introduce myself. My name is Russel Jones. Tonight you’re gonna see something that you’ve never seen before, something that nobody in the history of hip-hop ever set to do.” – Ol’ Dirty Bastard on “Return to the 36 Chambers”

The world of hip-hop was heartbroken upon hearing of the abrupt death of Rapper, DJ, Producer Ol’ Dirty Bastard, Assorted, Big Baby Jesus, Osirus and Dirt McGirt. At the age of 35, he suffered from a severe heart attack on Nov. 13, 2004. Many of his fans are still in mourning. Even though the world grieved his death, Dirty finished the final vocal mixes on what was to be his comeback album, Onyx. The Official Mixtape, which was released on Jan. 4.

Known for his unorthodox and entertaining style of rhyming, and after spending years away from the music scene due to legal troubles, Dirty returns with a tale of his legacy in the game of hip-hop. The album shows a more mature and coherent style of rhyming, and unlike his previous Dirty albums. The album contains guest appearances by RZA, Capadonna, Black Rob, Baby Sham, Drag-on and the human beat-box himself, Rahzel, just to name a few. The production is creative, crisp and clear with help from DJ Premier (Gang Starr). This track itself could easily be considered one of the most brilliant come-back tracks released to date. It lets all of the narrators know that even though he was out of the game for a while, he never lost his skills. A re-mix of the track also appears as one of three bonus tracks. The track, “Dirty, Dirty” has more of a classic sound. A funky piano line, along with a helium filled voice on the chorus, are reminiscent of the Parliament’s "Aqua Boogie."

DIRTY shows true versatility on “Don’t Stop Me” and “Down South,” which are beats influenced by the South. They could easily become future club hits. As a founding member of the Wu-Tang Clan, Dirty took the hip-hop world by storm in 1993, along with RZA (Robert Diggs), Genius (Gary Gicle) and six other local New York MCs, with the release of Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers). Dirty stood out among the rest because of his “off the wall” rhyme patterns and wild antics. Dirty could be considered one of the most misunderstood and overlooked MCs in all of hip-hop. If rap music was compared to late-night talk shows, then Ol’ Dirty Bastard would be Johnny Carson. An album like this would be the best way to go out – on top.

Whether you call him Ol’ Dirty Bastard, Osirus, Ason, Big Baby Jesus or just plain Russell, he will be forever remembered and missed as one of the most innovative minds in all of hip-hop. Even though the art is note-worthy, fans of rock music don’t necessarily buy an album for its art, no matter how good it is. The album of the week is that of any other early ‘90s punk rock band’s, and lends nothing new to the car – nothing original here. The Explosion hits the road this year with a tour for their new album. Maybe hearing them live will fill the void left by their repetitious lyrics, unoriginal song choices and plain old lack of musicianship on Black Tape.

The theme of the “A-B-C” song is the same as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

1. ZOMBIE MOVIES
Nothing makes for a better weekend movie-fest than a Zombie marathon. From “Shaun of the Dead” to “Dead Alive,” from “Babe: Pig in the City” to the classic “Night of the Living Dead,” one can always count on cannibalistic corpses to really liven a college night.

2. NEIL GAIMAN’S “THE SANDMAN” SERIES
These graphic novels revolutionized the comic book world a decade ago. Written by British essayist/poet/novelist Neil Gaiman and illustrated by some of the industry’s greatest artists, the poignant stories about the doomed King of Dreams transcended comics and read like classic literature.

3. HOMESTARRUNNER
Almost every college student in America should be familiar with the internet-only cartoons found at www.homestarrunner.com. Nothing online beats the fan e-mails that luchador look-alike StrongBad reads and sarcastically answers as well as the random humor of high school losers “Teen Girl Squad.”

4. BIKING
I’ll admit I can’t perform any of the tricks people do these days on their bikes (I love my limbs too much). Still, the best thing about the week is riding through the residential quad on my bike on windy days.

5. FREE STUFF
Residential college students quickly become experts in finding free stuff, like the cups the Student Government Association gives away, the truckloads of Student Organizations Council shirts or the chain office throw away when they are moving to the new Graham Center expansion. How would we survive without free Publix ham croquelettes samples?

SOME FAVORITE THINGS

By C. JOEL MARINO – SENIOR STAFF WRITER

1. ZOMBIE MOVIES
2. NEIL GAIMAN’S “THE SANDMAN” SERIES
3. HOMESTARRUNNER
4. BIKING
5. FREE STUFF

LEGENDARY LEFT BEHIND IN RAP STAR’S MIXTAPE

By JARROD MILLER-DEAN

The album Black Tape by the band The Explosion seems to show a case failed attempt at an old school Green Day style of music. The band starts off the album with a song titled “Deliver Us” which, in my opinion, is the best song on the entire album. The only positive thing about the song is that it gives listeners something to which they can look forward. After hearing the first song, I thought, “Wow, this isn’t half bad.” My thoughts drastically changed around track five.

EXPLODED: On their debut album, Black Tape, punk rockers The Explosion don’t deliver as much as the opening track suggests they would.

DIRTY, DIRTY: The album, Critics: The Official Mixtape depicts Ol’ Dirty Bastard as the Pharaoh Osirus and proves to be a successful comeback even after his death.

The only positive thing about the album is that of any other early ‘90s punk rock band’s, and lends nothing new to the car – nothing original here.

The Explosion hits the road this year with a tour for their new album. Maybe hearing them live will fill the void left by their repetitious lyrics, unoriginal song choices and plain old lack of musicianship on Black Tape.

The tune for the “A-B-C” song is the same as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

– www.kellys.com/know.html

LIFE! www.beaconnewspaper.com
LIFE! 01-31-05.indd   2
1/28/05 10:08:27 PM
Earn $25.00 for an hour of your time just for being you!

Research is being conducted at Florida International University to develop a dining service master plan for the campus. An essential part of the process is direct research conducted through focus groups. Your input is needed. If you meet any of the following classifications and are available for 1 1/2 hours at the time and date indicated below and are willing to participate in the study, please contact Ximena Cordero via voicemail at 305.348.2538 or via email at corderom@fiu.edu

University Park Commuter Students
12:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.
2:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

University Park Resident Students
4:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.
6:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

University Park Apartment Residents
7:30pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

University Park Faculty & Staff
12:00pm Tuesday Feb.8,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

Biscayne Bay Campus - Residents
6:00pm Tuesday Feb.8,2005 - Wolfe Center 245

Biscayne Bay Faculty & Staff
12:00pm Wednesday Feb.9,2005 - Wolfe Center 245

* When responding please indicate your Name, ID number, Email Address, Phone number, and which session you are interested in participating. Data will be aggregate in nature to ensure privacy is not compromised. All focus groups participants will receive $25.00 Panther Bucks for their time. Group size limited to 12 people.
Player expectations high for next season

SOFTBALL, from page 7

a back-up at first base.
Sophomores Deonni Murray and
Brittany Withrower return at center field
and right field, respectively, after injury-
riddled freshman campaigns. Junior col-
lege transfer student, Cassie Parker, from
Polk Community College will round up
the outfield by starting in left field.

Newcomers Kerri Houck, a West-
ern High School graduate, and Sarah
Belanger, a Team Canada veteran, expect
to see action on the mound for the
Golden Panthers. Houck comes with high
expectations after she became the
first Class 6A pitcher to accumulate
1,000 career strikeouts in Florida high
school history.

“She has a very good year in my
career [regarding team perfor-
ance], so hopefully we can win the [Sun
Belt Conference] and move on [to the
College World Series],” Asher said.

Belanger is already one of the hardest
throwers in FIU history and should see
plenty of action on the field.

“Sarah is the hardest thrower we have
ever had here at FIU,” Gwydir said. “She
has worked very hard on her variety of
pitches this fall, adding a change-up and
curve ball to her repertoire, and this
is only going to make her that much
difficult for opposing hitters to
deal with.”

This spring training practice routines
have also been different for the team.
The team has spent more time facing
live pitching rather than hitting off the
tee ball or Gwydir.

“We’re doing a lot more hitting and
live pitching. That’s important because
pitching staff showed vast improvement
during the fall league.

“The pitching staff is not as deep as
last year, but we’re stronger individually,”
said senior David Asher.

Asher leads the starting rotation. His
numbers last season were not too impres-
sive but should improve this season.

“He’s our number one starter. He
needs to be a solid force in order for us
to be good,” coach Pryce said.

He was second on the team 81.1
innings pitched and his 4.43 earned run
average was the lowest amongst FIU
starting pitchers. He made 13 consecutive
starts and posted a 3-5 record.

“I’ve never had a good year in my
career [regarding team perfor-
ance], so hopefully we can win the [Sun
Belt Conference] and move on [to the
College World Series],” Asher said.

Freshman Elih Villanueva is set to
contribute immediately with the number
one spot on the starting rotation. As
a senior at Westminster Academy, he posted
a 10-3 record with 109 strikeouts to go
with a 1.15 ERA

Senior Danny Hernandez led the team
with 27 appearances out of the bullpen
and seven saves last season. He posted a
2.80 ERA and tied the team lead with six
wins, earning him First Team All-Sun
Belt Conference recognition. Hernandez
should see time in the closer role again.

Senior Leo Calderon led the staff with
2.12 ERA and had the second-most
appearances on the team with 20. He
should see more time coming out of the
bullpen after allowing only seven earned
runs last season.

Junior Frank Gonzalez allowed just
20 hits (with two extra-base hits) in 19.2
innings of work. Gonzalez’s 2.75 ERA
was second on the team. He showed
vast improvement last season after finish-
ing 2003 with an atrocious 11.75 ERA.
Gonzalez will probably come out of the
bullpen again.

Junior Ammer Cabrera is in his third
year on the team after red-shirting in
2002.

The pitching staff also has four lefthies
varying in experience. Senior Denny Her-
nandez and junior Jon Banke have a good
possibility of making the starting rotation.
Transfer student Chris Siebenaler, from
Polk Community College, and freshman
Leo Rodriguez could see playing time out
of the bullpen or in a situational role.

The staff is rounded out by senior and
two-sport (football) athlete James Knapp,
junior transfer Matt Raney and freshman
Ricardo Humaran.
After a disappointing year last season, the Golden Panther baseball team is looking to turn things around. “The team has a lot of incentive to do better after finishing last season with a 29-33 record, the worst in the program’s history,” said coach Danny Pryce, referring to one of last season’s weaknesses. “This team has a real chance of winning the conference this year,” said shortstop Luis Rivera, one of the five returning starters.

If the Golden Panthers want to accomplish that, they must improve last year’s 12-12 Sun Belt Conference record. Here is a position-by-position review of the 2005 FIU Golden Panther baseball team:

OUTFIELD
The outfield is probably the position with the most depth and should provide the most offensive production. Junior Yahmed Yema, the first baseman, led the team in batting average last year with a .343 average, tied for the team lead in homeruns with nine and had 82 RBIs last season and will most likely start at third and serve as the designated hitter. Senior Jeff Skellenger brings an exceptional base stealing ability to the position with the most triples and stolen bases this year. In five games he played last year, he hit .355 with two HR (from home plate to first base).

Junior Bryan Pullin played five games last season before getting injured and eventually red shirted. Pullin is slated as the designated hitter for the season. In the five games he played last year, he hit .355 with two HR in 17 at bats.

INFIELD
The infield, defensively, is the weakest link on the team. Junior Bryan Pullin and Luis Rivera combined for 22 errors last season, but another season under the belts should help them progress. Lopez, the first baseman, led the team with 42 RBIs last season and was second in homeruns with eight. The lefty also batted .307 and led the team with a .444 on base percentage – meaning he did not produce an out 44.4 percent of the time he went up to bat.

Rivera, the shortstop, batted .268 last year with 24 RBIs and just one homerun. Despite having seemingly average numbers, his importance to the team is unprecedented because of the experience he brings on the defensive side. “[Rivera is] the middle of our defense, and if we could get him going, that could jump-start the other guys in our lineup,” Pryce said.

Miami-Dade transfer Yovel Barroso brings experience to both second and third base. The switch-hitting Barroso should also contribute offensively after hitting .355 last year. Junior Nick Cadena, another transfer, should see some playing time at third base. Last year, at Arizona State, Cadena hit .260 with three HR and four doubles.

Junior Dennis Diaz is an exceptional base runner. Last season, his 49 stolen bases led the Sun Belt Conference and were second in the country. He also batted .266 with eight HR, 33 RBI and led the team with 54 runs scored.

INFIELD
The infield, defensively, is the weakest link on the team. Starters Mike Lopez and Luis Rivera combined for 22 errors last season, but another season under the belts should help them progress. Lopez, the first baseman, led the team with 42 RBIs last season and was second in homeruns with eight. The lefty also batted .307 and led the team with a .444 on base percentage – meaning he did not produce an out 44.4 percent of the time he went up to bat.

Rivera, the shortstop, batted .268 last year with 24 RBIs and just one homerun. Despite having seemingly average numbers, his importance to the team is unprecedented because of the experience he brings on the defensive side. “[Rivera is] the middle of our defense, and if we could get him going, that could jump-start the other guys in our lineup,” Pryce said.

Miami-Dade transfer Yovel Barroso brings experience to both second and third base. The switch-hitting Barroso should also contribute offensively after hitting .355 last year. Junior Nick Cadena, another transfer, should see some playing time at third base. Last year, at Arizona State, Cadena hit .260 with three HR and four doubles.

Junior Dennis Diaz is an exceptional base runner. Last season, his 49 stolen bases led the Sun Belt Conference and were second in the country. He also batted .266 with eight HR, 33 RBI and led the team with 54 runs scored.