Parallel pledges made to end attacks

By CLIFF CHURGIN AND WARREN P. STROBEL
Knight Ridder

Israelis and Palestinians will declare an end to attacks on each other during a summit Tuesday at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheik, although officials said on Monday that the separate declarations by each side would fall short of a formal cease-fire. "All I can say at this moment is that they did nothing wrong, and no matter what, the circumstances were, that no one deserves to have his or her body violated," said Martin.

VAC statistics show that sexual assault on campus is rising each year. They also show that most victims have trouble reporting an assault because they question their consent in it.

The form of the announcements - parallel statements rather than a joint declaration - underscores the difficulty of reaching peace. Abbas lacks control over militant groups responsible for most attacks on Israel, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Israel will declare an end to offensive Israeli military actions, including the search for wanted men, but the declaration is to be conditional on a cessation of Palestinian offensive actions, including production of Kassam rockets, weapons smuggling and incitement. This is largely a restatement of current Israeli policy.

How can you have a cease-fire when one side can’t even enforce it? said a senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat also shied away from the term cease-fire. “All I can say at this stage is that Palestinians are committed to stopping violence against Israelis anywhere and Israel will stop violence against Palestinians anywhere, but the details will be discussed in a committee,” he told Knight Ridder.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting the West Bank city of Ramallah Monday, said what she called “the most promising moment for progress between Palestinians and Israelis in recent years” and announced the appointment of a senior U.S. coordinator to cement a cease-fire between the sides.

Rice’s naming of the official, Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, represents a modest increase in U.S. involvement in the Middle East conflict at a moment of diplomatic opportunity.

Ward’s job will be to help create conditions for a durable peace, primarily by building up Palestinian security forces that can stop terrorist attacks on Israel.

But Rice said the general will not be involved in political negotiations over a future Palestinian state - leaving that up to the two sides, not the United States, to determine.

It is a Saturday night and a student is looking forward to going to her first college party. At the party, she sees an old male friend from high school. When the party is over, he offers to take her home and she accepts his offer. However, he does not take her home. Instead, he drives her to a dark and deserted park where he rapes her.

Afterward, she feels guilty and ashamed and she blames herself for getting into the car. While this may seem like a scene out of a movie, rape is much more common than people think.

According to Lourdes Martin, outreach coordinator for the Victim Advocacy Center, rape is never justifiable. “Victims should know that they did nothing wrong, and no matter what, the circumstances were, that no one deserves to have his or her body violated,” said Martin.

VAC statistics show that sexual assault on campus is rising each year. They also show that most victims have trouble reporting an assault because they question their consent in it.

The Jackson Health System of Jackson Memorial Hospital reported that some victims are accused of causing their own rape by dressing sexy, drinking alcohol, walking or parking alone with a man. None of these actions are criminal acts. These acts never justify rape. Rape is a violent act which uses sex as a weapon to exert power over someone, and humiliating or violating someone. Because acquaintances commit approximately 84 percent of rapes, the situation is sometimes awkward and most victims feel that they may have initiated the attack.

While a high percentage of sexual assault victims are those of acquaintance rape, many also reported being assaulted by an unfamiliar person or persons.

“I was once walking down the Taco Bell on 107th Ave. from the University Park campus, when I saw someone in the distance. It was night already so I was getting kind of scared. The figure focused, and I saw it was a middle-aged man making his way towards me,” said a female sophomore. “I sped up a bit, and when I turned around, I saw he had his pants down, masturbating while looking at me. I was disgusted, and I felt extremely violated, even though I ran out of there fast. I think it’s a traumatic experience I will never forget.”

Despite her experience, the anonymous sophomore never reported the crime.

This is why victims of sexual assault are encouraged to come forward and report their crimes to the VAC and to the FIU Public Safety Office.

“Be a good friend and be a good support center. Suggest their options and go to the Victim Advocacy Center,” said Sergeant Shona McNeil, Investigations Crime Prevention officer, on what friends of sexual assault victims should do.

The VAC offers free and confidential services, including those offered by trained clinicians. There are also alternative support options if the center is willing to work according to a client’s comfort zone.

SIDENOTE

2003 Victim Advocacy Center Statistics

• 41 new domestic and dating violence cases
• -15% occurred on campus.
• -20% were reported to the police department.
• 24 new sexual violence cases
• -42% occurred on campus.
• -33% were reported to the police department.

The Student
Newspaper
of Florida
International University

WWW.BEACONNEWSPAPER.COM

February 10, 2005
The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

President Bush on Monday sent Congress a "lean budget" that funnels tax dollars to the most vital government programs.

"You won't have a large deficit. Many Americans would feel a direct impact of the initial Black History Month events,” said Ed Doody, president of College Partnership Inc., a college planning services firm. “No, it's called a fact of life.”

The key is to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. To be eligible for financial aid for 2005-06, the government must receive a student’s form no later than midnight on June 30, 2005.

Students received more than $122 billion in financial aid for undergraduate and graduate study for one reason - they didn't apply.

"The only way you are going to know if you are eligible for financial aid is if you apply," said Doody.

Many think there’s a negative stigma for students who have student loans,” said Ed Doody, president of College Partnership Inc., a college planning services firm. "No, it's called a fact of life.”

The music and the dancing were unbelievable," said sophomore Marvin Vanegas. "Ssshh" series this month, the comedy night opening set the theme of the Black History Month events sponsored by the Pan-African Heritage Club this year.

The PAHC is a multi-cultural group that works under the Student Program Council and is comprised of a diverse group of individuals who enjoy celebrating African-based culture from all over the world.

The PAHC will continue Black History Month with an amateur comedy night in the GC Ballroom.

“The comedy night is also co-sponsored by the SPC, and it’s the best way to end Black History Month on a happy note," Nunes said.

If you’re looking for a way to celebrate Black History Month or simply want to attend some interesting lectures and performances, the PAHC’s February schedule can be found in GC 340.

“Black history is our history – it’s world history! You are a part of this. I encourage all students to get involved and grow with one another,” Nunes said.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
What do you think about the closing of the Speech and Language Pathology program?

- It should not be closed entirely. It is a significant program that FIU needs.
- It should not be closed entirely.
- I feel indifferent to the closing. If it doesn’t affect me, I don’t care.
- I feel the closing is appropriate. What good did the program serve?
- We had a Speech and Language Pathology program.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
One smart orangutan: Inji, an orangutan at the Oregon Zoo in Portland, correctly picked the winner of the Super Bowl for the third year in a row. Sadly, Inji picked Celine Dion to be the presidential winner last year.

LOSER
Nickel ‘napper: 3.6 million nickels were found last week buried in a backyard in Miami. The nickels had been missing since December, when a truck driver disappeared with the cargo of nickels on his way to the Federal Reserve. Supposedly, he needed toll money.

QUOTEABLES

“I study ladies. Most of my friends don’t want to spend their weekends reading ‘The Secret Life of Bees,’ but I like to see what women are thinking.”

– Will Smith, actor, on how his life compares to his role as a dating expert in “Hitch.”

“I look like a Muppet. Tina Turner looks cool, and Felicity Huffman, when I read the script, I was eating pizza and drinking beer, and when I got to where it said, ‘Mike, I am also surprised that I had to shell out $30 because I missed the deadline to register through Panther-software.”

– James Denton, actor, on how he feels playing a heartthrob on the show “Desperate Housewives.”

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beacon@fiu.edu. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

The Beacon – February 10, 2005 www.beaconnewspaper.com

OPINION

Alessandra Diaz – Editor in Chief • John Lovell – Managing Editor • Leoncio Alvarez – Opinion Editor

Students lack CLAST guidance

By JOHN LOVELL
Managing Editor

The number one reason why students don’t graduate when they expect to is because of an outstanding CLAST requirement. The SAT and ACT are the most notorious acronyms that strike terror into the hearts of students. In high school, we spent hundreds of dollars to prepare for these tests with books, tutors and exemptions, and our futures hung on how well we scored.

Now, as college students, many of us have put those big acronym tests behind us. Unless, of course, you plan to attend graduate school, then the GRE, LSA and/or MCAT await you.

I never knew these tests could come back to haunt me.

Earlier this January, after discovering that the spring graduation deadline was just around the corner, I hurried over to the tiny graduation office to apply. Everything was good to go.

I was on track to graduate with all my requirements out of the way and even a decent GPA, but I had not yet satisfied just one requirement – the blasted mathematics portion of the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) exam.

There was no way I would be eligible to graduate this spring after all.

Since August 1, 1984, every student seeking a bachelor’s degree at Florida (and only Florida) public institution is required to either receive an exemption for or pass a little standardized test called the CLAST.

There are four different sections to this exam: English, reading, essay writing, and mathematics.

Most students will find that if their SAT or ACT scores meet the national average, they will receive an automatic exemption. Luckily, I was exempt from every single section of the CLAST, except for the math portion. The required ACT math score for a CLAST exemption is a 21. I scored a 20.

Angry and worried, I hurried to sign up for this godforsaken exam. I was told that the most I could do was take the math portion, pass it, and submit the results to the graduation office for a summer graduation with an exemption to walk in the spring.

I had to shell out $30 because I missed the deadline to register through Panthersoft.

Fortunately, I looked at the test in the eye and passed it without a problem. The required passing score is a 295 and I squeezed by with a 305. My major concern is the lack of information about the CLAST requirements, exemptions, waivers and deadlines.

I imagine this is all supposed to be common knowledge, and it’s true that you can find oodles of information about it on the web, but I feel an effort isn’t being made to stress the importance of passing the CLAST in time for graduation.

Yes, my advisors told me to get it out of the way, but I never knew I would be unable to submit my application for graduation until I had fulfilled the requirement.

Additionally, there is very little information readily available about CLAST registration deadlines and what to do if you miss them. There is plenty of information available if you run a Google search, but so many students are completely unaware of how crucial knowing this information is to their graduation.

FIU should make more of an effort to encourage students to educate themselves about the CLAST and to fulfill their CLAST requirements on time.

Students should be more informed about FIU’s CLAST policies, all the exam requirements, when its deadlines are, how to register for the test and how to find out if they are eligible for a waiver or exemption.

According to Kenton Harris, Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences, the number one reason why students don’t graduate when they expect to is because of an outstanding CLAST requirement. I am also surprised that there is such a lack of information regarding the graduation process. My roommates didn’t know about the deadline to apply for graduation until I found out.

We have enough on our plates with keeping our grades up in high-demanding class schedules each semester.

A thorough CLAST information service on FIU’s website, for example, would go a long way for students who aren’t in the know about the exam and would reduce the graduation-related stress for students and FIU staff.
N o matter how clever the cat, it seems that by the age of 66, any feline would have exhausted each of its nine lives. But not the smiling Kit-Cat. The nostalgic wall clock with the shifty eyes and wagging tail has kept ticking since 1939. Those who recognize the animated time-piece from their youth are often surprised to find that the famous cat is still being produced.

"Kit-Cat is an important piece of Americana," said Woody Young, owner of the California Clock Co. in Fountain Valley, which manufactures Kit-Cat.

"It's not just any clock," Young said. "People feel attached to it." Such sentiment echoes among the more than 15,000 members in the 20-year-old Kit-Cat fan club.

"They write in with heartfelt stories from their childhood," said Speyte Loriano, who has recounted these personal stories as the company's fan club newsletter editor for 17 years. Such accounts include a woman who remembers being comforted by the smiling cat in her dentist's office as a child and another who says "the purring" from her old electric clock keeps her company.

Fan club member Pamela Bertva, was a baby when her parents put the clock in her room in 1946. The Michigan resident wrote: "I was actually scared of the clock at first because of the eyes that glowed in the dark. But the soothing sound of the motor used to lull me to sleep and I grew to cherish it. Now I never want to be without it. It brings back happy childhood memories."

Young took over as the company's third president in 1982, running the business from its corporate headquarters in Fountain Valley, with manufacturing in Torrance.

Designer Earl Arnault (1904-1971) has been credited as the clock's creator, although his name never appeared on the clock.

The earliest clocks, produced in 1939, are marked with the name Clifford Stone, along with his company, Allied Manufacturing in Portland, Ore.

In the 1940s, stamps reveal that the clocks were made in Seattle. In the early '60s, the company moved its operation to El Monte and changed its name to The California Clock Co. A few years later, the company relocated again to San Juan Capistrano, Calif., where it remained for 30 years.

Young still maintains a post office box in San Juan Capistrano because of the number of printed materials still circulating with this address nationwide.

The internal clock mechanism evolved from a wind-up style to electric and finally battery operation during its life span. However, the appearance of its 15-inch-by-4-inch plastic body hasn't changed much since front paws and a bow tie were added in the early '50s.

The original, classic black Kit-Cat with the white bow tie still outsells all of the company's products. "It's always been the most popular," Young said. "There's a mystique about it."

Other animals including Disney's Pluto, a teddy bear, a panda, a poodle and an owl were made for a short time during the company's history, but nothing sold like Kit-Cat. Besides the classic gentleman cat, a lady Kit-Cat, limited-edition colors and jeweled crystals have been among the product offerings.

Despite the clock's popularity, this bit of nostalgia was nearly lost in the 1980s. The introduction of battery-powered, digital clocks cut the need and therefore the production of American-made electric motors, essential to the Kit-Cat, sending their cost sky-rocketing.

"Our choice was to raise prices on wind-up models from the '40s and '50s have sold for several hundred dollars on eBay. Because of its scarcity, Young estimates that the wind-up model from 1939 could go for as much as $10,000 at auction. Although he hesitated to give production figures, he indicated: "Every three minutes of every hour of every day for more than 50 years, someone has put one on their wall."

The popularity of the clock continues to surprise him. Kit-Cat and its counterparts, Fifi the poodle, and Professor Timebelly the owl, appeared in the opening scene of the 1985 movie "Back to the Future," and in last year's "13 Going On 20." When a tiny blurb about the clock ran in Parade magazine a few years ago the number of calls nearly collapsed the company's phone system.

"People don't realize that Orange County is home to an American icon," Young said. Kit-Cat clocks are available at local Bed, Bath and Beyond, Restoration Hardware and independent clock shops. To find a store or to order online, log on to www.kit-cat.com.
Singer not worthy of admiration

By JOHN LOVELL
Managing Editor

“Music genius.” “Child prodigy.” “Rock and roll troubadour.” “Bob Dylan!”? The scruffy Nebraska I absolutely love to hate has so many names now, but only one know him by one: CONOR. A colleague of mine and I have shared the ongoing joke for the past year to make fun of this poor boy and his band as often as possible – ad nauseam.

I’d like to try and get our daily dose of Conor-bashing fun. We draw little hearts with “Conor” written inside, send each other i-<3-conor text messages and blame our daily mishaps and bad luck on him.

Oh and of course, we absolutely never, ever refer to him as Bright Eyes. Endless fun of him is just waiting to be had in making fun of Conor. When I was given the opportunity to write a review on his latest musical outings, I relished the opportunity to share that joke with you because I think it perfectly captures my current thoughts on my co-worker’s music.

The media is hailing him as the poster boy for a new indie generation (I turned 18 to which generation they keep referring – certainly not mine!), and everybody’s drooling all over the place and doing insane things like calling him the new Bob Dylan! “Northern Exposure.” Kelly Danes has done for coffee snobs but they are also members and by extension of inter-generational strife.

By AMY AMATANGELO
Zap2it.com

Now, I don’t want to over hype it, but this week’s 100th episode of “Gilmore Girls” (Tuesday, WB) may have been the best episode the series has ever had. At the end, there is a moment so chilling, delivered with such pitch-perfect aplomb that it left me staring at my TV in silent shock.

So this column isn’t about the mumps the show has taken along the way or concerns that the show may be repeating itself (is Logan ever going to get back on some of my favorite family vacation. Christopher briefly reunite for Lorelai and Max’s wedding. And it still takes Lorelai to 16. Luke builds a chuppah in Stars Hollow. It establishes the “we’re fish out of water in each other’s world” subtext that sustains the show. The Road Trip to Har- vard (Oct. 21, 2001): This episode featured Lorelai’s poigniant trip to Harvard where, with no dialogue, we see her reflect on the life she might have had if she had not become pregnant at 16. Luke builds a chuppah for Lorelai and Max’s wed- ding. And it still takes Lorelai almost three years to realize Luke loves her.

I Can’t Get Started (May 18, 2004): In the second season finale, Lorelai and Christopher briefly reunite only to find out that Sherry is pregnant and Jess and Rory hit for the first time. Raincoats and Recipes (May 18, 2004): In the fourth season finale, Rory and Dean go to Paris with Dean, a married man. I stand by my earlier statement that the show is stronger because Rory did something we didn’t approve of. Also Luke and Lorelai finally kiss. What more could we ask for?

‘Gilmore Girls’ celebrates 100 episodes

By JAMES MARTIN
Staff Writer

School Girls: the WB show “Gilmore Girls” celebrated its 100th episode with the favorite mother-daughter duo. Courtesty Photo

Yes, they are wealthy snobs and they only exist on television but it is so believable that it has become a major character. The last time I felt this con- nected to made-up location was 1984. That was the year I told my mom I wanted to go to Pine Valley for our family vacation. As we celebrate the mile- stone episode, let’s look back on some of my favorite episodes:

Rory’s Birthday Parties

(Nov. 9, 2000): A befuddled Emily and Richard attend the birthday party Lorelai throws for her in Stars Hollow. It establishes the “we’re fish out of water in each other’s world” subtext that sustains the show. The Road Trip to Harvard (Oct. 21, 2001): This episode featured Lorelai’s poigniant trip to Harvard where, with no dialogue, we see her reflect on the life she might have had if she had not become pregnant at 16. Luke builds a chuppah for Lorelai and Max’s wed- ding. And it still takes Lorelai almost three years to realize Luke loves her.

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TORTURED ARTIST: Conor Oberst of the indie rock group Bright Eyes spread his too thin by releasing two albums at the same time.

By JOHN LOVELL
Staff Writer

Conor Oberst of the indie rock group Bright Eyes spreads himself too thin by releasing two albums at the same time. COURTESTY PHOTO

The main problem I have with both of these albums, especially Digital Ash in a Digital Urn, this album isn’t half bad at all. In fact they’re even mildly enjoyable, especially Wide Awake.

So what’s he been recording since the age of 15? He’s still very young, only 22 – and it shows when he lumps all of these incompatible songs together without discrimina- tion or continuity. Maybe the albums feel rushed too. I mean, why the double album thing? I’d rather he finally take some time and release a solid Bright Eyes album that really shows his worth as an artist.

I think what really irritates me though is that nobody seems to really listen and not be so afraid to change their minds. There must have been, like, two billion.

All silliness aside, I will say that his music suddenly becomes mysteriously more interesting the minute you start to make fun of him. You should really try it sometime.

Thursday • February 10

WHAT: The Wolfsonian at FIU presents, “The Vagina Monologues” at 6 p.m to raise money for the Wolfsonian’s Women’s Fund. Two Billion Chocolate Chip Cookies will be announced at 5:30 p.m. Enter to win a complimentary dinner from the Fresh Food Company by filling out a raffle ticket after eating at The Fresh Food Company before Feb. 10.
WHERE: Gracie’s Grill Palace
HOW MUCH: Free varies depending on what time you eat at the Fresh Food Company.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 13

WHAT: The Women’s Studies Center presents “The Vagina Monologues” at 6 p.m to raise money for the Wolfsonian’s Women’s Fund. Two Billion Chocolate Chip Cookies will be announced at 5:30 p.m. Enter to win a complimentary dinner from the Fresh Food Company before Feb. 10.
WHERE: GL 100, UP
HOW MUCH: FIU Students, $8, FIU Faculty, Staff and Seniors, $12; General Admission, $15

February 10, 1958

Elvis Presley’s ballad “Don’t” becomes his ninth No. 1 single since “Heartbreak Hotel” first topped the charts in 1956.

He recorded “Don’t” in September while cutting his first Christmas album. Elvis would achieve a record-breaking 17 top singles: to this day, he remains second only to the Beatles in the number of chart singles he would achieve a record-breaking 17 top singles; to this day, he remains second only to the Beatles in the number of chart single.
FIU looks to avenge Arkansas State loss

three home games remaining this season. Monday’s showdown with Arkansas State could be crucial as the team looks to improve their conference record before the start of tournament play as well as end their two-game skid.

Following the game at Western Kentucky, freshmen Antonio Jones looks to be the front runner to run the point for the Golden Panthers. Coach Sergio Rouco has said that after Jones’ recent performances, only Jayce Lewis outplaying him in practice will sit him on the bench. FIU will look to minimize on-the-court mistakes, as turnovers and poor shooting decisions have hurt them this season at home.

The Golden Panthers will look for a big night from juniors Ivan Almonte and Ismael N’Diaye, as well as a solid performance from Junior Matias as he goes into his three final home games.

The team will look to avenge a five-point loss to Arkansas State that dates back to Jan. 8, and will look to notch its second conference victory of the season. Coach Sergio Rouco’s men would surely like to gain some speed heading into the conference tournament were everybody pretty much starts at the same place.

What has happened this season is in the past, and as the Golden Panthers look toward their final five games of the season, before the tournament starts on March 6, only one thing can be on their mind: play sound, aggressive and turnover-free basketball.
Women lose to WKU, defeat MTSU

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

WKU 88 FIU 67

Like many other teams in the NCAA, the Golden Panthers could not find a way to stop Western Kentucky.

Led by Leslie Logsdon’s game-high 35 points, the Lady Toppers defeated FIU, 88-67, at Pharmed Arena on Feb. 5.

Coming off a 12-day hiatus, FIU suffered their worst Sun Belt Conference game this season. Western Kentucky shot 48.7 percent for the game, out-rebounded FIU, 46 to 36 and dominated the paint with 42 points.

Western Kentucky picked off their 11th straight victory and fifth straight over the Golden Panthers. Logsdon had her way all game long setting Pharmed Arena opponent records in both three-point field goals made (7), and three-point field goal percentage (.700), finishing just one shy of her career high.

Tomova led FIU in the loss with 23 points, eight rebounds and five blocks, while tying her career high with four assists.

FIU 66 MTSU 55

The Golden Panthers got back on the win column with a 66-55 victory over Middle Tennessee at Pharmed Arena on Feb. 7.

Freshman LaQuetta Ferguson came off the bench to lead FIU with a career-high 19 points.

The Golden Panthers connected on 57.4 percent of their shots to tie their season high, and hit 55.6 percent from long range (5-of-9)—their second best performance of the year.

After losing the battle of the boards against Western Kentucky, FIU took that into account and out-rebounded the Lady Raiders 33 to 25.

Coach Cindy Russo liked the team’s improvement.

“We were a lot more focused this game than against Western Kentucky,” said Russo. “We executed the ball better, handled it better and shot well. We handled the pressure better.”

The game plan also worked out efficiently for FIU.

“Tonight we played hard, smart and together. We came out from the jump with a plan and we executed that plan and that’s why we came out victorious,” said Ferguson.
Baseball gets swept, drop third straight

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Staff Writer

After starting the season with a two-game sweep over FAMU, the Golden Panthers lost three straight games. The team was swept by UCF over the weekend on Feb. 5 and 6, in Orlando, Fla. Both games ended with a final score of 3-2. FIU dropped their record to 2-3.

In the first game, pitcher David Asher went six innings and allowed two unearned runs but walked six batters. Offensively, junior Yahnmed Yema went 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored.

In the second game, freshman Elhí Villanueva pitched six and two-thirds innings of work, allowing three earned runs and striking out six.

Junior Michael Lopez led FIU offensively, going 2-for-4 with two doubles and a run scored.

In game one, junior Randy Younsey led-off by drawing a walk and eventually came around to score off a sacrifice fly by Yema.

UCF answered back in the second inning with a rally that began with an FIU error. Asher then allowed four consecutive walks that scored two runs, taking a 2-1 lead.

“T hat one inning kind of got away from us,” said coach Danny Price. “We had a hard time finding the plate.”

FIU tied the game in the fourth when junior Yowel Barroso drove in Yema off a sacrifice fly. The game went into extra innings after being tied 2-2, but in the 10th inning, UCF won the game off a two-out hit off reliever Matt Youtsey that reached the wall in right-center field.

“I thought we played a pretty good game, but we didn’t hit when we had to,” said Yema. “We made a couple of errors on the field, and that’s what cost us the game.”

Game two was a pitcher’s duel until the ninth inning when UCF scored off a single. Then in the seventh, it was déjà vu for FIU as UCF began a rally off another FIU error. Villanueva proceeded to walk two batters to load the bases.

Junior Frank Gonzalez came in relief of Villanueva and allowed a single that scored two runs, making it 3-0.

UCF threatened FIU in the eighth inning but scored no runs as they ended the inning with the bases left loaded.

FIU would not get on the board until the ninth. The rally began with a Lopez double and with Yema and Barroso each drawing a walk to load the bases. With two outs, sophomore Cody Jacobs was hit by a pitch to score FIU’s first run, and freshman Corey Lozano drew another walk to score the second. After a UCF pitching change, Yountsey grounded out to end the game.

“It’s early in the season,” Price said. “Our goal right now is to be the best 2-3 club in the country.”

Golden Panthers suffer back to back losses

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Junior Matias made seven three-pointers and finished the game with a career-high of 30 points for FIU, but that wasn’t enough as the team lost 82-69 to Middle Tennessee on Feb. 5.

FIU turned over the ball 25 times because they lacked the same energy that powered their win in five overtimes just the night before.

On the road in front of a hostile crowd of just under 4,000, Ivan Almonte, who has been solid all year, turned over the ball seven times while notching his ninth double-double of the year. Despite his double-double, he only shot 3-of-8 from the field for 15 points, nine of them being a double-figure.

Despite four players in double figures, but it wasn’t enough. Almonte, Ismael N’Diaye, Junior Matias and Anthony Winchester, the leading scorer, Anthony Winchester, had a hard time finding the plate.”

Despite a career-high 30 point performance by Junior Matias, the Golden Panthers lost three straight, two games to UCF and one to Miami.

LOSING DROUGHT: Elhí Villanueva allowed three earned runs and four hits in 5 2 innings of pitch against UCF on Feb 6. After starting the season 2-0, the team has lost three straight, two games to UCF and one to Miami.