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North Korea declares it has nuclear weapons, rejects talks

By TIM JOHNSON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

North Korea’s declaration on Feb. 10 that it possesses a nuclear weapons arsenal and will drop out of talks on giving it up sent the United States and its partners searching for a way to re-engage with the autocratic and isolated regime.

The North Korean claim came as Knight Ridder Newspaper learned that the U.S. intelligence community six months ago raised its estimate of the size of North Korea’s highly enriched uranium.

The previous classified estimate put the number of North Korean nuclear weapons between two and nine.

The United States, Japan, South Korea, China and Russia have been urging severely impoverished North Korea to return to talks aimed at getting it to dismantle its nuclear program in exchange for security guarantees and economic assistance.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the North Korean announcement was “a most unfortunate move, most especially, probably, for the people of North Korea.” She urged North Korea to reassess its decision to pull out of the talks, saying a withdrawal “only deepens North Korean isolation from the rest of the international community.”

Rice, in Luxembourg, gave no hint of what concrete actions the Bush administration plans to take. Washington will consult with North Korea’s neighbors in northeast Asia, she said. Rice plans to meet with the South Korean foreign minister on Monday.

“We are confident … that the United States and its allies can deal with any potential threat from North Korea. And North Korea understands that,” she said.

North Korea didn’t back up its nuclear assertion, and some experts said the nation might be trying to up the ante in the crisis as a ploy to increase its bargaining leverage. It has used brinkmanship before.

In its statement, North Korea’s foreign ministry declared what it called Washington’s “wicked nature” and “hostility” and lashed out at Rice, who called Pyongyang an “outpost of tyranny” during her confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill last month and has been in Europe this week sternly warning Iran about its secret nuclear programs.

“Americans are recycling paper at an all-time high, recapturing 300 pounds per person each year. That’s about half the paper produced in the United States.”

In addition to improvements in the tactics of waste-paper collection, recycling is gaining from China’s suddenly ravenous appetite for U.S. scrap paper. Its hunger for recycled paper is fueled by its own shortage of wood pulp and a mushrooming need for boxes in which to ship its exports.

North Korea has been urging severely impoverished South Korea to reassess its decision to accept a grand bargain with North Korea to create a “peaceful prosperity zone.”

The Bush administration had been urging Seoul to accelerate its talks with North Korea's neighbors in northeast Asia, she said. Rice plans to meet with the South Korean foreign minister on Monday.

“The U.S. officials, however, cautioned that the numbers weren’t based on hard evidence, but on assumptions based on such factors as the quantity and quality of North Korea’s highly enriched uranium.”

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Scrap paper in high demand

NATIONAL
Music legend upstages young stars at Grammy Awards

An eclectic mix of young entertainers including Alicia Keys, John Mayer, Usher, Maroon 5 and rapper Kanye West collected their share of trophies at the 47th Grammy Awards, but it was Ray Charles who won a leading eight Grammys, all springing from the album of duets recorded just before his death, “Genius Loves Company.” That included the evening’s two top categories: album of the year and record of the year for “Here We Go Again.”

The late singer, who intertwined soul, rock ‘n’ roll, R&B, jazz, big band and blues, also won for best pop album and best pop collaboration with vocals for “Here We Go Again” with Norah Jones, and best gospel performance for “Heaven.”

The hardest-to-recycle paper remains printing: writing paper and office paper, as well as the kind that catalogs, magazines and newspaper inserts are printed on. Homeowners will pitch in, Port- land recovered, buying an additional 14-gallon recycling bins or bigger wheeled ones. The demand for scrap paper in China, which is so deforested that it produces little of its own pulp, is growing at about 50 percent a year, according to the paper industry. To meet that demand, U.S. collection agents for China’s mills offer higher prices than many American papermakers, market analysts report.

Because shipping costs relatively little—$10 to $15 on scrap paper that costs around $100 a ton—China’s surging demand is turning even East Coast cities such as Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Savannah, Ga., Baltimore and Philadelphia into paper-export ports for Los Angeles leads, followed by New York, San Francisco and Seattle.

Much U.S. scrap paper ends up in the massive new Nine Dragons recycled paper mill in Dongguan, China, north of Hong Kong. It’s the world’s largest, and is unique in its ability to turn low-quality mixed papers into respectable paperboard for boxes and packaging.

Another factor in China’s favor: Its workers, who are paid about $3.40 a day to sort mixed paper manually, are far cheaper than American workers, who are paid at least the $5.15 an hour federal minimum wage. China’s low wages have helped many U.S. communities to collect recyclables with little or no sorting.

While strong offshore demand helps keep supplies up and prices in the $80 to $120 a ton range, some environmentalists worry that U.S. mills are getting priced out of recycled paper.

“I don’t object to exporting some of our recovered paper overseas,” said Susan Kneidel, the executive director of Conservatree, a San Francisco-based forest conservation and paper-recycling group. “At the same time, I think it’s important to continue to support our own mills, too.”

NEWSFLASH
ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES
Campuses study to make the grade

It’s a tricky proposition, college educators say: holding institutions accountable for the quality of graduates they produce.

But college administrators know state and federal regulators increasingly expect proof that public higher education funds are well spent. Accountability has become a buzzword among lawmakers nationwide.

In an attempt to prove their worth to themselves and others, campuses across the country have started testing students to see if they are learning to think in college. About 60 colleges and universities are using the Collegiate Learning Assessment, run by the New York-based Council for Aid to Education, to test freshmen and seniors for critical thinking and analytical skills.

The tests use two essay questions from the Graduate Record Examination, normally used to gain admission to graduate school. Administrators plan to compare scores of freshmen and seniors.

Educators say they need to do a better job of showing why public colleges are good for the economy and society as a whole, and the tests are one way to do that.

IN INTERNATIONAL
Prince Charles to wed Camilla Parker Bowles

The plan was for a calm and dignified announcement, but it soon became a royal scramble Thursday after a tabloid newspaper scooped Buckingham Palace and exposed one of Britain’s best-kept secrets: Prince Charles will marry his lover of 34 years, Camilla Parker Bowles, on April 8.

With the abrupt announcement by the prince’s office at mid-morning, the royal family revealed the plan to compare scores of freshmen and seniors. About 60 colleges and universities are using the Collegiate Learning Assessment, run by the New York-based Council for Aid to Education, to test freshmen and seniors for critical thinking and analytical skills.

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Camilla Parker Bowles will not become queen should Prince Charles marry her because he is not married to a princess and will not become king.

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Experience with Adobe InDesign is preferable, but we will accept and train interested applicants who have thorough experience with Adobe PageMaker.

Contact C. Joel Marino at Beaconrecruit@yahoo.com or stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application.

By BECKY BARTINDALE
Knight Rider
Newspaper

For nearly 30 years, thousands of low-income students who aspire to being the first in their family to attend college have made their way to San Jose State University for help through Upward Bound.

Now, President Bush’s proposal to eliminate federal funding in 2006 for Upward Bound and other key college outreach programs has educators worried that some of those students will miss out on college opportunity.

Upward Bound works through universities, including Stanford and National Hispanic universities, and community agencies. It assists students in schools with high poverty rates who are low-income or who would be the first in their family to go to college.

“These programs are critical because school districts like East Side are cutting counseling and library services, so a lot of our outreach personnel are being reduced due to the current budget crisis,” said Art Darin, chief academic officer for the East Side Union High School District in San Jose, Calif.

Darin said loss of the federal programs would mean the students who need help the most may not get the information about or access to college they need.

Upward Bound was created as part of President Johnson’s “War on Poverty.” It provides students with intensive college preparation. At San Jose State, Upward Bound serves 150 students a year. Since San Jose State began tracking students in 2001, 100 percent of the Upward Bound participants have graduated from high school, 90 percent entered some kind of postsecondary education and 71 percent graduated from college within six years, said Frank Castillo, interim director of pre-college programs.

Upward Bound “opened my eyes to see how important college was and what I needed to get there,” said Lizeth Sanchez, 23, a San Jose High Academy graduate who is now a graduate student in recreation management at San Jose State.
Sitting in the safe confines of our dark and lonely campus radio studio, I get a phone call. Phone calls are great because it's the only way we disc jockeys (DJs) can know if someone is listening or not, so naturally, they make me really happy. I answer the phone and a shrill voice with a thick Miami accent greets me: "You, can you play me some Linkin' Park?"

"Argh! I hate being reminded how stupid people are. I can't keep track of how often this happens to me. You wouldn't believe the frustration that club-goers have when I turn down their requests. I never cease to amaze me how unaware people are of the genre of music that's being played. If you're in a club that's playing music you aren't familiar with, don't waste the DJ's time requesting Guns 'N Roses. For that, you can check out the local jukeboxes!"

In addition to DJing at WRGP, I also spin at a club every Wednesday night which hosts an alternative dance party called Deadbeat Club. These clubs are relatively new and unique to South Florida, differing from the usual nightclub in their selection of music. The DJs at these clubs spin mostly indie, college or whatever you want to call it -- very different music that wouldn't ever find its way into typical Miami Beach clubs, but it is still highly danceable.

Revolver and Poplife, the two most known of all these dance parties, draw quite a crowd every weekend. The main idea I'm trying to express is that the music I spin is different. How do I know this? Because, time after time, club-goers waltz up to the DJ booth to make the most outlandish requests for bands like Metallica and 50 Cent.

It never ceases to amaze me how unaware people are of the genre of music that's being played. If you're in a club that's playing music you aren't familiar with, don't waste the DJ's time requesting Guns 'N Roses. For that, you can check out the local jukeboxes!

I think I speak for DJs of all stripes as to how to treat DJs. DJs are people too, and it genuinely hurts to see so many people acting idiotically over a crappy song. I fear that eventually, club-goers will no longer tolerate disobedience from DJs and settle for mindless computer and music robots to give them exactly what they want.

Mark my words: If you make the mistake of throwing them a bone and playing the song they asked for, they will only come running back for more, and they'll probably bring a few friends with them.

Nightclubs are not karaoke bars, and we DJs are not your jukeboxes!

In fact, there's a fun, little rule I call to mind when DJing: Don't talk to me unless I know you or you're a hot female. All silliness aside, asking your DJ to play a song for you is a bigger favor than you think.

People don't like being told no. I especially hate how some club-goers get angry when you can't satisfy their request. Whenever someone says, "What do you mean you don't have it?" I know there's going to be trouble.

There have even been a few times when I thought about reaching for that baseball bat and rude breed of human beings. Fellow DJs, I implore you not to give in to their ridiculous demands! These people are the most selfish and unappreciative people on earth.

Contrary to popular belief, most people dislike things that are different. How do I know this? Because, time after time, club-goers waltz up to the DJ booth to make the most outlandish requests for bands like Metallica and 50 Cent.

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Teen sex documentary found misleading

By DARA BRAMSON
Staff Writer

Every year at least one prestigious journalist wakes up with an earth-shattering epiphany, one so profound that it demands a one-hour television special. This ground-breaking revelation can simply be summed up as: “Wow, American teenagers are slutty!”

On Jan. 26, Katie Couric hosted a special called “The 411: Teens & Sex.” Couric has been co-host of “The Today Show” since 1991, so basically this means she has done this story at least four times.

These television specials seemingly exist only to scold today’s youth and reiterate the obvious, while claiming to “spread awareness.”

This raises the question: Why can’t these journalists use their prestige and talent to convey valuable information rather than present the unchanged facts cyclically?

To her credit, Couric no longer bluffs teenage sexual activity on Kurt Cobain or gigantic pants and glossworms. This time, it’s “American culture” that’s responsible for our attitudes and behaviors. “It’s everywhere. It’s in advertising, on billboards, in music videos, movies, TV shows,” said Couric. She implies that if you don’t want to be exposed to sex, you should live in a box.

According to FIU students, there is some validity to Couric’s argument.

“The idea of the reason some teens are having sex so young is because of what’s seen on TV and in music. Sex is being shown at teenagers from all angles,” said junior Alethea Perez. “But if they are doing it responsibly, they should not be criticized for it.”

Unfortunately, many Americans act as if they live in boxes. On Couric’s NBC special, teens said that one of the main reasons they were not willing to open up to parents was because of the dismissive attitude their parents took even before the teens revealed any personal information.

Many parents’ attitudes are so insular that their children become too afraid to open up. The gap between our generation and theirs is identical to a language barrier.

You’ve probably used the terms “hooking up” or “friends with benefits” before. Every generation has its euphemisms, and they are part of what gets the elders into such a tizzy. In the 1920s, parents were terrified of their teenagers going to “necking parties.”

Then those teenagers grew up, had offspring of their own and got nervous when they heard about their kids “doing it” in the backseats of cars. Their nervousness then translated into irresponsible, or any of the other charges levied at sexually active young adults by “The Today Show.” I’m sure even Couric didn’t call sex “intercourse” as a teenager.

We live in an era in which sex-talk borders on mainstream acceptance.

However, the most influential people in our culture are people like Couric who are stuck in the past. Generally, today’s parents come from a time when talking openly about sex was not an option.

Couric, a parent herself, told the Associated Press how astounded she was at the non-chalant standpoint many teens have on sex. “I was personally shocked how casually young people talk about sex, and how it’s considered much less intimate than intercourse,” said Couric.

However, during the NBC special, Couric also admitted that sex “needs to be a constant discussion.”

Where is the middle ground, if there is one? How can a parent criticize what their children are potentially doing and then encourage them to be open about it?

Whether your beliefs are exceedingly liberal or undoubtedly conservative, it is likely that at one time or another as a college student, you have experienced the ramifications of the close-minded attitude our country has toward sexuality.

Most college students who have a liberal attitude about sexuality have never had to endure being called a “cock-block” or a “prude.” However, many conservative college students have dealt with criticism for not being “active enough.”

Student Brent Capley bemoaned the close-mindedness many college students have about sexuality:

“Being a virgin in college is like being an FIU football fan. Nobody knows why you are one. You always get really excited at the beginning of fall semester only to end up frustrated in the end,” said Capley.

It’s important to remember this: Teenage sex, done responsibly or irresponsibly, is not something new, and it certainly is not going away.

It is also important to remember that the only reason these yearly scare reports are produced is because the words “teenage sex” mean ratings for the television networks.

Journalists like Couric are undoubtedly aware that they are reiterating the obvious, but since they are making a lot of money doing it, there is no reason to stop.

I only wish everyone could have parents like mine, who will not mind reading their child’s sex article in the school newspaper.

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I only wish everyone could have parents like mine, who will not mind reading their child’s sex article in the school newsletter.
The women in FIU’s production of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” are a strong, unified group who believe they can better the world by spreading the word about women’s rights. Hopefully, students and faculty saw “The Vagina Monologues” this past weekend, because the actors’ powerful performances transcended age, gender, sexuality and background.

Imitations, such as “The Marijuanalogues,” have been made from Ensler’s book-turned-play, but most don’t carry the same message. FIU made its own production of the show to promote awareness of safe sex, violence against women and the causes of rape.

Before the show, audience members were given free condoms and brochures with phone numbers on them to call for more information.

Most monologues showcased a sense of humor, but there were some that left viewers with a tear in their eye.

Sadness accompanied vivid stories of mistreatment and rape. The basic goal of “The Vagina Monologues” was to invite women to have a better understanding of their vaginas. According to the monologues, most women haven’t even looked at their own vaginas, let alone paid attention to them.

Overall, the acting was superb, even though not all of the cast members were theater majors. The women seemed to be very into their roles, and it really felt as if they were experiencing their specific monologue.

After the show, the cast participated in a question-and-answer session during which audience members asked them why they decided to be involved in the production.

Most answered that they were searching within themselves for a way to help women. The cast retold the different stories of women through monologues that focused on those women’s experiences with their vaginas. Eve Ensler’s movement of women’s rights awareness continues through the Women’s Studies Center’s “The Vagina Monologues.”

The people of Miami were able to hear the stories of different women. Something was celebrated that most women don’t often ponder – vaginas. Hooray for the vaginas!
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $5

WHAT: Toxik, A Terrible Possessing, Lie Upon Promise
WHERE: Skatezone, 8125 Lake Worth Rd.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $7

WHAT: Empire, Down Falls The Morning, Lost, My Love?, Thread of Hope, Implosive Disgorgence, I'm The Devil, Emotion Ablaze
WHERE: Pompano Indoor Skatepark, 2171 Blount Rd.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $8

WHAT: Underoath, Bleed the Dream, Opiate for the Masses
WHERE: Warped Tour, various locations

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $6

WHAT: My Chemical Romance, Killswitch Engage, Senses Fail, A Static Lullaby
WHERE: Warped Tour, various locations

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $6

WHAT: The Used
WHERE: Warped Tour, various locations

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $6

WHAT: Marisol
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Art Center, 11200 SW 8th St.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $8 students, $10 general admission

WHAT: Miami City Ballet: Program III
WHERE: Kravis Center

WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $19-$59

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 17

WHAT: Empire, Down Falls The Morning, Lost, My Love?, Thread of Hope, Implosive Disgorgence, I'm The Devil, Emotion Ablaze
WHERE: Pompano Indoor Skatepark, 2171 Blount Rd.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $8

WHAT: Marisol
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Art Center, 11200 SW 8th St.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $8 students, $10 general admission

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 18

WHAT: Florida Grand Opera: “Magic Flute”
WHERE: Miami-Dade County Auditorium, 2901 W. Flagler St.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $17.00

WHAT: Anna Lies, Strangled to Tears, Krishna, KillJasper, Lie Upon Promise
WHERE: Skatezone, 8125 Lake Worth Rd.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $7

WHAT: Anna Lies, Strangled to Tears, Krishna, KillJasper, Lie Upon Promise
WHERE: Skatezone, 8125 Lake Worth Rd.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $7

WHAT: Miami City Ballet: Program III
WHERE: Kravis Center
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $19-$59

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 20

WHAT: Miami City Ballet: Program III
WHERE: Kravis Center
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $19-$59

NEW PLAY WILL KEEP YOU ON EDGE

By ELENA SANTALO AND MICHELLE FERRER

With not much more than a desk, a chair and a woman on the stage, the play begins. “This is the last day of my life,” says poet Sylvia Plath (Angelica Torn).

We follow Plath through events in her life, that culminate on Feb. 11, 1963, the day she succeeds, after one failed attempt, in committing suicide.

Writer Paul Alexander’s direction was perfect, his script beautifully written. Alexander’s use of language had me hooked from the start until the climactic end. Alexander, the author the major Plath biography, “Rough Magic,” has had “Edge” in the works for 10 years.

The play, performed at the tiny Coconut Grove Playhouse, is charming. With only a small platform for a stage, the quaint playhouse creates an intimate atmosphere, making the play that much more enjoyable.

This one-woman show is captivating not only because of the intimacy with the audience, but also because of the superb acting. Torn does an amazing job of getting into the mind of the poet. Through her we see Plath’s ever-changing emotion. We are taken through a spectrum of feelings ranging from rage and jealousy to love and lust.

We were able to relate to Plath on many different levels due to Torn’s acting and as Plath is about to commit suicide in the last few moments of the play, we are able to empathize with her. The audience understands why Plath chooses to end her life. We felt as if we were one of her friends-watching, but powerless.

“Edge” runs through March 26 at the Coconut Grove Playhouse.

For information on tickets and show times, you can call 305-442-4000 or go to the website: www.cgplayhouse.org.

COURTESY PHOTOS
‘Hitch’ shows guys how to woo

By MICHELLE FERRER
Life! Editor

What would you do if someone tapped you on the shoulder and told you they knew the secret to get that special someone to fall in love with you in three dates? If you are one of these distant admirers, the new film, “Hitch,” prescribes your cure. It follows the life of Alex ‘Hitch’ Hitchens, a discreet, professional “date doctor” for lonely, single men who love women they think they can’t have.

“Hitch” is an epiphany film where Hitchens must realize that love “ain’t just a game” and that sweet-talking won’t help him win his love du jour, a spunky gossip columnist for a New York tabloid.

Andy Tennant (“Sweet Home Alabama”) directed “Hitch” with a perfect sense of comedic timing. It is also exquisitely filmed, from its crisp use of color – not only in terms of costume, but also the set itself – to the clean sensuality of its cinematography.

Panning camera angles give the film a sleek, sharp look, making it pleasing to the eyes, while off-camera voice-overs provide funny commentary. Lead actor, Will Smith (“I, Robot”) keeps you laughing from start to finish alongside co-stars Eva Mendes (“Once Upon a Time in Mexico”) and quirky misfit, Kevin James (“50 First Dates”).

Smith does not disappoint in “Hitch” and will have you agreeing with, if not teaching, his theory on how to woo the ladies by the end of the movie.

While the film is a formulaic romantic comedy, it is entertaining. Written by Kevin Bisch, “Hitch,” while as cheesy and clichéd as can be, ranks among romantic comedy classics like “10 Things I Hate About You,” “Never Been Kissed” and “She’s All That.”

Running at a 115 minutes, “Hitch” is worthy a see and a cute date movie.

★★★★
“Hitch”
Directed by Andy Tennant
Written by Kevin Bisch

HITCHED ON YOU:
Will Smith plays a dating doctor who teaches men how to woo women the right way, in his new comedy.

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Three FIU players make All-Tournament

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is happy that Gwydir has given her that confidence. “It makes a real big difference. As a pitcher you have different flows and she makes my tempo a whole lot better,” Gwydir said. “She knows what I wanna throw. I trust and have faith in her.”

Freshman Brooke Ruiz was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player after batting .500 with four runs batted in, four runs scored, two stolen bases, a home run and a double during the tournament.

Nealer was proud of the first year player. “I am so proud of her,” Nealer said. “She is such an athlete and I love watching her. She will be great player for FIU in the future.”

The Golden Panthers scored their first run against Fordham in the bottom of the third when Tippings led off the inning with a double to left center. She then advanced to third on a bunt single by Cassie Parker, and later scored as she tagged up from third on a Deomni Murray foul out.

FIU added their second and final run of the game on a Ruiz home run to left center in the bottom of the fourth.

The Golden Panthers cruised through much of the tournament, as they defeated Mercer twice, 5-0 and 3-1. FIU then defeated UAB 3-0.

FIU’s only contested match came in their first meeting with Fordham, in which the game went into extra innings, as FIU prevailed and picked up the 3-2 win.

Ruiz led off the bottom of the eighth inning with a walk-off RBI double to right center to send Murray (who had been placed at second according to international tiebreak rules at the start of the inning), home with the game-winning run.

Next the Golden Panthers will travel to San Diego State on Feb. 17-20 to compete in the Campbell/Cartier Classic. FIU will play host to San Diego State, Long Beach State, Oregon State, Santa
The Golden Panther baseball team ended their three-game losing streak with a sweep of FAMU in Tallahassee on Feb. 11 and 12. FIU raised their season record to 4-3.

“Whole weekend we played well. We made plays when we needed to make plays,” said senior pitcher David Asher.

In the first game, Asher (2-0) continued his streak of 21 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run. The senior pitched six innings, allowed only one hit and struck out six in the 9-1 rout.

“My guys really helped me out [by scoring seven runs] in the second inning,” Asher said. “It’s a lot easier to pitch when you have a big lead. You don’t get as nervous [on the mound].”

Junior Yahmed Yema led FIU offensively going 3-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI. As a team, the Golden Panthers had 14 hits in the game.

In game two, freshman Eliz Villanueva (2-1) added another solid pitching performance. The starter went six innings, struck out seven, allowed three hits and walked only one batter in a 6-1 victory.

Yema, freshman James McOwen and junior Michael Lopez had two hits each in the 12-hit attack for the FIU.

Game one was blown open in the third inning where FIU scored seven runs. Sophomore Cody Jacobs led-off with a double followed by four consecutive bunts, two singles, a FAMU error and an RBI sacrifice fly by freshman Corey Lozano.

In the fifth, Yema opened the inning with a single and later came around to score on a triple by junior Nick Cadena. Cadena then came around to score off a FAMU passed ball to make it 9-0.

The lone FAMU run came in the eighth inning. A two-out walk put a runner on base. The runner proceeded to steal second base and later scored off an FIU error.

Game two was a 1-1 tie until the seventh inning when McOwen hit a pinch-hit double with a runner on first base. Freshman Michael Jordan, also pinch-hitting, hit a single to left that scored the two runners, making it 3-1.

FIU added one insurance run in the eighth and two more in the ninth.

Senior pitcher Danny Hernandez came out to close in the game in the ninth inning. He allowed no runs with one strikeout for his second save of the season.

The Golden Panthers begin a 23-game home stretch on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. against LaSalle Stadium.
The Heat needs Alonzo Mourning as much as he needs the Heat.

Don't get me wrong, the Heat have a good team now, but by adding Zo, a proven center who has dominated in Miami, all he did is be the Heat's best player during his seven sea- sons. He is a man who must be paid for his services.

Adding Zo to the team will fix that problem. He will give the Heat the best one-two center combo in the NBA. He will also make the Heat a prominent title contender.

Last years championships, the Detroit Pistons, won the title in part because the team added big man Rasheed Wallace around this same time last season.

With Wallace complementing Ben Wallace, the team cruised all the way to the championship.

No team in the Eastern Conference has a dominant center other than the Heat and Cleveland.

Adding Zo will make the Heat twice as deadly. It will also give them a better chance to defeat teams from the Western Conference.

The Heat's current record stands at 39 wins and 14 losses. The record sounds good, however, eight of the losses have come against teams from the West. All of the West favorites – Seattle, Phoenix, San Antonio and Dallas, have defeated Miami.

Miami may be good enough to win the East, but not the NBA title. The team needs better players and Zo's career 19.8 points, 9.6 rebounds and three blocks average per game would be a great start.

Many Heat players have already welcomed the addition of Mourning.

O'Neal and Dwayne Wade were the first to rave about Zo.

"I think he can help our team. I know he can help our team," said O'Neal.

Added Wade, "I think Miami would love him. Zo is loved in Miami."

Zo created Miami basketball and he deserves another chance. He has been a major contributor not just to the Heat, but the entire Miami community.

Zo’s Summer Groove has raised millions of dollars for our city.

Now, we need to give him the opportunity to come back and finish his career where he belongs – with the Heat.

DIFFERENT TIMES: Alonzo Mourning will have to adapt to coming off the bench for the Heat now.
**FIU wins second straight tournament**

By NIKOLAY OREKHOV AND HARRY COLEMAN

Beacon Staff

It took three days, five games, three total shutouts and several standout individual performances for the Golden Panthers' softball team to win the FIU DeLong Invitational Tournament – their second tournament championship in as many weekends.

The Golden Panthers capped off the tournament championship with a 2-0 victory over Fordham in the title game on Feb. 13.

With the win, FIU improved to 11-2 while the losing Rams dropped to 2-3. The Golden Panthers have now won their last seven contests and have not given up an earned run in 52 1/3 straight innings.

Head coach Kim Gwydir was proud of her team.

"It’s a huge win," said Gwydir. "It’s always good to get off to a fast start, especially with a team with a lot of new comers. You are seeing a team grow up right in front of your eyes and playing with a lot of confidence."

FIU's Amanda Nealer recorded two shutouts and three wins during tournament play. The senior struck out a total of 30 batters in 19 innings, and was named to the All-Tournament team along with fellow teammates Lindsay Tippings and Jennifer Powell.

Nealer was also happy about the team's second straight tournament win.

"The win was good for us as a team," said Nealer. "We know what we can do against good teams."

The performance by Nealer is something Gwydir expects every time the senior goes out on the mound.

"Her performance is what you expect a senior to do," Gwydir said. "She's done well with her catcher Marleah Stapf calling the plays."

Stapf is the only Golden Panther allowed to call their own game. Nealer

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**Men pick up second straight Sun Belt win**

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA

Staff Writer

Head coach Sergio Rouco received a nice gift Valentine’s Day – another Sun Belt Conference victory.

In front of 614 screaming and cheering fans at the Pharmed Arena on Feb. 14, Ivan Almonte once again proved why he deserves a spot on the Sun Belt All-Conference team by leading FIU with a 68-52 win over Arkansas State.

The junior from the Dominican Republic notched his 11th double-double of the season in a dominating performance on both sides of the court, finishing with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Following the game Almonte was his regular self, a true team player.

"It’s not about my performance. It’s about everybody. I think everybody played well together," said Almonte. "We need to try and win as much as we can. It’s not just about now. It’s about who is hotter when the tournament time comes."

The Golden Panthers never looked back after leading by seven at the half.

Rouco's men started the second half on a 20-8 run, led mostly by Almonte who had 12 points in the first period but another 12 during that run.

Following the win, Rouco was just as humble about Almonte’s performance as Almonte was.

"He was okay. He is our leader, the guy that makes us go," said Rouco. "All the shots that we get are off [Almonte] dumping the ball off of double teams. He is becoming a much better offensive player, and it is a role that he has never been comfortable with, but he is getting there."

FIU cruised to the finish, controlling the clock for the remainder of the game and for what seems like the first time this season, put a team away in the second half.

Rouco also praised the team’s performance on a night where he managed his first conference winning streak at home.

"We had an outstanding performance for a team that doesn’t have many wins in the conference," Rouco said. "Teams that are not winning, teams where things aren’t going well, usually if you are not winners, you roll over. There was no quit in our guys and I am very happy."

Freshman starter Antonio Jones joined Almonte in double figures by finishing with 10 points.

Ismael N’Diaye and Junior Matias struggled to find their touch all night. N’Diaye, who added seven rebounds as the Golden Panthers out-rebounded the Indians 42-36, shot just 2-of-8 for six points. Matias struggled in much the same way producing just three field goals off 13 shots, including shooting 0-of-5 from