New agreement answers faculty concerns

BY RUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

After three years of stalled contract, the executive committee of FIU’s Board of Trustees approved a new collective bargaining agreement on Dec. 30, the result of four days of intensive compromises between both the administration team and the faculty union bargaining teams.

At one point, the faculty union had taken the administration to court at the state level citing “unfair labor practices.” Thus, with the new agreement, both the faculty and the administration state they have reasons to be pleased.

“I am gratified that we have reached an agreement that allows for the continued growth of the academic community,” said Ronald Berkman, interim provost. “With the agreement, we can rest assured that the faculty will be energized and more actively engaged in the University.”

Among the highlights of the FIU United Faculty of Florida’s collective bargaining agreement are a 3.6 percent salary increase across the board, a 10-12 percent raise on promotion, substantial substantive benefits, abolition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, expanded academic freedom and a new parental leave policy.

The administration team and the faculty union bargaining team comprised of faculty union head Alan Gummerson and faculty members Joan Baker, Paul Warren and Lorna Veraldi, who acted as chief negotiator.

Faculty union head Alan Gummerson, who worked with Berkman on negotiating the terms of the agreement, was particularly happy with the new parental leave policy and the changes made to the current academic freedom policy.

The new parental leave policy offers a one-time, six-month leave at full pay for a new parent, in addition to the right of using unused sick or annual leaves.

“We can attract a better faculty now. Those coming out of graduate school looking for jobs but who may be thinking of having children will be attracted to this place,” Gummerson said. “FIU is the first university in the state to agree to such a policy. It’s maybe the best policy in the country.”

According to Gummerson, the academic freedom policy expands beyond the faculty member’s academic subject and allows the faculty to speak freely on all matters of university governance, as well as the freedom to speak, write or act as an individual – all without institutional discipline or restraint.

Clarity about academic freedom was a concern for faculty members because the old contract was much more restricted. The old agreement gave faculty members the freedom to speak only within their academic qualifications.

“The new contract allows them to speak freely on all matters of university governance without the fear for their job,” Gummerson said. “If you go downtown and march against the war in Iraq, the university can’t fire you.”

Two issues the faculty union is still working on with the administration are copyrights and patents.

This deals, in part, with the ownership and control of intellectual property.

Bruce Hauptli, president of the Faculty Senate explained this issue.

“I imagine a faculty member writes a book and says ‘I want to own it.’ But at the same time imagine the administration saying ‘No, you can’t do that. I want to own the book.’ There are clear agreements and disagreements,” Hauptli said. “There are ways [to] deal with these things and I’m confident that the two sides will work it out.”

For the last 30 years there was a state-wide contract between the state university system and the UFF.

This contract included the 11 major public universities.

The contract ended when Florida Gov. Jeb Bush dissolved the state-wide university system, the Florida Board of Regents, in 2001.

The state-wide university system was succeeded by the local board of trustees who were dealing the faculty wouldn’t need a union.

These events led up to the need of an agreement between the administration and the faculty union. This issue was a highly contested one for two years.

“There was a lot of labor unrest during the last three years. [The faculty wasn’t] happy that the administration was trying to convert a lot of issues out of the contract and into a policy. Good relationships between the two sides [went sour] after this extended period of uncertainty,” Hauptli said. “Now both sides have a collective agreement that they think is very good.”

The new bargaining agreement, approved by the board of trustees, now awaits ratification from the faculty union who are widely expected to vote in favor of it.

The ratification election is to be held Feb. 14 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and Feb. 15 at University Park and the Engineering Center.

“In the end, we’re happy that we’ve finally come to an agreement and now the faculty can concentrate on their jobs without worrying about this anymore,” Hauptli said.

Scholarship breakfast honors Cuban poet Jose Marti

BY CRISTELA GUERRA
Staff Writer

A diverse group of students, faculty and contributors gathered Jan. 28 at Biscayne Bay Campus to pay homage to Jose Martí, the 19th century Cuban poet and leader of that country’s independence movement.

This breakfast, celebrated the date of Martí’s birth however, it was not meant as an exclusive celebration for the Cuban community but for all who have read and been inspired by Martí’s writings.

The comedic television personality, Chef Pepin, led the presentation and amused all with his loud expressive tones.

Also featured were various presentations celebrating the Cuban traditions of salsa, folk song and dance.

This “breakfast with a purpose” raised scholarships and other funds and provided a different way of honoring Martí’s name.

Many of the sponsors of the event were present, such as Pepe Badia of Badia Spices.

Three students from both Miami-Dade College and FIU were honored at the breakfast with scholarships. Nicole Salazar, a senior majoring in chemistry at FIU; and the winner of the winners.

“I [the flier for the scholarship] and was interested to find out that Martí has on the rest of the countries in South and Central America. I wanted to

know who he was as a person and know more about his literature,” Salazar said.

Salazar is also a member of the Biscayne Bay Campus Science Club. The group prepared a photographic presentation at the beginning on the breakfast of the tropical Cuban landscape.

Though the presentation was focused mainly on Martí’s impact in other countries, the Cuban majority present was obvious by the sighs heard and the passion that was felt when the Cuban National Anthems was sung a cappella by Rolando Montoya, the president of MDC.

See MARTI, page 2

Columnist discusses gay issues, Pg. 3 | Program makes culture accessible, Pg. 6 | Baseball swept by UM, Pg. 8
Students awarded Marti scholarship

Hasta spoke of Marti’s various relationships with the elite as well as those who loved and respected him.

“Marti’s love extended to all the Caribbean because he was a man with great depth and a great ability to love,” Montoya said.

Marti’s international consonance was shown when Gideon Shavit, Israel emissary and regional director of the Jewish National Fund, presented a sign with Marti’s name in Hebrew and English. The sign referred to a water reservoir that would be placed in Israel in Marti’s name. There is also a forest named after Marti in Israel.

Though I am not originally from Cuba it is good to gather and remember his message [was] not just for Cuba, but for all,” Shavit said.

Oscar Haza, a well-known journalist who has worked for Univision and Telemundo, gave an informative oration on Marti’s influence in the Dominican Republic.

Haza emphasized the need for Marti’s message to live on.

“Today’s generation need[s] to keep the thoughts and identity of Marti alive, as the character of the Cuban people. His legacy spans countries,” Haza said.

Haza describes Marti as someone who relate to the rich and the poor.

Marti was a man of the people, that’s why he suffered and people admired him,” Haza said.

“With the death of a man comes myth and immorality, destiny granted him immortality.”

The BBC library has also taken part in this tribute adding the “Rincon Martiano,” a display near the entrance featuring books, plays and other pieces of Marti’s work.

Senior and Spanish major Charilyn Gauiria attended the event with her mother and represented the Cuban Research Institute at FIU.

“It was a pleasure for me to come and enjoy the breakfast and remember Jose Marti because now I see the symbol he was of a free Cuba and a representative of Cuban and American ideals. He was known in all parts, not just Cuba,” Gauiria said.
Campus rally incites anger

BY ADRIAN CORDERO
Contributing Writer

If you crossed the fountain niche between Graham Center, Primera Casa and the Green Library anytime between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Jan. 30, it is likely the words ‘sinner’ or ‘hellmonger’ reached your ears. Just prior to or after those shrieks of righteous indignation, you doubtlessly sighted a throng of students gathered before a nubile-rousing evangelical demonstration.

I’ve witnessed few demonstrations since enrolled at FIU. A handful of hunger strikes here and there, sometimes leaf-letters, handful of nonsensical oratory, and now, a rabble rouser. The agitation was not over an unjust war, abortion rights or even environmental issues. In actuality, it was a screaming contest with both sides arguing over whether some magician in the sky, more commonly known as God, really hates Gays or not. The gay issue might not have been what the Campus Ministry USA themed its platform on, but it’s what garnered the attention and wrath of the students present.

I think a more subtle approach might’ve better suited them. Less condemnation and accusation of students being an abomination just because they have a different sexual orientation. I’m sure they’ve encountered similar reporters during their sessions (most students members also wore sandwich boards denouncing witches, dopers, fornicators, blasphenders and most other fun recreational activities).

As a realist, I am instantly discounting to most bombastic rhetorical bubble-by-number and vibrant agitation of the mob attracted it. It would be an understatement to say the crowd was antipathetic. They were very much a crude bunch. Waving make-shift signs and blushing red in the face when they spat words and saliva back at the preachers.

I had few problems with either group. The only time the sermons, chants, parades and flamboyance annoyed me was when they were flaunted in my face. However, this might just be my own small conflict with the great expanse of the first amendment.

All the same, in this age of science and constant refutation of long-held superstitions, I do believe groups like the evangelicals are simply permeating the supernatural in the absurd and potentially dangerous.

Easing myself into the peripheral of the crowd, I asked a fellow bystander what the gist of it all was. The protestors were definitely the more coarse amongst the crowd referring to. The protestors were definitely the more coarse and brutal, at one point even snatching and smashing a sign held by a Ministry member.

Is that how you rationally win an argument?

The ringleader of the congregation was George “Jeff” Smock, whose followers were called “Jeff-heads” – a play on the name of the Grateful Dead groups.

“They’re too emotional because no one likes being called a sinner. They choose emotion over reality,” Smock said – a quote perhaps a bit oxymoronic from someone who follows a religion known historically for preaching faith over science. “That they respond with such bitterness and resentment says a lot about their logic.” To me, an evangelist even using the word logic is beyond comedic.

In the end, it’s all a matter of first amendment rights. The protestors exercise two clauses in their demonstration: that of freedom of religion and freedom of speech. The protestors exercise just one; their right to yell, get upset and accomplish very little at all. I, with a smirk on my lips and a pen in my hand, exercise another clause of the first amendment: to write an opinion of the foolishness and futility of it all because, in the end, it was just used up oxygen and dispersed carbon dioxide, little else, little more.

CAMPUS TALK

What are your views of the Evangelists’ message?

Lora Kojan
International Business, Senior

“He’s against Islam. He called Muslims enemies and said that Jesus would support the war Iraq.”

Miguel Collazo
Fine Art, Graduate Student

“I think these people have a double standard. They accuse other human beings of this, but they have the potential to do.”

Natalie Barcello
Undecided, freshman

“I feel as though the views are very one sided and that instead of promoting love and non-judgement, they are promoting hate.”

Muhammed Malik
International Relations, Senior

“Jesus needs to give him clarity. Jesus was an Arab and would never support the war in Iraq.”

JESUS SAVES: Students who disagreed with the message of the preachers mounted a makeshift counterprotest.

“Mom, I’m gay.”

“You think you’re surprising me with this?” my mother responded. “I’m your mother; I don’t know you any better.”

“So you’re absolutely OK with this?” I asked.

“Of course. From the minute you were born I knew you’d love to you unconditionally no matter what. This is not going to alter my promise. I was ecstatic. That’s it. No more lying, no more games.

I was out to the most important person in my life and she accepted it …

NOT EVEN CLOSE

Seeing my mother age 15 years in the span of five minutes wasn’t easy, and hearing the words “disgusting lifestyle” come out of her mouth wasn’t exactly my idea of a successful “coming out” situation, but that’s what she really thought of it.

I asked her if she had any idea about my sexuality before and she told me it was something she kept in the back of her mind and refused to tell any members of our family. I should have planned it better, had more things to say, but the situation just arose and I took the initiative to step up and tell her about myself. I was brave, a description I seldom use to describe myself, and I received absolutely no positive feedback from her for my boldness.

The SUPPOSED PLAN

When a woman becomes pregnant, she envisions a certain life for her child. Real life happens and that plan becomes tainted as the child grows up and makes his own decisions – putting life into his own hands.

I’ve known I was gay since elementary school, when the stereotypical and ever popular blonde boy would pick on me for my lack of attraction to girls and all I could think of was, ‘What a beautiful baby blue eyes.’

I became even more in tune with my sexuality when I entered high school and found myself attracted to the guy who was questioned by everyone … just like me.

My sexuality is not a mistake. I realized this soon after meeting other gay youths who felt like myself at a convention last October. Being in a circle of men and women who share the same feel of being put through which I have struggled with made me realize I wasn’t alone.

I talked to others who had come out previously and found many mixed parental reactions – some were accepting while others simply kicked their children to the street. Even though the group did help me in finding my own identity and coming out path, I did become frightened by the thought of losing my mother.

And as popular as it is to believe, being gay is not a choice. Nobody wants to risk being demoned by affection by his or her own mother for the simple fact of liking the same sex, and if they did, they need a nasty medical check up.

AFTERMATH

Since the incident, my mother and I have regained speaking terms, but our bond and love was destroyed by this three-letter word.

If you are planning on coming out to your parents any time soon, the best advice I have to give is choose your words wisely. The way you describe yourself and your lifestyle to your parents is key to their acceptance – this is where I went wrong.

Talk to some family members who are close to you and see how they react before doing anything too drastic. Research some cases where the coming out process didn’t prove successful – you must be prepared for the worst-case scenario.

And above all, don’t feel ashamed of yourself if your parents don’t accept you. Feel liberated, at ease and comfortable with yourself. Don’t hold back and be proud of who you are, because if you aren’t then who will.

Look for this column every other Thursday in The Beacon.
Independent film event hosted by alumnus

**By Leoncio Alvarez and Alicia Bustamante**

Justin Routt, FIU alumnus and now renowned filmmaker, hosts a variety of film events throughout some of Miami’s most exotic and prestigious hot spots. The most recent was the Sundance After Party held Jan. 29 at the Marrakech-inspired Shore Club Hotel’s Skybar in Miami Beach. Here, hanging lanterns, plush couches, soft red lights and a laidback atmosphere greeted movie goers as Routt showed three short films: 

**Hairless**, **Shelter** and **Candy Paint**.

**Hairless** is a light-hearted yet warm look at a woman afflicted with alopecia universalis – a total loss of hair all over the body. In such an image-conscious society, especially for young women, it was refreshing to see the main character, Alyssa (played with genuine heart by Angelique Little) shuck mainstream conformity to be happy with who she is bald and beautiful. Writer and director Sarah Johnson tells a well-rounded story utilizing humor without losing depth – a difficult task to accomplish within the confines of a 17-minute running time. The showing took a somber turn with the presentation of **Shelter**, a film where the main characters’ storyline crosses through the act of seeking shelter from the rain. A quiet film where dialogue and close-ups were the main focus, **Shelter** totes the line between drama and melodrama – especially when a crisis counselor’s mantra of believing in a six percent chance of sunshine versus a 94 percent chance of rain is discussed. At 18 minutes, the film felt much longer, which is more a testament of a barely engaging plot than one’s complete immersion.

**Candy Paint**, an energetic and youthful film, was the most mainstream of the three. Revolving around high school senior Brad Miller and his quest to take the most popular girl to prom, Brad goes through a series of comic events (pawning to prom, Brad goes through a series of comic events) to entice potential date Hope, (played by Alexia Ware) to prom. Director Sarah Johnson’s aim was more a testament of a barely engaging plot than one’s complete immersion.

The showing took place in the哎呀! room of the Shore Club Hotel’s Skybar, an appropriate venue for an after party, but a bit too warm, given the high temperatures outside. With the A/C turned down to its lowest setting, the room was still oppressively hot. Despite the heat, the audience was engaged and energetic, with some students dancing to music and festivals throughout Miami Bay. The program was a service to offers students between the ages of 14 to 22 a chance to go to cultural events and performances ranging from theater and dance to music and festivals throughout Miami-Dade County for only $5 per ticket. The first ticket must be used by a student but each additional ticket can be given to anyone the student wishes to introduce to the culture scene.

“Arts [events’] audiences are quiet films where dialogue and close-ups are the main focus,” said Gerry Landreth, program administrator for Culture Shock Miami. “They need younger audiences but [youth’s] resources are very limited. We have taken away the barrier of price,” he said.

Aaron Margolis, a sophomore voice performance major, said he goes to cultural events as often as he can, usually spending anywhere from $20 to $80. After hearing about Culture Shock, Margolis thinks it is was a good idea. “It promotes student involvement in cultural activities. It makes it more affordable and more practical for students to enjoy events or functions we otherwise would not be able to enjoy,” he said. “We won’t get a future audience if we don’t get them now.”

Ashley Hill, a sophomore music education major, goes to cultural events less frequently than Margolis, even though music is a passion of hers. The reason why: high ticket prices. She now plans to take advantage of Culture Shock Miami. “I definitely will use it because it’s extremely affordable,” Hill said. “I’m excited to start using this service and to see how it really promotes the arts.”

Culture Shock Miami, which is made possible by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, created a partnership with Ticketmaster and cultural organizations to make the actual process of buying tickets to an event advantageous to the student. If a student wishes to pay with cash, they must visit any Ticketmaster outlet with proof of their age. They must give their tickets in advance.

According to Culture Shock Miami’s website, tickets are limited for each event, and encourage students to order their tickets in advance. To get tickets online, students must visit www.cultureshockmiami.com to find an event they would like to attend.

If a student wishes to pay with cash, they must visit any Ticketmaster outlet with proof of their age. They must give the sales agent the name and date of the event they wish to attend.

**It even has two-for-one deals for admission into some of Miami-Dade’s museums, which include Miami Metro Zoo, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and The Wolfsonian.**

**Philip M. Church**, associate professor of theater and head of performance program, thinks Culture Shock is a good program for students. “Culture Shock is good if it means bringing in new young people to discover the arts,” he said.

Church realized the long-term benefits of luring students to go to cultural events at affordable prices. Hill is glad that Culture Shock Miami is available. “It allows people to do things that enhance you on an educational level. It gives more opportunities to do something different that most people wouldn’t be able to do on a regular basis,” Hill said.

Landreth said that Culture Shock Miami’s goal of making the arts easy and accessible to young people seems to be succeeding. “We’ve doubled our sales over the previous year,” he said. As long as Culture Shock keeps making ticket prices affordable, it will attract students like Hill, who believes it’s important to promote all forms of art in this generation, but would also like to see more affordable cultural events. According to Culture Shock Miami’s website, tickets are limited for each event, and encourage students to order their tickets in advance. To get tickets online, students must visit www.cultureshockmiami.com to find an event they would like to attend.

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Filmmaker targets youth audience

From FILM, page 4

dog, buying Gwyneth Paltrow's Oscar dress, selling a low-rider adorned with the image of the Virgin Mary, among many others) in order to accomplish his goal.

The film felt like it could have been in a toned-down American Pie series, especially with well roles from Nickelodeon's Kenan Thompson and the mom from "Home Improvement," Patricia Richardson.

As the longest of the short films, a surprisingly fast-paced 27 minutes, it was able to tell a fully developed sitcom-style story.

This particular event was free of charge, but that doesn't mean the extras available were close to complimentary. Drinks were offered throughout the night and not at a cheap price.

The audience was encouraged to stay after the showings and shoot some rounds of pool while listening to a mix of hip-hop, reggae and '90s music, provided by DJ Tommy Ryk.

Along with his independent film company Birch Creek Films, writer and producer Routt has held other film events at locations including B.E.D, The Delano Hotel, Hotel Victor, Miami Museum of Science Planetarium and The Biltmore Hotel.

Routt's next event will be at the Coconut Grove Art Festival held Feb. 18 - 19.

"This will be the first time movies will be shown at the Art festival and I am glad to be part of this project," Routt said.

The audience of Routt's events vary in age but he hopes to attract a more college-age group.

"The films I show are meant to catch the eye of younger crowds," Routt said.

Along with continuing to hold film events in Miami, Routt hopes to expand his horizons by holding different kinds of events - including a fashion show in Sarasota this spring.

If you would like to be added to Routt's mailing list and be notified of all upcoming events, e-mail him at routt@kbcentral.com.
BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Q: Who do you think are the guys that are going to have to step up their play in order for this team to succeed in the post-season?

When you have a lot of new people, that is the problem. One day you feel that consistency is the most important thing. I try and play hard; a person plays well, another day another person plays well. With me, if I have to get 15 rebounds every game I try to do it. Sometime, I don’t score that much but someone else does. As a team, we need to play well together. If someone makes a mistake then someone made a mistake.

Some of the young guys are going to have to step it up. Kenny [Simms] is just a sophomore but he is our big guy. I think he has been playing pretty well since the conference started so I have confidence that he will do well, especially when the conference tournament starts.

Ish [N’Diaye] has probably been struggling the most. His offense hasn’t been there but his defense is much better than last year, so it is not about just what you do offensively in a game. Sometimes the stats lie. You see a stat and say ‘he isn’t doing anything this year’ but you come to watch the game and you see the guy he is guarding, a guy that scores 20 points a game and when he comes to us he scores four or five. I think if we keep playing hard — the guys that were here last year — the new guys will step it up.

Q: Since you stepped on the court last season for the first time at FIU, you have led this team. What do you expect out of yourself every night?

I expect myself to go out there and play hard. When I got hurt during the Michigan State game, I think I came back sooner than I should have. The injury was bothering me a little bit and I had a couple of games that I wasn’t trusting myself in what I could do.

I had a couple of meetings with the coaches and they told me to just go out and have fun. I came into the season thinking this is Ivan Almonte and he is going to do well, and for a couple of games I wasn’t having that much fun.

Now, I just want to go out and have fun, play basketball and play hard. If I happen to have a good night, then I had a good night, if not I just hope the team wins. I try to play hard every night for myself, but I am not a finesse player. I try to out-play whoever is playing me, getting rebounds, trying to score when I can and trying to get everyone on the team involved.

Q: Finally, you are about to become a father, when is the baby due and have you thought of any names?

The baby has a couple more weeks left, no, one more week really. They are going to induce her on [Feb. 5] if she hasn’t had the baby. We just went to the doctor and he said that she has a pretty good chance of having it soon, so they may not have to induce her.

We picked the name a long time ago — Kyan. We are pretty excited about that, I know it’s going to be a little difficult for me playing on the road. When I’m in the game I am focused on the game, but as a human you have feelings and you are thinking ‘what is going on with her?’ Everything has worked out well and we are happy he is coming pretty soon.
Hasselbeck will shock sports world, lead team to victory

neither – the 31 year old is balding for goodness sake.
Hasselbeck could go to an Outside restaurant anywhere out of the Pacific Northwest and they’d give him a pager, but he doesn’t fool the mold.

The only reason Hasselbeck didn’t win the MVP was because he was handing the ball off to a record-breaking season.

Still, for some reason, the Seahawks are favored by four points over the 13-3 Steelers.

They have the two best players in the NFC back in the line of scrimmage, they’re versatile on both sides of the ball and they’re quarterback has proven he can win games by himself.

Fans will be disappointed Sunday night, as the Seahawks will win Super Bowl XL, but Hasselbeck will be living it up with fellow unknown Seahawks as they shock the blind sports world.

He’ll celebrate with teammates, have a short press conference, probably have a feature on ESPN’s the Magazine and go back to a 2006-2007 season that will find him overlooked again. I guess he wouldn’t have it any other way.

CLASSIFIEDS

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www.beaconnewspaper.com The Beacon – February 2, 2006
Baseball loses two straight to UM

BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO  
Sports Editor

Opening the season with a series against your cross-town rival has the potential to stir a battle of epic proportions.

For the baseball team, however, that battle turned lopsided, resulting in two losses — to a combined score of 22-3 — to the University of Miami on Jan. 28-29.

FIU left opening weekend with a record of 0-2, while the relatively young Miami team stands at 2-0.

The Golden Panthers go on to face in-state foe Central Florida Feb. 4-5 at University Park Stadium.

UM 17, FIU 3

The opening match at Mark Light Field showed a UM team dominating on the mound and in the batter’s box, which resulted in the lopsided final score.

“It was a very, very long day,” head coach Danny Price said. “They out-pitched us, they out-hit us [and] they out-played us. There’s nothing I can say. We got out-played.”

Walker Whitley was saddled with the loss in his first appearance as a Golden Panther. The redshirt junior allowed seven runs on seven hits, walked two and struck out two batters.

Miami starter Carlos Gutierrez picked up his first career win in five innings of work, allowing just one hit.

IN A PICKLE: Sophomore Corey Lozano and senior Nick Cadena catch Miami’s Dennis Roben in a rundown between second and third base.

IN A PICKLE: Sophomore Corey Lozano and senior Nick Cadena catch Miami’s Dennis Roben in a rundown between second and third base.

The game made a turn for the worse for FIU in the third inning, as the Hurricanes — who came into the inning with a 1-0 lead — scored six runs of Whitley. UM’s Tommy Giles and Blake Tekotte each had a two-RBI single in the inning.

Miami’s offensive explosion continued in the fifth inning as they scored another seven runs — off a Jon Jay grand slam and a Giles three-run homerun — off FIU reliever Eduardo Villegas.

The game turned lopsided, resulting in two in-state foes on the schedule for FIU, as the Golden Panthers menace as guard Almonte who gathered a double double — nine points and 10 rebounds as guard Graham turned in another quietly superior game, scoring seven points in the second half to get the ball back.

Bill Marks

The game was as messy as only a game with the Golden Panthers can be. Miami heat guard Dwyane Wade was on hand to witness FIU fall 66-61 to WKU.

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