Students petition against hate speech on campus

BY ASHLEY CAPO
Copy Editor

As many students at the University Park campus have been aware of since Jan. 31, cutting across the fountain near the Green Library has been no easy task, seeing as it has been the podium for evangelist Jed Smock and, as his companions call themselves, the “Jed Heads,” a group representing Campus Ministry USA who are known for riling up crowds with their religious speeches.

After many angry slurs, picket signs and banners, the Alliance of Diversity, a student organization comprised of campus groups like the National Organization for Women and Amnesty International, decided it was time to fight back.

The students gathered to protest against what they perceived as the hateful language of the Campus Ministry USA on Feb. 14, expecting Smock to use his permit and once again return to the university. The only thing missing on that day, though, was Smock.

"Even though he didn’t show up, it was still a success due to the fact that we have gotten signatures to prevent people from preaching hate," said junior Ryan Jones, a co-founder of the Alliance of Diversity. "It would’ve been more effective [to our cause] if he was here; in this case, we did, sort of, get what we wanted – which was preventing him from preaching hate here on campus.

The petition, which was given to passersby to sign, will be sent to the faculty of the political science department to see if they can help the group take action against the speakers, who have been accused of using hateful and discriminatory language as attacks on the religions, sexuality and race of FIU students.

"A girl next to me was accused of automatically having STDs just because she dressed a certain way which wasn’t even, how some people say, provocative at all," said senior Maciel Cuellar. "They can preach what they believe in, but don’t go against people like that. That’s not right.

Senior Muhammed Malik, a member of Amnesty International, took great offense to Smock’s demonstrations, as he found him to be abusive toward another Middle-Eastern student by calling her “a terrorist.”

“He created not only an environment of hate and intolerance, but of danger. There’s a link between actual actions and what you’re trying to say. That’s what the petition is all about,” Malik said.

The FIU student code of conduct is quoted in the petition, stating that “students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in which exemplifies respect for people of all races, religions and ethnic groups, and to adhere to one’s personal values without unduly imposing them on others.”

However, Jones believes that it is every students’ responsibility to take action if they see individual rights being violated.

"It seems there needs to be a call to action from students," Jones said. "There needs to be a sense of revolution from the students to make changes here on campus if there is hate speech. You can’t just walk around campus and think about how much you hate it; you need to stand up and do something."
The new year has brought changes to student affairs at the Biscayne Bay Campus. In December 2005, Cathy Akens was appointed assistant vice president of Student Affairs and began her position in January. Akens’ role is to provide leadership to the Division of Student Affairs at BCC as well as Residential Life on both campuses.

“He is my goal to ensure that the programs and services we provide to students support their academic success,” Akens said.

Through this goal, Student Affairs would like to see students involved on campus and enjoying their college experience. “When students feel a connection to other students, faculty and staff, and when they feel supported they are more likely to succeed,” she said.

Affairs works in conjunction with many departments to achieve their goals of enriching the students learning experience, including Campus Life, International Students and Scholars Services, Residential Life and the Health and Wellness Centers among others.

Akens also hopes to establish a strong relationship with Student Government and other student leaders around campus. “While I truly enjoy these opportunities to interact with students, these relationships will particularly assist me in knowing how to best advocate for the needs of our students,” Akens said.

Most seem to be satisfied with the new appointment.

“She’s a true professional, nurturing with lots of experience in student affairs,” said Gregory Olson, senior director of student affairs. “Everyone [who] works with her feels privileged to do so. She also provides great leadership.”

Aside from her new profession, Akens also teaches graduate courses in the Higher Education program at FIU. “I teach a course called College Student Development Theory for students who are aspiring to work in Student Affairs as a career,” Akens said.

The course deals with the study of college students and how they learn and develop during the college experience.

According to Akens, the knowledge that is gained about students helps aspiring professionals and current staff learn the best model to impact the educational experience of students.

Akens “advocates” for students

See BUDGET, page 2

Council (SPC), Greek Affairs, Panther Rage and Housing.

Like the University-wide hearings, the campus based hearings are followed by their own set of deliberations, during which the voting body again votes on what decisions will be made as to who gets what and why.

“We break down everyone’s budgets and look at what they have done. Be it

SPC with their concerts, comedy shows and films or SOC and their various organizations,” said Nancy Cadavid, Comptroller for the UP SGA. “We review their proposals in past years and see if they used the money they were allocated wisely.”

The SGA conducts its budget hearings every year during mid-March and early April. However, they decided to bump up the proceedings to an earlier time because John Bonanno, assistant vice president of student affairs, will be retiring March 1.

“He is a great asset in our decision making process,” Prado said.

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Twenty-four years after being sent to prison, Alan Crotzer regained his freedom when he was exonerated by DNA evidence. The 45-year-old St. Petersburg man was among the few men incarcerated in the state of Florida by the Florida Innocence Initiative Act. He spent nearly a quarter of a century in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Accused of robbing a Tampa family, using a sawed-off shotgun in July 1978, Crotzer was found guilty of kidnapping and raping the mother and daughter. While in a police photo lineup, he was picked out by one of the victims and was prosecuted.

His sentence of 130-years was cut short when, in a review of the evidence, his DNA was not found on the victims. All of this was thanks to the Florida Innocence Initiative Act’s ability to test physical evidence.

Like him, there have been 100 other individuals exonerated by the Florida Innocence Initiative. The Initiative’s goal is to exonerate individuals who are not guilty of committing a crime through the use of “post-condition DNA testing in the State of Florida.”

They are also known for providing legal services to individuals who would otherwise be unable to take on legal assistance or file claims of unjust convictions. The Initiative is committed to its goal to train and educate the communities of tomorrow, in order to better defend the innocent and to provide the public with information about wrongful convictions.

In July of this year, however, the law that allows these inmates to prove their innocence will expire. On Sept. 9, 2005, the Florida Criminal Procedure Rules Committee voted unanimously to file an emergency petition to the Supreme Court of Florida posing the elimination of any deadline to Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.853. As such, in March, lawmakers will come together to hopefully make this law permanent.

The United States is a nation based on the surfaces of truth and the freedom of the common man. The FII allows innocent individuals to have their freedom back.

Prior to the existence of the initiative, Barry Scheck, founder of the Innocence Project, traveled to Florida State University’s law school when the statute of limitations for filing post conviction DNA motions was six months and no organized effort to assat the hundreds of inmates seeking legal help existed. He worked with a few students from FSU, searching over 300 cases, in order to assess the viability.

In the best interest of the American public, it is important that we keep laws which protect the innocent. It is evident that most current political leaders in the state of Florida are siding with eliminating the deadline for this law. Citi-

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Phone jammers can help insure an enjoyable theater experience

I disagree strongly with Christine Liriano’s article on the issue of phone jammers (“Phone jammers excessive in theaters”), to me this is the best idea and has been long in coming.

I fully understand that some people may need their cell phones for emergencies, but we often forget that before cell phones, people went to the movie theaters, out to the opera and functioned in every day life without these cell phones.

If you are so disabled by not having your cell phone operate at all times, then I think there is a larger problem.

Furthermore, because people apparently are not considerate enough in silencing their phones, I think silencing it for them is the best idea, especially when those incon- siderate individuals are apt to ruin a perfectly good evening (and expensive) because they did not want to turn their phones off.

Until people begin to consider others (which probably won’t happen soon) then I think these types of measures are appropriate, necessary and something I strongly support.

-Joe Vazquez
senior
Political Science and International Relations
major

OPINION

Harry Coleman Editor in Chief  Leoncio Alvarez Managing Editor  Christopher Neocuzz Opinion Editor

Act vital to protect innocence

BY RUTH BARROCAS
Contributing Writer

Being gay and living in Miami is kind of great; at least the chances of being gunned down at a gay bar here are slim to none... unless it’s by the jealous tranny who’s upset you danced with her man.

Even those who aren’t caught up with recent news, last week, in the ever popular city of New Bedford, Mass., a gay Neo-Nazi entered a bar, asked if it was a gay one and thought it to be a good idea to take out a hatchet and gun, causing some destruction.

Three bar patrons were hurt, two suffering gunshots in the back and chest.

The suspect, later identified as Jacob D. Robida, 18, escaped and traveled all the way to Arkansas, where he was killed by police after he supposedly shot a cop on a routine traffic stop.

This leads me to the point of this column... can we expect incidents similar to this one ever to happen in Miami?

My prediction: not to the same extent.

I’m not saying that a crazy person can’t walk into Ozone next weekend and shoot the place up because we have ‘gay cooties,’ but hopefully, most Miamians have been educated enough to know the difference between right and wrong and in this case, sane and psychotic.

It will take much longer strides for homosexuality to be completely accepted across the nation, but if any local doesn’t know by now that Miami isn’t a gay condemning community, then they’ve been living under a rock.

However, this doesn’t mean that we, should take for granted this immunity.

I don’t think we should live our lives constantly think-
Skateboarders from around city attracted to campus’s unique structure

BY GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR.
Staff Writer

Every day, skaters can be seen all over University Park riding their boards and speeding around buildings; blues whizzing by as one exits the Green Library.

In 2003, the Miami New Times named UP as the best spot for guerilla skating, or skating without the confines of an official park. The various garages, handicap ramps, railings and stairwells on campus let skaters execute their best techniques.

Although skating in parking garages and doing tricks off handicap rails are popular actions among FIU skaters, many of them have used their boards as not only a means of perfecting their skills, but as a legitimate form of campus transport as well.

“I always hear about kids coming to FIU at night and using the garages or rails to improve their skills and have some fun,” said junior Jose Rodriguez. “I just use my board to get me from one place to another around (campus.) If I’m running late, using my skateboard is quicker than walking behind me.”

According to the 2005-2006 Student Handbook, “the use or operation of rollerblades, skates, skateboard, bicycles, mopeds … inside of University facilities” is prohibited. Nevertheless, some students do not take these rules seriously.

“If they’re too fast to be caught, who can hold them responsible?” said senior Javier Blanco. “I just use my board to get me from one place to another around (campus.) If I’m running late, using my skateboard is quicker than running to class.”

Good places to skate around in Miami, said Nova Southeastern University sophomore Javier Blanco. “Because there are a lot of hills around FIU, it’s a really good place for me and my friends to skate. Plus, the ramps in the parking garages are great for skaters, too.”

Even though University regulations forbid the use of skateboards within facilities, Blanco does not believe the rule is strictly enforced.

“I skate at FIU two to three times a week and I’ve never had any real problems. There aren’t many people on campus at night and I’ve only been bothered once by security. They just told my friends and me to be careful. We were just having fun and not hurting anyone,” Blanco said.

However, other skaters have had problems with officials, but they don’t let that stop them from skateboarding.

“Sometimes I’m sick of walking so I throw down my skateboard and ride it all over campus and occasionally through buildings. I get yelled at by the building officials, but I’m too quick to get caught by them. It’s more convenient than walking, that’s for sure,” said a freshman who wished to remain anonymous.

Although the skateboarders believe they are not harming anyone, the increased popularity of campus skateboarding has annoyed some students.

“As I’m walking to class behind the library, there’s always some guy skating around and whizzing past me,” said junior Kruel Lopez. “I’ve started to get scared of hearing those skateboard wheels whizzing behind me. It makes me think I’m going to get hit from behind.”

Chip Steeler, the Frost Art Museum’s Sculpture Park coordinator, shared similar feelings about campus skateboarders and their use of the campus sculptures for tricks.

“There’s this sculpture named Torre Pena Noi Vasto in the Deuxieme Maison amphitheater that skaters have damaged as a result of their grinding. I actually filed a police report about the damage. I haven’t seen skaters actually skate off the sculptures, but the evidence is there,” said Steeler.

“I grew up skating, so I know the cause of the damage.”

Nevertheless, UP has been the center of attention for many Miami skaters. MySpace groups such as Sector Niners post pictures of their exploits and several online skating interviews list it as a skating hotspot. As word-of-mouth continues to spread about the campus landscape, UP’s reputation as a local skateboarding paradise will inevitably grow.
Stevens shines on Fahey tribute
From FAHEY, page 4

Stevens contribution is a sweetly melancholy track that opens with the pointedly cheerful atmosphere of a Wes Anderson film, gradually devolves until a well-timed uprising of new vigor and excess with simple, bittersweet vocals.

The album wraps up with the interesting addition of a piano rendition of “My Grandfather’s Clock.” As Howe Gelb, formerly of Giant Sand explained, “[Fahey] can play guitar like a piano player, which I can relate to from playing the piano like a guitar player.” However, as Fahey said of his own album City of Refuge, “I have trouble picturing who’s going to listen to it. Who’s going to buy it?”

The little recognition Fahey received late in his life before he passed away in 2001 came after he transitioned into industrial rock. At the time he was playing the ambient acoustic folk commemorated by the majority of the artists on this compilation, he was playing stranger’s weddings and living in motels. The market for his music is tragically modest.

I AM THE RESSURECTION: A TRIBUTE TO JOHN FAHEY

Artist: Various Artists
Released: Feb. 14
Genre: Alternative Rock

3 out of 4 stars

CRUNK: Parlae, Jizzal Man, Buddie and Pimpin of Dem Franchize Boyz produce an unoriginal second album, On Top Of Our Game.

By HARRY COLEMAN
Editor in Chief

Listening to On Top Of Our Game – the new album of the group Dem Franchize Boyz – is like listening to a compilation of different artists due to the group’s lack of originality. The Atlanta based foursome – Parlae, Pimpin, Jizzal Man and Buddie signed under Jermaine Dupri – fail to stand out from other rap artists on their second album.

On Top Of Our Game is like everything the hip-hop world has heard before. In fact, the only game the group is on top of is music from other artists.

On “Ridin’ Rams,” DFB sound more like the Big Tymers’ Manny Fresh and Bryan “Baby” Williams as they rap about 23 inch rims, Alpine radios and car TVs.

The uncanny resemblance between DFB and the Big Tymers is definitely noticed when they call themselves “No. 1 Stone,” one of the Big Tymers’ nicknames and the name of a track that helped them reach mainstream level.

The group tries to hard to have an album full of club hits that on “Lean Wit’ It,” the group’s cranky style can’t disguise the similarities on the chorus to Fat Joe’s “Lean Back.” The beat and flow are identical. Again, the group makes it obvious as they rap, “Lean back like Fat Joe and snap your wrist back.”

The two best tracks on the album – “I Think They Like Me,” and “Bricks 4 The High,” – are due to its guest artists. On “I think they like me,” Dupri, Da Brat and Bow Wow provide some of the best verses on the album. On “Bricks 4 The High,” Jim Jones blows away DFB with a true rap flow, compared to DFB’s crunk hip-hop style.

A common theme on every song is DFB’s constant mention of white T’s. They mention it so much that it makes you wonder whether they make a profit for every white tee sold in the United States.

One of the only different songs on the album is “Freaky As She Wanna Be,” which includes an R&B chorus. On the track, the group compares themselves to King Tut, intimating they are the kings of the club. While their music is catchy at the club, they are definitely not the kings of lyrics.

While the album does have a good mix of beats, the rap flow of DFB is weak. This is not an album to stack next to your Jay-Z and Tupac collection, but with your party music that is only hot for a short while.

On Top Of Our Game ★☆☆☆☆

Artist: Dem Franchize Boyz
Released: Feb. 7
Genre: Rap/Hip-Hop

On Top Of Our Game – fail to stand out from other rap artists on their second album.

Dem Franchize Boyz fail to deliver

CRUNK:

Parlae, Jizzal Man, Buddie and Pimpin of Dem Franchize Boyz produce an unoriginal second album, On Top Of Our Game. Mark Mann/Virgin Records

HOW MUCH: ★★☆☆☆

WHEN: Feb. 7

WHERE: WUC Ballrooms

WHAT: DFB’s crunk hip-hop style.

The group tries to hard to have an album full of club hits that on “Lean Wit’ It,” the group’s cranky style can’t disguise the similarities on the chorus to Fat Joe’s “Lean Back.” The beat and flow are identical. Again, the group makes it obvious as they rap, “Lean back like Fat Joe and snap your wrist back.”

DANCE FIGHTING?

Instructor Marco Pizzanelli (far left) and sophomore David Kasprzyk (right) engage in an Afro-Brazilian martial art demonstration called capoeira, which consists of swift acrobatic movements.

Earthquake performs at the Improv

WHAT: Earthquake performs at the Improv
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club
WHEN: 8:30 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $23.54

WHAT: Wu Tang Clan
WHERE: The Revolution (200 W. Broward Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL)
WHEN: Doors open at 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $32.50

WHAT: Concert of New Music & Technology featuring Morton Subotnick
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall (PAC 170)
WHEN: 8 p.m.

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WHEN: 8 p.m.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 19

WHAT: North Miami Concert Band
WHERE: Griffin Margolis Community Center (1500 NE 123rd St. North Miami, FL)
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $3

WHAT: Earthquake performs at the Improv
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $21.40

COMING UP

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 16

WHAT: Student Organizations Council Club Fair
WHERE: WUC Panther Square
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Sephardic & Oriental Jewry Guest Lecture
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.

WHAT: African New World Studies Program presents “Egypt: the Oldest Daughter of Ethiopia”; guest speaker Dr. Theophile Obenga
WHERE: Kovens Conference Center
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Black Students Mixer
WHERE: WUC Panther Square
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: University Choralie
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall (PAC 170)
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: SPC and CSA present Heartbreakers Party
WHERE: Gracie’s Grill
WHEN: 10 p.m.

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 17

WHAT: SPC Pan-African UP Dance Show
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: YMCA Gospel Night out Concert
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Bassoon Concert with Piano and Clarinet
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall (PAC 170)
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Earthquake performs at the Improv
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club
WHEN: 8:30 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $23.54

WHAT: Wu Tang Clan
WHERE: The Revolution (200 W. Broward Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL)
WHEN: Doors open at 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $32.50

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 18

WHAT: Earthquake performs at the Improv
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club
WHEN: 7:45 p.m., 10 p.m., Midnight
HOW MUCH: $23.54

WHAT: Concert of New Music & Technology featuring Morton Subotnick
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall (PAC 170)
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Earthquake performs at the Improv
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $21.40

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira
No. 10 Georgia beats softball, scores four runs in sixth inning

SOFTBALL, from page 8

making the score 3-1 in FIU’s favor.

Arkansas would tie the game 3-3 in the fourth, but would leave the bases loaded to end the inning.

The very next inning, Brittany Withrow hit an RBI single, which gave FIU a 4-3 lead they would not relinquish.

FIU pitcher Penny Eastman relieved Houck at the bottom of the fifth inning and Arkansas had no answers for the freshman as she struck out four batters and allowed no runs in her two and three-quarter innings of work.

Not only was the pitching near perfection after the fourth inning, but the offense suddenly caught on fire, particularly in the seventh inning, when the Golden Panthers scored four runs to make the score 8-3. The seventh inning assault began with senior Jennifer Powell, who had been 0-for-3 prior to that at bat, hitting a double to start the offensive on onslaught. Later on at the top of the inning, the bases were loaded and FIU took advantage, scoring four crucial runs to ice the game.

Offensively, Bell was the star for the Golden Panthers, as she runs to ice the game.

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had been 0-for-3 prior to that

the game [come] to you. Once

we were doing a little too

much,” Gwydir said.

Gwydir felt star senior Powell was pressing a little bit to begin the game. We were trying to do a little too much,” Gwydir said.

With the win, Houck improved her record to 1-1 and Eastman was credited with her first save.

FIU 2, UGA 6

Playing off the momentum from the Arkansas victory, FIU went into the second game of the double header with hopes of sweeping the day with two victories. Georgia wasn’t about to let that happen and showed why they are No. 10 in the country.

The first inning proved to be very painful for first baseman Brooke Ruz, who was hit by the ball in the mouth as she was attempting to catch it with her glove. Her return to the game was a positive sign, but the rest of the game had to be much more painful for the rest of her teammates.

Despite pitching all seven innings and striking out eight, redshirt freshman Sarah Belanger and the Golden Panthers couldn’t overcome a four-run sixth inning by the Bulldogs, who were led by third baseman Alison Horne, who went 2-for-3 with three RBIs and a run scored.

FIU! attempted to gain momentum in the bottom of the sixth inning when outfielder Deomni Murray hit a single, which was followed by Powell hitting a single, leading Murray to score after she had stolen two bases. This made the score 5-1 after six innings but Georgia quickly scored another run at the top of the seventh inning to make it 6-1 and subsequently putting the game out of reach. Belanger’s record fell to 0-1.

“Our pitching tired out, but our defense has to help our pitchers,” Gwydir said.
Russo’s team sweeps Arkansas schools

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

After a crushing loss to South Dakota State at home Jan. 28, the women’s basketball team geared up for a crucial four-game road trip with all their games being against Sun Belt Conference foes.

The trip did not go as planned at the start, as they dropped their first two games versus East Division Kentucky by the largest percentage of games versus East Division in conference games. They dropped their first two games – with tip-off at 7 p.m. – tied the game at 51 with just 4:38 left.

But FIU was just too much to handle as they shot 9-10 from the free-throw line and limited UALR to just one field goal in the final minutes to get the victory.

LaQuetta Ferguson and Marquita Adley proved vital off the bench and combined for 19 points and 12 rebounds. Jocelyn Love, UALR shooting guard, came of a 36-point performance in the win over Arkansas State and finished the night with 25 points.

FIU 60, UALR 55

The Trojans were fresh off matching ASU’s 13-game winning streak, but had no such luck snapping FIU’s 13-game winning streak versus them Feb. 11.

FIU was just too good from the free-throw line. They shot a season-high 91.7 percent from the stripe and held UALR to no field goals in the final nine minutes of the game to claim the five-point win.

UALR fell to 12-11 and 4-6 versus Sun-Belt Conference foes.

Junior Lasma Jekabsone was up to her old tricks as she achieved her fifth straight double double with 21 points and 13 rebounds. It was her 11 first half points that kept FIU in the game as they shot an abysmal 25 percent from the field.

The Golden Panthers went on an 8-2 run in the beginning of the second half to take a four-point lead. Back-to-back buckets by freshman Renee Renz – who finished with 12 points and 7 rebounds – tied the game at 51 with just 4:38 left.

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Men’s basketball beats in-state foe

BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

In what turned into a lack luster performance on Valentine’s Day, FIU took care of business when it counted and scraped out a deserved win.

The Golden Panthers (7-16), who came off an 85-84 overtime loss at the hands of conference foe Arkansas State Feb. 11, were not even the most exciting part of afternoon as they beat out-of-conference rival North Florida (6-19) 71-57 in front of a minuscule Valentine’s Day matinee crowd.

Just over 500 people watched the first game played by FIU seven points and nine points in seven of his last 11 games, but Williams and Chris Timberlake, who combined for 30 points, 20 and 10, respectively.

Alain Laroche had been the hottest non-conference opponent.

Men’s basketball beats in-state foe

BY PATRICK JORDAN
Contributing Writer

After dropping the first two games Feb. 10 to No. 19 Iowa and North Carolina, it was hard to gauge how the softball team would respond the next night in their double header against Arkansas and No. 10 Georgia.

The Golden Panthers opened up the evening by doing damage to Arkansas before losing the second game to Georgia. They followed up Feb. 12 with a loss to Georgia in the semifinals.

The Golden Panthers dropped their record to 1-4. However, head coach Kim Williams said, “I’m very happy with them, overall, as we’re an extremely young team,” Gwydir said. “This is the first time our team is playing together as we lost our Fall [semester] due to the hurricane.”

The Golden Panthers will look to improve on their record when they partake in the Dunkin’ Donuts Classic Feb. 17-19 in Boca Raton, Fla.

FIU 8, ARK 3

Despite a delay prior to game time, it quickly became a thrilling match up. Sophomore Kerri Houck was the starting pitcher for the Golden Panthers and Katy Henry was the starting pitcher for the Lady Razorbacks.

Lady Razorbacks started things off in the bottom of the first inning with Shana Esley hitting an RBI sacrifice fly, making the score 1-0.

FIU quickly responded as Henry walked catcher Tabatha Embry to begin the second inning. Third baseman Samantha Card also was walked and the Golden Panthers posed a threat with runners on first and second and no outs. Freshman second baseman Katie Bell followed up with a single and Embry scored, tying the game at one.

The score would remain tied until the top of the fourth inning, when first baseman Brooke Ruiz hit a double to start things off. Her double was replicated by Bell and Ruiz scored to make the game 2-1 with two outs.

Shortstop Desiree Fink also got into the mix, hitting a single, which couldn’t be caught by third baseman Carri Egnor, making the score 3-1 in FIU’s favor.

Arkansas would tie the game 3-3 in the fourth, but would leave the bases loaded to end the inning.

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See SOFTBALL, page 6

Softball loses three of four in tournament

Valentine victory: Sophomore Kenny Simms recorded 15 points and eight rebounds in FIU’s 71-57 Feb. 14 win over in-state opponent North Florida.