Greek members wait for houses

By Rina Lankry
Contributing Writer

In the past, President Modesto A. Maidique has mentioned that FIU is striving toward that traditional college campus atmosphere, a goal that includes the completion of three fraternity houses.

Almost six years have passed since the first fraternity house on-campus – Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) – was constructed into what is now Fraternity Row along the main entrance of 107th Ave. and S.W. 16th St. Following the members of FIJI, Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) opened its doors to all their members in the summer of 2005.

“Planning to build a house on-campus can be a hefty financial burden on any organization. There is architectural designs to review and lots of money to fundraise. It is basically a slow progression with a lot of work and dedication,” said Michael Adkins, president of TKE.

In hopes of following the footsteps of PIKE and FIJI, TKE has been working hard to achieve the construction of their house through alumni fundraisers and housing campaigns such as the “Building Brotherhood” campaign.

Since August 2005, their efforts have helped raise $65,000. “Alumni support has helped the chapter tremendously,” Adkins said. In the meantime, FIU will be convening with all three organizations to discuss any progress.

According to Hilda Bernard, graduate student assistant in Campus Life, the University is supportive of these [Greek] organizations building their houses as soon as possible.

However, funding and building a Greek house is not an easy task.

First, the Greek organization must consider the huge price tag it brings. See GREEK, page 2
Fraternities raise funds for construction

From GREEK, page 1

such as FIJI, whose home valued at almost $2 Million.

Second, getting the resources to actually pay and start building the house is time consuming.

Andrea Gasparino, associate director of Campus Life and Greek Life advisor, described the process in which each organization is responsible for securing their own funds for their houses, whether it is through private bank loans, fund raising or alumni giving.

“As of right now, Sigma Phi Epsilon is going through a challenging process of getting those funds for their house through private loans,” she said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon had a ground breaking ceremony almost a year ago to celebrate the opportunity of having a house on campus.

The ceremony took place on Fraternity Row where their future house would sit, next to PIKE.

Sigma Alpha Mu is another organizations who awaits their future house.

In the early 1990’s, they would rent out a warehouse in order to conduct meetings and host most of their chapter events.

“The houses will be able to give the campus that collegiate fraternity row kind of feel,” Gasparino said. “It will help these fraternities conduct positive chapter events for the FIU community and sort of offer a different dynamic within fraternity Greek life.”

Some people question why sororities do not have houses.

“The reason why sororities have no house is really driven by the cost and liability issues,” Gasparino said.

But, there is an alternative to sorority houses, and that is suites.

Many colleges around the country such as University of Miami and Penn State University are dedicating buildings just for sororities so they can have a space to call their own without the trouble of finding a piece of land for each organization.

“I think we could do something about it [suites],” Gasparino said. “I would need to find out who we start with and remember in the end we will need money.”

Phi Sigma Sigma’s departed member, Janelle Bertot, who passed away approximately one-year and a half ago, was the last hand-picked Housing Chair for FIU’s Panhellenic Council and worked toward getting suites for sororities.

“As a council, we can make the decision of bringing back a housing chair,” Gasparino said.
Jewish club prepares trip to Israel

From TORAH, page 1

50 students attend Jewish students from Miami-Dade College also attend CLE events.

CLE’s trip to Israel taking place this summer is a combination of learning how to access Jewish text and touring. Last year they sent 85 people. It’s a three week trip starting May 14 through June 6 and is only open to Jewish students. The total cost of this trip is $499—which includes airfare, meals and accommodations. A ticket to Israel in the summer usually costs $1,200 from Miami.

Touring will include sites such as Masada, Tiberias, Jerusalem and Safed and will be combined with Torah Learning.

For more information about CLE, contact Rabbi Saj Freiberg at rabbi@bARRY.edu. Interested students can also visit www.barry.edu/cle.

RELAX: The Health and Wellness Center provided free massages at the Graham Center on March 7. Jackie Cabrera gave Melissa Saliba a massage a senior who is majoring marketing. Chris Crotty/The Beacon

FREE MASSAGE

RELAX: The Health and Wellness Center provided free massages at the Graham Center on March 7. Jackie Cabrera gave Melissa Saliba a massage a senior who is majoring marketing. Chris Crotty/The Beacon

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Sheehan simply looking for publicity

CINDY SHEEHAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are welcome - up to 200 words.

BY CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Opinion Editor

I have just about had it with Cindy Sheehan’s anti-American antics. As an American, she is entitled to her opinion and I respect that, but the things she says demeans everyone in this country. It has gotten to the point where she is not just putting down President Bush in her antics, she is insulting all Americans with what she mentions. She is comparing the very troops which fought alongside her son before he was killed.

For months now, Cindy Sheehan has been a regular face on the national news media; she has virtually become the face of the anti-war effort in America. At first, it really didn’t bother me. Her demonstrations were peaceful – I may not have agreed with her, but she wasn’t insulting anyone. It wasn’t until I started hearing some of the things she was saying did I take notice to the founder of Camp Casey, the protest camp she had set-up outside of President Bush’s ranch in Texas.

In an August 15, 2005 interview on “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” Sheehan told Matthews that her position would not be different even if her son was killed. When the press was preoccupied with other, more ridiculous things, like those pesky hurricanes – and she was paying so little attention – she had this to say: “I am watching CNN and it is 100 percent [Hurricane] Rita ... even though it is a little wind and a little rain it is bad, but there are other things going on in this country today and in the world!” As soon as the media turns its eye away, Sheehan starts to cry. Her insensitivity towards the hurricane victims of the Gulf Coast earned her the chastisement of the reporters, one of whom pointed out “The right-wing media has painted you as a self-centered, self-absorbed woman and you’re living up to that image.”

Before making that statement, Sheehan had blurted the hurricane on the Bush Administration. Wait a minute, let me make that clear, she blamed the actual hurricane – not the response – on President Bush.

Cindy Sheehan was invited to Venezuela by President Hugo Chavez. She told reporters that “I admire President Chavez for his fight against the United States.” She then agreed to two previous statements made by Harry Belafonte, an African-American singer who said that President Bush was the world’s biggest terrorist.

Although it is tragic that Cindy Sheehan lost her son in this war, she refuses to accept that others as well have lost their families. As a mother, it is her right to mourn the death of her son, but she has no right to use his name strictly for publicity purposes. That is where at least I draw the line.

Christopher Necuze
Opinion Editor

In a recent opinion article, Adrian Diaz, assistant opinion editor of The Beacon, proceeded to compare Scientology’s beliefs with Christianity’s. He concluded: they are equally absurd. I want to give Dia some credit where it’s due; either Jesus was what he claimed to be, and that is God, or he was a delusional liar; he could not simply have been a “good teacher” because what “good teacher” audaciously claims to be divine? No let’s examine some of the crazy Christian beliefs we can see how really crazy they are (or are not).

Modern science was born in the Roman Catholic Church. Are all those crazy Christian scientists, like Louis Pasteur, Fr. Giambattista Riccioli (first to measure a great economist of recent times, writes of late 14th and 17th century Spanish theologians, “[It is they who come nearer than does any other group to having been the ‘founders’ of scientific economics.”

It was these Christian crazies that established accurate theories of value, price, government intervention, monopoly, competition, money and banking. It just keeps getting crazier, don’t it?

And those crazy Christians were the ones who gave us international law, not the so-called “Enlightenment” thinkers. This was founded in the Christian delusion of the fundamental unity of the human race. Human rights didn’t spring from ‘Locke or Jefferson, but from canon law. What a bunch of wackos!

Do you like fine metals, delicious bread, and a great tasting sandwich? Then become a monk for their metallurgy, agriculture, and brewing.

Let us never forget that Christianity gave us universal and, without her, there is no FIU and no Beacon to opine in – it’s all insane! Nothing like the univer...
Overturning Roe v. Wade would not outlaw abortion

BY PETER A. BROWN
KRT Campus

Americans think that abortion ought to be legally available, but not easy to get.

Of course not everyone feels that way, but the polling data show that to be the consensus position in the United States on this most emotional of issues. Moreover, American views are long-held and unlikely to change.

But no one should be under the misconception that abortion would become illegal throughout the United States if the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

All this is worth remembering as we appear we headed for a new, and perhaps higher stakes, series of court and political fights over this issue.

The Supreme Court has agreed to decide the constitutionality of a congressional ban on a late-term procedure – a law that seems to be the kind of restriction most Americans favor.

There are many who think the addition of John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the court bodes well for this law, even though it was thrown out by lower courts.

And, the court will almost certainly find itself ruling down the road on an expected South Dakota law that appears to conflict with Roe v. Wade and bans abortion.

The key issue in this case, and the case that will go before the Supreme Court for some time. But even if the court were to reverse Roe, that would not mean that any law must protect the health/life of the mother, an exception that abortion rights opponents say has been abused.

The case is likely to be heard in the fall during an election campaign that was already expected to be emotionally charged, given the war in Iraq and deep divisions within the country.

The betting is that since Alito replaced Sandra Day O’Connor, who was the swing vote on restrictions, his support of some other abortion limitations as an appeals-court judge might indicate his inclination and lead to reversal of lower courts ruling.

An effort to block the South Dakota law is unlikely to reach the Supreme Court for some time. But even if the court were to reverse Roe, that would not make abortion illegal nationally.

It would just leave it up the states to decide how to handle the issue within their borders.

Given public opinion, that probably means that in some states abortion would become illegal, but in most it would be available under varying restrictions.

If nothing else, Americans think that abortion ought to be legally available, but not easy to get.

ROE’S WORSE: Chief Justice John Roberts could tip the balance to Overturn Roe v. Wade. Protestors partial birth abortion and abortion in general. And, the court will almost certainly find itself ruling down the road on an expected South Dakota law that appears to conflict with Roe v. Wade and bans abortion.

The Supreme Court decision that upheld Roe and said the law could not impose an "undue burden" on women. The court, until now, has been interpreted to mean that any law must protect the health/life of the mother, an exception that abortion rights opponents say has been abused.

The case is likely to be heard in the fall during an election campaign that was already expected to be emotionally charged, given the war in Iraq and deep divisions within the country. The betting is that since Alito replaced Sandra Day O’Connor, who was the swing vote on restrictions, his support of some other abortion limitations as an appeals-court judge might indicate his inclination and lead to reversal of lower courts ruling.

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Given public opinion, that probably means that in some states abortion would become illegal, but in most it would be available under varying restrictions. If nothing else, Americans would then begin paying a lot more attention to their state legislatures.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are students too apathetic when it comes to on campus issues such as increases in tuition?

- Yes – Students need to be more concerned about these issues, which in the end affect them.
- No – Students are concerned enough with what goes on.

It would be lovely if students would have been more aware of these issues to begin with.

Total participants: 52
Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

CONGRESS
Congress has decided to give itself a second payday break in a month and to deal with the stress Congressmen are under. No it wasn’t Ted Kennedy who suggested it.

MR. SPEARS
An article in The Emperor alleges that Kevin Federline called ahead to a restaurant and requested they not serve dessert to his wife, Britney Spears, or anyone else at the table because she would eat it. He also warned diners to watch their fingers.

QUOTATIONATION

“When you’re forming a government, you can’t form it with any kind of sectarian element.”

— Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commander of the Fourth Infantry Division, on American efforts to reduce Shiite control of the Iraqi military.

“The international community has spelled out what Iran must do — that means suspend all enrichment activity.”

— Scott McClellan, White House spokesman, on Iran’s nuclear policy. A serious rift has emerged between Russia and the United States on the issue when Russia announced a plan to allow Iran to make small quantities of nuclear fuel.

“We were doing this to inflate our earnings, and I don’t think we wanted to show people what we were doing.”

— Andrew Fastow, former Enron Corp. finance chief, on running financial partnerships that helped the company hide as much as hundreds of millions of dollars in losses.

“In the history of the world, the true test of a civilization is how well people treat the most vulnerable and most helpless in their society.”

— Michael Rouds, governor of South Dakota, speaking at campus issues such as increases in tuition.

“Rabbi Freiberg is a very young energetic guy, whose students can relate to. He rape, he beat boxes, and he goes completely wild when we have a party.”

— Eli Gigi, FIU student, on the director of the Collegiate Learning Experience. A Jewish organization on the FIU campus.
American Heritage teaches diversity, culture

BY MARIA CHERCOLES
Contributing Writer

What is it to be an American? This is what American Heritage week, from March 13-16, hopes to answer by offering different activities that will teach and reinforce diversity and tolerance among students.

According to Bill Buchanan, Student Programming Council president and American Heritage chair, the event will be a learning experience.

“It is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of [the] American life, food and culture, as well as having fun,” Buchanan said. “[Past] celebrations have been exceptionally awesome. I hope to surpass that feeling this year.”

American Heritage week plans to enlighten students on America’s immigrant past. This year’s highlight will be a comedy show starring Nick Swardson with an opening act by Jim Florentine on March 16.

Some events planned for the week include an opening reception, a southern cuisine picnic, a karaoke night and line dancing lessons. Also, Walk the Line, the movie about famous country and rock musician Johnny Cash, will be shown while Shorty’s will provide a barbecue dinner.

“We are excited about the comedy show and the dinner and movie since they are the biggest events we are programming,” said sophomore Sophia Del Zoppo, Buchanan’s right hand person. “We expect lots of FIU students to show up.”

The celebration of American Heritage in FIU began as part of the original Spring Festival organized every year by SPF; from there, it was broken into different heritage celebrations.

“It started and continues because we are such an eclectic school, where our students cultures are all different [and] we attempt to spotlight that [difference] throughout the year,” Buchanan said.

Students understand the need for a festival that celebrates America’s culture, especially because it’s a mix of so many others.

“Some people feel as if their
French café offers authentic treats

BY LAUNDA DE LA FUENTE
Contributing Writer

It may have taken Paul 116 years to reach the shores of the United States from France, but here he is, bearing sweet confectionery gifts, delicate French bakery and baskets of carefully crafted warm breads.

Although, Paul may not actually be a man with French baked goods and snacks in tow, but I can say that Paul is a North Miami Beach and Aventura bakery and café that is served with a healthy side of mixed gourmet greens tossed in Paul’s signature flavorful vinaigrette.

The most desirable aspect of Paul’s sandwiches is that you get to experience their fresh baked bread. Their oven-baked Croque Monsieur features cheese coupled with turkey or ham on their celebrated fresh, milky white bread which, unlike typical white bread, carries with it a rich taste and thin golden crust.

After 5 p.m., Paul adds to its menu a couple more tasty creations. Their Crêpe Florentine offers a thin, traditional French crêpe with spinach and mushrooms nestled inside. Their Crêpe Saumon is a light meal that whisks you away to a Parisian atmosphere, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, you can grab a freshly made omelet from a selection of soups and salads to pastries and coffee, Paul offers quality culinary creations without breaking the bank.

Sweet!

Their oven-baked Croque Monsieur features cheese coupled with turkey or ham on their celebrated fresh, milky white bread which, unlike typical white bread, carries with it a rich taste and thin golden crust.

One could easily move from a dinner crêpe to a dessert one. Their crépes, sprinkled with powdered sugar, can be filled with apricot or strawberry jam but the chocolate choice is a must try. If you’re ready to splurge, a definitive try at Paul’s coffee, all roasted in Italy, is served with a healthy side of mixed gourmet greens tossed in Paul’s signature flavorful vinaigrette.

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Once settled within the confines of Paul, the rustic and earthy ambience whisks you away to a Parisian street corner. Bakery cases filled with sugary confections will distract you as you eat your meal.

The staff, all clad in white chef uniforms, is very friendly and helpful, perfecting the French café experience.

Before 11 a.m. on weekdays and 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, you can grab a freshly made omelet in nearly the same amount of time as it takes to wait in line for an omelet sandwich at Burger King.

Paul’s non-breakfast menu is quite expansive, ranging from unique sandwiches to traditional French quiches. Their Quiche Loraine features cheese and ham and is served with a healthy side of mixed gourmet greens tossed in Paul’s signature flavorful vinaigrette.

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One could easily move from a dinner crêpe to a dessert one. Their crépes, sprinkled with powdered sugar, can be filled with apricot or strawberry jam but the chocolate choice is a must try. If you’re ready to splurge, freshly whipped cream can be added to top of your traditional French creation.

The tarts at Paul are some of the most scrumptious of dessert choices. Their tarts offer fresh fruit inside a crumbly pie-like crust over light and savory custard. The fruit ranges from large red strawberries to granite smith apples to raspberries covered in a sweet, clear glaze. Their chocolate or coffee éclairs are a rich but tasty experience.
Culture events showcase history

From AMERICAN, page 6

cultures might be disappearing by being exposed to American factors such as McDonald’s, Tom Cruise movies and Hip Hop music,” said senior Pedro Ross.

“[However] the best aspect of being in America is the eclectic nature of the country. There is rarely a case in which we feel threatened by the introduction of a different culture,” Ross said. “If anything, it makes us stronger to be able to integrate a new culture. It broadens us and makes us unique.”

Whether you are a third generation American or you and your parents were born somewhere else, this event is open to anyone.

SPC hopes to teach students something about the United States they didn’t know.

“Being a ‘real white guy’ in Miami, this is one of the times where I am able to showcase my culture and share it with the people of Miami as much as they have shared with me,” Buchanan said.

For more information please visit the SPC office located in GC 2304.
Alfonso struck by pitch three times, hits homerun

BASEBALL, from page 12

get as FIU scored three unanswered in the last four innings to hold on to the victory.

FIU 13, NYT 12

Seven Golden Panthers recorded a hit in a match that featured seven errors, 28 combined hits and 25 combined runs.

Pullin and Chris Dunn had three hits each, while infielders Nick Cadena and Corey Lozano recorded two apiece, as FIU recorded 15 hits as a team.

Frank Gonzalez got the win in relief of starter Kyle Preshong. The senior pitched the final five and one-third innings, allowed four runs, walked two and struck out three batters.

The victory was sparked by an FIU three-run rally in the bottom of the seventh inning. Trailng 12-10, a misplayed Dunn bunt single, with two runners on based, scored Cody Jacobs from second base. A wild pitch tied the game at 12. Dunn scored what would be the game-winning run on a Lopez sacrifice fly ball.

FIU took an early commanding 3-0 lead as Lopez hit a solo home run to right field and McOwen added a two-run triple in the bottom of the first. New York Tech took a 6-3 lead after the second inning, to which FIU replied by tying the game in the bottom of that same inning. The Bears added three more runs in the sixth inning off only one hit, to make the score 11-9. Alfonso’s three HBPs tied an FIU record.

FIU 12, NYT 9

FIU completed the sweep of New York Tech in the final game of the series.

Alfonso, who was hit by three pitches in the game, hit a mammoth solo homerun over the left field wall in the bottom of the eighth inning to cap off FIU’s 12-9 victory.

“I guess I’m just a magnet,” Alfonso said. “It’s been like that all my life. I just wanted to get a hit [and the homerun] was more for revenge and getting a hit.”

FIU was led offensively by McOwen, who went 3-for-4 with a double, a triple and four RBI.

Eric Horstmann picked up the win in relief of starter Jorge Ramos, who allowed six runs in only two innings pitched. Horstmann pitched the final seven innings, allowed three runs (only one earned), two hits, walked two and struck out four batters.

FIU jumped out two an early 3-0 as Lopez hit a solo home run to right field and McOwen added a two-run triple in the bottom of the first. New York Tech took a 6-3 lead after the second inning, to which FIU replied by tying the game in the bottom of that same inning.

The Golden Panthers would take the lead for good, scoring three runs in the bottom of the fourth and two more in the bottom of the fifth. The Bears added three more runs in the sixth inning off only one hit, to make the score 11-9.

Alfonso’s three HBPs tied an FIU record.
Russo’s team has chance for Women’s NIT invite

as she and Sarah Shouse had the tough task of defending Jekabsone. FIU attacked the favored Lady Hilltoppers from the start, showing no signs of having lost twice against them during the regular season.

After a back and forth start, FIU took command through Jekabsone, whose play down in the paint extended FIU’s lead to as much as seven, 21-14, during the first half.

Mary Taylor Cowles called a quick timeout as her team started the game shooting just 5-of-26 and her team came back onto the floor with a much different game plan.

WKU, who was riding a 12-game conference win streak, brought in 6-5 center Shouse to play on Jekabsone and the Latvian suffered the rest of the way.

“When you have someone out there that is your same size it hinders you from doing what you usually do against shorter post players,” Shouse said.

Western Kentucky went on a 14-2 run following the stoppage and rallied to lead 52-29 at the half. FIU made the adjustments in the second half and came out firing. It tied the game through a LaQuetta Ferguson 3-pointer on the first possession of the half.

The two teams then shared baskets up until the 9:29 mark, when FIU lost its last lead of the game.

After the Hilltoppers took the lead through a Kelly jumper with 8:11 left, they never looked back. They finished the game on a 16-10 run and booked their place in the final against tournament hosts Middle Tennessee.

FIU’s season is not yet over, however, as they may be invited to the Women’s NIT. Russo and her team will wait until Selection Sunday on March 12 to confirm the invitation.
WASHED AWAY: Despite having the second day of games rained out, the softball team went 0-3 in the Pepsi Malihini Kipa Aloha Softball Tournament March 3-5 at Rainbow Wahine Softball Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii – including losses to No. 8 California, UC Riverside and hosts Hawaii.
MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — The women’s basketball team’s first trip back to the Sun Belt Conference semifinals since it won the championship in 2002 didn’t go quite as planned.

After cruising through their first two games, fueled by the play of junior Lasma Jekabsone, FIU ran into the best team in the conference and couldn’t quite compete.

The Golden Panthers (18-12, 10-6) fell to the conference favorites from Western Kentucky (24-5, 13-2) 66-58 in front of 974 mostly Hilltopper fans at the Murphy Center on the eve of the conference finals.

“It was anybody’s game until the end,” said head coach Cindy Russo. “That’s all you can ask in these types of tournaments, to have your players compete like that.”

Jekabsone led the way for the third straight game for FIU, but wise adjustments from the Hilltoppers coaching staff midway through the first half put a damper on FIU’s upset hopes.

Following the loss, Jekabsone was willing to put the loss solely on her shoulders.

“I didn’t make the right decisions,” Jekabsone said. “They picked up their defense and we had too many turnovers.”

The Latvia native finished the afternoon leading all scorers with 24 points, 20 points a game this season, added 14 rebounds in a damper on FIU’s upset hopes.

Senior Faeza Bouderra was the only other Golden Panther in double figures, notching 13 points on 4-of-11 shooting after being held field goal-less in the first half.

Last season’s conference player of the year, Tiffany Porter-Talbert, had one of her best performances of the season, taking over the game in the second half. She finished with 21 points, leading WKU.

Crystal Kelly, who had averaged over 20 points a game this season, added 14 as Wku.

BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

See WOMEN, page 10

Baseball scores 33 total in home sweep of Bears

BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

The baseball team scored a combined 33 runs and kept its season pattern of sweep or be swept in a three-game sweep of New York Tech March 3-5 at University Park Stadium.

The Golden Panthers evened up their record at 8-8 and New York Tech begins its 2006 season at 0-3.

“I didn’t think we pitched as well as I thought we were going to,” head coach Danny Price said. “But at the same time, I thought [New York Tech] swung the bats [well].”

The baseball team continues its 14-game March homestand and hopes to add to their eight-game home winning streak with a three-game series against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights March 10-12.

FIU 8, NYT 4

FIU opened up its weekend sweep with the help of starting pitcher Walker Whitney. The redshirt junior allowed seven hits, four unearned runs and struck out 10 batters — recording his first career complete game and raising his record to 3-1 on the season.

The Golden Panthers were led offensively by Bryan Pullin and Luis Bautista — each recording two hits. Bautista, along with Michael Lopez and Alex Alfonso, recorded two RBIs.

FIU got on the board early, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Pullin scored on a Lopez sacrifice fly, after leading off the game with a single to right field. Then, with two outs in the inning, Bautista blasted a solo homerun to right centerfield to make the score 2-0.

The Bears took a 3-2 lead (off two FIU errors), which was immediately erased when FIU scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Sophomore James McCothen hit a two-RBI triple down the right field line and was brought home two batters later with an Alfonso sacrifice bunt.

The Bears added another unearned run in the fifth inning to make the score 5-4, but that was the closest they would come.

BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

See BASEBALL, page 9

See WOMEN, page 10

Women eliminated in semifinals

BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

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women’s basketball team’s first trip back to the Sun Belt Conference semifinals since it won the championship in 2002 didn’t go quite as planned.

After cruising through their first two games, fueled by the play of junior Lasma Jekabsone, FIU ran into the best team in the conference and couldn’t quite compete.

The Golden Panthers (18-12, 10-6) fell to the conference favorites from Western Kentucky (24-5, 13-2) 66-58 in front of 974 mostly Hilltopper fans at the Murphy Center on the eve of the conference finals.

“It was anybody’s game until the end,” said head coach Cindy Russo. “That’s all you can ask in these types of tournaments, to have your players compete like that.”

Jekabsone led the way for the third straight game for FIU, but wise adjustments from the Hilltoppers coaching staff midway through the first half put a damper on FIU’s upset hopes.

Following the loss, Jekabsone was willing to put the loss solely on her shoulders.

“I didn’t make the right decisions,” Jekabsone said. “They picked up their defense and we had too many turnovers.”

The Latvia native finished the afternoon leading all scorers with 24 points, 20 points a game this season, added 14 rebounds in a damper on FIU’s upset hopes.

Senior Faeza Bouderra was the only other Golden Panther in double figures, notching 13 points on 4-of-11 shooting after being held field goal-less in the first half.

Last season’s conference player of the year, Tiffany Porter-Talbert, had one of her best performances of the season, taking over the game in the second half. She finished with 21 points, leading WKU.

Crystal Kelly, who had averaged over 20 points a game this season, added 14 as Wku.

BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

See WOMEN, page 10

Baseball scores 33 total in home sweep of Bears

BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

The baseball team scored a combined 33 runs and kept its season pattern of sweep or be swept in a three-game sweep of New York Tech March 3-5 at University Park Stadium.

The Golden Panthers evened up their record at 8-8 and New York Tech begins its 2006 season at 0-3.

“I didn’t think we pitched as well as I thought we were going to,” head coach Danny Price said. “But at the same time, I thought [New York Tech] swung the bats [well].”

The baseball team continues its 14-game March homestand and hopes to add to their eight-game home winning streak with a three-game series against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights March 10-12.

FIU 8, NYT 4

FIU opened up its weekend sweep with the help of starting pitcher Walker Whitney. The redshirt junior allowed seven hits, four unearned runs and struck out 10 batters — recording his first career complete game and raising his record to 3-1 on the season.

The Golden Panthers were led offensively by Bryan Pullin and Luis Bautista — each recording two hits. Bautista, along with Michael Lopez and Alex Alfonso, recorded two RBIs.

FIU got on the board early, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Pullin scored on a Lopez sacrifice fly, after leading off the game with a single to right field. Then, with two outs in the inning, Bautista blasted a solo homerun to right centerfield to make the score 2-0.

The Bears took a 3-2 lead (off two FIU errors), which was immediately erased when FIU scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Sophomore James McCothen hit a two-RBI triple down the right field line and was brought home two batters later with an Alfonso sacrifice bunt.

The Bears added another unearned run in the fifth inning to make the score 5-4, but that was the closest they would come.

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See BASEBALL, page 9

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