Math departments combat failure rates

BY IAN NATHANIEL COHEN
Staff Writer

The University’s mathematics and statistics departments are continuing to try and find new methods of combating failure rates among their students.

Currently, the drop rate for the University’s mathematics classes is 32 percent and the remaining class cumulative grade point average is 2.1, according to Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences, Mark D. Srechman.

“The math courses have a high failure rate, we’re very aware of that and we’ve taken many measures to try and alleviate this situation,” said Julian Edward, chair of the department of mathematics.

“In the math department, we spend a lot of time trying to think of ways to teach the students better and help them succeed,” Edward said.

Edward noted that high failure rates in math courses have been common since the first came to FIU in 1993.

“This is not some emerging problem. This is something chronic. We try and deal with it, but there’s no magic bullet,” Edward said.

According to Edward, high failure rates in math courses are a national phenomenon.

“I’ve spoken to many chairmen in other universities, both in the Florida State system and outside, and they all say the failure rate in mathematics is high,” Edward said.

Part of finding a solution involves identifying the various problems.

“I think part of the problem is that students have difficulties reading problems,” said Samuel Shapiro, professor of statistics. “They can read the words, but somehow it doesn’t translate into what they have to do to solve the problem. In exams, students come up and ask questions. What do I do? I read them the problem and that answers the question.”

One prevalent theory for the high failure rates in math courses is inadequate preparation at the high school level.

“Modern society doesn’t have a great value in mathematics and parents don’t put much pressure on their high school kids to do well in mathematics in this country ... that is reflected at the university level when the mathematics start mattering,” Edward said.

Edward is not alone in his opinion. “The major problem I encounter during tutoring sessions is the lack of mathematical background that students have from high school,” said Robert Salon, a graduate student who works for the mathematics department as a tutor.

“Once they are here at FIU, this begins to get corrected.”

Student apathy is believed to be another possible cause.

“In every introductory level class that I teach, I ask them ‘Would you be in this class if it wasn’t a required course?’ If I’m lucky, one student, maybe two, raise their hands,” Shapiro said.

Some students, for their part, hold the faculty responsible for their low scores.

“Professors don’t seem to care,” said junior Sean Loret de Mola. “They don’t seem to take it as seriously as it should be taken.”

De Mola took finite math in Spring 2005 and intends to re-take the course in the future, possibly during the summer.

However, de Mola also noted that some of his fellow classmates also did not seem to take the course seriously.

“A lot of people go into it expecting to fail, which isn’t the best mind set,” de Mola said.

See MATH, page 2

Relay for Life raises funds for cancer research

BY VANESSA COLLADO
Contributing Writer

The candles seemed to be scattered in no particular order around the edges of the grassy area between the Graham Center Ballroom and the Chemistry and Physics buildings, and the white bags to which they were tied, sagged awkwardly from time to time.

However, as Melissa Gaviria, marketing chair of Relay for Life committee, stood around the pavement that surrounded the grass, the random order of the candles seemed to disappear, as a word began to glow against the dark.

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See MATH, page 2

I’ve been doing this for two years and have met so many survivors. They come to me looking for hope and I give it to them by telling them I’m doing my best.

Melissa Gaviria, marketing chair of Relay for Life ceremony at FIU Stadium April 7 at 6 p.m. and ends the next morning, April 8, at around 10 a.m. There is a dinner provided for the cancer survivors at approximately 9 p.m., followed by a special ceremony called the Luminaria ceremony.

Many volunteers from FIU, as well as the South Florida community, help support the event by forming teams. The day of the event, each team provides a different fundraiser such as food, drinks, dunk tanks and bounce houses, according to Yalitza Gonzalez, events chair of the UP Relay For Life committee.

These volunteers include fraternity and sorority organizations, faculty associations such as Division of Student Affairs, sports clubs such as golf and volleyball, housing residents students and family teams. Anyone can attend and admission is free. This will be FIU’s second year conducting the event, since last year when Marly Quinoces, the first community representative for the University Park Relay For Life committee, brought the event to life.

Relay For Life is a year-round event that is continuously raising money for the American Cancer Society in order to provide for patient services, trainings and research. Money is raised nationwide in different ways, whether it is through bake sales, car washes, canning (fundraising money at street intersections) or accepting donations.

Once a year FIU has an overnight event, Super Hope Bowl, where teams of people walk for 18 hours around the FIU Stadium track in honor of anyone who has died of cancer, survived cancer, or is currently battling cancer.

“It’s [called] Relay for Life because it’s around the track and you have to be walking for all 18 hours, one person from each team is always on the track,” Gaviria said.

“The committee’s goal this year is to have 40 teams of seven to 10 people, 400 survivors, and raise $40,000.”

During the Luminaria ceremony, white bags filled with sand each containing a lit candle with a survivors name written on the front, will be organized onto the stadium’s bleachers to form the word
The Beacon – April 6, 2006

NEWS

Compiled by Ana Sanchez from Beacon staff and wire reports

FIU
University hosts charity ball

The Resident Hall Association, Campus Life, Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs will host the annual Hope Charity Ball on April 8 at 7 p.m.

Money raised from ticket sales will go to a local school for orphans in Granada, Nicaragua, along with other fundraising money, sponsors and donations.

The money will provide employment for full-time teachers and much needed school supplies.

The tickets are $10 for students and $25 for one general admission ticket ($40 for two). The time teachers and much needed school supplies.

Leiva has also had difficulty with tutor availability. “Every time I come for statistics, they’re only here for 15 to 20 minutes.”

Aside from his statistics grades, Leiva has a 4.0 GPA. He is committed to raising $2,000.

Another problem for students is the required textbooks. “They teach you how to do the easy problems, but they don’t show you how to do the hard problems and the exams are the hard problems,” said senior Eduardo Leiva, who is currently taking statistics for the fourth time.

Leiva noted that “not nearly enough students” take advantage of tutoring services and other remedies are being sought.

“Our department, and other departments as well, are starting to use Panthersoft to enforce prerequisites,” Edward said.

“This is a significant portion of our failures: people who basically disregard prerequisites and try to leapfrog the prerequisite sequence.”

Other ideas include requiring online homework, a plan currently in the development and experimentation phase, and utilizing Freshman Interest Groups, where incoming freshmen with similar interests and areas of study are grouped together in their classes.

“Presumably, since you all have the same interest, you develop some kind of camaraderie. You can do homework together, you can develop some kind of support network. We have a number of these freshmen groups in mathem...

Margot Wallstrom, the European Commission vice president, is scheduled to come to University Park on April 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the MARC building’s International Pavilion.

The European Commission is the European Union’s governing body. Wallstrom focuses on interinstitutional relations and communications strategy for the European Commission.

Wallstrom will speak about the process of approving the European Union constitution and the events that slowed down the process when French and Dutch voters opposed it.

Program to raise awareness for people with disabilities

Andres Escobar and other Pi Kappa Phi fraternity members will participate in Gear Up Florida, a program designed to raise awareness of people with disabilities. Gear Up Florida is part of an organization started by Pi Kappa Phi called Push America.

Escobar was in a wheelchair for over a year, and now he will join others as they ride their bicycles for 16 days and 800 miles to Tallahassee. They will leave on May 1 and will ride 70 miles daily, making stops to give presentations. Escobar’s team is committed to raising $2,000.
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FIA 05-06
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KENNETH TURAN, Los Angeles Times

“Very smart and funny... that rare film that actually has a sense of humor.”

JOHN HARTL, The Beacon

“Writer-director Jason Reitman’s HILARIOUS movie couldn’t be timelier.”

JOHN HARTL, The Beacon

“Two thumbs up.”

Two thumbs up.

Based on the best-selling novel

STARRING

Aaron Eckhart, Maria Bello, Adam Brody, Sam Elliott, Katie Holmes, Rob Lowe, William H. Macy and Robert Duvall

“America is living in spin. Very smart and funny... that rare film that actually has a sense of humor.”

KENNETH TURAN, Los Angeles Times

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STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 7

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES

Check local listings for theaters and showtimes.
Bush proposal deemed ‘fair’

BY CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Opinion Editor

The debate over U.S. immigration policy – or the lack thereof – is once again heating up. On March 27, hundreds of Latino students protested in Los Angeles, blocking two major freeways as they waved flags from different Latin American countries such as Mexico and El Salvador. Earlier in the week, more than 200,000 gathered in L.A. in protest of the newly proposed immigration bill being debated on the Senate floor. Immigration is a fragile issue. While there is a general consensus in Congress that tougher border security is needed, this country is and always has been a country of immigrants. This country’s landscape – political, economic – has always been shaped by immigrants.

The issue of immigration has politicians split, but interestingly enough, the split is not along party lines. This issue has Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) fighting on the same side and for the same treaty. Secondly, under the U.S. immigration policy, the United States in 1994 in return for security. It said it would not negotiate under duress. So duress consists of being asked to be nonaggressive. This country was founded, built and, to this day, prospers at the expense of thousands of immigrants to the United States. For the United States to achieve its strategic objectives toward North Korea and it might provide North Korea with a new framework with the United States and then the U.S. nuclear policy toward North Korea, but engage it with sanctions are closely related with the nonaggression treaty. The United States needs to know who is crossing its borders, but with 11 million suspected illegal immigrants on U.S. soil, it is hardly doing a good enough job.

Opponents to the reforms argue that a guest worker program is not a wise decision, as these workers do not put anything into the country’s economy – providing the cheap labor on which the agriculture industry thrives – laborious jobs that regularly

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are your thoughts on the approval of FIU’s medical school proposal?

- I think it’s great – A medical school is the next logical step in the growth of the University.
- Bad idea – FIU is growing too fast and funding the new school will hurt other schools within FIU.
- The new medical school will not affect me. By the time it opens, I will be long gone.

73% 17%

Total participants: 80

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

CBS: The Washington Post and USA Today have both reported on their websites that CBS and the “Today” show anchor, Katie Couric, have reached a tentative deal that would make Couric anchor of “CBS Evening News.”

LOSER

India: A textbook approved in the Indian state of Rajasthan compares women to donkeys. It even goes so far as to suggest that donkeys are better than women. Men everywhere lower their heads to stifle laughter.

QUOTATION NATION

“After many weeks of personal, prayerful thinking and analysis, I have come to the conclusion that it is time to close this public service chapter of my life.”

– Tom DeLay, republican representative on his decision to leave Congress. DeLay made the announcement on April 4.

“Was it during this campaign that thousands of innocent women, children and men were buried in mass graves?”

– Tadesse Bishu, chief judge of the Iraqi High Tribunal’s Investigative Court, on the campaign Saddam Hussein carried out against the Kurds from 1980 to 1988. He is being charged by the tribunal with genocide against the Kurdish people.

“It just came all up of a sudden.”

– Betty Sisk, Tennessee resident, on tornadoes that ravaged the Midwest and South.

“In the math department, we spend a lot of time trying to think of ways to teach the students better and help them succeed.”

– Julian Edwards, chair of the department of mathematics at FIU, on the mathematics and statistics departments attempts to curbed high failure rates among their students.
LifE!

The Beacon - 6
WWW.BEACONNEWSPAPER.COM
April 6, 2006

Guide to getting good riddance of bad rubbish

How to...
A series by Alicia Restuimante

The following column is intended for entertainment purposes only.

So your relationship has come to a stalemate and you’ve never been so conflicted. The afterglow of extravagant Valentine’s Day, the amazing anniversary sex has faded and you’re back to fighting that end with phrases like “Don’t you know me at all?” and “Oh, stop, I’m calling the police!”

The only couple I’ve ever known trying your college sweetheart married later in life (or not at all). That people these days are getting unions the axe and with good reason. It’s commonly known that some relationships are endless.

Now, I don’t want to sound cold-hearted, love is a beautiful thing. If you’re still running to each other in slow motion through the Graham Center, why not revel in it some more?

Unfortunately, this only lasts for so long. At one point, you’ll realize you’re alien to dailies and the mere thought of your partner makes you itchy. Metaphors aside, you have to be able to differentiate the squabbles from the deal breakers. For example, let’s say you two are grocery shopping to make dinner that evening. An attractive member of the opposite sex walks by you in the produce section and you take notice. A squabble happens when your partner chastises you then flies to the frozen food aisle. A deal breaker happens when all you can remember is regaining consciousness after being pelted in the back of the head with a cantaloupe.

Granted, the previous example was extreme but I’d like to think that most fights are comparable to fresh fruit abuse.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Now that you know it’s over, you have to choose a time to tell your partner. Some say to stray away from doing it when other dramatic events are going on, but I say the sooner the better. Any event can be used to segue into discussing it – you just have to be able to back it up. Choose your words wisely in touchy situations, for example, the tragic death of your partner’s pet. While comically ingenious, it’s really hard to justify the statement, “Putting Muffin’s mangled remains in this hefty bag has really given me perspective on our relationship.”

FRIEND CUSTODY

As two people’s lives become entwined, it’s inevitable that their groups of friends merge. After a breakup, those friends have to choose a side. You and your ex could pick names out of a hat, play “rock paper scissors” or even get more creative.

One way to expedite this process is to hold an auction where your mutual friends can bid on you and your ex. It’s an easy way to find out who your true friends are and a convenient way to make a buck. It could even finance a date with a future suitor. The possibilities are endless.

EXORCISING THE DEMONS

Perhaps the bulk of the drama is now over, but lingering ghosts of relationships usually stick around for a while. The best way to deal with your feelings is to deal with them, then be productive with them. In other words, hate then sublimate.

For example, one way to exercise is, well, to exercise.

There’s no better way to heal than to take rage or hurt feelings and turn it into hotness. Not to mention, it’s fun imagining the treadmill’s rotating belt as your ex’s face. You could also turn the pain into something artistic. Paint, keep a journal or even write a song about it.

Don’t get carried away, though. That’s how you end up as the lead singer of Linkin Park.

All in all, just remember that failed relationships are not worth dwelling upon. Each one carries something significant to learn and grow from. Don’t worry, the next potential lesson could be just around the corner. As the old saying goes, there are plenty of fish in GC.

Play explores loss of innocence in early New York

BY MARIA CHERCOLES
Contributing Writer

The FIU Theatre will be presenting Lanford Wilson’s play Balm in Gilead, April 6-9 and April 13-16, a play emphasizing the loss of innocence and outcasts’ efforts to survive in the New York of the late 1960s.

Balm in Gilead is being directed by Wayne E. Robinson, acting and movement professor, who has acted and directed in more than 50 productions in his career.

“We were looking for a play with lots of good roles which would allow many students to have a main part in it,” Robinson said. “Balm in Gilead is an excellent play in terms of number of characters.”

The play features a cast of 24 student actors who will portray a range of society rejects like pimps, drug addicts and prostitutes, while 65 other students will be working, in some capacity, on the production.

“The play has a dark side, it deals with things we don’t want to see,” said junior David Solomon, who has acted in previous University plays such as Hair and Dracula and will make his sixth FIU performance with Balm in Gilead. “It has to do with awareness of a world we tend to ignore and this is why the play is different from previous ones.”

Balm in Gilead takes place in an all-night diner in the Upper Broadway of the late 1960s, where all sorts of characters who usually hang out in the back streets and alleys of Broadway spend the night because they have no other place to go.

Wilson’s play brings to mind the difficulties and problems lived by those ignored by society, portraying their unrealistic dreams of a better life and their memories of a sordid past. The characters face the normal struggles of human existence, regardless of sex, class, race or occupation: the needs to survive, love, attention, belonging and hope.

Wilson began writing during the beginning of the Off-Off Broadway movement in the 1960s, which was defined by theaters having fewer than 100 seats and the use of cafes as theaters. His inspirations came from sitting in cafes and listening to other table’s conversations, something he shows by overlapping dialogue and simultaneous scenes.

“The main challenge was to do the play the way it was written,” Robinson said. “The 24 actors are on stage the whole time, so everyone has to know when to come in, when to stop talking and how to concentrate in their own dialogues while ignoring those around them. Different dialogues were rehearsed separate first and once every

See PLAY, page 8
Hofstetter gives witty, intelligent comedy for diverse audiences

BY JOSE DE WIT
Copy Editor

I’m usually not the biggest fan of stand-up comedy, however, Steve Hofstetter’s new album, Cure for the Cable Guy provides his audience with witty comedy that a diverse group of people can enjoy.

Before even playing the CD, I was already hooked as I was browsing through the liner.

“I’m someone who believes that artists have a responsibility to educate while entertaining; we have a stage and we ought to use it for educating while entertaining; we have the truth and didn’t rely on catch phrases. Leny Bruce didn’t go to jail so someone could buy a wife-beater and homophobia as opportunities to get a cheap laugh out of the audience, he tackles these topics intelligently by addressing them as the problems they are.

Now, from all this, I wouldn’t want to give anyone the impression that Hofstetter is at all self-righteous about the issues he discusses. At no point does he nag or lecture. Instead, he pokes holes through the attitudes and rhetoric behind those issues, a fantastically comedic effect.

Instead of perpetuating stereotypes by telling racist or homophobic jokes, he deflates them by making fun of racism and homophobia. By doing so, he hopes to change his audience’s attitudes towards the intended subject.

Defending some of his jokes, Hofstetter says, “People get all sensitive - ’don’t make fun of America.’ How are we going to get better if we don’t comment on the stupid things we do?”

He then proceeds to make fun of Paris Hilton’s sex tapes and the regulation of profanity on the airwaves by the Federal Communications Commission.

Most important of all, Hofstetter is hilarious. I was listening to it in my car while on my way to work and I could notice people at the stoplight wondering what I was cracking up about, sitting in the car by myself.

Hofstetter doesn’t restrict himself to just social and political topics, either. He is just as likely to discuss partisan politics and the war in Iraq, as he is to ramble about one-legged forest rangers and Jewish leprechauns.

Frankly, any guy who can tear up childhood obesity, P. Diddy’s name change and the college dating scene at no point does he nag or lecture.

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Two Year Program Begins August 2006 | One Year Program Begins January 2007
The Gamekillers OBITUARIES April 2006

Game Killed

Andre Massis
Fernando Nieves
Zack Danielson

Eric Smith
Hanwey Shieh
Jon Fox
Bharat Kumar
Chad Utch

MASSIS Andre, São Paulo, BR
Was lured away from a pretty young thing and into a heated game of ‘foos’ by his good friend Carl—more commonly known as “The Mayor of No Women’s land.” While Andre made several attempts to step away and cut himself back into conversation with the said female, Carl’s relentless pursuit for all things that don’t involve getting some, was ultimately too much for the young Andre. He quickly found himself swatting it over the air hockey table, from where he would catch a glimpse of his young beauty heading out the door with another suitor. Andre’s game will be remembered by many, just not her.

NIVES Fernando, New York, NY
His game was alive and well on its way to a ten digit exchange with a hottie known as Britney, but was suddenly bushwhacked by a classic Gamekiller, The Drama Queen. She ran into the scene, tears streaming, and sobbed a story of having seen her ex from four years ago. “I, I, I just can’t be alone tonight, Brit.” Still a retrievable situation had Fernando kept his cool. But he didn’t. “Four years seems like a long time ago,” he said in all innocence. By the time The Drama Queen was done flipping the script, Fernando was recast in the role of “the villain” in front of a crowd of horrified onlookers. No one hooks up with an inappropriate pig. Rest in peace Fernando, but you sleep alone.

DANIELSON Zack, Atlanta, GA
It was early in the evening yesterday when Zack’s game left us, and while it didn’t go without a fight, Zack did have his arm unceremoniously handed to him. Upon returning from the bathroom, Zack found the girl he was seeing had been surrounded by a beefy mesomorph. Early Man, who tried to use his abundant muscle to strangulate him out of the picture. Zack did not keep his cool and accused his young lady friend of hitting the first guy who came along. His girl, no doubt disgusted by Zack’s over-the-top bravado, fled the scene when his far from attractive jealousy escalated into Zack throwing a punch, which was caught in midair by something that looked like a hand, but felt like a 20lb vice. By the time Zack regained consciousness, he was home alone and unable to console himself with his dominant hand.

SHIBY Hanwey, Los Angeles, CA
Hanwey was chatting up a Latin diva at an apartment complex barbecue and his game was hot enough to pose a fire hazard, that is until his friend and coconco of horror known as The Mess entered the picture and snatched Hanwey up like a Rash flood of damage. Somewhat of a loose cannon, The Mess immediately engaged Hanwey in the age-old mode bonding tradition of lighting one’s own 40s. Sure, there’s little more enticing than the notion of one’s own combustible human gasses, but much like riding an electric scooter, you don’t look that cool doing it. When the laughter subsided, Hanwey was left with nothing but a good laugh and the faint smell of old eggs, while his lady was snared by a new suitor. Man, talk about blowing it.

SMITH Eric, Washington, DC
His game came to its demise in the most unlikely of circumstances. While engaging in two of his most pleasurable pastimes: talking about boats, with his other passion, a beautiful girl—whom he is genuinely interested. They were even planning to go out in his 15-foot dinghy, only to hit unseen rocks in the form of The One Upper, the classic Gamekiller who lives by the motto “Anything you can do I can do better.” Sure enough, The One Upper claimed to not only know boats, but he also boasted of capturing his own 40-foot vessel. Eric tried to navigate to the calmer waters of chat talk, but was run over again by The One Upper’s supposed vintage German incastrer. The tension quickly mounted, and soon the two were engaged in a ruthless game of oneupmanship. On and on they went, seeing what the other guy just said and raising him. When the smoke cleared, Eric had won the glarefist, but the girl was nowhere to be found. No one likes a braggart. Eric’s game was last seen screaming towards the vast sea of loneliness in an undersized boat.

FOX Jon, London, UK
Jon’s game, beloved to many as a cheerleader and facilitator of the lifestyle of 2003, was faring well at a Gold Coast club with a delightful trio of sista’s. That is until the playboy presenter and full time Gamekiller simply known as Kashi Munni entered the picture. A well-endowed socially famous for training Sisro hotel rooms, Kas had traveled in from oil rich lands wearing expensive Italian lollies and indoor sunglasses. Drinks were bought for willing and unwriving recipients alike with his family’s fortune, which he shamelessly flaunted in the form of an array of high status plastic. This caused Jon to suddenly lose his cool and go on the defensive by opening a tab of his own. On his debit card. After three rounds, Jon’s account was maxed. Shortly after he was dropped off alone would Jon learn the hard way that a woman’s affection should never be for sale, and that many a man has gone broke trying to prove otherwise.

UTCH Chad, New Brunswick, NJ
His game was faring nicely at the local coffee shop with a seemingly receptive late drinker called Rita and she seemed well on his way to a little afternoon delight, that is until the corduroy clad Gamekiller known as “IG” entered the picture. This pompous scholastic scavenger, famous for luring men into heated debates on subjects of which they know nothing, overhead the conversation turning to art and painted. Immediately, he stepped into the dialogue into an area known as Out Of Chad’s Depth where he would dish out ever increasing portions of intellectual masturbation. Chad reacted as anyone with a 20 point IQ deficit facing “IG” would: the wrong way. No, the answer to “When do you feel Picasso peaked?” isn’t to show the questioner in the chest. Rita was left to apologize emphatically for Chad’s actions and asked in she could make up for it in some way. Chad tried to recover, but it was too late. He had lost his cool, and his game would retire home, where it would begin its own blue period.

Obituaries can be created and sent via email to friends at gamekillers.com

Keep Your Cool. Axe Dry.
Gonzalez stuffs rally, earns save to finish sweep of UNO

BASEBALL, from page 12

second consecutive 10-4 win.

Starting pitcher Kyle Preshong went a season-high seven innings to earn the win and improve his record to 4-2 on the season. The sophomore allowed three runs and four hits, walked three and struck out three.

Relievers Eric Horstmann and Gonzalez pitched the eighth and ninth inning, respectively, allowing one unearned run.

The Golden Panthers entered the bottom of the second trailing 1-0, but scored three runs to take the lead for good off an RBI sacrifice fly by Cody Jacob and a two-RBI single from Alfonso, and added another run in the third.

The closest the Privatetets got was 4-3, after two runs in the sixth inning, but saw their chances slip away when FIU blew the game open with a five-run seventh inning – which they sent 10 batters to the plate and highlighted by a two-RBI single from Cadena.

FIU 7, UNO 5

For the third straight game, FIU overcame an early, minor deficit to take the lead for good and complete the sweep of New Orleans.

FIU starter Chris Siebenaler almost pitched a complete game, going eight and two-third innings, allowing five runs (one earned), striking out seven and walking three.

Gonzalez pitched the final one-third of an inning to stop a UNO rally and get the save.

Senior Michael Lopez went 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI. McOwen and Cadena each went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Trailing 1-0 early on, the Golden Panthers scored three runs in the bottom of the second – highlighted by RBI single from Alfonso and Lopez – to take the lead for good.

FIU added one run in each of the fourth and fifth innings and two runs in the sixth to take a 7-1 lead.

In the ninth inning, Siebenaler had two outs on the board before the Privatetets mounted a rally and scored four unearned runs, including a bases-clearing double off the wall in left centerfield.

Gonzalez came in to pitch, getting a fly out to end the game and earn his third save of the season.

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UP HIGH: Sophomore Paula Zabala [left], who was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week, and Nikkita Fountain [right], the No. 16-ranked doubles team in the country, led the No. 38-ranked tennis team to a dominating 6-1 victory over Brown University March 29 – concluding its home schedule. Chris Cutro/The Beacon

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**SPORTS**

**SUN BELT SWEEP**

**FRIDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

**NFL shows no fun with excessive celebration penalty**

**BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO**

Sports Editor

The NFL is an entertainment business at its core. Players and fans alike have come to expect a little theatrics from the game. After all, football is a sport that thrives on drama; it's the reason why fans tune in and buy tickets. But the NFL is now taking a hard line on excessive celebrations, and that could mean a season of duller games.

The league's new rule on touchdowns is designed to punish players who use excessive props or gestures to celebrate. The rule states that players who use props or gestures to celebrate a touchdown will be penalized by 15 yards and the play will be replayed. This is a significant change from the league's previous policy, which simply penalized teams for excessive celebrations.

The rationale behind the new rule is that it will help to maintain the integrity of the game and prevent players from showing off. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said that the new rule is necessary to keep the sport from becoming too showy and to protect the fans.

But the new rule has already sparked controversy. Many players and fans believe that it is too strict and will make the game less enjoyable. They argue that celebrations are an important part of the sport and that they help to energize the crowd.

In the end, it is up to the league and its fans to decide whether the new rule is worth the sacrifice in entertainment. But one thing is certain: the NFL is taking a hard line on excessive celebrations, and that could mean a season of more serious, less entertaining games.