Police radios still not up to par

Glitches still exist a year later

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

The events at Northern Illinois University have brought concerns to light once again regarding the ability of campus police to respond to crises.

On Dec. 6 2006, The Beacon first reported on malfunctions plaguing the police radio system for the Department of Public Safety in relation to the department’s switch from a state communications system to a new ultra-high frequency system, for University use only.

Problems with the transition in systems included inability to report to the police dispatch and literal dead spots in the campus, and that has been done by adjusting the repeaters and antennas, but there are still certain areas that have dead spots.

The problems with [the radio system] have still not been resolved completely,” said Chief of Public Safety Bill King, in an interview last October. “Some problems do continue to pop up, as I would expect with any conversion to a new system.”

In a more recent interview, King seemed to echo this sentiment but admitted to gradual progress.

“With a radio system, you cannot have 100 percent coverage. 100 percent of the time,” said King. “I think the number of dead spots has decreased around campus, and that has been done by adjusting the repeaters and antennas, but there are still certain areas that have dead spots.”

Radio, page 2

In remembrance: FIU students and the community gather to remember and commemorate those who have been affected by cancer at this year’s Relay For Life. The event took place outside of the Ryder Business Building on Feb. 15. For a story on the event, visit www.FIUSM.com.

Animal Planet star brings his work, insight to FIU

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

Jeff Corwin, wildlife biologist and host of Animal Planet’s “Jeff Corwin Experience,” will take over at FIU with an entourage of crawling and slithering friends on Feb. 19.

Corwin’s lecture, “Tales from the Fields,” will discuss the importance of environmental conservation by showcasing various animals and bringing audience members on stage in an interactive program that will begin at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center ballrooms.

“We are trying to showcase this environmental message but we don’t only want professors talking,” said Anthony Rionda, lectures coordinator of the Student Government Council at University Park.

The Student Government Association has organized an entire Green Day on campus. Activities will be held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the GC pit and will bring attention to environmental issues.

Most importantly, however, the day will provide information on the University’s initiatives to become more green-friendly, according to Rionda.

DeEtta Mills, biology professor and Honors College fellow, applauds SGA’s attempts to bring environmental awareness on campus because of the human tendency to ignore it.

“I think we get encased in our own little worlds and forget about the environment we live in,” Mills said. “We take the environment for granted and we don’t realize the impact we have on it.”

“We learn about the environment in class but this is the actual application of that in real life,” Mills said, referring to Corwin’s lecture.

In “Tales from the Fields,” Corwin will discuss his various experiences during his tapings and, in the process, will bring light on the many challenges the animal kingdom faces.

The lecture is free and open to the public.
Radio system fixes slow progress

RADIO, page 1

“Nothing works, the repeaters and the antennas, but there are still certain areas that have dead spots.”

However, Sgt. Alberto Alfonso argued “[the system] is not adequate for law enforcement purposes because it is not the county radio system.”

Some have still called into question the move to the University-only radio system, claiming the county-wide system, which is the norm for all other police officers in the area, would have been a more reliable system and comparable in price.

In October, Brennan Coyle, staff counsel with the Miami-Dade County Police told The Beacon “the current system is still unreliable.”

“We did a coverage survey and discovered that we’ll still have dead spots with the county system.”

Right now there are 40 sworn officers working at the University, King said that there are “around 107” handheld county radios available to call in-county police officers.

“What I eventually want to do is evaluate what is the best system to be the best system in the coming years. We’re going to be moving into a new facility in the next couple years and at that time, we would look at what type of system,” King said.

#FADSA help available on campus

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

It’s that time of year again: time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly known as the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Office will be hosting its second annual FAFSA event on Feb. 18 in the Graham Center computer lab in room 1201 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staff members will be available to help students obtain their electronic Personal Identification Number which is crucial in completing a FAFSA. This is the first year students can receive their PIN immediately.

According to Sandra Caprioli, assistant director of the Financial Aid Office, it is vital for students to meet the March 1 priority deadline to receive aid from the University.

“Funds become more limited after March 1,” said Caprioli. “If they get in before the deadline, it gives us time to maximize the amount of institutional funds they receive to supplement the federal funds they receive.”

Caprioli noted financial aid is slowly becoming a limited resource since the amount of students applying for aid increases every year.

About 60 percent or more of students at FIU are on some kind of grant, loan or scholarship,” Caprioli said.

Without financial aid, Alexandria Hernandez, a senior majoring in psychology would not be able to attend FIU.

“A lot of students are afraid they are going to fill out the wrong information, but now that we are going to be in the GC computer lab, students will be able to put their worries aside,” said Hernandez.

Students interested in receiving assistance in filling out their FAFSA or obtaining their PIN are encouraged to bring their completed 2007 tax returns and W-2 forms or the last paycheck statement listing wages earned in 2007.

Those unable to attend the registration event can stop by the Financial Aid Office at University Park in Primera Casa room 125 or Academic One room 100 in Biscayne Bay Campus.

Students can also log into Panther Chat at http://finaid.fiu.edu to have their questions answered by Financial Aid staff members through instant messages.
Students make their own wine for festival


“It’s great. I don’t have plans to be a sommelier, however the entire experience gives students a well rounded education. We have to know a little bit of everything to work in this industry,” Cemborain said.

When asked about the wine’s commercial prospects, Cemborain hoped for its success. “I think it has great potential. The professor told us the wine is not under license to be sold commercially, but it tastes incredibly good, especially the Merlot,” Cemborain said.

For more information, visit www.sobewineandfoodfestival.com.

This is part three of a three part series leading up to the wine and food festival

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus Hospitality Management students partnered with Schnebley’s Redlands Winery to make their own wine to serve at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

“The wines have been processed in [Schnebley’s] facilities and some FIU students have been involved in the bottling, tasting and evaluation of our wines,” said Barry Gump, the HM professor responsible for the new “FIU-made” wine, in an email interview.

According to Gump, FIU is pioneering wine education by taking students beyond the classroom, thus giving them a new appreciation for the wine making process.

“The role of FIU in the wine industry is that of providing education to Hospitality students so that they understand more about wine, how it’s made and how it is marketed,” Gump said.

Americans are consuming more wine every year. Winemaking across the heartland is now a $26 billion business, according to a 2002 USDA agricultural census. Growers in various states produce their own local wines such as pineapple wine in Hawaii and honey wine in North Dakota.

And of course, there’s all that wine made from grapes.

“Our FIU wine is made from California Merlot grapes. The grapes come from a vineyard in Lake County. The fruit was processed through a good friend at Vinovation in Sebastopol, CA, was frozen and shipped to Florida,” said Gump, who will be at the festival Feb. 23 and 24 at the FIU tent alongside some of the students involved in the project. Carolina Cemborain, a student in the HM masters program, is one of 15 students in Gump’s wine class.

“Working in the Solfe Wine and Food Festival is a great opportunity to meet people who work in the industry and get a good job,” Cemborain said.

Cemborain, who currently works at the Four Seasons Hotel, was elated to receive the opportunity to be involved in the wine’s development.

“Someone saw a need, changed the U to an A and now HBO has its own black student association.”

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life! Editor

Black Student Union members who attended the Biscayne Bay Campus were inadvertently left out of meetings and activities based at University Park according to Didier Georges, president of the Student Organizations Council at BBC.

The union was - and is - based at UP. Therefore, if a student wanted to become a member they had to do everything there, from joining to attending meetings, Georges said.

The Black Student Association, which has the same concept as the union, was created last year on Dec. 4 because SOC did not allow two clubs to have the same name on both campuses.

“Someone saw a need, changed the U to an A and now HBO has its own black student association,” Georges said.

GC Murray, president of the association, credited SOC Secretary Sabrina St. John, for jump starting the change.

“When she became aware of the fact that BSU could no longer cater to both campuses, she was one of the people to think of BSA and actually started us on the paperwork,” Murray said.

The association’s mission is to promote student body awareness of the past, present and future achievements of the African American community and to bring people together.

“I believe that we need to unite together as a people - not just black people, not just Hispanic people, not just Asian people - but everyone should be able to come together and have some kind of origin to talk and a connected point of conversation and I believe BSA is that point,” Murray said.

The association uses events such as those held during the Black Student Association week, Feb. 10-16, to support multicultural consciousness. The association hosted the Pan-African Hair Show and Vistapalooza at the Bay Vista Housing. On Valentine’s Day, it held the Women’s Appreciation Day and gave free massages to female students.

They also collaborated with organizations such as the Housing Council, Student Government Association, Panther Power and the Black Student Union.

Vistapalooza, an event coordinated with the West Indian Association, culminated the weekend festivities with cultural music and food Feb. 16.

Ryan Little, SOC rep for the association, enjoys the diversity of the club.

“It’s wonderful because we invite people of all races to come and join because we enjoy being multicultural in our efforts,” Little said.

BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Didier Georges
SOC-BBC President

Someone saw a need, changed the U to an A and now HBO has its own black student association.

I’m here to save you money.

Get a free rate quote today.

1-800-947-AUTO

Come visit us at Spring Break in Panama City Beach, FL & South Padre Island, TX.
Does Huckabee have answers for the AIDS pandemic?

When Republican candidate Mike Huckabee’s 1992 poll answers on AIDS research were made public, there were few who could pass the opportunity to hop on; including myself. Huckabee believed that AIDS research received an unfair amount of funding, and that all AIDS patients are gay. Mike Huckabee also said that all homosexuality was “aberrant” and “sinful.”

A “alternative approach would be that multimillionaire celebrities, such as Elizabeth Taylor, Madonna and others who are pushing for more AIDS funding be encouraged to give out of their personal wallets to help meet increased amounts for AIDS research,” said Huckabee to AP. Of course, the “Huckster” sort of kind of, I’m standing by my marks.”

Eric Feldman
Asst. Opinion Editor

Police cruisers are equipped with an on-board computer system, which an officer can use to run a license plate number through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to see if the car has been reported stolen, or if the owner of the car is wanted for a crime.

Fortunately, Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems are propelling themselves onto the law enforcement scene, and should welcome it. ALPR is able to take a photograph of every car that passes it, and use optical character recognition to isolate just the letters and numbers on the tag.

Having to manually enter the plate numbers limit the number of queries an officer can run on any given shift, meaning that the officer could drive past several stolen cars and never know it.

Moreover, Athletics has been seeking additional funding from SGC-UP, which again requires more fees paid to SGC-UP to cover these costs from the students.

A good question is where are our fees going anyway? To an unsuccessful athletics program? To fund facilities that students can’t utilize?

It’s absolutely disgusting how students are expected to pay these exorbitant fees and essentially receive nothing more than the service of having their wallets emptied. Instead of seeking funding somewhere else, Athletics has done the simplest and most irresponsible thing in asking for a fee increase, despite their protests to accusations of attempting to recoup their losses.

What’s most interesting is that African American women are being most affected by HIV/AIDS. At least they’re reporting it, or their children are carrying the disease, which brings a jump in pediatric AIDS.

Seventy-nine percent of all pediatric AIDS cases in Florida through 2004 involve African-American children. The Hispanic community follows closely as the second most infected. In Miami, the median income for a household was $23,483, with 33.4% of the population making less than that. In north Miami-Dade, the census. Out of all Florida counties, 14% of the population are carrying the disease, which they’re reporting it, or their children are carrying the disease, which brings a jump in pediatric AIDS.

According to Avert.org, an international HIV and AIDS charity, 33,935 Florida children are carrying the disease, which they’re reporting it, or their children are carrying the disease, which brings a jump in pediatric AIDS. Seventy-nine percent of all pediatric AIDS cases in Florida through 2004 involve African-American children. The Hispanic community follows closely as the second most infected. In Miami, the median income for a household was $23,483, with 33.4% of the population making less than that. In north Miami-Dade, the census. Out of all Florida counties, 14% of the population are carrying the disease, which they’re reporting it, or their children are carrying the disease, which brings a jump in pediatric AIDS.

As part of the global community, unless in ceded somewhere between Britney Spears panty- less frolicking and war, where was America? Instead of placing barriers, there should be a massive overhaul in research. But the screams of “global pandemic” were left behind at the end of the 90s and now every one can live with a disease that kills you much slower, and that if you do get it, the medical side effects or infections will.

Live in moderate comfort for a few years and prosper. Didn’t Dr. Kervorkian do something similar?
When one thinks of film festivals, distant and vibrant cultural centers like Cannes, France and New York likely come to mind. Soon the Sundance, Cannes and Tribeca film festivals may need to make room for another world class cinematic event in another international center for the arts: Miami, Fla.

The Miami International Film Festival is kicking off Feb. 28, celebrating its 25th anniversary at various theater throughout the Miami area. MIFF is the only major festival hosted at an institution of higher learning. In 2007, more than 70,000 people attended the festival to enjoy 120 films from all over the world. South Beach, Coral Gables and Little Havana are just some of the places chosen to showcase the 166 films selected for screening during the 2008 festival. The Colony Theatre is located at the heart of South Beach's Art Deco District, making it a perfect location to attract tourists, as well as the Miami community. Little Havana’s Tower Theater is surrounded by cultural diversity and the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts is tailored for major red carpet events, according to the MIFF event Web site. Films are chosen based on a wide range of criteria. “For me, I’m interested in the quality and education of the making of the film,” said Festival Director Patrick de Bokay. “It deserves to be seen if they worked hard throughout the film, if it has the right actors and design.” They also have to be relevant to the Miami community and make sure it is a film people will enjoy. “You have to know your community the best way possible,” de Bokay said. This year the goal for MIFF is to become a global entertainment event. Orta’s goal is to motivate the local film community and give them as much access to the highest levels of the film industry as possible. “We are lucky that the community is really supportive about the festival,” she said. “We will do everything we can to bring that to the forefront.” The festival will also consist of an award night where, in previous years, emerging contemporary and renowned filmmakers were awarded. Distributors participating in the festival have included Sony Picture Classics, HBO, Fox Searchlight, ThinkFilm, Latido Films and Miramax, among others. Tickets are now on sale. General admission is $12 but prices vary on what film a person is interested in attending. The festival will come to a close in March. For more information on prices and tickets visit www.miamifilmfestival.com or call (305) 237-3456.
Bad breath more than just an embarrassment

When partying with friends in a club, an individual catches your attention. Your eyes turn into scanners that analyze every inch, angle and side of the individual. If the chemical reaction of those分子 is not right, they all share the same stages and bosses. This KUF game changes focus from strategic large scale warfare to up close back and slash gameplay, reminiscent of classics such as “Gauntlet” or “Diablo.” You battle countless enemies to level up and collect the loot to equip, as well as sell or even synthesize with existing items to create new gear for your character. Although the choices of characters are rare, there really isn’t that much variety among them. Other than speed and durability, all warriors use close and long range weaponry in the same manner and even share most special skills. While the game can be enjoyable at the start, “Circle of Doom” does nothing else to expand or go further with the gameplay. While the solo campaign for each character gives a nice wealth of game time, it gets repetitive because much of the game remains the same, save for some quests. “Circle of Doom” does, however, offer online multiplayer for up to four players, all of whom can fight and trade together, making the game much more enjoyable. Visually, “Circle of Doom” looks impressive. The stages do ratchet themselves, but they are admirable nevertheless. The character models - the heroes in particular - look exceptionally detailed. From an audio standpoint, however, “Circle of Doom” leaves much to be desired. The sound effects do their job of portraying metal piercing monster flesh and bone, but that’s about it. Other than a few music tracks for each stage, nothing really stands out.

Ultimately, “Circle of Doom” isn’t the worst of its kind, but it could be better. The game plays well enough, but doesn’t go beyond where its predecessors have been before.
### MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
<th>CONF</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>20-4</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>.833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>20-5</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>.478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>.440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida International</td>
<td>8-16</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>3-11</td>
<td>.400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All records up to date as of Feb. 15*

### FIU MEN 75, UALR 62

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>REB</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>TO</th>
<th>PTS</th>
<th>MIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Fuller</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Galindo</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Moore</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Totals</td>
<td>17-51</td>
<td>8-17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UALR FG FT REB A TO PTS MIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>REB</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>TO</th>
<th>PTS</th>
<th>MIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nikya Hughes</td>
<td>3-11</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asriel Rolfe</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Totals</td>
<td>15-47</td>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FIU WOMEN 61, UALR 55

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>REB</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>TO</th>
<th>PTS</th>
<th>MIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iva Galindo</td>
<td>0-11</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Fuller</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monika Bosilj</td>
<td>7-14</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Jenkins</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Totals</td>
<td>17-51</td>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UALR FG FT REB A TO PTS MIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>REB</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>TO</th>
<th>PTS</th>
<th>MIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monika Bosilj</td>
<td>7-14</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Totals</td>
<td>22-55</td>
<td>9-41</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Father to be leads team to victory

Senior guard Chris Fuller had a little extra motivation for the Feb. 13 game against Arkansas-Little Rock. Fuller had a competitive edge that none of his teammates can relate to – something only a father can feel.

“I want to go public and say it: He’s a kid who is going to be a father in the next 48 hours,” said coach Sergio Rouco.

“He’s focus is unbelievable, and it’s been great.”

For Fuller, the pressure of a basketball game cannot compare to what he will feel when he has his child. That motivation helps him on the court.

“It’s a big motivation before the game because I know the better I play, the better chance I have of getting paid,” Fuller said.

“But it is a great motivation too because at the end of the day, I want [my son] to say, ‘Yea, my dad was good.’”

The newborn would be proud to see how his dad played basketball, as his Golden Panthers (8-16, 5-9 Sun Belt) defeated the Trojans (15-9, 7-6) 57-45 at the Pharmed Arena.

Fuller, the lone senior on the men’s basketball team, led the Golden Panthers in scoring for the second straight game, shooting 5-of-10 from the field and scoring 15 points. The emergence of the veteran guard helps him out.

“Galindo’s first career double-double and scoring for the second straight game, shooting 5-of-10 from the field and scoring 15 points. The emergence of the veteran guard has satisfied Rouco as much as anybody. The Golden Panthers hit the glass as hard as they have all season, as they combined for a season-high 51 rebounds. They were able to do it against UALR, who was ranked 30th in the NCAAs in the rebounding coming into the contest. FIU held the Trojans to 26 rebounds in the game, which is the second lowest total the Golden Panthers have held an opponent to all year.

**ON POINT**

Rouco knows that the efficiency at the point guard position led to a great defensive effort overall. He credits freshman Nick Taylor, who slowly has grown into a consistent floor leader and ball protector.

“Taylor predicted he and back-up point guard Tremayne Russell would get better as the season rounded out before the team embarked on its current two game winning streak. Taylor, a redshirt freshman, proved how valuable he can be and managed the game well despite the team’s bad shooting overall.
RUSHING AHEAD
Team wins fifth straight without leading scorer

DARREN COLLETTE  
Staff Writer

A game after the women's basketball team found out it lost its leading scorer for the rest of the season, the Golden Panthers responded with a concerted offensive effort to defeat Arkansas Little-Rock on Feb. 13 at Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers (12-13, 8-6 Sun Belt) added a fifth game to their winning streak at UALR's expense (17-7, 9-4) after losing LaQuetta Ferguson, who suffered a season-ending ACL injury against Middle Tennessee Feb. 9.

UALR came into the game leading the Sun Belt's Western Conference and already having beaten FIU earlier this season in Little Rock, Ark., 65-45. FIU started the game strong and built a 10-3 lead in the first five minutes of play. However, UALR responded with a 13-0 run led by sophomore guard Anshel Cooper, who scored nine points during the run. FIU trailed 16-10 with 7:36 left in the first half.

The Golden Panthers have been able to turn on their 3-point shooting at any given point. Freshman guard Tabitha Drake, junior guard Iva Ciglar, sophomore Monika Bosilj and freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa connected on 3-pointers during a 14-2 run that took place in a span of less than three minutes and put FIU ahead 24-18. UALR responded with a pair of baskets from Cooper. The teams would go into halftime with FIU up 26-23.

"We did not start how we were supposed to," Bosilj said. "We should have started better on defense. We did not rebound well and at halftime we were winning, but it was not good enough. Coach said we need to rebound, box-out and run our offense to win."

The Golden Panthers came out of the locker room not only ready to close out the game, but wearing pink T-shirts, rather than their normal warm-ups.

This was the team's way of showing support for "Think Pink" week, a NCAA promotion to raise awareness for breast cancer.

In the second half, both teams remained close.

Five minutes into the half, Bosilj tied the score at 33 with a long distance strike. Senior guard Asha Neal followed suit with a jumper of her own that gave FIU a brief lead.

Hutlassa hit her second 3-pointer of the game, which was quickly followed by a jump shot from Cooper. FIU led by one point with 12:10 left in the game.

Bosilj scored the Golden Panthers' next points as she connected on a lay-up while being fouled.

After hitting her free throw, the Golden Panthers led 41-37. UALR responded quickly, evening the score at 41.

Thanks to back-to-back 3-pointers by Hutlassa, FIU broke UALR's momentum. Her 3-pointers came within seconds of each other and put FIU up by six, the team's largest lead since the start of the game.

Cooper chipped away at FIU's lead, but Bosilj established herself as FIU's new scoring force by scoring four of FIU's next six points.

With 3:37 left in the game, the Golden Panthers went up 55-49 on a pair of free throws by Neal.

UALR would only score six more points in the game. Free throws from Hutlassa and jump shots from Ciglar and Bosilj would cap of a 61-55 Golden Panthers win.

Cooper led all scorers with a game-high 29 points. Bosilj led the Golden Panthers with a team-high 19 points.

Hutlassa had 14 points and matched UALR senior forward Nikya Hughes with a game-high nine rebounds. Ciglar had 13 points and a game-high six assists.

"It was a really tough game," Hutlassa said. "We just kept going and everyone did their job. We helped each other. We played good team defense and good rebounding. So, I think that was the key."