SPOTTLIGHT

EDITORIAL: Not 4

With the replacement of Gracie’s Grill with a Chili’s Ten, FIU University is losing much history as it gains a well-known establishment.

AT THE BAY: Not 3

Students get an world experience at The New York Times Hispanic Student Journalism Institute.

LIFE: Not 5

COLORFUL: Jonathan Ramos walks you through the top ten hip hop albums of 2008.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Women’s four-name close, but loses fourth straight game.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Body Pump, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 a.m.: Bring your very best for the 20th by getting set of that holiday food sales by pumping your body up at the SF Rec Center.

Dance Auditions of GC Pit, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.: Hope your choreography is up to scratch and your year away to a new, healthful you.

Wake-up and Spin, Tomorrow, Jan. 13, 7 a.m.: Wake up and spin before you catch up to all the SF Rec Center Fitness Room.

Dance Auditions of GC Pit, Jan. 12, 11 a.m.: Do you think you can dance? “Come prove them wrong. Audition tomorrow and get a chance to share off the Dance Marathon on the court of heroes.

Club Fair, Tomorrow, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Find a new hobby? Social paranoia; make new friends. There is something for everyone at the SF Club Fair in the GC Ballroom.

For the complete calendar, please see page 5 and FINOM on Canvas.

WEATHER

MONDAY Scattered showers LOW 60 HIGH 75
TUESDAY Scattered showers LOW 60 HIGH 74
WEDNESDAY Partly cloudy LOW 62 HIGH 73

CONTACTS

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MBA program enlivens downtown

ELSIE PUIG Staff Writer

Anyone walking through downtown notices the strands of desolate walkways inhabited by homeless less-people, with the towering corporate buildings standing in contrast to the unoccupied condos. The Miami downtown area has never been known for its vibrancy, but thanks to the collaborative efforts of FIU and the Miami Downtown Development Authority, it can now be known for its opportunities.

The University launched the Downtown Graduate Business School in 2005 after realizing the added benefits of offering an easily accessible Master of Business Administration program to working professionals.

The school has been in such high demand that it outgrew its current home in the sixth floor of Mac’s, and the University has been negotiating with the retailer to expand the facilities to accommodate future enrollment.

The growth of the Miami metropolitan area in the past few years has made it difficult for students to commute to our University Park campus after work, especially for people who work east of the Palmetto Expressway,” said Luis P. Casas, director of marketing for the College of Business Administration. “The students can now go to graduate business school with the convenience of not having to sit for hours in traffic to reach the University Park campus.”

The MDDA provided $150,000 in funding and in addition helped in recruiting companies and its employees.

DOWNTOWN, page 2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Search for president continues

NASALEE GIL-DIEL BO

The search continues for a new University president as multiple committees prepare to gear up for what looks to be a long process.

On Dec. 18, David Parker, chairman of the Board of Trustees, sent e-mail to the University community informing them about the efforts and advancements taking place in the search for the next president.

President Modesto A. Maimique asked the BOT in November to begin a search for his successor. He agreed to continue his role as president until someone is found to replace him.

Since 1999, FIU has grown to high standards with the assistance and perseverance of five University presidents: Charles E. Perry, Harold B. Crosby, Gregory B. Wolfe and Modesto A. Maimique.

Thanks to these four prominent and esteemed individuals, the University has grown to become respected worldwide. As the e-mail Parker sent implies, it “won’t be a simple task searching for our next University president.”

Several steps are being taken to guarantee a creditable candidate for a position so highly sought after.

Two committees have been formed to recognize potential aspirants for the position; the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees Presidential Search Committee.

The PSAC “is made up of 25 members of the University and South Florida community… This group will work closely with the search firm to identify and select a broad pool of qualified candidates, which will then be forwarded to the BOT Search Committee,” according to a press release.

Senior Vice President Vivian Sanchez has agreed to work with the BOTPSAC to “ensure that this presidential search is a thoughtful, transparent and inclusive process.”

She will take part in the committee by issuing a request for proposals so that the search committee “may select a national search firm with experience in identifying and recruiting university presidents.”

So far there are several candidates in mind for the position, but no word yet on any potential favorites.

Maidique has served as president of the University for the past 22 years. Throughout this time, he has added 22 doctoral programs, 18 undergraduate programs, opened a School of Law, a School of Engineering, the School of Medicine and the new School of International and Public Affairs.
Unemployment rate rises to 7.2 percent

The national unemployment rate hit its 16 year high on December 2008, as it rose from 6.8 to 7.2 percent.

In December, 11.1 million people were unemployed—3.6 million more jobless people than December 2007.

NATIONAL

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FLU

Lecture on Mumbai terror attacks to be held

School of International and Public Affairs will be holding a lecture on the relationship between India and Jews in relation to terror attacks in Mumbai, India.

“The Fall and Rise of India-Israel Relations” will be presented by the Middle East Society and led by Dr. Nathan Katz.

The Jan. 13 event is free to the public, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., at the Temple Beth Shalom, 4144 Chase Ave., Miami Beach.

LOCAL

Pharmaceutical owners sentenced to prison

Pharmed, Miami Beach, owner of Pharmead, were sentenced to prison for nine years.

Judge Patricia Seitz handed down the maximum sentence of seven to nine years.

Katz was the advertising manager at Pharmead when the company was selling to prisoners.

Katz is the second person sentenced in the Pharmead case.

Katz was charged with conspiracy to defraud.

Katz had the naming rights to FIU’s arena from 2004 until they filed for bankruptcy in 2007.

NEWS FLASH

Cheryl Malone Staff Writer

Professor and chairman of the Religious Studies Department, Dr. Nathan Katz, is releasing a new book based on his personal memoirs and spiritual journey alongside his professional career.

Katz was a resident of the Temple Beth Shalom, 4144 Chase Ave., Miami Beach.

Katz was brought to the temple by his family for Valentine’s Day.

Katz was a member of the temple for 30 years.

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KING, page 1

from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the GC Ballrooms.

The theme of the event is “Stone of Hope,” and the keynote speaker will be Julianne Malveaux, the president of Bennett College for Women and a syndicated columnist, who contributes regularly to various media outlets like USA Today, Black Issues in Higher Education, Ms. magazine, among others and has regular appearances on CNN, BET and other television programs.

“We look for speakers who can, in some way, emulate the teachings of Dr. King. We feel Julianne has a story that she can share with the University,” Spann-Givens said.

Tickets for the annual breakfast are on sale for $40 and proceeds will benefit the MBA Scholarship Fund.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the “Community Day of Service.” Jan. 17, when volunteers will team up with the AARP, the Miami-Dade Housing Agency and the Miami River Commission on a beautification project at the Robert King High Towers, located at 1405 N.W. 7th St.

The Biscayne Bay Campus will host the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Forum and Peace Walk on Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Wolfe Center Ballroom.

The keynote speaker, Kembra Smith, will speak to 300 Miami-Dade middle and high school students.

Smith has received many awards and recognitions for her efforts to educate the public about the devastating social, economic and political consequences of the current drug policies.

“Kembra also has a story that many students can relate to or learn from. We’re in a time where there is so much teen violence. I think it is important to hear from someone who got caught up in it and was able to bounce back,” Spann-Givens said.

Smith will also be speaking at the dinner, which will be held in honor of King, at 7 p.m. in the Wolfe Center Ballroom.

This event is free to students, but there is a limited amount of tickets available.

“Dr. King is just one of those leaders who has shaken the lives of so many people. He has made such a mark on all of us, I think it is important to remember his life and his legacy,” said Doret Sawyers, director of Multicultural Programs at BCC.

For more information about any of these events call (305) 348-2436.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM


Down town center cuts the commute

DOWNTOWN, page 1

It also provides opportunities for companies with operations in the downtown area and its surrounds, [which can have their employees pursue advanced degrees in business],” Casas said.

The downtown MBA program consists of two evening classes per week and can be completed in 18 months.

Of the 1,500 students enrolled, about 1,300 are young working professionals who live in the area and attend the evening classes.

Luckily for the downtown area, the program is expected to grow about 28 percent in the upcoming year, bringing in much needed strokes of color.

Memorials chronicle spiritual journey

Cheryl Malone Staff Writer

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Hindu India

Who are the Jews of India?

Religious issues, [which] can have their

Katz examines his prior meditations and searches for the difference between what really occurred during his meditations and his own interpretation of each given experience.

“This is a very personal, inner movement, and the parallel between outer and inner,” Katz said.

While living with a Jewish family in Cochin, Katz was able to examine the different Jewish religious practices and practices outside of the United States, leading to the importance of meditation.

“One you learn how to do that, you can see the world differently and you can apply it in different places,” Katz said.

Steven Hein, associate professor and chair of the Institute for Asian Studies met Katz while they were attending graduate school at Temple University.

Hein believes that Katz has an excellent history to demonstrate within his latest book.

Katz is a name ba-

sies with the Dalai Lama and has had many enlightening experiences.

The book illustrates both personal, spiritual and professional levels of his life, according to Hein.

“He is an expert in both areas and stands out in the crowd,” he said. “He is taking a risk in the academic world.”

Katz is already a successful and awarded author of many academic works and religious novels, including The Last Jews of Cochin: Jewish Identity in Hindu India, and Who are the Jews of India? Katz is dedicating this book, which has been in the making for five years, to his son, who will attend FIU in a few years.

“The book shows the connection between my public, professional life and my own inner life,” Katz said.
Institute gives Hispanic journalists hands-on media experience

DAINEYS MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

Journalism majors moved beyond regular classroom instruction with the help of a visiting institute for Hispanic students. The New York Times Hispanic Student Journalism Institute, which alternates between FIU and the University of Arizona each year, was back at the University from Jan. 2 to Jan. 12.

The program offers student journalists a chance to work in a newsroom setting, covering local news, while being mentored by journalists and editors from the New York Times, The Boston Globe and the Times Company’s additional publications.

“The general notion is to expose student journalists to the best practices of journalism from The New York Times that we can, and hopefully give them the kind of tools that they need to improve their skills and to better prepare them for their future,” said Diego Ribadeneira, managing editor of the program.

The original institute began in 2003 at Dillard University in New Orleans.

According to Don Hecker, director of the institute and its primary founder, the 2003 program was for African-American students who were enrolled at historically black colleges and universities.

In 2006, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists asked The New York Times to use the same model for their members, resulting in the 2007 Institute at FIU.

“The program is going great. As someone who works at The New York Times and what I consider top-notch journalism, I know what the standards are and the students come up close to these standards,” Hecker said.

In order to qualify and participate in the program, students had to be members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

A team of journalists from The New York Times chose 20 students from a pool of 120 applicants for this year’s program.

Applicants submitted a short essay, samples of published work and a resume.

This year’s selected journalists came from 17 universities, including the University of California-Berkeley, University of Arizona, City University of New York, Northwestern University, University of New Mexico and FIU.

Wilma Hernandez, a senior journalism and international relations major, was the seventh FIU student chosen for the institute in three years.

“It has been a great experience to be around the best reporters and editors in the country and probably the world,” Hernandez said.

During the 10 days of the program, students worked in the new Scripps Howard multimedia lab in AC II 242 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on daily local stories and concluded the program with a journalism project.

“The students are getting greater training by the most skilled journalists and editors in the country,” said Allan Richards, interim associate dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

This was also the first time that video was incorporated into the students’ stories and projects.

“So far, it’s terrific. There has been really solid enthusiastic interest in doing video stories and a number of the students are involved in really compelling projects,” said Erik Olsen, video journalist for The New York Times.

According to Richards, FIU was an obvious choice to host the institute because of the school’s location, high number of Hispanic students and good journalism program and also for having the first Spanish-Language Journalism master’s program in the country.

“Our demographic here is more from the Caribbean. The West is more Mexican-American, so it is a very different Hispanic student body. They wanted to do one in the East and West Coasts,” Richards said.

Students had their travel and lodging paid for by The New York Times and also received a $200 stipend.

They were also provided with $100 for food and were compensated for any gas expenses.

Their articles were published in blogs and videos on www.nytimes-institute.com/miami09.

“At the end of the program, the content on the Web site was published as a newspaper for those involved in the project, which was presented to students at a Koven’s Center banquet on the evening of Jan. 11.

Next year, The New York Times Hispanic Student Journalism Institute will be held at the University of Arizona.

Those interested in applying can visit the institute’s official Web site at www.nytimes-institute.com for more information. The application deadline is Oct. 24, 2009.

“I have no words to describe the experience,” Hernandez said. “All I can say is that I hardly sleep or eat and haven’t washed my hair in five days, which is unusual, but it has all been worth it.”

NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

Walking, raising money for a cure

BRITON ALONSO
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus have the opportunity to take part in the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease that attacks the central nervous system. There are 400,000 Americans living with MS, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and though there is no cure, treatments to ease the symptoms are available.

The South Florida chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold a walk in Aventura on March 1 at Founder’s Park and Team FIU Biscayne Bay Campus is recruiting members.

Zachary Trautenberg, an FIU alumnus and marketing specialist at the Wolfe University Center, participated in last year’s walk and is leading Team FIU Biscayne Bay this year.

“Last year’s walk was one of the coldest days of the year, and we lost an hour because it was daylight savings, but we still had a really good time,” Trautenberg said.

Sign-in will begin at 8 a.m. Each walker must turn in a minimum donation of $50 in order to participate.

“Last year, we had a team goal of $1,500, which we matched, so we are feeling confident and raised the team goal to $2,500 this time,” Trautenberg said.

The 6.2-mile walk will begin at 9 a.m. and it will consist of two laps around the golf course at Turnberry Isle Resort and Club, located at 19999 West Country Club Drive, Aventura.

To start the day, the organizers of the walk will provide a small breakfast.

There will be booths along the course with water and various fruits for participants to snack on while walking and lunch will be provided at the end.

Prizes will also be awarded to individual team members who reach certain donation amounts. The prizes range from a T-shirt for raising at least $100 to a fleece blanket for raising $3,000.

There were eight walkers on last year’s team and Trautenberg is looking for many more this year.

“The walk is open to everyone,” Trautenberg said. “Anyone can join, whether it is your mom, your grand- mother or your manager from work.”

More team members will mean more people collecting pledges, according to Trautenberg, and there is no limit to the size of the team.

Those interested in joining Team FIU BCB can do so through the team’s Web site.

There is also a Facebook group, named Team FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, that provides information for the walk. Students, faculty and staff can join the Facebook group to show support and obtain additional information about the team, according to Trautenberg, but they need to visit the team’s actual Web site to join the walk.

The team will also be hosting a fund raising event at the Cold Stone Creamery later this month. Details for this event will be provided once they are finalized.

“It seems like a lot of work and planning, but once the day of the walk comes, it is a great time,” Trautenberg said.

For more information and to sign up, visit www.main.nationalmsociety.org/goto/teamfiuBbc<http://main.nationalmsociety.org/goto/teamfiuBbc>.
The University recently announced that Gracie’s Grill, the longtime inhabitant of the Ruth Heller in the Graham Center, would be replaced by a Chili’s Too, a scaled-down version of the popular restaurant chain.

“The axing of Gracie’s Grill barely drew a peep from students, who have long since lost any attachment to the long-standing establishment. On the contrary, most are excited at the promise of a wider menu, a greater selection of alcoholic beverages and, hopefully, a livelier atmosphere. We cannot help but count ourselves among them.

To most, Gracie’s had become nothing more than the only place on campus to get a beer. And in many senses, that’s all it was. A victim of mismanagement, Gracie’s had grown stale, dark and dingy. Aside from the occasional video game tournament or club get-together, nobody had any reason to visit Gracie’s. Bill, the director of retail operations for FIU’s Dining Services Department, perhaps put it best: “Gracie’s was a very slow operation,” he said. “It really doesn’t have anything more to offer.”

At the rally, people on both sides were yelling similar sentiments: “We’re fed up with the air conditioning from the neighborhood and the side of the street to blame. My intention is to make Israel seem superfluous to others, but to make it understood that the Israeli government has every right to fight back against an extremist government who’s like nothing more than to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. In the last few years, over 6,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israeli territories and so a reaction must be taken,” said Ruben Conitzer, a filmmaker and more secular group, as ineffective compared to Hamas. This is a new war. The Palestinian people see Hamas as a form of armed resistance against Israel. They are victims of ideology. Hamas is destroying the future of the Palestinian people. In Article Seven of the Hamas’ Charter, it states that the stones and the trees will say to the Muslims that there’s no such thing as an apartheid government who’d like nothing more than to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. In the last few years, over 6,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israeli territories and so a reaction must be taken,” said Ruben Conitzer, a filmmaker and more secular group, as ineffective compared to Hamas. This is a new war. The Palestinian people see Hamas as a form of armed resistance against Israel. They are victims of ideology. Hamas is destroying the future of the Palestinian people. In Article Seven of the Hamas’ Charter, it states that the stones and the trees will say to the Muslims that there’s no such thing as a proportional response to terrorism.”

Protesting Palestine: From left to right: FIU students Luis A. Valdez, Elizabeth Peralta and Frima Enghelberg come together for a peaceful resolution soon, so that more people don’t have to die.

How much of a beating does Palestinians have to take in order to say, “Enough is enough?” New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said it best: “If you’re in your apartment and some emotionally disturbed person is bashing on the door screaming, ‘I’m going to come through this door and kill you,’ do you want us to respond with one police officer, which is proportional, or with all the resources at our command?”

There’s no such thing as a proportional response to terrorism.”

In the Marines, I learned the idea of “kill, or be killed.” This is a global war against Jihad extremism. The terror attacks on 9/11, the London bombings, the Mumbai shootings and many other attacks are threatening our democratic way of life. The Jihadists believe in killing the Kor– the infidel/disbeliever. Anyone that doesn’t believe in their favor of Sharia (Muslim law) is an infidel and that’s why many Muslims don’t speak out against them because they too may be killed. Movies like Obsession or The Third Jihad show how depraved these extremists are.

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diversions

Stop the presses!

art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriquez

Top hip-hop albums of 2008

If you say the album is good, I'll shrug my shoulders and agree, but it is Wayne’s worst overall since he grew his dreadlocks – and a real Wayne fan knows that.

In a thin but solid year, there is no outright classic album to report, but there have been enough nice tries so as to spark a debate as to which are the top-five hip-hop albums of the year.

1. Untitled – Nas

It was an album that initially had a controversial name, one the masses pressured Nas and his camp into changing.

Nonetheless, the veteran emcee can still touch a beat and deliver some of the most lyrical and articulate opinions on the social issues that dominate our lives.

Nas responds indirectly to his friends will embark on the fifth annual Adventure Recreation Ski Trip held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

And if you prefer water to snow, keep reading. The Recreation Center is also planning a whitewater rafting and caving combo trip to West Virginia.

This is a popular experience that people can’t get down here in Miami,” said Matt O’Connor, intramural and club sports coordinator for Recreation Services. “Being from Miami a lot of our kids don’t experience this regularly.”

The ski trip will include a beginner’s skiing lesson, snowboarding, ice skating and more.

But skiing is more than just fun and adventure: Skiing is like exercising, according to O’Connor.

“People walk away from the mountains at the end of the day realizing they just had a workout,” O’Connor said.

Assuming a body weight of 150 pounds, an estimated 476 calories per hour are burned while skiing, according to caloriecount.about.com. Not bad if you want to eat a cheeseburger, café latte and candy bar before you hit the slopes.

Whitewater rafting also provides a workout, and according to Warren Shaw, assistant director of Campus Recreation at the Biscayne Bay Campus, it’s extreme.

“It’s safe but definitely challenging,” Shaw said. “It’s not an everyday thing.”

Shaw described the rafting adventure as a mini roller coaster – only on the water. For being similar to a thrill ride, whitewater rafting also burns hundreds of calories. According to caloriecount.about.com, an estimated 340 calories per hour are burned rafting assuming a body weight of 150 pounds.

The whitewater rafting trip, which will be combined with a guided cave tour, is slated for May 14-17 with a registration deadline of April 17 at 5 p.m.

Although the cost of whitewater rafting trip has not yet been determined, the price will cover the round-trip bus fare, three nights lodging at Mictotel Inn and Suites, rafting, equipment, lunch and a casino tour.

The ski trip costs $275 for students and $300 for non-students and covers the round-trip bus fare, lodging at River Terrace Resort Gatlinburg, a two-day lift ticket, a beginner’s lesson, equipment rental and a Saturday all-activity wristband for ice skating, games and rides. Registration deadline is Feb. 13 at 5 p.m.

Early bird registration deadline for the ski trip is Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. Those who register by this date will get a $25 discount off the regular cost.

Early bird deadline for the rafting trip has not been announced yet.

“You can’t beat that price,” Shaw said. “I don’t think there’s anything else like that, even at other universities that offer trips like these.”

For more information, contact Matt O’Connor at (305) 348-7530 or Warren Shaw at (305) 919-4594. You can also visit www.fiu.edu/campusrec for details.

LADY SINGS THE BLUES

Q-tip, T.I., Johnson & Johnson make the year’s best

HIP-HOP, page 6

O-tip, T.I., Johnson & Johnson make the year’s best

friendly rival, Jay-Z, after “American Gangster,” which was arguably the best effort of 2007.

2. THE RENAISSANCE–Q-TIP

This refreshing record speaks loudly to hip-hop heads and passive fans alike that Q-tip is the type of artist who can create a great album on his own, as he produced nearly every beat on the body of work and features no guest rappers. Long removed from the glory day’s of headlining the best rap group in history, A Tribe Called Quest, Tip’s solo work this time around is as smooth as Michael Jordan’s head in 1998.

3. PAPER TRAIL – T.I.

This Atlanta emcee is not the typical southern artist. Pharrell once called him the Jay-Z of the South for a reason. T.I. went in on this album and wrote his material (as opposed to simply freestyling) for the first time since his second album and as a result created a long album with few fluff tracks. Though most people are more familiar with the billboard hits T.I. made this time around, it is the rapper’s lyricism and flow throughout the rest of the album that make him shine, not just as a southern artist, but as a hip-hop artist in general.

4. JOHNSON & JOHNSON – JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Blu returned from his successful debut with producer Exile, “Below the Heavens,” and delivered another nice effort this year with another producer, Mainframe. Blu speaks from the heart on every rhyme and shows why he is one of the best up-and-coming artists in the game today. Though the album did not get any love on the commercial airwaves, Johnson & Johnson sounds an awful lot like the hip-hop of the 90’s.

5. SEEING SOUNDS – N.E.R.D

This project can be grouped with the alternative section or the hip-hop section, but the bottom line is that it’s one of the best albums of the year. Misunderstood in many ways, many of the songs on the CD have deeper messages than most notice. Pharrell, Shay and Chad Hugo work behind brilliant beat after brilliant beat and good ideas, but the fact that none of them are great rappers limits the album from reaching classic status.

HONORABLE MENTIONS


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The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
Defense hurt by forward's record day

WOMEN, page 8

Both teams could not find their stroke from behind the arc as they combined 4-of-34 from 3-point land.

"That's just not typical of us, but to know we got the win with the way we got it feels really good," coach Cowles said.

The Golden Panthers recovered from an early 14-point deficit, but it was late in the second half when the Lady Hilltoppers made the final push to capture the win. With nine minutes to go, Western Kentucky went on an 11-1 run to make the score 50-39. That closed the door on the Golden Panthers' hopes of making a comeback. Carey believes the team did improve in some areas that it will use for upcoming games.

"We handled the press a lot better than before, along with our shooting and patience," Carey said.

The Golden Panthers have now won two of three games since their season-high six-game losing streak from Dec. 6 to Dec. 27.

"We took care of the basketball and we made free throws," Rouco said. "It takes time for kids to learn to play in environments that they haven't been in before. It's coming, but it takes time."

Senior, newcomers collaborate to win

MEN, page 8

Conference for most of the game but ended with just one 3-point field goal less. "That's not our best. That's their best; but we matched them," Rouco said. "Our kids came through with big plays."

FIU led 36-33 at the half and expanded their lead as the game proceeded into the second half. After the team made just two 3-pointers in the first period, Galindo and Dominguez combined for seven makes from behind the arc in the defining second half.

"They got a whole lot of confidence, and that's a big boost because everything starts falling for them," said Hilltopper guard A.J. Slaughter. "We can't let a team like this get confidence because they get on a role."

STAYING HOT

Freshman Freddy Asprilla continued his hot streak for the Golden Panthers with 21 points and carried the team offensively in the first half with 16 points. The center has scored at least 12 points in six of the last seven games.

The Golden Panthers now find themselves two of three games since their season-high six-game losing streak from Dec. 6 to Dec. 27.

"We took care of the basketball and we made free throws," Rouco said. "It takes time for kids to learn to play in environments that they haven't been in before. It's coming, but it takes time."

National championship a farce, fans helpless to take action

JULIAN, page 8

fully apparent to me that none of the power brokers want to push for a playoff.

The power brokers are cheating the fans helpless to take action

The paradox is that all we do and, in many cases, can do, is watch and accept the fraud the power brokers feed us for the sole purposes of lining the pockets of their conferences for the prospect of greater television contracts the next time around.

All we can really do is complain in print and on message boards.

It's really a shame because the first group, the players, should really have more of a say. Of course, this is the NCAA we're talking about.

CLASSIFIEDS

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MISCELLANEOUS

HONOR STUDENTS: Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org

1987 Chevy SS Monte Carlo for sale $4500 or best offer. New pearl white paint job, headers, exhaust, rebuilt motor. 305 horse power. For more information, call (305) 753-0838.

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AMIGAS

AMIGAS is a health program that creates a comfortable setting for women to discuss topics related with health, in particular the risks dealing with HIV/SIDA.

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FIU 81, WESTERN KENTUCKY 79 (MEN’S)

Second-half struggles compromise game

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

On a night when the U.S. Century Bank Arena became the official name for the Golden Panthers’ home arena, FIU and Western Kentucky gave it a cold reception by missing a combined 87 shots. Just 19 points in the second half and 29 turnovers for the game allowed the Lady Hilltoppers (7-7, 2-2 Sun Belt) to overtake the Golden Panthers (3-12, 1-3) 54-47 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Jan. 7.

“We got it done on the defensive end of the floor,” said Western Kentucky head coach Mary Taylor Cowles. Golden Panthers head coach Cindy Russo declined to comment after the game.

The loss prevents the Golden Panthers from leveling out their conference record. They have 12 Sun Belt opponents left and the team keeps piling on the turnovers.

“We are trying to do some things too quickly,” said junior guard Monika Bosilj, who finished with nine points, of the team’s struggle to keep possession.

Sophomore forward Elisa Carey had one of her best games of the season. She recorded 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting with 14 rebounds. “I’ll give her the ball every time if she’s going to post up hard like that,” Bosilj said.

Sophomore guard Michelle Gonzalez fouled out late in the game and finished with two points on 0-for-10 shooting. Meanwhile, sophomore forward Arnika Brown could not be stopped as she made nine of her 13 shot attempts; the Lady Hilltoppers made 19 field goals as a team. Brown set a school record with 21 rebounds.

“The offensive rebounding of No. 32 by herself killed us,” Carey said.

She also had nearly half of her team’s rebounds with 13.

“The Golden Panthers set a season-high in points, field goals, 3-pointers, fewest turnovers in a game and free-throw percentage on Jan. 8 in their first game in the rechristened U.S. Century Bank Arena.

That’s what it took to beat the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, who entered the game having won 20 of 22 games all-time vs. FIU, and advanced to the sweet 16 round of the NCAA tournament last season.

The Golden Panthers saved their most efficient effort of the season for the right game.

“That’s a big win for our program. We were praising them when they beat Louisville, right?” Rouco said of the Hilltoppers.

“Because Louisville beat Kentucky.”

FIU (6-11, 1-3 Sun Belt) held on to an 81-79 victory against WKU (9-6, 3-1) to earn their first conference win in dramatic fashion as the Golden Panthers staved off a late Hilltoppers run.

The Golden Panthers nearly lost the game, however, as a 72-57 lead with 6:24 minutes left to play evaporated into just a two-point lead with roughly three minutes left. Rouco’s frustration showed as he kicked an AT&T sign next to the bench, a sign that shattered and briefly quieted the crowd.

“Gators keepers of the flame for the 2008-09 season; a system that has evolved into a money-making machine; a bowl system initially conceived to reward successful conference play; a system that has evolved into a beacon of justice that Urban Meyer was trying to destroy.”

I call LSU the champs from last year (and they should be champions) and Texas has every right to gripe; they beat Oklahoma and didn’t get a sniff.

It stems from the thought that there are large portions of university athletic revenue that often sustains these mythical national champs.

My discontent doesn’t come from the fact that all of these mythical national champions are so grossly misnamed.

Some of these coaches have been quite vocal about not getting an opportunity to play for the big trophy, but this issue extends far up the ladder – over the heads of Bellotti, Carroll, Tuberville and the beacon of justice that Urban Meyer was purported to be in 2004.

many of Bellotti, Carroll, Tuberville and the beacon of justice that Urban Meyer was purported to be in 2004. It’s hardly care about the championship being at least be in the title game, were left out of the equation who seem to be haciendo hands of the major administrators, both at the University and conference level.

Second-half struggles compromise game

That’s just not typical of us, but to know we got the win with the way we got it feels really good.

Mary Taylor Cowles, head coach, Western Kentucky

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