CEASE & DESIST

Students show skepticism toward fragile Gaza truce

JULIO MENACHE

Paradise Afshar

Beacon Staff

After nearly a month of brutal fighting, both Israel and Hamas announced a cease-fire Jan. 18, with Israel planning to pull troops out of the Gaza Strip.

Official reports list the death toll at more than 1,300 after 19 days of air and ground attacks, with Israel receiving condemnations from various countries regarding these numbers. Israel has, however, maintained that Hamas has been using its own people as shields. In addition, Hamas has vowed to keep digging tunnels into Egypt for supplies, as well as lobbing missiles into Israel. As news of the cease-fire reached members of the University community, students and faculty were divided about the conflict.

Andrea Valenzuela, a sophomore double-majoring in economics and political science, initially felt a religious connection to the plight of Israel.

“I supported Israel at first because I am Christian, but now that I understand the harsh realities of the issue, I support Israel even more,” said Valenzuela, who is involved in many pro-Israel causes on campus, such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

SGA to amend constitution

DAVID BARRIOS

Senior Staff Writer

Amendments to revise the economic and voting codes are among the changes that Student Government Association is considering to implement in its constitution this semester.

In an interview earlier this month, Jean Rosme, speaker of the senate for the Student Government Council at University Park, told The Beacon that changes would be seen in the election and financial codes of the SGA constitution.

Among the changes discussed were the addition of political appointees for the Senate this semester.

There is speculation a consultant will be hired to aid SGA in the amendment process.

“I spoke with Butch Okefine, CEO of Florida Student Government Association and, most likely, a colleague of his,” said Andrea Valenzuela, a sophomore double-majoring in economics and political science, initially felt a religious connection to the plight of Israel.

“I supported Israel at first because I am Christian, but now that I understand the harsh realities of the issue, I support Israel even more,” said Valenzuela, who is involved in many pro-Israel causes on campus, such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

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LEG UP

Water Ballet: Maria Nunez, Kristina Aguirre, Marie Anne Sanz and Ivan Radovanovic of the Coral Springs Aquacades demonstrated their skills in a synchronized swimming performance to commemorate the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Complex rededication ceremony, Jan. 22.

WATER BALLET: Maria Nunez, Kristina Aguirre, Marie Anne Sanz and Ivan Radovanovic of the Coral Springs Aquacades demonstrated their skills in a synchronized swimming performance to commemorate the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Complex re-opening ceremony, Jan. 22.

SGA, page 2

THE FIFTH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Auxiliary funds to help pay for search firm

JULIO MENACHE

Staff Writer

The University will use both FIU Foundation and auxiliary funds to cover the costs of the executive search firm it hired, Greenwood/Ascher and Associates Inc., to conduct a national search for the next University president, according to an e-mail sent to The Beacon from Media Relations.

The University will pull $53,000 from the FIU Foundation and $45,000 from auxiliary funds to pay for the roughly $98,000 cost of the presidential search firm.

“State funds will not be used for this purpose,” said Maydel Santana-Brago, director of Media Relations, in an e-mail.

According to the Office of Financial Planning and Strategic Development’s Web site, an auxiliary enterprise “furnishes a service to students, faculty, or staff and charges a fee directly related to, but not necessarily equally to the cost of the service.”

Some auxiliaries on campus include the Department of Parking and Transportation, Student Health Services and Housing and Residential Life.

Profits from these auxiliary enterprises are put together for a discretionary fund. Each auxiliary has its own contract with the University in order to provide its services to students, staff and faculty.

In the past, auxiliary funds have been used for projects ranging from the $1 million newly restored Biscayne Bay Campus cafeteria to the comparatively mundane $5,800 for a new 60-inch plasma screen television for the office of President Modesto A. Maidique.

“Basically, that’s where we get our money for special projects,” Santana-Brago said. According to its Web site, the FIU Foundation, which was founded in 1969, is a non-profit organization designated to encourage, solicit, receive and administer gifts for the “advancement of [FIU] and its objectives.”

The foundation is listed as a charitable organization in the state of Florida and is governed by a Board of Directors. Recently, the University selected a new BOG, which includes business leaders from companies such as Carnival Cruise Lines, SunTrust Bank and AT&T.

After Maidique announced he was stepping down from office, the University looked to hire a presidential search firm to help screen worthwhile candidates for the position.

On Jan. 12, the Board of Trustees President Search Firm unanimously selected Greenwood/Ascher and Associates to head its search and work with the University to find a suitable successor.
Expert to help SGA revise code

SGA, page 1

felt we didn’t need to.”

Roseme said in an earlier inter-
view that the financial codes should “be more transparent and allocate
the fees more efficiently.” The students
trust us [SGA] with a lot of money and
the codes haven’t been revised in a while.

However, no specific changes have
been officially outlined. A sched-
uled meeting on Jan. 23 to discuss
proposed changes between SGC-UP
and SGC-BBC was postponed until a
later date.

The constitution was already amended during the previous election
in April 2008.

Change was made in relation to the
amount of seats available in the senate
from one representative seat for each
college in the body to a representa-
tional system in which each college
carries the amount of seats Afghanistan.

“We’re always looking to improve
ourselves,” Roseme said. “The outlook is to improve – to change, but always for the better.”

Gaza, page 1

Affairs Committee.

“How do you stop some-
thing that has been happening for so many years?” she asked.

Frima Engeleberg, head of the newly
formed FIU Shalom group on campus, felt that the conflict was “very complex and misunderstood.”

“I had to act deci-

edly,” she said. “We regret
the human loss, but Hamas
was using its own people as
human shields.”

Israel de la Torre, a political science major, believed that while Israel had a
eright to defend itself, the
air strikes were unnecessary.

However, he said that collat-

eral damage was inevitable because Hamas was setting up bases
around civilians.

“[Israel] has severely weakened Hamas,” de la Torre said. “They sent their state-
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Rabbi Levi Friedman, co-director of the FIU Chabad
Center, said Israel tried to do whatever it could to stop mili-
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Remembering the Holocaust: Survivor to discuss experience

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

For many, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp, is the symbol of the Holocaust and Nazi cruelty to humanity at its worst.

Nearly 60 years after the camp’s liberation, the U.N. General Assembly created the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This year, for the first time, the Biscayne Bay Campus will hold a forum remembering the victims of the Holocaust.

“I’m glad that the United Nations is finally commemorating this day that seems to be forgotten by the world community,” said Avi Murachi, executive director of the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

The forum will take place Jan. 27 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 155 of the Wolfe University Center. It is sponsored and organized by The Office of Campus Life and Orientation and the Multifaith Council. At the forum, you will be free to open to anyone who wishes to attend. It is part of our history that shouldn’t be forgotten,” said Ivy Siegel, coordinator of Campus Life and Orientation. “It is important that we create awareness and education for students.”

In remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust, the majority of which were Jewish, a Holocaust survivor affiliated with the memorial in Miami Beach will talk about personal experiences. A documentary about the events and a photo exhibition will be presented.

“We are very pleased to work with FIU. We are honored that FIU is taking this day (for remembrance). Hopefully it becomes a tradition at the school,” Murachi said.

Other speakers include Sai W. Freeberg, rabbi of the Jewish College Laytime Exchange and adjunct professor in the Department of Religious Studies.

“The Holocaust has become the definition of evil. When people think of evil, they think about the worst thing that could happen, and that’s what happened in the Holocaust,” Freeberg said.

But a moment of silence for the victims is not enough, according to Freeberg, who believes it is important for Jewish people with knowledge of the event and the Jewish tradition to speak about it.

“Understanding the Nazi era is essential to understand why it was mostly against Jewish people,” Freeberg said.

Siegell believes that these memorials are becoming even more important as survivors, people with first-hand experience of the event, age.

“It’s even more important now that students attend because the survivors are getting older. They are in their 80s and 90s and it’s an opportunity that shouldn’t be missed because they’re not going to be around for much longer,” Siegel said.

For more information, contact the Office of Campus Life and Orientation at (305) 994-5804.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

BRAND NEW, AGAIN: Pictured (left to right) Roary, Elie Bardawil, director of Recreation Center; Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president; Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director; Noemí Zafra- ría, women’s swimming and diving head coach; Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs; Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of student affairs; Christina Redick, aquatic coordinator; James Wassenaar, executive director auxiliary services; Joseph West, vice provost, cut the ribbon together during the ceremony inaugurating the re-opened pool, Jan. 22.

YUM-YUM: Fruit salad was a favorite among the many dishes served during the festivities.

Contact Us

Pamela Duque
BBC Managing Editor
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While Obama inspires hope, he’s not the solution to all of our problems

On Jan. 1, 2009, an Oakland police officer shot and killed an unarmed, pinned Grant. Mehserle unholstered his handcuffs on Grant, Mehserle unholstered his neck, completely immobilizing Grant. With his head and figure out what he was thinking...”

Making money isn’t everything

KATY HUDDESTUN Staff Writer

My entire life, I’ve been told that a life of luxury was the very thing I should strive for. I enrolled into college intent on pursuing business and in search of that life everyone had always told me I wanted. I bought into this, until recently.

We are all told to go to college so we can land ourselves a career as the next big CEO, accountant, advisor, lawyer or banker. We are all then raised into the next generation of buyers and sellers with no time to stop and ask why.

It’s not about becoming well-rounded or culturally educated anymore; it’s about becoming specialized in one small area so you fit into the assembly line of the working world – one more replaceable piece of the machine.

Of course you can still become a teacher, historian, social worker, writer and other such fulfilling vocations, but only to sacrifice your ability to pay off your loans, own a home, have health care, send your children to a good school, or even retire.

It’s a decision today’s college students are being forced to make with ever higher stakes riding on their choices. According to the College Board, 34 percent of students attending PB are business majors; lagging behind are majors in the health professions, psychology and the social sciences – all at 7 percent. Did these students really grow up believing that they wanted to be accountants or sales representatives?

The greatest minds are being forced to sell out on their dreams of doing something progressive and meaningful in exchange for working at a corporation because that seems to be the only way to earn a decent living.

In today’s world, it’s becoming increasingly harder to base a job choice merely upon how much you enjoy it or on how well it pays, without working for a large enterprise, things like health insurance and retirement plans are becoming too far out of reach.

Students don’t even understand the concept of being literally educated because all they’ve ever known is money. It’s a shame that a society will haphazardly pay a corporate CEO six to seven-figure salaries – as revealed on PayScale.com – but will barely break the six-figure mark for the CEO of a non-profit organization who has been working for 20 years. It’s the driving force of the world; individuals simply need jobs that are going to provide them a lot of money.

Private companies have taken the place of the public sector in terms of recruiting the brightest minds. People need to be able to support themselves. Government, non-profit work and educational career paths can’t pay the six-figure salaries and provide the benefits corporations can, pushing people away from public service-type careers and onto the corporate ladder.

This issue strikes me directly because I had accepted that I would go into marketing and work a 9-to-7 job for 40-plus years of my life, have material belongings and trivial memories. And yet I would look back on my life with no last achievements to show for it.

Something made me realize I was unhappy with the direction my life was going. I am too aware of this trend of giving into convention and too smart to submit to the ever-present willful ignorance of today’s society.

I want to help people and have a positive impact on the world. I finally changed my major to international relations and sociology with aspirations of becoming a human right lawyer. I decided that I don’t care if I’m making less than a tax attorney or marketing manager. I will be able to say truthfully that I love my job and am proud of my work.

Considering the economic environment right now, the world of big business and stock exchanges seems less and less attractive to recent graduates. I will travel, meet people, change policies and truly make a difference – granting me a sense of fulfillment no amount of money ever could.
Marketing club secures goods for campus giveaways

RACHEL CONGDON
Contributing Writer

Ever wondered who is behind all the free movies and ticket giveaways to the Langerado Music Festival and Ani DiFranco concert? Chances are the group behind these freebies is Panther Promotions, a Council for Student Organizations club at the University.

In 2007, Ayxa Vecino, founder of Panther Promotions, was the promotions and networking coordinator for the Student Programming Council as well as promotions director for the University’s radio station, WRGP.

She was in charge of acquiring promotional giveaways for students and, while working to get the giveaways, she built a strong foundation with many companies and evolved from just providing giveaways for SPC to also providing giveaways for various organizations, clubs and departments on campus,” Vecino said.

After SPC went through a restructuring process at the end of the 2007 Spring semester, Vecino felt it was time to branch out on her own. And so, the idea of Panther Promotions was born.

The road to becoming a CSO-approved organization was not an easy one. “[We] just had to prove that we would not interfere with [existing] organizations on campus. As soon as we clarified that our mission was to enhance [existing] events on campus while collaborating with various organizations, we were approved,” Vecino said.

Panther Promotions offers students the opportunity to gain important skills necessary in the workplace such as networking, leadership and team building, according to Lyzette Blanco, vice president of the organization and marketing major.

Not only does it build up a student’s resume, but the club also offers growth and educational opportunities, according to Vecino.

“We genuinely care about each and every one of our members and it is great to see them evolve as individuals,” Vecino said.

Not only does it build up a student’s resume, but the club also offers growth and educational opportunities, according to Vecino.

“We genuinely care about each and every one of our members and it is great to see them evolve as individuals,” Vecino said.

Being a member also comes with a lot of perks. Members get first priority when it comes to freebies; they also had the opportunity to win tickets to Cirque Du Soleil Corroso and to see Lil’ Wayne, according to Vecino.

To become a member you must have a 2.0 or higher GPA. The membership fee is $5 per semester. “The most active way [to be involved] is to attend meetings and help out at our events. At our meetings, our members brainstorm about possible events and the most fun and creative ways to promote them on campus. In addition, we have a Facebook group,” Blanco said.

For more information on Panther Promotions visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~pantherp, or stop by the table in Graham Center on Jan. 28 where the club will be giving away tons of the free stuff we love so much.

Top-notch prospects who could soon impact industry

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Top-notch prospects who could soon impact industry

Usually it is the son who cannot hold his own under the shadow of his father’s success, always being compared and referred to as “the son of Mr. so-and-so.” We see it often with ball players, actors and other popular figures in the media. In the hip-hop industry, you often see relatives of famous emcees use their bloodline as a platform for attention – but can never quite make the leap their sibling did.

Take Corey Gunz and Peter Gunz, for example. This father-son comparison is as tilted as a seesaw with Fat Joe and Lil’ Wayne. This time, though, the weight falls on the younger emcee.

Though Peter Gunz may be remembered for a few hits, what his son’s work has been able to do is far more transcendent. Corey Gunz is one of the best rappers in the game without an album – which brings me to today’s list, featuring the best raw talent in hip-hop.

Corey Gunz can be found all over YouTube, releasing freestyle after freestyle of dope rhymes with a nearly impeccable delivery. Whether they are legitimate efforts of unrestrained freestyling is in question, but the point is Gunz can flow fast and slow with a vocabulary which is probably wider than your favorite rapper’s. Don’t believe it? Take a look at the footage. Maybe Corey Gunz’s highlight moment right now is sharing the stage with Shaquille O’Neal, his godfather, during O’Neal’s recent freestyle diss to former teammate Kobe Bryant – which drew plenty of laughs. His presence on stage, however, might be even heavier than the 300-plus pound NBA center – after some more development.

The most underrated emcee without an album by far is Gemstones, a product of the south side of Chicago signed to 1st and 15th Entertainment. An artist by the name of Lupe Fiasco has been the breadwinner for that label since it began a few years back, but Gem will prove to be a workhorse equal to Fiasco whenever he finally releases an album.

Mixtapes like Untamed Beast and The Testimony of Gemstones should be enough for a listener to understand why he needs to drop an L.P. Gemstones made an appearance on Fiasco’s recent album, The Cool, as well.

The Testimony mixtape exemplifies an emcee that gravitates toward conscious music while at the same time using the prolific amount of energy and powerful lyrics he brought on Untamed Beast.

Another up-and-coming artist is Wale, who is most popular for his mixtape, The Mixtape About Nothing – which actually ended up doing something for the Washington D.C. native.

Wale has been on tour for a while using material from that mixtape, but he also just announced he is ready to release his own album. Much like Gemstones, Wale is not the hardcore rapper most are used to, but he can rap about anything just as well, as he can spit about serious topics that people are concerned with.

All three of the emcees listed should be on the radar of fans looking for the next artist who will breathe air into an industry with its original artists losing their voices in the midst of all the poor material in the mainstream today.

NOTABLES

Other emcees on the rise that have yet to drop an L.P but could have a real impact and deserve a look include: Charles Hamilton, Currency, Pacific Division and Mickey Factz.

Moment of Clarity is a bimonthly column examining hip-hop and providing clarification on issues or news regarding it.
Run DMC, Metallica are in the Hall, but why?

Cleveland is a decidedly un-rock city. Sure, they’ve got Alan Freed, who supposedly hosted the very first rock ‘n roll concert, and Ian Hunter did write a song about why Cleveland “rocks.”

However, even in Hunter’s song, the best he came up with was that a bored woman with seven kids was having an unfulfilling affair, while girls with deep-red lipstick claimed the city rocks. That doesn’t quite scream “rock” to me.

Despite this, for the last 15 years, Cleveland has been the inexorable home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and every year it announces new groups of artists to be enshrined.

Do artists get in solely by records sold? Bands influenced?

Rolling Stone covers? There is simply no way to justify decide these things. So it is, more than any other museum of its sort, left up to subjectivity and debate.

Last week, the hall announced its class of 2009, which included a wide range of genres and appeal to a large diverse fan base.

The first hip-hop groups to really transcend outside of elitist circles. Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. will undoubtably be shown their due eventually because of their lasting legacies, but will they find room for Nas or Jay-Z?

The late ’90s was a period when there was a great divide between what was popular and what was critically accepted. As time has gone by, even massively popular groups like Boston and Journey have gotten more respectability as people forgot the bad.

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Do artists get in solely by records sold? There is simply no way to justify these things.

Among the inductees: Run DMC, one of the first hip-hop groups to really transcend genres and appeal to a large diverse fan base and Metallica, a speed metal band that did pretty much the same thing. Among the inductees: Run DMC, one of the first hip-hop groups to really transcend genres and appeal to a large diverse fan base and Metallica, a speed metal band that did pretty much the same thing.

Was Stevie Wonder influenced by the late 90s? The rest of the class of 2009 performers’ category included guitarist Jeff Beck, doo-wop group Little Anthony and the Imperials, and singer/songwriter Bobby Womack — all fine choices, if a little bit unadventurous.

In all honesty, I’m more interested in the hypothetical choices the hall is going to have to face in the future. Jeff Beck being inducted is not, for me, an interesting topic of discussion. He’s the type of guy that not very many people (critic or fan) like, but he’s been around so long that he was bound to get in.

But it will be interesting to watch over the course of the next decade how the hall reacts to the eligibility of artists from my generation. Obviously Pearl Jam and Nirvana will get in when their time comes around, but what about Green Day?

Tupac and Notorious B.I.G will undoubt-
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The late 90s was a period when there was a great divide between what was popular and what was critically accepted. As time has gone by, even massively popular groups like Boston and Journey have gotten more respectability as people forgot the bad.

But in the current musical culture, will the massively popular artists be able to gain enough credibility over time to be recognized in the same way they might have 20 or 30 years ago?

If Billy Joel or Elton John came out today, would they have had the chance to move beyond the “balladeer” label and into respectability? I’m not sure what the answer to that is, but what I do know is that I’m starting the “Blink 182 in 2019” campaign right now.

Among the inductees: Run DMC, one of the first hip-hop groups to really transcend genres and appeal to a large diverse fan base and Metallica, a speed metal band that did pretty much the same thing.

The rest of the class of 2009 performers’ category included guitarist Jeff Beck, doo-wop group Little Anthony and the Imperials, and singer/songwriter Bobby Womack — all fine choices, if a little bit unadventurous.

In all honesty, I’m more interested in the hypothetical choices the hall is going to have to face in the future.
VOLLEYBALL

Rosa recognized for leading nation

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

One of Volleyball’s most coveted recruits of the past four years, Yamir Rose, led every Division I player in the nation with 5.21 kills per game last season. She was named the NCAA statistical champion in that category on Jan. 22.

Second half swoon leads to big blowout

MEN, page 8

ULM 81, FIU 64

With Aspilla on the bench, center Russell Hicks, who has missed 14 games this season, returned to the lineup. Not even the 7-footer could completely fill the void the freshman center left empty.

A first-half 13-point deficit was enough to keep the Golden Panthers at bay as the ULM Warhawks won 81-64 at the Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

During the game, Alex Galindo scored his 900th point of his career, making him the eight player in FIU history to reach that distinction.

He led his team with 20 points, as the ULM offense woke up and hit 12 of its 14 three-pointers. Asprila’s presence was missed maybe even more so on the rebounding side of the ball.

For the first half, the Golden Panthers grabbed seven rebounds compared to the Warhawks’ 22. Before defeating FIU and Florida Atlantic University, ULM had lost four games in a row.

The team is averaging 67 points per game, but managed to exceed 80 points against the Golden Panthers defense that has allowed 80 points in consecutive games with Asprila not in the lineup.

Against the Warhawks, the Golden Panthers showed signs of life early on the second half. FIU limited the Warhawks to just 1-of-7 shooting and pulled within 10 points five minutes into the second half.

Unfortunately for FIU, the success would not last long as the ULM offense woke up and hit 12 of its next 14 shots. This extended the lead from 10 points to 20, and the Warhawks were able to build on that margin for the final score.

The Golden Panthers could not recapture an offensive rhythm and lost their second straight game. They return to action on Jan. 29 against New Orleans on the road, before returning home Jan. 31 to take on UALR.

REINFORCEMENTS: Nikola Gaseca will be needed for his inside presence until Freddy Asprila returns.

Golden Panthers held to record low

WOMEN’S, page 8

game, they held the Golden Panthers to just over 26 percent from the field.

Devastation lurked from the beginning when ULM took the first 17-3 run, compiled by three Jesse Carrier 3-pointers.

The Golden Panthers shot just 5-of-23 from the field in the first half, allowing ULM to lead 35-12 as they headed to the locker room.

Elisa Curry chipped in with seven points for FIU, all in the second half, and a game-high 12 rebounds. Despite the record performance by the defense, the Warhawks played almost as carelessly as the Golden Panthers.

FIU outscored ULM in the second half and the Warhawks had 20 turnovers of their own compared to 10 assists. However, the Golden Panthers sat in their usual seat, unable to come closer than 17 points and behind by as much as 30 points with 7:08 to play after a 14-2 run by ULM. The Warhawks obtained a staggering 19 steals. Neither team made many fouls as both combined to shoot a 11 of 23.

We talked about pressuring the ball from one end to the other for 40 minutes, especially so they couldn’t get into their offense,” Martin said.

FIU (4-16, 2-7) will hit the road again to face New Orleans (12-8, 5-4) on Jan. 28 in their next conference match-up.

Women’s Volleyball: record low

*All records up to date as of Jan. 25

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Soto debut not enough without Asprilla in lineup

JONATHAN DAVILA /THE BEACON

We didn’t run our plays. We just got out of what we’ve been doing...and they kept getting offensive rebounds

Alex Galindo, Forward

NORTH TEXAS 58, FIU 43

Guard Monica Bosilj put up her second double-double of the season for the Golden Panthers with 13 points and 11 rebounds, but it still was not enough for the Golden Panthers (4-15, Sun Belt 2-6) to defeat another conference opponent.

Despite holding their opponent to a season-low 24 rebounds for the second-straight game, the FIU women’s hoops team fell to the North Texas Mean Green, 58-43, on Wednesday night at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Foward Cedric Essola, who started in place of center Freddy Asprilla, who redshirted last season, and every game this season, could not make up for the loss of the senior forward. Essola couldn’t play some key plays,” said head coach Sergio Rouco.

The Golden Panthers turned the ball over 16 times by the end of the first half and North Texas was able to head into the locker room with a 31-23 advantage, scoring 19 points off of turnovers.

“If we lose the ball we need to get back up the court, we’re losing games on our turnovers,” said Bosilj after the team fell to Florida Atlantic Atlantic the week before.

The Golden Panthers didn’t come out looking much better in the second half, shooting just over 30 percent and they committed another 14 turnovers. “This is the kind of defensive effort that we have talked about getting from day one and it was great to see it tonight,” said North Texas head coach Shanece Stephens, according to meangreenathletics.com.

Three quick baskets by the Mean Green started off the second half and put FIU down 14 points with less than 16 minutes to play. The Golden Panthers came no closer than 10 from that point and back to back lay ups to put the Mean Green ahead 19 points did more than seal the deal with less than two minutes left to play.

ULM 53, FIU 31

With starting point guard Michelle Gonzalez limited to 17 minutes because of back spasms and the absence of forward Marquita Adley due to injury, adept FIU women’s basketball team came across their lowest scoring effort of the season.

They would actually rewrite record books against the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Even though the Worharks fell 53-31, becoming ULM’s lowest scoring opponent ever at the Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

“We didn’t run our plays. We just got out of what we’ve been doing...and they kept getting offensive rebounds,” said senior forward Alex Galindo.

Soto sparked the Golden Panthers by scoring four of the team’s first seven points in his first game in an FIU uniform – he had redshirted his first season and suffered a broken hand during the preseason. He ended the Golden Panthers’ first half scoring with a behind-the-back dribble to get by his defender and a layup off of the glass that sent the modest crowd of 621 into a frenzy.

“We was very excited in the first half,” Soto said. “In the second half he settled down and played some key plays,” said head coach Sergio Rouco.

Nikola Gacesa led the Golden Panthers with 20 points. Galindo scored 17 points, and Soto chalked up 15 – nine points coming during a Golden Panthers’ run that got the game within two points.

Guard Tremayne Russel helped in 11 points, but 3-point specialist Michael Rastinig lined up on three points on 1 of 9 shooting from the field – eight of those shots coming from downtown.

MEN’S, page 7

STRONG START

SHUT OUT: The tennis team opened the 2009 season with a 7-0 win against Florida Atlantic University Owls on Jan. 22 in Boca Raton. Maria Dolores Pozo defeated Danielle Simone in straight sets 6-1, 6-1

We didn’t run our plays. We just got out of what we’ve been doing...and they kept getting offensive rebounds

Alex Galindo, Forward

NORTH TEXAS 80, FIU 75

The emergence of point guard Josue Soto, who redshirted last season and every game this season, could not make up for the loss of center Freddy Asprilla.

The Golden Panthers started on a 10-3 run from the start of the game, sparked with a layup by freshman guard Manny El, and they never gave the lead up from there.

FIU was able to cut the Mean Green lead reach within one point with 11 minutes left in the half. However, the Golden Panthers turned the ball over 16 times by the end of the first half and North Texas was able to head into the locker room with a 31-23 advantage, scoring 19 points off of turnovers.

“Our offense sets 6-1, 6-1.

“At the Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

“Tough Going: Marquita Adley has been trying to fight through injuries that have limited her to just 11 games.

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“He’s a good player. He needs to get in a groove. It was a little bit more exciting in the first half,” Soto said. “In the second half he settled down and played some key plays,” said head coach Sergio Rouco.

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