Legend unable to reschedule

DAVID BARBROS
Senior Staff Writer

“An Evening with John Legend,” a lecture and musical performance by the six-time Grammy Award-Winning artist, has been officially cancelled by the Student Government Council at University Park.

The cancelled comes after Legend postponed his planned Feb. 11 performance at the U.S. Century Bank arena, following the death of his grandfather last week.

"While the Lectures Coordinator, Niv Oudit, vigorously tried to negotiate a future date for an appearance, Mr. Legend’s schedule would not permit it," said Ben F. Badger, SGC-UP press secretary.

A refund policy for the students that bought tickets is being assembeled by SGA but has yet to be announced.

Students can expect more information about refunds this week.

"It is important that all students, faculty and alumni who purchased a ticket hold on to it," Badger said. "It will be needed during the refund process."

The tickets were being sold for $25 for floor seats in the arena, and $20 for bleacher seats.

Legend was scheduled to lecture and give a fully acoustic performance during the event, which was advertised as part of the SGA Lectures Series.

Student reaction was mixed.

“I am really indifferent about it,” said Sophomore Chris Rodriguez.

“I’m sorry to hear about his Grandfather’s death, but I wasn’t even planning to buy tickets. I suppose that it is a shame that he’s not coming though," Junior Fernanda Torres was surprised by news of the cancellation.

“I think that they were about it the wrong way. There should have been more widespread announce-ments about Mr. Legend not coming. I bought tickets and I found out about his cancellation over a Facebook message," Torres said.

There have also been talks about bringing another speaker to replace Legend.

“The Speaker’s Bureau felt that changing the promised guest would be an even greater insult to the student body, which purchased tickets for the event," Badger said.

TOO BAD: Student Government Association announced Feb. 13 that John Legend’s performance at FIU was cancelled.

Valet parking option rolls in

CHERYL MALONE
Staff Writer

FIU’s Parking and Transportation offers an alternative to parking issues.

Gold Star Parking Systems Inc. has been contracted to provide a valet service to University Park, starting Feb. 16.

The new program will offer great convenience for commuters, according to Executive Director of Parking and Transportation Bill Foster.

“We think that the service will address some parking convenience needs of the University and has a good chance for success,” Foster said.

Valet operation hours will initially be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but may change through program development.

The cost of parking is $5.00 per hour, or $20.00 an entire day for students, faculty and guests.

All vehicles will be parked in either parking lot 3 or in lot 5.

Foster said the new valet program will have a smooth transition into FIU’s parking and transportation.

The program is being used as a model for future development and can be altered for specific uses.

Gold Star Parking Systems was established in South Florida. The company is a part of the Florida Parking Association, according to their Web site.

The pilot program will run through April 30, when it will be evaluated according to its success.

“We do not foresee any conflicts, but are implementing this as a pilot program to help identify any positive or negative impacts so that they can be properly addressed,” Foster said.

The valet kiosk is located in front of the bookstury, by Lot 3 of GC.

‘Deep Seascape’ showcases sounds of nature

The performance, “The Deep Seascape,” is going to showcase almost a year’s work in collecting underwater sounds.

The underwater microphones, or hydrophones, were lent to DeLuca by Thomas Hahn, professor of Marine Biology at University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

“Part of the underwater sound environment is that it’s really indeterminate and stochastic,” DeLuca said.

“So there are a lot of different variables that come into play and depending on one variable, something will happen like temperature, for instance.”

He explained that when temperature is cold, sound travels slower, while in warm temperatures sounds travel faster.

Even though the performance consists of focusing on auditory perceptions, visual components will sometimes form part of the overall experience. DeLuca will incorporate images to the presentation by collaborating with Venessa Monokian, conceptual photographer, and Eliza Fernandez, a visual artist.

Instrumentalists and vocalists will perform alongside the microphones and sound will be output into a loudspeaker system.

Deep-sea sound exploration is translated into art by Eric DeLuca, professor of Music Technology, who researches underwater acoustics as part of his master’s thesis and extends an invitation to the South Florida community.

A performance is scheduled for March 21, 8 p.m. at the University’s Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Concert Hall.

“I'm going to try to recreate an underwater environment, leave a lot of room for interpretation and let the sound be the focus," DeLuca said.

DeLuca transposes the recordings of high and low underwater frequen-cies into octaves the human ear can hear and will arrange these sounds in a musical composition that will allow the audience to feel just like they are underwater.

“It’s very difficult to recreate a natural environment because we obviously can’t hear too well under-water,” he said. “You can sometimes hear shrimp snapping if you scuba dive or snorkel but you can’t really hear the subtleties unless you have underwater microphones. They pick that stuff up.”

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NATIONAL

Economic stimulus package passes in House of Representatives

The House of Representatives approved Barack Obama’s $787 billion economic stimulus package on Friday, Feb. 13.

The bill passed by a 246-183 margin, in what is considered a huge victory for Obama’s new administration. The package will now go to the Senate for approval where a vote on the bill is scheduled for this afternoon.

The bill provides for $281 billion in tax cuts for individuals and businesses while more than a half-trillion dollars are going towards government spending. The money would go for infrastructure, health care and aid for cash-starved state governments, among scores of programs. Seniors would get a $250 bonus Social Security check.

Friday, Feb. 13.

E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiuusm.com

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The idea for researching the mass murder of Jews in the Ukraine during World War II.

The event will take place at The Shul, located on 9540 Collins Avenue and it is free and open to the public.

For more information, call The Shul at (305) 886-1411, ext 7319.

-- Compiled by David Barrios and Paul O’Swa
**SGC BBC SENATE**

**Barbara Quijano**
Asst. News Director

The introduction of voting rights for Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus members may improve the body's effectiveness.

"Because [committee chair] members don’t vote, it’s a lack of interest," said Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC speaker of the Senate. "They feel there’s no incentive to come to the meetings; they feel insignificant."

During a general meeting Feb. 11, SGC-BBC discussed a resolution stating that committee chair members can vote until the new constitution takes effect.

“We warrant committee chair members to vote because they show up to meetings and can’t vote, and they should be able to,” said Neistein. “This resolution will solidify our council.”

As of now, only SGC-BBC senators have the right to vote during meetings, according to the SGA Constitution and SGC-BBC bylaws. However, when the constitution revamps and is modified at the University-wide meeting Feb. 23, committee chair members will also have that privilege.

“It is this actually legal, based on bylaws? Have you guys researched that if this passes you would also have to write a council bill to amend the bylaws?” asked Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president. “A resolution is just a group of people saying we agree to it, but it doesn’t give the final legal say.”

According to Neistein, this resolution is just to expedite the process. Committee chair members will have all voting rights as senators, even though they don’t hold that position, and they will have the same voting rights.

“They say they want to vote, but they’re not here,” said Karin Garrenero, SGC-BBC lower division senator.

If the amount of voter increases, so does the amount needed at the meetings for quorum, two-thirds of the senators in attendance, according to the SGA Constitution.

“Your worry is that if we’re not here, we won’t get any business done,” said Natalie Vera, Panther Power director.

According to Neistein, the positive aspects of committee chair members having voting rights includes that there would be ‘no bitterness’ between senators because they both would have equal voting rights. The con would be the workload, because they would be in charge of senator and committee chair duties,” said Neistein. “They would have to run in elections. Before they were just a voting tool for students, as they can elect [committee] members.

With the majority of committee chair members asking for personal privileges, ‘leisure’ is permitted to leave due to personal responsibilities, ‘having the right to vote will increase the incentive for commitment to the meeting,’ Neistein said.

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**Panel talks Obama, religious unity abroad**

**Natalya Cohen**
Contributing Writer

The purposes of Pan-African Heritage Month include exposing the truths about segregation and hoping that history not repeat itself.

With this theme in mind, the “America’s New Beginning: Now That We’ve Made History, Where Do We Go From Here?” lecture and panel discussion took place Feb. 11 in the Wolfe University Center’s Ballrooms.

“We must unite,” said panel leader and host Minister Lyle Muhammad, member of Muhammad Mosque No. 29 in Miami.

The lecture, which was organized by Jayne Klein, professor in religious studies, and the Honors College, was centered on the presidential election and the hope it brought for America and for members of various faiths throughout the world.

Minister Rasul Muhammad, leader of Muhammad Mosque No. 29 in Miami, was the keynote speaker of the event.

“Some see President Barack Obama as the new messiah, but don’t make the mistake of thinking that one man will solve the problems in our country,” Rasul Muhammad said. "His slogan was not ‘Yes I Can,’ but ‘Yes We Can.’"

Klein feels it is important to students’ education to learn more about different cultures and religions.

“We’re at a juncture in human history. We can follow the past of segregation, whether in race, religion or political ideology, but that will get us nowhere,” Klein said. “It is the time to unite. Otherwise, that is the end of change and ultimately humanity.”

Many in attendance, including Antonia Sheucher, senior psychology major, agreed that the election brought about change to the country.

“Some Americans may have been skeptical before the election, but after Obama’s election, something changed,” Sheucher said.

During the event, each member of the panel took questions from those in the audience. While many of them were about Islam and its teachings in regards to unity, others were about the importance of education.

“The No. 1 enemy of the human race is not another race, it’s ignorance. People are not ignorant just because they are ignorant,” Rasul Muhammad said. “The word ignorant comes from the word ignore. So actually, when one is ignorant, they are actually lazy in an age of information. Therefore, the ignorant are really fools.”

According to Rasul Muhammad, there is a need to educate the nation on how to take the steps to achieve Obama's desire for change.

“If the world sets aside their differences and realizes that we are all children of God, we can change. The educational and economic system in America does not need a bailout, it needs to be revamped,” Rasul Muhammad said.

Those in attendance thought the lecture was beneficial and helped them learn more about the topics discussed.

“I am grateful to the minister for speaking,” said Esther Hamilton, a hospitality major.

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**Custodian combines gospel, hip-hop, faith in debut album**

**Davin Johnson**
Staff Writer

Avery Mitchell never imagined himself being a custodian at the University. Rather, he wanted to be a rapper.

"I grew up with dreams of being a rapper," Mitchell said. "I listen to Christian artists such as DMC and LL Cool J, all of whom do my genre, he’s also influenced by gospel artists."

Mitchell’s debut album, *H.A.T.E U Give a Rap a Custodian in order to Save Up,* released in 2008, but is not looking to sign with labels anytime soon.

“I don’t want a label company to brand me and make me change my music to fit the current market,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell has performed at places such as Miami’s Hip-Hop Grub Spot, located in Miami Gardens, Cameo Nightclub in Miami Beach, the Broward County Fair and the University’s Diversity Day.

“Preach is an extraordinary and outgoing person,” said Mitchell’s friend Albertha Jones, a graduation officer in the enrollment center. "His music is very interesting and speaks with today’s society and speaks positively to the young generation."

Mitchell’s debut album, *The HATE U Give A Rap A Custodian in order to Save Up,* features hip-hop artist and record producer DJ NickTune.

"The album focuses on the oppression, stress and worries that I had while competing against good and evil," said Mitchell. "The moral of my music is basically to demonstrate that everyone goes through hard times in their lives, but we can learn to take the negative tribulations and obstacles and turn them into positive outcomes if we only have faith in God."
Outsourcing of prison transport unacceptable

JADE SCHUSTER
Contributing Writer

Thanks to an irresponsible prison transportation company, a once-captured inmate is on the loose.

On Feb. 4, a prisoner who was being transported in a “secure” van escaped while en route from Florida to Pennsylvania. He was reported missing just a rest stop in Ambridge, Pa. According to the prisoner, Sylvester Mitchell, is an attempted murder suspect. Mitchell was being extradited to Philadelphia, where he once lived, to face murder charges.

How is it that a private prison transportation company, Prisoner Transportation Services of America, LLC, based in Nashville, Tenn., was able to “lose” an attempted murder suspect? Mitchell was being extradited to the city of Nashville, Tenn., was able to “lose” an attempted murder suspect. Mitchell was being extradited to the city of Nashville, Tenn., was able to “lose” an attempted murder suspect.

Granting the prison transportation service was made to the private company for maximum safety and not U.S. marshals, but how is it possible that a private company that transports over 100,000 prisoners a year is able to mislay a convict traveling in a van that is, according to the company’s Web site, “compartamentalized for maximum security and safety”?

Clearly something is lacking, especially since this is the second successful escape from this transportation service within the last six months. In September 2008, the last shackled escapee – a man convicted for attempted murder, escape and drug offenses – was able to travel from California to Philadelphia International Airport, but was caught later and detained in Elkins, Md., according to Star Tribune. He escaped while en route to his new prison habitation in Delaware.

As of yet, the prisoner who escaped on Feb. 4 has not been captured. According to Margaret Warr, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s National Prison Project in Washington, it is not apparent as to how many escapes actually occur within the confines of a private prison transportation service, as these companies are not required to keep records of “escapes, accidents and numbers of inmates they transfer,” as reported by The Los Angeles Times. The problem is that these private companies are often “thirty-staffed, fly-by-night operations that quickly close up when they’re sued,” Winter said.

“We haven’t been afraid to express my beliefs and ask questions in most classes where discussion is welcomed and open,” said Joel Delgado, a freshman majoring in political science. In one class, Delgado was required to study the event as a proper concert, as opposed to an international territories on an annual basis. Unfortunately, money talks, even the transportation of jailbirds may seem appealing to some companies. This is just one example of the government chooses to outsource certain services, from mental health clinics to messenger services. As ironic as it may seem, a few sad world we live in when a private prison transportation company can, according to its Web site, “feel comfort prisoner at a less cost than if you did it yourself.”
Frost Art Museum docents deliver artful experience

NATTY LEVY Contributing Writer

Along with the Nov. 29 opening of the FIU Frost Art Museum came the beginning of the FIU Docent Program.

Founders Miriam Machado, the museum’s education assistant and Linda Powers, the curator of education, were challenged with creating a workforce of people with a passion for art who wanted to help spread it to the community.

Originally trained by Virginia Mecklenburg, the senior curator of painting and sculpture at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the docents are students or members of the community who go through constant, intensive art training. Docents at the University provide free tours to groups who visit the Frost Art Museum.

Machado works with Powers to further train docents in becoming ambassadors for the museum. When it became apparent that the Frost Museum would be the only one of its kind in South Florida, with accreditation from the American Association of Museums as well as being a Smithsonian Affiliate, Machado and Powers saw that it would be necessary to implement an equally stellar docent training program.

“I must help them. They are here because they love art and want to learn about this treasure in the community,” Machado said. “The hardest part has been maintaining a large, varied group of volunteers, but opening was very successful and the feedback was very positive. The students were amazing. This institution merits a lot of attention. Miami’s community needs something like this.”

Each docent is a volunteer. The training they receive is continuous. They meet for sessions every Friday. In trying to bring art to both the Miami and FIU population, they have to learn to put art in terms that appeal to everyone, from children to alumni and students to museum curators.

“If you’re a docent here you just never know who you’re going to meet or interact with. Their involvement in the development of the museum means there’s always something unique and interesting to experience,” Machado said.

“There’s a tremendous sense of community among the volunteers. They’re here because they love art.”

Aimee Boulou is a senior who is a docent. She started off with the program because as an art history major she needed experience working in the art world.

“I’ve learned so much,” Boulou said. “It’s hard, learning all the information, but it’s so worth it.”

The docents are challenged with memorizing the works, artists and details in all nine galleries at the Frost Museum to work as effective and knowledgeable guides.

Miriam Alvarez is a Cuban-born artist who moved to Miami more than 45 years ago and works as a docent. She specializes in leading tours solely in Spanish.

“We thought it was a good idea to take art to the only Spanish-speaking community,” Alvarez noted. “This beautiful, beautiful museum is a docent. She started off with the program because as an art history major she needed experience working in the art world.

“Everyone here works with a team spirit,” Machado said. “Everyone has to work together in all areas.”

Entering the docent program is an opportunity to see a side of the art world others don’t. Docents learn the ins-and-outs of museum life and how much really goes into making art accessible to those who wouldn’t otherwise get the chance to enjoy it.

“It’s a great opportunity for students or people in the community to learn about the arts and meet artists at all levels,” Machado said.

Free tours are led on Fridays and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Frost Art Museum.

To apply for the Docent Program, call (305) 348-6963 or e-mail Linda Powers at lpowers@fiu.edu or Miriam Machado at mmachado@fiu.edu.

Life! Editor

Contact Us
susana.rodriguez@fiu.edu
susana.rodriguez@fiu.edu

Enjoy the nasal singing and three-chord-distorted pop songs that they wrote, so the news of their reunion was quite exciting to me. In my musical universe, Blink 182 did not exist until their excellent breakthrough single “What’s My Age Again?” when I was in sixth grade.

Through middle school and into my first year of high school, they were probably the band I listened to more than any other, which confirms just how unoriginal my teenage experience truly was.

If you read my column every week (and I know the three of you that do), you were undoubtedly awed by my proclamation of love for all things sugary and poppy. I mean, here we have this well-respected music critic coming out and declaring support for the bottom of the pop barrel, angry pop-punk.

“Docents are here to help. They meet or interact with. Their involvement in the development of the museum means there’s always something unique and interesting to experience,” Machado said.

“Everyone here works with a team spirit,” Machado said. “Everyone has to work together in all areas.”

NATTY LEVY/THE BEACON

CULTURE SHOCK: Miriam Machado, the Frost Art Museum’s education assistant, tours guests through the Modern Masters collection.

Monday, February 16, 2009

www.fi u.edu

NOSTALGIC POP-PUNK COMBO RECONNECTS

Not surprisingly, these guys never got much love from serious-minded music critics. However, there is a large segment of our population, born between the years of 1986-1990, that has a much different relationship with the group than the rest.

Obviously, the reason for this is the fact that pretty much everyone loved this band in middle school, and as no matter what generation you are discussing, they will always have a special connection with the music that dominated pop stations during those 11-15 years.

Take my parents, born in 1965. To this day, there is not a disco song my mom won’t sing along to, and my dad still loves those arena rock giants of his time, and nobody is mistaking any of these artists for the Beatles.

Middle schoolers tend to have pretty terrible taste in music, opting for loud, danceable, sing-along songs over music with substance. This kind of stuff is generally looked down upon by pretty much everyone else.

But when I hear “Rock Show” or “All of the Small Things” it reminds me of a certain time and place in a way that is so detailed, I can still remember not doing my homework.
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FIU Federal School Code: 009635
**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M)**

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*All records up to date as of Feb 14.*

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W)**

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**SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)**

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 14*

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 12*

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**Women’s, page 8**

Injuries to backcourt limit scoring

Alaska to increase the lead once again and back-to-back shots by Peterson put the Jaguars up 52-41 with 6:22 left to play.

FIU wasn’t able to get closer than nine points the rest of the game, and South Alabama led by as many as 14 after Sippio closed the deal on a jumper with 10 seconds left in regulation.

Both teams shot under 40 percent for the game, FIU at 36.4 and South Alabama, at 39.3 percent. South Alabama out scored the Golden Panthers in second chance points 15 to 9, and also held the advantage from the bench, getting 24 points compared to 7 for FIU.

The Golden Panthers (6-18, 4-10 Sun Belt) will have a week off and then they’ll hit the home court on Feb. 18 to take on Troy.

---

**Softball, page 8**

Bats finally come out of hibernation

Career and put FIU up 3-0.

“There was a feeling of relief in the dugout,” said head coach Beth McClendon. “I have no doubts about that kid. I’m glad that she got it started today, hopefully she keeps going the same way the rest of the year.”

In the fourth, FIU’s offense dominated. Spiers was on second after Jenny Welch singled and Rojas was then hit by a pitch, and that loaded the bases.

Soberon came up with a single RBI, to make the score 4-0. Fink then singled to bring in Welch for a 5-0 lead.

Still in the fourth, Katie Bell came to the plate and smacked a three-run double.

When Temple tried to break the momentum with a pitching change Rodríguez came doubled on the first pitch, driving in Bell to make the lead 9-0.

“In a win or lose situation, she has earned the right to make the decisions,” said McClendon. “When the game is on the line, that’s who we want to have the ball.”

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**Sports, February 16, 2009**

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February 18th 6 p.m.

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Two game winning streak ends in Mobile

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Women’s hoops traveled to South Alabama on February 11 with hopes of extending their longest winning streak of the season after victories against Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State.

However, with guards Ashley Trangott, Antonia Zeigler, and Asia Wilson all sitting out due to injuries, the depleted team fell short against the Jaguars (17-8, 8-6 Sun Belt), 66-52, at the Mitchell Center in Mobile, AL.

Starting point guard Michelle Gonzalez led FIU with 14 points and was the only Golden Panther able to connect from behind the arc. Forward Elisa Carey chipped in with 10 points and 12 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season, while Jasmine Jenkins contributed 10 points.

Ra’Shawna Sippio led South Alabama with 14 points and nine boards. Sarda Peterson followed with 13 off of the bench. The Jaguars had the momentum early on, taking an 11-3 lead in the first four minutes.

With 31 seconds left in the half, Jenkins clutched a layup to put FIU within three points of South Alabama. Gonzalez grabbed a steal on the Jaguars’ possession and put the ball to the floor. Carey made a cut to the basket and was fouled, allowing her to go to the line and make the 3-point play.

Turnovers on the next few possessions by the Golden Panthers allowed South Alabama to knock down a shot and was fouled, putting the Jaguars up 2-3 at the buzzer that pushed South Alabama to victory for USA.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Late hoop sinks bid for 2-in-a-row

JONATHON RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Forward Alex Galindo had one of the best nights of his career Thursday, scoring 26 points as he moved into sixth place on FIU’s All-time scoring list with 981 points, while striking out five.

FIU’s offense powered up again in the second half, increasing their lead to 8 with 12:24 to play, after a pair of free throws by Jasmine Starling. FIU, however, came back on a 7-0 run capped off by Marquita Adley who knocked down a shot and was fouled, allowing her to go to the line and make the 3-point play.

Turnovers on the next few possessions by the Golden Panthers allowed South Alabama to deal with, getting out dueled 30-24. The bench was also too much for the short handed Golden Panthers to handle, with 10 points from Tremayne Russell, and 15 points from center Russell Hicks who added 10 rebounds to his third double-double of the season.

Galindo hit one of his eight three-pointers, one shy of the FIU single game record, with 11 seconds left to give FIU a 65-63 lead, but Watson made work from beyond the arc off a Bryan Sherrer inbound pass to preserve the victory for USA.

Late in the second half, it looked like FIU and Galindo were not going to be stopped en route to a second straight comeback win. The Golden Panthers trailed 60-50 with 5:34 to play, before Galindo made three 3-pointers to bring the team to within 62-59 with 2:33 to go.

South Alabama, who led most of the contest, was 2-for-3 on free throws late to weather the Golden Panther charge.

USA shot 52 percent from the floor for the game, as opposed to FIU’s 48 percent clip. Despite Jags leading scorer Domonic Tilford being held to just five points, South Alabama was able to secure major contributions forward Brandon Davis, 14 points, 11 rebounds, and forward Ronald Douglas, 10 points.

The Jaguars found their greatest advantages in the paint, where they outscored FIU 30-24, and out rebounded FIU 31-24. The bench was also too much for the short handed Golden Panthers to deal with, getting out dueled 30-24 by the Jaguars.

The Golden Panthers offense came alive when they faced Temple. FIU recorded nine hits and chased in all nine runners to beat the Owls 9-1 in five innings on Feb. 14.

Senior Kim Rodriguez set the tone in the third inning with a three-run homer. Rodriguez’ home run was the 27th of her career.

Kat Lawrence (2-0) improved pitched a complete game shut out, and Cassidy (1-1) took the loss.

FIU 9, TEMPLE 1

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