Students recall Haiti earthquake
GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

FIU graduate students traveled to Haiti for a course in sustainable development, unaware they would experience one of the worst natural disasters of the Western Hemisphere.

The course was taught by a non-governmental organization called Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihood, on site in Cap-Haitien: a city of about 180,000 people, located approximately 85 miles north of Port-au-Prince. The course is part of a joint venture between FIU and University of Miami.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, at around 4:53 p.m. local time, Craig Marcklinger and Ann Marie Warmenhoven had their day interrupted as they began to feel the earth shake for approximately 45 seconds.

“I would say it’s like when you are in a car and everyone is trying to rock the car, except you’re in a building,” Marcklinger said, a native of Ohio, who had not experienced an earthquake before.

“There were electrical problems, there were poles spiking down the street,” he added.

According to Warmenhoven, a graduate assistant for the Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU, there was much confusion due to misinformation being given out and that’s it,” Neistein said.

“Who doesn’t want a marching band?” he said. Both the marching band but not for zero-funded their majority portion of the band but if we’re paying for it, Neistein added.

“Somehow. All I know is that we want to bring the band back and that’s it,” Neistein said.

According to Neistein, Anthony Rionda, SGC at Modesto Maidique Campus president, has not kept him informed about the decisions made.

The initial agreement to revive the marching band was made in October 2009 during a University-wide meeting in which members of the council, including Neistein, fully supported the motion.

“Who doesn’t want a marching band? We don’t want to be the only ones in [Division I] without a marching band,” he said. Both the marching band and football team have a synergistic effect with both the students and the team.”

However, in previous years the band was funded by SGA, Athletics and The College of Architecture and the Arts. But due to the $1 million cut that Athletics suffered in June 2009, they opted not to make any financial contributions. This occurred shortly after CARTA zero-funded their majority portion of the band.

Neistein, however, is “perplexed” about the decision to heavily fund the marching band and proposed, during the U-wide meeting Jan. 13, that Athletics should give back.

“I don’t think we should fund the marching band with nothing in return,” Neistein said.

Neistein gave the suggestion that Athletics should consider allowing students to sit in the middle of the field instead of in the end zone during football games.

“We should have a marching band but if we’re paying for it, Athletics should be appreciative,” Neistein said.

Neistein is also concerned that future administrations will have to fully fund the marching band.

“I am a proponent for funding the marching band but not for perpetuity. I don’t think it should be full-funding forever. The economy will shoot back up and they will shoot back up and they will fund the marching band,” he said.

Neistein was also unaware of the expected course to be offered
Conan O’Brien’s final hourah on NBC

“The Tonight Show” host Conan O’Brien hosted his final show Friday Jan. 22. O’Brien brought on guests Tom Hanks along with Will Ferrell and Neil Young.

O’Brien, who hosted the show for seven months was to have his show pushed to 12:05 a.m. while former Tonight Show host Jay Leno was to have his current show, “The Jay Leno Show,” pushed to 11:35 p.m.

NBC made this decision after ratings fell substantially for both Leno and O’Brien during the previous months. O’Brien reached a deal earlier last week with the NBC for $42 million dollars after he said he was unwilling to be pushed to a later hour. Leno will now continue to host “The Tonight Show,” which he did for 18 years.

Tonight Show,” which he did for 18 years.
Nightmare students parked in Gold Garage will no longer need to use their cell phones as flashlights as of Jan. 15.

Over the winter break, the University decided, amid large student interest, to keep the lights on permanently in the Gold Garage between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Bill Foster, executive director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, was responsible for recommending the change to Associate Vice President Jaime Martinez and Senior Vice President and CFO Kenneth Jessell.

“We started looking at it in December...this led to a completely different conclusion of keeping the garage and never letting anyone stay parked after 2 a.m. or keeping the Gold Garage open 24/7 and the lights on all night. We decided to keep the lights on,” Foster said.

Up until then, the Gold Garage was closed after 2 a.m. and the lights were turned off leaving students to search in a dark garage for their cars.

“We were a little concerned about it because we were only about five blocks from the water,” Foster said.

The students taking part in the SOIL program, who were at Cap-Haitien had very little information on what was going on in Port-au-Prince.

“We just heard that the department building collapsed and that the national palace collapsed. No one could get in touch with their relatives because cell phones get in touch with their relatives and that the national palace was the SOIL program who were in Port-au-Prince,” Foster added.

For Warmenhoven, the biggest challenge was dealing with the lack of information.

“There in the U.S. you’re used to being surrounded by CNN, text messages, Facebook, Twitter and instant updates, whereas you kind of take of that for granted when you’re trying to find basic information on what is going on 85 miles from you,” she said.

In order to reach out to their relatives, the students at Cap-Haitien turned to Skype, which they were able to use from a house which still retained power, as well as Internet service.

One man who was working with SOIL, a Haitian native from Port-au-Prince, tried desperately to reach his relatives, as well asorphans in Port-au-Prince where he was raised.

“He was using my Skype, trying to call relatives and he got a hold of people. The hardest thing for me was to see him go through that,” Warmenhoven said.

“He knew his family was OK, but he was hearing from friends that their children had died,” she added.

According to Marklinger, the program hosted by SOIL tried to maintain its normal schedule, but was not able due to liability concerns expressed by the U.S. This led to FIU and UM coordinating with an airline called Caribbean Express, in order fly their students out of there.

On the drive to the airport, Marklinger recalled the somber experience.

“Driving to the airport was being six white folks in a pickup truck when you know everyone around is in dire straits because they don’t know whether or not their families are alright; and you are able to leave just because you are the Americans. You feel like you’re abandoning the people whom you’re there to help,” she said.

There are still SOIL members in Haiti at hard work with relief efforts. In an e-mail that Warmenhoven received, SOIL co-Founder Sabina Kramer described the scene heading into Port-au-Prince.

“Initially, as she drove into the city past the airport, it looked like one about in five houses had sustained damage and perhaps one in 20 had completely collapsed. However, the further they got into the city, the more severe the damage appeared; Kramer estimated that perhaps one in five buildings completely collapsed.

“I have never seen anything like this; honestly it is hard to even feel. People have not even begun to mourn as everyone is still in a state of crisis,” Kramer wrote.

“Improve Safety in the Gold Garage” Facebook group in Dec. 2009 and was active in gathering student interest and pressure.

“The reason that I started this effort is that there have been countless times that I have had to go with my friends to their cars in the parking garages after 2 a.m. due to being on campus late at night,” Feldman said.

Feldman cited the issue of safety for those parked in the garage after 2 a.m. as the primary reason for his campaign to keep the lights on but also FIU’s potential liability if someone was hurt.

“Driving in a parking garage with absolutely no light made me very uncomfortable, and it was a situation that I don’t think any student should have to,” Feldman said.

Bill King, chief of FIU Police, noted that there have not been any crimes committed or incidents after 2 a.m. in the Gold Garage and police officers consistently check parking garages during exams so we started looking at keeping it open permanently,” Foster said.

Another factor in the decision to keep the lights on all night was student pressure.

Eric Feldman, a senior majoring in criminal justice, created the 300 plus strong "GABRIEL ARRARAS, MAUREEN NINO
CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
JAMES RADZIEWICZ
NEWS DIRECTOR
OPINION EDITOR
PHOTO EDITOR
LIFE! EDITOR
E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Students react negatively to technology fee

Other initiatives are easier to implement, such as extending computing lab hours or providing a technical walk-in support location in the Green Library, which are already available to students, according to Cabragha.

The third type of initiative, those that require more planning and more time will have special attention dedicated to them from committee members within the IT division. For example, the expansion of the wireless network or providing all students with virtual labs.

The proposals are meant to adhere to the University’s basic goals, such as enhancing the quality of students’ learning experience through the use of technology, raising students’ technology competency and promoting the integration of technology into the University’s curriculum, according to the technology fee bylaws.

The proposals that best met the goals were graded on a 100-point scale using the criteria given in the bylaws.

A few students also reacted to the implementation of the new technology fee and the initiatives the profits will be used for.

One student, Anthony Diaz, believed that his tuition money could be better spent in other areas.

“I believe that my money should be going toward more class offerings, smaller classes, etc.” Diaz said, a senior majoring in business.

“It is fine that they want to use our money toward more technology, but calling it a fee is just a great idea.

Amanda Chen, a junior majoring in social work, also had a comment on the technology fee.

“I don’t think extended computer lab hours and free anti-virus software should be the priority for the University at the moment,” Chen said.

According to the bylaws, proposals are allowed to be submitted each Fall semester.

Bill Foster, chief of FIU Police, said.

“Keeping the lights on in the Gold Garage for the extra four hours will cost $10,000 just for the electricity, not including the greater maintenance costs associated with the longer use.

“We’re willing to spend the money because we think that it’s something important. It is this is a place people are coming after hours then it needs to be open and we’d rather do that than keep the Gold Garage closed and in the dark,” Foster said.

The Gold Garages besides Blue and Gold will remain closed after 2 a.m. and be subject to ticketing and possible toing if the vehicles remain parked overnight.
In some cases, not all good dates go according to plan

W

When it comes to dating, planning can be just as important as the date itself.

For men, you get a chance to make all the necessary arrangements to ensure that the date runs smoothly, such as buying flowers and making dinner reservations.

For women, you get a chance to pick out the right outfit and get all dolled up so that when you open the door, you get to hear those four words every woman loves to hear: “Wow, you look stunning!”

But what if you didn’t get a chance to plan ahead? Can an improvised date work? Last week, I shared one of my dating horror stories with you. This week, I’m going to share a story about a date that was unplanned, unexpected, but turned out to be exactly what I was looking for.

It was a Saturday afternoon. I was just getting off work and was feeling blue. It had been almost a year since my boyfriend and I broke up. I didn’t want to go home to my apartment, so I decided to go to the beach and enjoy the wind.

When I got there, the sun was setting and colors filled the sky. I pulled a beach chair up to the shoreline and stuck my feet in the warm sand.

Sitting there with the wind blowing on my face, I began to feel much better. But when I looked off in the distance and saw a couple kissing, my sadness returned.

“What if I should try one of those dating websites I thought to myself. But then again, those people might be crazy. Just forget about it,” I said, then leaned back and closed my eyes.

“Just forget about what happened,” a nearby voice says.

I opened my eyes, and standing in the sunset was Mike, one of my old coworkers, fishing on the pier. I was on the beach alone.

“I’m here by myself too,” he said. “Do you want to go fishing with me?”

I had never been fishing before, but Mike was willing to teach me, or at least attempt to.

“How now just wait until you feel something tug on your line.”

Just then, my arm jerked. “I got something!”

Mike stood behind me and held my arm. “Nice and easy, you don’t want to snap the pole.”

When we finally got the fish up to the pier, it was wiggling and going crazy. It jumped near my face and I screamed, throwing the fishing pole in the water.

Everybody at the pier started laughing, including Mike to my relief. Since I had thrown away the only pole we had, we decided to leave the pier.

We walked along the shoreline and continued to laugh. “I’m really sorry about your fishing pole; let me buy you another one,” I said, asking from the wind.

Mike stood in front of me and raised his arms. “Now what kind of man would I be if I made you buy me another one?”

“No, I insist,” I said, trying to sound sincere.

“Well if you insist on replacing my pole, then I insist on giving you a kiss.”

Before I could respond, he placed his lips on mine and gave me the softest kiss. I looked past him at the moon-lit sky and said, “Man, I love the beach.”

We went out to eat and had a wonderful evening – and it wasn’t even planned.

But unplanned dates and instant romance: that’s all a part of living the single life.

If you have any dating stories you would like to share e-mail me at sabreana.johnson@fiu.edu.com.

“I decided to focus on countries that people normally don’t pay attention to,” said Demi Marroquin, a freshman and the One World Celebration chair.

On Jan. 26, 2010, the Student Programming Council at BBC is hosting the One World Celebration, taking place in Panther Square from 12 to 2 p.m. each day. The purpose of the event is “to expose the students to a variety of cultures. For lunch, students can make their own gyros. Afterwards, they may enjoy the sounds of a steel drum band. Furthermore, students can make their own masks and island jewelry. Also Jan. 28 is the Stand Up for Diversity Comedy Show taking place at the WUC Theatre at 8 p.m. The show will feature comedians Rob Stapleton, Hasan Minhaj and Erin Jackson. Andrew Dawson, the head of Special Events, said that the Special Events Committee is confident that “the comedians will bring diverse experiences” to life through their performances. Admission for students is free, but general admission will cost $5.

Starting tomorrow, be sure to have your passport ready.

“More information,” call 305-919-5280 or visit http://www.facebook.com/SGC-BCBC.
Spring dramas relate to modern day issues

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

For the Spring 2010 semester, FIU Theatre has two dramas and a student-produced play festival ready to hit the stage.

The semester kicks off with Lie of the Mind, a drama set in the rough American West.

The play – written by film and stage actor, Sam Shepard, and directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Wayne Robinson Jr. – tells the story of two American families bound by marriage but torn apart by violence.

The play centers on Jake and Beth and the action spirals when Beth suffers from brain damage at the hands of her husband. The story unfolds as Jake and the rest of the characters try to find the meaning of life after the tragedy of Beth’s hospitalization.

“We chose Lie of the Mind because its author, Sam Shepard, is one of the most important American playwrights of our time,” Robinson said.

Robinson said audiences will be able to relate to the family theme of the show because everyone has a family and none are perfect.

“This is the story of two American families who are brought together to work out their problems,” he said.

Even though a violent act brings them together, Robinson said there is no difference between the families on stage and those at home. The only difference is that Beth, Jake and company are “just a bit more theatrical.”
Art:

screencommodatesfallenflutist

This Spring, the University will be overflowing with events, activities and courses from all areas and departments, and the FIU Museum of Science is no exception.

Presenting a well-curated and exhibiting the works of student and recitals, FIU music students embarked on their semester-long performance journey on Jan. 14. Presentations will continue to run until mid-May, featuring the best of the semester. February being the most heavily-stocked month.

As for January, most of the shows have passed. However, on Jan. 31 there will be an organ concert that, according to music, is community- and intern education and FIU grad

Matthew Murriel, will be well worth the price.

“We have a beautiful organ that was donated to the School by Wertheim himself, and I would definitively go see the concert,” he said.

Florist Jonathan Parker expressed particular excitement about both the upcoming Wind Ensemble concert on Feb. 27, “Oh, I’m excited,” said Parker, “a primer music education and instrumental performance major.” The concert has a unique repertoire and plenty of good players.

Catherine Rand, director of bands, showed equal enthusiasm about the art. She noted that the Feb. 27 concert will be the first time at FIU where “where bands will be used in a production.”

“It’s this big tube [you] swing around your head,” Rand explained, citing the horn-like sound produced from the wind studios.

This particular concert will feature a piece titled “Ohlone” from the Architecture about the Sydney Opera House which, according to Rand, “is like Heaven [when you walk in].”

Rand’s heart, however, goes to an earlier event.

The FIU Chamber Winds Concert on Feb. 6 is shaping up to be both an ominous and semi- muntal affair. It features David Malaska’s “Songbook,” — what is to Rand an “amazing piece of music” that was composed specifically for Florida Christian, Nolde. A flute solo, “Songbook” encompasses movements that relate in surprising ways to Nolde’s musical trajectory, who passed away from breast cancer a year after her second live performance of the song.

With a movement titled “In Loving Memory,” it’s almost inconceivable that Nolde’s life would take such turns, but alone that they would be implemented in a piece comprised particularly for her to play.

A reception at having this piece performed stems from various views, one of them being an equation of appreciation for their mutual, music education, and performing and teaching music.

He is graduating at the end of the semester and will be auditioning on the boards for major institutions, opera, film, shows and bullied. While in San Francisco, he was chosen based on commercial application, it is his home to New Orleans, La., that brought out the musician.

“I love the ability to express myself and share the experience with other people,” Saenz said. “The collective atmosphere in the school is so amazing and it’s my favorite sound.”

More about Joseph Saenz, you can visit his Web site at josephsaenz.locked.com.

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Airborn sound in dubstep proves hard to probe into

For the past month and a half, I’ve been trying to scratch dubstep’s surface, trying to find as many artists and labels to play on the radio so that I could one day, in the near future, start a dubstep/grime show on Radiate FM.

Dubstep, a genre assembled in the heart of London, mixes aspects of jungle, drum & bass, reggae/dub and house music. Add a little bit of bass to establish the foundational rhythm and you’ve got a step.

I’ve been rummaging through dubstep blogs and labels’ archives, trying to dig my way into odd, intriguing London culture. Through my research, I came across Zomby’s Where Were You in ’92 and, while listening to the record, I was introduced to the repetitive airhorn sound effect. Most of Zomby’s songs contain the airhorn but Where Were You in ’92, in particular, goes excess on it. On purpose, though, because the album acts as a retrospective jungle throwback record.

It’s the same damn sound effect played in almost every dubstep, dancehall and reggae song. It’s the same sound effect you’ve been wondering about since you first heard it on that Nina Sky or Sean Paul song. I’ve always wondered why this sound effect, of all sound effects, is used so heavily in these songs. Why these songs? Why not Indian rock songs or electros?

Is it a racous, boshmeth of a sound that acts as some form of a global beacon for music that isn’t from America? Most of the songs that supply the horns are by artists from South America, the Caribbean or across the pond starting in Africa and ending somewhere in Brighton. Is it simply just a cool sound used because it adds complexity to the music? I’ve heard a lot of dubstep songs use the horn sample excessively, possibly to tell them what the horn was used for and not just settle for the horn being used by producers for funsies sake. If you’re as obsessive as I am about these little quines, little hoped you’d appreciate my trek to make sense out of this damn horn.

Just from simplistic Web research and DJ forum-browsing, there are different handles for this dancehall SOS. Some DJs refer to it as the Dub Siren, though this name is a little deceiving. The Dub Siren is actually a synth/effects pedal used for clubs and parties to modify different preset sounds. It’s used mainly for effect and DJs adjust it through a pitch nob. Most of the sounds you hear are familiar since they have the same cultural resonance as the airsample.

You can purchase one off on eBay for cheap, as far as equipment goes. The seller, circuitbender, included the product was good for raves, but apparently nobody told them that the “rave” died in the mid-90s.

Though, with ever-evolving technology and the portability of autotune, a DJ can just download a Dub Siren on the iPhone app store and form a rave wherever they go. Basically, the physical Dub Siren’s effect/synth pedal is obsolete these days and can only serve the purpose of being an obscure novelty.

But the airhorn is definitely not called a Dub Siren. So, I will consider that statement DEBUNKED!

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music. Look for it every Monday.
The Beacon

Opinion

The Beacon can only credit the Student Government Association for its efforts to help the University in whatever way possible. However, the students have not been included in the decision-making process. The administration should have consulted with students, faculty, and staff before making this decision. The students have a right to be involved in the decision-making process and should have been given the opportunity to express their opinions. The administration's decision to ban smoking on campus has been met with mixed reactions from the student body. While some students support the ban, others believe that it infringes on their individual rights and disregards the adequate consultation of students, faculty, and staff. The administration's decision to ban smoking on campus is a step in the right direction, but it should have been made after taking into consideration the views of the student body, faculty, and staff. It is important to strike a balance between public health and individual rights.

Controversy on declassifying papers

President Obama’s newly passed plan is a step in the right direction

Rommey Manassa

Editor

The Obama administration has been no stranger to controversy, especially when it comes to issues concerning federal records. Amid talk of releasing millions of pages of secret documents spanning several decades through the Cold War and its aftermath, it's easy one of the shining moments in his administration.

In a greater show of force, Obama also reversed an order by George W. Bush, who made declassification for the two presidencies would’ve been allowed to block the declassification of any documents pertaining to the American office. The NDC is the next logical step in this movement.

Further, the NDC would centralize the process and have all agencies look at the same documents at the same time; it would break from the status quo in which each federal agency has its own guidelines and procedures for declassification.

Not everyone is happy with the NDC. Many liberal fear Obama’s order doesn’t go far enough, believing that he should order a “mass” declassification in addition to the ones held for the initiative. Others may consider this initiative as yet another example of government overreach with the administration forcing dozens of agencies to declassify on its own terms, rather than theirs. And still others may criticize what they see as an opportunistic weakening of America’s national defense as the order’s reforms could set a precedent that will make future sensitive documents harder to keep secret. These revisions would help bring all agencies up to speed with the Freedom of Information Act (signed into law in 1966), technically making declassification easier.

In these thrifty times, it could save money with the convoluted process for protecting information costing taxpayers almost $9 billion last year (versus $42 million to declassify). But issues are still sure to abound.

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FIU opens season in dominant fashion

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

After a 19-6 season in 2009, the No. 32 ranked FIU tennis team handled Florida Atlantic in its first match of the season on Jan. 21.

Then, playing with heavy hearts on Jan. 23, they took down Troy while sporting purple shirts in remembrance of assistant coach Karie Schlukebir Pennock, who recently lost a battle with cancer.

“It been an emotionally tough week for these girls and myself,” said head coach Melissa Applebaum. “If we can do it for her this season and that’s a little bit more motivation, then why not?”

The motivation, apparently, is working.

After defeating Florida Atlantic on Jan. 21, 7-0, the Golden Panthers took care of Troy decisively.

The Golden Panthers swept all three doubles matches against Troy to take the doubles point, giving FIU a 1-0 advantage going into singles competition.

In singles play, Liset Brito, Chrissie Serendi, Priscilla Castillo and Maria Vallasciani all won their matches.

Castillo has been a dominant presence through the season’s first two matches, defeating FAU’s Cassie Bergeson 6-0 and 7-5 and Troy’s Emma Smith 6-3 and 6-1.

“They’re going to make some good plays once in a while, but if we continue to fight then we just break through,” Castillo said.

The Golden Panthers have won 16 of their last 17 games dating back to last season, their aim being to continue that success on a nine game road trip spanning through Feb. 29.

Applebaum credits the victories to the mental preparedness of her team.

“We just take it one weekend at a time and get the girls back for academics. Consistency is key to success,” she said. “When you can go in, even if your game is not on, if you’re mentally prepared I think that helps.”

The Golden Panthers are booked next weekend, with three matches against Southern Methodist, Virginia Commonwealth, and another team to be announced.

They will not, however be wearing their purple tees in the coming matches.

Unfortunately we’re not allowed to, but we’ll be wearing them proud around campus and when we travel. We did get some pretty cute [uniforms] for the season, so we’ve got to make use of them,” Applebaum said.

Despite having finished just one weekend of competition, the anticipation for the postseason has already begun.

Last year the Golden Panthers reigned supreme in the Sun Belt Conference and they look to do the same this year.

“I want them competing at a high level, getting ready for April. Each match is one step closer,” Applebaum said following the win against Troy.

The Golden Panthers will be competing in the ITA Team Indoor Championship qualifiers this coming weekend.

Season high scoring output lifts Golden Panthers to win

MEN’S, page 12

just nine times.

“We definitely came out with more energy tonight than on Thursday,” Otero said. “It just feels great.”

UALR forward Alex Garcia-Mendoza was the high scorer for the Trojans with 20 points in the game.

Guard Ricky Davidson went 2-4 from beyond the arc. He leads the NCAA in three-point shooting with a .573 shooting percentage from downtown.

OTERO BACK

“I thought having [Otero] back for us really helped us win the game,” Thomas said after the win over the Trojans.

Otero sprained his hamstring a week before the Arkansas State game on Jan. 21.

Otero played his best game of the season scoring, 19 points, 6 assists and 9 rebounds.

“Last game I thought if we would have had him we would have been able to make more transition shots,” Thomas said. “He helped us with his three-point shot, ball distribution and energy.”

FIU 61, UALR 76

FIU struggled mightily from three-point range, shooting just 37 percent from beyond the arc, as they lost 61-76 to Arkansas State University (11-7, 6-1 Sun Belt) on Jan. 21.

“We defnitely came out with more energy tonight than on Thursday. It just feels great.”

J.C. Otero, Forward
FIU Basketball

We definitely came out with more energy tonight than on Thursday. It just feels great.

“Of course if we can’t shoot the ball they are going to play zone,” said point guard Phil Gary Jr. “And we just couldn’t knock down shots.”

GOING COLD

The previously red-hot Marvin Roberts went ice cold against the Red Wolves, going 5-15 from the floor.

The Golden Panthers built a 5-point lead midway through the first half, before giving up a 17-4 run to end the half.

“They simply out-rebounded us,” Thomas said. “Our missed shots simply killed us.”

FIU won the turnover battle against the Red Wolves, but still were out-rebounded 47-35.

ASU also scored 10 second chance points. Guard Brandon Reed led the way with 25 points and shot 11-20 from the field.

“We just lost our aggressiveness,” Thomas said. “When we missed shots is when the aggressiveness hit.”

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Unexpected visitor delays start prior to road loss

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

When the FIU swimming and diving team showed up in Ft. Myers for a meet against the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles, both squads were expecting an 11 a.m. starting time.

What they weren’t expecting was an alligator taking a morning swim inside the FGCU swimming facility.

“It was very exciting, not the kind of story you can make up,” said Coach Noemi Zaharia. “We had to wait until they caught and released it back in the swamp behind the pool before either team could warm up.”

Once the match got under way, the Golden Panthers struggled and lost by a score of 194-94.

Golden Panthers look to get on right track against rival

WOMEN’S, page 12

...can go into the tournament and win with the worst record,” said Gonzalez. “Right now we’re just trying to improve so we can be a better team when the tournament comes.”

For Arkansas-Little Rock (15-5, 8-1 SBC), the victory continues a win streak of what is now 10 games while FIU (8-13, 3-7 SBC) has now lost six of their last eight and will have FAU (9-10, 5-4 SBC) to deal with next.

“We have to win that game [against FAU]. I’m going to win that game,” said the seemingly frustrated Gonzalez. “We’re not going to let them do what they did last year. We’re just going to work hard.”
**OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION**

**Roberts drops 28 points in key win**

**JOEY CRUZ**

**Staff Writer**

With eight minutes remaining in the second half and FIU (7-16, 4-6 Sun Belt) up by one, Marvin Roberts brought some much-needed energy to the Golden Panthers.

Roberts, who was celebrating his 22nd birthday, emphatically slammed home a dunk and gave the crowd of some 900 fans his signature salute.

Roberts sparked the Golden Panthers with his 28 points, and FIU out-scored the University of Arkansas-Little Rock (5-15, 1-8 Sun Belt) by 15 from that point on, as the Golden Panthers scored a season-high 96-81 on Jan. 23 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“I like the way we’re playing,” said head coach Isiah Thomas. “When I first started talking to [the media] I said we would strive to get better.”

FIU played one of its best games of the season, shooting 49 percent from the floor.

Four Golden Panthers scored in double figures, and the bench contributed 43 points in the win, J.C. Otten leading the way with 13 off the bench.

“The better they play offensively, the more confidence they have in their teammates,” Thomas said.

“When they’re not playing well offensively, they become stingy and do not give the ball to each other.”

The Golden Panthers surprisingly out-scored the larger Trojans team in the paint, 32-26.

They also forced 13 turnovers while playing a very efficient offensive game, giving the ball away just six minutes off the bench and did not attempt a field goal.

The Trojans were then able to cut the Trojans’ lead to eight with a three-pointer, but nothing fazed Mansare’s 68, also did not attempt a single digit until 16 points and maintained a 10-point lead over Arkansas-Little Rock.

“That’s the best defensive team I have seen in the conference,” said Gonzalez. “They’re always in your face. They held, they recovered, so it was hard for us to score.”

FIU was finally able to knock down the Trojans’ lead to 12.

Phil Gary was one of four Golden Panthers to score in double figures, putting up 12 while leading the team in assists.