Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks to students about alternative energy

MARIELLA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. came to FIU to raise awareness about the need to invest heavily in alternative energy technology as opposed to coal and oil burning, thereby reducing our dependence on fossil fuels to supply energy.

"Nature is the infrastructure of our community," Kennedy said during his visit on Feb. 17. The lecture was funded by the Student Government Association, which spent $27,500 to bring Kennedy as a guest speaker. SGA also had a private reception with Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. spoke on raising awareness on the need of alternative energy on Feb. 17 in the GC Ballrooms.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. talks on alternative energy

"I think this is going to be very long term and large scale," Houry said, who is in charge of the program.

Preparation for the partnership began over a year and a half ago after the concept was mentioned by the Honors College community advisory board.

The city of Sweetwater, with the help of the FIU Honors College, will take part in a city-wide project to help enhance the community and assist its residents.

The FIU Honors College-Sweetwater Partnership, managed by Student Enrichment Coordinator Cecile Houry, gives Honors College students the opportunity to engage in a variety of hands-on projects throughout the Sweetwater community, ranging from tutoring children to serving as interns at the mayor’s office.

The idea behind it was that we wanted to have a coherent Honors College project that all honors students could be a part of," said Lesley Northup, the interim dean of the Honors College. "Instead of just doing little things like Relay for Life and beach cleanups, we can get them to concentrate on something that would have a valuable and noticeable impact on a community. So choosing Sweetwater then was a no-brainer because they are our community."

The partnership is divided into separate sections of the community which include the governmental team, education team, and senior partnership group. Starting in the fall of 2011, a Green team will be added which focuses on environmental initiatives such as planting trees around the neighborhoods.

"Often when you start a new thing you find that it’s very hard to get it off the ground, but this has been going great from the beginning and more Honors College students are getting excited about doing things over there," Northup added.

With the governmental team, eight students currently have unpaid internships within the mayor’s office in different services that include the governmental team, education team, and senior partnership group. According to Northup, "they were delighted with the idea that FIU students would want to do stuff, and
Citizenship classes, landscaping part of project’s intended goals

HONORS, page 1
paritcularly delighted that they were honors students because they knew the quality of students that they were getting.

“It’s a great opportunity for kids and I’m really glad that they did this because it’s hard to get yourself out there by yourself. You have no one to back you up,” said sophomore honors student Kathleen Pflahler, an international business major who is currently working with the city’s finance department.

“With the Honors College behind you and having someone there to help you put in that extra effort, it makes it a lot easier.”

Students under the same government-centered team will also organize six to seven citizenship classes by March 3, for Sweetwater residents going through the process of becoming U.S. citizens.

Through the educational team, elementary school children are visited by five Honors College students during after-school hours in order to play games of citizenship.

The participants have also received free tickets to attend athletic events at FIU, like the women’s basketball game that took place Feb. 17.

Targeting academics at the same time, Honors students offer tutoring to kids as well through aftercare programs like Read2Succeed and UI Alner Mobile Home Park Tutoring.

Some have been coming every week now and we’ve gotten to know them.” Hourly said. “We have kids from various backgrounds and we don’t speak English very well to a girl who comes is 17 for [help in] algebra. It’s really rewarding.”

Senior associates at the community senior center receive benefits from the program as well through visits from the members of Gamma Epsilon Phi, the honors society for Honors College students.

During the Fall of this year, they will be provided lessons, by students, in managing e-mail accounts on the Internet.

According to Houry, the partnership will be expanding its student involvement within the next semesters and adding environmental projects that aim to beautify the city.

Reactions mixed on lecture’s focus

KENNEDY, page 1
the building of two nuclear plants in Georgia.

His adamant criticism of the coal and oil industries focused on wasteful spending and poor decisions at the top corporate levels.

He emphasized the need for a totally new and comprehensive approach to the way this country invests in its future.

Students had varying reactions to Kennedy’s lecture.

“His level of extraordinary conviction convinced a lot of the FIU students that it is never too late to start combating global warming,” said junior Janel Vargas.

Ben Badger, J.P., press secretary for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus, agreed.

“Kennedy was both entertaining and enlightening. He presented many facts and insights that simply go unnoticed in the great energy debate.”

Some, however, weren’t as enthusiastic.

“I don’t agree with his view on global warming and he didn’t answer the essential question which is: how much in taxes will we be stuck paying if we drop the coal and oil industry?” said freshman Trang Phamhoang.

After the lecture, SGA awarded Kennedy with a framed copy of a resolution passed by the SGC-MMC senate in honor of Kennedy’s deceased uncle, former Massachusetts Senator Edward Moore “Ted” Kennedy, commending him for “his integral role in passing more than 300 pieces of legislation.”

Kennedy also received an FIU handbag filled with Campus Life paraphernalia.

Immediately following the event, Kennedy was asked to do a book signing for his 2007 book Crimes Against Nature.

“The man’s genuine personality is certainly worth admiration in my book,” Vargas said.

Councls discuss staff downsizing

SGA, page 1
amount of lower-division senators is what they want to reduce.

“Four lower-division senators is literally too much for Biscayne Bay.” As a result of all the changes, it was necessary to change the composition of the “In his role in the conspiracy, saying “In spring 2008, I conspired with others to join the Taliban, to fight along with the Taliban with the United States.”

Toyota accused of negligence on accelerator testing

Leading Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee accused Toyota of the notion that computer issues could be at fault for sticking accelerator pedals, and of making misleading statements worldwide in two separate actions related to complaints of negligence on accelerator testing.

Toyota accused of negligence on accelerator testing

According to the New York Times, since last fall, Toyota has recalled more than eight million vehicles worldwide in two separate actions related to complaints about accelerator pedals that can become stuck, making it hard to stop the vehicle.

The comments, from Henry A. Waxman, the committee’s chairman, and Bart Stupak, a subcommittee chairman, came in an 11-page letter to James E. Lentz, president of the Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A.

The New York Times reported that the letter was released on the eve of the committee’s hearing into the chairman, came in an 11-page letter to James E. Lentz, president of the Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A.

The New York Times reported that the letter was released on the eve of the committee’s hearing into the chairmanship, came in an 11-page letter to James E. Lentz, president of the Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A.

The New York Times reported that the letter was released on the eve of the committee’s hearing into the chairmanship, came in an 11-page letter to James E. Lentz, president of the Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A.

The New York Times reported that the letter was released on the eve of the committee’s hearing into the chairmanship, came in an 11-page letter to James E. Lentz, president of the Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A.
SGC-BBC

University-wide council discusses financial matters

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

The University-wide council met on Feb. 19 to approve and deny funding for various campus offices, organizations and amenities out of the $9,634,960 budget.

Although the meeting was scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the number of items being considered and the discussions that ensued extended the meeting until 7 p.m.

The executive boards from both campuses were present and SGC-BBC Comptroller Robert Chang acted as the meeting chair.

Both Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and Jose Toscano, assistant director of SGA were present to help guide the councils as they advise both Director of Campus Life Craig Cunningham, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Cathy Akins, and Director of Budget and Personnel Matilde Gramling offered their expertise.

One of the most heated debates ensued when the discussion to fund the marching band came up. Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda was quick to begin a motion to fully fund the $130,000 requested, despite a call for discussion.

“There is no point in debating it,” said Rionda. “We have debated it backward and forward.”

SGC-BBC Vice President Christin “Cici” Battle pointed out some reservations. “Explain your passion,” said Battle. “Yes, we should fund the band – however, there are some things that need to come in place for students.”

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein agreed to vote only if proviso language was added to the motion. Ultimately it passed unanimously with proviso language that stated that this was a one-time allocation and the vice presidents from both councils must be involved in leadership-based decisions.

Furthermore, they expect other departments to contribute funding in the future, although they did not specify which departments.

Another major cause for contention was the funding going toward SGA itself, namely its internship program. A motion to revamp the internship program into a campus-specific model was ultimately shot down. However, not all were enthusiastic about the decision to fully fund the SGA Intern Retreat at $10,500.

“We’re spending $40,000 on a retreat already,” said SGC-MMC Vice President Mykaelle “Myka” Figueiredo. “This is a waste of money.”

According to Toscano, not all of the money goes to the retreat. “It is actually for the year-long program,” he said.

According to Toscano, an estimate of $3,800 from the $10,500 will be used for the actual retreat while remaining funds that are not used for retreats go toward training workshops, T-shirts and other materials.

Major budget cuts were also a part of this meeting. To begin with, MMC’s Graham Center only received $2,153,00 of the $3,000,000 requested. Additional requests such as 17 flat-screen televisions, restroom remodeling, and a permanent dance floor were denied.

According to Gramling, neither GC nor the Wolfe University Center is doing well in regards to revenue, which is “dying up due to the economy.” Ergo, proviso language added to the passed motion states that the funding for a proposed art gallery, computer lab, and game room must come out of their approved allotment.

Story Corps/Writing for Change, a campus organization that combined community service and creative writing, was unanimously denied their request for $4,000 due to its lack of presence in the University.

“If you can tell me what they do, then maybe I’ll consider [funding them],” Figueiredo said.

Rionda suggested that the organization should be referred to the Council for Student Organizations as a club instead.

Furthermore, the funding toward University-wide distribution of The New Times has been cut.

“I am against the New Times program because we are not in New York,” Rionda said.

To replace the program, the University will make an effort to advertise the online edition of Times and possibly create a similar, and ultimately less expensive distribution partnership with The Miami Herald or The Sun-Sentinel.

Additional reporting by Sergio Montaño.

Scholarships’ ultimate aim is giving back through Caribbean, Mexican students

KATHERINE PORRAS
Contributing Writer

The Latin American and Caribbean Center at the University present the Florida Caribbean Institute and the Florida Mexico Institute scholarship awards. The FCI and FMI provide financial aid to international students from the Caribbean or Mexico.

On the LACC Web site it states that a student must be a citizen from the Caribbean in order to be eligible for the FMI Award. To be eligible for the FMI Award, the student must be a citizen from Mexico. The international student is also required to have a F1 or J1 visa.

A F1 visa is an exchange visitor program and the F1 visas are given only through academic institutions. According to Astrid Arrarás, director of academic programs, the FCI and FMI waivers are a very popular financial assistance tool but many students still do not know about it.

Anthony Rionda was quick to begin a motion to fully fund the $130,000 requested, despite a call for discussion.

“There is no point in debating it,” said Rionda. “We have debated it backward and forward.”

SGC-BBC Vice President Christin “Cici” Battle pointed out some reservations. “Explain your passion,” said Battle. “Yes, we should fund the band – however, there are some things that need to come in place for students.”

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein agreed to vote only if proviso language was added to the motion. Ultimately it passed unanimously with proviso language that stated that this was a one-time allocation and the vice presidents from both councils must be involved in leadership-based decisions.

Furthermore, they expect other departments to contribute funding in the future, although they did not specify which departments.

Another major cause for contention was the funding going toward SGA itself, namely its internship program. A motion to revamp the internship program into a campus-specific model was ultimately shot down. However, not all were enthusiastic about the decision to fully fund the SGA Intern Retreat at $10,500.

“We’re spending $40,000 on a retreat already,” said SGC-MMC Vice President Mykaelle “Myka” Figueiredo. “This is a waste of money.”

According to Toscano, not all of the money goes to the retreat. “It is actually for the year-long program,” he said.

According to Toscano, an estimate of $3,800 from the $10,500 will be used for the actual retreat while remaining funds that are not used for retreats go toward training workshops, T-shirts and other materials.

Major budget cuts were also a part of this meeting. To begin with, MMC’s Graham Center only received $2,153,00 of the $3,000,000 requested. Additional requests such as 17 flat-screen televisions, restroom remodeling, and a permanent dance floor were denied.

According to Gramling, neither GC nor the Wolfe University Center is doing well in regards to revenue, which is “drying up due to the economy.” Ergo, proviso language added to the passed motion states that the funding for a proposed art gallery, computer lab, and game room must come out of their approved allotment.

Story Corps/Writing for Change, a campus organization that combined community service and creative writing, was unanimously denied their request for $4,000 due to its lack of presence in the University.

“If you can tell me what they do, then maybe I’ll consider [funding them],” Figueiredo said.

Rionda suggested that the organization should be referred to the Council for Student Organizations as a club instead.

Furthermore, the funding toward University-wide distribution of The New Times has been cut.

“I am against the New Times program because we are not in New York,” Rionda said.

To replace the program, the University will make an effort to advertise the online edition of Times and possibly create a similar, and ultimately less expensive distribution partnership with The Miami Herald or The Sun-Sentinel.

Additional reporting by Sergio Montaño.
Dear District 25: It’s just not working out

Mario isn't abandoning his district; he's breaking up with them before they have the chance to break up with him.

Both are relatively conservative, and they even look a bit alike. Perhaps Mario is hoping they won't really notice the difference. I commend Mario’s decision to move to a district that is more likely to appreciate him. For years Mario has been seen as riding his brother's coattails. Now all he has to do is ride them a few miles away from where he currently lives. Sure, he’s actually serving as one district’s representative while seeking to represent another, so in a way he’s basically cheating on his current constituents. But Mario is just young. He can’t be tied down to just one district, he still wants to play the field. District 25 was cool and everything, but it wasn’t “the one.” He has needs that need to be met, and the need to get re-elected is chief among them.

I for one applaud the Diaz-Balart’s move to put his feelings and family ahead of the people of his current district. Hopefully now they can both move on.

The people of District 25 can elect a Democrat and Mario can move to a district that better meets his needs until something better comes along. Mario’s just not a one-district kind of guy.

Mario isn’t abandoning his district; he’s breaking up with them before they have the chance to break up with him.

Both are relatively conservative, and they even look a bit alike. Perhaps Mario is hoping they won’t really notice the difference. I commend Mario’s decision to move to a district that is more likely to appreciate him. For years Mario has been seen as riding his brother's coattails. Now all he has to do is ride them a few miles away from where he currently lives. Sure, he’s actually serving as one district’s representative while seeking to represent another, so in a way he’s basically cheating on his current constituents. But Mario is just young. He can’t be tied down to just one district, he still wants to play the field. District 25 was cool and everything, but it wasn’t “the one.” He has needs that need to be met, and the need to get re-elected is chief among them.

I for one applaud the Diaz-Balart’s move to put his feelings and family ahead of the people of his current district. Hopefully now they can both move on.

The people of District 25 can elect a Democrat and Mario can move to a district that better meets his needs until something better comes along. Mario’s just not a one-district kind of guy.
Documentary spotlights food industry monopolies

Eating your vegetables may not be as good for you after all – at least the ones available to you at your favorite supermarket. What exactly is the problem with supermarket carrots? That’s what the environmentally and socially conscious documentary, Fresh, will be explaining to FIU students on March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in GC 150, free of charge.

More important, the film will show that there are people already working on a solution, and how you can join them. Fresh touches on the issue of the over-industrialization of our food; the fact that the entirety of the United State’s production is controlled by three or four major corporations, and that they would rather mass produce hormone-fed chicken as cheaply as possible than deliver quality poultry.

FRESH, page 6

Panel Panel

One-shot fails in attempt to incorporate silly humor

A absurdism is a deeply contemplated philosophy that, boiled down to its basic meaning, contends that human life has no meaning. Closely rooted to nihilism and other depressing schools of philosophy, you may be confused as to why this all connects to comic books.

I’ve noticed that there is a lot of humor out in the world that tries to use absurdism to its advantage. In lieu of an actual punch line, there’s something random that surprises and, hopefully, produces some laughs. It comes off as the tool of the inexperienced and can be seen everywhere from “Saturday Night Live” to Web comic strips such as White Ninja.

If you don’t know how to write something that makes someone laugh, the safest bet is to write something ridiculous that is impossible, and someone out there will think you’re a genius.

The specific instance I am trying to refer to this time would be Marvel comic’s special one-shot issue of Hit Monkey: The World’s Greatest Assassin. For those who haven’t seen or heard of this issue coming out, I can explain the premise easily – but not the reason for it.

He is a monkey, and he happens to kill only other assassins.

To find out why exactly a monkey would want to kill anyone at all, you would have to read the issue, but I’ll honestly admit that it’s not worth finding out.

Once you come to terms with the fact that you’re going to be reading a very silly issue, you would think that being prepared would be enough to get you through the issue. Yet within the pages, you find that the entire origin of Hit Monkey is told with a straight face. The entire story is extremely solemn and serious, completely disregarding that its main character is a monkey holding guns.

Though the idea of telling this story with reverence is slightly amusing, I couldn’t get too far in without wanting to put it down, because I simply did not care about the monkey or his monkey friends.

If you do a bit of searching, you’ll find that Hit Monkey ties into the most recent issue of Deadpool. Sadly, I don’t think this really gives this one-shot a reason to exist.

If you’re like me and are simply trying to get through Deadpool fine without the help of extra background stories.

If you like animals or assassins or the rare combination of both, this issue might be perfectly made for you.

A

Panel Panel is a weekly comics column written in tandem by Sean Gonzalez and Pablo Penson. Look for it every Wednesday.
Films explore accessible organic alternatives

This, and many other factual horrors of this industry, were the focus of 2008’s Academy Award nominated documentary Food Inc., and while Fresh reivits this sad but true scenario, its message is one of hope.

This film hopes to show you that the grass can indeed be greener on the other side.

Produced and directed by Portuguese filmmaker Ana Joanes, Fresh is a 72-minute documentary showcasing the effect that food back from the big corporate suits by growing fruits, vegetables and even raising pigs and cows in community-based organic farms.

You will be introduced to all-natural cowboy and the tube attached to his diaper. I’m not sure if Jui-chung is trying to say humanity and non-living, has.

The piece connects humor to a bigger theme: the connection that everything, living and non-living, has.

The William R. Kenan, Jr. Grand Gallery is dedicated to the work of Tseng Yu-chin. The exhibit will be open until May 16.

Yu-chun’s art is all about multimedia and the effects of media on society, mainly children. The photos and video showing children in an unconscious state on a school bus and in the middle of urban Milwaukee.

The child photographs with the tubes coming from their foreheads, mouths, eyes and chests.

The tubes attach to a series of photographs that are quirky and surreal.

The center photograph is of a crawling baby and the tube attached to his diaper. I’m not sure if Jui-chung is trying to say humanity and non-living, has.

The exhibit will be open until May 16.

The Ring

The Grudge

or

class are probably the creepiest things ever.

The current model for food distribution in the U.S. is to grow it wherever it is cheapest and then ship it to wherever it is to be sold. You can see a future where oil will reach such a price that it will make this scheme no longer profitable to these corporations,” Nevavaci said.

Add to that the fact that because crops and livestock are grown in such an unnatural way, more chemicals must be pumped into them each year to maintain yields, and you get a practice that cannot possibly continue forever.

“By decentralizing food and growing it locally, we are securing our food sources and, by doing it organically, we are doing so in a sustainable way,” Nevavaci added.

This is the message that both Stephan and the co-director of FIU’s Agro-Ecology Program, Mahadev G. Bhat, wish to transmit to students through this documentary.

Bhat hopes the film will raise awareness of this very important issue among FIU students, most of which have no idea what’s going on with their food.

Mike Paez, 23, said that, while he did know something about the industry’s damaging practices, he didn’t know about any alternatives.

“I think it’s important for this food sustainability message to get out there, because it at least shows a step in the right direction,” he said.

If you want to start going organic, you need not look too far.

Members of the University’s Garden Club set up shop every Wednesday, from 12 to 3 p.m. behind the Green Library at the Modesto Maidique Campus. Everything they sell is organic, and most of it is grown in the club’s own garden.
Golden Panthers hope to peak with two games left

MEN’S, page 8

to FIU’s success with two 20-point games in the last four. Russell has been coming off the bench most of the season, solely for defensive purposes before his recent offensive outbursts.

“We need all the scoring we can get,” Gary said. “And Tremayne is really helping us out as of late.”

RECENT STRUGGLES

Thomas must limit the crucial mistakes he discusses in order to even have a shot at contending in the East Division of the SBC. Recurring issues like Gary’s knee tendinitis are small obstacles in their road to the conference tournament.

I don’t want to stop playing,” Gary said. “Especially when my team needs me.”

Junior Nick Taylor has lately been starting at point guard as Gary recovers, recently jumping Steven Miro on the depth chart.

Another concern for FIU: leading scorer Marvin Roberts has been slowing down as the season comes to a close. Other than the Troy game on Feb. 13, where Roberts scored 27, he has been shooting lower than his season averages in the last eight games.

“I think it’s more of his shot selection,” Gary said of Roberts. “But Coach is always telling him to shoot so it’s more an issue of him getting used to Coach’s system.”

TOURNEY TIME

FIU has the misfortune of playing in the competitive East Division of the SBC, where every team has at least seven conference wins and four out of six teams in the conference have at least 10 wins.

In the weaker West Division, only three teams have over seven conference wins.

“If we get hot right now and win three or four straight come conference time, we have a chance to make it to the NCAA tournament,” Gary said. “We can win the next two games and jump to fifth or sixth place and get a good seed.”

The Golden Panthers will host MTSU on Thursday, Feb. 25 for the second time this season, looking to start the coveted streak.

Spurned freshman looks to prove his doubters wrong

MATTOX, page 8

In addition to breaking the national high school record for the clean-and-jerk, Mattox joined the U.S. Olympic weightlifting team. He was also a member of a local paintball powerhouse.

Mattox got guidance from his family along the way, including his father.

“My drive came from my dad constantly saying that what I had achieved was not good enough, in a good way,” Mattox said. “The kind that pushes you to become better. My parents have always wanted the best for me.”

When it came time to choose a college destination, Mattox only had the option of going to Arkansas State on scholarship for weightlifting.

He opted for the chance to play two sports and walk on at FIU. Mattox said he was mystified when he didn’t receive more offers. According to schools that were interested in him, like Georgia Tech, Mattox (6-foot-1, 270 lbs.) was too undersized to warrant a scholarship offer.

“I use it as motivation, and I wanted to prove the other teams wrong,” he said. “It made me work that much harder.”

MY DREAM

“My parents wanted me to play football, and my dream is to possibly play in the NFL one day,” he said. “The thing that attracted me to FIU was the diversity that it has, along with the possibility of playing two sports.”

While playing two sports can sometimes create issues for student athletes, Mattox has embraced the possibility with open arms.

“Playing football and doing track gives me the best of both worlds,” he said. “Football is much more team oriented than track and field, which is almost completely reliant on the individual. It’s a good mix year round.”

Mattox hopes to graduate from FIU with a degree in sports fitness, and to one day open a business or even maybe coach football.

Before then, however, Mattox will look to threaten records in both sports during his career.
Team looks to finish on high note

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

Near the end of a rough season in which the Golden Panthers have compiled a 7-22 record and a last place 4-12 clip in Sun Belt Conference play, FIU seems to be making strides as the regular season comes to a close and the Panthers get ready for tournament play, according to FIU head coach Isiah Thomas.

“We’re definitely playing better and starting to nail shots,” Thomas said. “Hopefully once tournament time comes we can limit the small mistakes we are making.”

In the Golden Panthers’ last four games, they have lost by single digits and have been relatively competitive, despite losing all four.

Essential Golden Panthers late in the season include J.C. Otero, who in the last two games played, has put up double-doubles.

“His nickname is Mr. Double-Double,” FIU point guard Phil Gary Jr. said. “We expect him to get at least 10 rebounds a game.”

Tremayne Russell has also been contributing something of a surprise, with success late in the season.

“We’re definitely playing better and starting to nail shots,” Thomas said. “Hopefully once tournament time comes we can limit the small mistakes we are making.”

In the Golden Panthers’ last four games, they have lost by single digits and have been relatively competitive, despite losing all four.

Essential Golden Panthers late in the season include J.C. Otero, who in the last two games played, has put up double-doubles.

“His nickname is Mr. Double-Double,” FIU point guard Phil Gary Jr. said. “We expect him to get at least 10 rebounds a game.”

Tremayne Russell has also been contributing something of a surprise, with success late in the season.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Clark looms large as FIU puts win streak on the line

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU women’s basketball team has been something of a surprise, with success late in the season and six straight wins dating back to Jan. 30.

Their next opponent, however, has been impressive the whole way through.

In fact, the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders have just one loss in the Sun Belt Conference this season, to Arkansas-Little Rock on Jan. 9.

Since then, Middle Tennessee (20-5, 15-1 Sun Belt) has won 11 straight games, and will look to extend that streak against the Golden Panthers (14-13, 9-7 SBC) in tonight’s matchup at the U.S. Century Bank Arena at 7 p.m.

Although the Sun Belt Conference’s East Division is nearly set heading into the conference tournament, the Golden Panthers will get a chance to see how they stack up against first place MTSU today and in a Feb. 27 game vs. second place Western Kentucky at home to close the season.

There is also the possibility of moving in to second place in the division if they win both games and WKU drops their last two games of the season.

Before that, however, the Golden Panthers must try to stop the Middle Tennessee machine.

Earlier this season, Middle Tennessee beat FIU by 32 points. In the devastating loss, FIU gave up 34 points to Jackie Pickel and 22 points to Alysha Clark, a senior forward, has dominated the league this season with 29.4 points per game and 13 rebounds to the conference’s leading scorer.

“[Clark] is just going to score, she’s good,” said FIU point guard Michelle Gonzalez.

Clark, a senior forward, has dominated the conference this season with 29.4 points per game and as of Feb. 22 is tied for first place in the SBC in rebounding with 11.3 per game.

“She is a player that is going to score anyway, but she can’t win by herself,” said FIU point guard Michelle Gonzalez.

The Golden Panthers are aware of the task that lies ahead of them, as they will try to defend the top scoring offense in the conference (80 points per game), but they seem confident that they can handle it.

“[Clark] is just going to score, she’s good,” continued Gonzalez. “But if we can stop the guards, that would be a good plan. I think we have an opportunity to win.”

Pickel and Brandi Brown are both averaging nearly 14 points per game on the wing to complement Clark, who is a candidate for the Lowe’s senior class award.

Most of Gonzalez’ confidence stems from the improved defense that FIU’s post players have shown late in the season, according to Gonzalez.

“We’re going to concentrate on the guards because my post players are playing really good defense,” she said.

The frontcourt she refers to includes junior Elisa Carey, who leads the team in rebounding and scoring with 9.5 and 13.8, respectively.

According to Carey, consistency will be the key to beating the Blue Raiders, something FIU has not had since the 2007-2008 season.

Freshman Mansare has also been productive lately in FIU’s frontcourt, averaging 7.9 ppg and 5.3 rpg. The Hungarian native has been a starter for head coach Cindy Russo the past seven games and has compiled a 49.4 field goal percentage. In FIU’s most recent victory against Florida Atlantic, she grabbed a career-high 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

The freshman will most likely be matched up against Clark throughout the game, in a measuring stick contest for the Golden Panthers.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

MEN: FIU VS. MTSU

What: FIU vs. Middle Tennessee
When: Thursday, Feb. 25
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: U.S. Century Bank Arena

MEN’S BASKETBALL

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Mattox tackles both track and field

TOM DEAN
Staff Writer

Andrew Mattox has a penchant for breaking records.

At a high school track meet last spring, he shattered the high school record for the clean-and-jerk as a weightlifter.

“It’s my biggest accomplishment to date,” Mattox said of the record. “But I’m not satisfied.”

Habitually, Mattox has continued that legacy for the FIU track and field team, where he has already decimated the freshman shot put record.

Coming out of high school, however, Mattox could not claim praise. Mattox comes from a track and field family, which he started in at Spruce Creek High in central Florida.

In the short time he has been at FIU, he has become a two-sport athlete between the FIU football team and track and field.

In track, he narrowly missed the overall shot put record by .37 meters, and played in five games for the football team in 2009, recording 40 tackles in a walk-on.

Mattox has impacted a young track and field team heading into the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship on Feb. 26.

TRACK & FIELD

MATTOX, page 7

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Clark looms large as FIU puts win streak on the line

STEVE McGUIRE
Asst. Sports Director

Alysha Clark of MTSU leads the Sun Belt in scoring and rebounding and is on the 2009-10 Naismith Trophy Watch list.

As a high schooler, the 6-foot-4 Clark looked to flex her dominance on the Golden Panthers.

“[Clark] is just going to score, she’s good,” said FIU point guard Michelle Gonzalez.

Clark, a senior forward, has dominated the conference this season with 29.4 points per game and as of Feb. 22 is tied for first place in the SBC in rebounding with 11.3 per game.

“She is a player that is going to score anyway, but she can’t win by herself,” said FIU point guard Michelle Gonzalez.

The Golden Panthers are aware of the task that lies ahead of them, as they will try to defend the top scoring offense in the conference (80 points per game), but they seem confident that they can handle it.

“[Clark] is just going to score, she’s good,” continued Gonzalez. “But if we can stop the guards, that would be a good plan. I think we have an opportunity to win.”

Pickel and Brandi Brown are both averaging nearly 14 points per game on the wing to complement Clark, who is a candidate for the Lowe’s senior class award.

Most of Gonzalez’ confidence stems from the improved defense that FIU’s post players have shown late in the season, according to Gonzalez.

“We’re going to concentrate on the guards because my post players are playing really good defense,” she said.

The frontcourt she refers to includes junior Elisa Carey, who leads the team in rebounding and scoring with 9.5 and 13.8, respectively.

According to Carey, consistency will be the key to beating the Blue Raiders, something FIU has not had since the 2007-2008 season.

Freshman Mansare has also been productive lately in FIU’s frontcourt, averaging 7.9 ppg and 5.3 rpg. The Hungarian native has been a starter for head coach Cindy Russo the past seven games and has compiled a 49.4 field goal percentage. In FIU’s most recent victory against Florida Atlantic, she grabbed a career-high 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

The freshman will most likely be matched up against Clark throughout the game, in a measuring stick contest for the Golden Panthers.