Two councils to be demoted

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Senior Staff Writer

Resolutions will be presented in the coming weeks that will propose the “movement of Panther Rage and the restructuring of [Graduate Student Association],” according to Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda. Rionda said that both bodies will continue to exist but not as governing councils and that their organizational structures would be different.

Panther Rage will be a committee within the Student Government Association and the amount of graduate senators, who will be responsible for the allocation of conference funding, will increase from two to four.

Giovanni Correale, vice president of Panther Rage, said in an interview with Student Media that the councils were analyzed on criteria such as membership, activity and general support basis.

In other words, they were analyzed based on what they are supposed to do according to their constitution, how they are doing it and how effective they are.

“The two councils that ended up at the bottom of the totem pole were GSA and ourselves,” Correale said.

Correale said two of the causes of Panther Rage’s results were their reduced budget and lack of communication with Athletics.

“Things happened that were out of our power,” Correale said.

Correale and Anthony Barbato, president of Panther Rage, said that if the resolution passes, Panther Rage would not exist as a governing council. What would exist is a committee within SGA that would take responsibility for the running of all general and special elections.

The list of 32 candidates who qualified for the runoff, including presidential, vice presidential and senatorial candidates, were notified through an e-mail from the board. In the e-mail, the board told candidates that they are required to attend one of the two candidate meetings, held on March 10 and 11.

The week after Spring Break, March 22, is when the campaigning for elections is set to begin and the Elections Board, a board confirmed by the SGC-MMC senate responsible for the running of all general and special elections at MMC, plans to market elections through print and Internet methods.

Christy Flores, Elections Board commissioner, said the board plans to use flyers and Facebook for marketing. She said they will start as soon as they get in contact with publications.

The Elections Board plans to have a debate between Lower Division seniors and Act Large seniors in the Graham Center Pit on March 26. Flores said the board is still searching for a moderator and they have several administrators in mind to take up that position. She said students would be able to ask the candidates questions.

PantherSoft will not be the voting system for this year’s elections, its replacement will be votenet.com. Flores said there will be a trial-run of Votenet for the Black Student Union elections.

SGA elections are March 29 and 30.

Law school launches mentoring program

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

Last October, the College of Law partnered with the Hispanic National Bar Foundation to launch the Project Access mentoring program, according to the law school web site. Project Access aims at providing assistance to minority and other traditionally underrepresented groups in the legal profession.

According to the press release, students will be matched with mentoring attorneys to explore the application processes of college and law school, internships, scholarships and the real world work of a lawyer.

Associate Dean of the College of Law Michelle Mason, who is overseeing the mentoring program, explained the events the law school is holding this year to further develop the program.

According to Mason, students participating in the Project Access program will partner with other area high school students in a final moot court competition in April. All students participating will receive a certificate; Project Access schools will receive a plaque for their school and the competition’s winner will receive a prize.

In addition, the law school hopes to offer underrepresented students assistance while they prepare for the bar examination.

“These mentors will offer moral support, study tips and time management advice throughout the stressful period of bar study,” Mason said.
Earthquake hits Indian Ocean

A magnitude 6.5 earthquake occurred in the ocean southwest of Sumatra in Indonesia.

According to CNN, the quake occurred shortly after 11 p.m. and was centered about 100 miles west of Bengkulu, Sumatra.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter was 13.7 miles deep.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

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WORLD

Arizona bus crash kills six

Several people were ejected from a bus when it crashed on an Arizona interstate on Friday, killing six passengers.

According to CNN, the wreck occurred at 5:27 a.m. on Interstate 10 south of Phoenix when the commercial bus rear-ended a pickup truck.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety told CNN that the driver lost control of the bus, went off road, and rolled over at least once while several people were ejected.

Full-body scans to be implemented at 11 airports

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced Friday that the federal government will begin to deploy full-body scanning machines at 11 airports across the United States.

According to CNN, 40 body-imaging machines already have been put into use at 19 airports nationwide as part of a field test.

The Transportation Security Administration expects to deploy 450 units by the end of this year.

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NEWS FLASH

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2010 SGC-MMC CANDIDATES

President:
- Heleno Ramirez

Vice President:
- Nick Ariello

Lower Division:
- Vanessa Garcia
- Ramon Gonzalez
- Macarena Jimenez
- Amanda Jimenez
- Iman Huang
- Patrick O'Keefe

Arts & Architecture:
- Elizabeth Cid

Arts & Sciences:
- Atosu Alocio

Businesses:
- Kevin Gonzalez
- Hector Mujica

Education:
- Adam do Amorao

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Program expected to gain success

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ACCESS, page 1

assist the legal profession and the society it serves,” Mason said.

She also added, “The FIU College of Law seeks to graduate students who appreciate the lawyer’s professional and ethical obligations to serve the community. The College of Law education future lawyers who understand the value—to the community and to them personally—of helping those in need.”

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PantherRage fights back

Barbato said what Panther Rage is currently working on is having one of the current Panther Rage executive board members filling that committee chair position.

They did admit, however, that they have read the resolution themselves and that they were going on what they heard.

Correale said Panther Rage wants the opportunity to give a counter argument.

“If we’re going down, we’re going down with a fight,” Correale said.

He defended Panther Rage during the interview by bringing up how long the council has existed.

“If something wasn’t relevant, then they had to worry about quorum, the minimum funds would be good because “all they did is tweak it,” Barbato said.

Sholom Neistein, SGC at Biscayne Bay Campus president, said that for GSA, a committee would be more efficient than a governing council because they would not have to worry about quorum, the minimum number of people necessary to conduct business.

He also said that setting up an allocation from which the committee could draw funds would be good because “all they did was come with money requests.”

Srikanth Korla, president of GSA, said even though having a council is important and “always good,” the new model is better because of the increased senate seats and conference funding.

Riosda said during the senate meeting that graduate funding would increase from $45,000 to $100,000.

“Being under SGA is good for graduate students as well as SGA,” Korla said.

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PantherWire

Mon, Wed & Fri 11 am-12 pm
Tune in to 88.1 95.3 96.9 wrgp.org

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Commitment ceremony celebrates right to love

KATHERINE PORRAS
Contributing Writer

Under the large glass wall of Panther Square, couples showed their commitment to each other in front of a crowd of students and faculty.

Stonewall 2 BBC, the University’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization, held a commitment ceremony for both homosexual and heterosexual couples.

The event, titled “I Want...I Can’t...I Do!” was held at Panther Square on March 4.

Daniel Anzueto, president of Stonewall 2 BBC, the University’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization, held a commitment ceremony for both homosexual and heterosexual couples.

“We wanted to increase awareness and education on same-sex marriage and the difficulties they have even more participation.” said David-Williams.

Sarah David-Williams, office manager for Campus Life and Orientation said that she enjoyed the gesture and the symbol the event represented.

“[The event] provided a venue in which same-sex couples could express their commitment,” said David-Williams.

Anzueto pointed out that they kept the event as “commitment” and not “marriage” to show their respect to other religious views.

“It increased awareness and people learned a lot. We got a lot of support. A lot of people joined in,” he said.

Anzueto believes the event was a success and would like to try to have the event again either in the Fall semester or next year.

For more information regarding upcoming events from Stonewall 2 BBC, contact the office of Campus Life and Orientation at 954-899-5800 or send an e-mail to stonewallbe@gmail.com.

Tabitha Nazario and Livette Aldarondo, members of the LGBT community show their support for Stonewall 2 BBC’s commitment ceremony event “I Want...I Can’t...I Do!” in WUC Panther Square on March 4. Duren Watkins, Senior Pastor of Sunshine Cathedral in Ft. Lauderdale presides over the ceremony.

The council, however, only approved $1,350 from the event, according to Arbabi aski.

With some debate, the council unanimously approved funding for an Intervarsity Fellowship Group Chapter camp retreat.

According to the club, the retreat, taking place in Georgia from May 4-9, will be a learning experience for 15 out of its 30 members.

“The people who are attending will be leaders of the club next year. If no one attends they will not have leaders next year,” Arbabi aski said.

The Office of the Vice Provost, Fellowship Club and the Student Organizations Council will also fund the event, according to Arbabi aski.

The council, however, only approved $1,350 from the requested $2,000.

“IT is reasonable,” Chikisev said.

Additional funds were also requested toward the excellence lectures offered by the Honors College for $870.36 and the Barbecue at the Bay event. Both requests were unanimously approved.

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

Tuesday Times Roundtable

“Global Weirding is Here”

Fernando Figueredo
(School of Journalism and Mass Communication)

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
12:30pm - 1:30pm
GC 150
Lunch and refreshments provided.

With quorum met, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus went straight into business during their weekly meeting on March 1.

With four pending appropriations presented by SGC-BBC Finance Committee President Zebra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC deliberated on which funds should be allocated or denied.

The largest discussion during the meeting surrounded a $2,158.81 request made by seven students to attend an Honors College news literacy conference in Norman, Oklahoma.

According to Arbabi aski, who is also an SGC-BBC lower division senator, the money will be used toward air fare and the conference registration fee of $30 per person.

“I feel very uncomfortable funding a non-club for a conference,” said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation and SGC-BBBC advisor.

“The people who are involved in both the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Honors College and were informed about the conference by Professor Fred Blevens.

“Do not look at it as an Honors College thing, but a group of students who want to attend a conference,” Arbabi aski said.

There was a time, according to Zapata, that conferences were not funded by SGA and he recommends that a system be established to help facilitate the appropriation process for future situations.

A lot of people ask money and we want to help, but we want to be consistent with everyone,” Zapata said. “Everybody wants their conference but nobody had money, so they come to (SGA) and basically when you give money to one, you give money to all of them. In the future, there should be a number in mind.”

After further discussion, the senate agreed to table the appropriation motion for the March 3 SGA meeting where it was once again tabled for March 8.

With some debate, the council unanimously approved funding for an Intervarsity Fellowship Group Chapter camp retreat.

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Though flawed, University's QEP strategy delivers valuable global perspectives

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is set to arrive at FIU on March 9, with the purpose of examining the University.

Its purpose is to decide whether to reaccredit the University for the next decade. The purpose of the QEP is to secure approval for the Quality Enhancement Plan, a newly established requirement dictated by SACS.

The QEP is titled “Global Learning for Global Citizenship,” establishing the creation of a new curriculum for all FIU students and focuses on international issues.

“The QEP brings important changes to the University and is a good step in refining the culture on campus and a good step in raising the funds. Many students may be able to develop more competitive in the current job market. Students inherit understanding that will better prepare them for their careers and make them more informed citizens.”

Currently, six pilot courses have been established course catalogue. With each class costing $242.12, this is an extra $852.24 students will need to pay to attend any pilot courses.

However, the program has several faults. One of the courses, “How We Know What We Know,” focuses on the news media, public and how information is digested. It is through developing a greater understanding of the world that surrounds us that we will be able to create students who will be more competitive in the current job market.

“While many of the student senators may not have been taught to think, the fact that they did display their level of immaturity is also a level of immaturity that comes with being an elected student official, and student senators should refrain from such immature behavior when handling the business of the student body.”

Section 403(a) is rather unsettling in its assertion that “members of the senate shall not wear any apparel that demonstrates any external affiliation, including Greek associations…” In fairness to the SGC, the reasoning behind this section is logical; when coming to conduct the business of the student body, leaving such affiliations behind is advisable. The problem with this, however, is that, succinctly put, Greek life is campus life. Whether it’s for Relay for Life, Dance Marathon, Academy of Leaders, or any other student-centered activity on campus, Greek life at FIU is a large portion of the University’s identity.

While members of Greek organizations comprise of less than 10 percent of the student population, they are the ones who contribute most to the University. Addi- tionally, for members of most Greek organizations, brotherhood or sisterhood becomes a considerable portion of their identity as individuals, such an identity isn’t something that one can simply “put aside,” and demanding that members of Greek organizations not physically “demonstrate such affiliations” during senate meetings won’t stop them from doing so via other means.

Overall, SRA is an effective piece of legislation with minor shortcomings, which will hopefully, in due time, face necessary revisions.

Four dollars and 42 cents per credit hour.

Doesn’t seem like a lot does it? But it sure does go a long way. This is an amount students need to pay for the installed tech fee; a fee which helps to make the student experience at FIU much more satisfying.

The purpose of the fee is to "enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty," according to the Florida Statutes that established the fee.

The most evident example of use of the tech fee is providing Microsoft Word 2007 and Macfee Antivirus for free. Students can download them from the University Technology Services site. UTS notes the purchase of a certain amount of licenses; all based on the amount of students currently enrolled and projected downloads. FIU is currently bordering 40,000 enrolled students.

The only downside to this whole thing is the fact that if you download your own computer crashes you will not be allowed to download it again. Make sure to back up the installation file when you download it.

UTS has noted that they are looking forward to making all installation files available in Microsoft Word Available. The tech fee has not lived to its full potential yet and hopefully will not be limited to merely providing free word processors.

UTS is also working on other projects. Many of them are upgrades to existing services and maintenance on current systems, but two proposed plans could make the fee live up to its purpose. The University plans to extend and add additional wireless coverage at both BBC and MAC campuses; further, additional laptops will be made available in the libraries, with the efforts of the Library Laptop Initiative.

The reasons for the importance of these plans are obvious. The proposed wireless coverage is hopefully going to fix a lot of the sporty wireless coverage, especially in the Graham Center and the residence halls. Both these areas are main areas for students, areas where students spend most of their time and when not in class. These areas should be the center of attention and receive the best wireless connection.

I can speak about the inadequacies of the current wireless system. When I’m in the Graham Center, especially in the piano room, my connection drops down faster than Obama’s approval ratings.

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The Laptop Library Initiative is important because the library, as many students will attest to, does not have enough laptops to lend out to everyone. The laptops that they do have are antiquated at best. This plan will helpfully correct that oversight and get us some newer models as well.

These plans will take time to go into effect, but in the end, it will make the technology services at FIU better. This shows that our fee is being put to good use, and I applaud UTS for their work.

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Controversial exhibit reminds Miami of its criminal past

“Mr. Britto’s work reflects theoptimistic faith in the world around him,” he said.

Like FIU’s, Britto’s art is accessible, vibrant and global. He is an artist embraced by the world.

No better way to initiate our World’s Audience understanding era, our global perspective and understanding era, than with a modern day pop culture icon, Romero Britto,” Rosenberg said as he introduced the artist.

When Britto took the podium, he made a point that his art is about happiness. He explained that his art is what he wants to see in the world. He revealed that he gets emotional when thinking about his opportunity to do what he loves and how his work has affected so many others.

He offered advice to students weighing the practical and creative options for careers and gave simple but profound suggestions.

“The most simple fact is you have to follow your heart and that way you’ll always be right,” the artist said.

Britto recollected about his childhood in Brazil and how he felt reborn when he moved to Miami. After growing up poor in Brazil and finding happiness in Miami, he decided to take advantage and be happy and grateful for his success every day, translating that ideology to his art.

“My mission is to be able to wake up in the morning and actually know what’s going on out there. Sometimes, I feel concerned people may not get the right message but I think they are because otherwise I wouldn’t be as successful as I am today. I know what’s happening out there but I don’t want to repeat that in my work,” he said.

With the evolution of the Internet, Britto says we are bombarded with negative images and he doesn’t want his art to bring fear to anyone. He joked, “I don’t pay money to watch a movie and get scared and have nightmares.”

Britto is known around the world for his vibrant use of color and shape and the lecture provided an opportunity to discuss his career highlights.

Britto talked about being commissioned to create the largest art installation in the history of Hyde Park in London back in 2007 to commemorate the return of Tutankhamun to London after 35 years.

“In the early stage of this project, I was asked in a suggestion where I wanted to see the pyramid and I went kind of a little bit crazy and I really wanted to see the pyramid and I said, ‘Why don’t we do it in front of the Buckingham Palace, or maybe in front of Parliament or maybe Hyde Park?’ So, Hyde Park really worked and it’s been an incredible experience for me,” Britto said.

“After one pyramid came another pyramid,” he said of his inclusion in the Louvre Museum.

His original painting, “Journey,” tells the story of a child going through the journey of learning and as of 2008, is still on display.

One of his favorite moments was the opening ceremony at Super Bowl XLII in 2007. The ceremony was a grand event that showcased his art in a way he never thought was possible. He found the experience so incredible because it was an art installation seen by so many people simultaneously. He joked that in the end he was glad his piece was in the beginning because by half-time everyone would be drunk and not paying any attention.

Britto claims the reason behind his success is that “[he] paints something that not only [he] wants, but the whole world wants - happiness.”


top: Romero Britto talks about his artwork and what he wants to transmit through his art.

bottom: Students converse with Britto after his presentation.

Famed artist describes the theory behind his art, conveys message of joy

Circuit Judge Scott J. Silverman, one of the founders of the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society said, “What the exhibit will try to do is capture Miami’s crime history during the last century to today and see how it’s impacted the people of this community in the past, and in the future.”

Not all Miami residents are keen on the idea behind this exhibit. It commemorates a darker time in Miami’s history and, for some, re-opened old wounds, like the notion that some police officers were complicit in the rampant cocaine smuggling. After The Miami Herald released a preview of the opening of the exhibit, some community members lashed out at its “absurdity.”

Despite the controversy, the opening day of the exhibit experienced a great turnout. Some community members feel that this time was a huge part of local history, and to forget it would be a mistake.

Many criminal justice majors attended the opening of the exhibit and did not consider it to be praising criminal activity in any way. Instead, it served to remind South Floridians of their own history and the impact it had on our community and the ways we as a community can move forward.

“It’s beneficial to have this [exhibit] in the museum because it represents a crucial era that molded Miami’s culture and image,” said Kevin Rojas, a junior and criminal justice major. “This exhibit showcases the foundation and development of Miami.”

The crimes showcased range from Prohibition era mobsters and gangsters, like Al Capone, to drug wars, to unsolved kidnappings and murders, such as that of Judith Ann Roberts. Long-time Miami residents may remember the 1954 case. Roberts was a 6-year-old who was kidnapped from her living room bed. She was found on a deserted road in Coconut Grove and her body was found strangled, beaten and sexually assaulted. Her crime was never solved.

The lead detective in Roberts’ case, Irving Whitman, who lives in Miami and is now 88 years old, told The Miami Herald, ‘I’ve never forgotten this case.’ He says he still has hope that one day her murder will be solved.

Whether or not Roberts’ crime is solved, Crime in Miami, which will be running until August, ensures that South Florida’s past will not be forgotten.
Spielberg thriller examines morality behind revenge

There’s a moment that occurs late in Steven Spielberg’s Munich where the protagonist, Arnon, played by Eric Bana, is simply trying to make love to his wife. Starting off tamely, the scene builds as images from the tragedy of the 1972 Olympics play through his mind—a tragedy which has directly affected his life.

Scenes of Israeli hostages on an airport tarmac held at gun point, a viscous fire fight, explosions move forward as Arnon is in a pool of sweat in a moment when he should be feeling ecstasy. He’s gone savage and cannot concentrate. He’s a man who is haunted.

Arnon was not there at Munich to witness the Palestinian organization known as Black September take 11 Israeli athletes hostage. Nor did he see the blood shed that ensued. He had no personal ties to members of the teams or the events except that he is a Jew and that he would be asked by his nation to help avenge their deaths.

The film presents itself as an episodic thriller across Europe: Paris, Rome, London. In lesser hands, this could simply have been a well-crafted thriller. Certainly, there are breathtaking moments throughout.

For instance, take the first murder conducted in Rome. The target, Adel Wael Zwatter, is followed by Arnon and another member of the team to his apartment. They point their weapons at Zwatter, whose arms are bound with groceries. Both men hesitate but do the job. You see the blood mingle with the fresh milk and then you see the hands of the master filmmaker.

But, explosions are the preferred manner: more public and more likely to bring fear. In Cyprus, Robert (Matthew Kassovitz), a former toy maker turned bomb maker, arms a bomb under the bed of their next target, the Palestinian organization known as Black September. Robert now is a typical political thriller and poses fundamental questions, not only about Israel’s relations with Palestine. In one nightmarish incident, Arnon and his team are set in a safe-house in Athens that is also being frequented by members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Convincing the PLO members that they are communist agents, they co-habitate and converse. The PLO members hold the same claim for the same land and with the same insistence: However long it takes, whatever it is the cost, it is their homeland. This is the same sentiment displayed by the Israelis as they pursue their reprisals.

Then the natural question comes: Where does it all end? How do you pursue your country’s interests without compromising them? These are all points that have been raised countless times. Spielberg’s victory is in doing it in one succinct package. It’s not just a taut thriller; it’s an honest and unre- lenting look at the policies of nations.

And then there are the pawns like Avner, sitting in a cold sweat and unable to live a normal life. They’re the greatest victims of all. They suffer with the sins of their nations carried out on their own hands.

Modern Classics is a bi-weekly column reviewing modern classic films.
Golden Panthers suffer first loss; win two more

**Baseball**

**JOEL DELGADO**
Asst. Sports Director

Leading up to a showdown with Arizona State on Mar. 7, FIU (8-1) earned two victories and dropped one in the opening days of the Coca-Cola Classic in Surprise, Arizona.

**FIU 10, CAL POLY 8**

It wasn’t the prettiest ending in the world, but FIU was able to return to its winning ways by surviving a last gasp effort in the ninth by Cal Poly to earn its eighth victory of the season on Mar. 6.

The Golden Panthers jumped ahead early on and cushioned starter Corey Poliziano with a 6-0 lead going into the bottom of the fourth, where Poliziano ran into trouble on the mound. A string of singles enabled the Mustangs to cut the lead in half but nothing more, as Poliziano avoided any further damage. Poliziano earned the win for the Panthers and improved his record to 2-0.

With a four-run lead in the ninth, the Panthers tucked on three more insurance runs thanks in part to a two-run single by Junior Arrojo, who broke out a massive slump with a 3-for-5 performance and four RBIs, to make it 10-3.

The Panthers would soon find out how valuable those late-inning runs would be, as a series of errors and walks allowed the Mustangs to slice into the FIU lead with five runs.

But Bryam Garcia came in and silenced the Mustang rally with two strikeouts to seal the victory, earning his second save of the season.

**UC-RIVERSIDE 4, FIU 3**

The Golden Panthers have been able to work some late inning magic to keep their perfect record intact.

But that magic came up short as the UC-Riverside denied FIU of another come-back victory, their first loss of the season on Mar. 5.

Pablo Bermudez hit a two-run homerun in the bottom of the ninth to make it a 4-3 game, but it was too little too late for FIU.

**FIU 5, UTAH VALLEY 4**

FIU got their weekend started off the right way with a victory in the first game of the Coca-Cola Classic in Surprise, Arizona against Utah Valley on Mar. 4.

The two teams were locked in a 2-2 tie for most of the game, until FIU burst out with a three-run eighth inning to give the team the lead for good.

A late Utah Valley rally came up short as the Panthers held on for the win.

Wittels went 3-4-for-4 on the evening to extend his hitting streak to a team-high seven games.

**Women’s, page 8**

![Junior Arrojo](Image)

Junior Arrojo (above) broke out of his slump and played a large role in the Golden Panthers’ victory over Cal Poly in the Coca-Cola Classic tournament on Mar. 6.

**Men’s, page 8**

The game marks the second consecutive Men’s victory for the Golden Panthers, who ended the season with an eight game improvement.

They just played harder than us. They were at first playing a half court basketball game, then they come out running the court.

Free throws by FIU senior Marquita Adley, with just over nine minutes remaining, cut the UNF lead down to one.

However, against the Golden Panthers’ sluggish defense showed no answer for shots beyond the arc. Kellum knocked down a three with 8:05 remaining to make the score 44-40 in favor of the Mean Green.

FIU came no closer than five points the rest of the way while UNF was able to go up by as much as 12 points as they closed out the game on a 20-11 run.

Monika Bosilj ended her FIU career with a game-high 13 points and a game-high 11 rebounds with six blocked shots.

For UNT, Kellum totaled a game-high 17 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

The game marks the second consecutive year that North Texas has upset a team in the first round while the Golden Panthers, who ended the season with an eight game improvement, faced their second straight first round elimination after losing to South Alabama in last year’s tournament.

“I am really proud of my staff and my team,” Stephens said. “Everyone came together and fought to beat FIU!”

**WOMEN’S, page 8**

the Year Jasmine Godbolt was able to take back the lead as she connected on a tough layup and got the foul for a three-point play.

The Golden Panthers continued to have no answer for Godbolt as she continued her dominant play and brought the game within one.

The senior guard finished with a game-high 23 points in the opening days of the Coca-Cola Classic tournament.

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The Season – 8

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Monday, March 8, 2010

MEN'S BASKETBALL: DENVER 71, FIU 64

Depleted team loses to Denver

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

In the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, a game against No. 6 seeded Denver showcased exactly what the No. 11 seeded FIU men’s basketball team has been dealing with all season.

“They were true to form in terms of how we said we would be this year,” Thomas said. “We said we would be undersized and undermanned but we would fight extremely hard and we would be a tough, scrappy team.”

Undersized and underscrapped was even tougher on this night because FIU was without three key players as they were eliminated in a 71-64 decision on Mar. 6 at the Summit Arena in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Forward Marvin Roberts and guard Martavis Kee did not participate in the game after violating school’s way.

When Isiah Thomas was hired to coach the FIU men’s basketball team amid a tsunami of media scrutiny last spring, he said he wanted this year’s Golden Panthers to have enough momentum toward the end to finish on a high note and bring a positive wave of attention the school’s way.

In the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on Saturday, that plan failed as FIU lost to Denver in the first round, finishing Thomas’ first season with a 7-25 record.

“They were true to form in terms of how we said we would be this year,” Thomas said. “We said we would be undersized and undermanned but we would fight extremely hard and we would be a tough, scrappy team.”

Those valuable intangibles will not equate to winning without the personnel, however. Thomas knows that. That is why he will be delighted to welcome Dominique Ferguson to campus this summer. Ferguson, a four-star prospect on the rivals.com five-star scale, will lead what is probably the best incoming group of recruits the program has ever had. Along with Ferguson, there are a few solid recruits who could help bring FIU out of the doldrums soon, as long as Ferguson can anchor it.

But by hiring Isiah Thomas, FIU athletic director Pete Garcia took a risk, which has involved a slew of negative publicity and also resulted in losing 2008-09 SBC freshman of the year Freddy Asstabella, who transferred and will play for Kansas State next season. Thomas sticking

This group of young men, their job was to do the dirty work and they did the dirty work. They got a lot of mud on their shoes.

Isiah Thomas, head coach

Thomas experiment ready to commence

SBC freshman of the year

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