Student retention rates dropping

EDUARDO MORALES
Staff writer

In September, the Board of Trustees reported the University’s failure to reach its goal of improving student retention rates.

The BOT was hoping to reach a full-time, first-year student retention rate of 88 percent. Instead, only 81.3 percent of first-year students returned for a second academic year in 2005. “We had a set back last year,” said Thomas Breslin, chairman of Faculty Senate. “Our numbers were not so good and we unfortunately went back a few percentage points.”

By definition, student retention is the ability to keep students coming back for another annual term at any given university. While the University’s retention rates low, they are still above national average, which sits around 75 percent.

Since the 1993-94 academic year, the Office of Retention reported retention rates have hovered around the 80 percent range. The lowest percentage was in 1994-95 at 78.9 percent and highest in 2001-02 at 83.5 percent.

Generally, the University has compensated with the lack of returning students by increasing the amount of freshmen each year. While the retention rate dipped in 2005, the number of full-time freshmen increased by 17 percent.

For the last 12 years, the student retention rate increased slightly for first-year to second-year students. But as students continue their education, their retention rates decrease.

In 2004, the rate for students returning for their third year was 73.7 percent. In 2003, the rate for students returning for their fourth year was 67.5 percent. Numbers show that the likelihood of students coming back a second year are strongest but the chance of them returning for a third and so on steadily decrease.

Transfer student retention and part-time student retention numbers look even bleaker.

According to the Office of Retention, the University’s “retention and graduation of [Associate of Arts] transfer students is at the bottom of the [State University System] and has been for the last 7 years. Non-AA degree transfer students even lower rates,” and part-time retention rates are 30 percent.

This information is based on retention data from students in the 2000-2001 term who did not come back for the fall term in 2001.

The same report states that “on average, 20 percent of those [students] who leave have a 3.0 [GPA] or higher. This rate is increasing annually.”

The University is now looking to improve these numbers with a new Web site.

“We’re setting up Grad Xpress to be put online in March,” said Vice President of Enrollment Services Corinne Webb. “The retention data from students in the 2000-2001 term who did not come back for the fall term in 2001.”

Third party candidates look to make an impact

CHERYL MALONE
Staff writer

For most Americans, the presidential election is about the Republican and Democratic candidates; most forget that there are about 15 third-party candidates running for the big seat at the White House.

Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate, Alyson Kennedy, visited University Park on Wednesday, Oct. 15, to campaign for the party’s presidential candidate, Roger Calero, and to promote the socialist party’s goals.

For Kennedy and her party, the rights of working class citizens are important.

“Workers are beginning to see a seed of a revolutionary movement in this country,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy became a supporter of the working class since 1981 when she worked in coal mines.

While working in a mine in Utah, Kennedy witnessed the exploitation of Mexican workers first hand.

“We began to talk among ourselves and began to stand up for our rights,” Kennedy said.

In Sept. 2003, there was a 10-month internationally supported strike that resulted in higher pay and better treatment of workers.

Today, Kennedy continues to fight for similar causes, in which the poor, working class or immigrants must battle against the wealthy.

Among the party’s highest supporters are working class citizens and younger individuals, according to Kennedy. Calero and Kennedy are currently working on an immigration bill. The bill – an anti-deportation bill – hopes to result in the immediate opening of all borders for undocumented workers. Kennedy will be in New Orleans over the next few days, where a crisis is developing.

The city is dominated by the wealthy and because of the destruction of public housing in New Orleans, the working class will become a “mixed income” class, which will be very expensive, Kennedy explained.

“It shows what the wealthy have in store for this country,” Kennedy said. “The wealthy areas are rebuilt but the working class neglected.”

Kennedy does not see a single similarity between the Republican and Democratic party candidates and her party’s socialist movement.

The SWP believes in the establishment of a worker’s and farmer’s government, and the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan or any other country with U.S. troops in it.

“The wars are being fought to protect the economic interests of the wealthy in the United States,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy believes the Democratic and Republican parties insult the working class and unions and they are against helping or advancing the people. This can be seen through their policies and actions.”
Students have say in future renovation projects

The Classroom Design Standards Committee, created by Provost Ronald Berkman, held a focus group in Green Library on Oct. 10 to get feedback from students about classroom design and the campus for upcoming construction and renovation projects at University Park.

“This is an opportunity to express what bothers you in class, the opportunity to speak out about what you like and don’t like in the classroom,” said Gloria Jacomino, director of Academic Space Management.

Jose Rodriguez, director of Operations Analysis, explained the importance of the focus group because of the size of the upcoming projects.

He used a visual explanation of the future physical progress of the University.

“Some of the new buildings that will be finished by the end of 2012 are the Academic Support Center, an International Hurricane Center, School for International Studies, the Stemple School of Public Health and a Nursing Health Science Building, among others.

“We have spent a whole year planning these buildings and everyone has been involved in this process from deans to student partners,” Rodriguez said.

The development, the committee explained, will be so large that the University is expecting to build a road to be named “Avenue of the Sciences” that would link diagonally from St. to the Graham Center.

Also, the proposed arrangement for four of the new buildings – such as the Nursing Health Science Building and the Stemple School of Public Health – will be built by the space taken over by the Housing parking lot located next to Everglades Hall.

After the presentation, more than 30 student groups were split up into three different groups, where they were given the opportunity to give feedback or ideas about the construction of new classrooms with a different design and the renovation of current classrooms, also a major project of the committee.

The three groups were separated according to these three questions: “What would you like to see inside the classroom?” “What do you like and dislike about the campus or the building itself?” and “What do you like or dislike about the campus in general?”

Students contributed ideas by writing down private suggestions on sticky notes provided by the committee.

“I think that having a larger desk space would be beneficial to students, as well as more outlets for the laptops and installing an interactive whiteboard,” said sophomore international business major Ivana Harris.

The committee expects to hold more of these focus groups in the future by branching out into the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Engineering Campus to gain as much feedback, opinions and insights from different students.

“We didn’t know what to expect from the students when we set up the focus group. Now we know that students are actually interested in participating in this project and we hope to have future meetings in the other campuses as well,” Jacomino said.

Socialist Workers Party expects more notoriety

Minimax Consulting is a mathematical and statistical consulting firm comprised of a team of PhD statisticians and researchers who have worked with many Fortune 500 companies, as well as smaller businesses, throughout the globe. Call or email us today for a free consultation.

www.MinimaxAcademicConsulting.com
1-401-659-4027
Scholar@MinimaxConsulting.com

Web site designed to help plan degree track

The way that they cut down a lot of programs may be a reason. And there’s more history to [a school like] FSU. FIU was more of a last resort.

Carlos Morales sophomores

The way that they cut down a lot of programs may be a reason. And there’s more history to [a school like] FSU. FIU was more of a last resort.

Carlos Morales sophomores

The way that they cut down a lot of programs may be a reason. And there’s more history to [a school like] FSU. FIU was more of a last resort.

Carlos Morales sophomores
Diversity Day celebrates culture, addresses stereotypes

DAVON JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Food like congis, egg rolls and baked chicken brought FIU students from different parts of the world together to enjoy a full day of diversity.

Told on Diversity Day, a whole day of events showcasing the diverse cultures at the University, took place Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center at Biscayne Bay Campus.

“Diversity Day draws more interaction from the students, and brings students, faculty and staff together to educate and celebrate diversity,” said Craig Cunningham, director of Campus Life, who helped plan the event.

Started nine years ago by Raul Moncuez, former vice provost of BBC, and with an estimated $500 in costs, Diversity Day is hosted annually by the Student Government Association, according to Cunningham. It included a free breakfast, a keynote speaker, free lunch, a discussion about Amendment 2, a public-speaking contest and a “diversity circle.”

“Diversity Day is about informing students about different voting issues and the diversity FIU has to offer,” said Debbie Brown, elections commissioner for SGC-BBC.

The opening continental breakfast included cheeses, salami, grapes, crackers, coffee and lemonade. There were also table displays highlighting different clubs and their objectives on campus, which were followed by an onstage presentation, “Incognito,” performed in the WUC Ann Wolfe Theater by Michael Fosberg, a Chicago actor and playwright.

Fosberg’s “Incognito” takes his audience on a journey of his life. In a one-hour, autobiographical, storytelling presentation, Fosberg tells his story of growing up believing he was white, then discovering early in his thirties he is actually black, according to his Web site, www.incognitotheplay.com. “I thought the play was excellent; I could relate to it 100 percent,” said Talent Clark, a senior majoring in hospitality management. “My life story is fairly similar because I went through the same thing, having an African American father and a white mother.”

After the play, the activities shifted to the WUC ballrooms for lunch and other events.

“The theme of the luncheon was also a part of Diversity Day,” Cunningham said. “There was a variety of meals, including those of Asian, Italian and American cultures.”

Baked chicken, pork, shrimp pas-ta, different styles of rice, meatballs, chips and dip, and ice cream, brownies and chocolate chip cookies are just a few examples of the food that was served.

After lunch, four contests participated in a public speaking contest called “My Perception of My Reception,” in which they shared their views and experiences at the University as part of diverse cultures.

The contestants, Anne Brasey, Barbara Quijano, Andrea Jackson and Kerri Toussaint, each presented three to four minutes speaking on how they have been received at FIU. Brasey won first place.

“Though there was one winner, all four contestants got a gift card to Barnes & Noble,” said Dr. Dianne Newman, chairperson, director of academic advising in the School of Hospitality Management and a member of the Diversity Day Committee.

A 20-minute movie about diversity discussing workplace stereotypes about different ethnic groups was also shown. The diversity circle was the last event of the day. This was a game in which participants talked about stereotypes that their cultures face, whether or not they fall into that stereotypes as individuals.

Lack of attendance raises SGC concerns

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

Attendance has been a problem this year for the Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus senators, who hold voting power in passing bills and resolutions for the benefit of BBC students.

The SGC-BBC Finance Committee has approved an allocation of $800 to the Bay Vista Hall housing complex, but the bill will not pass until the committee gets quorum, said Sholom Neistien, speaker of the senate.

“Both an appropriations bill and resolutions bill have to be passed,” said Neistien, in order for the allocation of $800 to be given to housing.

The appropriations bill addresses the allocation of money toward a specific committee, while the resolutions are implemented in the bi-laws and constitution.

With 13 senators participating in SGC-BBC and one application under-way, only eight of the 13 senators have been attending the general meetings on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m., according to Ana Maria Silva, president of SGC-BBC.

The senate meetings held on Monday afternoons have been attended by only four or five out of 13 senators for this year – less than the six required for quorum, according to Kenasha Paul, vice president of SGC-BBC.

“Even though it would be more professional if their meetings had a quorum, senators can still have a meeting without reaching that quorum on Mondays,” Silva said.

The senate meetings, separated from the general meetings where both the executive board and the senate meet, have started to take place this year to bring the senators together to discuss bills and resolutions and the budget, according to Paul.

“Since did not know about these meetings, we chose classes not in accordance with them, making sure for next year to have a set time,” said Laura Torres, sophomore member and lower division senator.

General senator Simone Worsdale has resigned from SGC-BBC, and Honors College senator Chris Hamilton is thinking of resigning too, Neistien said.

“Apathy, lack of experience and not enough time in their schedule,” according to Neistien, are some of the reasons there has been poor attendance at the senate meetings.

“Some are kind of lost, while new ones are learning as they go along,” Torres said.

“There are the overachievers and ones who need to be guided in what their position entails; they have to be guided through it,” Silva said.

Students who don’t fulfill their elected responsibilities are subject to disciplin ary action, Neistien said. Consequences may include probation or being referred to a committee, chaired by Chief Justice Jessica Jacques, that will litigate the necessary course of action.

Resignation opens up SAC-BBC secretary spot

DAINELYS MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

The Student Organization Council-Biscayne Bay Campus announced an open position for secretary after Mnar Muhareb, the previous secretary, resigned for personal reasons.

The main responsibilities of the secretary are to record the minutes of all SGC meetings, and maintain all SGC files, according to Jessica Senorin, vice president of SGC-BBC.

“I love working with SOC. It was a lot of fun, great teamwork and very productive,” Muhareb said.

Any currently enrolled FIU student with at least a 2.0 GPA is eligible for the position, but candidates must take at least half of their classes at BBC.

The SAC-BBC executive board position is a plus, according to Didier Georges, president of SGC-BBC.

The deadline to apply is Oct. 27 at 5 p.m. The application is available online at www.wufiu.edu or at the SAC office in room 141 of the Wolfe University Center.
A ‘TAXING’ ISSUE

Provision could shift community college costs to inviduals

LEE DAMESSOUS Contributing Writer

Voters heading to the ballot box are hopped up for their presidential candidate. A few of these voters know which state senators, representatives, and judges are up for election, but it’s just as important to know that there are amendments to the Florida constitution on the ballot.

The results of these amendments are such that can affect us all on a local level, and they are important to note and understand. Among these amendments, No. 8 is of special interest to the college community.

Amendment Eight, as stated on the ballot, “requires that the legislature authorize counties to levy a local option sales tax to support community college funding.”

I must admit the amendment looks quite positive; it would allow local counties to help fund their community colleges by providing extra dollars to the state’s 28 community colleges, including Miami-Dade College and Broward College, both of which are still considered community colleges, despite the dropping of the “Community” from their names after offering 4-year degrees.

According to the League of Women Voters Web site, “Community colleges serve as a gateway to the university system and to greater employment opportunities; this amendment could increase their funding.” The league supports Amendment Eight.

One can surely recognize the underfunding and inadequate funding community colleges often face in order to offer higher education to students. Many community colleges in this state do support this initiative, strongly, but the con of the amendment merit examination.

Amendment Eight might open the door for a decrease in state funding for community colleges over time, since a portion of the burden will be shifted to the individual counties that house these colleges.

What is a certain not a given that this would happen, it would be a shame to eventually see the state attempt to cut corners by decreasing state funding for community colleges because they know this amendment is keeping them funded at local levels.

Disparity would increase between community colleges in more affluent areas versus less affluent areas, due to the ability of more affluent areas to raise more funds. Unfortunately, sales taxes tend to impose a greater burden on lower-income families.

It is already hard enough for many families in Miami-Dade County to survive, and the passage of Amendment Eight would allow a future increase in the sales tax which would make it that much more difficult for people benefiting from the community colleges might also be the ones most affected by having a higher sales tax.

I am avidly against raising the sales tax because it affects citizens of all socio-economic backgrounds. It is “for this reason it,” said Dalouny Demorin, a freshman studying political science.

Keep in mind the amendment itself does not raise taxes, but simply authorizes counties to do so with public support. According to a document MDC sent to The Beacon, Amendment Eight “generates no revenues and costs voters not one cent. It simply provides a process for community colleges to obtain local support via a future referendum. Amendment Eight is not a tax.”

But it seems to me that though it is not a tax, Amendment Eight does provide counties the ability to levy a sales tax to benefit community colleges. This would be subject to voter approval, but is important to think about carefully despite opportunities to deny any such tax proposals in the future. To the 900,000 students who attend our state community colleges, I only desire the greatest amount of progress for the educational system so men and women can attain post-secondary education.

It is estimated that earning an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree is worth $400,000 and $900,000 respectively in lifetime earnings beyond a high school diploma. This looks quite positive; it would be great if people benefiting from the community colleges might also be the ones most affected by having a higher sales tax.

However, even more important is that support be gained in a way that does not burden society any more than what is necessary. The MDC document mentions “that the largest community college systems in Texas, California, New York, Illinois, North Carolina and others receive some form of municipal or county support in addition to state funding.”

We would not be the first state to make or adopt this constitutional measure. As students, we must stay informed and remember that change begins at the local level. Though the presidential election is very important there are things on the ballot that will have just as great an effect on our everyday lives.

Jean Roseme is the Senate Representative for SGC-UP.

Amendments Made Easy

To see all the amendments explained, visit fiu.edu/opinion.

Amendment 1: A somewhat purely ceremonial amendment that would retract WWII-era language from the Constitution that authorizes the state to prevent Asians from owning property. This amendment would not actually have any affect on Florida law, since no legislation was ever enacted under the original amendment.

Amendment 2: Will change the language in Florida’s constitution to define marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, with no other legal union being valid or recognized.

Unfortunately, sales taxes tend to impose a greater burden on lower-income families.

The trick is to do what you love. Because of my involvement I am very involved, the vast majority of students on campus are not.

I’ve heard many reasons why students are not involved. A lot of people say it’s because FIU is a commuter school and that students have to rush to work right after classes. Another reason I’ve heard whispered around the halls is that FIU doesn’t offer anything worth getting involved in.

To some extent the former reason is valid. It’s hard to balance an average class schedule of 12 to 15 credits and 20 or more hours of work a week, not to mention personal life.

Everyone has a different set of circumstances that determines how involved they become, but it really is not as hard as some would make it seem. You don’t have to be as involved as myself to still be involved. The trick is to do what you love.

I developed a flair for public service, which is why I’m in SGA and a Resident Assistant. Addressing the larger issue of student advocacy, it’s the ability to do anything or to do better, it’s the ability to give anything that’s desired, for all, and support must be given to the institutions which make this possible.

But it seems to me that though it is not a tax, Amendment Eight does provide counties the ability to levy a sales tax to benefit community colleges. This would be subject to voter approval, but is important to think about carefully despite opportunities to deny any such tax proposals in the future. To the 900,000 students who attend our state community colleges, I only desire the greatest amount of progress for the educational system so men and women can attain post-secondary education.

It is estimated that earning an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree is worth $400,000 and $900,000 respectively in lifetime earnings beyond a high school diploma. This looks quite positive; it would be great if people benefiting from the community colleges might also be the ones most affected by having a higher sales tax.

However, even more important is that support be gained in a way that does not burden society any more than what is necessary. The MDC document mentions “that the largest community college systems in Texas, California, New York, Illinois, North Carolina and others receive some form of municipal or county support in addition to state funding.”

The trick is to do what you love. Because of my involvement I am very involved, the vast majority of students on campus are not.

I’ve heard many reasons why students are not involved. A lot of people say it’s because FIU is a commuter school and that students have to rush to work right after classes. Another reason I’ve heard whispered around the halls is that FIU doesn’t offer anything worth getting involved in.

To some extent the former reason is valid. It’s hard to balance an average class schedule of 12 to 15 credits and 20 or more hours of work a week, not to mention personal life.

Everyone has a different set of circumstances that determines how involved they become, but it really is not as hard as some would make it seem. You don’t have to be as involved as myself to still be involved. The trick is to do what you love.

I developed a flair for public service, which is why I’m in SGA and a Resident Assistant. Addressing the larger issue of student advocacy, it’s the ability to do anything or to do better, it’s the ability to give anything that’s desired, for all, and support must be given to the institutions which make this possible.

However, even more important is that support be gained in a way that does not burden society any more than what is necessary. The MDC document mentions “that the largest community college systems in Texas, California, New York, Illinois, North Carolina and others receive some form of municipal or county support in addition to state funding.”

The trick is to do what you love. Because of my involvement I am very involved, the vast majority of students on campus are not.

I’ve heard many reasons why students are not involved. A lot of people say it’s because FIU is a commuter school and that students have to rush to work right after classes. Another reason I’ve heard whispered around the halls is that FIU doesn’t offer anything worth getting involved in.

To some extent the former reason is valid. It’s hard to balance an average class schedule of 12 to 15 credits and 20 or more hours of work a week, not to mention personal life.

Everyone has a different set of circumstances that determines how involved they become, but it really is not as hard as some would make it seem. You don’t have to be as involved as myself to still be involved. The trick is to do what you love.

I developed a flair for public service, which is why I’m in SGA and a Resident Assistant. Addressing the larger issue of student advocacy, it’s the ability to do anything or to do better, it’s the ability to give anything that’s desired, for all, and support must be given to the institutions which make this possible.

However, even more important is that support be gained in a way that does not burden society any more than what is necessary. The MDC document mentions “that the largest community college systems in Texas, California, New York, Illinois, North Carolina and others receive some form of municipal or county support in addition to state funding.”

The trick is to do what you love. Because of my involvement I am very involved, the vast majority of students on campus are not.

I’ve heard many reasons why students are not involved. A lot of people say it’s because FIU is a commuter school and that students have to rush to work right after classes. Another reason I’ve heard whispered around the halls is that FIU doesn’t offer anything worth getting involved in.

To some extent the former reason is valid. It’s hard to balance an average class schedule of 12 to 15 credits and 20 or more hours of work a week, not to mention personal life.

Everyone has a different set of circumstances that determines how involved they become, but it really is not as hard as some would make it seem. You don’t have to be as involved as myself to still be involved. The trick is to do what you love.

I developed a flair for public service, which is why I’m in SGA and a Resident Assistant. Addressing the larger issue of student advocacy, it’s the ability to do anything or to do better, it’s the ability to give anything that’s desired, for all, and support must be given to the institutions which make this possible.

However, even more important is that support be gained in a way that does not burden society any more than what is necessary. The MDC document mentions “that the largest community college systems in Texas, California, New York, Illinois, North Carolina and others receive some form of municipal or county support in addition to state funding.”

The trick is to do what you love. Because of my involvement I am very involved, the vast majority of students on campus are not.

I’ve heard many reasons why students are not involved. A lot of people say it’s because FIU is a commuter school and that students have to rush to work right after classes. Another reason I’ve heard whispered around the halls is that FIU doesn’t offer anything worth getting involved in.

To some extent the former reason is valid. It’s hard to balance an average class schedule of 12 to 15 credits and 20 or more hours of work a week, not to mention personal life.

Everyone has a different set of circumstances that determines how involved they become, but it really is not as hard as some would make it seem. You don’t have to be as involved as myself to still be involved. The trick is to do what you love.

I developed a flair for public service, which is why I’m in SGA and a Resident Assistant. Addressing the larger issue of student advocacy, it’s the ability to do anything or to do better, it’s the ability to give anything that’s desired, for all, and support must be given to the institutions which make this possible.
A FILM MISUNDERESTIMATED

Nation's most influential father-son duo make it to big screen

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

The subject for Academy Award-winning director Oliver Stone’s new movie, “W.,” is none other than the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush.

Coming off excellent roles in movies such as “American Gangster,” “Planet Terror” and the Oscar-winning “No Country for Old Men,” Josh Brolin is truly as amazing as the current president.

In “W.,” Brolin commands the screen with his presence in every scene. Cromwell’s interpretation of Bush Sr. does not come across as a parody of the former president like former “Saturday Night Live” alumni Dana Carvey’s impression of the elder Bush.

While the movie mainly focuses on the ups and downs of President Bush’s life, the real heart of the movie comes from the turbulent father-son relationship between Bush and his “poppy.”

Brolin and Cromwell’s portrayals of the two Bushes are tremendous, especially when the two actors share a scene together. Early on in the movie, Bush Sr. is disappointed with his son because he quits jobs his father sets him up with.

George H.W. Bush does not have faith in his eldest son’s future ambitions. This causes a chain reaction of events in which George Bush begins to do everything in his power to prove to his dad that he is not worthless, whether it is running for governor of Texas or owning a major league baseball team.

The cast of “W.” is outstanding. Playing the vice president that oozes with charm and evil is Oscar-winner Richard Dreyfuss.

Jeffrey Wright plays Colin Powell as a man asking for a legitimate reason for going to war with Iraq.

British actor Toby Jones plays the man who tells W. what to say, Karl Rove.

Finally, we have Elizabeth Banks playing Laura Bush, the loving and loyal wife of George W. Bush.


While “JFK” focuses more on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, “Nixon” was basically the biographical story of Richard Nixon from his days as a little boy to his disgraceful resignation.

There are two storylines covered in the film. One storyline focuses on Bush’s partying days, his sobriety and decisions that will lead up to having a career as a politician.

The other is the events that lead up to the Iraq War. I have to say that Stone loves extreme close-ups, because “W.,” much like “Nixon,” has a certain amount of those shots in both films.

One clear example of this in “W.” is when Bush junior is jogging in the woods and the camera is mainly focused on his face before he has a breakdown.

There are also a couple of instances in which Stone plays with fantastic elements such as the older Bush taking a swing at his oldest son in the Oval Office and our current president catching a home run ball in Yankee Stadium.

Brilliant performances from Josh Brolin and James Cromwell, outstanding ensemble and great direction from Oliver Stone make “W.” one of the best movies of 2008.
The meaning of the word swagger, as written in the dictionary, is as fol-
low: To conduct oneself in an arrogant or superciliously pompous manner, espe-
cially to walk with an air of overhearing self-confidence.

These days it is easy to associate that definition with T.I. And an especially detailed description of the word can be heard on the Atlanta native’s new album, Paper Trail.

T.I delivers what is arguably the best, overall body of work in his six album dis-
cography and opens it with 56 hard bars in the introduction. With a backing from DJ Toomp on the boards, T.I descriptively emphasizes that he is back, as good as ever, with a lack of original melodies or moods. But in some ways they do. They do an admirable job of playing a bigger part on this album, and in some respects he is more than ready to take it to the next level. On “Sink Ships,” as Adams exclaims “And I’m waiting in a sinking ship!” It is truly the album’s best moment. Unfortunately, the album’s great moments are too few and far apart for this to qualify as anything other than another scattershot effort.

Adams is a guy who obviously has a ton of talent, and when he does write a great song, they are as good as anyone’s. But in his quest to release as much music as possible, some stuff that is just terrible ends up seeing the light of day, bringing his albums down (I’m looking at you, “Majick”).

Sure, quality is totally subjective, but there can’t be many people out there who would disagree with the assertion that Adams needs a good editor.

When he inevitably releases another al-
bum in March or April of ’09, feel free to snag the best songs from that one and this one and make yourself a killer “Best of” album.

The Beacon – October 24, 2008
www.fi usm.com

ADAMS, page 5

Cardinals lift Adams’ latest effort, Cardinology

Maintaining the momentum with sixth studio album

Sounding authentic enough to cover up for his lack of original melodies or moods, and this is no different on his newest album, Cardinology. And an especially detailed description of the word can be heard on the Atlanta native’s new album, Paper Trail.

T.I delivers what is arguably the best, overall body of work in his six album discography and opens it with 56 hard bars in the introduction. With a backing from DJ Toomp on the boards, T.I descriptively emphasizes that he is back, as good as ever, with a lack of original melodies or moods. But in some ways they do. They do an admirable job of playing a bigger part on this album, and in some respects he is more than ready to take it to the next level. On “Sink Ships,” as Adams exclaims “And I’m waiting in a sinking ship!” It is truly the album’s best moment. Unfortunately, the album’s great moments are too few and far apart for this to qualify as anything other than another scattershot effort.

Adams is a guy who obviously has a ton of talent, and when he does write a great song, they are as good as anyone’s. But in his quest to release as much music as possible, some stuff that is just terrible ends up seeing the light of day, bringing his albums down (I’m looking at you, “Majick”).

Sure, quality is totally subjective, but there can’t be many people out there who would disagree with the assertion that Adams needs a good editor.

When he inevitably releases another album in March or April of ’09, feel free to snag the best songs from that one and this one and make yourself a killer “Best of” album.
Martinez credits parents for faith instilled in him

THE BEACON – October 24, 2008
www.fi usm.com

MAYO CLINIC NURSING GRADUATES

By VICTORIA LYNCH

Second breath of wary pickups have upside; Bryant makes leap into elite

Y ear after year, you look at the roster of the team that won your fantasy football league and you start beating yourself up. You see how different the team that finished the season was from the one that started it, and you beat yourself up because you passed over some of the fantasy Cinderella stories that propelled the champion into a year of pride and showing off, while driving you to a year of sulking and second guessing. As fantasy football general managers, we are not much different from NFL general managers.

Except Joe Schmoe GM goes back to his cubicle after a terrible season and recovers next year, as opposed to NFL general managers who livelihood depends on every decision made. In order to win your league, you sometimes have to think like a real general manager: draft solid players, take calculated risks, decide whether you’re holding onto a veteran for too long and scour the waiver wire to find the next superstar, your diamond in the rough.

Who will be your waiver wire hero? Running backs never stay healthy, and often are the most consistent point scorers in fantasy football.

If you drafted Brian Westbrook, the smart thing to have done in the beginning of the year is take an insurance policy out on Westbrook, and reserve a spot for Correll Buckhalter. Same for Joseph Addai owners, who should also own Dominick Rhodes.

For Willie Parker owners, rookie Rashad Mendenhall was the obvious handcuff (process of matching up a starting running back and his backup), but when he got hurt own- ers should have jumped on Mewelde Moore. If you missed out on the run on backup running backs, your team probably suffered big time.

The final third of the fantasy football season brings a second wave of waiver wire heroes, maybe not as good or prolific as the first wave, but if injuries have hindered your team or by weeks limiting your options, here are a few players to watch with a lot of upside.

Pierre Thomas/Aaron Stecker – Running Backs, New Orleans Saints

With Reggie Bush injured for just up to four weeks, the Saints will do their best to make up for his absence with an efficient ground game. Aaron Stecker can’t take the beating they used to, and even though he is a good start keep an eye on Thomas and Stecker. Thomas is in a good goal line looks, as he did earlier in the season when McAllister was hurt, and Stecker could fit right in as a poor mans Reggie Bush because he is a versatile speedy scat back who happens to be an average above average receiver as well.

Antonio Bryant – Wide Receiver, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

With Joey Galloway hurt, Bryant has solidified himself as the number one pass catcher, even with Galloway coming back this week.

He is a top 25 receiver and available in most leagues. Snatch him up and start him if you need the help. However, he is a higher risk than most receivers because of the style of play the Bucs use.

They will not blow anyone out and probably won’t score more than two or three times in a game. But odds are Bryant will catch a lot of balls, he is quickly becoming one of Jeff Garcia’s favorite targets, and might find his way into the end zone.

Donnie Avery – Wide Receiver, St. Louis Rams

The Rams were killed when they made Avery the first receiver taken in this year’s draft. The offense has become prolific since new head coach Jim Haslett took over and the light bulb has come on for Avery. He might have the most upside out of any player still out there, and if you can afford it, make room for Avery, especially if you play in a keeper league.

Ryan Torian – Running Back, Denver Broncos

Its hard to rely on a Denver Broncos running back, especially if he has played a down this year yet. However, Selvin Young, Andre Hall, and Michael Pittman have been ineffective and it’s starting to hurt Jay Cutler and the passing game.

Head Coach Mike Shanahan says Torian holds them of Terrell Davis, only stronger and faster, and could feature Torian to throw off some teams on their way to making a playoff run. They have no film on Torian, and he could be a hot commodity come the next few weeks.

Good luck finding your waiver wire hero.

If you have any questions or comments, email Jonathan at jonathan.alpert@fi usm.com and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live Tuesdays and Thursdays noon-1pm on Radiate FM, streaming live on fi usm.com.

Golden Panthers sweep again

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director


For the first time all season, the Golden Panthers swept again because the last thing we want is for people to think that we are just another team.

As head coach, Mike Shanahan says

The offense has become prolific since new head coach Jim Haslett took over and the light bulb has come on for Avery. He might have the most upside out of any player still out there, and if you can afford it, make room for Avery, especially if you play in a keeper league.

Ryan Torian – Running Back, Denver Broncos

Its hard to rely on a Denver Broncos running back, especially if he has played a down this year yet. However, Selvin Young, Andre Hall, and Michael Pittman have been ineffective and it’s starting to hurt Jay Cutler and the passing game.

Head Coach Mike Shanahan says Torian holds them of Terrell Davis, only stronger and faster, and could feature Torian to throw off some teams on their way to making a playoff run. They have no film on Torian, and he could be a hot commodity come the next few weeks.

Good luck finding your waiver wire hero.

If you have any questions or comments, email Jonathan at jonathan.alpert@fi usm.com and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live Tuesdays and Thursdays noon-1pm on Radiate FM, streaming live on fi usm.com.

Golden Panthers sweep again

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director


For the first time all season, the Golden Panthers swept again because the last thing we want is for people to think that we are just another team.

As head coach, Mike Shanahan says

The offense has become prolific since new head coach Jim Haslett took over and the light bulb has come on for Avery. He might have the most upside out of any player still out there, and if you can afford it, make room for Avery, especially if you play in a keeper league.

Ryan Torian – Running Back, Denver Broncos

Its hard to rely on a Denver Broncos running back, especially if he has played a down this year yet. However, Selvin Young, Andre Hall, and Michael Pittman have been ineffective and it’s starting to hurt Jay Cutler and the passing game.

Head Coach Mike Shanahan says Torian holds them of Terrell Davis, only stronger and faster, and could feature Torian to throw off some teams on their way to making a playoff run. They have no film on Torian, and he could be a hot commodity come the next few weeks.

Good luck finding your waiver wire hero.

If you have any questions or comments, email Jonathan at jonathan.alpert@fi usm.com and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live Tuesdays and Thursdays noon-1pm on Radiate FM, streaming live on fi usm.com.

Golden Panthers sweep again
Linebacker's impact felt off the field

When asked about how many times he has missed in his time at FIU he didn’t have to think.

“I cannot remember the last time I missed a [service] in my tenure here [FIU],” he said.

“Maybe it’s been a few but I try to attend the most I can.”

Martinez has maintained a strong faith since he arrived at FIU from Nassau Community College, and has used it as a platform to extend his reach beyond the football field for FIU.

“It’s not just something unseen, it’s something that is spoken through his actions,” coach Mario Cristobal said.

“The team looks up to it and several members of the community have seen it in person and know what type of person he is.”

SERVING

Aside from football training, Martinez has found a niche right across the street from FIU during the offseason.

“We spoke to some kids at the Doral camp optimistic program, where me, Paul McCull, Scotty Bryant, and a few of us talked to kids and let them know how college can help and how to better yourself not only as a student athlete but as a person,” he said. “Just to let them know motives of respect, Aspects of life. Its amazing because they look up to you no matter what.”

Martinez gives them reason to.

The 6-foot defender credits his upbringing as the reason his faith has remained strong.

“It’s from my parents, my religion, then my family, then my school, and football,” he said.

“They all play a major role in my life but religion is very big to me because it sets a standard...