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 are 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 have 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.”

For Kennedy and her party, the rights of working class citizens are important. Among the party’s highest supporters are miners.

“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. Because 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.”

Third party candidates look to make an impact

CHERYL MALONE
Staff writer

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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...
Students have say in future renovation projects

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.

Gloria Jacomino, director of Academic Space Management

New 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 also more history to [a school like] FSU. FIU was more of a last resort.

Carlos Morales, sophomore

Socialist Workers Party expects more notoriety

The strength of the SWP will only increase, according to Kennedy.

Based on a unions not like today, which are weak, we’re going to see greater struggles by working people leading to stronger unions,” she said.

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Diverse Mixture: Caecehan Dejean and Michelle Panullo, undeclared freshman; Mauricio Diocis, journalism/creative writing major; and Julio Gonzalez, hospitality management major; mingle with other students over lunch at the Diversity Day luncheon hosted by Campus Life on Oct. 21.

Diversity Day celebrates culture, addresses stereotypes

DAVON JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

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

Diversity Day, a whole day of events showcasing the different 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 Moncarz, former vice provost of BBC, and with an estimated $5000 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 orange juice. There were also talk shows highlighting different clubs and their objectives on campus, which 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 Tallent Clark, a senior majoring in hospitality, "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 pastas, 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 contestants 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 Braseby, Barbara Quijano, Andrea Jackson and Kertus Toussaint, each presented three to four-minute speeches on what they share about their views and experiences at the University as part of diverse cultures.

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 they didn't 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, a senior and junior member and lower division senator.

General senator Simone Worsdale has resigned from SGC-BBC, and Honors College senator Jayde Harris 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 SOC-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 SOC meetings, and maintain all SOC files, according to Jessica Senorin, vice president of SOC-BBC.

"I loved 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 their classes at BC.

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

The deadline to apply is Oct. 27 at 5 p.m. The application is available online at www.wuc.fi u.edu or at the SOC office in room 141 of the Wolfe University Center.
Voters heading to the ballot box are hyped 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 supplement community college funding.”

I must admit the amendment looks quite positive; it would allow local counties to 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 legally 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 inequities among 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 cost 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 local counties that house these colleges.

While it is certainly 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 impact the 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 raising a higher sales tax.

I am avidly against raising the sales tax because it affects citizens of all socio-economic backgrounds equally. The “solution” to this “problem” is called Doralyn Demoor, 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 through carefully despite opportunities to deny any such tax proposals in the future. To the 900,000 students who attend our community colleges, I only desire the greatest amount of progress for the educational system so men and women can attain post-secondary educations.

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 latter reason of student apathy; it’s a Resident Assistant. Addressing the latter reason of student apathy; it’s a Resident Assistant. Addressing the 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 was that 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.

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Perhaps the real reason behind student apathy is that no one knows how much is being offered to them. At times the tasks of letting students know what’s going on has been challenging. SGA has hosted forums for students to express their concerns, where the attendance doesn’t correlate with the number of issues. And even though attendance hasn’t been what SGA has expected, we do have faith that the last forum of the semester will be successful, which will be held in the Graham Center Pit Nov. 13.

But the forum’s attendance isn’t the real issue. It’s getting students involved. For the most part, I’ve made it clear that there are things to be involved in through campus. Simply, the reason to get involved is the perks of doing so, with the primary perk being able to make connections.

I have met a lot of interesting people in my circles, and those relationships will better me at some point in the future. Being involved adds another dimension to your college experience. This dimension could potentially be as valuable as all your formal education put together.

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.

To see all the amendments explained, visit fi um.com/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.

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.

October 24, 2008

Eric Feldman

Contact Us

www.fi usm.com

The Beacon – 4

A ‘TAXING’ ISSUE

Amendments Made Easy

With over 180 groups available, on-campus involvement not as difficult as you think

JEAN ROSEME

Special to the Beacon

When I first enrolled at FIU, the only thing on my mind was classes. The notion that I would be the one choosing my classes and exactly what time they would be different was beyond me.

However, it has become clear to me that while I am very involved, the majority of students on campus are not.

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I have met a lot of interesting people in my circles, and those relationships will better me at some point in the future. Being involved adds another dimension to your college experience. This dimension could potentially be as valuable as all your formal education put together.

It’s all about balance.

Being involved will give you those experiences that will help you for the rest of your life. Plus, your own unique experiences and insights could help other students you are involved with. Formal education is important, but there are many things that you will only learn through mistakes or through involvement.

There is no real reason to pay to attend FIU and not take advantage of what it has to offer. Being involved is beneficial for so many reasons. I will always be grateful that my mind was changed right when I started at FIU.

My hope is that I have given you something to think if you are not involved or considering being involved do at FIU.

Jean Roseme is the Senate Speaker for SGC-UP.

THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column
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.

When Brolin was asked to portray President Bush, many were skeptical. However, Brolin, who is of Mexican descent, was not only a great fit but nailed it.

Brolin was able to portray Bush in a way that was both convincing and relatable. He was able to capture Bush’s mannerisms and become more like him.

Aside from Brolin’s performance, James Cromwell gives a great performance as George H.W. Bush.

In “W.”, Bush commands the screen with his presence in every scene. Cromwell’s interpretation of Bush Sr. does not come across as a parroting of the former president like former “Saturday Night Live” alumnus 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 his giving jobs his father sets him up with.

George H.W. Bush does not have faith in his eldest son’s future ambitions. These causes a chain reaction of events in which George W. Bush begins to disbelieve 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.

“W.” is Oliver Stone’s third presidential-era film, following “JFK” in 1991 and “ Nixon” in 1995. 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 fantastical 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.
Maintaining the momentum with sixth studio album

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The meaning of the word swagger, as written in the dictionary, is as follows: To conduct oneself in an arrogant or superciliously pompous manner; especially to walk with an air of overbearing or superciliously pompous manner; especially to walk with an air of overbearing 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 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, and the swag is evident with the playful chuckling over the ad lib and an array of references to his self proclaimed untouchable swagger.

T.I backs it up with his characteristically near flawless flow and an impressive vocabulary that is rarely seen in southern hip-hop artists. As a result of writing down his lyrics as opposed to memorizing and freestyling them on past albums, T.I’s delivery goes to a level very few artists can reach.

Apparently, the controversial star felt the need to continue to stress how good he really is on “I’m Ill.” After the impressive second offering, T.I gets more personal, something he does often on the album. The third track, “Ready for Whatever,” finds the 28-year-old describing the obstacles he has had to overcome in the past and in recent times. T.I, who faced turbulent times during recent run-ins with the law, uses the song as an outlet to express his emotions.

The album gets lighter on its next three joints as it features radio-friendly sounds including bubble gum bumper “Whatever you Like,” which made it to the top of the charts.

T.I takes the time to take verbal jabs at opponents on the eleventh song, “What up, What’s happening.” The man born Clifford Joseph Harris Jr. can certainly handle his beef over tracks and has proves again that he is capable of dismantling rivals on the mic.

The track is not directly aimed at fellow Atlanta counterpart Shawty Lo, but comments he made earlier in the year suggest it is.

The absolute highlight of the album is, “Swagger Like Us,” in which T.I hosts Adams needs a good editor. some of the best and most popular emcees in the game on a ridiculous collaboration. Kanye West, Jay-Z and Lil Wayne jump into the booth and deliver good verses, only to see T.I finish the track by slaying the West beat, arguably better than his counterparts. The track is sure to make a major impact on the airwaves, as it is also listed as part of Jay-Z’s next album, The Blueprint 3.

Coincidentally, though it was T.I’s first time on a song with the hip-hop legend, it seems not too long ago that star producer Pharrell deemed the Atlanta artist “The Jay-Z of the South.”

With Paper Trail, T.I is leaving a trail of his own, not only in the southern music world, but the whole industry. And a worthy swag as well.

Cardinals lift Adams’ latest effort, Cardinology

ADAMS, page 5

Cardinology sounds authentic enough to cover up for its lack of original melodies or moods. And this is no different on his newest album, Cardinology.

It might be fair to assume that given the title, his backing band The Cardinals might play a bigger part on this album, and in some title, his backing band The Cardinals might possibly, some stuff that is just terrible ends up fixable, but the vibe of Cardinology can certainly handle his beef over tracks and has proven again that he is capable of dismantling rivals on the mic.

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

When he inevitably releases another album in March or April of '09, feel free to snag the best songs from that one and take them one and make yourself a killer “Best of” album.
Second breath of warranty pickups have upside; Bryant makes leap into elite

Year 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’s 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 on Westbrook, and reserve a spot for Correll Buckhalter. Same for Joseph Addai owners, who should also own Dominic 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 owners 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 bye weeks limit 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 over four weeks, the Saints will do their best to make up for his absence with an efficient ground game. Pierre’s All-Star performance can’t take the beating they used to, and even though he is a good start keep an eye on Thomas and Stecker.

Thomas has the goal line looks, as he did earlier in the season when McAllister was hurt, and Stecker could fit right in as a poor man Reggie Bush. Because he is a versatile speedy running back who can happen to be an 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 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 - It’s hard to rely on a Denver Broncos’ running back, especially if he hasn’t 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 reminds him of Terrell Davis, only stronger and faster, and could feature to Torian to throw some on 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@fi usm.com and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live Tuesdays and Thursdays noon-1pm on Radiate FM, streaming live on fi usm.com.
CELEBRATION: Senior linebacker Ryan Martinez waves his arms after a play vs. USF on Sept. 20.

PROGRESS REPORT

Middle blocker Sabrina Gonzalez emerges as key player

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

Sabrina Gonzalez has contributed greatly to the success of the volleyball team this season and will factor greatly in the future success of the program. Gonzalez has been a key player for the team this season and will continue to be a major contributor in the future. Her dedication and focus on the game have been impressive. She has a great work ethic and always gives her best effort on the court.

JA: What goes through your mind when FIU is on the brink of a defeat, down 2 sets to 1, 2 sets to none, Does the team legitimately think it can win the match, are you just trying to salvage the set and not be embarrassed, how does this team react to being down?

SG: We obviously know we need to win the next set, but it all has to do with being focused.

We play set-by-set, match-by-match, and game-by-game. We don’t look ahead, to the next point, set, or match. The set is the only thing you can control. You have your time in the game. Do you have to make the most of your time? Do you have to make the most of your time?

JA: What is your religion, then your family, your parents, where me, Paul McCall, apart from football and your faith has remained strong? As a freshman, I’m still getting used to the making time for family, school, and volleyball. Right now, I’m really focusing on school and volleyball, everything else is secondary.

SG: Nothing that entertains, just boring equipment duties, the team in Volleyball come about?

JA: Being new to the game, as well as a freshman, you have to make the most of your time in the game. Do you enjoy learning from the sidelines as much as learning on the fly in the game?

SG: I have so much experience playing this game, so every moment I get to step away and observe and learn from bench, it helps a lot.

JA: Being new to the game, can you recall the instance. “And that was because of scheduling complications with weather.”

When asked how many sets 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 we’ve ever done anything memorable to motivate the team.

SG: When we aren’t having a great practice, not focusing like we should be, she gets on us and yells a bit.

“Only probably one,” he said as he looked up trying to recall the instance. “And that was because of scheduling complications with weather.”

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. With the help of a few team-mates, Martinez contributed to various local programs.

“We spoke to some kids at the Doral camp optimist program, where我和Paul McCall, 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 motivates 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.

“As from my parents, my religion is number one, then my family, my religion, then my family, 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.”

MARTINEZ, page 7

BIG SURPRISE: First year volleyball player Sabrina Gonzalez has emerged as one of the most important players for the Golden Panthers. Gonzalez averages 1.45 kills per set.

Linebacker’s impact felt off the field

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Linebacker Ryan Martinez isn’t sure if he will be playing football on Sundays, but if he were to do that play in the NFL, it might interfere with his routine.

The senior is often busy on Sunday mornings, and it’s not likely to change; in fact, he can scarcely remember the last time he missed a church service.

“Only probably one,” he said as he looked up trying to recall the instance. “And that was because of scheduling complications with weather.”

PHOTO COURTESY SAM LEWIS

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The Beacon – 8