Panthers seek second win in conference

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Homecoming will be a matchup of single win teams when the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers come to play the Panthers. "They are a good team," Head Coach Ron Turner said. "We were able to run the ball against one team, we only proved that we could run against one team. You can’t win in any system, I believe, if you can’t run the ball. We cannot just run the ball though; we have to run our offense.

That offense had its best showing of the season with 24 points—the team only scored a total of 23 within the first four weeks of the season—and 341 yards against the Golden Eagles of the University of Southern Mississippi. The lone win that the team has so far was almost taken away at the last second when the Golden Eagles lined up to attempt a game-winning 44-yard field goal attempt with six seconds left in the fourth quarter. That attempt was blocked by defensive lineman Isame Faciane, who

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

Middle, low-income students burdened by debt

KATHERINE LEPRI
Staff Writer

Priscilla Torres graduated high school in 2008; she got accepted into the University of Florida, University of Miami and Florida International University. After analyzing the financial packages each school offered and the potential debts she would rack up, she opted to pursue her degree at FIU.

“For UF and UM, I would have had to take out loans for sure,” said Torres, 23.

“I wanted to stay close to stay home and money was a big issue.”

Torres is just one of approximately 39,000 students who received some type of financial aid to afford the entire cost of higher education. “There’s a safety net in place for young adults from low-income backgrounds,” said Jason House, a scholar from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to the Miami Herald.

Many middle income families make too much money for their children to qualify for student aid packages. While at the same time, they may not have the financial means to cover the high costs of college. Jason House, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Many middle income families make too much money for their children to qualify for student aid packages. While at the same time, they may not have the financial means to cover the high costs of college,” he said.

Lopez is one of thousands of students who has taken out loans to afford the cost of higher education and has been burdened with debt before entering today's economy.

“A lot of the time we have students, for example, who even though they have some grants will need to get loans to help pay for the difference in their costs,” said Ortega. “When you talk about costs of attendance, it’s not just tuition and books, you also have to look at transportation [and] any expenses that the student is going to incur while being in school that is required for them to be successful.”

The Honor’s College and Center for Labor Research and Studies Professor Abdolrahim Javadzadeh agreed that while student loans are necessary to pay for college, they also impede professional and personal aspirations.

Asim Black, recreational therapy major, recently had to take out loans to

SEE DEBT, PAGE 2

Catholic priest to lecture Panthers on leadership skills

MADIE NODA
Contributing Writer

Leaders from all over the world, who have disciplines in various areas, have obtained unique and effective leadership approaches that have influenced their businesses and the public.

The upcoming Leadership Lectures series will feature Robert Schreiter, a professor and priest. The event will be held at the College of Law, in Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall 1000, on Nov. 7 at 10 a.m.

The theme of Schreiter’s lecture will be the leadership skills needed to bring about social reconciliation. "Reconciliation has two dimensions: coming to terms with a painful, divided past and building a different kind of future," wrote Schreiter in an email to Student Media. "Through experience in all kinds of different settings, I have come to get a better sense of the skills needed to lead people through this double process of healing the past and building the future."

Schreiter is currently a Vatican Council II Professor of theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He is also a priest and member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He has published various books on topics such as social reconciliation.

The professor has lectured in over 50 countries in academic and church settings regarding enculturation, intercultural communication, religious life and world mission. Garth Headley, associate director of Marketing and Corporate Relations in the Center of Leadership, said Schreiter’s mission aligns with that of the Center.

“Our goal here at the Center is to advance leadership thought and share as much to the public as we can about leadership approaches and research regarding effective and ethical decision-making,” Headley said.

“The center encourages leaders to not only to develop a style that creates gains for your organization, but also to look beyond that and see how it will affect your community positively," Headley said. Headley said he wants people to walk away from the lectures like Schreiter’s with leadership tools to become effective, ethical leaders.

The event is free and open to the public. Students are encouraged to RSVP due to limited space.

“We think of it as our obligation to provide these opportunities to the FIU students and the Miami community at no cost,” Headley said.

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Students forced to get loans

DEBT, PAGE 1

The average loan for an FIU student is between $15,000 to $20,000.

Fabiola Ortega
Senior Financial Aid Coordinator

I can get a better degree and I can have more options for a good job to pay that off,” said Lopez. “Yes, I’m scared, but I’m sure it’ll be okay.”

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SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES

Vanessa Saurez (left), freshman math major, launches the football toward her target.

“Stand your ground” law tweaked

A Senate committee on Tuesday approved tweaks and clarifications to the “stand your ground” law that came under scrutiny after neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman fatally shot unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin.

The proposed changes would require the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to develop training guidelines for neighborhood watch groups that, among other things, addresses unlawful use of force and conduct that could create or escalate a confrontation.

The bill (SB 130) also makes it clear that law enforcement agencies should fully investigate any use of force even when a self-defense claim is used and adds language that clarifies that anyone who uses force against an attacker can still be responsible if they injure or kill an uninvolved bystander.

The bill would leave in place the bulk of the law that passed in 2005 that allows people to use deadly force if they are threatened.

The bill combines legislation filed by Simmons and Democratic Sen. Chris Smith of Fort Lauderdale. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved it 7-2. It has two more committee stops before it can be considered by the full Senate.

The Republican-led legislature would have been unlikely to approve widespread changes to the law. This bill stands a much better chance of advancing because it only addresses minor changes.

The stand your ground law was criticized after Zimmerman fatally shot 17-year-old Martin in the Orlando suburb of Sanford. Zimmerman,
Memorization and examinations aren’t beneficial to us

MOSÉS FUERTES Staff Writer

What is my memory good for, if asking Google any question gets us the answer—usually the better one? At FIU, and as university students in general, we are taught to think analytically. To analyze, discuss, synthesize our analysis and try to reach some type of cohesive conclusion.

We are, by default, put into an environment that doesn’t communicate with the rest of the students via lectures, which usually lead to projects and presentations—as part of most, if not all classes. We also have exams, some of which are great, poor or simply redundant, which are great, poor or simply confusing students via lectures, which usually discuss, synthesize our analysis and help sink the students will more than likely remember very little of it. Students who cram for exams can attest to that.

According to Judy Willis’s “Bad Brain: Goodbye to Unintelli- gable Education Models,” “boredom, frustration, negativity, apathy, self-doubt and the behavioral manifestations of these brain stressors have increased in the past decade. As facts increase, as over-packaged curricula demand rote memorization for high stakes testing intensify, the brains of our students have reacted to the increased stress.”

I propose a simple solution to this form of test-making. Divide your exams into two portions. Half can be based on repetition, as oppose to taking in the message and actually analyzing it. This process is extremely stressful. But above that, it’s just useless. Most of that memorized information will evaporate once the exam is finished. By the time the semester ends, the students will more than likely remember very little of it. Students who cram for exams can attest to that. I don’t think highly of professors who attempt to confuse me by changing the last name of a historical figure. Let me make something clear: I have nothing against memorization. The reputation I have with examina- tions which emphasize memorization is the fact that those examinations ask for little, if any, analytical process. There is no synthesis, or explanation of my internal analysis, there exists only one answer.

This turns students into memorization machines. Something, which I might add, computers will always surpass us in. Many students opt to memo- rize the exam notes through rote memorization, a memorization tech- nique based on repetition, as oppose to taking in the message and actually analyzing it. This process is extremely stressful.

Sexual orientation and its place in college applications

ASHLEY VIERA Contributing Writer

It has become increasingly accepted and a normal part of modern day society for an individual to be open with their sexual orientation.

With that said, there was an article recently released by the New York Times called “The Gay Question: Check One” that talks about several universities that are beginning to ask their applicants about sexual orientation.

Some say this is inappropriate, while others view it as a posi- tive step in the right direction in acceptance of homosexuals.

What seems to be evident and clear from this is that it is exemplifying the beginning stages of a new comfortability level with regards to sexual orientation in schools.

Some of the universities asking the sexual orientation ques- tions, such as University of Iowa, MIT, Boston University and Elmhurst, which has been doing it since 2011. According to a New York Times article, out of 21,500 first-year applicants at the University of Iowa, 488 responded to being gay while two through three percent responded to the question in Elmhurst.

What this shows is how rare it still is for young people to declare themselves as homosexuals. Another university, MIT, went as far as to allow students the option of utter privacy from “nosey parents” by omitting sexual orientation from the PDF version of the application. For many, it is probably an arduous, awkward situation to discover themselves and who they are as adults, which can be quite confusing as well as absolutely petrifying.

Experiences and stories of all of these mixed emotions is added when sexual orientation is in question. In my perspective, this proactive action of asking about sexual orientation by universities is a commendable, as well as a courageously bold step in the right direction towards equality and acceptance. It can be perceived as inviting and encouraging for young adults to be open about their identity.

Participatory media: advancements in communication

MOSÉS FUERTES Staff Writer

Do you “share” content on Face- book or Twitter? Do you find yourself commenting on articles via social media sites and striking discussions on these sites as well?

Welcome to Web 2.0, coined by Darcy Dinucci in 1999 and popular- ized by Tim O’Reilly in 2004. In other words, the Internet as we know it today.

In the midst of this shift in website infrastructure, we come to recent times where social media and participatory media is not only the status quo, but also necessary.

A necessity which, in my opinion, is human at its core, while futurist- ically emphasizing what the Net is meant to be: a free forum for all. Communication is, and will continue to be, king.

It is no secret that humanity is a social species. The popularity of social media websites might seem redundant or exaggerated to some. The Net has allowed anyone with an Internet connection to commu- nicate easily, create effectively and distribute said creations freely. That combination has expanded participatory media and given rise to organi- zations like Creative Commons, an organization that makes it simple to share creativity and knowledge through their free licenses, which work alongside copyright to protect the content legally. Participatory media is a big part of the Net. In a nutshell, participatory media has allowed consumers to become producers. Essentially, we are all able to create content now, whether it be videos, blogs, or websites. The fact that anybody can create content is what is of importance here. We all create content by posting on Face- book, for example, which usually leads to discussion and debate.

This empowers us to share our ideas and communicate. Junior Brandon Wright, a broadcast journalism major, believes that participatory media encourages discussion online on social media sites. “In terms of the discussion itself and the posts from other people, it is important to hear those authentic and honest thoughts from other individuals,” said Wright.

Those individual thoughts may not seem that important, but through close inspection, I’ve found it is this exact method that allows for groups to get together and work on proj- ects, productions, records and more, thanks to the Net. As knowledge becomes accessible on the Net, the better society will become. Those “How To” videos on YouTube, which are all the rage, teach people how to do something. Through YouTube alone, we can already see the impact this free culture is having on the rest of society.

Kids born today have unlimited knowledge a search and click away, a testament to our generation and those to come.

We communicate and we learn. In this way, participatory media and the Net as a whole, are the way the world functions and learns.

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In terms of the discussion itself, and the posts from other people, it is important to hear those authentic and honest thoughts from other individuals.

Brandon Wright Junior Broadcast Journalism

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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor-in-chief, managing, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes all letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
FIU theatre’s season opener Cardenio came to a close last Sunday after a two-week run.

The play itself is zany and ridiculous and the cast’s real life experience came with a few twists and turns as well.

Amber Benson and William Cadena were forced to step out of their comfort zones in order to portray the play’s unexpected lovers Camila and Will.

Benson discovered her love for acting by portraying an old woman in videos she made with her best friend in middle school.

She then went on to play almost exclusively older or physically challenged women until landing the role of Camila.

“I haven’t played a regular female role since eighth grade,” she explained. “So, to sort of be in shoes similar to my own was very different and sometimes scary.”

Ultimately, Benson believes this experience helped her to grow as an actor.

“It’s definitely made me realize that I don’t have to work so hard,” she said. “I can just trust what’s happening between me and someone else because that’s really all that matters in the first place.”

Cadena was faced with the challenge of playing a character that expressed himself in a far different manner than he is used to.

“He speaks really indirectly,” Cadena said of his character, Will. “And I’m not that type of person. I speak very differently. So for me to find those kind of levels and find the behavior of this character was hard.”

He explains that author’s language and use of parenthetical phrases was the biggest obstacle. While Cadena’s natural inclination is to be direct and to the point, his character required an entire monologue to simply say “I love you.”

“That was the biggest challenge... finding the rhythm and the speed of what he’s saying and to make it real and not so ‘fancy,’” said Cadena.

Jannelys Santos found that her role as Doris, Camila’s sister, and the perhaps overly blunt voice of reason helped her fully grasp the importance of breath on stage.

“Breath really was essential for me in my final scene before I am banished from the wedding party,” said Santos.

“That was the biggest challenge... finding the rhythm and the speed of what he’s saying and to make it real and not so ‘fancy,’” said Cadena.

Karen Granja (left), senior in psychology, and Karla Miranda (right), junior in biology, wait to snag some mini tacos at the Midday Madness event prepping for homecoming.
Music review: Obits’ “Bed and Bugs” is “been there, done that” surf-punk

NATALIE MONTANER
Contributing Writer

Two years after the release of their sophomore album, Brooklyn-based Obits is back with its third LP, “Bed and Bugs.” Not a big stretch from lead singer Rick Froberg’s previous project, “Hot Snakes,” Obits brings a blend of indie rock, garage punk, and surf rock – topped off with a slight nod to 80s punk.

Kicking off the album is the energetic “Taste the Diff,” which is loaded with a strong guitar presence and gritty, almost grunge-like, vocals that easily promote the “surfin’ California beach” vibes.

Heard in the purely instrumental “Besetchet,” the dueling guitars of Froberg and Sohrab Habibion come together and provide listeners a rockabilly, surf twang – with each musician playing a different chord progression that blends together to form one of this LP’s more interesting compositions.

“Malpractice” opens up with a harmonious bass-drum pairing, allowing light to shine onto the two instruments that are otherwise not as prominently and steadily heard through the loud vocals and guitars. Ending as quickly as it started, listeners are thrown back into bluesy, garage punk.

A common trend throughout the album are those frenzied and screeching vocals of Froberg paired with occasionally melodic yet manic, in-your-face, guitars.

However, bringing in the biggest change of pace is the penultimate “Machines.” Stepping away from the frantic vocal and guitar pairing, this track is filled with an eerie chant and guitar riff, proving a simple yet captivating four-minute recording that almost sounds like it was written by a completely different band.

Albeit not offensive to the ears and loaded with commendable guitar playing, their album doesn’t strike as an original and intriguing production. Hit the indie venues of California in search of some local acts and you’re sure to stumble upon something similar.

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

Imagine being the mother or father of a beautiful little girl, everyone playing their part in being just another sweet innocent family.

Now imagine having that world shattered when you get the news that your daughter has been kidnapped.

Actor Hugh Jackman, along with fellow co-actor Jake Gyllenhaal, brings this nightmarish scenario to life in the suspense thriller “Prisoners.”

In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Jackman talks about just how intense and borderline-dystopian his character became during this film in an attempt to get his daughter back.

“What I loved about the script was the moral ambiguity,” Jackman said after the screening. “The film kind of delves into and plays with the whole idea of whether [my character] is heroic or not. I remember watching the film with my wife and she spent the first hour holding my head, and she was just wanting to grab me because there were uncomfortable, you understand where all the characters were going.”

Hugh Jackman plays Keller Dover in the 2013 thriller “Prisoners.”

There were even times that during filming even Jackman had no idea where his emotions where going to take him.

“There’s that scene where I smash the hammer very close to his head, and he doesn’t even flinch,” Jackman said in an interview with the Daily Beast. “By the way, none of that was rehearsed or planned. Even I didn’t know that was going to happen.”

“Prisoners” brings parents’ worst fear to life

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Coley tabbed Preseason Player of the Year

It's usually not a good thing when you hear the phrase "your reputation precedes you." But in senior Jerica Coley's case, it's a very good thing.

On Monday, Coley was named the 2013-14 Conference USA Women's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year, as voted on by the league's head coaches.

This is a situation where Coley's reputation as an All-American, Conference Players of the Year followed her from the Sun Belt Conference all the way to C-USA. Despite the rise in level of competition and the fact that she will be a relatively unknown player to these C-USA coaches, Coley has already found a way into their minds.

How did she do that?

Well, this is where that pristine reputation of hers comes into effect. Coley is a pairing-two-time All-American and Conference Player of the Year. She is also fresh off what might be the best statistical season in FIU women's basketball history. She led the nation in scoring at a rate of 26.3 points per game on route to breaking the FIU single-season points record with 840 total points.

Need I say more? Probably not, but I will anyway. In 2012-13, Coley notched 23, 20-plus point games, including 12, 30-plus point outs, scoring a career-high 39 points on two occasions. She currently owns a career scoring average of 21.8 points per game, tied for first all-time at FIU, and a feat she will probably surpass this upcoming season. Coley is also the only player in program history to register 2,000 points, 600 rebounds, 300 assists, and 200 steals in a career.

I'm going to go out on a limb and propose that these C-USA coaches have done a slight bit of research on Coley in their attempts to prepare for the star guard this year. And I'll take my hat off to the coaches who voted for her, because it take a lot of guts to vote for someone based solely off tapes and hearsay.

But, those tapes and that hearsay are pretty accurate if you ask me. Simply because at this point in her career there's so much tape and pretty much everyone, including myself, is talking about Coley.

At this point in her decorated career she has scored 2,313 career points, a total which ranks second on the FIU all-time scoring charts. Last year alone she was responsible for 42.9 percent of the Panthers' offense, and has scored 35.1 percent of FIU's total points for her career. And to top it all off, in May, Coley was named SBC Female Athlete of the Year, becoming just the second FIU student-athlete to earn the league's top honor.

Coley's presence in this new C-USA is so apparent already, that the FIU squad was voted to finish fifth out 15 teams. Now, this team, in my opinion is still underrated, but from the perspective of other C-USA coaches I have to believe that the live spot has largely, if not entirely, to do with the presence on the team.

Like I said earlier, it's usually not a good thing when your hear "your reputation precedes you." But Coley's reputation has preceded her since she broke out as a fierce competitor and scoring machine her freshman season, and over three years later the awards and accolades haven't stopped and neither has her success on and off the court.

Jerica Coley earned Preseason Player of the Year honors based of her reputation, but can you blame her? She has one hell of a track record and a knack for staying true to her reputation, which is, of course, a terrible sign for every C-USA opponent she squares off against this season.

Panthers hope to remain undefeated in Conference USA play

Rhys Williams/The Beacon

Senior Jerica Coley adds the 2013-2014 Conference USA Women's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year to her already long list of on the court achievements.

I have a lot of faith in Jimmy. We worked together at University of Toledo. We won a [Mid-American Conference] West championship together on the same staff. If I'm not available, Jimmy is the one to address the team. He understands the principles, the values and the emphasis on fundamentals and that is important to me," McGee said.

McGee also noted that cornerback Jimmy Jean, one of the best players on the team, could possibly play some offensive snaps on Saturday.

"He is arguably the fastest guy on the team. When you have someone with that much ability and speed, and since J.J. Nelson is not available, you try to find another person who can fill that void and create chunk yardage for you. That was our thinking with Jimmy, so I think there could be a role for Jimmy to sneak out on the field and go after big plays for us because he is just so talented."

The Panthers must also gameplan against the likes of quarterback Austin Brown and defensive end D'Maun Thomas, who has 3 sacks on the season.

Game time for Saturday will be 7:30 pm due to the homecoming festivities beforehand.

*All records up to date as of Oct. 9, 2013.*
Underdog men’s rugby overcoming great challenges

VERONIKA QUISPE Staff Writer

The men’s rugby team has proved to be the true underdogs here at FIU. The Panthers start their fall season 1-2 and ranked third out of the seven Florida Cup teams, as well as having to face great challenges.

Rugby is a fast action packed game that lasts 80 minutes. The team is divided into two sections A and B who play a game each match. Each section plays a full game, back to back. The team primarily focuses on 15 man and 7 man rugby. The players on the field consist of back and forward players. The main goal of the team is to score points by either placing the ball on the turf over the field or kicking it. The game is to score points by placing the ball on the turf over the field or kicking it.

Although rugby is not a popular sport in the United States, the players are sure that this sport is for everyone. “I’ve always liked contact sports and I wanted to join football but, they told me to gain around 100 pounds and maybe they’ll notice to the officials and it may not know rugby they have the heart and the passion so that in any case he got there.” junior Jose Laphitzondo said.

The self described beach bum enjoys more dangerous forms of exercise as well. Recently introduced to spear fishing, attending college in south Florida couldn’t be a more ideal locale to hit the reefs off the coast and take on a daring way to hunt.

When Mendoza isn’t on the court she also enjoys ceramics and is currently taking a class at FIU. Hoping to open a yoga studio one day, she would like to be a personal fitness trainer with an emphasis on yoga for its physical and meditational benefits when she graduates.

SPORTS

OSCAR BALDIZON Staff Writer

As the volleyball team grinds through their inaugural campaign in Conference USA, one thing has remained a constant: the leadership and top tier play of senior setter Jessica Mendoza. On multiple occasions this season she has led the team in digs, and she’s been the Panthers’ floor captain all year long.

Mendoza’s story begins at Winter Park High (Fla.), where she was a four-year letterwinner and helped contribute to a state championship as a sophomore with the Wildcats.

Volleyball, surprisingly enough, was not her first love, basketball was actually her favorite sport followed by soccer; whereas volleyball was more of a social thing to see friends at the time.

Head Coach Stephanie Gibson would change all that as soon as she entered high school. During Mendoza’s time as a Wildcat, Gibson built up the Libero’s confidence to a point where she was able to realize she could play in college one day and Mendoza recognizes her as “the most influential person,” in her in volleyball life.

Mendoza’s role on the team is crucial. The Libero is chosen by the team before a match or tournament and that person must remain the Libero for the entirety of the match.

As the only player on the court who can legally talk to the referee, Mendoza is quick to exercise her power as floor captain and isn’t afraid to debate a close call.

Her responsibilities don’t end there because as a Libero, dressed in contrasting colors as the rest of the team, everyone in the arena is expecting excellent defensive play. She cannot block or attack the ball when it is entirely above net height and when the ball is not in play either.

She can also replace any back-row player without prior notice to the officials and it doesn’t affect the substitution limit per set.

This gives Head Coach Rita Buck Crockett the flexibility to plug her in whenever she needs extra defensive help.

Mendoza then bounced around a few different colleges including Valencia, Broward and St. Leo’s University: an experience that she says “really helped me figure out which kind of coach I wanted to play for, and teammates I blended in well with.”

After a year of playing outdoor volleyball for the Panthers, the senior is helping guide the team through the ranks at waters of Conference USA play this year.

“That’s what makes this team so unique, were all basically sisters. There is no drama and everyone is very honest and upfront; if this team were any different I wouldn’t want to play but they’re great.” Mendoza said.

Constantly keeping the team’s spirits up, even during stretches of bad play, it is obvious to anyone who watches Mendoza is the most vocal player on the team.

She isn’t afraid to get into an opposing player’s head and her confidence grows as the game goes on.

Her positive impact on the team and matches can be directly correlated to her attitude and personality.

“My mom was a psychologist so she raised me to speak my mind and didn’t really punish me for vocally disagreeing with something when I was younger. My aunts would always argue with her, but she felt it was more important to raise someone who knew how to express how they felt,” Mendoza said.

The self described beach bum enjoys more dangerous forms of exercise as well.

Recently introduced to spear fishing, attending college in south Florida couldn’t be a more ideal locale to hit the reefs off the coast and take on a daring way to hunt.

When Mendoza isn’t on the court she also enjoys ceramics and is currently taking a class at FIU. Hoping to open a yoga studio one day, she would like to be a personal fitness trainer with an emphasis on yoga for its physical and meditational benefits when she graduates.

SPORTS

Peg-Friedman Photography/The Beacon

Senior Jessica Mendoza has been a key component to FIU’s volleyball success, by leading the team in digs. The Panthers enter today’s matchup against UAB with a record of 7-9 and a conference record of 1-3.

The Beacon – Friday, October 11, 2013
Enter into a room with dark oak wood, crystal chandeliers and the light sizzling of meat. And now, I can’t get unique because people are fighting over this or that in Washington. This is something people don’t mess around with. Even in a bad economy, people drink beer.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, or TTB, is a little-known arm of the Treasury Department. The agency will continue to process taxes from existing permit holders, but applications for anything new are in limbo.

“One could think of this shutdown as basically stopping business indefinitely for anyone who didn’t have certain paperwork in place back in mid-August,” said Paul Gatza, director of the Brewers Association, which represents more than 1,900 U.S. breweries.

A woman who answered the phone Oct. 2 at TTB’s headquarters in Washington abruptly hung up after explaining that the government was shut down. Assistant Administrator Cheri Davidson did not respond to telephone or email messages.

The shutdown poses a huge problem for craft brewers, who build their businesses by producing quirky, offbeat flavors and introducing new seasonal beers, sometimes as often as every quarter. Craft brewers around the country say TTB was taking as long as 75 days to approve applications before the shutdown. Now they’re bracing for even longer waits. And temps are flaring.

Tony Magee, owner of Lagunitas Brewing Co. in Petaluma, Calif., posted messages on his Twitter account this week ripping the shutdown.

“(Expletive) Feds are gonna shutdown the already incompe- tent Gov while hundreds of small breweries, including us, have labels pending. Nice.” That was followed with “Wanna regulate? Perform or get out of the way.”

Lagunitas Chief Operating Officer Todd Stevenson called the TTB shutdown a “headache.” He said the company was planning to submit an application to package its autumn seasonal Hairy Eyeball in 22-ounce bottles instead of 12-ounce bottles but can’t move forward.

“It’s just aggravating,” Stevenson said. “It’s frustrating that the government can’t do its job. Doing what they’re doing now is unprecedented.”