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SGA tackles financial aid in Tallahassee

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student government leaders from every public university in Florida will meet later this month in Tallahassee to review state policies that many say limit the access of Post-secondary education.

Alongside student debt, loan repayment and the increasing cost of tuition, student government President Alexia Calatayud said University representatives plan to make financial aid a key issue at Polithon, a traveling forum that helps young adults become policy changers.

“The largest issue is the diminishing amount of financial aid available to students, particularly students from low-income families and minority backgrounds,” Calatayud said.

Polithon will host the Florida Student Association (FSA), a non-partisan organization, on September 26 and 27. The focus for the 56 representatives - 3 students from each public university - will be to find common ground and draft a one-page proposal for the state legislature, Calatayud said.

Higher education has been a hot button issue among Florida lawmakers. The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights found “insufficient evidence of a legal violation” in a December 2014 decision.

Governor Rick Scott was criticized by state democrats in January after he proposed to expand the Bright Futures Scholarship by $23.5 million to cover summer classes. Scott, who saved the state over $200 million by increasing eligibility for the scholarship, failed to address how the cutback disproportionately affected some students in his plan.

In terms of college attainment for minority students, Calatayud said, “The biggest obstacle is money.”

Attainment rates for African Americans are as low as 27 percent with Native American at 23 percent and Latino Americans at 20 percent. 2013 showed that, at almost 60 percent, Asian Americans had the highest attainment rate; whites were second with 44 percent.

Trends show, nationally and statewide, that college attainment is slowly improving, but not enough. According to the Lumina Foundation, a higher-ed advocacy group, by 2020, two thirds of all jobs will require post-secondary education.

“By current levels, we will only produce a workforce where only 45 percent have degrees,” Calatayud said. “Florida needs more educated people.”

Added cuts to financial aid will take the University’s graduation rate of 54 percent and make a college degree even tougher, she said.

State projections predicted that an estimated 116,000 students received about $260 million in scholarships for the 2015-16 year. That’s 10 percent less than 2014-15 and 24 percent less than the 2013-14 year.

“We just need to help the people in the system graduate,” Calatayud said.

While tuition rates have increased over 67 percent since the Great Recession in Florida’s public four-year universities, a report by Young Invincibles cited a dramatic decrease in the Bright Futures program.

University offers lockers for rent

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Robert Frye said University lockers had a build-up of dust and spoiled food for years.

“Soda bottles were half full and we found a 1995 Beacon [issue] in the lockers,” said Frye, Wellness and Recreation director at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. “It got really nasty over the years.”

He said the library administration approached him a year ago with an invitation to take responsibility for managing the locker rental service.

Patricia Villasuso, library operations executive assistant, said the lockers used to belong to FIU College of Law, but the College decided it did not want the lockers any longer, they were left behind.

When Anne Prestamo took the position of Dean of the Libraries, she met with Academic Space Management and Student Affairs to decide that the lockers in the Green Library and in Owa Ehan would be managed by WRC.

Villasuso said the lockers on the first floor of the library have never been under the administration of the library, however. The space there is rented out to various entities, and all decisions rest with the Office of Academic Space Management.

Students in the past would leave lockers locked without cleaning them up, Frye said.

All the lockers were kept locked, so nobody used them.

“Nobody really controlled them.”

Frye accepted the invitation to take charge of the service and commissioned the University’s custodial services to clean up the lockers fall 2013. Students who were using the lockers had a three-week notice to remove their belongings.

The lockers were officially managed by the WRC spring 2014. The Center provides two non-permitted” may not be stored in the lockers. Illegal items include drugs, weapons and contraband.

Frye hopes that graduate students take advantage of the rental service.

Students Crystal Foster and Pablo Durbin think that this service is beneficial to the student community.

“For the students, it’s really convenient,” said Durbin.

“They are the odds that the books are going to be there.”

Two-thirds of all students choose to use the service.

The contract also states that “items designated by the University can rent the lockers, but Frye thinks the service is most practical for students.

Students who choose to use the service must sign a rental contract in which they agree to hold that “only FIU-assigned locks are permitted on the lockers.”

He said the lockers are about halfway full.

The contract also states that “items designated by the University” or “non-permitted” may not be stored in the lockers. Illegal items include drugs, weapons and contraband.

Frye hopes that graduate students take advantage of the rental service.

Students Crystal Foster and Pablo Durbin think that this service is beneficial to the student community.

“For people who need to carry their books back and forth and...
US, Russia to seek common ground in Syria

The United States and Russia agreed Friday to consider potential areas of military cooperation in civil war-wracked Syria as a powerful al-Qaida-allied rebel group vowed to “defeat” the expanding Russian military force that is being deployed in northwest Syria. The agreement to hold military-to-military talks in parallel with diplomatic consultations was reached in a telephone conversation between Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Shoigu, the first time they’ve spoken since Carter took his post seven months ago, a Pentagon statement said.

Feds appeal family detention ruling

Federal officials will fight for their rights to continue to lock up mothers and children in family detention centers. The Justice Department filed an appeal with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday after a federal judge ruled that the

Pope reminds Castro that improvement in ties with US is a process

Pope Francis hailed the resumption of diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba as an ongoing process and denounced global wars in his first address in Cuba on Saturday. Pope Francis arrived in Cuba at the start of an historic nine-day trip that is also set to take him to the United States.

Cash running out for refugee aid as European crisis grows, UN says

The outpouring of sympathy and expressions of concern for the plight of hundreds of thousands of people who’ve fled the Syrian civil war to reach Europe has not translated into financial support for international humanitarian aid intended to help the refugees still in the countries that border Syria.

SOFIE HERBUT Contributing Writer news@us.fiu.edu

Lauren Landera said she hired a personal trainer to be more fit. After she quit her job, she was forced to switch to a virtual coach.

“Some people just don’t get it.” In these cases, apps can be helpful, she said. “Curb users can see that friends gain or lose weight, while others try to incorporate healthier foods to get rid of junk food from their diet.”

Rashita Libbren, WRC student assistant at the main campus, is a personal trainer. She said she recommends the app MyFitnessPal to her clients. In calorie counter and dieting regulars like her, “It gives them a way to be more aware,” she said.

Jasmine said fitness programs offered at the Wellness and Recreation Center values the use of fitness apps if used appropriately and effectively. She said a big issue is the persistence of people using the apps and only what they apply, and not so much relying on them.

“If it makes a sedentary person work out, then great,” said Jasmine, WRC assistant director of fitness programs at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

“Even manually entering what you’re eating is making you more aware,” she said.

Wellness Center manages lockers for rent

RENT, PAGE 1

might be too heavy,” said Dovila, a junior recreational therapy major.

Fuster, a freshman history major, doesn’t need a locker “because I have a backpack, because I don’t have a bunch of textbooks to bring,” she said. “But I know there are students who have a lot of items to bring to school. [The lockers] could be really useful for them.”

The lockers at GL can be used for rent by students at the University of Miami who do not have a locker, who are studying for a final exam. You may also use the lockers during the last day of the semester. The lockers can be used for any student of the University of Miami who is registered to use them.

SAFETY

SOPHIE HERBUT Contributing Writer news@us.fiu.edu

Lauren Landera said she hired a personal trainer to be more fit. After she quit her job, she was forced to switch to a virtual coach.

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Deciding a major should be based on more than just money

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With so many students under pressure to enter fields promising financial prosperity, immediate returns on their investments in education and bragging rights for their parents, the humanities have suffered a popularity shift. This is understandably so as the cost of higher education is on the rise—surging 538% since 1985. Many majors outweigh others in terms of immediate financial return. Parents are usually thrilled to hear their child say they intend to major in any STEM field - STEM meaning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; but the student who proclaims a desire to pursue an education in the humanities is met with a very different reaction.

The economic anxieties of undergraduates are narrowing the concept of education into something that will provide them with quick financial return on their degrees, booting the humanities off the list of majors that will provide immediate applicable skills in favor of STEM fields.

It is important to note that the rewards of the humanities are not always instant and straightforward, causing the department to suffer, but are very pertinent to an ocean of pursuits.

The obscure value of the humanities has made way for a bad reputation and criticism, even from President Barack Obama who in Jan. 2014 said that: “...folks can make a lot more, potentially, with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree. Now, nothing wrong with an art history degree – I love art history. So I don’t want to get a bunch of emails from everybody…”

Every time people learn of my decision to major in English, I am met with two different responses, both of which are equally frustrating. Some will say: “So, what are you going to do for money? Teach?” to which I would politely shrug and answer a “maybe” through the internal screaming.

Others will place their hand on my shoulder, concerned for my well being, and tell me how they “want me to be able to support myself.” This is the place where I think, if they’re being sincere, and explain that everyone, no matter who they are, faces the issue of job security.

There are very few secure jobs for anyone, and I would be more okay with being jobless and having majored in something I genuinely care about, something that made me happy for the four years I was able to indulge in it, than jobless and holding a degree that I worked towards in hopes of being more employable.

The assumption that humanities majors will have it hard in a doomed economy seem to be the standard idea among many, but things aren’t actually all that bad for us.

In a 2010-2011 survey conducted by the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, it was revealed that the prospects of unemployment for recent humanities graduates was 9 percent, right with the prospects for those graduating from science and math fields at 9.1 percent.

Some will still argue that the humanities are a dying pursuit in these changing times, and this could be supported by the massive drop of students between the years 1970 and 1985, when computers were becoming more accessible. The enrollment in the humanities fell off a cliff from holding 17.2 percent of all bachelor’s degrees, to as little as 7 percent by 1985.

By 2011, the number of bachelor’s degrees had stabilized to 10.5 percent. This drop in enrollment is not the byproduct of a mass revelation that the humanities will become useless, though. The decline could be attributed to a number of things, including the increased use of computers, and women’s desires to veer away from the educational pursuits commonly thought to be more “feminine” in favor of more male dominated fields.

Yes, times have changed, but the humanities are still very valuable to our society.

The humanities seek to comprehend and explain the cultural, social and emotional realms of the human experience. In a way, it is like biology—the study of life—but from an emotional perspective. It is more the study of humanities.

A fundamental aspect of the humanities is the requirement to write clearly, concisely. The ability to write is as fundamental to the humanities as basic math and science would be to the STEM fields. Writing is about developing clear communication, clear thinking, clear expression, about developing graceful dialogue in our conversation with the world. There are endless employment opportunities for clear communicators, thinkers and writers.

Literature, for the longest time, has provided us with an understanding of humanity. This understanding is still relevant, it will be relevant for as long as we are human. So what greater education than understanding ourselves?

Leon Wieseltier, American writer, critic, philosopher and literary editor of The New Republic addressed this in 2013, asking: “Has there ever been a moment in American life where the humanities were cherished less, and has there ever been a moment in American life when humanities were needed more?”

The search for practical degrees has changed the realm of higher education in a massive way. We are now seeking degrees that will land us in money-making jobs, and push us out of the college generated debt from obtaining them.

Economic survival is not the sole product of what major you claim. Your major will only provide the groundwork and habitat to the personal effort you put forth. Those who will thrive are the self-motivated individuals who possess the ability to think dynamically, and the skill to clearly articulate their thoughts, regardless of their intended career path.

After all, your major will not get you a job, you and your efforts get you a job.

As FIU students we are all familiar with the FIU Alert system. If there’s a disturbance on campus, students can expect a notification from the system via text, phone call or email. Some students even attest to being notified via social media. However, students and staff alike are starting to be concerned by what seems like a lack of consistency in the FIU Alert system.

On Monday, Sept. 14 our writers at The Beacon broke the story that there was a man with a foot fetish sniffing women’s feet in the Green Library. The next day, the culprit was arrested by Miami-Dade authorities.

Students never received a notification, and only knew about the incident through The Beacon and local news. The incident was shrugged off as a laughable occurrence but the situation is actually quite serious.

The arrested culprit was identified as Eddy Juan, a registered sex-offender and the foot-sniffing incident had actually occurred about two weeks before the story broke. There was a registered sex-offender on campus in the Green Library and for two weeks no one received any type of notification.

On Wednesday, Sept. 2 a frightening situation occurred at the Wolfe University Center on the Biscayne Bay Campus. A student had a dispute in the building’s game room and angrily left after promising to come back later with a firearm. As a precaution, everyone was evacuated from the room. The student came back and demanded to be let in. The student was later apprehended at his home by authorities. As of right now, no one is quite sure to whether or not a firearm was involved.

What we do know for sure is that the vast majority of students did not receive an FIU Alert about the incident. Some speculate that an alert was never sent out so as to avoid a campus-wide panic.

Other’s believe that many students are not subscribed to the FIU Alert service and simply missed the notification. The alert system can be a bit of an annoyance so it shouldn’t be a surprise that many students have unsubscribed to the service.

Whatever the case may be, we at The Beacon want all FIU students to say safe and observant. If you see any suspicious behavior, please alert the proper authorities as soon as possible.

Most importantly, make sure you are subscribed to the FIU Alert service and simply missed the notification. The alert system can be a bit of an annoyance so it shouldn’t be a surprise that many students have unsubscribed to the service. Students never received a notification, and only knew about the incident through The Beacon and local news. The incident was shrugged off as a laughable occurrence but the situation is actually quite serious.
Del Rey’s ‘Honeymoon’ is a ‘rebirth album’

EMILY AFRE Contributing Writer life@fiusm.com

Since her 2011 breakthrough with ‘Viceland’ and the debut album, ‘Born to Die’, Lana Del Rey has carved a name for herself through her unique style and artistic temperament.

Her latest release, ‘Honeymoon’, can be thought of as a hybrid of last year’s ‘Ultraviolence’ and her debut album, ‘Born to Die.’ ‘Honeymoon’ provides a rebirth album, in which Del Rey sheds her skin to reveal the most genuine and true form of herself. ‘We both know that it’s not fashionable to love me’ is the first line she sings on the album, presenting us for what is the most honest we have seen Del Rey date.

In ‘Honeymoon’, Del Rey continues to make a conscious effort to bring new elements into her retro soundscapes. Del Rey once again puts her artistry to practice with another one of her takes on Nina Simone, with a more upbeat, slight 60s tinged version of ‘Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood.’

Del Rey experiments with a sample of the T.S. Eliot poem ‘Burnt Norton’ while treating the literary work as a monologue. She makes references to David Bowie and Billie Holiday, and plays with elements of jazz and Spanish flare as it cuts like ‘Music To Watch Boys To.’ ‘Terrence Loves You, ‘God Knows I Tried,’ ‘24,’ and ‘Salvatore.’ Most notably, she layers her sultry vocals over a hiphop track named ‘High By The Beach’ and on ‘Freak’ and ‘The Blackout’ highlighting the signature ‘gangsta Nancy Sinatra’ which hearkens back to the time when she first made Del Rey so successful.

The album is a reflection of Del Rey’s relationship with love itself and her evident yearning for true happiness. Every song is a candidacy constructed in which you can strip each one layer by layer musically, lyrically and thematically. The title track serves as a dark and daunting platform for the album, building the anticipation for what the rest of Honeymoon has in store.

“I lost myself when I lost you/ But I still got jazz when I’ve got those blues” as sung in ‘Terrence Loves You’ is an example of the sense of melancholia and hopeless romance with trying to find ‘The Blackout’ in all the wrong places.”

She comes to terms with not allowing herself to be permanently damaged by heartbreak and the weight of others, “On Monday they destroyed me, but by Friday I’m revived.” In ‘Religion,’ Del Rey expresses how she lives her love through the love someone has for her. A l t h o u g h Del Rey manages to maintain the air of mystery and elusiveness she is known to intrigue audiences with.

Ketogenic diets require vast knowledge of nutrition

SDA HEALTH

Do you know that guy who used to weigh over 250 pounds a few months ago? Do you see him now? He’s walking around 170 pounds. That same guy who says he goes to the gym like once a week for spinning classes?

‘Doctors hate him, find out how he broke the laws of nature and made up his own!’ Yeah, that guy. Chances are, your little brother, who loves to see me working on my things,” Bermel said. “In school, it’s Dr. Mark Rosenberg who is always looking for opportunities for me and doesn’t have a care in the world,” Bermel said.

Bernal, who entered FIU at the age of 16 with a Presidential Scholarship, has been working hard to gain her education in mechanical and aero-space engineering so she can achieve her dream of working for SpaceX to make sustainable propulsion rockets to send into space.

A couple of months before I started as a freshman at FIU, I took a family vacation to the Kennedy Space Center and I saw the rockets there. I saw a Saturn 5 rocket just sitting there and it just completely blew my mind,” Bermel said. “That’s when I knew I had to do something with space. I didn’t know what, but something.”

Aside from being a 4.0 GPA student, Bernal is also a founding member of the Aerospace Engineering club at FIU which went to a model rocketry competition in 2015 and won sixth place out of 75 teams and second place nationally, as well as a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

“Right now my involvements in school are written by members of the Student Dietetic Association.”

Enjoying your body swaps fuel sources (glucose to ketone bodies) and stops storing fat. Unfortunately there is a downside to this - it can take a while to get your body to start ketosis, about a month or more sometimes.

To enable your body, really a disappointed child on Christmas day, will strew in anger, sometimes violently, because it is not getting what it was expecting. If you survive the flu-like symptoms and energy drought long enough for your body to realize that getting a Harry Potter book for Christmas was not so bad, ketosis will begin and you will once again feel right as rain.

At this point, your body is no longer storing fat which is therefore melting away even if you are not exercising. This is not to say that you can sit on the couch and eat bacon all day and give yourself the weight balance, you can do that, but you should not be because it is unhealthy. vitamin deficiency things get complicated. Your body needs X amount of vitamins and minerals daily and it is your responsibility to make sure that you supply your body with the nutrients it needs to operate as best as it can. A ketogenic diet is limited when it comes to fulfilling your nutrient quotas.

Many diets recommend against eating fruits, grains, and dairy and a kind of diet that has become a game of Russian Roulette because as soon as you even smell a cheese burger your body will revert to it’s old ways and you will gain all that weight back as quickly as you lost it.

My take on the keto diet: Although I will concede that it is indeed very possible to meet all your nutritional needs with this diet, unless you are extremely well elevated in all but the minutia of this diet and have unwavering determination, this diet is not a good idea to follow. In other words if you learned anything from reading this, this diet is not for you. A well balanced diet leads to a well balanced life.

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SDA Health is a weekly column that runs on Wednesdays and is written by members of the Student Dietetic Association.

Student spotlight: Daniella Bermel

LAURA GONZALEZ Entertainment Director laura.gonzalez@fiusm.com

Being a college student is hard, no doubt about that. Balancing an education with a job or internship, a social life and however many hobbies are on your plate is no easy feat and usually, one section has to suffer. Yet, for 18 year old junior mechanical engineering major Daniella Bermel, this is all in a day’s work.

Bernal, who entered FIU at the age of 16 with a Presidential Scholarship, has been working hard to gain her education in mechanical and aerospace engineering so she can achieve her dream of working for SpaceX to make sustainable propulsion rockets to send into space.

A couple of months before I started as a freshman at FIU, I took a family vacation to the Kennedy Space Center and I saw the rockets there. I saw a Saturn 5 rocket just sitting there and it just completely blew my mind,” Bermel said. “That’s when I knew I had to do something with space. I didn’t know what, but something.”

As a junior, Bernal is now looking into acquiring internships with aerospace engineering companies like SpaceX and Lockheed Martin to gain insights into the companies and increase her network, she is planning on going to engineering conventions throughout 2015 all across the country.

Bernal has a seemingly endless pool of motivation and a specific goal which is what she attributes to get her through her long hours and copious amounts of work throughout the past three years and even in her future.

“You always need a goal because that’s what keeps you going. I don’t think I could be so motivated all the time if I didn’t know that I have my personal goal to have something in space by age 25.”
specialTEA worth the splurge

GABBY ARZOLA

After about 10 minutes of deciding what I'd like, I ordered an “Arnaldo vegan and vegetarian options? salads, paninis and wraps. frappes, smoothies, a variety of serves Organic Fair Trade coffee, try. It was with a friend, so I felt nearly secure to order all of this food without feeling judged by eavesdropping onlookers. With the time it took for the food and drinks to come out, this is definitely a place to not be in a rush, which is nice, considering how most of us are always running around trying to get things done. With fun board games and free Wi-Fi provided by the restaurant, the waiting time flies by. When the drinks came and I had a sip of my Arnoldo Palmer, I fell in love. The sweet mint lemonade perfectly complimented the fruity Sangria Spice tea. It was full of flavor, perfectly sweetened and refreshing. The lychee boba milk tea was tasty as well. Even though I found the boba pearls a bit smaller than I’m used to, it was still on par in regards to flavor. When the drinks came and I had a napkin under my mouth. I have zero complaints about any of the pastries here. The specialTEA experience is unlike anything I’ve ever had around school. Every item was so unique, it only made my time there more enjoyable. Even though their food is little a little on the pricier side, it is definitely worth the occasional splurge. With a relaxing environment, sweet treats, savory meals and delicious tea, specialTEA is definitely a go-to spot for study groups and just about anyone who likes great food.

life@fiusm.com

Beacon Bits is a weekly food review column that comes out every Wednesday.

GABBY ARZOLA

In a small shopping center across from MMC, there is a quaint little restaurant that I would have never expected to find. With no large signs, specialTEA is a hole in the wall that is not the easiest to locate. As I walk in, I feel like I’ve been transported to an urban-style restaurant that I would see in Wynwood— but definitely not around West Miami-Dade. With their green walls, green sofas, brown leather seating booths and reclaimed wood tables, I couldn’t believe this place existed right across from the campus.

This restaurant prides themselves on being environmentally conscious by using organic products and eco-friendly materials, which is always a plus.

With their extensive tea blends and organic pastries, I couldn’t help but look at the entire menu when I entered the restaurant, the waiting time flies by. When the drinks came and I had a sip of my Arnoldo Palmer, I fell in love. The sweet mint lemonade perfectly complimented the fruity Sangria Spice tea. It was full of flavor, perfectly sweetened and refreshing. The lychee boba milk tea was tasty as well. Even though I found the boba pearls a bit smaller than I’m used to, it was still on par in regards to flavor. When the drinks came and I had a napkin under my mouth. I have zero complaints about any of the pastries here. The specialTEA experience is unlike anything I’ve ever had around school. Every item was so unique, it only made my time there more enjoyable. Even though their food is a little on the pricier side, it is definitely worth the occasional splurge. With a relaxing environment, sweet treats, savory meals and delicious tea, specialTEA is definitely a go-to spot for study groups and just about anyone who likes great food.

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LAW ADMISSIONS PANEL
Friday, September 25, 2015
See how a real law application is reviewed and dissected. Learn what works and what doesn’t for law admissions.

University of Miami School of Law
Room F209
1311 Miller Drive, Coral Gables 33146
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

MIAMI LSAC FORUM
Saturday, September 26, 2015
Meet our entire admissions team and learn about our unparalleled programs.

Hyatt Regency Miami, Downtown
400 SE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33131
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, November 24, 2015
Discover Miami Law’s offerings, hear from the Dean, watch a mock class, and interact with current law students.

University of Miami School of Law
Student Lounge
1311 Miller Drive, Coral Gables 33146
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

www.law.miami.edu/admissions
FOOTBALL

Panthers dominate Eagles, win opener

Senior cornerback Richard Leonard prepares for a play in the Sept. 19 home opener against North Carolina Central University. The Panthers scored 39 points, and defensively held the Eagles to 38 yards rushing and 209 yards total during the game. Panthers take on Louisiana Tech on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 2:30 PM.

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Injured in action, player sustains concussion

FOOTBALL

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Injured safety leaving everyone wondering and worried if he will be okay.

As the Panthers routed North Carolina Central Saturday night with a 39-14 victory making them 2-1, a scary moment happened late in the third quarter.

Junior safety Wilkerson Myrtil took a huge collision with his limbs. The stadium was in silence for 15 minutes when the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue ambulance showed up. At first, it was unclear who got injured or what happened during the play. Trainers and staff gathered around the injured safety leaving everyone wondering and worried if he will be okay.

After taking off his pads and helmet, the ambulance strapped Myrtil as he was carried off in a stretcher and taken to the nearest hospital. After the game, Head Coach Ron Turner confirmed during the press conference that Wilkerson Myrtil sustained a concussion. Unfortunately, it’s nothing too serious and he will pull through.

“He’s going to be fine, he has a concussion.” Turner said. “He was knocked out, but he was moving and everything. I asked how bad it was and they said it’s not that bad. He will go through a concussion protocol and see where he is heading. But he will be fine.”

Senior defensive end and team captain Michael Wakefield let his teammates know that Myrtil will be fine after the game. He also shared his concerns during the press conference. “Anytime when one of our brothers go down, we really feel it,” Wakefield said. “We work with each other everyday so it really hurts when you are concerned about what’s wrong with him.”

The status of how long Myrtil will be out is still uncertain. With their first home opening win and a 2-1 record, the Panthers will be back on the road this coming Saturday for their Conference-USA opening against Louisiana Tech. The game will start at 2:30 p.m.
Panthers win C-USA home opener

STEFANO RIVERA  Contributing Writer
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The women’s volleyball team finished the first day of the FIU Invitational splitting its first two matchups, beating Bethune-Cookman 3-1 and losing to the University of Central Florida 0-3. Looking to finish the event and gain another victory, the Panthers were set to face off against UC Irvine on Thursday, with a win.

The Panthers got off to a slow start, losing the first set 12-25. The team committed six errors, finishing with a hitting percentage of -.061 and managed to only get five kills. However, the host team would go off to a hot start in the second set and bounce back and grab the set 25-17, forcing the Redhawks to a .000 hitting percentage, totalling six kills and six errors.

“After being asked if Head Coach, Rita Buck-Crockett, said anything to her players before the second set she said, “I just told them that they are good and they just need to not to be afraid to lose and they need to play to win.” She also said, “If you make an error, you make an error. But make it going for it, and I think that made the difference.”

However, the Redhawks got the better of the Panthers in the final two sets, defeating them 25-13 in the third and 25-16 in the fourth to win 3-1. Seattle finished the match with 49 kills, a .291 hitting percentage and 10 aces. Of those 10 aces, Junior, Jelena Vujcin, had six.

Buck-Crockett said, “Number seven’s serve is what really hurt our team. We couldn’t return her out. She got us. She’s a very good server.”

For the Panthers, Senior, Lucia Castro, rallied up nine kills and 10 digs. Junior, Katie Hogan, also had nine kills. Senior, Adriana McLamb, shot sailing past the UC Irvine keeper shot a laser right under a diving Anteater score.

The women’s soccer team well worth the wait

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Only the devout were found in the stands after the rain delay that pushed the game back a little more than an hour. But the FIU Women’s Soccer team were tailgating out there, it was a very good atmosphere and I think that helped. It was great to get a win for the fans. Next time we come home (on October 10th) hopefully we’ll get as much of a turnout. Like I said before, we’ve got a good football team and I’d love for the people of South Florida to come out and see us - I think they’ll like what they see.”

While FIU certainly could’ve played better, overall it was a fantastic home opener for an improving football program that desperately needed one. The team played very well in just about every aspect of the game, the incredible new blue and gold uniforms were a hit and most importantly, as I mentioned before, they actually got some fans in the seats. There have been rumors of FIU needing to average at least 15,000 fans per home game if they want to avoid demotion to the FCS. Also having their most attended home opener in years will certainly help their cause.

FIU opens Conference USA play next week, as they travel to face Louisiana Tech University on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Home play busts wide open with win

OPENER, PAGE 6

The FIU defense was lights out, allowing only seven points to NC Central (the other 7 points the Eagles scored were on Taylor’s interception return) and intercepting three passes. This is nothing new, as we’ve seen what Matt House’s defense is capable of before; but if FIU can consistently force turnovers and give the offense good field position, I think FIU can be a legitimate contender to win Conference USA.

This game was the first victory in a home opener for FIU since Ron Turner took over as head coach and he was very pleased with his team’s performance and how many fans were there supporting the Panthers.

“The fans were outstanding,” Turner said. “The bus pulled up early and they were tailgating out there, it was a very good atmosphere and I think that helped. It was great to get a win for the fans. Next time
**Future Entrepreneurs club makes waves at BBC**

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Having a background in hospitality and an entrepreneurial spirit inspired Jonathan Mendez to start a club at FIU for others interested in finance, business and technology, with knowledge straight from the experts.

Mendez, a senior in hospitality management, started the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals club in spring 2015 with the rest of the club’s executive board and became the president of the club.

“I was eager to start a club at FIU and relate it to hospitality, for students with an entrepreneurial mindset,” Mendez said.

HFTFP is an organization focused on the training of financial and technological personnel in hotels, clubs and business related to hospitality, according to HFTFP’s official website.

“We want to be future entrepreneurs, and why should we limit ourselves to one club to finance and technology when there are more routes to explore to achieve success?” said Mendez.

Taking classes and working off campus has presented obstacles in terms of managing the club. However, Yassine Belkady, senior in hospitality management and director of finance of the club, said, “Everybody has to pitch in and implement new ideas and it has been working so far.”

The members work together, but have roles to play, such as the vice president, Jordan Hamilton, senior in hospitality management. He put together a presentation explaining step by step how to invest in the stock market.

Hamilton said the club has given him and his friends chances to meet CEOs like Robert Schwartz, senior vice president for Morgan Stanley’s Wealth Management division, who came to BBC to speak about his career at a conference the HFTP/Future Entrepreneurs club put together in early September.

“I took an accounting class and after receiving an email about this conference, I decided to come and check it out,” said Lucette Ambroise, senior in hospitality management.

“Mr. Schwartz because I felt like I could relate to some of his experiences.”

“Whatever we strive to do with this club is to show students that they can fly with their own wings by getting contacts, building a network and developing different capacities in finance and business,” Belkady said.

According to Dale Gomez, director of information technology at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and one of the club’s advisors, technology is another important aspect and component of this club.

“They really wanted to find a student that fits the technical aspect of the club and Maudson took leadership role in this position and became their director of marketing.”

**Sponges akin to redwoods of the sea crowding out corals on Florida reefs**

**JENNY STALETOVICH**
TNS Staff

In the absence of coral, on Florida’s ailing reefs, a titan of the sea is taking over: giant barrel sponges.

Big as a bathtub, the sponges increased by 600 percent more reef. In some areas, the number of baby sponges increased by 600 percent.

“If they’re all that there is, the reefs will flatten out and decay,” said study co-author Joseph Pawlik, a marine biologist at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. “As long as they’re holding the space and they can live hundreds of years, they won’t give that space up to the coral.”

While researchers only documented the rise in the Florida Keys, Pawlik said he has seen the spread all over the Caribbean, from Belize to Tobago.

“We think the exact same thing is happening everywhere in the Caribbean,” he said.

While bad news, Pawlik said there is an upside. The sponges suck in huge amounts of water, filtering out carbon and sending it back into the sediment. In an increasingly carbon-rich atmosphere, that’s a good thing.

“They provide a place for baby fish and shrimp and baby lobsters, all the things important for fisherman,” he said.

But they also take up space _ and they can live hundreds of years _ which can easily topple the big sponges even at 30 feet deep where they live.

If acidity in oceans continue to rise under climate change predictions, coral with their vulnerable limestone skeleton, will likely die. The sponges, with a glass skeleton, so far appear unaffected by increasing acidity, he said.

“It’s better than what we had, which is seaweed. But coral is better than sponge,” Pawlik said. “It’s still a matter of things being out of whack.”