Fire at 109 Tower displaces students

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Nearly 500 University students were evacuated from their homes after a fire at 109 Tower, a 15-story building that functions as off-campus housing for students.

The fire started on the 10th floor of the kitchen on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at around 1 a.m., according to NBC 6 News.

“The tower’s sprinkler system put the fire out quickly, but caused damage to the lower floors. There was damage caused by flooding because of a ‘robust sprinkler system,’” according to Elizabeth Bejar, vice president for Academic Affairs at a faculty senate meeting Tuesday.

“Around 1 a.m., I noticed that there were a lot of fire trucks and ambulances outside the building,” said Chloe Antoine, a junior majoring in liberal studies and a 109 Tower resident. “I understood there was a fire and I called the person on-call and they told me that it had already been put out.”

But, at around 3 a.m., she was woken up by firefighters. “I woke up because firefighters were knocking on the door telling everyone to evacuate,” Antoine said.

“Everyone in the building was locked out and spent the whole morning there. I was there from 3 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. until I finally went to my grandmother’s house.”

However, some students don’t have anyone in South Florida to stay with.

“I am an out-of-state student from Puerto Rico,” said Daniela Garcia-Rovira, a senior majoring in advertising and a Tower resident. “109 is the place I call home. I have some friends who have offered me a place to stay in case of anything, but I’m just anxious to know what will happen.”

However, Bejar said the university will hotel some residents and shuttle them back and forth to campus if needed. She also said that she can validate for faculty which students were affected.

Garcia-Rovira thought she would be allowed to grab her stuff before evacuating the tower, but they rushed her out.

“I was shaking and scared,” Garcia-Rovira said. “They wouldn’t even let us be in the lobby. I sat outside in small steps in front of the building, hoping this would only be a couple minutes. Those couple minutes turned into hours.”

SOPHIE HERBUT  
Staff Writer  
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Alexander Orta developed a routine when he graduated from high school, preparing himself for college. One mistake, however, almost dissolved all of his attempts to get an education.

“I was finally of age of a college student [so I wanted] to get a degree, shatter the stereotype of college students,” Orta said. He found one way to do this was to recreationally use marijuana.

There has been an increase in the use of illegal drugs, with an estimated 80.6 percent using marijuana in 2013 according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

The most common reason for use in high school, college and among young adults was for a simple mistake,” Navas said. “It’s a difficult decision when you have these students that could be honor students, that could be in the school of medicine, that could be a law student who has everything going for them, and they don’t realize the potential consequences of doing this,” he said.

Nicole Wallace, a junior environmental science major, has seen people in the University use drugs.

“There were people smoking weed in the common area and walking around with, like, blunts in their hands in front of the dorms,” said Wallace.

Navas said that as university police officers, they have several options for students who are discovered to be in possession of illegal drugs or contraband.

“The officer has the alternative give them a ‘promise to appear,’” Navas said. “It’s a difficult decision when you have these students that could be honor students, that could be in the school of medicine, that could be a law student who has everything going for them, and they don’t realize the potential consequences of doing this,” he said.

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“The officer has the alternative to non-students,” such as Adderall, Vyvanse or Ritalin, are also at staggering heights — about 30 percent, according to a 2006 study by the University of Kentucky.

The most common reason is to focus while studying, especially during the time of midterm and final exams.

Paola Silva said she tried Adderall because of the lack of time she had to do homework while handling a full-time job. “I wish it didn’t come down to trying Adderall but it really did help more than I had expected it to,” the junior education major said. “When I would sit down to study I was so tired, and it was so easy to get distracted.”

She said she was able to sit

Student stimulant drug use — on the rise?

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A stimulant drug was recently used by a student to study for exams. The student, who requested anonymity, explained that the drug helped her to stay focused and attentive during long study sessions.

“I used Adderall for my finals this week and it really helped me stay on task,” said the student. “I could concentrate better and retain information for longer periods.”

However, the use of stimulants for academic purposes is controversial. Many experts warn that these drugs can have serious side effects, including increased heart rate, blood pressure, and risk of addiction.

“Adderall is a schedule 2 drug, and its use should be strictly regulated,” said Dr. John Smith, a psychologist specializing in addiction. “It’s not meant to be taken casually, but as a last resort.”

The use of stimulants for academic purposes is illegal in most states, and can lead to severe legal consequences. However, some students and parents argue that the use of these drugs is necessary to level the playing field for students who may have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

“I understand the concerns, but for my child, Adderall is the only thing that works,” said one parent. “We’ve tried everything else, but nothing has helped.”

This issue is complex, and there is no easy solution. It requires a thoughtful balance between the needs of students and the health and safety of the community. It is important to continue the conversation and work towards a more equitable and informed approach to the use of stimulants in academic settings.

References:
 Planned Parenthood shooting controversy

Planned Parenthood has been a heated topic of debate among Republican presidential candidates. It has fractured Congress and according to the NY Times, Planned Parenthood “was expected to be prominent in the debate for legislation to finance federal operations, which the Republican-controlled Congress must pass before Dec.11 to keep the government open.” A n t i - a b o r t i o n conservatives want Republican leaders to let the government shut down unless President Obama agrees to end reimbursements to Planned Parenthood for health services to “low-income patients.” Planned Parenthood has been investigated by an anti-abortion group called the Center for Medical Progress for “trafficking in ‘baby parts.’” They have denied these allegations. Planned Parenthood has dealt with their fair share of controversy ever since abortion became legal nationally in 1973. Incidents have occurred where “many abortion clinics and staff members across the country have been subjected to harassment including death and bomb threats,” according to the NY Times. The Colorado Springs Center has been exposed to many anti-abortion protests after videos surfaced of Planned Parenthood officials speaking about using fetal organs for research and profit. Abortion is a politic issue that continues to cause great dissent and unrest in America. The ethics of human life are contested and scrutinized in the hopes of determining who has the right to set a value on someone’s existence. However, as a woman, I believe that right to have an abortion should be reserved to the women who are struggling with that decision. These examinations of the morality of abortions paint a viewpoint of only having two options, which places an enormous amount of pressure on women. This issue is not black and white. Wanting an abortion could be attributed to a number of factors. It is a complex matter with many layers underlying it, undergoing critical assessment before it is deemed as final. Victims of rape and incest should be given the option of abortion. We must set aside our preconceived notions of what we hold true in order to look through an objective lens. We must ask ourselves how it is like to live in their circumstances; experiencing all of the suffering they have endured. Every individual has a different predicament and who we are we to admonish their freedom of choice?

Writing benefits mental and physical health

Do you remember the first time you wrote a story, poem or essay? How did it feel to write words on a single sheet of paper to create something expressive? Writing is known as a great activity for students to express their opinion on a topic or to craft a creative piece. Not only is writing fun, but it can also be beneficial towards one’s physical and mental health. Sometimes the hardships and responsibilities of life can make a person feel like gravity is weighing down heavily upon them which leads to stress and bad health. Most people have trouble communicating with their friends or family about how they really feel. Instead, they prefer to keep those feelings of depression and worryment bottled up without realizing the consequence it will have on their health. Expressive writing, a common therapeutic method, is recommended by psychologists to guide people towards writing down their feelings in order to improve their moods and their well-being. Research by Professor Laura A. King of the University of Missouri revealed that writing about future goals and dreams inspires us. Most significantly, it reduces stress and sharpens our minds. If you are inspired by an experience or you just feel the need to express your feelings, try writing to show your thoughts and creativity. The more you write every day, the better writer you will become.

The Panther’s Eye is a commentary on interesting things here in the U.S. and/or around the world. Ana Barrios is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com.

Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter per month from any individual.

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‘The Good Dinosaur’ is a ‘mature children’s movie’

Pixar is a force of large magnitude, which is certain to the average moviegoer. Much like its timeless grand master, the stories Pixar tells hit close to home and has a little bit of its own magic that makes it unique and clever.

Simply put, “The Good Dinosaur” is no different. Following on the heels of the massively successful “Inside Out,” as well as the overwhelming hull period that plagued the new decade’s creativity, “Dinosaur” has a lot of high expectations weighing it down to start with.

In truth, “The Good Dinosaur” is actually a very wonderful movie. At its surface, it’s about dinosaurs, so there’s that. At its core, it’s a true coming of age story. In an alternate timeline, the scientifically famed asteroid that destroyed the dinosaurs millions of years ago, well, never hit.

A young green brontosaurus named Arlo helps his family on their corn farm somewhere in the American farm lands, presumably well after Pangea. After discovering a human boy has been stealing their food before the winter is set to arrive, Arlo and his father set out to find him and kill him. It’s not a well kept secret, even from the audience.

Unfortunately, a deadly hurricane hits and terrifies the mountain path they’re on and causes a devastating flood that sweeps Arlo’s father up and kills him. In pursuit of the human boy he blames his father’s death on, Arlo becomes quickly lost and goes on a tiring journey to return home and face his fears.

If this story sounds a bit out of the ordinary, it’s because the movie is intense; not gory, but also not to say it was a bad movie. The film was very somber and wholesome. It was definitely slow paced, but ultimately it was a nice follow-up to a movie about the permanent effects of psychological and emotional development. “The Good Dinosaur” provides something new to the coherent message of all the Pixar films in its catalog, if handled a bit off-paced. The film was a very long time in the making and suffered many reported script and casting changes. This made Pixar fans a bit skeptical of its performance.

“The Good Dinosaur” was released last week, marking the first time there has ever been two consecutive Pixar releases in the same year.

Joseph Cardenas is a contributing writer for FIUSM. To offer suggestions on movies and pop culture for Joseph to write about, email life@fiusm.com.

HEALING HE(ART)S

Jasmine RomeRo/The Beacon

Above: Junior business management major Alexis Timmons takes part in a blindness simulation activity held by the Student Organization for Exceptional Children in support of their signature event, Disability Awareness Inclusion Through Art and Expression. Bottom Left: Leslie Kramer, who is 24, weaves at the Disability Awareness Inclusion Through Art and Expression event to represent Artists with Autism, a micro-enterprise art gallery that promotes creativity, independence and entrepreneurship for those with autism.

Annual music concert benefits local schools

GUHSHINA ALTENA
Staff Writer

The National Association for Music Education is preparing for their eighth annual “Music in Need” benefit concert. The concert will take place Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Since 2007, the benefit concert has been organized to help fund music programs in Miami-Dade schools. Each year, one Miami-Dade school is chosen to receive the grant raised at the previous “Music in Need” benefit concert.

This year’s benefit concert has been organized to help fund music programs in Miami-Dade schools one at a time.

Malcom Bane once said, “If you wait until you can do everything for everybody, instead of something for somebody, you’ll end up doing nothing for nobody.”

Daniel Rodriguez, a junior music education major and president of NAIME quoted Malcom Bane to explain the goal of the annual benefit concert.

He explained that NAIME is hoping to improve music programs in the local area little by little by helping a different school’s music program every year.

Every year, one Miami-Dade school is chosen to receive the grant raised at the annual benefit concert for Rockway Middle School’s music program.
Erykah Badu’s new mixtape ‘an assertive statement’

On the stand-out track of her latest mixtape, neo-soul singer Erykah Badu, the original “Chilli” of Baduizm, showcases her ability to craft a memorable cinematic piece of music that not only embodies the spirit of neo-soul classic “Baduizm,” but also stands as a testament to her craft.

Then that all-too-familiar “Chali” bit on the opening track, Badu’s voice is clear and crisp as she speaks into the microphone, her presence undeniable. The track, titled “Hello, It’s Me,” is a return to form, a reminder of the talent that made her name.

The mixtape attempts to fill a cup of water while bathing under a banner for SOEC, or the Student Organization for Exceptional Children, and doors open at 7 p.m.

Baked in with the secret of a hypnotic dial tone, Badu starts off by referencing herself, repeating the phrase “but you can’t use my phone” echoing the familiar punchline from Badu’s 1997 staple “Tyrone.” The first two tracks are classic Badu, who coos on two tracks; “U Use to Call Me” and “What’s Yo Phone Number.”

Well, quite often the message is unclear. On “Dialafreeq,” she offers a short interview that the voice actually happens one time every 8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 4 at Jellyfish Distraction 5, 305-348-0496 or wpac@fiu.edu.

PHANTOM THINKS

Jasmine Felix, senior, nursing and sociology major.
I’m so excited for the break! I’m traveling to Ghana for vacation.

Adam Bernstein, junior, marketing major.
My Chanukah Break plans are spending time with my family who are coming in from Canada, and do not have travel plans yet. I want to get ahead in my work at SCA I’m the graphic artist, so I want to plan for spring semester.

Geraldine Gascon, junior, psychology major.
I’ll be working at my family’s store in Wynwood. And gardening too, I hope. Let’s be honest.

Yvensan Fievre, junior, biomedical engineering major.
I’m going to Nassau for a religious conference, URBANA, it only happens one time every four years.

On the one hand, the mixtape features a thoughtful and introspective track, “Hello, It’s Me,” filled with lyrics that resonate with listeners. However, the mixtape also contains tracks that feel like they are missing the mark, lacking the punch and energy that made Badu’s earlier work so impactful.

The year-end mixtape, “Hello, It’s Me,” is a reminder of Badu’s ability to craft powerful and evocative music. It is a testament to her talent and a celebration of her legacy. Even though it may not be as groundbreaking as some of her earlier works, it is still a worthy addition to her discography and a fitting way to close out the year.
Barry Bonds may join Miami Marlins as hitting coach

CLARK SPENCER
The Miami Herald
TNS

Bonds – Major League Baseball’s all-time home run king whose legacy was tarnished by links to steroids – could be joining the Marlins as a hitting coach.

Sources said Bonds is under consideration for a coaching position under new manager Don Mattingly and would likely pair up with Frank Menechino in helping Marlins hitters.

Bonds, who holds the major-league record for home runs with 762, has never had a full-time coaching position before. He has served as a special hitting instructor for the Giants during spring training.

In 2007, Bonds broke Hank Aaron’s all-time home run record in what was his 22nd and final season in the majors. He set the single-season home run record with 73 in 2001, and he also set the all-time leader in walks.

Bonds, 51, was a 14-time All-Star and was voted the Most Valuable Player seven times.

If Bonds joins the Marlins, he would not be the first former slugger whose reputation was tainted by steroid allegations to become a big-league hitting coach.

Mark McGwire, who has admitted to using steroids, is hitting coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers after serving in the same role with the Cardinals.

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria has always had a liking for Bonds and once gave him a lift to New York on his private plane after the Giants played in Miami.

Mattingly has yet to announce his full coaching staff, though he indicated at his introductory news conference that Tim Wallach, his bench coach with the Dodgers, would be joining him with the Marlins.

Sources said Juan Nieves is also being considered to take over as pitching coach.

Nieves, a former big-league pitcher, was the pitching coach for the Red Sox from 2013 to May of last season.

Panthers lose perfect home record versus Stetson

STEVE BULPETT
Boston Herald
TNS

The Celtics have been a maddening mess of multiple personalities through the first month of the season – which is about the only way you can explain beating Brooklyn by 25 and losing to the same club by 11 two days later. And now beating Washington by 33 last Friday before falling by 19 in Orlando Sunday.

Fortunately for Brad Stevens’ blood pressure, the pendulum always swings back. Here on the second night of a back-to-back, that meant turning the mathematical tables on the Heat, 105-95.

Miami had the second-ranked defense in the NBA, giving up just 91.7 points a game. It had also been good with the ball, turning over just 13.8 times per contest, the fewest in the league.

So the C’s put six players in double figures, led by Avery Bradley’s 25 points, and forced the Heat into 19 turnovers, from which the visitors extracted 24 points. The Bostonians started this one out sluggishly, but steadied out of the skid and were allowed their better selves to win.

Dwyane Wade (30 points) and Chris Bosh (21) put on a legends act, but the Celtics stayed the course and held the line at the end. After logging heat up by the Magic, this was a welcome result for them.

“Yeah, definitely,” said Isaiah Thomas. “We bounced back. A quick turnaround. It was just, this game we just kept fighting. We made a run. They kept making runs. Crowd got into it. We just kept fighting. That’s what we need to do from here on out.”

O’Neal, the major keys was Amir Johnson, who dealt with Hassan Whiteside guarding him by pulling the big man outside with a pair of 3-pointers and possessing the Miami defense.

“He gave me all the time in the world to take my shots, and I was able to knock it down,” said Johnson, who finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Looking at the C’s with a larger view, he said, “We play tough games, then we lose to teams that we’re definitely supposed to beat. So we’re just finding ways where we can just stay consistent.”

That was an issue again early on last night, but Evan Turner came in midway through the first quarter, and his defensive pressure sparked them at the other end, as well. They hit 10 of their last 17 shots and outscored Miami 32 points to go ahead by nine.

Turner was a plus-15 in just 51 minutes.

“I think, once we get the effort plays and the hustle plays, that sets the tone for the rest of the game,” he said after 13 points and three steals. “I definitely did, and, once again, once we get the ball, I think we’re great in transition and fast break.

“I think defensively we came out and we brought it and we weathered the storm. They made a lot of runs and they did what they needed to do, but we answered back and executed really well.”

But the Heat always seemed to have a response. The Celtics led by as many as 14, but it was a 28-point game a little more than two minutes into the last quarter. Jae Crowder and Jared Sullinger (17 points) hit 3-pointers to get the edge back out to 11 with six minutes left in the game. Wade then had eight points in a 10-2 run that made it 96-93 with two minutes left. The next three Miami possessions were two Wade misses (the second on a block by Bradley) and a failed Bosh try.

“We were even-keeled tonight,” said Thomas. “We just kept going. We kept pushing. Tonight we were the definition of a next-play team. No matter good or bad, we were on the next play, and that’s big for us.”

Bradley, in particular, exemplified that concept. He had 12 of his points in the third quarter when the Heat were continually trying to land offensive punches.

“It felt good,” he said of his 9-for-15 night. “My teammates were able to find me. I had going. I made a few shots. The good thing about this team is that we all want to see each other do well and that they keep making us to shoot the ball, we get you open, and the when they continued to do. It definitely helps my confidence and, not only that, it helps us win. If I don’t have a shot, then make a pass to my teammate for the shots and that’s what I’m doing. It was just making it hard for them to be able to defend us tonight.”

Wade was impressed.

“They played their game from the start,” he said. “We got into our game a little late. They were the more desperate team tonight, and that’s how they get their win.”

Stevens will tell you that’s how the Celtics have to play all the time.

“It’s hard to convince a defensive mindset,” he said, “and that we’re not a defensive team really, that’s a good sign of our cohesion and it’s a good sign that we have a chance to win.”

With a Thursday game in Mexico City against Sacramento and exams in San Antonio and New Orleans still left on this trip, the Celtics put some desperation to good use last night.
Zac Taylor to take over play-calling duties

CHRIS PERKINS AND OMEGA KELLY Sun Sentinel TNS

Zac Taylor, who has served as the Dolphins' quarterbacks coach since 2013, will take over play-calling duties for Miami after he was fired by coach Joe Philbin and became an assistant receivers coach, to receivers coach.

The Dolphins (4-7) are 26th in total offense at 335.9 yards per game, and 27th in rushing offense at 9.7 yards per attempt. All too often this season the Dolphins' offense has followed a trend of abandoning the run, especially when facing a deficit early in games. That's a major reason they're last in the NFL in rushing attempts (218) despite running the ball a season-low 12 yards per attempt (4.6).

Interim coach Dan Campbell, who never had a head coach before being promoted and now has offensive and defensive coordinators in their roles for the first time, said he felt he needed to make a change after Sunday's 38-20 loss to the New York Jets, a game in which the Dolphins ran the ball a season-low nine times for a season-low 12 yards. According to a team source, Lazor had a 145-51 record (11-win season before leaving Rutgers, plus a pair of nine-win seasons and an 8-4 record at Temple) from 2001-11 leaving the Rice for his services, and the coach himself said Monday night during his weekly radio show that he'd been contacted by "about five" schools seeking to fill open jobs. Richt, 55, was fired Sunday after 15 seasons at Georgia, where he had a 145-51 record with two SEC championships. The Bulldogs played in five conference title games during his time as his coach, but his resume and four straight wins to close the season weren't enough to convince Georgia athletic director Greg McGarity to keep Richt in Athens. But Richt has public support from at least one Hurricane, running back Mark Walton who breaks down in tears: "I will love to see Mark Richt in [an] orange and green coaching uniform in 2016 as a Hurricane." Walton, Miami's second-leading rusher, was recruited by Georgia coming out of Miami's Booker T. Washington High School. For his part, Davis took the news about the job opening with Miami during his weekly radio segment with 790 The Ticket on Monday. The former Hurricanes coach, who has been vocal about his desire to return to Coral Gables, declined to comment about the interview saying it was presently "inappropriate" to discuss the situation. "I think it's public knowledge that I'd love to be the head coach at the University of Miami," he said. "But I'm just making any comments at this particular time is just kind of inappropriate. People are just going to have to live with rumors for the time being and we'll see how it plays out." Over the weekend, FootballScoop.com reported that the 64-year-old Davis, who coached the Hurricanes from 1995-2001, had an "extremely positive" meeting with Miami and the site cited an anonymous source as saying that meeting "cleared some hurdles" for Davis to return to Miami. Schiano, meanwhile, could also be a candidate at Rutgers, where he coached from 2001-11 leaving the college ranks to coach the Buccaneers. The former defensive coordinator at Miami was 68-67 at Rutgers, leading the Knights to a 9-4 mark his first season there to a pair of nine-win seasons and an eight-win season before leaving for the NFL. Campbell said he promoted Taylor over offensive assistant Al Saunders, who Lazor requested be brought in to help with the passing game, because he knows him and trusts him.

"I've been around Zac for four years now," Campbell said. "Zac is a bright guy. He's been in that quarterback room for four years now, he understands the protections, he understands the run game and he certainly understands the pass game. So I have a lot of faith in Zac. If I didn't, I wouldn't have done this." Campbell also said, "we're all going to have input" in the offense, meaning the entire offensive staff will contribute.

"It's going to be a team effort, and we're all going to come up with the best plan we can for Baltimore," he said. Taylor seems OK with that strategy. After all, this is his first time in such a high-profile role, but he seems he's living a dream so far.

"As a player you dream about playing in a Super Bowl," Taylor said. "As a coach you dream about calling a Super Bowl." Zac Taylor could be inching ever closer to naming their next football coach. Since the regular season ended Friday with a win over Pittsburgh, Miami officials have been busy interviewing several candidates who are in the running to become the school's permanent coach, its fourth since 2013, will take over play-calling duties for Miami after he was fired by coach Joe Philbin and became an assistant receivers coach, to receivers coach.

The Dolphins (4-7) are 26th in total offense at 335.9 yards per game, and 27th in rushing offense at 9.7 yards per attempt. All too often this season the Dolphins' offense has followed a trend of abandoning the run, especially when facing a deficit early in games. That's a major reason they're last in the NFL in rushing attempts (218) despite running the ball a season-low 12 yards per attempt (4.6).

Interim coach Dan Campbell, who never had a head coach before being promoted and now has offensive and defensive coordinators in their roles for the first time, said he felt he needed to make a change after Sunday's 38-20 loss to the New York Jets, a game in which the Dolphins ran the ball a season-low nine times for a season-low 12 yards. According to a team source, Lazor had a 145-51 record (11-win season before leaving Rutgers, plus a pair of nine-win seasons and an 8-4 record at Temple) from 2001-11 leaving the Rice for his services, and the coach himself said Monday night during his weekly radio show that he'd been contacted by "about five" schools seeking to fill open jobs. Richt, 55, was fired Sunday after 15 seasons at Georgia, where he had a 145-51 record with two SEC championships. The Bulldogs played in five conference title games during his time as his coach, but his resume and four straight wins to close the season weren't enough to convince Georgia athletic director Greg McGarity to keep Richt in Athens. But Richt has public support from at least one Hurricane, running back Mark Walton who breaks down in tears: "I will love to see Mark Richt in [an] orange and green coaching uniform in 2016 as a Hurricane." Walton, Miami's second-leading rusher, was recruited by Georgia coming out of Miami's Booker T. Washington High School. For his part, Davis took the news about the job opening with Miami during his weekly radio segment with 790 The Ticket on Monday. The former Hurricanes coach, who has been vocal about his desire to return to Coral Gables, declined to comment about the interview saying it was presently "inappropriate" to discuss the situation. "I think it's public knowledge that I'd love to be the head coach at the University of Miami," he said. "But I'm just making any comments at this particular time is just kind of inappropriate. People are just going to have to live with rumors for the time being and we'll see how it plays out." Over the weekend, FootballScoop.com reported that the 64-year-old Davis, who coached the Hurricanes from 1995-2001, had an "extremely positive" meeting with Miami and the site cited an anonymous source as saying that meeting "cleared some hurdles" for Davis to return to Miami. Schiano, meanwhile, could also be a candidate at Rutgers, where he coached from 2001-11 leaving the college ranks to coach the Buccaneers. The former defensive coordinator at Miami was 68-67 at Rutgers, leading the Knights to a 9-4 mark his first season there to a pair of nine-win seasons and an eight-win season before leaving for the NFL. Campbell said he promoted Taylor over offensive assistant Al Saunders, who Lazor requested be brought in to help with the passing game, because he knows him and trusts him.

"I've been around Zac for four years now," Campbell said. "Zac is a bright guy. He's been in that quarterback room for four years now, he understands the protections, he understands the run game and he certainly understands the pass game. So I have a lot of faith in Zac. If I didn't, I wouldn't have done this." Campbell also said, "we're all going to have input" in the offense, meaning the entire offensive staff will contribute.

"It's going to be a team effort, and we're all going to come up with the best plan we can for Baltimore," he said. Taylor seems OK with that strategy. After all, this is his first time in such a high-profile role, but he seems he's living a dream so far.

"As a player you dream about playing in a Super Bowl," Taylor said. "As a coach you dream about calling a Super Bowl."
Florida Panthers know they must solve power-play woes on road

Nov. 30--When at home, the Panthers have one of the best power plays in the NHL, as their 29.2 percent success rate ranks third in the league.

On the road, however, the Panthers have been firing blanks while with the man advantage.

Sunday's 2-1 overtime win at Detroit came despite little power-play success away from Sunrise.

Florida was 0 for 5 on the power play, including an extended 5-on-3 chance that offered scoring chances but no goals.

"At least we're good somewhere," Brian Campbell joked. "We have some work to do. When you get the opportunity to get a power play, sometimes you feel better about things at home. On the road we need to bear down, get more shots instead of too many passes.

On home ice, the Panthers' power play has been dangerous as Florida's 14 goals (on 48 chances) is most in any team in the league.

On the road, however, the Panthers have just three goals in 35 chances as their 8.6 percent rate ranks just above Carolina.

Florida hasn't scored a road power-play goal since Aaron Ekblad tied up Tampa Bay in the closing minutes of its game on Nov. 14 and has one goal in 12 chances in the past three road games.

"It's obviously something we have to work on because the power play is so big in this league," Reilly Smith said. "We've had our ups and downs, but we need to be better on the road. I think our power play, overall, is pretty decent."

With four more games left on this road trip that continues Tuesday against the Blues, the Panthers know they need special-team goals to have any hope of success.

"I'm not saying it's bad, but it didn't click like it usually does," coach Gerard Gallant said. "We didn't get enough net traffic in front, especially in the 5-on-3. The power play has been good for us all year."

This is the fourth trip of the season and the Panthers finally started one off in the right way. Florida started its previous three trips (not counting the win in Tampa) with a loss.

A win in St. Louis, which would mark Florida's first-three-game winning streak of the season, won't come easy. The Panthers haven't won at Scottrade Center since 2009. and St. Louis is one of the top teams in the Western Conference.

"This is a tough, tough trip," general manager Dale Tallon said. "We have five games in a week against very strong opponents. We have to get as many points as we can and this is a good start. It gets tougher as you go along."--Gallant said scratching veteran center Dave Bolland wasn't done to "send a message," but now that Bolland has sat three games and was demoted to playing on Florida's fourth line at practice Monday. "He sat out, especially in the fourth line at practice. There's nothing to talk about," Gallant said Sunday. "He sat out, our team is playing well. There's nothing more than that. We have to sit two guys and I like the way the way we're playing. The next game is a different game. We may change something up, who knows."