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Florida International University

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Fire at 109 Tower displaces students

NICOLE MONTERO
Asst. New Director
nicole.montero@fiusm.com

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 outside 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."



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Hundreds of students who live at 109 Tower along Southwest 109th Avenue at 7th Street were displaced after a fire evacuation on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 1. At the time of production, it was unknown when they would return.

At 10:30 a.m., police let students change their clothes and grab their laptops and books on a floor-by-floor basis. They were also given meal passes to buy breakfast at Fresh Food Company at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus Graham Center.

"I was on the last floor, so we were the last group to be escorted up to our rooms," Garcia-Rovira said. "The building is now on lockdown until further notice, and I have not heard anything as to when it will re-open."

The University released a statement stating that no one was hurt and that the building was going to be inspected later on.

"We ask faculty be patient and sensitive to this situation, as many of the evacuees likely will be unprepared for class today," wrote External Relations in a University-wide email.

Hundreds of students were displaced by the fire in the building, located on the corner of 8th Street and 109th

Avenue, according to NBC 6 News.

At the time of publication, it was unknown when the students would return to Towers.

"There are electricians inspecting plugs on each floor to make sure there's no problem, and the firefighters will also inspect each floor to make sure it's safe," said Antoine. "Most of the students were just really upset because we were kicked out and weren't allowed to go back in to get anything."

The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

"I want my bed," said Garcia-Rovira. "I want the 109 Tower officials to address this personally and explain everything to us. I want to get as much information as possible."

Additional reporting by Philippe Buteau. Visit fiusm.com for continued updates as this story develops.

Student stimulant drug use – on the rise?

SOPHIE HERBUT
Staff Writer
sophie.herbut@fiusm.com

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 explore 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 senior English major said his routine was simple: work, school and once a week, he would hang out with friends and smoke marijuana.

An estimated 5.9 percent of

college students are reported to use marijuana daily, according to a 2014 study by the University of Michigan.

After the consistence of his schedule, his friends decided to relocate to a hidden location with unmaintained, tall grass. After a previous warning from a man who lived close, they showed up to the same location and found a police officer stationed and ready for suspicious activity.

"As soon as we turned our headlights off, a car turns theirs on and drives up to us," Orta said. He said the officer immediately asked for the drugs and they complied.

"[He asked us] if we go to school and I think that's when he pitied us," Orta said. "A lot of cops have pity of college students."

David Navas, an officer within FIUPD's Investigations and Compliance Division, said he understands the power the officer

has on the future of a student that has been caught in possession of illegal drugs.

"It's a very difficult moment in an officer's life when that person's future is in [his or her] hands," Navas said. "And it's that one decision that officer makes that can pretty much make it or break it for that person's future, for a simple mistake."

Orta was charged with a misdemeanor and was given a promise to appear in court.

During the next few months, Orta said he was living in fear of telling his parents and thought he would be able to keep it from them. In that time, he had to fill out his FAFSA, and it asked if he was ever convicted for drug-related crime.

"I didn't know what to put," said Orta. "That was my biggest fear. The fear that college would be taken away from me."

Navas said he thinks it's a shame that students put

themselves in these situations.

"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 that have 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 to send the student to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, give them a "promise to appear,"

or an option to go home and set a court date instead of arrest. They are also exploring civil citations as an option to non-students.

The use of "study drugs," 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

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Health Services hosts recharge for finals

ALIANA ZAMORANO
Staff Writer
aliana.zamorano@fiusm.com

Nearly 50 students per day have used services offered by University Health Services this past week because of stress on final exams, said Camila Pham, University Health Services health educator.

This week, University Health Services is hosting, “Recharge for Finals,” from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Green Library 220.

The event is a therapeutic break between study sessions with complimentary oatmeal, tea, aromatherapy oils and a massage, according to Pham.

“We want to help students energize themselves in the healthiest way possible,” Pham said.

She said students often forget to eat healthy and to relax during time studying periods.

“We are here in the library where students spend a lot of time this week and next week during finals to offer them a chance to come get a healthy snack and clear their minds from the stress, which many students forget to do.”

The event has been annual tradition for the past four years for the University’s Healthy Living Program, according to

Pham.

Rachel Perez, a freshman political science major, was on her way to the library to study for her five finals when she saw a “Recharge for Finals” sign and decided to stop by.

“It was awesome, they had relaxing music playing, the masseuse was really thorough and the snacks were great. I loved the whole vibe,” said Perez. “It really is a good idea giving students something to look forward to in the middle of a study day.”

Attendees of the event can chose to take tea packets with them -- a choice between green and black tea.

“The darker the tea, the more caffeine it has,” said Pham. “Students love drinking coffee around this time, but dark tea has just enough caffeine to be a better alternative.”

Vials of aromatherapy oils are also given to students to take with them after they’ve had their massage.

The oils are called, Energy and Study. Energy is a local blend of peppermint and rosemary that is meant to increase blood pressure and to re-energize, while Study is a blend of peppermint and lavender that helps with memory retention.

“We like to give out these oils because a little

dab on the inside of the wrist, or a few drops on a tissue placed next to you can really work wonders,” Pham said. “Smelling the oils is a more natural and healthy option that forcing caffeine on the body.”

A good way to use the oils is to not only use them during studying, but dabbing a little on the wrist before taking a major test will make recalling information easier, according to Pham.

“It’s a conditioning trick,” said Pham, “You mind will associate the smell with what you were studying.”

University Health Services suggests that students try the oils on a small spot on the skin before heavy use, in case of allergic reaction and to not use the oils on the face.

The Healthy Living Program, part of Health Services, also works with the Student Government Association and the Graham Center to host other events, like the Midnight Breakfast.

Midnight Breakfast is an event that offers students breakfast by Fresh Food Company during late night studying. The event will take place Monday, Dec. 7 at the Biscayne Bay Campus Panther Square.

The last day to participate at “Recharge for Finals” will be on Monday, Dec. 7 at the Graham Center Pit.

Stimulant drug use a trend among students

DRUGS, PAGE 1

down and get everything done in about three hours.

The use of Adderall or other prescription ADHD medications do not begin at the college level.

Daniel Castellanos, chair of the department of psychiatry and behavioral health, said the use of these drugs start as early as middle school.

Adderall is the fifth-used drug in eighth grade students and the second most used among twelfth grade students, according to the study by the University of Michigan.

The study also showed the common source for these drugs are from a friend or relative.

“Some people call it a misuse so they don’t call it an addiction,” Castellanos said.

Castellanos also said Adderall is a schedule-2 drug, meaning it’s highly monitored because of its potential for abuse.

“I didn’t take it all at once. With the instant release 30 mg capsules, I only took half of the dose, which still was able to wake me up and do the trick,” she said. She also applied tricks a friend gave her

for managing the side effects.

Castellanos mentioned the steps to prescribing a drug like the physical and tests to make sure a person is healthy to take the drug.

“When it’s not supervised and monitored, you have all these potential risks,” Castellanos said. He also cited a study that showed that dosage didn’t appear to change the chance of risks.

Navas mentioned these drugs are harder to find because of their casual, prescribed use, but they’re still prominent.

“It’s definitely a major challenge for us to find these drugs that are being used illegally. Because unlike marijuana you can smell it, you can see it, you can test for it [more easily],” he said.

He said a usual investigation starts from a simple encounter, like a traffic violation, and the officer could see a pill container, and he’ll start questioning.

“It’s a shame to even hear that students are doing this to take a test,” he said.

Navas also mentioned that the use of these drugs while putting others in danger will not be tolerated.

“Safety for everyone else is paramount,” he said.

THE BEACON

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC210, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

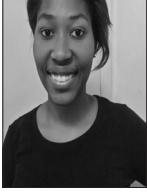
Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
sam.smith@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

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Planned Parenthood shooting controversy

PANTHER BUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

Three people were killed and nine wounded in a Planned Parenthood Center in Colorado on Friday. The motive of the gunmen, Robert Dear, remains unknown until further evidence has been gathered, according to CNN. Yet, there is reason to suspect that the attack occurred due to his opposition on abortion after uttering “no more baby parts” to a senior law enforcement officer.

The defunding of 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. Anti-abortion 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 Spring 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 polemic 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 underlining 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 are we to admonish their freedom of choice?

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Panther Buzz is a commentary that raises awareness for important issues. Fabienne Fleurantin is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com.

Writing benefits mental and physical health

PANTHER'S EYE



ANA BARRIOS

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 worry 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 aids in making people feel happier and develops better health.

Stress is a common problem we all have when it comes to balancing school and work.

Stress leads to poor eating habits, lack

of sleep and our nervousness. Writing has been recommended to help reduce stress levels and ease our minds by writing each day. You can write short stories, daily observations, poems and even ideas for school assignments to guide you towards feeling at peace.

Writing is not only good for the mind but it can be good for the body too. Studies have shown the physical benefits of writing have been linked to improvements of lung function, liver function and of the immune system. One common physical benefit of writing we all know is the development of our arm muscles in which the more one writes, the stronger one becomes in being able to withstand the pain of writing for more than an hour.

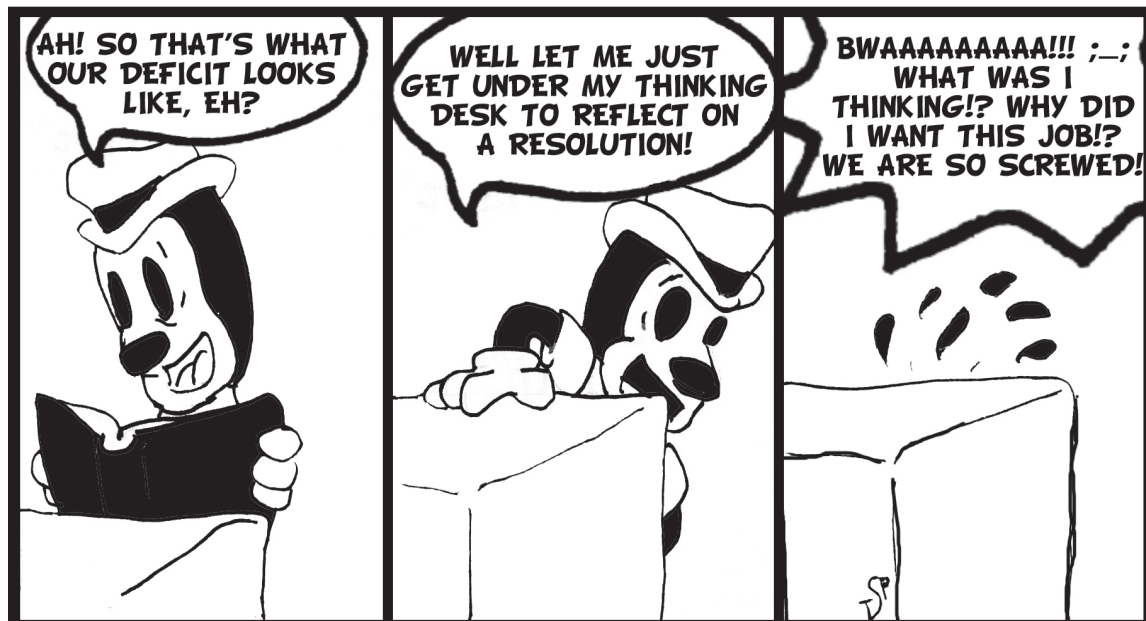
Academic and creative writing are both

beneficial towards our mental and physical health. Writing an article, a story or poem, class notes and writing essays guides us toward discovering new information to inspire 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.

DEFICIT DEFEATED



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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HEALING HE(ART)S



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON



Above: Junior business management major Alexis Timmons is blindfolded in a blindness simulation activity held by the Student Council on Dec. 1, outside the Frost Art Museum

Top Left: Psychology senior Alexis Reid paints a rainbow on a white sheet of paper for the Organization for Exceptional Children in support of their signature event, Through Art and Expression

Bottom Left: Leslie Kramer, who is 24, weaves at the Disability Through Art and Expression event to represent Artists with Autism, a micro-enterprise to promote independence and entrepreneurship for those with autism.

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

COLUMNIST



JOSEPH CARDENAS

Pixar is a force of large magnitude, which is certain to the average moviegoer. Much like its timeless grand master, the stories Pixar tales 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 curtails of the massively successful “Inside Out,” as well as the overwhelming lull 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 terrorizes 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 norm for a Pixar movie, you wouldn’t necessarily be wrong. The movie is targeted for children, and respectfully has collective gags and moments for the kids to enjoy. However, take caution because the movie is intense; not gory, violent, or risqué.

As a Pixar movie with a young target audience, the experience just might be a little too much for the little ones to absorb. Arlo is beaten and bruised many times, and many times it looks like it hurts. He witness some horrifying things from the film’s antagonists and there are moments where Arlo has to digest

things that wouldn’t really be registered by a child. Instead, it is most likely to resonate with the adult that they’re with.

This isn’t to say that the movie wasn’t very much a children’s movie, it merely just featured more mature storytelling to take in than was even displayed in “Inside Out,” “Up,” and “Toy Story 3.” This is 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

Annual music concert benefits local schools

GUETHSHINA ALTENA

Staff Writer

guethsina.altena@fiusm.com

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 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 not doing nothing for nobody.”

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

He explained that NAFME 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

concert for

Rockway

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To celebrate

donations.

concert. The

admission “People because it’s music, but to support groups.” According to this event opportunity stronger and The concert Wertheim and doors For more Performing 305-348-

Eryka Badu's new mixtape 'an assertive statement'

COLUMNIST



CHRIS RODRIGUEZ

On the stand-out track of her latest mixtape, neo-soul songstress Erykah Badu playfully, yet assertively sings "I can make you put your phone down," capturing the essence of her latest work.

"But You Cain't Use My Phone" is a contemplation on inter-connectivity and telephone communication bolstered by expertly produced sample-heavy songs and Badu's seemingly effortless delivery.

The mixtape was dropped over Thanksgiving weekend, on a wave of hype and excitement bolstered by her buzzworthy remix of Drake's "Hotline Bling."

The track, here renamed "Cel-U-Lar Device," forms the foundation for the mixtape's central concept, which finds Badu often playfully maneuvering her way around refreshingly remixed samples from other phone-themed songs by the likes of Usher, The Isley Brothers and New Edition.

The mixtape also features notable guest turns from Drake and Andre 3000, who nearly runs away with the final cut "Hello" before he and Badu share lovely harmonies borrowed from another classic desperate lover on the phone-themed track, Todd Rundgren's "Hello, It's Me."

Opening with the sound 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 her 1997 staple "Tyrone." The first two tracks are classic Badu, who coos over a bed of lush keys that wouldn't sound out of place on her 1996

neo-soul classic "Baduizm."

Then that all-too-familiar "Cha-Cha" biting intro gives way and, initially, Badu sings the first "Hotline Bling" verse nearly exact in a detached auto-tune assisted vocal without fuss. As the song progresses, so too does Badu's playfulness who tosses in alternate melodies and ad-libs, giving the track a warmth never found on the original.

By the midway point, all bets are off when we're treated to a refreshingly sassy "Erykah Badu Hotline" voicemail system which goes: "If you're calling 'cause you just saw her on MTV, BET or any of the other social media outlets and wanna see if you're still in good standing, press 3." This is followed by a transition featuring a lovely keyboard solo that encapsulates her traditional neo-soul style, finding Badu asserting the interpretation as her own distinctive style.

Following this is the album's standout "Phone Down," bedded by the same Zodiac sample used by Drake on his 2013 track "Wu-Tang Forever." This is as comfortable as you'll hear Badu on the entire record; dropping insanely quotable lines such as "every time you get a message, act like you don't see it, I can make you put your phone down," which in this millennial age, sounds like a confident yet ironic declaration of love as one could ever find.

Alas the man himself appears on two tracks; "U Use to Call Me" and "What's Yo Phone Number." Although Badu insisted in recent interviews that the voice actually belongs to rapper ItsRoutine, there's no denying Aubrey Graham's distinctive ironic self-deprecation.

"Recognition from a great, it's about time," he raps in what is largely a tacked-on freestyle and one of his most hollow recorded verses of the

year. He more than recovers on the Isley Brothers sampling "What's Yo Phone Number," by settling comfortably into his heartbroken man-at-the-top persona as displayed in the following lyric: "Tryna get you on a level you ain't used to/Not hurt or confuse you." Then, he refreshingly harmonizes with Badu on the chorus, justifying the mutual admiration between the two artists.

Two of the mixtape's tracks "Mr. Telephone Man" and "U Don't Have to Call" are the only ones named after the songs covered and/or sampled. These songs, which sample New Edition and Usher respectively, could largely be seen as fillers but are still bolstered by refreshing production work from Dallas-based Zach Witness.

Witness tears into the familiar instrumentals by expanding and speeding up or slowing down at will. The relationship between Witness and Badu seems to be defined by playful and trusting collaboration as Badu quite often glides effortlessly over the sonic template that Witness provides.

Towards the end, Badu revisits the "Hotline Bling" sample on "Call U Back", using it as a sparse backdrop that echoes the loneliness of the lyrics. Interestingly enough, lines such as "I'm runnin around in the city/I run it/I like it/I'm busy but I call you back" don't sound sound far from something you would hear from Drake himself.

This gives way to the final track "Hello", which interestingly does not reference this year's other pop culture phenomenon of the same name. The song is defined by the guest turn of her former partner, Andre 3000, who has spent the last few years settling into his role as an elder statesman of the hip hop community; bolstering newer names with often breath-taking features.

Andre does not disappoint. Playing

off the central theme of a telephone becoming an ironic metaphor for disconnection, he captures it expertly in just one line: "It's either on or off/ There's no in-between when it's valid."

As the song progresses, the innate chemistry of the two artists takes center stage as their voices harmonize beautifully. They playfully pick off lines from Todd Rundgren's "Hello, it's Me" and fade off into the distance together; closing the project with a sense of solace.

Having spent the last several years becoming vastly more experimental, "But You Can't Use My Phone" actually marks Badu's most wholly accessible work in more than a decade due to her insistence in reveling in modern pop culture trends rather than rejecting them.

So what did Badu have to say about telephones and the ironic disconnect defining the millennial generation? Well, quite often the message is unclear. On "Dialafreeq," she offers criticism through a spoken word intro on bees being negatively impacted by cell phone signals. However, it ends up rather vapid and didn't merit much of a reaction aside from an eyeroll.

Alas, Badu comes back to her trademark "you can't use my phone" line, essentially re-establishing the same intention she had in 1997 by using it as an assertive statement of self-identity and independence. Interestingly enough, this resonates on a deeper level today, especially when our identities have become so intertwined with evolving technology.

"But You Cain't Use My Phone" is only available for download via iTunes and Apple Music. Rating: 4/5

Chris Rodriguez is a staff writer for FIUSM. To offer suggestions for songs, albums and mixtapes, email Chris at chris.rodriguez@fiusm.com

attempts to fill a cup of water while Organization for Exceptional Children,

a banner for SOEC, or the Student e event, Disability Awareness Inclusion

Awareness Inclusion Through Art and se art gallery that promotes creativity,

Concert schools

receive the grant raised at the previous or their music program. This year, The Middle School music program will bring the donations from last year's according to Rodriguez.

celebrate and support the grant recipients, of \$5 or more are suggested at the The concert is a benefit event with free and is open to anyone interested.

le should attend the concert not only t is a good cause and a night with free t also because it is our responsibility rt and encourage our local music Rodriguez said.

ding to Rodriguez, by coming to t, students will open doors to new ties for those musical groups to grow and improve themselves.

concert will be at the Herbert and Nicole Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, open at 7 p.m.

ore information, contact the Wertheim ng Arts Center Events Office at 0496 or wpac@fiu.edu.

PANTHER THOUGHTS

Jasmine Felix, senior, nursing and sociology major.

I'm so excited for the break! I'm traveling to Ghana for vacation.



Meredith Marseille, sophomore, public relations major.

I'll be looking for a new job, I just got a new car so I'm going to be driving!



Adam Bernstein, junior, marketing major.

My Chanukah Break plans are spending time with my family who are coming in from Canada, I want to get ahead in my work at SGA 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 partying too, haha let's be honest.



Yvenson Fievre, junior, biomedical engineering major.

I'm going to Missouri for a religious conference, URBANA, it only happens one time every four years.



BASEL ON A BUDGET

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT

Staff Writer

stephanie.espaillat@fiusm.com

**Frost Art Museum at FIU:
Breakfast in the Park**

Complimentary breakfast at the University's sculpture garden, Sunday, Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Mana Wynwood: Mana Contemporary Art Week three unique exhibits during Art Basel. Admission is free starting Thursday, Dec. 3 to Sunday, Dec. 6.

Various Locations: Art Basel

Distraction 5 Thursday, Dec. 3 at Nomad Tribe from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 4 at Jellyfish Brother's Audio Junkie Warehouse.

The Spinello Project: Littlest Sister Art Fair A symposium on Miami's most prominent women in the arts. Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers lose perfect home record versus Stetson

DRUCKER'S
DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

On a night where offense came easy against a resilient Stetson University team, the men's basketball team's own mistakes cost them their perfect home record and suffered a tough loss.

In their first game of a four-game home stand, FIU (4-3) fell to the Stetson Hatters 81-75.

Senior center Adrian Diaz put on a show in the second half while claiming the school record in blocks, but his effort was not enough to earn the win.

The Panthers leapt out to

an early lead with ease. Senior forward Daviyon Draper knocked down a mid-range jump shot, scored on a layup the next possession and set up Diaz for an alley oop to put the Panthers up 6-2.

When it came time to rotate in guards Donte McGill and Eric Nottage, the Panthers' high-octane bench took the reigns while Diaz rested.

From 7:37 to 4:13, FIU outscored Stetson 13-5 using screens to set up open shots behind the arc. In the remaining minutes before halftime, however, FIU committed costly turnovers that led to Stetson points. At the half, the Panthers led 41-37.

Stetson's defense rebounded after a poor first half and changed the pace of the game. The Hatters applied pressure to the Panthers as they brought the ball up the court, forcing more turnovers. These mistakes cost the Panthers their lead (and, arguably, the game) as Stetson scored 20 points off of FIU's 14 turnovers. With 10:01 left in the game, the teams were tied at 54-54.

As Stetson defenders began to close on FIU shooters faster, Head Coach Anthony Evans adjusted his offensive strategy. In addition to keeping Diaz in for the remainder of the game, he rolled out six-foot-seven sophomore forward Cameron Smith to add size to their front court.

Smith occupied an extra Stetson big man on defense and allowed Diaz to attack the Hatters in the lane. The Panthers were able to use this strategy to keep pace with a Hatters offense that was shooting 53.8 percent from the field.

In the game's final minutes, Stetson challenged Diaz to beat them by fouling him and allowing him to shoot free throws. After working on the skill over the summer, Diaz failed to make a single free throw off multiple attempts in the second half. The Hatters, however, made enough off of sloppy FIU fouls to gain a multiple-possession lead before time expired.

Despite missing critical free

throws late, Diaz managed to put together an excellent game. He entered the contest needing two blocks to tie Dwight Stewart (1988-1993) for the school record. He finished the game with six rejections (along with a game-high 26 points and nine rebounds) and became the definitive leader in school blocks (130).

The Panthers will take on their second opponent of their home stand when Elon University takes Lime Court on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

"Drucker's Digest" offers commentary on the University's football team. For suggestions or commentary, email sports@fiusm.com.

MLB

Barry Bonds may join Miami Marlins as hitting coach

CLARK SPENCER
The Miami Herald
TNS

Barry 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 held 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 is 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.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Celtics rebound to topple Miami

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 to explain beating Brooklyn by 25 and losing to the same club by 11 two days later. And beating Washington by 33 last Friday before falling by 19 in Orlando Sunday.

Fortunately for Brad Stevens' blood pressure, the pendulum always seems to swing 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 it over just 13.8 times per contest, fourth-best 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 steered out of the skid and were allowed their better selves to win out.

Dwyane Wade (30 points) and Chris Bosh (21) put on a legends concert, but the Celtics stayed the course and held the line at the end. After getting beat 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."

One of 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 loosening 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 12 shots and put up 32 points to go ahead by nine.

Turner was a plus-15 in just 5:51 on the floor.

"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 one-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 to 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 it going. I made a few shots. The good thing about this team is that we all want to see each other do well and they kept telling me to shoot the ball, we'll get you open, and that's what they continued to do. It definitely helps my confidence and, not only that, it helps me be able to make the right play. If I don't have a shot, then make a pass to my teammate for the shots and that's what I was 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 got their win."

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

"I think we have to play with a defensive mindset," he said, "and if we defend well, 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 Celts put some desperation to good use last night.

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FOOTBALL

Zac Taylor to take over play-calling duties

CHRIS PERKINS AND
OMAR 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 the team fired Bill Lazor on Monday, less than two years after Lazor took the job.

Taylor, the 32-year-old son-in-law of former Dolphins offensive coordinator Mike Sherman, has a vision for this disappointing offense.

"I don't have numbers in mind," said Taylor after he was reminded that the Dolphins were 11th in scoring last season at 24.3 points per game, but are 27th this year at 20.5 points per game.

"I have balance in mind. We need to be balanced."

Taylor said he doesn't have any specific ideas on how he'll improve the Dolphins' offense that he is ready to reveal publicly. But he did make a pledge.

"We're going to run the ball," said Taylor, who joined the Dolphins' staff as assistant quarterbacks coach in 2012. "I think it's important our players

have that mindset."

In a corresponding move the Dolphins promoted Phil McGeoghan, previously the 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 91.7 yards per game.

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 being seventh in yards per attempt (4.6).

Interim coach Dan Campbell, who had never been 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 and Campbell, the former tight ends coach, had a contentious relationship because of their previous roles, where

Campbell answered to Lazor. When the dynamics of those roles shifted after Joe Philbin was fired and Campbell became head coach, there was a period of discomfort.

Campbell struggled to get Lazor to buy into his commitment to the running game, according to a source.

Campbell said he didn't sleep much Sunday night. He said when he decided to make the change he talked to Mike Tannenbaum, the executive vice president of football operations and owner Steve Ross. But Campbell said the decision to make the change was his, and his alone.

"I looked at everything," Campbell said while explaining how he arrived at his decision.

"I feel like the offensively we've been anemic for five weeks now."

Taylor, a college teammate of defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh at Nebraska, has never called plays before. But he didn't seem concerned.

"I've called a thousand games in my head, I'll tell you that," he said.

"I always [said] to him he was going to be a

future head coach," Dolphins offensive tackle Branden Albert said of Taylor. "He's very detail-oriented when he's planning stuff. He's real professional."

"I know he's going to do a good job for us."

Taylor, who has worked closely with quarterback Ryan Tannehill since Tannehill was drafted in 2012, expressed sympathy and appreciation for Lazor.

"I feel awful for Bill," he said. But Taylor said something must be done to breathe life into the offense.

"We just have to find ways for our players to play with confidence," he said.

Interestingly, Campbell said there would probably be personnel changes heading into Sunday's game against Baltimore, but he declined to get more specific.

Campbell, who took over after Philbin led the Dolphins to a 1-3 start, said his philosophy hasn't changed even though he has a 3-4 record as head coach.

"To me, everything moving forward is about winning and competition," he said.

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 it 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."

FOOTBALL

'Canes close to choosing next football coach

CHRISTY CABRERA
CHIRINOS AND DAVE HYDE
Sun Sentinel
TNS

The Hurricanes 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 the Hurricanes won a national title in 2001.

One of the candidates meeting with Miami was the man who put together that championship roster, former Hurricanes coach Butch Davis, a source told the Sun Sentinel. Others that have interviewed with Miami, the source indicated, include former Rutgers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Greg Schiano, a former Hurricanes assistant, and Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen.

Richt, a former standout quarterback at Boca Raton High and a Hurricanes backup, said during his final news conference at Georgia that he was still interested in coaching and wanted to be more hands-on with play calling and quarterbacks coaching than he had been of late with the Bulldogs.

He could have those

opportunities at Miami, which returns a talented young signal caller in Brad Kaaya, but the Hurricanes are not believed to be Richt's only suitors. Maryland, Missouri and Virginia could be among the school's competing with Miami for Richt's 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 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 wrote on Twitter, "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 was mum about his meeting 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. I've stated that pretty much emphatically for about the last month," Davis told the radio station. "But I think 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 1995-2000, 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 Scarlet Knights from a 2-9 mark his first season there to a pair of nine-win seasons and an 11-win season before leaving for the NFL.

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BBC Midnight Breakfast helps reduce stress

JOCELYN TALAVERA

Staff Writer

jocelyn.talavera@fiusm.com

Nearly 250 students are expected to come to the Biscayne Bay Campus Midnight Breakfast, according to Pamela Castillo, Campus Life graduate assistant.

To help ease stress from finals week, “Now That’s What I Call Midnight Breakfast Y2K” is one of BBC Campus Life’s signature events.

The event is held twice a year every Monday of finals week, according to Andres Bermeo, BBC Campus Life account manager.

“The purpose of serving breakfast at that time is to have

a presence during finals week, while showing support to our students studying until late,” said Bermeo.

Students are encouraged to come de-stress with free food, giveaways, massages and entertainment, said Castillo.

Breakfast options include eggs, pancakes, sausages and bacon.

“A lot of students stay at the library or at BBC late at night, so we try to have midnight breakfast the first day of finals to help them relax,” said Castillo.

Nationwide, midnight breakfast is a tradition on many college campuses meant to provide some light distraction from studying.

Past themes have centered around music like the “‘90s,” “rave” and “Boogie on the Bay.” The basis behind this year’s theme is meant to bring good vibes for students and to bring some life to campus with music and games from the ‘2000s, according to Castillo.

With many born in the ‘90s, the graduate assistants of the north campus met every week for two months to help plan midnight breakfast. They plan to release some tension for students with nostalgic games like the “Light Bright”, “Skip-It” and “Bop-It,” according to Castillo.

“When we all sat together throwing around ideas, the common idea was music. We

think back and remember all of the great music from the ‘2000s -- Britney Spears’ “Oops I Did It Again”, Backstreet Boys’ “Millennium” album, N’SYNC’s “Bye Bye Bye”, Beyoncé’s “Crazy in Love” and so much more.”

Finals week cause sleepless, caffeinated nights, but Angelika Licina said she likes to stay on campus to keep focus for her exams.

“It’s free from distractions that I have at home and if I get too stressed, I take breaks from studying,” said Licina, a senior advertising major.

Jorge Carmelo said he looks forward to massages provided during the event.

Carmelo, an architecture graduate student, has never participated at Midnight Breakfast, but he thinks it can be a nice break from studying for finals.

“I can eat breakfast food anytime of the day. It seems like it would be good as long as it’s not too packed [because] then you have to wait a while for everything,” said Carmelo.

“Now that’s What I Call Midnight Breakfast Y2K” will take place Monday, Dec. 7 at the BBC Panther Square from 9 p.m. to midnight. Food will be served at 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Florida Panthers know they must solve power-play woes on road

GEORGE RICHARDS

The Miami Herald

TNS Staff

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 I guess,” 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 of 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 down 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 consecutive games, it appears the Panthers are doing something of the sort.

Bolland, Florida’s highest-paid forward at \$5.5 million, has just one goal and four assists in 18 games and was demoted to playing wing on Florida’s fourth line before being benched.

On Monday, Bolland worked on 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 we’re playing. The next game is a different game. We may change something up, who knows.”

Can the world’s coral reefs be saved?

DAVID HELVARG

Sun Sentinel

TNS Staff

Two Steps is a perfect snorkeling spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you’re guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles shoaling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

But if you happened to visit last month, you would have found about 30 percent of the corals bleached wedding-cake white.

It’s a sure sign that the ocean is heating up. Overly warm water causes living coral polyps to expel the photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae, that give them their varied colors and about 70 percent of their nutrients. If the bleaching lasts too long, the corals starve to death.

All of Hawaii’s coral reefs are bleaching this year, a “really serious problem,” says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010).

Ninety-five percent of U.S. corals, which are mostly concentrated off the coasts of Hawaii and Florida, are likely to be exposed to conditions that can cause bleaching.

Tropical coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the ocean, but they are home and nursery to 25 percent of all marine species; billions of fish, mollusks and other creatures rely on reefs for their food and shelter. Their beauty generates tourism dollars, and they act as barriers providing storm protection for millions of coastal residents.

Unfortunately, they are especially fragile in the face of pollution, ocean acidification, overfishing and climate change. Most are not expected to survive this century.

There is some hope. Emerging science suggests coral reefs that are fully protected from pollution and overfishing are more resilient to the impact of climate change. That’s one reason a coalition of Hawaii-based groups is calling for an emergency moratorium on the collection of aquarium-trade fish off their reefs.

Come December and the U.N. climate summit in Paris, our choices for the future will become as starkly black and white as Levin’s photographs of Hawaii’s bleached corals. We can stay on our present path of multiplying disasters or adopt that most basic of survival axioms: If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

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