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University on waitlist for super defense armored vehicle

With a curb weight of 37,850 pounds and the ability to withstand improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenades, ballistic ammunition and mine blasts; the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle acquired by Ohio State University’s Department of Public Safety has made national headlines.

According to The Huffington Post, the vehicle is a MaxxPro model MRAP, manufactured by Navistar that was acquired through a military surplus program at no cost to OSU.

In an interview with The Huffington Post, OSU Chief of Police Paul Denton mentioned several ways in which his department plans on deploying the MRAP, including natural disasters, shootings and bomb threats.

University Chief of Police Alexander Casas does not intend on having his department obtain a vehicle.

SEE VEHICLE, PAGE 2

Collective experiences spice up “Salsa” play

While it comes to dancing salsa, having a good partner is essential -- but what happens when two people meet at a salsa club and the sparks dim?

Glenn Hutchinson, an English teacher and assistant director at the Center for Excellence in Writing, wrote the play, “Salsa,” depicting this dilemma.

“Salsa” is a ten-minute comedy play that examines the interactions between characters -- Steve, played by Hutchinson, and Diana, played by FIU alumna, Evelyn Perez -- when they meet at a salsa club. Steve, who is an outsider, has trouble taking lead in salsa dancing. It’s up to Diana to teach him how to lead.

“I just imagined in this same space that it would be really interesting if the two people were dancing and something unusual happened,” Hutchinson said.

“Salsa” will be shown through Oct. 5 at the Microtheater Miami on Biscayne Boulevard. Shows begin at 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Hutchinson wrote the play last summer and submitted it for the new season of Microtheater Miami. Ivan Lopez, teacher at the Department of Theatre and co-creative director of White Rose Miami, directed the play. He met Hutchinson while acting in Miami 1-Acts Festival in New Theatre.

“Glenn and Evelyn fit the characters very well so the rehearsals mainly consisted of running through the piece and trying out different approaches to get comfortable with the characters and develop the relationship,” Lopez said.

Hutchinson said since he was still new to Miami, he felt that he fit the role perfectly.

“As soon as I read the scene it became clear that Glenn would be best in that role. He and the character shared a lot of things in common. Both of them Americans that moved to South Florida and sought to integrate into the culture a little bit by taking salsa lessons,” Lopez said.

“That made it easier for him to connect to that. Also, Glenn is a terrific actor so it just seemed natural and the obvious choice,” Hutchinson and Lopez met Perez while acting at the New Theatre.

“Glenn is a generous and talented actor and writer. Also good chemistry really makes a difference,” Perez said.

“I’ve seen her perform a couple times and think she is a wonderful and talented actress,” Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson moved to Miami two years ago to work at the Center for Excellence in Writing after living in North Carolina for several years. Once in Miami, he took up lessons in salsa and boxing.

Originally born in Dallas, Texas, he went on to North Carolina for college. While switching his major from guitar to history, Hutchinson took as many acting and theater history classes as possible. Later on, he became interested in writing and how to let him express himself.

“I have always been interested in theater since a young age growing up in Dallas. My parents put me in acting classes since I was three, mainly because they didn’t want me to be shy. When I started to like writing, I became more interested in playwriting in college,” Hutchinson said.

After discovering his love for writing, he was given the opportunity to teach a first year writing course as a graduate student.

Prescription medicine abuse apparent on-campus

“Study drugs” like Adderall and Ritalin that are prescription drugs intended to treat attention deficit disorder, have become popular among college campuses -- if not by use, then as a topic of conversation.

Two-thirds of young people surveyed in a University of Florida study said the use of prescription stimulants is a “moderate-to-large” problem on campus.

Fifteen percent said they had used a prescription stimulant and almost 12 percent admitted to giving stimulants to a peer or taking someone else’s pills.

With the recent investigation of former University fraternity Pi Kappa Alpha’s “Pike Pharmacy,” some students agree that prescription drug use is a campus problem.

O’Brien Johnson, senior international relations major, said it is a rampant trend among his peers.

“Drugs are definitely readily available for people to indulge in, regardless of being Greek affiliated or not,” Johnson said. And while the Florida Medical Examiners reported an 8.8 percent drop in drug-related deaths last year, oxycodone -- a prescription painkiller -- remained responsible for most drug-related deaths in 2012.

Florida’s Vital Statistics Office reported more than 178,000 deaths in 2012.

And of the 8,330 deaths that were drug-related, prescriptions were found more often than illicit drugs as a cause of death.

Still, the number of deaths caused by oxycodone was 41 percent less in 2012 than the year before.

“People might be consuming [oxycodone] less and being more careful about it,” said Thalia Ramirez, junior public relations major.

“Pike Pharmacy” was shut down.

 짤
It doesn’t make sense for universities to be acquiring these kinds of vehicles. Maria Nunez, junior International Relations

UPD considers smaller alternative to armored vehicles, Humvees

Maria Nunez, international relations junior, sees the possibility of an armored vehicle like Navistar Maxxpro as a “red flag.”

“You’d see these kinds of vehicles being bought if you were preparing for war...not for a University. It doesn’t make sense for Universities to be acquiring these kinds of vehicles,” said Nunez.

Hsiu-Yi Lin, hospitality and tourism management junior, is an army sergeant who served in the 82nd airborne division and whose area of responsibility was vehicle maintenance. Lin said the vehicles can be used to attack, but are mostly used as personnel carriers. They were integrated to replace Humvees and can perform all of the same tasks.

“Anything that the Humvee can do, the MRAP is supposed to do the same,” said Lin.

Amira Jordan, senior hospitality and tourism management major, said she would not be concerned if UPD obtained an MRAP.

“I wouldn’t be scared, I would just be wowed they got something,” Jordan said.

Jordan agreed that the presence of an MRAP vehicle on University grounds would turn heads.

“I think if we had one, it would confuse people as to what’s really going and maybe you might cause a little ruckus and confusion,” said Jordan.

Lin explained that the use of MRAP vehicles in a university is inconvenient and can cause harm.

“They are really hard to maintain and their fuel usage is extraordinary,” Lin said. “They are really intimidating. We used these vehicles in downtown Baghdad and it was just too much for the city...you don’t want something like that moving around campus.”

As soon as I read the scene, it became clear that Glenn would be best in that role. Ivan Lopez

Director Department of Theatre

Community-inspired Panther brings stage to life in new play

Now at the University, he still participates in several volunteer projects such as Miami Rescue Mission, Inc. and helping Miami Northwestern Senior High School start its own writing center and a writing fellows program. It will be the first public high school in Miami-Dade to have a writing center.

“I had a lot of criticism in college that connected to the community and I was impressed by the teachers who saw education as a means of social change,” said Hutchinson. “So I believe that courses here at FIU can help us think about what changes we can make in our own community and how to accomplish it.”

College student eats way to education

Dahl’s first paycheck came from Dickey’s Barbecue Pit in suburban Minneapolis, where he earned $250 for inhaling nine pulled-pork sandwiches in six minutes. The former high school athlete found the competition a challenge: eat a three-pound cheese steak sandwich in less than 10 minutes and skip the bill. He finished in 5 minutes, 50 seconds.

“I just started rolling from there,” he said.

Dahl’s current job is with his father’s McDonald’s franchise in Madison. Dahl said he plans to continue competing in eating contests. The money will help pay for his education, he said.

“I’m eating for my education,” he said.

As for the competition, Dahl was disappointed in his performance, but he said he wasn’t going to let it affect his performance in the future.

“I plan on competing in the future,” Dahl said.
At the start of every semester, the first thing I look at is the syllabus for every class. I scan these documents as if I were a hawk, looking for all the overpriced books that I will have to purchase or rent. My peers share the same concern. Suffice to say, textbooks are an overpriced necessity. According to USA Today, textbooks costs have soared 82 percent since 2002. In an ideal world, other means of production would have created some type of competition in the textbook printing industry. The digital age holds with it many promises, but when it comes to online version of textbooks, otherwise known as e-books, it has not exactly provided competitive pricing. On one side, we have single textbook prices that range upwards of $200. On the other side, we have courses that require multiple books. In between these, we have overpriced e-books. The situation is that so far, regardless of the amount of books a student may need, all mediums used to acquire the main material for all classes remain overpriced. Unfortunately, the digital age has not been as kind as it imagined it to be in this area. One of the reasons textbook prices are high is due to all the third parties involved in bringing them to a student. Digital data is easily copied and distributed, there is little cost involved in this process. E-book costs are therefore not justified at the moment, no matter how interactive they are.

"As technology prices go down and book prices continue to soar, it would be ideal for the book industry to start offering most of the content on tablets," Lynn University, for example, has provided iPads to their entering freshmen class and eliminated the need for them to purchase textbooks, which will save these students thousands of dollars.

But while Lynn University is indeed pushing boundaries as long as e-books remain as expensive as they currently are, nothing will change. I believe there will come a time when e-books will be the norm. When that happens, students will have access to books that are both interactive and economical.

This seems to be a common worry for many women today, specifically here in Miami where the Hispanic culture is very strong. "I don’t really know how I could be able to do that without taking a break from work or not working every day," says Sara, a 22-year-old Hispanic woman. "I want the world to be more accepting and make it easier for me to balance a full career with a family and a career at the same time."

So it’s as if we aren’t ‘meant’ to change our views on women.

To get a little bit of perspective I did an informal survey in one of my classes. I asked 15 female students their opinion on this issue. Subsequently, all of them agreed that they will work after graduating from the University, and 13 of them plan to have a family in the near future. One of the young ladys felt that society was no closer in allowing women to work and provide for her family simultaneously.

"They expect us to stay home to take care of the children, or they try to discourage by paying women less than men," said Aida, a 22-year-old biology major. I feel our present society promotes the idea of educated, professional and prosperous women. But at the same time it expects us to find a partner, have children and raise a family in a stable home. And I have not even mentioned the age limits that society has given women and expects us to do all these things by.

On January 12 in The Guardian’s series “Dear Mariella,” a woman in her early 30s wrote to the columnist about how she felt running out of time when it came to having children. "This seems to be a common worry for women after they hit 25. There’s this pressure to get married and have kids before the time you hit 30, especially here in Miami where the Hispanic culture is very strong.”

"I don’t really know how I could be able to do that without taking a break from work or not working every day,” says Sara, a 22-year-old Hispanic woman. "I want the world to be more accepting and make it easier for me to balance a full career with a family and a career at the same time."

The 18th and 19th centuries were a period of great social and political unrest. North Americans were under British rule without representation by elected officials, and the British were eager to raise revenue by imposing taxes and levies. Responding to the perceived abuse of power by the British, Americans staged protests in Boston, which eventually culminated with the British sending combat troops to impose direct rule on the Colonies. The Americans reacted in 1775 by mobilizing groups of armed men to expel royal officials and establish control over their land. They succeeded, and 16 years later, in 1804, the U.S. government adopted the Second Amendment to protect the right to maintain well-regulated militias.

Although the thought of responding to an abuse of power by the government through the use of firearms might be excusing to some, there is no indication that Americans will need to be called to action by their states to form militias any time soon. There has not even been an instance in which civilian militias have been summoned to fight in domestic or foreign conflicts throughout the past decades. However, there have been countless instances in which all states have had to respond to attacks on public safety through the employment of non-civilian forces, such as the police and military.
Spotted on campus: a surprise in a baby stroller

CHRISTINA GARCIA
Contributing Writer

The other day while sitting in class, taking notes, I heard a faint tinking in the background. This wasn’t some lifelike cell-phone alert or the clatter of a chongra bracelet, but the all too familiar ting ting of a dog’s collar.

Curious, I looked around the room, but I didn’t see hint or hair of the source, so I went back to concentrating on the lecture.

The next class, I came prepared. I looked around the room, searching for a pooch in a purse or a puppy on a lap, but again I didn’t see anything.

It wasn’t until I approached a classmate with a stroller that I heard the noise again, ting ting ting. Hesitantly, Jennifer Schafer, a junior English major, moved aside and introduced me to Sebastian.

Schafer is a black and white Papillon, approximately 5 years old, with a very special ability: he is a certified service dog.

A seizure alert dog warns people with epilepsy of oncoming attacks before they occur. According to Schafer, her companion typically warns her ten minutes in advance.

Not only that, he will call over people he recognizes are close to Schafer to come to her side when she is incapacitated.

When she was first diagnosed in 2008, the first thing Schafer did was give her car away. “I didn’t feel safe having five minutes or less’ notice to pull to the side of the road” she said.

As defined by the Epilepsy Foundation, “epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Seizures happen when clusters of nerve cells in the brain signal abnormally, which may briefly alter a person’s consciousness, movements or actions.”

Schafer said it mostly takes place in her temporal lobe, the part in charge of short term memory, which “makes learning new material take twice as long.”

When she is about to experience an attack, five minutes before, Schafer will start experiencing some of the following: a metallic taste in her mouth, blurred or double vision and/or a nauseated feeling.

With Sebastian, Schafer gets a warning 10 minutes ahead in the form of a panicked whimper, whining, pawing or an adamant bark if she is still not paying attention.

According to Schafer, some people pay as much as $700 for a class to teach their dog this skill and $1 thousand for a purebred Papillon. Sebastian entered her life free of charge.

In fact, Schafer said, he entered her life by accident.

When she was only 6-8 months old, a friend of Schafer found him in the streets – malnourished, flea-infested and with matted fur. Miraculously, when they took him to the vet, he had no serious ailments.

“Three dips, a few drops and a lot of food later and he was normal,” said Schafer.

When asked why the craft didn’t resemble the sketch on the site team page, Oliva said, “that was a rough sketch of something to turn into the Red Bull Company.”

Once they started working on it, they had to take that idea and create something that better fit their time and budget constraints.

The main concern for the team was money for materials.

Eventually, the team was able to raise one thousand dollars from sponsors Top Cars, Aero Kool Corporation, Waffleworks and Tag Heuer.

Finally, they were able to go to Home Depot and buy the materials to start building. The team didn’t finish until the day right before it was due, the Thursday before the competition.

“Overall, it was pretty good. I was quite surprised that we had great chemistry,” said Oliva. “Everyone input their own ideas, we all talked it out and talked it out democratically.”

In order to decide the roles the members would play during the actual take-off, they wrote their names on paper and randomly picked who would not be pushing the day of the competition.

The odd man out was Barrera, but that didn’t stop him from running behind the craft on stage, waving his arms in support of his team members pushing the plane and jumping with them over the ledge into the watery grave below.

As much as they planned, the vessel veered to the left in its final flight and was thrown off course into the water, cutting its flight short.

According to Oliva, the problem stemmed from their fear in the craft getting caught on the base.

In an effort to sidestep that problem, they didn’t strap it down to the base hard enough, instead they depended on Goldvarg’s body weight to keep it pinned down.

When they were pushing it down the ramp, a drift came, tipped the wings sideways and the tail was brought down.

Once the tail went down, Oliva and Alvarez that disrupted the flow of the whole thing, said Oliva.

When asked what they would do differently, Oliva said they could “add a piece of wood to the tail in the bottom and also create a better way to mount the Flugtag on the base.”

Students can visit the Red Bull Flugtag page for clips of The Flying Panthers’ flight.

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NATURE VS. NURTURE AS SEEN IN FIU FASHION

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

While many students have their focus on football season, this weekend marks the beginning of another kind of season at FIU. The FIU Theatre Department opens its four-play theatre season on Sept. 27 with its production of “Cardenio.”

The director of “Cardenio,” Michael Yawney had this to say about the play: “It’s about people finding out who they are and what really matters to them.”

“Cardenio” is a unique play in several ways.

First, it employs a dynamic stage design that symbolizes the instability of the characters’ lives.

“When it’s slanted at a very odd angle so that sometimes it feels that the stage is going to throw everybody off it,” Yawney describes.

“Cardenio” also features 12 characters, each of which Yawney claims to be the main character, often on stage at the same time.

“Having 12 characters is kind of overwhelming, because you get to pick and choose,” said Yawney. “If you lose interest with one of these people, you can just look at the next one.”

One of these characters is Doris, played by Jannelys Santos, a senior seeking a BA degree in theatre.

Santos describes Doris as the protagonist Camila. She’s just really misunderstood,” she said. William Cadena, also a senior with a BFA major in theatre, plays Will.

His character is faced with having his best friend’s bride ask to seduce her on their wedding night.

Michael Yawney Director “Cardenio”

His only hope for the play is that it produces a little laughter. “Whatever happens I just hope I can make a complete fool of myself on stage and the audience can follow us on this hilarious journey which involves so many ironic, playful moments,” said Cadena. “It is such a fun show and I hope that translates on all the nights to come.”

Santos expressed her excitement for the production to begin.

“I cannot wait for opening night,” she began. “To have a live audience with people not just from our tiny theatre department, but our families and friends who have little exposure to the theatre–it will definitely be interesting. You never know what will hit or miss a particular audience. I’m ready for their feedback!”

Yawney encouraged students to pull themselves from their laptops and smartphones for a moment and come out to experience a bit of theatre and also provided a guarantee: “If you come, you will learn five great recipes for pasta,” he joked.

On a more serious note, Yawney believes students will enjoy the experience of seeing a play that they likely have had no prior exposure to.

“What makes it especially fun as the first play is everyone is going to come into this not knowing what they’re going to see. And when they see it, I think that brings another excitement.”

-Ashley GArner/The Beacon
TRUE TEST COMING

Conference USA adds new level of difficulty for FIU

OSCAR BALDIZON
Contributing Writer

The preseason is now over for the ladies of the Panther Volleyball team and they remain at .500 after last weekend’s results at the Active Ankle Challenge held in West Lafayette, Indiana at the University of Purdue.

The Panthers would open the Challenge with a solid win over Northern Kentucky in four sets. With team-leading marks of 15 kills and 14 digs by redshirt Junior Kaenia Sukhareva, who registered her fourth double-double of the season and third in as many games. Senior Kimberly Smith posted 12 kills and added a team-high and season-best eight blocks, while Junior Silvia Carli chipped in with six blocks.

FIU would then go on to a two set lead over Syracuse in their second game of the Challenge to only show why there is still some kinks to be figured out on this team before they can reach their full potential. “We played at a really high level, but made untimely mistakes this weekend and we should have closed against Syracuse. We won the first two sets pretty convincingly, but we just got too comfortable, which led to careless mistakes and it started a snowball effect over the course of the weekend which we weren’t able to recover from,” Carli said.

The Panthers’ were unable to win another set for the rest of the weekend, including their loss to the tournament host, Purdue, in straight sets on the final day of the Challenge.

The biggest problem with this team isn’t a lack of skill, or even lack of depth like it was last year; it is their ability to stay focused once they have taken the lead. This team still doesn’t have that killer’s mentality that you see in every great player or team. When great teams or players take the lead and there is chance to close out a game, they do whatever it takes to put away the match and that is something the Panther’s still need to work on.

“It’s something that we are really working on with this team, to get them to focus for a longer time. For whatever reason when we take the lead, we lose all our focus and when we’re evenly matched with those teams, we end up taking to five sets, if they have just a little more focus than us we end up on the losing side,” Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

There was a lot of buzz surrounding this team again this year and it’s going to be the lead, we lose all our focus and when we’re evenly matched with those teams, we end up taking to five sets, if they have just a little more focus than us we end up on the losing side,” Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

“I expect more now that I know the level we can play at. I expect more from everyone each and every time we play; even though we’re playing at a high level, we can and should do better,” Senior Jessica Mendoza said.

If Quentin Albrecht and Colby Burdette have ever been shopping at Target then they both know what was on each of their backs going into this season.

Albrecht and Burdette were the two standout players from last year’s team, and remained the two guys to look out for as the team prepared for their second season in Conference USA.

These guys were hyped up and rightfully so. Albrecht led the team last year with 10 goals and 23 points while Burdette with seven goals and 18 points was second to only his German teammate. These two guys are the real deal and last year they showed everyone watching just that, but, I think, many opposing coaches might of been watching, too.

With all that said, I can now refer to my first statement: these guys now have enormous targets on their backs. Opposing coaches game plan strictly for them, opposing players know who they are and that they can’t let them out of their sights.

But, hey, they asked for it. That success did not go unnoticed. Are they paying for it now? It might be too soon to tell as the squad has only played seven games going 3-4 (0-1). But for the sake of this story, I’m going to analyze their statistics through these first seven games.

Albrecht, thus far, has played and started in all seven games, and is one of only three Panthers to starts all seven games in the young season. He’s second on the team in points and goals scored. So, he isn’t leading in every category like it seemed he did last year, but the season is still young and don’t forget about that target I’ve been referencing.

Burdette, so far, has gotten off to a slower start. He has started two games and played in six. He’s scored two goals and registered two points. But, Burdette is coming off of a game against Jacksonville in which he scored late in the match to seal a victory for his team. Maybe he can ride that momentum just like he did last year in order to get past all of the extra attention teams are paying to him.

Albrecht and Burdette have targets on their back and as I think about how they earned those targets, a very well-known quote from the movie “Spiderman” comes to mind. “With great power, comes great responsibility,” Uncle Ben said to Peter Parker.

This completely applies to these two young men. Albrecht and Burdette, because of their stellar play, earned a tremendous amount of power on the field. But with that comes the responsibility of knowing that this year will not be easy. They need to know that this year they will not catch anyone by surprise. Coaches know to watch them on film and players know that they can beat them.

The great responsibility of Albrecht and Burdette will be to find ways to duplicate their success from last year and apply it in order to help their team over the hump. This is a team with enough talented newcomers that all it needs is a push from their established duo.

They just need to remember one thing if they want to continue on the road to success: “With great power, comes great responsibility.”

RUBEN PALACIOS
COLUMNIST

Albrecht and Burdette playing with targets on their backs
Is it time to pack it in for the Panthers?

The Beacon – Wednesday, September 27, 2013

COLUMNS

THERE have been 187 points scored on the Panthers so far this season. With 23 points scored in two out of the four games played, having been shut out by both the University of Central Florida 38-0 and the University of Louisiana by almost double that at 72-0, it is clear to see that something needs to be done, and this week would have been the one to do it since there is no game.

The team will open up Conference USA play next week against the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, who go into this weekend 0-3 and play a pretty good team in Boise State University before hosting the Panthers on Oct. 5. in Hattiesburg, Miss. Whether this will be a game to turn around the Panthers season, or be the first win for the Eagles since Christmas Eve of 2011, that will be seen on game day.

FIU will go into C-USA play ranked 122 out of 123 for total offensive yards at 603 for the season, which included an FBS low 30 points on defense against the Cardinals. The Panthers are dead last in the nation in the average points per game column with 58. It isn’t a good thing when one of the only things you are good at is most punts in the nation, according to ESPN. The Panthers currently have the most punts with 37 for 1,306 yards between punter Chris Ayers, quarterback Jake Medlock, and backup punter Austin Taylor. Ayers is also listed as the second most used punter in the nation with 30 punts for an average of 35.1 yards per punt in Division I-A.

Continuing on the schedule, the Panthers’ will face one more opponent before the team’s second bye week this season. The homecoming game for the Panthers against the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers, which will be played on Oct. 12 with a kickoff time at 7:30 p.m., is a must win for the Panthers in their first season of C-USA.

The Blazers play the University of Vanderbilt this week and will more than likely go into their game against the Panthers with a record of 2-3. The team has a win against the Northwestern State University Demons of the Southland Conference and will play the Florida Atlantic University Owls, who are currently tied for last in C-USA, in the week before they travel to Miami.

After the second bye week, the home stand continues for the Panthers as they host Louisiana Tech University and East Carolina University, who are two of the powerhouse teams in C-USA, before heading out on a two road game trip that will take them to Murfreesboro, Tenn. to face the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders in a revenge game from last season and a trip to El Paso, Texas to face the Miners of University of Texas at El Paso.

The final two games of the season will have the Panthers hosting the Thundering Herd of Marshall, who are led by Rakeem Cato.

With the dysfunction of the team and having started off to a 0-4 start, FIU now looks for answers for the future.

Finally the Shula Bowl, with former Sun-Belt Conference and current C-USA rival Owls playing host in Boca Raton, Fla. Even with the team not doing as well as some expected, due to players like Kedrick Rhodes and Jakari Gore being released from the program due to legal issues; Richard Leonard, Paul Crawford, Willis Wright and Glenn Coleman being lost for the season due to grades and injury respectively, is it time to question the coaching staff and even the athletic department in general?

There is a public outcry for the FIU Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia to be released from his position, as can be seen on firepetegarcia.com and there is some outcry that someone on the football staff needs to be fired after an embarrassing loss to the Cardinals 72-0.

Is it time to give up on the season? In my opinion, no, but, if the team goes into the second bye week without a win, they might need a miracle to put students in the stands at FIU Stadium.

Bucs bench QB Freeman, turn to rookie Glennon

FRED GOODALL AP Writer

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have benched quarterback Josh Freeman and replaced him with rookie Mike Glennon.

The move Wednesday came two days after coach Greg Schiano insisted Freeman remained the starter because he gave the team the best chance to win.

The Bucs have lost their first three games, two on field goals in the closing seconds. Freeman has completed just 45.7 percent of his passes for 571 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

Glenmon was drafted in the third round out of North Carolina State, where he spent part of his college career as a backup to Russell Wilson. He will make his first pro start Sunday at home against Arizona.

After setting single-season team records for passing yards and points scored in 2012, the Bucs offense has scored just three offensive touchdowns through three games – none in the past seven quarters.

 Freeman’s completion percentage and quarterback rating (59.3) are last in the league, and Tampa Bay has lost eight of its past nine games dating to last season.

The fifth-year pro, once touted by general manager Mark Dominik as a franchise quarterback, has thrown for just three TDs vs. 12 interceptions in the last six games.

The switch caps a tumultuous month in which Freeman missed a team photo shoot on Labor Day, was not voted a team captain for the first time in three years and refuted reports that he was seeking a trade. Throw in his quarterback rating and completion percentage, plus a couple of last-second losses in games in which he and the team did not perform well, and he’s back on the bench.

And, perhaps headed out of Tampa Bay, with the trade dead line being five weeks away.

Freeman played his best game of the season Sunday, but was unable to get into the end zone a 23-3 loss at New England. He had a pair of potential touchdown passes dropped and finished 19 of 41 for 236 yards and one interception.

Freeman became the first 4,000-yard passer in team history last season, but has inconsistency down the stretch contributed to the Bucs losing five of final six games to finish 7-9 and miss the playoffs for the fifth straight year.

He threw nine interceptions in the final three weeks of 2012, and his slow start this year raised questions about Schiano possibly turning to Glennon in two weeks, when the Bucs have a bye.

The coach said as late as Monday that Freeman was his starter, but apparently changed his mind on Tuesday — an off day for players — and informed Freeman and Glennon of the change Wednesday morning.

The 25-year-old was the third quarterback selected in the 2009 draft behind Mark Sanchez and Matthew Stafford. He made his first NFL start — a win against Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers — after Tampa Bay began his rookie season with seven consecutive losses. The former Kansas State star followed with a breakout season in 2010, when the Bucs went 10-6 but failed to make the playoffs.

Freeman threw for 25 touchdowns and six interceptions that year, and the future appeared bright — for him, the team and former coach Raheem Morris.

Inconsistent play has dogged him and the Bucs since.

Morris was fired after going 4-12 in 2011, leaving Freeman to learn his third offensive system in four seasons when Schiano was hired last year.

The first sign that Schiano felt Freeman might not be the team’s long-term solution came shortly after the end of last season, when the coach said he wanted to raise the level of competition for jobs at every position, including quarterback.

Schiano hedged later, saying Freeman was the unquestioned starter, however that didn’t stop him and Dominik from drafting Glennon.
BBC making strides against breast cancer

JACQUELINE SKEVIN
Contributing Writer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the kick off event will be held in the Biscayne Bay Campus Bus Loop on Oct. 1 from 10am-2pm. In its third year, its focus is to spread awareness of breast cancer’s increasing risk to younger demographics as well as to reach out to more men.

“It’s been widely regarded as a woman’s issue for so many years,” said Meredith Morgan, coordinator at the Women’s Center. “Its time men get involved and understand that they are at risk too.”

The Women’s Center is one of many entities that will be returning to participate in the event by tabling and helping advocate for awareness. Other include Multicultural Services, Campus Life, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Ques, and Ally Initiatives.

The Wellness Center, one of two groups putting the event on, will be offering one-on-one breast examinations.

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“When we get to the most state of the art technology, where we have two HD TVs, custom built furniture can be flipped up to do group activities and they can be placed together to have a conference table and then you can separate them to have a conference table,” Richard Lopez, program manager for SOBEWFF.

“This room will have a section for our team and computers to help us recruit, session the students for activities and events. It’s finally our own personal space in the building. The other space before we used it in conjunction with others, and we are looking for students to help us decorate, so that when we open the door for ribbon cutting it very special, because I want to make sure we tell the story of the students.”

The remodeling that took place in the HM 243 took time and money, all of which were provided by the SOBEWFF funds.

$50 a month in premiums for individual coverage and $180 a month for family coverage. Senators already started paying the same rate as career service workers at the start of 2013.

House members — as well as Gov. Rick Scott and other top state officials — have been paying $8.34 a month for individual coverage and $30 a month for family coverage.

Scott, who does not take a salary for his job as governor but pays less than $400 a year to cover himself and his wife, has tried for three years to get all state workers to pay exactly the same for health insurance. But his proposal has been shot down each time by the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature.

The low cost of state health insurance for legislators and some state officials came into sharp contrast this past legislative session when Weatherford and House Republicans rejected accepting billions in federal aid in order to expand Medicaid to nearly 1 million Floridians. The expansion of Medicaid has been a key component of Barack Obama’s health care overhaul.

Weatherford acknowledged during last year’s legislative session the low cost of health insurance for legislators. But he waited until this fall to announce that premiums for his own members would be going up.

“The speaker has said multiple times he is aware of the disparity in what House members pay compared to others and we have been working on addressing it,” said Ryan Duffy, a spokesman for Weatherford.

Rep. Jim Waldman, D-Coconut Creek, said the move by the House was “long overdue.”

“There should not be a discrepancy between what we pay and what the public has to pay and especially what other state workers have to pay,” Waldman said.

But he said that Weatherford needs to take the next step and make sure “all Floridians” have access to health care by expanding Medicaid.

State records from this spring showed that all 40 state senators were enrolled in the state health insurance plan while more than 100 members of the 120-member House were enrolled.

Florida is spending more than $2 billion during this fiscal year — which ends next June — to cover roughly 170,000 state workers, university employees and retirees. Most of the money comes from taxpayers, not premiums paid by employees.