As Hurricane Dennis approached the shores of the Florida Keys on July 7, residents were forced to evacuate to FIU – the nearest hurricane shelter.

Evacuees occupied the Pharmed Arena during the first night, but were later moved into Primera Casa, the official center for Monroe County evacuees.

The American Red Cross served very few people on the first night but in a matter of hours on the second day, more residents flocked through the doors. “At the beginning of the day we had four people and within 30 minutes we had over 50,” said Erika Mayor, communications director for the Red Cross.

On the second floor of PC, nurses and doctors were on hand to care for people with special needs – the third and fourth floors where open to the general public. Floors were divided into family, individual, female and male only areas. There is no definite count of the amount of persons PC can occupy but on average, 20 square feet per person of the building is reserved for the general student population and 40 square feet for people with special needs. The ratio changes depending on whether or not PC is holding evacuees before and or after the event.

With her second time evacuating at Pharmed, Jan Allison brought board games, cards and books to stay entertained. “I’ve been here once before and we [would] much rather be in a hotel but you take what you can get,” said Allison, who was staying with her son and daughter. Allison’s family got adjusted with blankets and pillows while she explained her preparations for the hurricane. “We put shutters up, and had to leave everything in storage. We had to leave our pet [cat] there because there was no pet shelter,” Allison said.

The American Red Cross provided food, snacks and water for the evacuees. In addition, the Red Cross can provide casework in the event of people needing mental health counseling.

“The Red Cross is happy to be able to help the residents and visitors of Monroe County – this is what we live for,” Mayor said.

Although it might not be the most comfortable place, some evacues were grateful for being able to stay at PC. “I would like to thank FIU for all the help they provided to assist the homeless and those who were in need,” said evacuee Bon Marche Carpenter.

The shelter is provided free of cost for Monroe County residents by the Red Cross.

“We are very thankful that FIU allows us to be in this building but it does cost money for the Red Cross to be in this building. During the 2004 hurricane season, it cost over $150,000 for shelter and meals, not just FIU, it’s any Miami Dade Public School [shelter] we open,” Mayor said. “We pay rent for their utilities, their janitorial services, and police. Last year, we prepared for four storms, that’s over thousands of dollars per day.

Plans to relocate classes were made ahead of time – classes were moved to various buildings throughout the University Park campus.

“We did everything we could to find rooms for students. Our focus was [making] this happen while ensuring that students can attend class with minimal interruptions,” said Jennifer Mwaia, assistant vice president of Environmental Health Safety.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Red Cross can contact 305-644-1300 for more information.

Shuttle bus price ticket increased by 25 cents

Students will have to dig deeper into their pockets for an extra 50 cents the next time they ride on the Golden Phantom Express Shuttle for a round trip.

Effective July 1, the new $3 round-trip fee to and from the University Park campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus comes after a 2004 report from 7871 Bus Lines, the company that provides the services. The report shows the service operated at a staggering cost of $500,000 in 2004.

“The tickets that were sold to the passengers offset that cost by less than $200,000. This nominal 25 cent increase per one way ride will go toward a further offset of this cost,” said Bill Foster, director of parking and transportation.

After a plea to the fee committee to raise the student fees in an effort to help cover the remaining cost was denied, the Department of Parking and Transportation had to come up with the difference by raising their rates.

“Because of the budget costs that the university is continually incurring,” Foster said, “we will also be continuing to look into other alternative funding options, since this $250,000 plus annual cost to the university is becoming more and more difficult.”

Foster and his team will turn to the Student Government Association, the department of Parking and Traffic and student involvement for help.

Many students who use the shuttle service see the new fee increase as a surprise, but expected. “I knew it was going to happen. The school is increasing fees everywhere and it was just a matter of time,” said junior Lourdes Gonzalez.

Marcus Dowers, a senior who currently attends summer classes at both campuses, is considering his options.

“I was trying to see if I was better off taking the shuttle instead of driving my car back and forth every week. But now with this increase, I don’t think it’s [still] economical,” said Dowers.

For other students like junior Christian Guzman, an increase in tuition would have been a more affordable solution.

“They should have just increased tuition by $10 to $15 a semester per student instead of increasing the shuttle fee,” Guzman said. “In the long term, this may have been cheaper for students and more profitable for the university.”

Tickets at UP are sold at the Wolfe University Center Information Desk.
By CHESTER ROBARDS
Contributing Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus will be welcoming 6,000 new neighbors in the next several years.

Biscayne Landing, “a master planned community,” as the sign in front of the construction site reads, is currently under construction a few hundred feet from the campus, on a plot of land stretching from Northeast 137 Street to Northeast 143 Street.

Biscayne Landing held a groundbreaking ceremony and commemorative lunch June 9.

“Before, you could breathe through [the street] without having to stop. Lately, with the development you’ve had to wait,” said Erika Arrazacaneta, majoring in broadcast journalism.

BCC Provost Paul Moncarz is also concerned about the flow of traffic through 151 Street and especially for future students. He suggests opening alternative routes like the construction entrance on Northeast 143 Street and an existing road on Northeast 135 Street that connects to the campus, but they have yet to be approved for use by the City of North Miami.

Over the next two years, construction crews will work on Buildings One and Two, located in the north-east corner of the site (the area closest to Northeast 151 Street), BBC’s only entrance.

With the charter high school in the plans for construction, “a charter school up and to the North Miami Athletic Stadium, the future remodeling of Northeast 151 Street is on the drawing board table.

Bridges and bicycle paths could form the future entrance to FIU for pedestrians.

“We have presented a concept to the county,” said Wallace Ivan IV, vice president of development at Biscayne Landing.

Concerns about traffic are not the only things that have come into question.

“We’ve also presented a concept that deals with nuisance odors,” said Herb Tillman, director of construction and land development for Biscayne Landing.

“Most odors occur from the mangroves.”

Representatives from FIU were disappointed but they said the school was not sufficiently credited by the developers, but have contacted developers of Biscayne Landing concerning funding for the building of a new marine biology dock.

In addition to the dock, FIU also requested an endowment for the College of Education, guest lecture

sens and a performing arts center.

The charter high school is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2006, on 136,000 square feet of land east of the North Miami Athletic Stadium. It will house 1600 students.

The school will focus on environmental science and marine biology.

There are hopes that the school’s administration will implement a magnet program in journalism.

FIU faculty will assist in developing the guidelines and standards for the school.

Professors are looking forward to the school’s environmental science program.

“We’re [most] interested in having a charter school with some kind of environmental program,” said Joel Heinen, associate professor and chair of Environmental Science.

Also in the works is a nature center to conduct environmental research at the Biscayne Landing. FIU has a soil scientist involved with development projects.

There are plans to set aside funding for environmental studies and graduate student plans on participating in the program.

Furthermore, there are plans to build a hotel near the compound and possibly using the Kovens Center as the hotel’s convention center.

This will draw more attention to Biscayne Landings, which sometimes I think is the stepchild of the university system, and make Tamiami aware that more money [can be spent] on the campus,” said Kevin Bunn, mayor of the City of North Miami.

The “Professor’s work displayed in encyclopedia” story (July 1) should have included that Bruce Davie was one of several contributors from FIU faculty included in the encyclopedia. Also, the African diaspora predates enslavement. It should have also indicated that normally publishers assign as much as 10% of royalties to editors/writers but the royalties earnings go to a scholarship fund for FIU students.

The Beacon will gladly correct any errors. Call our UO office at 305-348-2799 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Biscayne Landings impacts campus

NEW ADDITION: Building Towers, “Biscayne Landings”, will be replacing part of Biscayne Bay’s mangrove forest by 2007. A K-8th grade public school, a charter high school and a hotel are also planned for construction near the site.

Cooper Perez

Corrections

The “Professor’s work displayed in encyclopedia” story (July 1) should have included that Bruce Davie was one of several contributors from FIU faculty included in the encyclopedia. Also, the African diaspora predates enslavement. It should have also indicated that normally publishers assign as much as 10% of royalties to editors/writers but the royalties earnings go to a scholarship fund for FIU students.

The Beacon will gladly correct any errors. Call our UO office at 305-348-2799 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

PUBLISHING POLICY

The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer R. Advertising inquiries for classified, local and national ads may be addressed to our advertising department in our newsroom. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.
On campus dwelling of solace and prayer, asset for students

I like to pray and I like to pray often. However, when I pray, I do it silently and alone – be it before an exam that I’ve already taken twice or before daring to eat at the University already taken twice or before.

When I go searching for a private prayer spot, I remember that building and realize that there is nothing resembling that at either of FIU’s campuses.

The closest thing UP has to a student prayer room is the FIU Center in St. Agatha’s church across the 107th Ave. entrance, but this is a special Catholic service catering primarily to students who adhere to that religion.

We have a newly completed gym, a soon to be completed museum and the foundations of another residence hall, but no chapel!

With the expectations and pressures developed by students in college, especially when just entering the university life, a special building set aside for prayer, contemplation or just quiet relaxation would not go unappreciated.

A small place in a much bigger one where the real world is blocked out, where negative energy can be released.

In a poll conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California-Los Angeles, 69 percent of 100,000 students from different colleges and religious backgrounds stated that their religious beliefs “provide strength, support and guidance” in their lives.

A non-denominational and non-sectarian chapel on either UP or the Biscayne Bay Campus could provide the space needed for students to express those various beliefs in a safe and protected setting.

This would be a room for reflection that welcomes all students, whether they be counting the beads of a rosary, prostrating themselves towards Mecca, reciting the Orthodox Jewish morning prayers or simply trying to find peace in the middle of an unsavory day.

A prayer room would provide solace in our hectic world.

Cynthia Machado
Public Relations, Junior

“I think it’s a good idea. I think if I lived on campus I would go. I would love it.”

Kevin Chau
Geology, Senior

“No, I don’t think it’s a good idea because FIU is a state school. There should be separation.”

Marco Bruno
Undecided, Freshman

“I think it’s a great idea. There’s a big problem in America, people have lost perspective on what this country was based on – religion.”
FOR AWARENESS

Live 8 concerts target world leaders in the name of Africa

By JESSICA ISER
Lifestyle Editor

No matter where one is, no matter what language one speaks, music has a way of transcending all barriers and connecting the whole world through that common bond. With a powerful medium such as music, it is not difficult to bring a message across the world in effort to raise awareness about a special cause. This is what made the Live 8 concerts on July 2 so successful.

With eight concerts staged around the world in places like Paris, Rome, Philadelphia and London, all with big name acts, the Live 8 concerts were able to reach the world and educate billions of people about their cause.

Unlike the original Live Aid concerts held in 1985 to raise funds for famine relief in Ethiopia, the Live 8 concerts were held to raise awareness – not money, about the plight of the world’s poor people, mainly focusing on Africa.

The concerts also served the purpose of letting the G8, a meeting of the world’s most powerful leaders that take place from July 6 - 9, know that the world is aware of the issues that need to be dealt with, such as poverty and the AIDS epidemic in Africa, and urge them to take action.

Many big names in music participated in the Live 8 concerts. In London, artists such as, Madonna, Elton John, Pink Floyd, and Paul McCartney shared the stage with new comer acts like The Killers, Keane and Coldplay.

In Philadelphia, Alicia Keys, Jay-Z, Maroon 5, Bon Jovi and Keith Urban helped round out the very eclectic set list. Many artists from different genres came together to support one cause and invited all kinds of people to watch the concerts, thus capturing the world’s attention.

One of the most memorable moments during the London concert was when the members of Pink Floyd reunited after over 20 years and took the stage. Mariah Carey also added some diversity to the London stage when she sang with the African Children’s Choir.

State side, another memorable moment occurred when Rob Thomas joined Stevie Wonder to sing some of Wonder’s classic tunes — much to the delight of the audience.

Though many would argue that the Live 8 concerts would have been more effective if money were raised instead of awareness, the Live 8 website argues that “Live 8 is about justice not charity.”

If money would have been raised to help the nations in poverty, it would have helped for the time being but to truly bring change, the whole world must act as one in order to pull these poor, underdeveloped countries out of poverty and sickness once and for all. Without the attention and long term help of the world’s powerful leaders, none of this is possible.

With the help of music, the Live 8 concerts were successful in bringing us all together and letting us know that money does count, but our collective voice can bring about more change than any amount of cash.
SGA vice president gets personal

By JULIA SIERRA
Contributing Writer

As the newly elected vice president of the Student Government Association, Christine Denton’s number one priority is FIU students. With a busy schedule and tons of responsibility on her shoulders, it is good to stray away from those abundant questions about plans to change the school.

The Beacon sat down with Denton to discuss her world outside student government and her other leadership role. There is more to her than a fancy title, she has a way of making you feel right at home.

Q: What do you think about country and the ‘80s. Why do I always find me in my office.

A: I’m a very passive person, but I usually take out my aggression on the road. I’m a very crazy driver. I’m one of those you probably don’t like on the road and you look at because I’m always swerving. It’s weird because I’m in life, I’m patient, but not on the road.

Q: Your nickname is B.E.E. What does it stand for?

A: OK, that’s a complicated one. We [sororities] usually don’t mention our nicknames because they’re usually personal or inside jokes that don’t make sense to anyone else. Let’s just say it’s an acronym that has to do with being too nice and needing to become more assertive in my endeavors, that’s putting it in a nice way. If you really want to know, you can always find me in my office.

Q: Your favorite music includes country and the ‘80s. Why do you like those two genres in particular?

A: Oh, wow. It’s funny, because I’m not a big country fan. Well, during the campaign. This was a very hard decision to make, having studied nursing for three years. As many college students can attest, you cannot pursue a degree in a field that you are not 100 percent passionate about — at least not without regret. Nursing is a very practical profession and I look up to everyone who perseveres in that career path.

Unfortunately, it was not the path for me. People’s lives are in my hands as a nurse, you just can’t have any doubts about it.

Q: What are your plans in regards to your new major now?

A: I’ve always been passionate about psychology, although I am interested in health service administration. So I’m finishing psychology and will graduate next spring. Then, why do I go for my major in health service administration.

Q: What helps you deal with the stress of your studies and involvement at FIU?

A: Between elections, changing my major and being president of my sorority, stress was definitely inevitable. I like listening to music, going to the gym when I have time, having around friends or simply sleeping. I’m always on the go, so any break is good. I’ve learned through all my involvements that I need time for myself and I do know when to step aside and take time off.

Q: What did you find most enjoyable while you and Alex Prado were campaigning?

A: Honestly, meeting so many different people who unfortunately had certain predispositions about voting and student government, but then changing their minds after a sincere conversation and convincing them how important a student’s voice can be.

Also, students actually believed they really could make a difference. Oh, and I have to add: at the end of the day it was great when someone would pass by and say, “I voted for you!” It motivated me to keep going.

Q: In what area has it been particularly difficult for you?

A: OK, well, Alex and I do our best to accomplish our goals, we’ll set the precedent for the following year in hopes that [our successors] will keep adding to our vision. Everyone wants to be Superman, right? But it’s hard.

Q: How do you feel, being a woman with a leadership role in today’s world?

A: I want to work this correctly. I don’t want men to be like, “Whoo, watch out!” Well, I have a quote that came to mind when you asked this; it’s by Margaret Thatcher. She said, “Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to say you are, then you are not.” I’m very big on humility and knowing where I came from; so I’m not one to brag about being in an authoritative position as a woman. I hope I can motivate and encourage other women in our university to realize their full potential, whether it’s through leadership or their individual talent.

Q: You’re very involved in your sorority; what are some of your responsibilities as president of Alpha Xi Delta?

A: I’ll just say … what are not my responsibilities?

As president, I oversee almost everything. I have to deal with not only the internal workings of the organization, but all external as well, including the university issues. And I just want to add, that it’s a job — but it’s my sanity in many ways — and it’s a job that I love.

Q: Can you tell us about Dance Marathon and the kind of experience it was?

A: I’ve always been a huge fan of reality shows, but I just can’t seem to get enough. Since the first “Survivor” and “The Real World” episodes, I’ve been a reality show junkie. I admit it! No need for an “Intervention” (that’s a reality show, too).

Q: On your Facebook profile it states that you believe everything happens for a reason. Where does that stem from and has it changed some of your perspectives on life (if at all)?

A: It stems from my faith in God. I believe that God has a bigger plan for us. I’m not quick to assume that God would allow bad things to happen without knowing the consequences and how it will affect me and make me feel. I know that sometimes mention something that I cannot handle. I just have to trust that He will still guide me through whatever challenges I may face.

Q: How do you deal with accepting things a lot easier. Like the well-known quote says, “Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Q: I noticed that you are a nursing student. How is this career so far?

A: Actually, I have recently changed my major which may be a shock to many, especially all the nursing students that are supportive during the campaign. This was a very hard decision to make, having studied nursing for three years. As many college students can attest, you cannot pursue a degree in a field that you are not 100 percent passionate about — at least not without regret. Nursing is a very practical profession and I look up to everyone who perseveres in that career path.

Unfortunately, it was not the path for me. People’s lives are in my hands as a nurse, you just can’t have any doubts about it.

Q: What are your plans in regards to your new major now?

A: I’ve always been passionate about psychology, although I am interested in health service administration. So I’m finishing psychology and will graduate next spring. Then, why do I go for my major in health service administration.

Q: What helps you deal with the stress of your studies and involvement at FIU?

A: Between elections, changing my major and being president of my sorority, stress was definitely inevitable. I like listening to music, going to the gym when I have time, having around friends or simply sleeping. I’m always on the go, so any break is good. I’ve learned through all my involvements that I need time for myself and I do know when to step aside and take time off.

Q: What did you find most enjoyable while you and Alex Prado were campaigning?

A: Honestly, meeting so many different people who unfortunately had certain predispositions about voting and student government, but then changing their minds after a sincere conversation and convincing them how important a student’s voice can be.

Also, students actually believed they really could make a difference. Oh, and I have to add: at the end of the day it was great when someone would pass by and say, “I voted for you!” It motivated me to keep going.

Q: In what area has it been particularly difficult for you?

A: OK, well, Alex and I do our best to accomplish our goals, we’ll set the precedent for the following year in hopes that [our successors] will keep adding to our vision. Everyone wants to be Superman, right? But it’s hard.

Q: How do you feel, being a woman with a leadership role in today’s world?

A: I want to work this correctly. I don’t want men to be like, “Whoo, watch out!” Well, I have a quote that came to mind when you asked this; it’s by Margaret Thatcher. She said, “Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to say you are, then you are not.” I’m very big on humility and knowing where I came from; so I’m not one to brag about being in an authoritative position as a woman. I hope I can motivate and encourage other women in our university to realize their full potential, whether it’s through leadership or their individual talent.

Q: You’re very involved in your sorority; what are some of your responsibilities as president of Alpha Xi Delta?

A: I’ll just say … what are not my responsibilities?

As president, I oversee almost everything. I have to deal with not only the internal workings of the organization, but all external as well, including the university issues. And I just want to add, that it’s a job — but it’s my sanity in many ways — and it’s a job that I love.

Q: Can you tell us about Dance Marathon and the kind of experience it was?

A: I’ve always been a huge fan of reality shows, but I just can’t seem to get enough. Since the first “Survivor” and “The Real World” episodes, I’ve been a reality show junkie. I admit it! No need for an “Intervention” (that’s a reality show, too).
Fraternity organizations prepare for upcoming recruitment week

By CYNTIANNA LEDESMA
Contributing Writer

One may have noticed groups of guys in and around the Graham Center of the University Park campus proudly passing out flyers, while wearing colored jerseys. The reason is that the first day of fraternity recruitment week begins on July 11.

This week is dedicated to introducing distinguished fraternity organizations on campus to the FIU community and to potential men interested in joining a brotherhood. Within a one-week span, fraternity brothers will have a chance to meet potential brothers and vice-versa. The best way to learn about each fraternity is to attend these events, so pick up those flyers and find out what is going on in each fraternity this week.

The following fraternities are represented on campus: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji), Delta Lambda Phi, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

“Visit as many organizations as you can,” said Juan D’Arce, recruitment chair for FIJI. “Find out what each fraternity’s purpose is.”

It is stressed that each potential member get to know each fraternity’s value system, what the members stand for and what they do throughout the semester. That is why a whole week is dedicated to the recruitment process. Each fraternity also has its own set of requirements and scholarship opportunities. Generally, fraternities require a 2.5 GPA, but some may be higher.

Denton draws strength from God, sorority sisters

Our sorority was extremely involved in Dance Marathon. We won the Miracle Cup, which is awarded to the organization that raises the most money; we had seven morale captains; A Xi D [our sorority] had overall director and assistant director, as well as several committee members.

It was just encouraging to be there for 25 hours dancing and surrounded by friends that you like to be with for that long. People who are practically like family and would pump me up at three o’clock in the morning when all I wanted to do was sleep.

I think that the most touching part was when the children of families with diseases came by and thanked us for raising money for them; for making it possible for other kids to survive their illness — through research and support — because of student donations.

Q: What have you learned from your sisters throughout the years you’ve been a part of A Xi D?

A: I think, definitely, what I’ve gained the most and learned from my sisters is the confidence in knowing that I can do something if I put my mind to it. If I ever had doubts about my abilities to achieve something, my sisters never allowed me to consider giving up; it was not an option. Without their faith in me, I believe I would not be where I am today.

Q: Do you have any last words of encouragement you’d like to share with your fellow FIU students before we get out into the real world?

A: Don’t be in such a rush to get out into the real world. Of course, you have to eventually graduate, but college life is short and it should be the greatest time of your life. Enjoy it!
SINGAPORE _ Daley Thompson was ready. The two-time Olympic decathlon champion was wearing a red T-shirt champion had worn in the past, and the message on its back remained clear: “Put Seb and Co,” the shirt read, “putting the Great back in Britain.”

One more letter, an “e,” after the “Co,” and Thompson’s shirt would have spelled out what many of the International Olympic Committee’s members felt about the result of their Wednesday vote giving London the honor of hosting the 2012 Summer Olympics.

But “Co,” and Thompson’s shirt would have worn it on his shirtsleeve all along. “Seb and Co,” it said, “putting the Great back in Britain.”

Thompson’s former British teammate Sebastian Coe, a two-time Olympic decathlon champion was wearing a red T-shirt as he had been running the metric mile at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics. He had London’s “dream team” of the other finalists could match.

“Seb reminded the IOC they had made daring decisions before,” Gabriel said. “Seb reminded the IOC they had made daring decisions before.”

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.

The vote, which was never a close one, was won by more than the required majority. London defeated Paris, 540-8559, a 54-50 margin.

The two-time Olympic decathlon champion was wearing a red T-shirt as he had been running the metric mile at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics. He had London’s “dream team” of the other finalists could match.

Seb reminded the IOC they had made daring decisions before,” Gabriel said. “Seb reminded the IOC they had made daring decisions before.”

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.

The two-time Olympic decathlon champion was wearing a red T-shirt as he had been running the metric mile at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics. He had London’s “dream team” of the other finalists could match.

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.

The two-time Olympic decathlon champion was wearing a red T-shirt as he had been running the metric mile at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics. He had London’s “dream team” of the other finalists could match.

In trying not to jeopardize its position as the top candidate, an “e” may prove more significant than swaying their minds.
Baseball camp teaches more than the basics

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

A group of adolescents wielding bats and throwing balls isn’t exactly something most people would want to be around. But for Chris Holick and his staff, this type of situation is nothing new.

Every summer, from the end of the FIU baseball season until the beginning of August, Holick is in charge of running the Golden Panther Baseball camps. The camps run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the baseball stadium at the University Park Campus and are open to kids of all baseball levels from ages 5 to 18.

Holick is also an assistant coach on the FIU baseball team and is responsible for its hitters and catchers, as well as assisting with the infielders and strength and conditioning. It is these same responsibilities that Holick holds as director of the camps.

“We go through every single form of baseball drill – from base running, sliding, hitting, bunting, throwing mechanics, infield [and] outfield play,” Holick said.

For the camper who aspires to take the mound, there are pitching drills – such as mechanics and fielding. Arm strengthening exercises and run bullpen sessions, where the camper’s pitches are clocked with a radar gun, are also taught.

Other activities include a game at the end of each day and, on Friday, there is a barbecue and a homerun derby.

And because the stadium facilities include an indoor hitting facility, a weight room and club house, the camps can go on even if it’s raining.

According to Holick, the camps average between 50 and 70 participants each week. That many kids requires a lot of help, which is why the camp has one volunteer counselor – usually a current or former FIU baseball player for every five campers.

“For the most part, the kids are well-behaved. I think it’s because they want to learn new things about baseball and other things,” said counselor Frank Gonzalez, who is also a relief pitcher on the baseball team.

Overall, the campers were very positive regarding their experience and liked certain aspects of the camps.

“You get a lot of individual training from the coaches and [the other staff members],” said 15-year-old Christopher Argote.

“You get training you don’t normally get in high school or in other leagues.”

But not everything is perfect.

“The only thing I don’t like about the camp is that you have to pay for sodas,” said 14-year-old Louis Espindola jokingly.

Even though it is a baseball camp, there are other things greater than baseball that the camp wants its campers to learn.

“The biggest thing about it is we try to develop life skills for the kids to get them to feel confident about themselves,” Holick said. “With that confidence, we prepare them for game situations and communications. So, they’re not just learning baseball skills here. They’re learning to communicate with other kids, they’re having a good time doing it and they’re doing it in a positive atmosphere.”

Major League All-Star Game superior to those of other pro leagues

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Every major sport in the United States advertises their All-Star Game the same way: It’s the halfway point of the season.

But while leaves the NBA and NFL like baseball and football rely on the new hip-hop genera-
tion or a tropical location like Hawaii, Major League Baseball has time-honored tradition and a rich history on its side.

Like the NBA and NFL, baseball’s All-Star Game has provided its fair share of game-shaking moments and crowd-pleasing spectacles. But unlike the others, MLB’s All-Star Game has kept its respect and further added to its importance throughout the years, while the others have lost their value.

For over two decades now, the NBA has dedicated an entire weekend to its All-Star game. Leading up to the game, some of its players take part in a Slam Dunk Competition and a Three-Point Shootout.

This used to be a great way to lead up to the actual game as the NBA’s elite players really got a chance to show off their skills. But those times have been lost throughout the years and it seems as if the event becomes less attractive every year.

What used to be Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins, at the prime of their careers, fiercely competing, has become a McDonalds All-American Game with guys like Josh Smith and Fred Jones – barely recognized on their own teams – taking part.

The real competition for all these no-name young guns, who can do a 360 dunk in an open gym, should be a twelve-foot jumpshot contest. That aught to be interesting.

While the NBA’s festivities seemed to have lost their edge, Major League Baseball’s Home Run Derby has stayed consistent throughout time.

Rarely do we watch a Home-run Derby and not recognize every player competing. That’s what fans want to see.

They don’t want to see first or second year players that come off the bench taking part. They want to see their idols, the guys whose faces they recognize, join in.

It is not a problem with