University and Red Cross serve evacuees

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 number of persons PC can occupy but on average, 20 square feet per person of the building is reserved for the general public and 40 square feet for people with special needs. The ratio changes depending on whether or not PC is holding evacuees before and after the event.

With her second time evacuating at FIU, 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 evacuees were grateful for being able to stay at PC.

“I would like to thank FIU for all the help they provided to assist the home-less and those who were in need,” said evacuee Bon Marche Carpenter.

The shelter is provided free of cost for Monroe Country 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 Mwarela, 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 Panther Express Shuttle for a round trip. Effective July 1, the new $1.5 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 buses. 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 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 Christina 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.
Biscayne Landings impacts campus

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 135 Street to Northeast 143 Street. Biscayne Landing housed a ground-breaking ceremony and commemorative lunch June 9.

Since the opening of the Biscayne Landing and the start of construction of a kindergarten through eighth grade public school and charter high school, trucks have congested the usually loose traffic on BBC’s NE 151 Street entrance.

“Before, you could breathe through [the street] without having to stop. Lately, when you enter through that intersection you’ve had to wait,” said Erika Arrazacata, majoring in broadcast journalism.

BBC Provost Royal Moncarz is also concerned about the flow of traffic through 151 Street, 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 Building One and Two, located in the northeast 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, said Sergio 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 William Wallace IV, vice president of development at Biscayne Landing.

Concerns about traffic are not the only things that have come into question. The strange odors in the Biscayne Bay area are also of high concern.

“We have employed consultants that deal with nuisance odors,” said Herb Tillman, director of construction and land development for Biscayne Landing. “Mostly odors occur from the mangroves.”

Representatives from FIU were disappointed about 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 has also requested an endowment for the College of Education, guest lecture sessions 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 Heienen, associate professor and chair of Environmental Studies.

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 students plan 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.

“IT’s safe to 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.

CORRECTIONS

The “Professor’s work displayed in encyclopedia” story (July 5) should have included that Boyce-Davies was one of several contributors from FIU faculty included in the encyclopedia. Also, the African diaspora predated enslavement. It should also be 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 acknowledge any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210 at the University Park campus. Members of the editorial and production staffs and questions regarding display advertising and billing, should be addressed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Offices open $9 am. – 4:30 pm., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.beaconnewspaper.com

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On campus dwelling of solace and prayer, asset for students

C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

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 praying, I do it silently and alone pray often. However, when I get into problems I can't help is improving or when friends in college, especially when just finding the time and space for an unsavory day.

When I go searching for a private prayer spot, I remember that that building and realize that there is nothing resembling that either of FIU's campuses. The closest thing UP has to a prayer room 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 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.

Discrepancies found at both FIU campuses prove equality is not found between locations

In theory, we are supposed to be one campus, yet in so many ways, we are not. The university, at times, seems like a paradox of sorts. Sometimes we are FIU – University Park campus and FIU – Biscayne Bay Campus and other times, we are simply FIU. This distinction seems to happen frequently and when economically convenient. Thus, we presently find that we have become two different campuses.

Having two different campuses with different sets of services, within the same facilities only hurt us. The point of higher education is to help us to create unity among its students. Separation in the services that govern each campus can only build division among its students due to limited ability to move freely from campus to campus. This restricted ability to commute between campuses is often due to fees on services, which should already be included in our tuition expenses to begin with. Fees such as the transit bus fare, which recently was increased by 25 cents, now makes it more expensive for students to commute within campuses.

A possible solution to shuttle increase would be to have students, from both campuses, be able to board the bus by simply flashing their student ID without having to pay a dime at the moment – because FIU would have already included an increase per semester in student fees. This would make things easier for students and faculty.

The fact that two different shuttles depart from both campuses within a short time – a span of ten minutes or less, is a significant waste of money and labor. The first bus of each hour leaves mostly packed and the second carries a maximum of ten people, if even that many. Unfortunately, students must suffer the ticket increase in order to suffice a bus carrying less than the amount needed to travel.

The most mind-boggling disparity is why we have two Student Government Associations with two different presidents and vice-presidents. Couldn’t we do with just one SGA for the whole university? There is a pharmacy for students at UP but none at BBC. There should be a wider range of food providers with extended hours offered at BBC like there is at UP. The quality and quantity of the UP library is also much better at UP than at BBC.

UP and BBC should not be two different entities under the same name and we should be able to go between campuses freely without worrying that everything is different in each campus. Presidential Modesto Maidique has said various times that we are “one” school and yet as the days pass, it seems like we are in reality two. If we can’t stand united as one school, then we are destined to fail.

How do you feel about having a chapel on campus?

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.”

Winner & Loser

WINNER
Chinese women: Century Amusement Park, in Zhengzhou, China allows women over the age of 18 wearing miniskirts shorter than 14.8 inches to enter for half price July 1 through Aug. 31. Hooray for miniskirts!

WINNER
Tuition payers: FIU students will have to pay 5 percent more for their tuition starting in the fall. FIU students are constantly facing increases, yet we are not being offered more services or classes. Last year alone we faced an athletic fee increase of $1.38 and in 2003, we faced an 8.5 percent tuition increase across the board. This must stop.
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, under-developed 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.

Among the many artist that performed at the Live 8 concerts around the world were Mariah Carey, Madonna, Destiny’s Child, Linkin Park, Black Eyed Peas, Jay-Z, Will Smith, The Who and Dido.

COURTESY PHOTOS
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 life than a fancy title, she has a way of making you feel right at home.

Q: What do you think about the Miami traffic?

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 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 [sorority] usually don’t mention mythologies 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 me 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 enjoy country?

A: I love this genre. I think that God has broadened my horizons and given me opportunities to venture into new genres.

Q: Don’t get me wrong, I don’t listen to the old-school country, like “EYE HAW!” But for anyone who doesn’t like country music, what would you listen to instead?

A: I challenge you all to my new favorite song — “Making Memories of Us,” by Keith Urban, maybe it will spark an interest.

Q: On your Facebook profile it states that you believe everything happens for a reason. Where does that stem from and how has it changed 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 God will give me something that I cannot handle. I just have to trust that He will guide me through whatever challenges I may face.

Q: I notice that you are a nursing major. 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 who are very 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 prestigious 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 master’s 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 to have fun, being 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 vote 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 particularly difficult for you?

A: OK, well, Alex and I are very privileged with a lot of power in our position, but we are still limited when it comes to meeting every single student’s needs. It’s not to say we’re not working on our platform, but there’s only so much that can be done in a year’s time. During the campaign, I did a lot, but I finally came to terms with the fact that it is impossible to meet every single person’s need.

However, as long as 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 Superwoman, 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 word this correctly: I don’t want men to be like, “Whoa, 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 try not 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 also 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: During the 6th Century, it was customary to congratulate people who sneezed because they believed it was thought that they were expelling evil from their bodies. During the great plague of Europe, the Pope passed a law to say “God bless you” to one who sneezed.

LIFE! www.beaconnewspaper.com

1. 7-ELEVEN SLURPEES
There is nothing more refreshing than drinking a 7-Eleven Slurpee on a hot summer day. Next time you spot a 7-Eleven store, pour yourself a Slurpee and dunk in a strawberry. You’ll be in total bliss, but watch out for the BRAIN FREEZE!

2. JAMES PATTERSON NOVELS
My fascination with his writing started when I was about to board on a plane. I grabbed a Snickers bar and the first paperback I saw at one of those small stores in the airport. I quickly lost myself in the book and before I knew it, my plane had already landed.

3. WALT DISNEY WORLD
It’s the only magical place on earth where you won’t get arrested for wearing Mickey Mouse ears and skipping up and down Main Street USA singing “Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah.” If you haven’t done that already, you don’t know what you’re missing.

4. REALITY SHOWS
Am I the only one who is still addicted to them? So many people say they’re sick and tired 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).

5. MIAMI
Powered by the energy and influence of the Caribbean beat, Miami means big-city elegance and alluring beaches to those who seek its unique brand of electric charge. Besides, where else can you have a cafí con leche and a Jamaican pattie for breakfast while overlooking the Atlantic Ocean?

HAIL TO THE VIC[OF] CHIEF: Christine Denton helped with this year’s Heat Stroke, a barbecue and pool party held at the Panther Pool located at the University Park Campus.

“BEACON” MARSHALL BOTTOM PHOTO: ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON

DENTON HELPED WITH THIS YEAR’S HEAT STROKE, A BARBECUE AND POOL PARTY HELD AT THE PANTHER POOL LOCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS.

TOP PHOTO: JESSICA MARSHALL, BOTTOM PHOTO: ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON

Meet every single person’s need.

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Fraternity organizations prepare for upcoming recruitment week

By CYNTIANKA LEDESMA
Contributing Writer

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 in the morning when all I wanted to do was sleep.

I think that the most touching part was when the families of children 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 through-out 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.

Q: Do you have any last words of encouragement you’d like to share with your fellow FIU students before we go?
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!

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The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME
By Mark Haddon
226 Pages, 2003

Christopher Boone is an eccentric, truant fifteen-year-old that loves math and physics, hates the colors yellow and brown and is obsessed with prime numbers. One day, Christopher mysteriously finds Wellington, a neighbor’s dog, dead with a pitch fork stuck through its body. The streets are deserted and there is not one clue left as to who could have murdered the dog.

After a few moments, the boy is found standing over Wellington by the dog’s owner, Mrs. Shears. She wrongfully accuses Christopher, Wellington is found and the boy calls the police. However, after a quick investigation, the police let Christopher go with only a warning. Nevertheless, Chris finds it hard to get the incident out of his mind. The young man decided to become just like Sherlock Holmes and investigate what happened to Wellington.

Unquestionably, Christopher is quite an unusual young man. First of all, he does not like to be touched and does not understand human emotions very well. He thinks that, “all the other children in [his] school are stupid (Haddon, 43)” and does not understand jokes.

His eccentricities are as odd as they are entertaining. The boy has grown up with his father who has patiently endured his weird ways through the years. They have a very close relationship — until Christopher not only discovers what happened to Wellington, but also the secrets his father was keeping about his mother.

The novel is exciting and satisfying. It is strangely sad and deeply moving. But it is also so amusing, it can be read in one sitting. Christopher will keep everyone guessing until the truth is revealed, readers will be completely surprised!

The novel is fun to read and there is some beauty in experiencing the world through the eyes of a boy that has no understanding of humanity. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is funny, unique and genuinely clever.
management in the NBA, but a problem with its players. Every year the league invites the top players to take part and every year the excuses pile up.

These NBA players need to stop being such crybabies and for once pay their dues to the fans that pay for their big-time salaries.

There is no doubt that football is a beloved game in America, but even the NFL outweighed itself in deciding to flip it on at halftime to watch another losing season.

The Pro Bowl has become a very outdated event that has struggled to become famous and whose fan base has turned away from it.

Instead of drawing the attention of its followers, Pro Bowl has caught the attention of middle-aged soccer moms that dip it on at halftime to watch Janet Jackson or Gianna Stef...
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 campers 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 barbeque and a homerrun 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.

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

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

COMMENTARY

By ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Every major sport in the United States advertise their All-Star Game the same way: It’s their crown jewel on their calendar.

But while leaves the NBA and NFL like basketball and football rely on the new hip-hop generation 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.

But while leaves the NBA and NFL like basketball and football rely on the new hip-hop generation or a tropical location like Hawaii, Major League Baseball’s Home Run Derby has stayed consistent throughout time.

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.

This is not a problem with