Bringing help to Haiti

Shoes donated for victims

By Megan Finnerty
Sports Editor

Soles4Souls, a non-profit organization that donates shoes to areas devastated by natural disasters, has announced, in partnership with Suddath Relocation Systems, that it will be placing portable storage containers in 14 major cities to accept donations for the victims of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti. The charity has already pledged one million pairs of shoes to be distributed. The containers will be placed in Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Melbourne, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Los Angeles, San Jose, Atlanta, New York City, Baltimore, Nashville, Dallas, Houston, and Charlotte. These staffed collection centers will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Valentine’s Day

The good, the bad and the ugly: Broward College students weigh in on the day.

Edge of Darkness

Mel Gibson’s latest film exceeds expectations.

NFL players build playground

The NFL and KaBOOM! sponsor the building of a local playground.

Hope over hardship

By Caroline Hopton
Columnist

The sheer magnitude of the devastation in Haiti and the images of death and suffering projected through the media made me wonder: Just how does one survive emotional and physical pain to this degree? At first, it was beyond my scope of thought, then, I recalled a story which reminded me of how it is the indomitable human spirit which gives us our survival mechanism in times of extreme distress; that gives us hope, when it appears there is none.

The story was of a patient in one of Haiti’s make-shift hospitals, during the initial aftermath of the quake, where many lay dying from chronic infections; their conditions exacerbated by personal pain and grief. Through the crying and wailing of those suffering (the majority probably without any pain relief or even antibiotics), the woman began to sing the Haitian National Anthem. Her voice rang out as she lifted the spirits of those around her and soon the entire hospital had burst into song. I am certain that any survivors from that moment will remember her bravery and resilience for the rest of their lives.

The earthquake in Haiti evoked emotion in us all, whether we were directly or indirectly impacted by it. Natural disasters of this kind tend to guide us to take stock of our lives and remind us what is truly important and what is not. Adversity too, enables us to look inward and grow from our experiences. This depends, of course, on how we as individuals deal with conflict and crises during our life’s journey; it is all perspective.

Haiti’s crisis has touched hearts across the globe and not only has it brought out the best of the human spirit in many but also a determined sense of duty to help our fellow man in a time of need. Celebrities such as George Clooney have taken the initiative to use their status to help raise funds for the Western Hemisphere’s poorest nation. Closer to home, BC students are doing their part to contribute to the cause. Collections of non-perishable items such as canned meat, protein bars and powdered drinks together with survival supplies such as batteries, blankets and first aid kits are being collected on all campuses. Students are also being encouraged to make donations to reputable charity organizations such as Food For The Poor and The American Red Cross.

Let us not forget the people of Haiti with their immense bravery, their will to survive and fight on. Their battle is far from over. In times of our own stress, think back to the woman in the hospital whose voice rang out amidst the sounds of suffering and the smell of death. These brave people gave strength and hope to others who at that moment in time had lost their way.
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Broward College Bookstores are owned and operated by the college.
Students attend all-day journalism boot camp

BY MEGAN FINNERTY
SPORTS EDITOR

SOUTH-- Michael Koretzky, Florida Atlantic University’s Press Adviser, walked up to the podium, cracked out his whip, got out his silver dollars and began throwing them across the room.

Some people laughed, some people looked around the room, and others knew what was coming next. Koretzky, a freelance layout/copy editor for some supermarket tabloids, knows how to use his witty sense of humor to make people listen and remember his words. “The charisma is overwhelming,” said Whitney Johnston, journalist major at BC. “He was definitely my favorite out of all of the speakers.”

The Fourth annual Journalism Boot Camp was held once again on the Tigtartal Lake Center on Jan. 29. This all-day event is held for students with an interest in journalism or any area of communications.

“It’s pretty rare to have so many working journalists in one room to work with students,” said Clay Cherry, Deputy Director of BrowardBulldog.org. There were many guest speakers invited to give advice and discuss important issues in the journalism field. The students heard presentations about blogging, photography, news reporting, internships, sports writing and much more.

Clayton Gutzmour, staff writer for The Observer, attended the event because he wanted to get more insight into the journalism industry. “I feel like I will get more information from the professionals that are actually in the department. This event was a huge eye-opener for me because now I know there are more ways to broadcast myself.”

Gutzmour was especially interested in the workshop presented by Seth Liss, who spoke about online journalism. Liss, the Deputy Online Editor of The Sun-Sentinel, emphasized the importance of online blogging and Twitter in today’s technological age.

One of the many guest speakers included Brittany Wallman, senior staff writer at the Sun-Sentinel. She enlightened the students about what it means to be a mainstream reporter and described what a typical day in her shoes would be like.

“Planning a career in journalism is a little bit risky now with all of the newspapers folding and the uncertainty,” said Wallman.

“So it’s really encouraging to me as a die-hard journalist to see younger people committing to this great, fun career.”

Adviser to The Observer, Jennifer Shapiro, organized the event and was pleased with the guest speakers. “It’s always amazing to me just how willing the professionals are to take time out of their busy jobs and share their wisdom with students,” she said.

Shapiro said when planning the event she had thought of what session topics would be interesting and informational for the students. “When I contact the professional journalists they are always willing to share their wisdom with students,” Shapiro stated. “They always say that they would love to come back.”

The students that attended this free, all-day event, received breakfast, lunch, t-shirts and pens. The BC Bookstore also donated notebooks and tote bags.

Anyone unable to attend this years’ Journalism Bootcamp event who would like to learn more about the speakers or topics that were presented, can e-mail Shapiro at js@observermail.broward.edu.

To join The Observer send an email to observer@mail.broward.edu or call (754) 273-LEAD.

BC’s Marine Center at Miami Boat Show

BY BUZZ LAMB
STAFF WRITER

MARINE CENTER-- Think boating isn’t affordable? Think again. Even through consumers continue to watch their budgets and prioritize discretionary income and expense, it has been estimated that more than 100,000 boaters and potential boat buyers will be looking for deals and financing options at the Miami International Boat Show.

The 69th Annual Miami Boat Show cruises into town Feb. 11-15, 2010. The five-day event draws tens of thousands of visitors each year, as well as over 2,000 exhibitors from around the world.

While recreational boating in the U.S. is perceived to be an activity for the affluent, the vast majority of boaters are middle-class participants. According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association’s 2008 Recreational Boating Statistical Abstract, approximately 75 percent of boat owners have a household income under $100,000 and an estimated 95 percent of boats on the water today are trailerable boats that are 26 feet or less.

In keeping with the reasonably priced format, boat show organizers say the Affordability Pavilion will return for the second year. The pavilion will showcase boats for those with smaller budgets, highlighting pricing options and displaying boats for as low as $250 or less. For the first time, the Miami International Boat Show is offering the United States Coast Guard’s course in the Big Game Room Feb. 13 and 14 from 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. The course will teach what every skipper’s right-hand-man should understand while underway: topic are said to include boater’s language, basic navigation rules, environmental protection and more.

According to a recent press release, other attractions include the new Guy Harvey Artists Pavilion; a Friday evening question and answer experience with Chris Fischer, host of National Geographic’s “Expedition Great White”; Miss GEICO, the world’s fastest racing boat; and more.

In the event someone wishes to get more caught up in boating, specifically the technical aspects of the boating business, information regarding becoming part of the industry will be available at the show as well. Oscar Vargas, technical education recruiter and marketing specialist for Broward College’s (BC) Marine Program said that BC will have a presence at the Miami boat Show this year as well.

Vargas will set up a 10-foot by 10-foot display for BC.

“We will have information and brochures available regarding our marine program. ‘There will be four student volunteers manning the booth on a rotating schedule,’ he said. Vargas added that in addition to the students, instructors Charles Harper and Alvaro Lopez, along with himself and Associate Dean Dan Jones will be at the booth to answer questions. "I'm in charge of transportation programs, will be at the booth from time to time as well," Vargas said.

According to Vargas, BC is the only school in South Florida that offers a degree in marine technology. Vargas said that the next entry into the two-year program will occur in mid-May. Vargas said it is important to note that the curriculum has been approved by the American Boat and Yacht Council and BC has been classified as a Center of Excellence by that organization. For more information about the marine program at BC contact Vargas at ovargas@broward.edu or call 954-201-8616.
Tibet’s holy leader to speak on campus

By Farrah Fleitman
Staff writer

CENTRAL—“Do not speak—unless it improves on silence.” This popular Buddhist saying is just one of many philosophies that His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet will be discussing when he visits BC on Feb. 23 and 24.

The Dalai Lama is a Buddhist leader, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and according to Rivka Spiro, BC Public Relations Specialist, “one of the most inspirational figures of our time.”

Two events will take place in order to ensure students, faculty and invited guests have an opportunity to experience his insight, wisdom and vivid picture of peace firsthand.

Together with NSU, BC will host a talk about “Universal Responsibility” on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the arena at NSU’s Don Taft University Center. At the event, an honorary BC baccalaureate degree will be presented to the Dalai Lama by President J. David Armstrong Jr. and Jim Lansing, president of the faculty senate.

“Topics such as global compassion and the individual, the purpose of life, how to achieve happiness and the human need for love will be discussed. Individual happiness can contribute in a profound and effective way to the overall improvement of our entire human community,” the Dalai Lama said.

Seating for this event is limited. Free tickets will be made available to BC students on a first-come, first-serve basis at the cashier’s offices on all campuses between Feb. 2 and Feb. 16. One ticket per student will be handed out with a valid, current student ID. Faculty and staff will also be able to pick up tickets from the cashier’s office beginning on Feb. 17.

Transportation to and from the event will be provided. A shuttle bus will take ticket holders from the Central Campus parking garage to the arena at NSU.

Additionally, the Dalai Lama will be speaking about “The Responsibility of Higher Education in Today’s Global Society” on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. in Central Campus’ Bailey Hall. President Armstrong will moderate the discussion between the Dalai Lama and a group of presidents from several Florida colleges and universities. Tickets to the Feb. 24 event, offered to BC faculty and staff, are by invitation only.

Following the public talks in Florida, the Dalai Lama will continue and give teachings overseas, in India and Switzerland.

For more information on His Holiness, visit www.dalailama.com.

PHOTO COURTESY www.ASTRONOMYWEEKLY.COM

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

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Come hear the Dalai Lama speak!

“UNIVERSAL RESPONSIBILITY”
FEB. 23
9:30 A.M.
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Annual job fair comes to North Campus

BY LISA LEUNG-TAT
NORTH BUREAU CHIEF

NORTH—In order to help equip students with the tools they need to succeed, North Campus is gearing up to host their annual Job Fair on Feb. 17 at the Omni Building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is organized by Heidi Schwarz, Dean of Student Development and Tina Hill, Career and Technical Job Developer. This year the event will have new sponsors to further help students.

“It is the first time that we are working in conjunction with WorkForce One and Family Success Administration Division of Broward County,” said Hill.

About 50 participants will be on hand hosting workshops, conducting interviews and helping tweak resumes, which will ultimately help students get the jobs they want. Hill and Schwarz want students to think of this event not only as an opportunity to find a job but also as an opportunity to gain resources that can be used for future endeavors like networking and researching jobs.

Students can speak to employers about what majors led them to their career path, showcase themselves as prospective interns to companies that interest them or just walk around, observe and do some networking.

Some of the companies expected to be there are Allied Health Institute, Broward County Waste Management, Broward County Sheriff’s Office, GL Staffing and Crystal Springs Bottled Water Company. Also present will be Broward College’s Career & Technical Job Developer, North Bureau Chief and North Broward Hospital District.

As the event draws closer there will be more information about what companies are going to be there.

“We’re expecting about 1,000 people to attend,” Schwarz said. “This is usually a very popular event at Broward College.” The job fair is opened to both students and the surrounding community.

While at the job fair attendees can also donate blood in the Blood Mobile. Other staff will also be available to perform usual health screenings such as blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol checks.

Hill and Schwarz want students to keep in mind that business attire is the appropriate dress code for this event because they will be presenting themselves not only to employed professionals but prospective employers as well. They believe this event is a great opportunity for students to make a lasting first impression.

Music and movies honor Black History Month

BY LISA LEUNG-TAT
NORTH BUREAU CHIEF

Initially recognized as Negro History Week, the month was chosen because of two significant birthdays: abolitionist Frederick Douglass on Feb. 4 and Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12, the president responsible for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.

Carter and Jesse E. Moorland wanted to create an avenue where the black population could be educated about their culture and gain a sense of pride about who they are as a people. Hoping to enrich their lives through literature, the organization they founded was called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and provided schools, clubs and groups with the notes and information to embark on this task.

In 1976, the week-long celebration was extended to a month and it has since become an observance which is acknowledged by the entire nation.

North Campus will be alive with celebrations for Black History Month! The events calendar sponsored by Student Life, is pulsing with activities to educate and entertain. From Feb. 1 to the 25 there will be featured poets, musical performances and video presentations to attend. Louis Ramey, comedian extraordinare and a finalist from “Last Comic Standing” will be in building 46, room 152 at 8 p.m. on Feb. 2.

A street fair will be conducted in the breezeway from 12p.m. to 2p.m. on Feb. 3 and half a day from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. on Feb. 5. The events are headed by R & B singer Rachel Brown whose performance is slated to be a memorable experience. On Feb. 9 to the 15 take an in depth look into the lives of notable African-Americans who have contributed to the history that makes this month’s celebration what it is today.

Back by popular demand, the “Chocolate Festival” will be held on Feb. 10 in the Omni Auditorium from 11a.m. – 3p.m. All of the clubs on campus have put together a show to educate their organizations and this year’s theme is “Tropical Island.”

Special video presentations will include “A Journey to Change” which is the story of President Barack Obama from childhood to his historical achievement as President of the United States and “Voices of Civil Rights”, which features the triumphs of African-Americans. Some people included in the film are boxer Muhammad Ali, Marian Anderson, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the honorable Thurgood Marshall and Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens. The narration is done by President Obama himself and has not yet been released for sale to the public.

On Feb. 23, guest poet Paul D will be at the poetry slam in the Coffee House at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and a final video production on Feb. 25 aptly titled “King, Co. B, and the D.O.” highlights the journey of Martin Luther King, Jr., and leaves you inspired to continue achieving greatness through your education at Broward College.
Donation location set up in South Florida

“We are proud to partner with Soles4Souls for this nationwide effort and invite the public to clean out their closets and get involved in improving the hopes of so many people affected by this terrible tragedy,” said Robert Vespa, Director of Business Development, in a recent press conference. “A pair of shoes will help improve the safety and health of every Haitian as they struggle to rebuild their shattered country,” he said.

Many BC students also support the Soles4Souls initiative. “I think it’s awesome that people around the country are donating their shoes to this cause. Our school should get involved too,” said sophomore BC student Adriana Leto.

“Posters would be good too. The school should put the address of where they have the containers in the area. I just think this is an awesome opportunity,” she said.

Soles4Souls is going to great lengths to get Americans involved in this project. Many shoe stores, including Finish Line, have committed to helping collect footwear to support Soles4Souls’ goal of donating more than one million pairs of shoes to affected areas in Haiti.

Beginning Jan. 22, customers at Finish Line will have the opportunity to drop off their gently worn pairs of shoes. All donations will directly support relief efforts. The retailer will also offer a $5 discount on a new pair of footwear with the donation of a used pair, subject to certain terms and conditions.

In a recent press conference, Glenn Lyons, Finish Line chief executive officer said, “We are proud that our customers have donated more than 200,000 pairs over the past two years to our friends at Soles4Souls. We want to continue that partnership and are happy to be a destination for our customers to contribute to Haitian Relief.”

In 2004 after a disastrous tsunami hit Southeast Asia, Wayne Elsey, the founder and CEO of Soles4Souls, saw the devastation and felt he couldn’t sit back and watch anymore. One night, while watching news coverage of the damage, he saw a picture of a single shoe washing up on the beach. That triggered a thought, a few calls to some other executives in the footwear industry and eventually the donation of 250,000 shoes to victims in the impacted countries.

About a year after that tsunami, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and Elsey called the same group of friends. They gathered together and sent over a million pairs of shoes down to the Gulf Coast communities affected by the hurricane.

Thinking back on the sudden catastrophes around the world and how he has helped, Elsey decided to start the Soles4Souls organization in 2006.

For more information about how to get involved in South Florida and donate shoes to the victims of Haiti and other areas, please visit www.giveshoes.org.
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Just around the corner is the national day of romance! Some are looking forward to their flowers and candy from their Valentine, but not everyone enjoys a romantic dinner and a chick flick. Others are still looking for a Valentine to share that special day with. Either way, BC students have had their share of all sides of Valentine’s Day.

What is the worst Valentine’s Day gift?
“Gift card, from Wal-mart.”

Marielle Michel
Sophomore

What was your worst date ever?
“It was when my dog died. It sucked.”

Juan Medina
Sophomore

What is the worst possible Valentine’s Day date?
“If he forgot completely.”

Nehemie “Mimi” St. Georges
Sophomore

 Ideal Valentine’s Gifts

1-3 months:
- Flowers
- Stuffed bear
- Chocolate

3-6 months:
- Gift card
- Mixed cd
- Cologne / perfume

6-9 months:
- Sporting event tickets
- Dinner
- Concert tickets

9 months to 1 year:
- Jewelry
- Blu-ray player
- Home appliances

1 year and plus:
- Weekend vacation
- Spa day
- Adopt a Pet

Design By: Melissa Correa and Liz Fleming
What would be the perfect Valentine's gift?

"I don't really expect too many things, so..."

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?

"I have my plans, it's a surprise."

What would be the perfect Valentine's gift?

"A flat screen TV."

Student Valentine’s Requests

Stephanie Brossard, 19
SEEEKING: Funny, outgoing, athletic, smart & knows how to have a good time. Taller than me: 5'8" good-looking, I don’t have a type, just male. No females please.

Andrea Perez, 21
SEEEKING: Someone who is fun and I get along with. I totally go for the tall, dark & handsome. He has to like going out and doing stuff, instead of just staying home.

Toobie Louissant, 27
SEEEKING: An honest, has to take care of herself, down-to-earth, good communication, into movies & dancing kind of girl. She doesn’t have to be athletic but have some interest in sports.

Crystal Langaigne, 22
SEEEKING: Spontaneous & romantic person, to sweep me off of my feet. Has to be tall “At least 5’6” to ride this ride.” No saggin’ pants, has to drive a decent car that you can’t hear from down the street.
Entertainment

Channing Tatum steps it up in “Dear John”

“The relationships in this movie will bring a tear to your eye.”

BY CRISTINA MIRALLES
CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

If you like movies like “The Notebook” and “A Walk to Remember” or want to see a sweet romantic film with a heart-wrenching twist, I suggest the new film “Dear John.” This romantic film, written by Nicholas Sparks, has many unexpected events that will blow you away and leave you wondering. “Dear John” demonstrates a man’s love for his girlfriend, his father and his country making it a heart warming and sentimental film.

Sparks seems to have a recurring theme of gaining and losing love that he carried into the film “Dear John.” Another similar theme found in Spark’s entire collection of movies and novels is that the main characters have a unique relationship with their fathers. In the movie, John and his father, Mr. Tyree (Richard Jenkins), had a strong and close relationship when John was a younger child and as John grew older, they grew apart.

The romantic qualities of the film may sound cliché, but are quite complex.

John, an American soldier (Channing Tatum), comes home during his leave from the army and meets Savannah (Amanda Seyfried), a college student that has returned home for spring break. John and Savannah fall in love after only two weeks and figure out a way to live apart for a year while John is in the army. He is faced with the difficult decision of choosing between his new found love and his beloved country.

Director Lasse Hallstrom must also love a good sappy love movie. After directing “Casanova” and “Chocolat,” he carried over his passion into “Dear John.” Hallstrom’s choice of actors was phenomenal. They all showed great chemistry on the big screen and made the movie very believable.

In a movie with so many mixed emotions between the characters, the cast did a great job of persuading the audience that they really felt those emotions. The feelings between the characters made the movie interesting.

Similarly to her role as Sophie in “Mamma Mia,” Seyfried has once again demonstrated her love and charm as a young girl in the movie “Dear John.”

Unlike his character in “Step Up,” Tatum did not dazzle the audience with any dance moves this time around, but he showed a more serious and emotional side of himself. It is as if he is all grown up! He won over the audience with the way he showed emotion effortlessly and made his character seem more convincing.

The relationships in this movie will bring a tear to your eye. Even the bond between John and his father is expressive and heartfelt. It is a teary-eyed, romantic and funny movie.

I recommend “Dear John” as a must-see film. It gives a positive outlook on true love and the hardships a person in love will go through. I give “Dear John” two thumbs up!
Entertainment

MEL’S BACK ON THE BIG SCREEN

BY SKYLAR SIEGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After seven years away from the big screen, Mel Gibson returns in the quintessential role of the tough detective and loving father. Classic Gibson, he seems similar to his role in the film “Ransom,” in “Edge of Darkness,” Gibson plays Tom Craven, a veteran Boston homicide detective and single father whose daughter Emma is murdered on the front steps of his house in suburban Roslindale, Mass.

Emma, played by actress Bojana Novakovic, returns home from her job as a research assistant. Craven picks her up at the train station and she is coughing the entire car ride home and throwing up just moments after entering the house. There, she gets worse and begins to panic. Just as her father ushers her out the door to take her to the hospital, someone in a passing car yells “Craven” and blasts her away through the glass door.

After seeing his daughter Emma shot down viciously in front of him, Boston police detective Craven sets out to find revenge on those responsible. Thinking the killer was aiming for him, Craven’s guilt and grief is what drives him to investigate the case himself.

Craven gradually learns that he was not the target, as he first assumed, causing him to investigate everything and everyone. This sets off a chain of events where Craven discovers the secrets of Emma’s life.

For such a masculine movie, the film is surprisingly emotional and the quieter conversational moments between Craven and the visions he constantly sees of his daughter as a child bring a poignant tone to his character. Those moments were extremely touching, especially for any father and daughter watching the movie.

“Edge of Darkness” is not your usual action film, it incorporates action and sentiment, attracting the viewer to Craven’s every move. For Gibson, this role was really a terrific comeback vehicle which allowed Gibson’s maturity as an actor to be displayed and is ensured to lift the spirits of the fans who missed him. Love him or hate him, Gibson is a compelling figure in contemporary cinema.

“Edge of Darkness” is a great return to form for Mel Gibson. It is a film that is both action-packed and emotionally moving. It is a film that will keep you on the edge of your seat and make you feel all the emotions. It is a film that is truly a testament to Gibson’s acting abilities. It is a film that is truly a must-see. It is a film that is truly a masterpiece. It is a film that is truly a masterpiece of cinema.

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Feb. 10 – Terry Myers Orchestra
Tribute to Benny Goodman
Mar. 10 – Tony DeSare, Jazz Vocalist
Moon River, Mercer & Me
Apr. 14 – Gold Coast Jazz Society Band
South Florida Jazz Divas
May 12 – Negroni’s Trio
Jazz on the Latin Side

The Best in Classic Jazz!

The T revi Fountain, the Coliseum and the Pantheon can all be said to be synonymous with the romance and history of one city: Rome. One thing that is waiting to be added to this elite list of recognizable structures that embody the beauty of Rome is the new box office romance “When in Rome.”

Beth Harper (Kristin Bell) and Nick Beamon (Josh Duhamel) are two people who live distinctly different lives in the United States who meet by chance at a wedding that is ironically thousands of miles away in Rome. Beth attends her sister’s wedding and stumbles across Nick, the groom’s best friend.

The film would sound like a normal romance if it wasn’t for the odd twist. Beth grabs a handful of coins from the local wishing fountain that is supposed to hold the answer to true love. It turns out that the myth of the fountain is true and many suitors flee to find Beth since she pulled their coins.

Outrageous men flock to Beth across the city of Rome. Some of the unrequited and maniacal admirers were played by Danny Devito, Jon Heder, Will Arnett and Dax Sheppard.

All of Beth’s the very peculiar admirers do cliché things that would drive any non-coffee drinking audience member to a local Starbucks to sober up from the banalities. The first ten minutes of “When in Rome” easily sends red flags to those who are anti-romantic comedies.

In fact, if this film was a drinking game and I had to take a shot for every cliché moment, I would’ve been drunk before scene two.

Come on, were the writers thinking that this was an animated film when they wrote it? The level of silliness in the film is catastrophic. The viewer may have a few laughs at the predictably asinine moments, like clumsy Nick’s embarrassing ringtone going off during church. What about the adolescent and expected hilarity of Beth getting a piece of food stuck in between her teeth? Does the word “obvious” come to mind or did I just become psychic?

However, the film does seem to have the advantage of a good soundtrack. The artists on the album include Katy Perry, 3OH!3 and Jason Mraz. I suggest that music lovers buy the soundtrack versus a ticket to the foolish romantic platitude.

“Edge of Darkness” is a great return to form for Mel Gibson. It is a film that is both action-packed and emotionally moving. It is a film that will keep you on the edge of your seat and make you feel all the emotions. It is a film that is truly a testament to Gibson’s acting abilities. It is a film that is truly a must-see. It is a film that is truly a masterpiece. It is a film that is truly a masterpiece of cinema.

The Italian may have the saying “Tutte le strade portano a Roma,” meaning “All roads lead to Rome,” but my recommendation does not lead to anything except a warning to moviegoers everywhere.

“When in Rome,” just stay at home

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The T revi Fountain, the Coliseum and the Pantheon can all be said to be synonymous with the romance and history of one city: Rome. One thing that is waiting to be added to this elite list of recognizable structures that embody the beauty of Rome is the new box office romance “When in Rome.”

Beth Harper (Kristin Bell) and Nick Beamon (Josh Duhamel) are two people who live distinctly different lives in the United States who meet by chance at a wedding that is ironically thousands of miles away in Rome. Beth attends her sister’s wedding and stumbles across Nick, the groom’s best friend.

The film would sound like a normal romance if it wasn’t for the odd twist. Beth grabs a handful of coins from the local wishing fountain that is supposed to hold the answer to true love. It turns out that the myth of the fountain is true and many suitors flee to find Beth since she pulled their coins.

Outrageous men flock to Beth across the city of Rome. Some of the unrequited and maniacal admirers were played by Danny Devito, Jon Heder, Will Arnett and Dax Sheppard.

All of Beth’s the very peculiar admirers do cliché things that would drive any non-coffee drinking audience member to a local Starbucks to sober up from the banalities. The first ten minutes of “When in Rome” easily sends red flags to those who are anti-romantic comedies.

In fact, if this film was a drinking game and I had to take a shot for every cliché moment, I would’ve been drunk before scene two.

Come on, were the writers thinking that this was an animated film when they wrote it? The level of silliness in the film is catastrophic. The viewer may have a few laughs at the predictably asinine moments, like clumsy Nick’s embarrassing ringtone going off during church. What about the adolescent and expected hilarity of Beth getting a piece of food stuck in between her teeth? Does the word “obvious” come to mind or did I just become psychic?

However, the film does seem to have the advantage of a good soundtrack. The artists on the album include Katy Perry, 3OH!3 and Jason Mraz. I suggest that music lovers buy the soundtrack versus a ticket to the foolish romantic platitude.

“Edge of Darkness” is a great return to form for Mel Gibson. It is a film that is both action-packed and emotionally moving. It is a film that will keep you on the edge of your seat and make you feel all the emotions. It is a film that is truly a testament to Gibson’s acting abilities. It is a film that is truly a must-see. It is a film that is truly a masterpiece. It is a film that is truly a masterpiece of cinema.

The Italian may have the saying “Tutte le strade portano a Roma,” meaning “All roads lead to Rome,” but my recommendation does not lead to anything except a warning to moviegoers everywhere.

“When in Rome,” just stay at home

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The T revi Fountain, the Coliseum and the Pantheon can all be said to be synonymous with the romance and history of one city: Rome. One thing that is waiting to be added to this elite list of recognizable structures that embody the beauty of Rome is the new box office romance “When in Rome.”

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Give your heart to charity this Valentine’s Day

BY WHITNEY JOHNSTON DESIGNER

This Valentine’s Day, students, faculty and staff of Broward College (BC) will be giving their hearts to charity. Beginning at 7 a.m. on Feb. 14, BC will team up with the community to raise money and awareness at the first ever Tour de Broward - Ride, Run and Walk for Joe’s Kids.

The event, sponsored by the ANF Group Inc. and presented by xMotion, is aimed at raising money for Broward County’s first stand-alone children’s hospital.

Currently, Joe DiMaggio’s Children’s Hospital is housed within Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood. Here, 476 pediatric patients treat an increasing number of children each year. Plans to build this hospital began five years ago.

“The new hospital will serve as an expansion of services and will be connected via a bridge to the existing hospital,” said Kerting Baldwin, the director of media relations for Memorial Healthcare Systems. “Upon completion of the project, Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital will have 204 licensed beds.”

In October 2007 the fundraising campaign began. The total cost to build the hospital will be between $120 million and $150 million. “The portion of costs that we must fundraise is $36 million. We are three-fourths of the way there,” said Jolin Grimes, the director of community relations for Memorial Healthcare Systems.

The fundraising goal for Tour de Broward is $250,000. BC is helping to meet this target by setting its own goal of $2,500.

“Key organizations such as Student Government and Phi Theta Kappa on each campus have mentioned attending, and the women’s basketball team will be running,” said Neil Cohen, the associate vice president of student programs and development services. Cohen, a self-described avid runner, said that he is not planning to participate due to injury but not to be surprised if he spontaneously starts sprinting across the park.

The 5K run will begin at 7 a.m.

RUN: The 5K run will be held within the park.

WALK: The 3K family walk will be held within the park.

RIDE: The 50K and 100K bike rides will begin in the park, follow a route up to Parkland and circle back to end at the park.

“Thanks for the invitation. It’s great to be back home,” said Dr. Willis Holcombe at the January 2010 Board of Trustees meeting. Holcombe, whom the Broward College downtown center is named after, was introduced by BC President, J. David Armstrong, Jr., who jokingly said Holcombe was working towards his degree in business administration.

Dr. Willis Holcombe

I was working towards his degree in journalism.

Former President comes back home

BY BUZZ LAMB STAFF WRITER

Feb. 8, 2010

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“Take it personal.”

This is the quote that the BC Lady Seahawks Basketball team lives by on a daily basis. To them, this means that one needs to take everything as a fuel to add to their fire so that every single time they step onto the floor, they bring it. It means the attitude and confidence to win.

Seahawks coach Kevin Johnson says, “Everyday at practice you will get better or get worse, you will never stay status quo.”

This past season sophomore Sarah Pasetsky, guard, was named a notable performer among women’s players in the Jan. 5 poll. She averaged 21 points, nine rebounds and 4.3 assists in three games. “It is a great honor to be recognized for my hard work. It has been a long season with its ups and downs but every day we go out and work hard,” says Pasetsky. “I could not have done it without abundance of hard work, my coaches, Coach Johnson and Coach AB and, of course, my teammates.”

“Sarah puts the team on her back and goes out every night ready to play,” said Johnson when asked about her achievements.

As the season progresses, the Lady Seahawks work hard to improve everyday and have become a lot closer as a team, on and off of the court. Their record is 3-13 and their next game is against Miami-Dade College on the Feb. 10. Come out and support your Seahawks!
Census stirs up racial distress

By Vanessa Chang
Staff Writer

In March, the 2010 census will be mailed out to every home in America. The census is taken every ten years as a way for the government to distribute funds throughout our communities. It is a simple ten question document that asks questions regarding your home and your race, especially your race.

According to Time magazine in an article by Barbara Kiviat “The immediate reason the word ‘Negro’ is on the census is simple enough: in the 2000 census more than 56,000 people wrote in ‘Negro’ to describe their identity — even though it was already on the form. Some people, it seems, still strongly identify with the term, which used to be a perfectly polite designation. To blindly delete it is to risk incorrectly counting the unknown number of [presumably older] black Americans who identify with the term.”

I don’t plan on filling out my form from the Census Bureau. I hereby decline the offer to take part in a poll that groups the words black, African American, and “Negro” in one category. I will no longer let the stigma of segregation roam. Honestly it doesn’t matter how many [presumably older] black Americans identify with the word “Negro,” I feel that it is a new age and a new time. America’s president, Barack Obama, is African American, do you think he refers to himself as a “Negro?” At the end of the day why does race play such a vital role?

I am white, brown, tan, yellow, and black. What does my race have to do with the government improving the conditions within my community?

I am astonished that the U.S. Census Bureau would even group the options of black, African American and ‘Negro’ together. The word alone has such a negative association with the struggles of the black community.

I feel that in 2010 for someone to refer to themselves as a “Negro” is just unnecessary. Will Obama feel compelled to do something about this when he receives his census document in the mail? Are Americans just going to sit aside and let the word “Negro” be the new African American? It is time to let go.

According to the website “We can’t move forward till you mail it back,” but how do we move forward if the U.S Census Bureau prints the word “Negro” on government document. If the bureau is trying to appeal to America as a whole then why not classify all people as citizens and immigrants.

The color of your skin shouldn’t be a crutch or something you depend on to get you what you want. Your mind and the person within should get you what you want. I would like to be referred to as a person.

When the government prints the word “Negro,” it just undermines what so many people fought for in our history. Maybe the small yet powerful word doesn’t bother you. So the next time someone asks you what race you are simply reply “Negro.” How does that sound?
A Disney internship: Where dreams come true

BY ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

The idea for this piece did not come from me trying to rebel from a paper. I was forced to write, nor did it come out of a project that got too out of hand. No, the idea for this piece came from a question that I asked myself one early morning while in the Disney College Program. I found myself sitting on the bus going into work asking myself a bunch of questions, the biggest one that stood out to me was the question I knew most teachers would ask: “What did you learn from working at the Walt Disney Company?” This question was something I couldn’t answer right on the spot, though, I had only been in the program for about three weeks and had only learned what they had taught me. I had learned the trademark Disney smile. I had learned that the answer was always yes, I had learned camera functions and the list continues on and on from there. The answer was vague for me at that point. I would need to fully experience the program for me to get a grasp of what I wanted to really experience it. I can drone on and on about what to expect, but every experience is going to be different. The program is a five to seven month stay at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, where college students around the world get together to work, study and play. It provides real world experience for the student and an opportunity to learn how to work in a major company. The concept, without going into grand detail is simple enough: sign up, get a role and start working. I found that there were things that stood out. I loved every moment there. I found that even though my job was hard and I hated it, I equally loved it. I equally hated it.

Now, for one to fully understand the program one has to really experience it. I can drone on and on about what to expect, but every experience is going to be different. The program is a five to seven month stay at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, where college students around the world get together to work, study and play. It provides real world experience for the student and an opportunity to learn how to work in a major company. The concept, without going into grand detail is simple enough: sign up, get a role and start working. I found that there were things that stood out. I loved every moment there. I found that even though my job was hard and I hated it, I equally loved it. I equally hated it.

Now that the experience is over, I am able to truthfully answer the question, “What did you learn from working at the Walt Disney Company?” It is an easy answer: I learned about myself and everything I am capable of. That is the single greatest lesson any student can learn in their entire career.

A Disney internship: Where dreams come true
Kassim Osgood, wide receiver for the San Diego Chargers, mixes cement with BC student Norma Garcia and a Bank of America volunteer.

Donovan McNabb, quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles, finishes a mural.

BC students Jessica Nielsen Babapour and Gabriel Ballester build picnic tables together.

Photo by Whitney Johnston
Photo by Jessica Poitevien
Photo by Liz Fleming

By Whitney Johnston

“...building stuff,” said Broward College (BC) student Sherry Akanni, political science major. “[It’s] hands on, getting dirty.”

Akanni and fellow BC student Norma Gracia, public administration major, did not care that they would be working alongside professional football players. They spent the day helping build a playground from the ground up because they believe in giving back.

On Jan. 28, three days before Pro Bowl, several hundred volunteers gathered at RISE Academy School of Science and Technology in Lauderhill, Fla. to replace a lonely hopscotch court with a playground, picnic benches and a large mural. The project was led by KaBOOM! in partnership with the NFL, NFL PLAYERS and league sponsor Bank of America.

KaBOOM! is a non-profit organization founded in 1995. Their vision is to create “a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America.” They host approximately 200 charity events each year to meet this goal. RISE Academy, a two-year-old elementary charter school, is a converted warehouse, and recess was held in the old loading docks. Carmella Morton, Ed.D. and the founder/executive director of the school, knew something needed to be done so she applied for a grant through KaBOOM!.

In honor of the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl being held in South Florida, the NFL was also working with KaBOOM! to find the perfect community project to work on, according to Anna Isaacson, the manager of community affairs for the NFL.

The building of the RISE Academy playground was chosen to be one of three events happening that day across South Florida as part of the first-ever NFL PLAY 60 Community Blitz, the largest community program in the league’s history. NFL PLAY 60 is the league’s campaign to “tackle childhood obesity” by encouraging kids to get at least 60 minutes of playtime and exercise every day. For KaBOOM!, the playground is project number 1,741 since their founding.

According to Vernon Jones, the college reach-out program director at BC, more than 30 BC students signed up to volunteer for the project. Working alongside them were parents and staff of the school, people from the local community, ESPN commentators, NFL management, Pro Bowl players and Bank of America employees.

“We are always thrilled to be a part of history,” said Maria C. Alonso, the senior vice president and South Florida market manager of corporate social responsibility for Bank of America. “And, how cool is it that we have Pro Bowlers from across the country here making a difference for us in South Florida?”

After morning practices, more than 15 Pro Bowl players showed up to lend a helping hand. Most of the Pro Bowlers were not new to participating in community service projects. For Kassim Osgood of the San Diego Chargers, this was his fourth playground build and Donovan McNabb of the Philadelphia Eagles said he has spent ten years volunteering within his community.

“I believe in making change. Anytime you can aide in that by making a better path for the kids to grow up and be successful and safe and enjoy life, you begin to see better results,” said McNabb.

Despite everyone clamoring for face time with the players, the real stars of the day were the RISE Academy students. Unable to calm the students’ excitement, faculty allowed them to take peeks at their new playground throughout the day. Fourth-grader Brianna said she likes the playground because it has rock climbing, slides and colorful paintings.

The students also drew a crowd of community volunteers and Pro Bowl players alike during various on-stage performances. Not even Osgood’s moonwalk across the stage could top them.

For more information on KaBOOM! visit kaboom.org. For more information on NFL PLAY 60 visit www.nflrush.com/play60.