

News

Gas shortages changing the way Tornados travel

by Joseph Chilton
Editor-in-Chief

The Brevard College golf team was planning their return from the Weber Fall Invitational in Babson Park, Florida on Sept. 23 when they ran into an obstacle that has been an impediment to almost all citizens trying to make travel plans this fall: there was no gas.

The team ended up staying an extra night in Florida rather than playing gas station roulette on the highway. With current gas prices, it ended up being cheaper to stay an extra night in a hotel anyway.

This is just one example of the obstacles that the current gas pinch presents to Brevard College athletic programs.

With gas hovering at just under \$4 per gallon, as compared to around \$3 per gallon last year,

travel costs are much higher for the teams this year.

"We did a cost analysis over the summer, and found that if we traveled the same way this year as we did last year, chartering buses and taking long trips, it would have cost us three times as much this year," Pate said.

Pate says that her department has implemented several strategies to help offset costs.

"We have really tried to emphasize regional travel. We have very few games more than three hours away this year unless the coaches do fundraising themselves," Pate said.

Teams are also riding in vans much more this season, instead of chartering buses as they often did last season.

For instance, the volleyball team chartered to almost every game last season, but will only use a charter bus one time this season.

The governing bodies that run the athletic programs in which Brevard competes have also

brought forth strategies to help curb costs.

The South Atlantic Conference has begun discussing the possibility of having men's and women's soccer teams playing double-headers next year, similar to how the conference does with basketball now, so that the two teams can travel together.

The NCAA has also sent checks to each member school intended to help offset travel costs.

According to Pate, the situation has improved some since the initial gas shortage in the wake of Hurricane Ike, but there are still some hardships on the horizon.

"That first weekend we had to borrow some gas from the school's gas reserve just to get our teams to their games and back," Pate said.

"It has gotten better. [Men's soccer coach] Juan Mascaro has crunched our budget and cut thousands of dollars. Unfortunately our student athletes will feel it while they ride on vans."

DIVERSITY PANEL



photo courtesy M. Newton



The Reserve Dining Room of Myers Cafeteria filled up on Wednesday evening in order to watch a panel discussion on the topic of diversity. The event was hosted by campus life and featured people of varying races, genders, religions and sexual orientations.