The Current Volume 18 : Issue 24

Nova Southeastern University
A group of NSU students wearing red t-shirts, carrying huge signs and marching in unison held a mock protest on campus April 10. This “fauxtest,” or fake protest, as it was called, was a demonstration held by communication studies majors who were protesting their concerns regarding NSU’s grading policy, as part of a classroom project. The students chanted together and marched through the campus airing their grievances for all to hear.

“It was an imaginary protest based on a controversial issue that affects us as students,” said Willie Wood, a senior and one of the participants. “We had the choice of doing something that affected us as students at NSU or something that affected the general population. We decided to keep it local and choose something that affected us here at NSU.” Wood, along with the others, was enrolled in a performance studies course under the communications studies major. Wood noted that the class discussed possible topics before they voted to choose the issue of grade concerns. “We thought about how other universities have standardized grading scales where a 90-96 is an A,” said Wood. “Here at NSU a 90-93 is an A, depending upon the professor’s discretion, and the numbers trickle down from there to the other grades below.” Wood said that the class was using this “fauxtest” to promote standardized grading scales across the board at the university. “To have a real test we had identical colors, identical chants and messages and identical posters,” said Wood. “As our professor told us, it is important to know the facts of every situation. It is important to expect anything whether it’s from the protestors, the spectators or whichever else.”

Chetachi Egwu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, teaches this course. “The class is a performance studies class which looks at everyday life as performance,” said Egwu. “We’ve actually been studying the use of protest as performance and decided to have a ‘fauxtest’ instead of a protest. I told them to pick an issue that they felt strongly about.” Egwu showed her students a film about the South African struggle which demonstrated the power of protest and the use of hamstring and song in protest.

NSU Law Student Plans Lie-In to Protest Lax Gun Laws in U.S.-

On April 16, 2007 at approximately 7:15 a.m., Seung-Hui Cho opened fire in one of the residential halls at Virginia Tech University, instantly killing two students in a massacre which later amounted to a total of thirty-two victims, making this the deadliest school shooting in history to date. Cho was able to purchase the handguns used in these killings quite easily under lax U.S. gun laws. Spangler said that she is very supportive of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), who has presented a bill to Congress that will close the gun show loophole throughout the country this year. “I’m leading the lie-in that will take place in front of the U.S. Supreme Court for three minutes. Then we’re going to lie down in front of the U.S. Capitol,” Spangler said. “These are weapons of war that were never supposed to be in the hands of regular civilians. We have allowed it to happen through lax laws.” Spangler said that she is very supportive of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), who has presented a bill to Congress that will close the gun show loophole throughout the country this year. “I’m leading the lie-in that will take place in front of the U.S. Supreme Court for three minutes. Then we’re going to lie down in front of the U.S. Capitol,” Spangler said. “We want to close the gun show loophole,” said Spangler. “In thirty-five states you can walk into a gun show where they have tons of firearms set up to sell guns and some of these sellers will allow you to buy guns without doing a background check first. You can be a criminal, a terrorist, or a dangerous person, or a criminal, or a dangerous person, and you can walk out with an AK, an Uzi, or a high capacity ammunition magazine, which is essentially anything containing over ten bullets.”

Spangler said that while there are some vendors who do have to provide background checks at gun shows, there are several private sellers who are allowed to sell guns without conducting background checks first. “Twenty five to fifty percent of private sellers at gun shows can sell guns without doing a background check,” said Spangler. “These are weapons of war that were never supposed to be in the hands of regular civilians. We have allowed it to happen through lax laws.” Spangler said that she is very supportive of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), who has presented a bill to Congress that will close the gun show loophole throughout the country this year. “I’m leading the lie-in that will take place in front of the U.S. Supreme Court for three minutes. 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Students. Robbed in the UC

Tanya Parnes
NSU News Editor

Dawe said that she quickly turned to her friends to inquire about her missing bag, but they all told her they had not seen it. "About a minute later, the two guys walked out of the bathroom and walked outside," said Dawe. "One of my friends ran into the bathroom to look for the bag. My friend found my bag and all of my things minus my wallet, thrown out into the trash can. I think it was really unfortunate. It just sucks. I was really disappointed," said Brunette. "Then my friend asked about her bag. I just looked up, looked around and saw the two guys walking away towards a van full of people that was waiting in the circular drive in front of the entrance to the UC. My friend ran up to the guys outside and asked them if they took the bag, and they said that they did not," said Dawe. "I had three dollars, twenty pesos, my credit card, my debit card and my student ID in my wallet. All of the items were later found inside of their van."

Dawe said that she was really upset about the fact that something like this could happen on campus. "I'm shocked that someone can just sit down and take your bag without having a conscience," said Dawe, who was even more surprised and shocked to learn that there were little children involved in the case as well. "I'm going to press charges even though I don't want to go to court. It doesn't matter if it's only petty theft or whether it was one dollar or three dollars, I just don't want to walk away without making sure that they have something on their records."

Dawe said that she was really tired and irritated about the whole incident. "The university's Public Safety officers and the Davie police were really helpful. Everyone got out here very quickly," said Dawe. "People just really need to keep their bags locked to their arms."
a month ago, a good friend of mine, Eve Carson, who was the student body president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, had her car stolen and was shot in the process. Arabnia said that she wanted to be involved in organizing the event on campus because she wants students to be aware of the loopholes associated with the purchase of guns throughout the country. "We hope to have at least 32 people because 32 people a day die from gun violence. Coincidentally, 32 people were killed that day at Virginia Tech," said Arabnia. According to the National Education Association Health Information Network Web site, more than 80 Americans die from gun violence everyday.

"We're going to come out here on the lawn in front of the Shepard Broad Law Center. We're going to take pictures as well as a video and then we're sending it to the U.S. Supreme Court," Arabnia urges anyone who has lost a loved one and wishes to participate to bring a picture or some memorabilia to be placed on their chests as they lie down on the ground in honor of the deceased. "I'm bringing orange and maroon ribbons, which are Virginia Tech's color for everyone to wear and I'll be passing out a little postcard explaining further details about the cause," said Arabnia. "I hope that this will open people's eyes. From what I have seen a lot of people in Florida are pro-guns. I hope that people will see that many have lost loved ones due to gun violence and that guns are not the answer."

Arabnia said that she is unsure about the turnout since the event is taking place during final and exams week but hopes that there is a decent showing from the NSU community. "I've gotten permission from Dean Brad Williams and Terry Morrow, who have both been very supportive," said Arabnia. "They think that it really demonstrates NSU's purpose very well." Arabnia said that school shootings, such as the recent one at Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008 in which the shooter was taking several brands of prescription medication, would never have happened if the laws weren't so loose. "This protest is not to ban guns period," said Arabnia. "There is a loophole in many states where people can buy guns at these gun shows without background checks and we would like to see that resolved."

NSU's lie-in will take place on Wednesday, April 16 at 12:30 p.m. in front of the Shepard Broad Law Center. For more information, questions, or concerns please contact Samira Arabnia at arabnias@nsu.law.nova.edu or visit http://protesteasyguns.com.
launch on Wednesday April 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. The launch is an annual event that gives students who have been published and present their literary works and visual designs.

According to Ryan Frabizio, Editor in Chief of Digressions, "It's a place that works as a small but intimate forum for those writers and artists who contributed. The event was open to the entire NSU community. Photos, paintings and other works from the various contributors were on display to give attendees the opportunity to examine these works. Authors were also given the chance to read their poems or other literary works. Some of the contributors included NSU students Chana Dukes, Iva Marc, Anthony Labourde, Ed Mark and Perry O'Connell.

This year's launch also featured a competition among the submitted works. Receiving recognition were Frabizio's submission "Midnight Crossroads Standard Time," for best poetry submission and Dukes' submission "The Library" and "The Burren, Ireland," for best fiction and best visual arts submissions, respectively.

"I probably wouldn't have gotten as pulled me in two years ago," said Frabizio. "I just sent in a couple of poems. A couple people on the staff got me and asked if I do some staff work. I said, 'Sure,' then they left, and I was in charge, and I've had fun with it since. I get a little jittery when deadlines and set dates start coming up toward the end, but I've never had a real need to panic. There's always the staff and Dr. Suzanne Ferriss, the magazine's faculty advisor, to fall back on if the need actually did arise."

Frabizio pointed out that although voluntary changes in the staff have occurred every year, they have always been positive. "I've always had a good [staff], because they're [the changes] all voluntary," said Frabizio. "They want to be there and to do stuff, so I'm pretty secure about how things will be next year and beyond. It's been fun, and it's going to feel pretty strange in a few months when I won't be hearing every couple days, "How's Digressions?" Is it starting up?" and probably stranger to hear these questions from me instead." Frabizio will be graduating this year and no longer working directly with Digressions.

For more information about Digressions, contact Ryan Frabizio at fabrizio@nova.edu or Suzanne Ferriss at ferriss@nova.edu.

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor
Speakers Probe Sikh and Indian Religion

Kristine Belizaire

Learning Institute on April 8, which covered the historical background of the Sikh religion. The lecture began by mapping out the various aspects of the Sikh and Indian marriage ceremony in 1973.

Pannu, a member of the Board of Justice, received the Distinguished Community Service award. Pannu is also a part of his culture, and his students were quite surprised to see the poor conditions in India. "America is a great country," said Pannu. "But there is ignorance at the school level and that is unfortunate."

The Sikhs do not believe in the act of idol worshipping and have created a code that people depend upon to become better individuals. Sharma described some of the gods in the Hindu religion. One of the most widely worshipped ones is Ganesha, who is the God of Obstacles and Success. Sharma also mentioned the Trinity Gods, Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

Sharma ended the lecture by reminding the audience about the importance of humility. Sharma said that the Earth is a small dot compared to many other planets. According to Sharma, people are more interested in thinking about what they want than about the wants of others. "Don't be too proud or arrogant with people," said Sharma.
Leadership Development in the Office of Ambassadors held a panel discussion on walks of life, was moderated by Marcie of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and NSU students Liana Aquino, Shane Johnson, Rachel Garbaj and Samantha Toney.

The event began with a quick discussion of the "ground rules," which were created to help promote a comfortable and respectful environment in which everyone had the chance to discuss their opinions. After that, the panelists began to introduce themselves and Reiter showed a quick presentation about common perceptions of interracial "inappropriate" relationships and how the law has treated them.

Reiter and Arcaro discussed the use of miscegenation laws in the United States that have prevented interracial dating and marriages. They also discussed the ways in which these laws had been used by the Nazis in Germany and the Afrikaners in South Africa during apartheid to prevent a "mixing" of the races. Reiter then discussed various culture role perspectives surrounding these "inappropriate" relationships. Reiter used his own marriage as an example of this cultural bias. Reiter, whose marriage to a Japanese woman barely raises an eyebrow in the US, is seen as highly inappropriate in Japan. This example helped him to demonstrate how certain races and ethnicities are "allowed" to be together and are deemed socially acceptable.

Many of the questions and most of the discussion was centered on the children who are born out of interracial relationships, as well as the ways in which that "mixing" had affected them and their families. Garbaj and Toney, who are both from "mixed" families, pointed out that they never saw the differences between their parents until it came time for them to fill out questions regarding race and ethnicity. "During the SATs, I wasn't sure what to put down," said Garbaj. "I'm both African-American and White-American. When you check two, they get mad and confused so I just checked 'other.'"

The group then began discussing their personal experiences with interracial dating, at which point Aquino and Johnson began discussing their relationship. They noted that in South Florida, there is very little animosity towards interracial couples and therefore they feel very comfortable with their relationship. Johnson did point out though that people sometimes try to come up with excuses as to why and Aquino are dating. Johnson said that it is unfair to assume that they intentionally entered into an interracial relationship. "I like who I like and race is just not a factor in that," said Johnson.

Attendees then began sharing their stories and experiences with interracial relationships. One student in particular, a Peruvian decent, said that she had been adopted by a white Swedish couple, was now married to a Jamaican man, and had just given birth to a son who will be exposed to all three cultures throughout his lifetime.

Panelsists then made their closing statements, which mainly centered on the importance of being open minded and accepting of all people. Toney's closing statement stuck out the most from the bunch. Toney pointed out that she wanted to ask all-girls institution for a while and the girls would often say to her, "I don't date a sex, I date a person." Toney said that when discussing her opinions about interracial relationships she often says, "I don't date a race, I date a man."

Everyone seemed to walk away from the discussion having learned something new. The open forum allowed for everyone to discuss his/her feelings and thoughts surrounding interracial relationships. NSU's Diversity Ambassadors deserve a hand for putting together such an amazing learning experience for all involved.
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NSU Main Campus, Carl Desantis Building, Fourth Floor
Ulia Talalenko, a biology and pre-dental major enrolled in the dual-admissions program, is currently in her junior year at NSU. Talalenko, who is originally from Novosibirsk, Russia, grew up in Naples, Fla. with her family, which includes her parents Sergei and Lana, her younger sister Anastasia and her little brother Gregory. Talalenko is a decorated player on NSU's women's tennis team, who plays both singles and doubles, and really enjoys the sport. The 5'7" athlete has played tennis since she was a little girl and was a two-time recipient of the MVP award in high school.

Tanya: Why did you choose to come to NSU?
Ulia: My mom graduated from the dental school here and she liked it a lot. I mainly came for the dental school and because NSU has a nice atmosphere.

Tany: How do you like NSU?
Ulia: I like it a lot here. It's a really good campus.

Tanya: What's your favorite thing about going to school at NSU?
Ulia: The location! There are a lot of things to do here. You're so close to the beach. You're close to the malls and there's a lot to do around Ft. Lauderdale.

Talalenko Continued on pg. 1.
The NSU baseball team (22-15) took part in the conference series match-up against the Panthers of Florida Tech. An impressive pitching performance by the recently named SSC pitcher of the Week, Rudy Garcia, saw the Sharks hold the Panthers 4-2.

Garcia pitched for 7 1 innings, allowing only one unearned run off of his hit while striking out six batters, thereby improving his win-loss record to 7-1. However, the Panthers tied up the game in the bottom of the seventh on a solo run in the ninth when junior Pete Samson hit yet another homerun for the Sharks to score. The win came in favor of the Panthers. In game two, the Florida Tech Panthers finally found a way around the Sharks as they won the third game, 4-3.

For the win, senior Matt Mindick opened the series against Florida Tech. Garcia pitched a total of 7.1 innings in game one of the series, facing a total of 24 batters, and only allowing three hits and one run, while striking out six Florida Tech batters. With his impressive numbers, Garcia leads the Sharks' pitching staff in the conference with a win-loss record of 4-0 and a stellar 2.77 ERA.

The Sharks track sets new records for two seasons but have left a lasting impression nonetheless. Their most recent accomplishments occurred during the Pepsi University of Florida Relays, which took place on April 7 in Gainesville, Fla. A four-man freshman team, consisting of John Besharat, Jeff Palmer, Joseph Pena and Aguinalday Ray, took the gold in the prestigious 4x1600m relay with an impressive personal record of 3:59.60.

Additionally, freshman sprinter Mike Wilson and sophomore John Crute took part in the 400m event in which they each posted times of 50.32 and 51.69, respectively. Palmer and sophomore Christian Moore ran in the 5000m event, in which Palmer grabbed a second place finish, setting a new best time record for himself of 13:53.00, and Moore finished sixth with a time of 16:29.

Tara Haddock was the day's standout on the women's track team as she smashed the school record in the 800m race with a new personal best time of 2:19.96. Haddock's accomplishment comes at the start of her 2008 return appearance on the women's track team, since the conclusion of the 2008 women's basketball season.
The Sharks' #13 nationally ranked tennis team (13-5, 5-3 in their 2008 regular season) finished off right as they crushed the Eckerd College Tritons 9-0 on April 6.

They destroyed their opposition, 8-5. Both made it very clear along with junior Korotkevich, player, Talalenko, crushed her rivaling Ulia Talalenko, doubles partner Triton singles player by a score of 7-6 and 8-0, respectively.

Edita Kulichova prevailed as well, at 8-4 · all three refusing to give their opponents a chance to counter.

Championship tournament on April 17 when they travel Florida Southern will host.

The Sharks will kick off the SSC regular season by defeating Eckerd, Tennis Finishes

Regula-r Season by

Defeating Eckerd, 9-0 Tranelli Mesa Sports Editor

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Leatherheads

Drops the Ball

Stefani Rubino

Staff Writer

My father loves football and silly movies. So, in an attempt to go to the movies together, we chose Leatherheads because we figured that maybe there would be something in it for both of us. Boy, were we wrong! Films that display as much nostalgia as Leatherheads should never be made in the first place because they always seem to exploit their own weaknesses.

Leatherheads focuses on the U.S.'s newly formed professional football league of 1925, where Dodge Connelly (George Clooney), a lover and hero of all things football, is determined to make his team as well as the league itself the best that it can possibly be. Connelly recruits America's "golden-boy war hero" Carter Rutherford (John Krasinski), who can play football better than anyone Dodge has ever seen. When a young aspiring sports reporter, Lexie Littleton (Renee Zellweger), starts hanging around the team more often however, Dodge and Carter become off-field contenders for her heart. As the dreams he had for both his team and the league begin to dwindle, Dodge must find a way to keep it all together and beat out Carter for Lexie's love.

The problem with the film is not really the acting itself (aside from Zellweger's performance, which I'll get to later) but rather with the entire story. The story is unoriginal and boring. Going into this film, I thought that I would learn something about how the NFL was formed, what struggles the players had to overcome and whatever other issues were related to the creation of this team. Instead, Leatherheads gives us a love story with football in the backdrop, which is not how the movie had been marketed at all.

George Clooney (Michael Clayton, Ocean's series) and John Krasinski (Licence to Wed, The Office) make Leatherheads somewhat tolerable. Their off-field antics actually provide a little humor to this dallied-off film and help make it more entertaining than it would have been otherwise. They especially shine through their antics as they each fight for Lexie and exercise deception against one another in their quest for her. Clooney is also exceptional when he tries to teach his team of bumbling idiots new strategies and techniques.

I said we would get to Zellweger (Cinderella Man, Bridget Jones' series) later, so here it goes. I do not want to completely bash her, but pretty much every time Zellweger walked into a scene or had a line in a scene, the movie stopped for a moment, and it was not in a good way. Aside from the dull storyline and the overdose of nostalgia, Zellweger was quite frankly the worst part of this film, and she puts a weight on it that is impossible to ignore. Let's just say, she has seen better days and better roles. This was just not the right fit for her.

It was extremely disappointing to find out that Clooney directed this film, considering the fact that it came out the way that it did. After Clooney directed the 2005 major award-winner Good Night and Good Luck, it was expected that his next few films would be just as incredible. Unfortunately, Leatherheads proves otherwise and shows us once again that it is impossible to make a perfectly nostalgic sports and romance film that will truly break the mold. Here's to hoping his next film will not be a repeat of this one.
NSU’s Cinderella is Sensational

Racquel Fagon

When looking at the history of horror films, it seems as though certain types of scary movies have come in shifts. The seventies and eighties were dominated by "slasher films," the sixties were taken over by "psychological thrillers" as well as a "creature feature." Beginning in the late nineties, the age of the "demonic force" has arrived, and obviously unintelligent tourists or "adventurers." In the tradition of films like Cabin Fever, Hostel, and the Descent, we get the film adaptation of Scott B. Smith’s novel, The Ruins.

The Ruins focuses on a group of curious and unsuspecting tourists who travel to Cancun for the vacation of their lives. Jeff (Jonathan Tucker), Amy (Jena Malone), Eric (Shawn Ashmore), and Stacy (Laura Ramsey) arrive in Mexico together, where they meet Mathias (Joe Anderson). Mathias’ brother Heinrich (whom we never really see throughout the film until we see that he is dead) has disappeared with a map as well as directions to the site. Before leaving, Heinrich gave Mathias a map as well as directions to the site. Because Mathias hasn’t seen his brother in days, he convinces the others to join him in his search.

They agree (no questions asked of course) and make their way down to the titular ruins. Almost immediately, the audience learns that their trip is doomed. The group meets a tribe of violent and obviously unintelligent tourists or "adventurers." In the tradition of films like The Descent, the sixties were taken over by "psychological thrillers" as well as a "creature feature." Beginning in the late nineties, the age of the "demonic force" has arrived, and obviously unintelligent tourists or "adventurers." The movie is pretty lame, as are most of these "dumb tourist" films. Yet it was certainly a step up (or two) from films like Hostel and Turistas.

I will admit that The Ruins got into my head a little bit, similar to how the plant’s poison slowly overtook the tourists’ bodies. However, I’m certain that the reason for that was because of the great performances of the young actors and actresses in this film.

It is expected that Jena Malone (The Wild, Saved by the Bell, and the rest of the cast cast, The Ruins is a fairly typical 21st century horror film, and although I’m sure it did get at the box office, it will barely be noticed by critics or award-givers. But, if you like to see films simply for entertainment, The Ruins can definitely fill that need for you. However, it will not keep you on the edge of your seat like you might be expecting.

The Ruins - just Another "Dumb Tourist" Film

Stefani Rubino

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella is a popular favorite for many lovers of the classical fairytale. NSU has added the brush stroke to renowned art by staging its unique version of the beloved play. With even more glitz, fancier costumes and a newly created by staging its unique version of the beloved play. With even more glitz, fancier costumes and a newly created background projection, the Black Box Theater resonated with the appreciation of NSU patrons and many others, too.

Aiming to tinker with our existing stereotypes, the play carried a cast as diverse and as wild as a New York City subway. From the punk-rock stepmother to the other one dressed in drag, it seemed as though Cinderella’s modern world had gone completely MTV. Suffice it to say, the plot remained the same, with the Cinderella being given a chance to dance with the prince at the ball, lose her glass slipper in the orchard, and deservedly live happily ever after with her charming prince. And yes, the prince, biography major Konstantine Lagos, was quite charming, resembling the real-life, dashing version of the Disney character, with his flowing hair and winning smile. While he made an acceptable prince, during his musical numbers, he sang in a smooth, mellow tone that made him sound sweet but that lacked the power and assurance that his character rightly deserved.

His leading lady Cinderella, played by songbird, Lauren Butler, gave a dreamy, demure performance but her royalties line in her musical renditions, especially the acclaimed songs "Ten Minutes Ago" and "Do I Love You Because You’re Beautiful?" Accompanied by only a piano, the ring in her voice twirled around the audience, creating the fairytale feeling.

Cinderella’s music is timeless and catchy, the dancing was hip and enthusiastic and the plot was memorable. Whether or not it fulfilled Director Jett Canary’s intention to inspire each person to live life or her own Cinderella story, it did accomplish a sense of making everyone appreciate and love the fairytale just a little bit more.

One of the major adjustments to the play was the role of the Fairy Godmother. In this play, there was a Fairy Godfather instead. Dressed in the design and colors of a circus ringmaster, along with his trusty extendable stick, Cinderella’s godfather makes all her dreams come true.

As for Cinderella’s ugly stepstagers... well they simply gave ugly a very good name, as they both gave excellent performances as rude, obnoxious, overbearing (and the list goes on and on) comically decorated step-heroes. Joy’s (Robyn Shapero) Kiss-style make-up and sneakily Chucky-like doll were an excellent extension to an already witty character. Similarly, Portia’s (Colin Morgan) drag attire and five inch heels sprinkled a hefty portion of "spicy" all over Cinderella’s fairytale. Both performances were replace with juicy one-liners and comical tumbles, that managed to evoke giggles, grunts and laughs from the audience even when they were in the background or side stage. Lauren Kairalla, who played the notorious, suffocating stepmother commanded respect and attention from the other characters as well as from the audience.

The King and Queen gave solid performances too, shoving off their royal streak and cool governing and parenting skills. The townspeople made up the rest of the colorful, well-choreographed cast, making Cinderella an instant NSU hit.

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NSU’s Cinderella is Sensational

Racquel Fagon

VARIETY LITERARY
Razor Adventures
Marlon Oakley

What Movie? JUMBLE

RSALWU 0000000
USEGPNN 0000000
LHIAERKWEV 00000000000
GNISGNI 0000000
CANETADP 000 00000
OLPEPE 000000
AVGUNKIAH0000 0000000
SHKAWOOOO
BUERMVL0000000
UUGROOOO

What movie are all these names in?

The Animals of B WORDSEARCH

Baboon
Bat Shrimp
Bald Eagle
Barn Owl
Bass
Bat
Bear
Beaver
Bee
Buffalo
Bison
Birds
Billy Goat
Black Fly
Blue Whale
Blue Jay
Boa
Bobcat
Bobwhite
Boar
Bongo
Butterfly
Buff
April 8, 2008

To the Editor of The Current:

As you know, the past two issues of The Current have extensively focused on campus safety citing an assault that took place by an NSU student in The Commons (Vol. 18, issue 22, March 31, 2008) and a general overview of safety in the April 7th edition ("Do YOU feel safe on Campus?"). I am writing because I believe the Public Safety department on campus has been inaccurately portrayed and unfairly characterized.

To The Current's credit, it did identify connections to its March 31 article which appear on page 11 of the April 7 issue. My concern lies that the follow up issue (April 7) a reader unfamiliar with NSU could imagine this is an unsafe campus which is not. Because of the significance of campus safety in this post Virginia Tech world, I would have hoped The Current would have done research on a national level relative to campus crime statistics. I have. My findings reaffirmed what I have personally witnessed during my 20 years at the university. Public Safety does a comprehensive and thorough job of protecting NSU and most importantly its students.

You can always find a student with a negative opinion on any college campus at any given time. They are entitled to them. I would have been interested in the opinions of others. Would they feel safe at NSU? Gainig 300 responses as opposed to three would have been more valuable to help us assess the student viewpoint. Good journalism is thorough and it is hard work. Moreover, my own informal conversations with over 20 students since yesterday suggest students feel very safe on campus and find Public Safety significantly helpful and responsive (although two did mention their disappointment in receiving parking tickets).

I applaud Executive Director Bias in welcoming student comments. He provided every possible person I contact to share feedback with him. I know he cares about Public Safety. I know he cares more about the students he and his team serve. I also applaud The Current for raising such an important question as a student's sense of their own personal safety and well being. However, I am hopeful that in the future there is the kind of comprehensive research and analysis that would support such a story.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brad A. Williams
Dean of Student Affairs
Nova Southeastern University

On The Scene

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

What are your plans for the summer?

"I'll probably get an internship or a research opportunity." Myra Raffi Sophomore, Biology

"I'll be working at Washington Mutual." Bernard Murray Sophomore, Biology

"I'm going to summer school at Nova and working at Walgreens' pharmacy." Tervisic Delva Sophomore, Biology

"I'm volunteering at the Westside Regional Hospital." Reinaldo Trujillo Junior, Biology

"I might be doing an internship in Indiana." Alexandra Timis Sophomore, Biology

"I'm working and saving for school expenses." Harris Sayeed Sophomore, Biology

Editor's Note

Michael Bergbauer
Editor in Chief
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v You have often heard me say that The Current serves as the voice of the NSU community. Lately however, I have thought of rephrasing that to The Current serves as the dialogue of the NSU community. The Current has printed its fair share of controversial stories as of late. As you can see, we have even received a letter to the editor regarding one of them this week - which is wonderful! I am glad that The Current has raised awareness on this campus because that is essentially the goal of the student press. One should never go through life without asking questions. I feel that the Editor's Note has been a designated space in the paper that has helped to promote student engagement and I am always very pleased to receive letters proving that the NSU community has an interest in what it is that we report. As for what we report, we always aim to be as objective as possible. All interested parties had a say in the April 7th Public Safety story, including students with both positive and negative experiences, as well as the Public Safety department. While I consider myself a strong proponent of accuracy, The Current is not a vehicle through which to perform high quality quantitative or qualitative research studies for NSU. We report what information we can as per our deadlines, but I hope that the university will conduct its own research for the benefit of the students.

Which brings me back to the main purpose of The Current: to make people aware, whether it is through voice or dialogue. It is only through awareness that good social change can truly come about.
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DISCOVER YOUR WORLD...

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