The Current Volume 19: Issue 16

Nova Southeastern University

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**Take Back the Night:**

On Jan. 21, Nova Southeastern University held its eighth annual "Take Back the Night" event on the ASA Patio. As part of NSU’s Unity Week, this event successfully gathered members of the NSU community to help speak up against domestic violence and become part of the solution. "Take Back the Night" is a nationwide event that began in 1877 when women protested the fear and violence they experienced in the night-time streets of London, England. NSU decided to hold its own version of this event, including the traditional candlelight vigil empowerment march and various survivor testimonials.

The evening was dedicated to raising awareness and helping men and women confront a myriad of social ills, including rape, sexual violence, domestic violence, violence against children and violence against women. The unifying theme is that all humans have the right to be free from violence, and furthermore, the right to speak out against it.

Dr. Gay Holiday, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, opened the event by giving the audience a bit of background information on rape, sexual assault, domestic violence and how it affects the NSU community.

Elham Allsop, a sophomore marketing major and one of the event organizers, said, "This event was definitely an eye-opener for the entire student body. I was shocked by many of the things I learned and am very thankful to be given the opportunity to hear about it."

Included in this event was "The Clothesline Project." This is a visual display of shirts with graphic messages and illustrations that have been designed by women and survivors of violence. These shirts were hung throughout the tent and gave the students a more vivid sense of what the event was all about.

"The Clothesline Project" is just one of the many ways to give every woman a voice and a place to be heard. "I feel that the shirts idea was great! As I sat down and read the shirts, I was instantly sucked into the event and had a greater sense of what was really going on," said Brittany Killam, a sophomore nursing major.

The shirts included phrases, such as "I’m a Survivor of Rape," "Children Need Love Not Sex," and "Cut It Out." These shirts were hung throughout the tent and the many ways to give every woman a voice and a place to be heard were instantly sucked into the event and had a greater sense of what the event was all about.

The shirts included phrases, such as "I’m a Survivor of Rape," "Children Need Love Not Sex," and "Cut It Out." These shirts were hung throughout the tent and gave the students a more vivid sense of what the event was all about. The next topic of discussion was the "Shoe Drive." This represents the statewide statistics of the victims of domestic violence.

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**Students' FRAG Assistance in Jeopardy**

**ALEXIS IRIAS STAFF WRITER**

On Feb. 11, SGA President Phil Ortiz will meet with legislators who last year reduced the Florida Resident Access Grant from $3,000 to $2,837 to urge them to increase next year's budget.

NSU has 2,662 undergraduates who received the FRAG in 2007, which was created in 1979 to provide tuition assistance to students who choose to attend a private university such as NSU over a public university. Ortiz and other FRAG supporters fear that additional reductions could jeopardize a student's ability to attend the school.

"By reducing the aid, they are reducing a person's standard of living because it's less money we need to come up with for school," said Ortiz. "Ortiz is determined to raise awareness among students and encourage them to write letters to Governor Charlie Crist expressing how important it is to increase the FRAG budget."

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**NSU Watches as Barack Obama is Sworn in as the 44th President of the United States**

**KRISTINE BELZAIRE CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR**

As massive crowds gathered in Washington's. C., the inauguration of President Barack Obama, NSU held its own inauguration party in the University Center Flight Deck, drawing a crowd of the university's students and faculty.

Hosted bythe Office of Student Engagement, Multicultural Affairs and "Step-Up," the NSU political initiative, the party was designed to give students a comfortable place to view the inauguration.

"We know that a lot of places would be showing it, but we wanted students to come to a place that they are used to," said Rob Keefer, Graduate Assistant for Special Events. "It's a historical moment.

At the event, attendees gathered in the red, white and blue decorated Flight Deck and watched the inaugural event, courtesy of CNN, on the many televisions. There were also raffle prizes in which winners would receive gift cards to

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Being Free to Be Heard

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The two-time Emmy winning Public Service Announcement, "Free to Be Heard" held auditions at NSU for the first time this past Jan. 16 in the Performing Arts Center located in the University Center. Many individuals came to audition and by a part of the announcements that will air on WSFL-TV, a Miami-Ft. Lauderdale local station, throughout February.

Each person had to prepare a 20-second speech about an African American who inspired them. They had to use the spoken word to express their feelings and opinions about their chosen person and his or her achievements.

Participants worked hard and researched their selected person to know them better, and some had never actually heard of their choice before. "I chose Dr. Carter G. Wilson, who was the founder of Negro History Week, but I had never heard of him before so I chose him to let others who, like me, did not know who he was, know of his accomplishments," said Melissa Martinez, a criminal justice major at Broward College.

Although some were nervous about the prospect of being on television, others managed to remain calm and were confident in their performances. "You need to be confident if you won't get ahead. Confidence comes from having a message and something to say, and I do. So I'm not nervous at all," said Alexis Caputo, a freelance performer who at the moment had not chosen her topic.

The event was organized by the SFL/ CW channel, or WSFL-TV, which has been doing public service announcements specifically for Black History Month, for three years. The producers looked for people who spoke up, were original, heartfelt and those who had passion and expressed it throughout their audition.

Brittany Nicole Goeden, an attorney major, attended the auditions as part of a vocal articulation assignment. "This is so dear to my heart. There are a lot of emotional and spiritual connections to African-American roots. It is based on the spoken word which is so big in our community and it hits a nerve because these are people's own reflections on the negative and positive of our history."

If chosen, their 20-second features will air every week during Black History Month, so keep a look out for these inspiring stories, but right now you may log on to www.nsucurrent.com and see some of their stories before they even air.

FORCAST from 1

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The Current, formerly known as The Knight, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in room 105 of the Athletics and Student Activities building. The Current is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to The Current.

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Wikipedia Doesn't Cut It:
NSU Pharmacy Study Gets National Recognition

Research initiated by NSU pharmacy professor, Dr. Kevin Clauson, is getting national recognition for its significant findings. His study, which assessed the accuracy of drug information given on the user-edited online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, found that although it contained accurate information, critical drug data such as drug side-effects or risks associated with medications, were omitted from the information given on the site.

Published in the Annals of Pharmacy in December 2008, the study underwent peer-reviewed publication and has also gotten coverage on online news resources such as MSNBC, Fox News, Yahoo! 7 News and American Medical News online.

Clauson, coordinator of the study, as well as the lead author in the published article, undertook this study after observing that more health care professionals and students were referencing Wikipedia in their research and many patients were also consulting Wikipedia to get their personal healthcare information.

Diana Padilla, a special events planner who works in the I.A. Department at NSU, uses Wikipedia often. On one specific occasion, Padilla and a friend used Wikipedia to discover the source of a random rash they spotted on her friend's skin. Unsatisfied with the vague results, Padilla's friend consulted a doctor. Given that it is common for consumers to look to various Internet sites for medical information, Clausen and his colleagues decided to investigate the scope, completeness and accuracy of drug information in Wikipedia by comparing it with that of the Medscape Drug Reference database.

To do this, Clausen chose three other experts in the field to help. They included the following: Dr. Hyla Polen, former NSU pharmacy student who has presented and published on clinical decision support tools and drug information question construction, Dr. Magdi Boulos, a faculty member at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom and an expert on Web 2.0 and Wikipedia and Dr. Joan Dzenowagis, a senior scientist at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and expert one-health.

The team's research pointed out that the biggest problem with Wikipedia has to do with the fact that information can be added, edited and removed without explanation and without the author revealing his or her identity. According to a separate study done by Dr. Peter Rost, former vice president of Pfizer, found that drug companies were dismayed by Wikipedia founder, Jimmy Wales, where he advised students and researchers not to cite Wikipedia as a source because of the high error rate.

Instead, Clauson recommends that if one is looking online for drug or health information, he or she should consult with more credible online sources such as MedlinePlus, WebMD, Medscape Drug Reference or the Mayo Clinic online.

If you are a health science major and/or are interested in getting involved with studies such as this one, Clauson encourages you to speak with your professors, as many faculty often involve students and other volunteers in their research and writings.
sexual assault and rape. Each pair of shoes was donated by the NSU community and was used as a visual representation of those individuals who were murdered due to domestic violence, sexual assault and/or rape. The shoes collected and donated will then go to a local charity. Many women who are affected by rape or domestic violence do not speak out. They are usually afraid, vulnerable and simply do not know what to say or whom to say it to. Dr. Douglas Flemons, Director of the Student Counseling Center at NSU and five other members stood nearby to support those in need of help. Men and women were invited to the stage to share their experiences and tragedies. This invitation to speak out was a way for each individual to reach out to themselves as well as others, and help the many people who may keep these incidences a secret find a way to reach out to get the help and find the safety that they need.

Freshman Alex Kowaleski said, "This was my favorite part of the event. We got to hear real [live] stories of people who endured abuse. This really made me realize how common sexual abuse is and how I should be aware and help raise awareness as well."

After various speakers spoke about their stories, everyone in the audience stood up for the candlelight vigil. Each person then walked around the lake with a candle to show respect for those who may have been injured or killed due to these domestic acts of violence as well as help bringing awareness to issues that could possibly be prevented.

For more information on the history of this event, please visit http://takebackthenight.org/history.html.

Professor Christine Jackson Explores Edgar Allan Poe's Influence of the Portrayal of Death in Pop Culture

KRISTINE BELIZAIRE
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

Members of the NSU community gathered in Room 208 of the Parker Building for a lecture titled "Friends and Murders: Edgar Allan Poe’s Influence on Death as Depicted in American Media," delivered by Dr. Christine Jackson, professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities.

Jackson announced that this December 2008 issue of U.S. News and World Report, investigating the world of the human mind and mental illness. This sub-genre has influenced pop culture with movies such as "The Shining" and "Hannibal Rising."

Jackson further commented that, "The Tell-Tale Heart" was the first psychological thriller where the shift from hero to villain takes place instead of liking the hero, we begin to love to hate the villain.

According to Jackson, we are fascinated with psychological thriller because we want to know about the working of the human mind and mental illness. This sub-genre has influenced pop culture with movies such as "The Shining" and "Hannibal Rising."

Jackson also noted that Poe is not responsible for the design of thriller with works such as "The Masque of the Red Death," which later influenced shows such as "Law & Order" and books such as the "Survivor Man" and "The Deadliest Catch."

So why do we read Poe? According to Jackson, it is because we want to believe that we can control many things, such as time and the environment. Ultimately we want to be able to solve life and death.

Christelle Cole, a sophomore and biology major, enjoyed the lecture. "It was nice. You learned a lot of things that you did not know about." Jackson's lecture was the second of eight talks that will be presented during the winter 2009 semester by the Faculty Lecture Series, focusing on the college's 2008-2009 academic theme of "Life and Death." For more information, visit www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/jsjackkevorkian.

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Unity Week 2009 Comes to an End

TIFFANY SIMONCINI
STAFF WRITER

On Jan 23, the NSU Multicultural Affairs Programming Committee hosted various events to celebrate the end of Unity Week 2009. These events included the Cultural Fashion Show, Wall of Hate Project, Dabke Line Dance and Unity Jam.

The kick-off event to the Unity Week 2009 closing ceremonies was the Cultural Fashion Show, held in the Library Affairs Programming Committee hosted Hate Project, Dabke Line Dance and Unity Week 2009. These events included just that, said Jose Jaquez, a freshman biology major.

"Beginning at 6 p.m., the crowd indulged in various foods, music and fashion from different regions, including the following: Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, the Caribbean and Middle East. The atmosphere was great and refreshments were provided throughout the night to keep the crowd satisfied. As模特s walked down the runway dressed in clothing that represented the different regions of the world, the crowd danced and clapped cheerfully. "I thought that this event was very well put together and entertaining. My favorite part was the dancing," said Kori Desiderio, a sophomore psychology major.

Next was the Wall of Hate Project. The Wall of Hate Project is a dramatic and physical representation of the historical oppression that has occurred throughout our society. During the week of Jan. 12, NSU students, faculty and staff were given the opportunity to paint cinder blocks with words and slogans that have been a symbol of hate and oppression. The wall was displayed throughout Unity Week. The crowd watched as the 10-foot-long wall filled with proficiency was knocked down to symbolize an end to hatred and break the barrier that exists among individuals.

Following the Wall of Hate Project was the Dabke Line Dance. This event was planned in hopes of getting NSU into the Guinness Book of World Records for World's Longest Dance Line. Coordinators attempted to get 3,000 people to do this dance for six minutes. With only four steps involved, the entire crowd joined hands and began to learn this traditional Mediterranean chain dance. Although they did not get the sufficient amount of people to break the world record, it was a major success in the unification of different cultures.

The evening ended with the Unity Jam. Lambda Theta Phi and the NSU Multicultural Affairs Programming Committee hosted this event to officially end Unity Week 2009. Including cultural food and music, members of NSU danced and ate while experiencing many different lifestyles. "This was the perfect end to Unity Week. First the fashion show, then all the cool dancing, now a time to just hang out - I couldn't have done it better myself. Very well put together!" said Eshan Blue, a freshman marketing major.

VIEWING PARTY from 1

The Roasted Bean or certificates for Swedish massages.

"I was going to watch it at home," said junior Hughes Couture, as he held a plate of food. "But I thought it might be a better gathering, being around other people and food." Second-year graduate student Edward Johnson also left his home to watch the inauguration on campus. "Typically, I like to watch stuff like this by myself, but I wanted to see what the overall reaction was at the school."

Throughout the party, cheers went up when President Obama, Vice President Biden and their families appeared on the television screen. First-time voter Stephanie Thomas was ecstatic to watch them. "How could I miss it?" she said. "It's history!"

Students watched attentively as Obama gave his presidential address in which he saluted American progress but also commented that there was still a lot of work to be done.

"This is the journey. We continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on earth. Our workers are no less innovative than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year," said Obama, according to The New York Times.

Obama continued, "Our capacity remains undiminished. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

"It was a very inspiring speech," said Cherelle Henry, a junior. "He made a lot of sense. It was more of a historical speech because he is the first African-American president."

NSU Raises Awareness About Hunger

ALEXIS IRIAS
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 21, Nova Southeastern University held its annual Hunger Banquet at the University Center Pit as a highlight of Unity Week; a week that was designed to celebrate diversity, create peace and foster community support.

The Hunger Banquet served as a hands-on illustration of the unequal distribution of food in the world. Students gathered to make sandwiches that were donated to the Cooperative Feeding Program.

"The Hunger Banquet is a great way to raise awareness and make a difference," said Tony Rando, a freshman biology major.

After making sandwiches, each student received a card identifying them as a First, Second or Third World citizen. First World citizens ate at tables with tablecloths and are served a full-course meal by waiters; Second World citizens sat at a bare table and ate rice, beans and salad; Third World citizens sat on the bare floor and shared two bowls of rice.

Sharmin El-Tourky, chairman of the Hunger Coalition, introduced the guest speaker from the Cooperative Feeding Program, Belle Jackson. Jackson expressed the hunger issues in the world and the positive impact students can make by getting involved.

"We did this event to raise awareness on hunger locally and globally," said El-Tourky. "We want to encourage NSU students to do something about it."

"I was going to watch it at home," said junior Hughes Couture, as he held a plate of food. "But I thought it might be a better gathering, being around other people and food." Second-year graduate student Edward Johnson also left his home to watch the inauguration on campus. "Typically, I like to watch stuff like this by myself, but I wanted to see what the overall reaction was at the school."

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Cheerleading Team Makes it to the National Championship- Finals

TIM COENRAAD  "STAFF WRITER"

NSU's cheerleaders traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., for the weekend of Jan. 16 through the 18 to compete in the College Cheerleading National Championship. The Sharks delivered their greatest performance in program history, sending themselves into finals for the first time ever and grabbing seventh place amongst 15 nation-wide competitors.

Previous to the Sharks' record marking accomplishments, on Jan. 15, NSU put on a performance in the University Center to practice their national's routine in front of family and friends.

"A lot of people showed up to watch us this year, some even came because they had heard about us,'" from the men's basketball team wearing the No. 10. I am a biology major and dream of becoming a dentist after graduation.

"A lot of people showed up to watch us this year, some even came because they had heard about us,'" stated Monica Moya, a sophomore co-captain. "It was a great feeling and the routine went great."

"The friends and family performance went really well. One stunt fell each time we performed it that night but the crowd was there to pump us up and keep up going strong," stated senior Amanda Litt. "This performance helped us to get rid of some of the kinks and jitters before we went off to nationals."

The Sharks were more than happy with their performance at the national competition, but were even more proud that they had accomplished their biggest goal of all which was getting the crowd involved.

When referring to their half-time performance at the men's basketball game on Jan. 17, Moya stated, "The whole year we cheer and try to get the crowd involved, and there has never been a connection like there was that night before. With their support, we were able to hit our routine better than we have all season. I can only hope that our relationship continues to grow with the crowd throughout the season."

Across Daily University Center, 8th through 11th Grade

Answers to Cheerleaders Exclusive

Across 1) I am a 5-foot-6-inch senior on the men's basketball team. You will see me on the court wearing the No. 10. I am majoring in business administration and I love music. 2) I am a fourth-year senior on the men's basketball team wearing the No. 30. I am an education major and I hope to one day become an elementary school teacher as well as a children's basketball coach.

Down 1) I am a 6-foot-11-inch sophomore, wearing the No. 20 on the men's basketball team. I was born in Chertsey, U.K., but I have been raised in Australia.

2) I am a freshman on the men's basketball team wearing the No. 3. As a freshman I was named to the SSC All-Freshman and to the All-Tournament Team upon winning our programs first ever SSC Championship.

3) I am a 6-foot-5-inch guard on the women's basketball team wearing the No. 3. I am lead- ing my team with me 3-point shooting percentage, .750.

4) I am a 5-foot-5-inch guard on the women's basketball team wearing the No. 24 on the women's basketball team. I think my best assets to the Sharks are my passion and dedication to the game.

6) I am a 6-foot-1-inch freshman wearing the No. 24 on the women's basketball team. I am a fifth-year senior wearing the No. 5 on the women's basketball team.

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Carl Desantis Building
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**Inside the Locker Room: Dominic Ross Allsop**

**ALEX GYNES STAFF WRITER**

Nova Southeastern University is happy to welcome back sophomore Dominic Ross Allsop, also known as Ross to the men’s basketball team, for what is anticipated to be one of the Sharks most successful seasons in program’s history.

This talented center was born in Chetsey, U.K., and raised in Sydney, Australia; by his parents Derek and Fiona Allsop along with his older sister Natasha. Ross sees himself playing professional basketball hopefully in Australia or Europe upon graduating in May of 2011.

Ross stands the tallest amongst his teammates at a dominating 6-feet-11-inches, 250 pounds and has proven himself to be a true asset to the Sharks this season as he has started in nearly every game thus far.

“IT’s intimidating.”

is definitely my height,” states Ross.

Ross claims that his new pre-game ritual is taking a five hour energy shot. “I also put on my jersey, shorts, socks, ankle braces and shoes on in the same order every time.”

If you were stranded on an island, what are three things you would want to have with you?

“A mobile phone and a TV (both with signal) and a bed.”

*Photo by C. Balaban*

*Fon of the Week*, contributed nine points to go alongside senior LaShawnna Edwards (23) coming through in the clutch scoring seven of the Sharks last 12 points. Junior Stephanie Sarosi (44) led the Sharks with 16 points and a staggering 17 rebounds, followed by Edwards with 14 points and sophomore Abbie Tegu (3) who contributed nine points to go alongside six assists.

NSU worked hard through the next few days of practice in preparation for facing-off against yet another Sunshine State Conference rival, the Panthers of Florida Tech.

The Sharks fought hard to get the whole game to finish, but sadly were unable to find the range offensively as they shot just 35 percent while going a “1-for-5” from behind the arc.

Even with their offensive struggles, NSU was down only two points with 3:01 remaining in the game. Nonetheless, the Panthers closed the game on a 14-4 run to take the match. Sarosi once again dominated offensively with a career high 32 points to go along with 15 rebounds, falling two blocks short of a triple double.

**Women’s Basketball**

**TIM COENRAAD STAFF WRITER**

The NSU women’s basketball team (6-10; 2-4 SSC) split their last two conference match-ups as they doused the No. 8 nationally ranked Rollins College Tars on Jan. 17, but fell short to Florida Tech’s Panthers on Jan. 21.

While facing the Tars, both teams encountered a low-scoring affair while shooting below 33 percent from the field. However, the Sharks were able to build on their six point half-time lead, allowing them to take the match 53-45 and mark their second straight win against a nationally ranked opponent. The Tars worked themselves back into the game and took the lead 42-41 with 5:59 left in the second half.

NSU was able to quickly take control back as they went on a pivotal 12-3 run to finish the game with senior LuShawna Edwards (23) coming through in the clutch scoring seven of the Sharks last 12 points. Junior Stephanie Sarosi (44) led the Sharks with 16 points and a staggering 17 rebounds, followed by Edwards with 14 points and sophomore Abbie Tegu (3) who contributed nine points to go alongside six assists.

NSU worked hard through the next few days of practice in preparation for facing-off against yet another Sunshine State Conference rival, the Panthers of Florida Tech. The Sharks fought hard the entire match, but sadly were unable to find the range offensively as they shot just 35 percent while going a “1-for-5” from behind the arc.

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**Men’s Basketball Clobbers Florida Tech**

**TRANELL MESA SPORTS EDITOR**

Men’s basketball (10-4; 5-1 SSC) saw their 7-game winning streak put to an end as they were defeated by the Rollins College Tars in a nail biting, overtime match-up on Jan. 17, by a score of 83-79. However, the Sharks were able to get back on track on Jan. 21 as they clobbered Florida Tech’s Panthers, 80-55.

The Sharks gave the crowd a6umbunctious Fin-atics something to cheer for as NSU faced off against their biggest competitors of the Sunshine State Conference, the Rollins College Tars.

While in the Shark Tank, the match was taken into overtime at 69-all thanks to a deep 3-point basket from senior Tim Coenraad (22) with 5 seconds left in regulation. Coenraad would hit two more back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Sharks the lead, 77-72, while in overtime with 3:05 to go. Unfortunately, this would not be enough to see NSU to their right straight win as the Tars took the “W.” Coenraad led the Sharks with 23 points with fellow senior Dione Perry (1) adding 16 points of his own, and junior Dave Naylor (33) snatched down 12 rebounds.

NSU got back into their winning ways upon traveling to Melbourne, Fl., where they faced the Panthers of Florida Tech. The first half was a struggle for the Sharks as they rallied back and forth for the lead, but they would dominate in the second shooting 64/4 percent. The Sharks were powerful from under the basket once again as they out-rebounded the Panthers 26-14, with Perry grabbing another 11 rebounds for the game. Coenraad was 6-7 shooting on 3-pointers, tallying together 23 points on the evening followed by freshman Darrin Williams “Big Baby” (32) who contributed 11 and Naylor adding in 10.

**FAN POLL**

How will the Sharks men’s basketball team finish in the SSC?

| Champions | 23% |
| Runner-up | 43% |
| Third Place | 18% |
| Fourth Place | 5% |
| Fifth or Worse | 2% |

*Photos by C. Balaban*
Mickey Rourke Shines in "The Wrestler"

STEFANI RUBINO
OPINIONS EDITOR

Occasionally, a film comes around that truly astonishes critics and audiences. So far this year, "The Wrestler" has garnered more buzz than most films produced in the last three years.

"The Wrestler" focuses on Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Mickey Rourke), who in the late 1980s was headlining professional wrestling events all over the country. Now, 20 years and countless injuries later, Robinson is retired and struggling with his new life as a civilian. While working part time in a grocery store, Robinson begins training for a hardcore match with another wrestler on the independent circuit. While being treated for the injuries received during that match, Robinson has a heart attack, and is faced with death. So, the match with Ayatollah is canceled. Robinson then begins to examine his life after the heart attack, and tries to connect with his estranged daughter, Stephanie (Evan Rachel Wood), while beginning a new relationship with Cassidy, a mental breakdown, and after years of failure to improve his life, Rourke shows his capacity as a truly brilliant character actor. He slips into the role with ease and enthusiasm, setting the bar at a new height for actors in his position. I cannot name another on-screen comeback as beautiful and engrossing as Rourke's in "The Wrestler."

Additionally, Rourke's performance is certainly aided by the talented actresses within the film. Evan Rachel Wood's performance proves she is one of the most interesting and engaging young actresses working in Hollywood today. Her performance complements Rourke's perfectly, making their characters' relationship one of the best I have ever seen on screen. Tomei also makes an intriguing and ideal co-star for Rourke, as her character slowly falls for the tormented wrestler, all the while pushing him away as gently as possible. Her performance serves as a sort of comeback as well, since she has not had a substantial role like this for some time.

Not only is "The Wrestler" a triumph for the actors and actresses, it is a triumph for director Darren Aronofsky ("Requiem for a Dream"). Aronofsky is known for his love of unusual and eclectic stories under which one cannot categorize "The Wrestler." Although, without Aronofsky's interest and experience in the unusual, Robinson's story probably couldn't have been told as intelligently and wonderfully as it is. Aronofsky shows that his capabilities go above and beyond what is expected of him.

The only unfortunate circumstance of "The Wrestler" is the fact that from now on, I will have high expectations for every independent film coming out this year. "The Wrestler" is a truly moving and intimate portrait of a troubled man, and the people around him.

Answers to For New Year's...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>FOR A NEW START</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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</tr>
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A Thought from Maya Angelou.

A quotation of 13 words is concealed in this diagram. The letters for each word are in a straight line reading up, down, forward, backward and diagonally. The solution is one continuous line through each of the words. We have started you off with the word "THERE."

If you would like to write for The Current, please contact Laura Starr at nsunews@iowa.edu to set-up an appointment.

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"Bride Wars" Is a Losing Battle

NAIDALCIME
STAFF WRITER

I was very excited to see "Bride Wars." I had this idea that it would be another one of those adventurous chick-flicks that I ardently enjoy—one that would have me laughing, crying and feeling all fuzzy inside from all its wonderful cheesiness. And boy was I wrong! I left the theater dissatisfied and, frankly, disgusted.

"Bride Wars," directed by Gary Winick, was not all bad. It actually started out pretty decent with Emma (Anne Hathaway) and Liv (Kate Hudson) being about 8 years old, and getting cute with a scene where two best friends, Emma and Liv, talk about how they would like to get married in grown-up clothes to play wedding. Later on, the movie shows both girls as adults who are planning their real weddings, until they find themselves in an all-out war, when a clerical error places them in competition for the same man as a wedding date, the vixenish feud all-out war, when a clerical error places the wrong wedding. The ending contained a crazy twist which I felt perpetuated the phony portrayal of marriage in the film. Sadly, I was so impressed with the costume designs or cinematography. The best things going for "Bride Wars" happened to be one of those movies that if anyone were to ask me to see it, I'd suggest not using it as a measuring stick for real-life relationships.

Kevin James Is Perfect As "Paul Blart: Mall Cop"

RACQUEL FAGON
VARIETY EDITOR

Kevin James is a funny guy. When a man allows his body to take over his brain and just perform the most ridiculous stunts, one can't help but be in stitches about it. Kevin James is perfect as the goofy, police academy-fast-talking guy who can't seem to catch a break in life. The best things going for "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" is the chance to take his position of mall security to espionage, crime-fighting levels. These single-minded characteristics are what Blart banks on when his mall is overrun by acrobatic thieves who plan to rob the bank that his lady crush is conveniently in at the time. The film then goes through an amusement park of spills, slides, hits, misses, traps and an adult twist on Macaulay Culkin-like antics.

Blart and his co-workers all bring something unique to the picture, and they all come from a productive (although amateur 18 times) mix of comedic talents. To talk about the plot is unnecessary, as anybody who has seen any movie can figure out what is going to happen next in this film. Blart's role as the chubby superhero is different, but predictable as chance, or plots go.

All in all, the film conjures up some well aimed chuckles and laughter. The film leaves you feeling satisfied with the ending, and appreciative of the fact that the writers and director didn't go through too much trouble to make the film what it is. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" delivers as it should, indicating that Director Steve Carr ("Daddy Day Care" and "Next Friday") is obviously going for the basics on this one.

Variety
January 27, 2009

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Patrick E. Toland, Jr., Assistant Professor

Look familiar?

Psoriasis often strikes between the ages of 15 and 25.

1. Psoriasis on crest
2. Inverse psoriasis #2
3. Psoriasis on finger nails

Hat Tricks Are for Magicians, Not for the Government

STEVEN RUBINO
OPINIONS EDITOR

Last year, the American public watched as our economy took a turn for the worse and automakers started begging the government for money. The new year has ushered in the beginning of a new presidency and the new administration that has ushered in the beginning of a new government for money. The new year as our economy took a tum for the worse expect them to solve all of this country's ills, they have made some hefty promises problems. However, analysts, scientists and economists everywhere are claiming the pro_blems may not be solved as hastily concerning the way they will handle these problems. Although Obama has brought hope for a better America to all of us, even me, Economists interviewed on National Public Radio and in The New York Times have said it over and over again that there is no quick solution to this problem. If there has happened, the American public needs over by February.

We live on this Earth and we cannot live anywhere else. The Earth is extremely conducive to how human beings live and breathe, which means we cannot very well move to another planet. The Obama administration has put science back into the forefront, which could help scientists everywhere figure out how to reverse this mess, or slow down the effects. But, really, it should not be left up to just them. With that being said, it is imperative that we do not just leave the "fixing" up to our leaders and assume everything will be alright. We need to take an active role in improving our country, our cities, our families and ourselves. The Obama administration cannot perform magic tricks, so we should not expect them to. We should put that energy into figuring out what we can do to accomplish shared goals.

The Obama administration is not entirely responsible here, though Americans around the country can do their part to aid in the reconstruction of our once healthy economy. Similarly, there is plenty we can do to help push this country towards more environmentally friendly practices and sustainability. This is another issue Obama talked much about during his campaign and one we should all take into account. Obviously, the Obama administration is not going to fix the thousands of years of damage brought about on this planet by human beings in just one year, or even four years. However, it is possible that the U.S. may have a reduced fossil fuel dependency by the time he leaves office. The Obama administration has put science back into the forefront, which could help scientists everywhere figure out how to reverse this mess, or slow down the effects. But, really, it should not be left up to just them.

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Repairing the economy to a perfectly functioning and prosperous system is not something anyone should hold their breath for. Although Obama has brought hope for a better America to all of us, even me, it would be a mistake to assume he can fix everything, especially the economy. Economists interviewed on National Public Radio and in The New York Times have said it over and over again that there is no quick solution to this problem. If there is not a quick or perfect solution to what has happened, the American public needs to accept assuming that our troubles will be over by February.

Write a Letter to the Editor

Want to say som thing about what you have read? Do you have an idea that you think would be great in The Current? Visit our Web site at www.nsucurrent.com and write a Letter to the Editor.

While you are on our Web site, take a look at the changes we have made. You can also comment on the articles, go through our archives to see previous articles, as well as read staff bios.

O-n The Scene

KRISTINE BELIZAIRE
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

What Do You Feel is the Most Hateful Word?

"I would say any word that is derogatory to any race, ethnicity and towards women."

- Alicia Leavitte, a sophomore education major.

"I hear these words being used so causally all the time, so you don't really get offended by them anymore."

- Aurea Mendez, a junior biology major.

"I think hate itself is a hateful word."

- Japheth Pizarro, a sophomore criminal justice major.

"Anything that is said in a hateful way to special needs kids. Words like retard and slow really anger me when used the wrong way."

- Michelle Cauffin, a junior business administration major.
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