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NSU and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Unite

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

NSU recently partnered with Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Fla., to open a dental clinic for children with special needs in January.

The Center for Craniofacial Pediatric and Special Needs Dental Care at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital was possible thanks to a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Health Professions which provided NSU with $11.3 million, over a period of three years, to train dental students in treating special-needs pediatric patients.

The clinic is staffed with five NSU faculty members—Oscar Padilla, DDS, Sandra Brener, DDS, Jose Larenas, DDS, Harvey Beaver, DDS, and William Trevarthen, DMD—and 13 first and second-year NSU pediatric resident students. However, they rotate their schedules, so there are two resident students and one faculty member in the clinic at all times.

According to Rumer Ocanto, chairman of pediatric dentistry and a mastermind behind the special clinic, the DiMaggio clinic is the only pediatric dental clinic that tends exclusively to children with disabilities.

It has been wonderful. I feel privileged to provide these children with healthcare. 

SEE HOSPITAL 2

College Students to Receive More Federal Aid From Obama Administration

ALEXIS IRIAS
STAFF WRITER

President Barack Obama recently announced that his administration is planning to increase federal financial aid support and to direct college students away from bank-based loans.

According to the administration's Web site, the new policy will not only increase the budget by almost 200 million dollars but also will simplify the application process for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). According to the Web site, the administration will streamline the financial aid process by eliminating the current federal financial-aid application, requiring families to apply simply by checking a box on their tax form or authorizing their tax information to be used, thus eliminating the need for a separate application.

"The application process for financial aid is very complicated and tedious. I constantly get annoyed with having to fill it out."

SEE FEDERAL AID 2

Student Protest Interrupted

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

On March 23, students in a performance theory class were assigned a final exam in which they were supposed to do a mock protest on a subject of their choice. However, mid-protest students were stopped by NOVALERT and Davie Police.

The class chose the topic of high food prices on campus. They were to walk from Parker in the Don Taft University Center chanting, "Lower, lower, lower the prices. You need to lower the prices," waving banners to make the protest as realistic as possible.

By the time the students were in front of the Alvin Sherman Library, however, they were stopped by NOVALERT officers under the premise that they had been causing a disturbance.

"Some of our staff members observed a group of people who appeared to be protesting. We did not intend to stop them we just needed to find out what they were doing," said Shane Lam, assistant director of field operations in Public Safety.

The Davie Police arrived with siren sounds within minutes of NOVALERT asking who the leader of the protest was, and to prove that they were students at NSU. The police told the students they were "disturbing the peace."

"They said we crossed the line of public protest to disturbing the peace by chanting, that we did not have the right to protest unless it was silent, once we started speaking or making any sounds we were disturbing the peace. Which I think is absurd because the point of protesting is to be heard," said Sam A. Caldwell, a junior communications studies major, who wrote the chant.

Professor Chiachi Egwu, who teaches the class, was waiting by the Shark Fountain for the students to arrive when she received a call from one of the protesters.

"It was too much, regardless of the fact that it was for a class," said Egwu. "Why should students not be allowed..."
FOREST FROM 3

HOSPITAL FROM 3

FERDERAL AID FROM 3

PROTEST FROM 3

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The Current, formerly known as The Knight, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location on Room 105 of the Athletics and Student Activities (ASA) 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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NSU Displays Employment Opportunities at Career Fair

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

On March 24, the Office of Career Development hosted the biannual Career Fair in the Don Taft University Center. The event was open to both NSU students and the outside community who could meet hiring employers in different industries.

"[Employers] were chosen based on the majors in which students graduate," said Shari Superstein, director of the Office of Career Development.

During the four-hour event, approximately 900 attendees spoke and gathered information from 37 different employer agencies including Target, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Alvin Sherman Library and GEICO, among others.

Some, however, arrived to find that the employer with whom they wished to speak had left early. "I just came in and saw that one of the employers I wanted to meet had gone," said Nozomi Ozaki, a second-year master's student in physical therapy.

Others were not looking for a specific employment opportunity but simply a job in rough economic times. Opinions differed when it came to the effectiveness of the fair, however.

"A faculty member told me about the event. I have not worked since December, so I came to see what was here," said Whenda Timm, a 25-year-old who attended the event. "So far it has been very helpful. I have spoken with many representatives, who have been really nice and informative."

"I thought I would see a lot more jobs but the ones that are here want you to be a graduate student. I would think that they would have jobs for [undergraduate] students, especially now when everyone needs a job, even students. I mean, we are broke, we also need a job. I am disappointed," said Ruth Tonico, a sophomore nursing major.

When students left the fair, they were asked to fill out surveys to express their opinions. Thus, said Superstein, will be taken into account when planning the next career fair.

For more information or help with a job search, contact the Office of Career Development at career@nova.edu or call (954) 262-7201.

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**NSU Professors Showcase Research at Faculty Symposium**

**ALEXIS IRIAS  STAFF WRITER**

On March 23, The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences hosted its Second Annual Faculty Symposium in the Don Taft University Center.

The event showcased outstanding scholarship undertaken by professors in the college pertaining to a diverse range of research fields. Professors presented a variety of topics such as "The Embodied Motorcyclist and Freedom," by Steven Afford, Ph.D. "You Are Lying in the Room, But Your Feet Are Outside: Reflecting on Women's Sense of Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in Ghana," by Joyce Avoti-Weaku, Ph.D. and "How fast can a shark swim?" by Evan Haskell, Ph.D.

"This event is important [because] students can see what their professors are doing beyond the classroom," said Kip Strasma, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Humanities. Strasma presented, "The Now-Networked-Mobilized Self," an explanation on how online representation continues to expand through Internet resources, which presented the problem on how to best understand the transformation. This presentation revealed the role of immediacy, desire and intimacy within the online representation.

Michele Grillo, M.A., instructor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, commented on how interesting it is to see what other faculty from other divisions are doing. "Even though we come from diverse departments, it's unique to see how we have commonalities," she said.

"We think this is a great opportunity to find out more about the good work of our colleagues," said Mark Duncan, M.F.A, coordinator of performing arts, assistant professor of theatre and artistic director.

Duncan and Shantii Bruce, Ph.D., assistant professor of the Division of Humanities, and organizers of The Faculty Symposium thanked the faculty for coming together to share their scholarship with other members of the NSU community.

"Even though we come from diverse departments, it's unique to see how we have commonalities."

- Michele Grillo, M.A.

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**The Fall of an Empire**

**LAURA STARR  EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

- On March 26 at Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad Law Center, Col. Powell's Former Chief of Staff Ret. Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, spoke about U.S. foreign policy and national security. In this lecture, Wilkerson touched on the nation's policies both past and present, the Iraq war and what we can do as individuals to return our nation to the great western leader that it once was.

- This self-proclaimed Republican spoke candidly about the events and choices that he has seen various administrations make that have led this nation into the economic collapse that we are now facing.

Wilkerson first noted that these problems do not stem from just the Bush administration or even the Clinton or Reagan administrations. Instead, he spoke about how the 1941 National Security Act, created by Harvard and Yale students has been used to create what he calls, "crimes in the name of the American people."

The budget of today allocated three quarters of a trillion dollars, which is around 750 billion dollars, to the Pentagon, and a mere 33 billion dollars to the State Department, he noted. This led him to term this practice as the, "Militization of American policy."

Taking the military concerns further, he noted that the qualifications to join the armed forces have dipped tremendously, in that they now allow 42-year-old men, people doing time in prison, people who are not high school graduates—which he noted is a necessity as completing high school shows persistence—and even people mentally diagnosed as "category four," which means they cannot read their name on the roster.

Wilkerson continued in that he is not against the military, as he has a background serving in the forces. However, he did mention that the "instrumentality" of armed services is what concerns him.

"I find it appalling that less than one percent are dying in a war for the rest of us," he said. Wilkerson also noted the reason that some men enlist is because they have little socioeconomic choice in the matter.

"Their education and upbringing made them join your all 'volunteer' military," Wilkerson said.

One concern that Wilkerson noted was that the current president has the skills needed to be a leader, but that his skills may be wasted as he does not see unification in support by the people that he may need help from.

Additionally, Wilkerson commented on the state of the American people. "I find people...apathetic," he said. Wilkerson also commented that the American people are also "worried about every aspect of what I call 'local living.'"

Wilkerson made a statement that really puts the severity of our nation's issues into perspective. "You will be the first generation in history to have a lower standard of living than their parents," he said. "That's a very sobering thought."

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**No Chords for Hate**

**LAURA STARR  EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

On March 25, Lambda United, a Shepard Broad Law School student organization whose initiative is to support hate crimes awareness, held a RockOutLoud lunchtime initiative at Gold Circle Lake to raise money for the cause.

This initiative is in conjunction with the Fight Out Loud initiative, which was started by NSU Law Professor Anthony Niedwieski and his partner, who is vice president of the company, after hearing an anti-gay statement over the loud speaker at an airport.

Dan Russano, president of Lambda United, was encouraged by this cause and decided to support this lunch for students in order to get the word out that hate crimes still exist. "We are here to tell people," Russano said. "What a better idea than to rock out against hate crimes."

Debbie Ross, vice president of Lambda United, spoke about the importance of having a group like this on NSU's campus. She also noted that the organization is responsible for putting on lectures such as "Out in Law School" or "Out in Practice."

Ross noted the latter to be particularly interesting because the event offers lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgendered law students an opportunity to speak with current professionals that identify themselves as LGBT, in efforts to gain some insights of what it is like to be "out" in the profession.

Angela Gilmore, a faculty member of the law school commented on her feelings toward the organization's existence. "I am very proud of Lambda," she said. "I think they have done a really good job in welcoming and making the law center a safe...environment for LGBT students."

Ryan Roelans, a first year law student and attendee of the event supported Gilmore's statement. "This is a good way for us to show support for organizations while in school," noted Roelans in that the time and location of the event was ideal because law students have little time to devote to anything other than studying but care about supporting organizations such as these.

Hot dogs and hamburgers were available for a $5 fee and all money raised will go to support other initiatives that Lambda United will offer in the future. To get involved with this organization, please go to http://mualaw.nova.edu/orgs/lambda/index.cfm.
The Long Reach of Famine: Sex Ratios, Mating Dynamics, and Sex-Biased Parental Investment

Glenn Scheyd, Ph.D., assistant professor for the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, presented a lecture about the historical reports of five famines to provide moderate support for the sex-biased parental investment hypothesis.

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

Several members of the NSU community gathered in Room 249 of the Parker Building, on March 24, for a lecture titled "The Long Reach of Famine: Sex Ratios, Mating Dynamics, and Sex-Biased Parental Investment" featuring Glenn Scheyd, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

In his lecture, Scheyd attempted to prove his "sex-biased parental investment hypothesis." According to Scheyd, parents who are partial toward the production of male children during famine or who show favoritism toward sons born or conceived during a famine are in limited supply, because males are more fragile than females and have higher mortality rates. They are more likely to be miscarried, even with quality healthcare and adequate nutrition. When stressors such as a food crisis occur, the likeliness of this increases.

He believes that parents will invest more in the males because males have higher reproductive value and can have more offspring than females. To strengthen his argument, he provided research done by evolutionary biologists Robert Trivers and Dan Willard, who found that a male is more likely to be able to have dozens of offspring and are also likely to have no offspring at all.

The biologists also claimed that parents could have many more children if they invest in sons rather than daughters. They believe that sons have an increased chance of mating with multiple females, which increases their reproductive value. Scheyd added that some mammals, such as deer, tend to produce sons because they are believed to be of higher quality.

He concluded his lecture by admitting that the evidence supporting his hypothesis was not that strong, and that he still needs more data to support his claim.

"It was a rare opportunity to see two important historical figures that had an impact on our society. I was surprised at how approachable they seemed," said Robert Karpel, a third year law student.

"I liked that they covered a broad spectrum of topics. From the foundation of our country to current issues we deal with." McGovern, who ran against President Richard Nixon in 1972, recently wrote a book entitled "Abraham Lincoln." In it, McGovern presents his perspective on the life of the 16th president by narrating events and showing the struggles that Lincoln went through such as going through life with only one year of formal education.

"Lincoln was a remarkable person. I had to cut out a whole lot of brilliant stuff to make the book 165 pages," said McGovern of his book.

Anderson, who ran as an independent in 1980 and has been a visiting professor at the Shepard Broad Law Center for 22 years, commenced his remarks by informing the audience that about 16,000-19,000 other books have been written on Lincoln.

"I have not read all 16,000 books. I probably should have, but I found it overwhelming," said McGovern in a joking manner.

Anderson encouraged law students to read Delaware's Supreme Court Justice Frank J. William's book "Judging Lincoln" and Albert A. Woldman's "Lawyer Lincoln," to learn more about Lincoln as a man of the law.

The night was filled with laughter from the audience as the men discussed Lincoln, his achievements and their own anecdotes in the political field.

I am intrigued as to why you called it 'Turning the Inside Out.' Why on Earth did you choose this title? It makes us sound like insomniacs who are going to let out the secrets of how to succeed in politics. Need I remind you we both lost?" said Anderson.

The night concluded with a question-and-answer session from law students, who had already submitted their inquiries, and one question from the audience. Topics included each individual's perspective on the past, present and future of liberalism, the Republican Party, and how to use a law degree to get into politics.

"You have to begin as you do in every other vocation or occupation. I can think of, by grabbing every opportunity and making friends," said Anderson.

After the event concluded the audience could meet the speakers and buy a copy of McGovern's book on Lincoln, who will donate all proceeds to an organization that fights alcoholism which was the cause of his daughter's death.

"I am not trying to get rich by selling books, and that's a good thing," joked McGovern.

"It was wonderful. I'm so glad to know Charlene Smith who invited me to be here. McGovern has such a way with words and a great personality, too. It is too bad he cannot run for president again," said Maisy Rapport, a 78-year-old woman.

"He was too early for his time. It was great to listen to them; they were very charming."
Women and men from all across the NSU community gathered on the second floor of the Don Taft University Center, on March 26, to hear attorney Maria Jose Fletcher speak about human trafficking in the United States and to celebrate International Women's Day. This event was hosted by NSU's branch of the American Association of University Women and marks the third year that this event has taken place.

Allison Brimmer, president of the NSU branch of AAUW stated that they held the event yearly to raise awareness about these issues but also to "advance equality for women and girls," she said.

Keynote speaker Fletcher noted that violence against women in this arena has been increasing over the past 15 years, because more women have begun to migrate to the United States illegally. Fletcher reported that when women immigrate through illegal means, this puts them at a much higher risk than if they had gone through legal channels.

This is evident by the fact that a good number of these women have male family members already in the U.S., who had come safely immigrating into the U.S. illegally. However, when the women attempt to cross over, there have been reported instances of enslavement and rape by the same handlers that assisted in the men’s immigration.

The ability of these traffickers to entice these women is further enhanced by several factors. Fletcher noted. Learning disabilities, lack of access to legal work and language barriers were some of the factors she mentioned.

On a more specific note, Fletcher spoke about the main technique of these traffickers—manipulation—and how it is similar to that of domestic violence cases, in which the handlers use a balance of bad treatment and instances of good treatment to subliminally hold power over these women, exploiting their hope of better circumstances.

Anthony Ferrara, a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Inc. at NSU and attendee of the event, supports the notion that human trafficking is not just a women’s issue. “Half the world’s population is female so it affects us all," Ferrara said.

Suzanne Ferreira, a faculty member of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences also commented on the importance of the event to the NSU community, in that it offers an opportunity for groups of faculty and students to work together to support and promote education for women.

The event raised $900 from a silent auction and other donations. For more information about the NSU branch of American Association of University Women, please contact Lisa Fuller at ljfuller@nova.edu.

Book Lovers Meet Acclaimed Authors at LitLIVE!

ALEXIS IBIRAS STAFF WRITER

NSU hosted LitLIVE!, part of the 21st edition of Literary Feast, which brought 24 acclaimed authors to NSU's Alvin Sherman Library on Saturday, March 21.

Sponsored by NSU, Literary Feast 2009 was a two-day event benefiting the Broward Public Library Foundation. Throughout the day, fans had the opportunity to meet with their favorite authors at panel discussions, lectures, book sales and signings.

NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr. told the Office of Public Affairs that he was honored to once again host the annual LitLIVE! event. "Having world-renowned authors come here provides an excellent opportunity to promote literacy and for book-lovers of all ages to come together to support our library system, which is so vital to the community," he said.


Karla Faso, a senior psychology major, commented on how grateful she was that NSU offered such extraordinary opportunities for students, such as LitLIVE! “It was an honor to actually get to meet Vicki Myron, I am a huge fan of her book "Dewey,“ said Faso. “I am so happy NSU hosted this event, yet again this year.”

Freedom Through Awareness

LAURA STARR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

How To Be Financially Successful

LAURA STARR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Lifting Against Multiple Sclerosis

LAURA STARR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The gentlemen of Kappa Sigma held their Strongman Competition, on March 28, at the Library Quad lawn. The event was held to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. This particular cause was chosen because some of the brothers have family members who are living with MS.

Gumba Ligden, a member of Kappa Sigma, commented on what it means to participate in an event that supports a cause that directly affects his brothers. "It hits closer to home," said Ligden. "This idea is something that we are much more personally tied to."

In regards to the lifting aspect of this event, many people were involved to ensure proper lifting techniques, equipment and the safety of the lifters. "We are amateur at best when it comes to power lifting. But we are committed to doing our best," Ligden stated.

In preparation for the event, Ligden enlisted the help of Jim Dundon, a U.S.A. Powerlifting professional, the RecPlex, Ligden stated.

The gentlemen of Kappa Sigma have come. In order to ensure their best work and their safety, the gentlemen of Kappa Sigma enlisted the help of Jim Dundon, a U.S.A. Powerlifting professional, the RecPlex, who powered the weight lifting equipment.

In preparation for the event, Ligden noted that Jade Chen, director of the event and particularly about how to make the event with a statement made during his opening speech. "Although at first it seemed like an insurmountable undertaking for twenty eight fraternity men, the sight before us at the opening speech.

"I’ve been here since they started in 2005. So to see them come a long way in the last four years means a lot to me and all of my sisters."

Sebastian Ternos, president of Kappa Sigma, complimented Tawil’s statement and summed up the overall meaning of the event with a statement made during his opening speech.

"We are amateur at best when it comes to power lifting. But we are committed to doing our best," Ligden stated.

In order to ensure their best work and their safety, the gentlemen of Kappa Sigma enlisted the help of Jim Dundon, a U.S.A. Powerlifting professional, the RecPlex, who powered the weight lifting equipment.

In preparation for the event, Ligden noted that Jade Chen, director of Kappa Sigma, commented on how proud she is of how far the Kappa Sigma’s have come.

Edwin Monterey, heavyweight division. Ryan Moves, lightweight division; Ben Bennett, middleweight division and Hughes Touze, heavyweight division and Garrett Whitmore, super heavyweight division. Kappa Sigma raised a total of $2000 for Multiple Sclerosis for this event.
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Junior Qana Bergner prepares to swing. The NSU softball team (35-9, 8-4 SSC) underwent an important week as they faced off against the Panthers of Florida Tech in a Sunshine State Conference three-game series, and then returned home to battle Southern New Hampshire in a double-header.

In their opening game of the series against Florida Tech on March 20, the Sharks found the game's opening run in the top of the second inning when junior Jessica Hernandez (2) hit an RBI single to left centerfield. NSU would tag on two more runs, the first coming out of a Panthers' error allowing Hernandez to score while the other came in the fifth inning courtesy of a two-run homer from senior Dale Alberto (3). Senior pitcher Miles Mikolas (40) threw a complete game, giving up just one run, while striking out 12, demonstrating a pivotal performance considering the low-scoring affair.

The Panthers would once again be shut out on March 21, as junior pitcher Dani Caron (10) took the mound, providing the second shutout of the series, throwing all seven innings with only three hits and seven strikeouts.

As well as their defense being on point, the Sharks' offense exploded with a 10 run performance led by junior Dana Bergner (11), who went 2-for-3 at the plate with three RBIs and three runs including a three-run homer in the first inning. Junior Lauren Lopez (15) and pitcher Brittany Thompson (13) combined to give up only six hits in both games, while NSU's defense was flawless in 13 innings of play. They faced off against the Spartans on March 22, as they sealed the series win with a 6-0 victory. J. Martinez continued his fine form as he led the Sharks with four RBIs, including a two-RBI homer in the sixth inning and a two-RBI single in the seventh inning.

The Sharks carried their momentum through to game one of their double-header with the Spartans on March 23, as they avoided the three-game sweep. All of NSU's runs would come from senior Dexter Butler (8), as he tallied three RBIs while returning a solo home run in the first inning, followed by a two-run homer in the third.

In a game with several ties and lead changes, the Sharks were able to take the win against the Sailfish of Palm Beach Atlantic on March 24. After PBA opened the game with a first-inning RBI, the Sharks quickly responded with an RBI from junior Rhys Roberts (6) to tie the game at 1-1.

NSU then took the lead in the second inning courtesy of a two-run homer from senior Pete Simion (34). The Sailfish fought back with two runs in the fourth inning, continuing on to take the lead back from the Sharks in the fifth, 4-3.

Butler came through with a vital run in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game once again, and in the sixth inning, junior Matt Fisher (14) provided the Sharks with what would be the winning run in the sixth, off a sacrifice fly-out to right field.

Senior Greg O'Mahony was named Sunshine State Conference Player of the Week for the week ending on March 23, grabbing hold of his second SSC Player of the Week award this 2009 season. O'Mahony carded a three-round score of 212 (70-68-74), allowing him to tie for third place individually, while leading his team to a first-place finish amongst 17 competitors in the Bobcat Invitational.
Tennis No. 4 in SSC

The women's tennis team: Monica Veth, Carly Soloman, Lily Rasmussen (top row), Edita Kukhova, Karoena Porchova, Justine Frester, Ula Tadlerka (bottom row).

TRANEIL MESA
SPORTS EDITOR

The Sharks' Head Coach Michael Coleman is proud of his team as he has worked hard all season with them, seeing them strive and work harder than ever en-route to keeping their competitive edge alive. The Sharks will be back in action on April 2 where they will take on SSC rivals Barry University in a crucial match up at 10:30 a.m.

NSU Dominated the Track and Field

Freshman Jonathan Thiele

SPOTTED ON MARCH 23, Lindsey Nowland, a freshman exercise-science major, was in full "Shark Spirit" by cheering on NSU's women's tennis team as they swept Eckerd College in a 9-0 shutout!

Many may recognize Nowland from NSU's women's soccer team, where she played as a defender in the 2008 season. Nowland has aspirations of one day becoming a chiropractor, after graduating from NSU.

When off the soccer field, Nowland enjoys catching turtles and squirrels at the beach, studying and listening to the Dave Matthews Band. Congratulations Lindsey Nowland on being NSU's "FAN OF THE WEEK!"

Fan of the Week

CHRISTOPHER BALABAN
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/WRITER

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When off the soccer field, Nowland enjoys catching turtles and squirrels at the beach, studying and listening to the Dave Matthews Band. Congratulations Lindsey Nowland on being NSU's "FAN OF THE WEEK!"

FAN POLL

TIM COENRAAD
STAFF WRITER

Should Dwayne Wade get the NBA MVP? (100 NSU students were polled)

YES: 84%

NO: 16%
Easter Puzzle

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Basket
Decorate
Hopping
Nest
Search
Bonnet
Easter
Hunt

New Clothes
Spring
Bunny
Eggs
Jellybean
Palm
Sunday
Chocolates

Flowers
Lamb
Parade
Tulips
Daffodils
Gumdrop
Lily
Rabbit

MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

STEFANI RUBINO

Jeremy Jay’s “Slow Dance” is Worth a Try

Last year, when K Records released Jeremy Jay’s first LP, his music proved to be mediocre—pretty good at best. Honestly, with all of the amazing talent that emerged last year, I wasn’t that impressed with Jay. After listening some more, however, I started to like Jay. I recognized his talent as a minimalist, yet he still cares enough about the little details.

Now, Jay has garnered enough acclaim and recognition to be considered a substantial and important artist. On March 25, Jay released his newest album “Slow Dance,” which met a 7.7 on Pitchfork Media, and earned him a whole new appreciation in my book.

“Slow Dance,” as a whole, is reminiscent of a great ‘80s classic, but without the ridiculousness. Jay makes it clear that he lives in a different world than the rest of us; a world where romanticism and the feeling of having an intense crush on an unattainable cheerleader or football player still exists. Not only that, but some of Jay’s compositions remind me of a sort of post-punk, 1980s high school dance that could only take place in New York City or London, England.

The album opens with “We Were There,” an up-tempo, synthesizer-filled homage to Joy Division or Roxy Music, but with more positive subject matter. Though his music seems simple, almost too simple at times, “We Were There” shows just how much Jay cares about the little details in his music. Immediately, listeners will recognize his ability to combine post-punk and ‘80s garage-rock in an interesting and enjoyable way.

The best tracks, however, show not only Jay’s compositional skills, but also his song writing skills and his love for music. “Gallop” begins with a sort of dancing, up-tempo beat and strong bass strumming. On this track, he proves that he’s a talented musician, and has learned from music’s past. He knows what works and what doesn’t. Even if this song doesn’t suit most people, it’ll at least have them tapping their fingers and feet.

“Will You Dance With Me?” is probably my favorite track on the entire album. Upon the first listen, it seems nostalgic, recalling every memory of movies I have never seen set in the ’50s, with a high school prom scene or something along those lines. However, Jay doesn’t copy those “doo wop” and R&B groups of the time past; he makes the genre his own, adding a disco-flair that wouldn’t have existed in those days.

As I said before, sometimes Jay’s music doesn’t seem that exciting during the first listen, but after a few, his lyrics and percussion will manage to infiltrate anyone’s mental space. While “Slow Dance” may not be the best album I have ever heard, it’s definitely worth listening to, at least twice.

Get Into Sudoku

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from one to nine inclusively.

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“Knowing” Raises Questions and Fears

ANONYMOUS

The last three weeks have been hell for Doris, after being hospitalized for food poisoning and simultaneously being treated for schizophrenia. She enters a supermarket, feeling this unconscious desire to do something reckless. She mechanically heads directly for the meat section and starts to look for a prime piece of sirloin.

THE VOICE (started): What the deuce are you doing?

DORIS - as the lady: I know how that ones looking (pointing to the sirloin). That’s a nice piece-o-rump.

THE VOICE: Oh! Well as to that (I do agree but-um... why here?)

DORIS - as the lady (quietly): I believe it would be quite a treat to do it here. I have seen it being done on the box with the moving pictures. I believe Doris owns one of those boxes. You know?

THE VOICE (quietly): I am afraid, madam, that I am at a loss to know what you mean. A box with moving pictures you say?

DORIS - as the lady (excitedly): Oh yes, quite extraordinary really. I am excessively fond of seeing it. Later on, we could view it together, hmm?

THE VOICE: I beg your pardon madam, but do I understand you right? You desire for us to do something... together?

DORIS - as the lady: Have I never offered before?

THE VOICE (coldly): Never. You seem to always venture on your little excursions or while trying to save your son from the law every other week. Rogers’ shop to steal that entire sheep carcass; you and that— that imbecile Doris.

DORIS - as the lady (snarls): Well, Doris doesn’t have to make scientific or religious sense for it to be appealing. The idea of numbers serving as tools of executions or religious sense for it to be explained has happened on earth since 1959, the present and the future. Cage then takes on the responsibility of deciphering the time and location of these approaching disasters, while trying to save his son from the archetypal, specter-looking entities. If someone is going to point out specific examples of unexplained and sinister questions the film raises are, I appreciate the provocative and even illogical scenes in “Knowing.” That would take up the entire movie time, but appreciating the provocative and even sinister questions the film raises are, I believe, worth the ticket price. In addition, the CGI, special effects such as earthquakes, explosions and fire-producing people and animals pulsating through the film, proves director Alex Proyas (“I, Robot”) maintains his forceful and effective visual style.

Knowing” has the potential to be an astronomically brilliant film. The ideas in the film are worth exploring and should be explored. So, if you were tempted to watch the film, you should definitely yield to that temptation.

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954-530-4906

John Keosteller (Nicholas Cage) and his son Caleb (Chandler Canterbury).
March 31, 2009

Opinions

States Opt For a More Reformative Prison System Due to Economic Downturn

STEFANI RUBINO
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

The persistent attitude in the U.S. towards “criminals” has been and continues to be incredibly complicated. Lawmakers and citizens continue to complain about the amount of money spent on prisoners, but as a March 24 New York Times article states, “For nearly three decades, most states have dealt with lawbreakers in two ways: lock more of them up for longer periods, and build more prisons to hold them.”

So, even though they do not want to spend the money on jails and inmate well being, they have not, until now, created inexpensive programs to actually rehabilitate prisoners. The same New York Times article goes into how states, such as Colorado, Kansas, New Jersey, New Mexico and even Kentucky, are trying to find new ways to cut costs because of the weakening economy.

It is unfortunate that it took an economic downturn to convince state legislators to finally use the prison system as a way to reform “criminals” and aid their transition back into society. The “proposed” purpose of the prison system is to rehabilitate all prisoners, even the worst offenders of social ills. The New York Times article points out that it has only been over the last three decades this attitude towards prisoners has been relentless, but I would argue that the mission of the prison system was lost a lot longer than that.

Obviously, not everyone feels the same about actually rehabilitating prisoners or giving them a second chance in society. However, since the recidivism rate is so high amongst former prisoners in the U.S., prison reform, no matter how it comes to fruition, is something we’ve needed in this country for a long time.

Not only that, but initiatives like these will help wardens and guards run their facilities more efficiently, with less violence from inmates and less violence amongst the inmate population. Think about it: if inmates are educated and taught to use their knowledge in more constructive and creative ways, violence would be used as neither a first nor last resort.

The most important thing about these initiatives, though, is preparing inmates for re-entry into society. Years, inmates have struggled to create a life for themselves after prison. The first obstacle and stipulation of most paroles is for former inmates to find jobs, but they struggle because they have no marketable skills and were, of course, convicted of felonies. This is one of the reasons the recidivism rate is so high, because former inmates get desperate and, once again, turn to crime as a source of income or as a release of stress and tension in their lives.

So, even though these programs have not gone into full effect in the states specified, I certainly hope they do and that they are successful. Reforming the prison system in the U.S. could prove to be a step in the right direction, especially because our jails and prisons are so overcrowded and costly.

Psoriasis often strikes between the ages of 15 and 25.

1. Guttate psoriasis on chest
2. Inverse psoriasis in armpit
3. Psoriasis of the nails

Apparentiy,
World Peace Can Wait

STEFANI RUBINO
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

This week, organizers in South Africa were supposed to hold a peace conference in support of the 2010 World Cup, which will take place in Johannesburg, and show how sports, like soccer, can unify nations around the world. Five Nobel Peace Prize winning leaders were invited to the conference, including Nelson Mandela, who has been barred from the conference by the South African government.

According to Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former South African President F.W. de Klerk, the South African government was pressured by China to bar the Dalai Lama. The South African government claims they do not want to take attention off of how monumental it is for South Africa to host the World Cup, and if the Dalai Lama were allowed to be at the conference, the focus would then switch to his peoples' turmoil in Tibet. Either way, it is fairly odd that a nation like South Africa, which was taken and held captive under apartheid for over 40 years, would turn away someone who is trying to free his people from political captivity as well. I don't think the situation is as simple as the South African government is making it seem. I think it all comes down to politics.

Over the last five or six years, China and South Africa, along with a few other African countries, have been forming a sort of friendship. I use the word friendship because, as far as I can tell, there has been no pronounced alliance. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China likes to call their relationship with South Africa a "strategic partnership."

Call it what you may, but the problem comes down to China not wanting to take responsibility or be reminded of unnecessary military actions they have taken in the past. After the complete meltdown activists and world leaders had about the 2008 Summer Olympics being held in China, the Chinese government is obviously "sick" of hearing about Tibet.

However, the South African government is not exactly in the clear here. They could have expressed how important this conference, and having the Dalai Lama at this conference, is to the nation of South Africa. Instead, they gave into China's threats, and now the entire conference is canceled.

So, in the eyes of China and South Africa, politics and soccer seem to be more important than governmental and spiritual leaders from around the world getting together to figure out how peace, or at least the idea of peace, can work on a global scale.

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Editor's Note

LAURA STARR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I enjoy a good cultural event like any other person as it brings an artistic component to a university campus, while also offering a nice on-campus activity such as LitLIVE!

Since concerts and other artistic activities seem to add creativity to a college campus, I set out on a journey over the Internet to research other benefits that studying the arts can offer. What I found is that the arts have beneficial effects on cognitive skills, social and moral decision making and even diversity awareness.

According to a paper published in 2008 by David E. Gullatt, Ph.D., of Louisiana Tech University, "Recent developments in cognitive science and neuroscience help explain the power of the arts...because they have shown that...the brain and body make up a single...fully integrated cognitive system." In other words, enhancement of one part of the brain has the possibility of enhancing another part, thus creating a more collaborative and powerful state of cognitive reasoning and intellectual ability.

The Arts Education Partnership released a study in 2002 that broke down the specific art forms and their reliable benefits to standardized tests and academic performance. James Catterall, coordinator of the study, reported, "Music improves spatial temporal reasoning." This means that a person will have an enhanced ability to figure out intellectual patterns, which will come in handy considering the math portions of standardized tests, such as the SAT and GRE, as a large portion of these exams test for observable patterns instead of accumulated knowledge to solve them.

Catterall also notes that these skills in reasoning can translate into better developed social skills, because enhanced reasoning can produce "inclinations to tackle problems with zeal." Additionally, he noted that it can help in "collaboration with others...conflict resolution skills and attention to moral development."

The above-mentioned study is supported by a 2006 InterCultural Education research study which stated that, "Student attitudes toward diversity can be enlarged through drawing and photographic enlivened lessons accompanying peer presentations about civic issues."

This means that while people can speak about understanding each other's differences, seeing the differences in an art medium could speak to the person on a different cognitive level. Seeing situations and cultures from a different, more-involved perspective could create or solidify a deeper level of understanding, which could reduce instances of conflict and violent prejudice against cultures other than one's own.

All-in-all, music and the arts have a tough time finding a place in the U.S. because it is difficult to demonstrate how participation in a 10th-grade-orchestra concert or speaking the words of Eve Ensler in a NSU rendition of the Vagina Monologues can make a difference in the success of an individual.

Hopefully, some of the facts above have shed some light to the proposed idea that arts enhance learning and development in many areas of an individual's life and also enhance the social skills that students need to succeed. Maybe with more studies and notes such as these, the arts just may have a place and funding in our education system. If nothing else, at least they may have a fighting chance.

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Write a Letter to the Editor

Want to say something about what you have read? Do you have an idea that you think would be great in The Current? Then send a Letter to the Editor at nsunews@nova.edu. You can also visit our Web site at www.nsucurrent.com.

While you are on our Web site, take a look at the changes we have made, comment on articles, view videos and go through our archives. Visit frequently, as staff bios will be available soon.

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On The Scene

KRISTINE BELIZAIRE
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?

"I want to be a lawyer because it allows you to look at both sides when you argue a point."

Midline Pierre, a first year MBA student in accounting.

"I would be a politician, because I can influence the system."

Bernard Pierre, a junior accounting major.

"I want to be the executive director of University Relations, because it is very interesting. That is what I would like to do."

Rafael De La Rosa, a junior finance major.

"The job that I've always wanted is a pharmacist. I've gotten a lot of experience in it and I love the field. I know what it takes to be a pharmacist."

Jessenia Gonzalez, a junior biology major.
DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE. Hip-Hop, Top 40, Alternative. It doesn't matter what you listen to. Tobacco companies just want you to think smoking sounds like a good idea. But smoking and using other forms of tobacco can lead to serious illnesses like emphysema and lung cancer that can tune you out - permanently.

Some tobacco companies target teens by sponsoring popular artists.

WARNING

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