Campus Starbucks open 24/7

Written by: Annarely Rodriguez

Beginning Nov. 7, the Starbucks in the Don Taft University Center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Robert Genser, Chartwells district manager, said that Starbucks will follow NSU’s undergraduate calendar, which means that it will close during holidays and winter break.

Moe Lauchert, freshman marine biology major, said he would not mind that the other venues were closed as long as the Don Taft UB was open and he could get something to eat from Starbucks.

"It would be a place to get away from everything," said Lauchert.

Genser said he hopes students react positively to the change.

Steven Bell, freshman psychology major, did.

"It is very convenient, especially for people who live on campus because the library's not open," he said.

Anthony Campenni, senior economics major and president of the undergraduate Student Government Association, said PAN-SGA, which is made up of the presidents and vice presidents of all the SGAs on campus, is responsible for the initiative.

"PAN-SGA said that there needed to be a place for students to be able to study all night on campus, especially for graduate students who are up late at night," said Campenni.

However, Campenni said the change will be permanent only if students take advantage of it.

"If two months go by and students take advantage of it," said Campenni.

Traffic determines toll prices on I-95 Express

Written by: Alyssa Sterkel

Rush hour may mean more than high traffic. It may also mean high toll fees.

Drivers using the I-95 Express lane can expect to pay 25 cents and more depending on how many drivers are on the road.

I-95 Express is a part of "Dynamic Tolling," a computer-controlled system that determines toll prices by how fast vehicles are going and how close they are together.

Brian Rick, Florida Department of Transportation spokesman for the Miami region, said the express lanes are a demand-based system that manages traffic.

"The intent of the express lanes is to better manage the traffic on the road. It separates the local motorists from the long-distance motorists and gives drivers a choice," said Rick.

If the tolls were only 25 cents, every driver would use the express lanes, defeating the purpose of regulating them, he said. The objective is to keep cars moving at a reliable speed by raising the price of the toll.

"Prices will definitely affect the usage of the express lane. If it costs just as much to order a meal as it does to pass through one of these lanes, then people will think twice to use it," said Bryan Saenz, freshman biology major. "With how the economy is, people will do anything to save a couple dollars any way possible."

However, Rick doesn't think managed tolling will deter motorists from driving on the express lanes because the toll price fluctuates.

There are highs and lows, he said.

"The toll prices won't deter people who need to get to their destination quicker. Time is money. If you're on the highway sitting in traffic, it's burning a hole in your wallet causing you to spend more money than if you were paying the tolls on the express lanes," said Rick.

Joanne Pol, assistant professor in the division of humanities, said the toll prices on the express lanes are a demand-based system that manages traffic.

"The toll prices won't deter people who need to get to their destination quicker. Time is money. If you're on the highway sitting in traffic, it's burning a hole in your wallet causing you to spend more money than if you were paying the tolls on the express lanes," said Rick.

Empathy decreases in college students

Written by: Annarely Rodriguez

A study by the University of Michigan revealed that, due to social media use, adolescents are less empathetic than adolescents 40 years ago.

Stephen Campbell, associate professor in the Center for Psychological Studies, said that it is hard to generalize results regarding empathy. However, he said that an increase in social media use among students could lead to a decrease in empathy.

"The social media means less personal contact with people, which
EMPATHY

agreed that their peers show it less. It means less opportunity to show empathy," he said.

The study defined empathy as the "tendency to react to others’ experiences," and some students agreed that their peers show it less.

"I think students cared more before," said Gauri Reyes, first-year school psychology student. "Nowadays, students care but just not enough to join a cause or do anything about it."

There are other students who agree that today’s generation is less empathetic, but attribute it to the home environment.

"I think it depends on the person and the environment where they were raised. Some people come from caring homes and others don’t," said Joseph Young, freshman biology major.

Others do not think there was a decrease at all, but that students today show empathy using different media.

"Our society has taught us to use more electronic devices like cell phones and Facebook, but that doesn’t mean we’re less empathetic than they were just because they didn’t have Facebook. We just have our own way of communicating," said Wilber Leon, freshman biology major.

However, Campbell said communicating through these media is not enough to show empathy.

"It depends on how you define empathy but it has to be a more caring respect than a phone call," said Campbell. "There is nothing more meaningful than looking someone in the eyes. It is priceless."

Campbell said that society will adapt to the changes in communication but that adaptation may not be a good thing.

"I think we don’t want a society where people don’t care about each other and do things only because they are politically correct. I think that is what is happening now. People are just doing things because it is politically correct and not because they care," he said.
there's two students going in there, it's not going to work," he said.

Campenni also said that the change had to make sense economic­ally. Starbucks employees and Public Safety will have to be paid to keep the building open and this could cost the university a lot of money, he said.

Brad Williams, Ed.D., dean of the Division of Student Affairs, said that after this semester's final exams, student traffic will be reviewed to determine if the schedule is still viable.

"It kind of puts the ball in the students' court," he said. "If they say, 'We really want this and we're going to use it,' that's great," he said.

Michele Zielinski, first-year marine biology graduate student, said that she would take advantage of the extension of hours and study in the Don Taft UC. "I know they have extended midterms and finals, but this would be perfect for other exams through the semester," she said. She also said she would prefer studying there rather than in the library. "Here you could talk and have food and drink options, which you can't have in the library," said Zielinski.

Williams said students have a different time frame and that, sometimes, they are very active late at night.

"There's Eastern Standard Time and there's daylight saving time and then there's student time," Williams said. "It's 2 a.m. and they might want to grab a cup of Starbucks and they might want to have a study group, So, they work on a very different time zone than a traditional structured campus."

Starbucks will be the only venue in the library open 24/7. General said that he hopes it stays open. He said the Office of Business Services and the Division of Student Affairs will make the final decision.

"It's not going to the Division of Student Affairs, said the university a lot of money, he said. "The college also hosts events with the audience when she spoke of her experience growing up as one of the few women and foreigners in the underwater world. She said the research investigated parts of the ocean not previously investigated.

"95 percent of it is still unexplored. Wherever we looked we found species," Crist said.

The expedition included nearly 2,700 scientists from more than 80 nations and more than 600 institutions. The project cost $650 million.

But, Charles Messing, Ph.D., professor at the Oceanographic College at Nova Southeastern University, said there was still much to be discovered.

"We are still scratching the surface...Just on the Intracoastal and Broward, there are dozens of crustaceans and worms that haven’t been discovered," he said.

Messing specializes in Crinoida, a class that includes sea lilies and feather stars. They belong to the echinoderms, a phylum of marine animals that includes sea stars and urchins. He said he dis­covered four new crinoid species in the Bahamas last year. One of the species was a foot-tall sea lily. "It tells us more about dis­tribution of life on Earth. Its closest relatives live in the Indian and eastern Atlantic oceans," Messing said. "It was as if you knew about lions, tigers, leopards and cheetahs, and then discovered jaguars on the other side of the world."

He said more species have not been discovered because there are not many people with the expertise to describe them. "There has been a shift in molecular biology: ‘All I need is DNA’. We have to know what they look like. There is no DNA scanner like ‘Star Trek’. You have to tell them apart," Messing said.

There are names, descriptions, locations, but not much is known about their role in the ecos­ystem, life span, and reproduction, Messing said. It was assumed that certain species covered only certain areas. But research results revealed that most species cover an extremely large area that can reach from pole to pole.

For example, Messing said that the Caribbean rough shark is a deepwater shark that looks like a sirenian that swallowed a watermelon. It was seen in Venezuela and then reported off the Yucatan Peninsula, West Indies and Hudsons.

"We know almost nothing about it and it keeps popping up in different places," he said.

Crist said the biggest discovery in the census was how connected humans are to marine life. "The ocean is changing very rapidly. Humans are the primary cause. We are intimately connected to the oceans and how long that connection we have before we even know what it is," he said. Messing said it is unknown exactly how connected we are to the oceans and how long that connection will last.

"Some people are concerned that we may be on the verge of a major extinction. With increasing human population, pollution, and global warming, we may even lose species before we even know what we lost," Messing said.

One of the species discovered during the marine life census is the Centrolepis mexicana pictured here.

New species discovered through marine life census

Written by: Giuliana Scaglotti

In early October, results of the marine life census revealed the discovery of more than 6,000 new species. The 10-year exploration concluded with a presentation of the results in England.

Darlene Trew Crist, director of communications for the Census of Marine Life, said that, the results revealed how mysterious and foreign the underwater world is. She said the expedition included nearly 2,700 scientists from more than 80 nations and more than 600 institutions. The project cost $650 million.

But, Charles Messing, Ph.D., professor at the Oceanographic College at Nova Southeastern University, said there was still much to be discovered.

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One of the species discovered during the marine life census is the Centrolepis mexicana pictured here.
Diary of...

A radio personality

Written by: Toby Braun-Gotti

Toby Braun-Gotti is a junior criminal justice major. He is also a Y-100 radio personality, an event planner and nightclub promoter. He lives his life by the philosophy of never letting an opportunity get away.

In late 2008, I started my own promotional event and club promotion company and began organizing night club parties from Miami to Ft. Lauderdale. I became so well known that MTV producers heard about me and when they came to South Florida to cast a reality show about popular guys my age. They asked me if I was interested in being on the show. Since I've never backed down from any opportunity, I said yes.

I quickly got through the casting process and started filming for MTV's "Is She Really Going Out With Him?" In March 2010, the show aired on MTV and VH1.

A month later Michael Mack from Y-100, also known as Mack at Night, contacted me. After we met for the first time, he asked me to be part of his radio show, which airs Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Once again, I gladly took the opportunity and became "Jersey" of the Mack at Night show, which I am still part of.

Today, I am one of South Florida's most well-known and respected nightclub promoters, reality show, radio personalities and popular bachelors.

My life at NSU is like most others, I have class in the afternoon Monday through Friday and work out in the RecPlex for an hour a day.

While I have become what some call a "local celebrity," I have not changed one bit inside. I don't think that I am special in any sort of way, only fortunate enough to have received so many great opportunities in life and a great father and friends whom I'm thankful for every day for the past and future goals.

My goals in life have not changed either - they have only expanded. After graduating from NSU, I plan to attend graduate school to obtain a master's degree in criminal justice. While my plans after that are only expanded. The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do or accomplish and, more than ever, I know that no goal in life is too big or impossible to reach as long as you put your mind to it. I hope that I have motivated some people with my story to keep their ambition of becoming the person they always wanted to become. I ask you to keep in mind that life is too short. So, don't be afraid. Let go of your worries, like getting into med and law school, once in a while and free your mind.

Faculty Spotlight: Dimitrios Giarikos

Written by: Keren Moros

Dimitrios Giarikos, associate professor of chemistry and science coordinator at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, has been invited to weddings and parties — by his students.

His popularity with students has not gone unrecognized. He won the 2010 Outstanding Full-Time Teacher of the Year award at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Giarikos said that winning the award was a great honor.

“My true goal was to actually become the best instructor that I could, basically to be more student oriented and make sure that they learn rather than just listening to a lecture,” he said. “So when I actually got the award, that’s what I wanted at the end. I wanted to put out the best that I could and the award was kind of like the cherry on the cake.”

Giarikos said that he tries to contribute as much as he can to the development of students' critical thinking skills.

“Eventually they’re going to go outside in the real world. They’re not going to have me. They’re not going to have instructors. They have to think on their own,” he said.

Giarikos and the other chemistry faculty have developed the college's new chemistry major, which starts in fall 2011.

“We’re really looking forward to it, especially the upper division courses,” he said. “We’ve already had the general chemistry and the organic chemistry but the upper division courses are all new courses and that’s going to be the exciting part.”

This freedom to create courses was what attracted Giarikos to NSU.

When he first came to NSU in 2003, he said he saw an opportunity to be involved in the university’s potential for the development of new areas. This aspect made him choose NSU over six other universities.

Giarikos said he likes NSU’s small-college feel.

“Our classroom sizes are small so I get to know every single student in two or three weeks instead of teaching a class of 400 and having ten teaching assistants,” he said. “Here, you’re really an instructor. Here, you’re a professor. You sit down with people. You have a conversation.”

Giarikos’s students have to pick up their exams from his office, which gives him an opportunity to meet with the students and get to know more about them.

“Anytime we have exams, I like to sit down with them to have a conversation about where they’re standing in the course and how they’re doing and also to give me a little idea of what they’re about. What do they want in the future? Where are they going with this? What do they want to do? That way I try to give them some guidance wherever I can,” he said.

Giarikos also helps students with research projects. His students have presented their research at the Undergraduate Student Symposium. He said that the symposium is one of the most important things that undergraduate students should participate in.

“It’s really learning about what the research process is — sharing information with the public,” he said.

“So I try in all my classes in the winter semester to incorporate some type of research project so they can present at the undergraduate symposium.”

Just as he sees the potential in his students' futures, he is also interested in NSU’s future. He said he still sees the potential in NSU in what he saw when he first came here. He would love to see math and physics majors created and, eventually, an engineering major.

“I think engineering is something that the university lacks a little bit, but I think we can create a very strong engineering program here. I would love to see engineering be something that’s different — not your typical electrical and mechanical engineering but all the universities have. I think we can do something special here.”
Walsh from California and 15-year-olds bullied for their sexuality, committed suicide: 13-year-olds Asher Brown from Houston, 13-year-old Samantha Campbell from California and 15-year-old William Lucas from Indiana. The suicides brought national attention to the bullying of gay students.

Demi Picallo, junior biology major and treasurer of the Gay-Straight Student Alliance (GSSA), said that he was bullied for being gay in junior high school. "I remember I was bullied in middle school to the point that I left the middle school because people were taunting me about my sexuality and I was just starting to become comfortable with my sexuality so it was pretty bad," he said.

Ghabryelle Pardo, sophomore paralegal studies major and member of the GSSA, said that she has seen bullying of gays at NSU. Last year, she said she witnessed a gay activist on campus ask a group of people, "Would you like to help with gay rights?" Pardo said they answered, "No, faggot" and said other offensive things. "The school is definitely not as open as we'd like to think," Pardo said.

Alvarez said that some NSU students denied even recognizing it. "There are people who will look at you and go, "Oh that faggot" or people saying, "Oh so gay,"" he said. "It's kind of denouncing because it shows how people use the word gay to say something about you and they're teaching that to young people to become afraid of identifying themselves as homosexuals. Rambo said that issues of acceptance, tolerance and appreciation for diversity should be open to conversation among students, their parents and faculty. "I think we need to look at our culture as a whole and where attitudes are toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people because these attitudes are not being changed or even discussed in our schools," she said. "And I think adults really need to search themselves about what their attitudes are and are they passing those attitudes onto their children."

Denise A. Vanquez, Psy.D., psychologist at the Henderson Student Counseling Center, said that people who are bullied suffer from depression, anxiety and stress. They can even be turned to the point of thinking about suicide. "Some people can be traumatized to the point that they have post-traumatic stress disorder and so they really do ever forget and they have negative consequences long term," she said. "It depends on the degree of what they were traumatized. A lot people grow older and they still remember when they were bullied as children and they have negative consequences to their self esteem."

Vanquez said that bullies are often insecure and the main reason bullies attack others is that they are going through their own emotional problems. She said that when people are not educated about differences, they can become afraid of what they don't know and they become insecure. Students should be taught that differences are OK, she said. "They're really powerless but they feel some kind of power over the victim, and they feel some kind of satisfaction but it really comes from insecurity and powerlessness," she said. "People have their own differences and it's OK to be different."

Rambo said that university administrators send out an annual message to students that bullying is not tolerated, that it is not a prank, and that it is not OK. She said she also recommended that universities should review their technology rules to help regulate the problem. "They'll say, 'Okay, you can't break into another student's room.' We know that. But it needs to be made equally clear, 'You can't spy on them with your computer' or 'You can't break into their e-mail account,'" Rambo said.

Rambo said that some people are involved in every bullying situation: the bully, the victim and the bystander who knows about the bullying. "A teenager has to be taught that it is not OK to get involved if they feel that they are going to be made fun of or become afraid of knowing that person's name," she said. "They need to know what's going on and that they can be a bystander and make a difference.""All the research on bullying shows the importance of the bystander. Activating people to be effective bystanders is a really important part of bullying prevention," Rambo said. "There's nothing that's going to change unless bystanders speak up."

Vanquez said that educating the community about bullying empowers bystanders. "The more awareness you create, the more the bystanders can do."

A teenager attempted suicide by jumping off the ninth story of his apartment building — and survived. Think this is the next Hollywood film? For then 18-year-old Jordan Burnham, it was no movie. Now, he uses his story to inform others about mental health and suicide prevention. He hopes to prevent others from going through what he did. On Oct. 19, he spoke to students at The Commons Residence Hall.

It seemed shocking that the humorous Burnham had tried to end his life three years ago. He asked the audience what they thought he was doing when they heard the words "mental health." Some responses were shaved heads, Lindsay Lohan, Lady Gaga outfits and Britney Spears. Burnham said that people don't apply these words to someone like him and others who try to take their lives.

Burnham said that some mental health issues are brought on by a number of things, including break ups, divorce, arguments and loss of loved ones. These stressors can make the average person temporarily depressed, he said. Mental health disorders aren't always temporary and many are reoccurring such as depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyper-activity disorder and eating disorders.

Most people with symptoms of mental health disorders don't get the help they need because of the stigma attached to mental health, Burnham said. "They're afraid to be judged. But I hope that by the end of this session, you won't be afraid to talk about it," he said.

Burnham's problems began with transitions. He went to a new school in third grade and was teased. "Black kids would come up to me and say go to school, don't you black," he said.

Burnham said that two events slowed the improvement of his life. First, his sister, who was his best friend, left home for Pennsylvania State University Second, his father got a new job in Philadelphia. Burnham said he had to choose between leaving his mother in Penn Hills, Pa. and going with his father to Philadelphia. He said he moved and though he would adjust quickly, but that did not happen. "I started getting made fun of again. My sister wasn't there when I got home. My dad had a new job. I felt guilty that I left my mom and I didn't want to bother my sister because I knew she was studying," Burnham said.

Still, he refused to seek help. "I thought you had to be going through something really bad, not just having a bad day," he said.

Burnham said he began losing his appetite and had trouble getting out of bed. He held everything inside. Yet by ninth grade, Burnham almost became class president.

"But, I felt like it wasn't the real me. I'd rather be accepted for the person I wasn't than hated for the person I really was," he said.

Bullying continued after he had been beaten. "He began drinking because he felt that he could blame his problems on the alcohol. He began to get panic and anxiety attacks and didn't know why. "My emotions were like a rubber band. I held it in and stretched the rubber band back, but then it snapped," he said.

The snap came when Burnham took his driver's license test. He said he got frustrated when he hit the curb five times while practicing. He held his frustration inside but let it go after the test. He was the stopping point of the test three times. "I started yelling at my instructor and crying at my sister, "Where did this Jordan come from?" he said. At that point, Burnham said he went to a therapist and was diagnosed with depression.

"When most people are depressed, they know why. With my depression, I had no idea why I was so down," he said.

Burnham said that depression caused him to focus on the negative so much that he ignored positive things. During his junior year, Burnham said he felt pressure to live up to his sister's accomplishments and expectations. He said he wasn't taking his depression seriously and cheated on his girlfriend. People started mocking him. "I started beating myself up about it. I thought I was going to break into another student's room," he said. "I've never said that I was with someone's main support system is gone, he or she needs to know what the second step is. For him, it was his girlfriend. The next step would come about him to his parents and Burnham went to a mental hospital for a week."

"There were no pushed walls or straightjackets. Just people who looked like me," he said.
Paddleboarding combines the best of two worlds—adventures of surfing and the relaxation of rowing down a river.

The sport started in Hawaii about a decade ago. It gained popularity in East Asia and California and, most recently, South Florida. Using a board very similar to a surfboard and a paddle, athletes paddle through rough waters or calm lakes. Shirley Lowe, partner of Paddleboard Miami, said her favorite part of paddleboarding is its versatility.

"It can be a leisurely or an intense workout," she said. "You can do it in calm waters but also in rough waters and it attracts a range of different kinds of people."

Lowe said paddleboarding attracts so many people because it can be done by anyone. She said she has had students with knee injuries who want to exercise their upper bodies and try something new.

However, Steve Pfister, director of rehabilitation and assistant professor in the College of Allied Health and Nursing, said it is important that people check with their physicians before practicing the sport, especially if they have an injury like in the shoulder.

"It should be evaluated on a case by case basis," Pfister said. "It doesn't mean that it's bad for everyone with a shoulder problem. It may mean that you just need to be more careful but it doesn't necessarily exclude you from doing the sport."

But if you do practice the sport, it has many medical benefits, said Pradeep Vanguri, assistant professor in the Sanford College of Arts and Sciences and the clinical coordinator for the training education program. He said that because it is a cardiovascular exercise, paddleboarding is good for the heart.

Paddleboarding also strengthens core muscles, which can boost performance in other sports said Vanguri.

"It's a great exercise to be able to get out on the water to work on skills like balance and coordination," said Vanguri. "It helps students' posture and gives them skills they can transfer to other areas and sports."

Lowe said people even practice yoga and stretch while paddleboarding. She also said runners, swimmers and other athletes could benefit from it.

"It is a good cross-training activity for athletes to train off season," said Lowe.

Although the sport has become more popular in the past two years, Lowe said a lot of people still do not know about it but expects to see an increase in popularity over the next five years.

She said everyone should try it. "Expecially, adventurous and eco-friendly people who want to see nature as it is, using something as simple as a paddleboard and a paddle should try it," she said."

Men's Soccer

The Sharks had a great week securing a spot in the Sunshine State Conference tournament. On Oct. 20, the Sharks won 2-0 against Florida Southern, but suffered a loss to West Florida Aggies on Oct. 23. On senior night, Oct. 27, the men rebounded by dominating rival Lynn 5-2. The men will play in the first round of the conference tournament Nov. 2.

Women's Soccer

The women experienced one of the worst losses of the season to Florida Southern 5-0 on Oct. 22. They rebounded on Oct. 26 with an exciting last minute goal from team leader Alexis Hernandez, triumphing on senior night against Lynn 1-0.

Men's swimming

The men's swim team continued to show signs of brilliance defeating the University of Tampa 158-104 on Oct. 23.

Women's swimming

It was a rough week for the hungry Sharks. The women lost at Eckerd 1-3 on Oct. 22. Later that week they faced St. Leo and lost 1-3.

Women's Cross Country

The Sharks finished second at the Miami Invitational on Oct. 23. The team was led by freshman, Alexandra Palm.

Men's Cross Country

The Sharks finished second in the Miami elite Invitational on Oct. 23 with many of the runners finishing with their best overall times.

Men's golf

The Sharks finished in the top three at the Rollins golf invitational on Oct. 25-26.

ON THE BENCH

Rules that hurt us

In many countries and especially in the U.S., sports are social phenomena, which people to possess powers that break down many barriers. Sports stories are commonly related to perseverance, love, natural talent, heroic comebacks and the always-exciting victory of the good guys over the bad guys.

But are the rules of today's sports creating an atmosphere that no longer encourage these outcomes?

High school and collegiate athletic associations do well in establishing rules and creating the infrastructure that help to keep different sports competitive but fair. Most rules have a foundation and are approved to aid in some way. However, there have been multiple occasions where the improper enforcement of rules hurt the game instead of develop it.

An example of this is the recent story of Bill Budlini, a high school football coach in Orlando, Fla. who thought he was doing the right thing when he took in a homeless member of his community and gave him a spot on his high school football team. The story attracted media attention, not because of the coach's altruistic action, but because his job as head coach was at risk, including possible financial penalties on his stipend. Is this truly fair?

Despite the controversy, the story made people in the community question the validity of this specific rule established by the Florida High School Athletic Association. Most sports supporters in our communities will surely oppose how this rule was developed and who it benefits. Is this truly fair?

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Despite the controversy, the story made people in the community question the validity of this specific rule established by the Florida High School Athletic Association. Most sports supporters in our communities will surely oppose how this rule was developed and who it benefits. Is this truly fair? We could ruin his opportunity to go to college. Also, it is fair to sanction a rookie coach who surely acted in the best of his intentions and is looking out for the wellbeing of a kid?

Stories like this are closing down our options of helping to create inspiring stories with happy endings, like the one delivered to us in the Hollywood movie 'Touched by an Angel.' I'm sure Michael Cohn can relate to the homeless boy in this situation. His life would have probably been ruined if the Tamy family hadn't taken him in. Removing him from a drug-infested home and giving him an education led to him to graduate from college and eventually play in the NFL.

His inspiring story is one of honor and respect, worthy of recognition. It became a well-known book that inspired director John Lee Hancock to develop the motion picture that ended up adoring gaining Oscar winning nominations. In America, we live and die to see real life, inspiring stories that keep the flame of hope lit. This is the whole essence of our nation.

The sole question is: Why do we continue to make it difficult for ourselves by establishing and enforcing rules with gray areas that do not benefit our community? Michael Cohn's story wouldn't have been possible if sanctions and disqualifications were placed as obstacles. Moreover, the absence of obstacles is what allowed the family to defy the status quo, showing strength and courage and enabled them to give the young man the necessary resources to shine.

Let's give those individuals acting out of good intentions the possibility to step out and make a difference. Let's work hard to continue to deliver the world inspirational stories, filled with action, hope, and perseverance. Let's establish rules that help those who once succeeded to overcome their past.
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NSU BOOKSTORE
"Hereafter" may go over your head

Written by: Juan Gallo

"Hereafter" may be one of the best films released this year, but most who see it probably won't think so. I know because as I was walking out of the theatre, realizing it all in, I overheard the disappointed spectators around me saying how bad it was and how nothing happened. Unfortunately for those people the fact that they are not attune enough to understand a film with such bold emotional statements doesn't make this a bad film, it just makes them have the intelligence of a fifth grader — and, sadly, that's an insult to fifth graders.

"Hereafter" is the latest project from acclaimed ace-turned-director Clint Eastwood. Aside from a moving, thought-provoking storyline about the afterlife, it also features the acting talent of Oscar winner Matt Damon and Bryce Dallas Howard. The film follows several characters in different parts of the world: France, England and the U.S., but mainly focuses on George Lonegan (Damon), who lives in San Francisco and is a retired psychic who cannot evade calling, though he tries.

Lonegan lives alone and attempts to live a normal life, but somehow, people who wish to contact the dead find him and drag him back into performing readings for them. At the same time, several of the other main characters, a French woman named Mary LeLay (Cécile De France), and a British boy, Marcus (Frankie McLauren), have personal encounters with death.

For starters, forget special effects or any kind of manufactured, fancy, computer-generated tricks to astound you. Though, there are a few, like the tsunami in the opening scene, which destroys an entire town. These effects weren't done very well and they are not what make this movie great. Eastwood is all about advancing the plot and the films he directs are more about character development and matters of the heart than cheesy Hollywood clichés.

Eastwood takes his time to introduce you to each character and their stories. Although this feels like it's dragging just a bit, it is necessary in order for the viewer to develop an emotional investment in each character. With a running time of just more than two hours, Eastwood definitely gave ample time to unfold each character in the story.

I was expecting the worst. All I knew about the story was that it was about a psychic, there was going to be a lot of talk about death, and perhaps, a natural disaster or two. This is what I picked up from the trailer. Then, I accidentally read a headline for a review, which deemed the movie as being way too slow, so my hopes were not very high. However, Eastwood has shown now, as a director, that his films are a completely different breed. Just as in "Mystic River," "Letters from Iwo Jima," "Million Dollar Baby," "Gran Torino," Eastwood is not here to dazzle you with camera tricks, but to be an honest and powerful storyteller.

There is power in this film. At times it's sad, though there is enough charm and wit to keep it entertaining, but it's a tough subject to tackle. All of these characters are dealing with death somehow so the subject-matter is not the lightest. However, at the end of the day, Eastwood's brilliance, a sophisticated story, and noteworthy acting, particularly on the part of Matt Damon, make this another honoree for the veteran director.

So definitely go see this film. Maybe you’ll disagree with me, but hopefully you’ll be sensitive enough to find the meaning in this film. Watching "Hereafter" is pretty close to reading a book. Yes, it takes more effort, but the reward is, usually, quite incomparable.
November 2, 2010 | Incurrent.nova.edu

Arts & Entertainment

Site of the week

eggs.com

Written by:
Keren Moros

One of life’s greatest mysteries is why the “extras” on DVDs, software, and other forms of entertainment are called “Easter Eggs.” They have no resemblance to traditional Easter eggs except that they have a pack of yummy goodness inside and they aren’t easy to find.

But Easter egg hunts can be long and tiresome, which is where eggs.com comes in. Eggs.com is like a giant goose that lays golden eggs on a regular basis. It’s your treasure map for finding the gems hidden in movies, TV shows, video games, DVDs, software, and even books and works of art.

For example, if you’ve seen “The Social Network,” directed by David Fincher, you know that in the film, Mark Zuckerberg uses the false name “Tyler Durden” to cheat using Facebook. What you may not know is that Tyler Durden is the name of Brad Pitt’s character in “Fight Club,” which was also directed by Fincher. Eggs.com will show you these treasures and thousands more.

The only downside to the Web site is that the eggs are posted by users, who either enjoy pranking others or to cheat using “extra” eggs. “The skull and torches in the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ poster forms a hidden Mickey,” is definitely a rotten egg.

But sorting through these false eggs is easy and the site tries to get rid of them. The site’s pluses more than make up for this con. You can set up a free account and discuss Easter eggs with other users and you can find golden cherry chocolate-truffle covered with macadamia nuts, drizzled with caramel, and the delicious trivia inside your favorite forms of entertainment.

Written by:
Juan Gallo

November is here. It is the month where we look back and take some time to express our gratitude and stuff our bellies with delicious food. Sharks United Television is feeling the spirit of the holiday, as their movie listings for November are going to give Sharks on campus plenty to be thankful for.

No matter where you are for Thanksgiving, you pretty much know at some point you’re going to eat some turkey. This month’s movie turkey is “Old School.” By now, “Old School” is a fixture on television sets around the country. It’s old fashioned just like the turkey that’s going to be there even for days after as cold leftovers. “Old School” and Frank the Tank, are going to be here to keep you laughing and fill your turkey day with happiness.

Then, to step away from comedy for a bit, SUTV serves up some “Saving Private Ryan.”

This landmark film is everything that you need in this time of giving thanks. It’s a brilliant work by a world-class director, an academy-award-nominated performance by Tom Hanks, a touching recollection of one of the toughest, yet most glorious of American achievements, and a reminder of all that we should be thankful for even as we remember those who fight for our freedom today.

Next up on the menu is a dish with a little kick in it — the remake of “The Karate Kid.” Ralph Macchio fans beware, because even the most skeptical, and loyal, “The Karate Kid” fans, circa 1984, fell in love with this film. Young actor, Jaden Smith and martial arts legend, Jackie Chan, bring a dash of spin on the beloved story while still remaining faithful to the original, and winning over a new generation of fans.

The succulent goodies don’t end there. There is also, “Up in the Air,” the Oscar-nominated film, starting George Clooney as a man who spends most of his days flying through the skies and must suddenly stay on the ground. There is also, “How to Train Your Dragon,” the heart-warming story of a boy, voiced by Jay Baruchel, and his dragon. It is animated goodness. And, sure to provide even more laughs, is “Trading Places.” For those who don’t remember, Eddie Murphy once ruled the world of comedy, and “Trading Places” was Murphy in his prime.

Now, you are completely stuffed. You can’t move, and your pants are gonna have to be unbuckled as you attempt to take a nap on your La-Z-Boy. But, there’s more. And actually, these choices are perfect for playing in the background while you slip into a food-induced coma. They are “Stump the Yard,” “Nightmare on Elm Street,” and “Get Him to the Greek.”

On those days when staying in is necessary, tune into SUTV for their delicious servings of cinematic treats.

“Paranormal Activity 2” You’ll never look at your house the same way again

Written by:
Samantha Hafenist

“You’ll never leave your house the same way again.”

“Psycho” made us afraid of the shower. “Nightmare on Elm Street” made us afraid to fall asleep. “Poltergeist” made us afraid to look under the bed. And “Paranormal Activity 2” makes sleeping on the couch a nightmare.

“Paranormal Activity 2” is a prequel to the first movie. It begins about two months before the first film. It’s centered around a family who is terrorized by a demon who appears to want the baby. But finding out why the creature wants the kid is just the beginning. One of the things I enjoyed the most was finding out why this family was haunted and why the first film took place.

The true genius of the “Paranormal” movies is that they make the audience look for the creepy happenings. In making the audience work for the chills, it keeps their attention.

Another great addition to the movie was the dog. Anyone who’s had a pet that will randomly growl or meow in the middle of the night knows how creepy it can be. What do they see that we can’t? And “Paranormal” plays on that fear.

The first “Paranormal Activity” movie was beyond dull to me. But this one scared the hell out of me. Whether or not you liked the first film, you’ll love this one. And you’ll never think of your cozy couch or snuggling dog the same way again.

Review of SUTV’s November movies

“Saving Private Ryan” is one of the movies featured on SUTV this month.
Free speech both hurts and heals

Written by:
Keren Moros

Everyone has a right to his or her opinion. They deserve freedom of speech. However, people also have the right to be protected by what others say if it offends or upsets them. Sometimes individuals with different opinions can deride civilly. Other times, one side reduces the others' opinion by going from debating to smearing.

For years, the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan. has been using free speech to justify spreading their hateful message. Their Web site is named www.godhatesfags.com. Their sister sites are called www.americaisdoomed.com, www.beastobama.com and www.godhatestheworld.com. These sites list reasons why God hates almost every country in the world. Westboro Baptists have picket signs that say, "Thank God for Sept. 11," "Thank God for dead soldiers," and "Thank God for breast cancer." They've probably gotten the most use from their picketing at soldiers' funerals, where they claim that God killed these soldiers because of America's sin.

One deceased soldier's father couldn't take it anymore. Albert Snyder, father of fallen Marine Matthew Snyder, is fighting the church in the Supreme Court, suing the church for defamation and invasion of privacy. The picketers protested on a public street outside the Catholic church where Matthew's funeral was held, shouting that his death was God's punishment.

My mother always tells me that my rights end where others' rights start. This church had no right to intrude on such a private moment. They're not spreading the love that I believe churches are supposed to spread. They hurt this soldier's family deeply and they don't care. If they want people to listen to their message, maybe they should try being kind. If people want to listen to them, then that should be their decision. You can tell people about your views but you can't start World War III if they don't agree. People have the gift of choice and the gift of free will to make these choices.

I believe in God. I don't believe that he is beating down on the world because he hates it. Westboro doesn't realize that soldiers have always died in battlefields. Countless others have died in earthquakes, hurricanes, blizzards, floods and freak accidents. We live in a messed up world. These things happen. Some things can be prevented but people are messed up too and they'll never stop making mistakes. Evil people will always exist and tragedies will always happen. It's because of these evils and tragedies that we should strive for love, peace and compassion more than we ever have. Instead of condemning, let us love. Instead of fighting, let us promote peace. Instead of pointing fingers at perpetuators, let us help those in need. That is the most effective way to tell those who laugh at suffering, "What you are doing is wrong."

The families of the soldiers whose funerals Westboro has made unwelcome appearances at, lost their beloved children, parents, spouses and siblings in the horror of war. A compassionate person would help them and give them hope. A cynical person would protest and say "God is punishing you." I hope that Snyder wins the case and I hope that Westboro is stopped from twisting free speech into an I-have-a-right-to-hurt-you rule.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am a big fan of The Current, but believe as the gatekeeper of the paper, your choice to publish multiple disturbing photos of primates subject to animal abuse inside the Primate Products facility was tasteless. The point could have been made very well through the words of your talented team of writers. I do not believe any reader really needed to see pictures of primates skulls butchered for your story to be effective? This is coming from a woman who is fairly liberal, fishes, hunts, is not a pet owner and is not generally affected by blood or gore. So, I can only imagine how the members of the NSU community who are passionate about and sympathetic to animals must have felt. There is a fine line between journalistic truthfulness and tastefulness and I think you were on the wrong side with this issue.

When making a decision on photos to publish, you should strive for love, peace and compassion more than we ever have. Instead of condemning, let us love. Instead of fighting, let us promote peace. Instead of pointing fingers at perpetuators, let us help those in need. That is the most effective way to tell those who laugh at suffering, "What you are doing is wrong."

Respectfully,
Kim DuBois
Catering Manager
Cherrwells

One law does not fit all

Written by:
Anamely Rodriguez

Last year Broward County school officials expelled a 7-year-old for bringing a toy gun to school. This alone causes me to question the intelligence of the school officials who staid this kid's record over a toy, but that's not the whole story. When the one-year expulsion expires this month, the school board will then decide whether the expulsion will remain on his permanent record. Really? The boy has already missed a year of school. Isn't that more than enough punishment? How is permanently tainting his record a fit punishment for the mistake of bringing a toy weapon on school grounds?

Of course people worry about guns in schools after school shootings at Columbine and Virginia Tech, but this was a toy gun. Even when the principal wrote the report and recommendation for expulsion, it was identified as a clear plastic toy gun.

So, why is the school board punishing this first grader for a toy he didn't even take out of his book bag? He's expelled because Florida has a zero tolerance for projectile guns, even water guns, and his toy shot plastic darts. This zero tolerance law was established to prevent crimes like Amanda Collette's, who shot Collette in 2008 on the grounds of Dillard High School.

But how does that compare? How can a school principal or superintendent recommend a 7-year-old miss a year of school because he brought a toy gun to school? How is permanently tainting his record a fit punishment for the mistake of bringing a toy to school? I have mentioned it was a toy was.

Hopefully, the board uses their brains at the meeting later this month and decides to remove the stain from the 7-year-old's record and realize that one law does not fit all crimes.
Violence among teens escalates
What’s happened to us?

Written by:
Samantha Harfenist

A woman was kidnapped in one city. Her head was found in another and her body was found in the next town over. I was 10 years old when I heard this report on the news. My dad promptly turned off the TV and said that we would stick to fictional horror movies rather than the violent reality of our country.

To this day, I remember the shock I felt after hearing that haunting report.

There’s also the case of another Florida teen, 15-year-old Wayne Treacy, who repeatedly kicked a young girl in the head with steel-toed boots. This bout of violence was brought about by a different type of cruelty. The girl, another 15-year-old, made cruel comments about Treacy’s most liberal and accepting time in our nation’s history, this excuse confounds me. I’m Jewish and lost relatives during the Holocaust, but I wouldn’t attack a German today in revenge. Ultimately, people will do something hateful and then use any excuse to justify it, whether it makes sense or not.

It takes this level of depravity, committed by people so young, to horrify me. Not that long ago, when I was 16, I was putting on zit cream and studying for my SATs.

Don’t get me wrong. Growing up in such a diverse and unpredictable city such as New York, I saw a bunch of crazy things. But a knife-fight between two drunks outside of a bodega is miles away from two teens putting cigarettes out on a peer or setting him on fire.

What happened to us? Why are we so full of hatred? Where is this lack of empathy coming from?

I’m a scientist. The philosophy of metaphysics, the existence of evil is beyond my capacity. Children beating children, scorching their fleshes and humiliating them does not make logical sense. This is a cold crime in revenge of slavery.

Coming from a pair of 16-year-olds, who’ve been born into the most liberal and accepting time in our nation’s history, this excuse confounds me. I’m Jewish and lost relatives during the Holocaust, but I wouldn’t attack a German today in revenge. Ultimately, people will do something hateful and then use any excuse to justify it, whether it makes sense or not.

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To this day, the girl still suffers from the injuries she received.

On Sept. 28, two teenagers ganged a 16-year-old boy in Seattle, Wash. They beat him for more than four hours, burned him with cigarettes and urinated on him. The boy is in the hospital in critical condition. When questioned by police, the two bullies, one African-American, the other Filipino, said that they’d committed this brutal crime in revenge of slavery.

On Oct. 11, a 24-year-old man streaked in front of President Barack Obama at a president’s rally in Philadelphia, Pa. The man claimed that a billionaire promised him $1 million dollars to perform the stunt.

What would you be willing to do for one million dollars?

“I would sneak into the Playboy Mansion.”
Sapphire Aragon, sophomore exercise science major

“I would go streaking on campus.”
Denise Perez, graduate student in marine biology

“I would sabotage somebody if I had to.”
Rashida Allen, senior communication studies major

“I would dance from the beginning of a party until the very end.”
Vicky Duclos, sophomore biology major

“I would paint the outside of a house with a nail polish brush.”
Nathalie Rengel, senior business administration and dance major

“I would do something illegal or base jump off the Empire State Building.”
Justo Torres, junior exercise science major
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