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The Current

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Off-campus study spots

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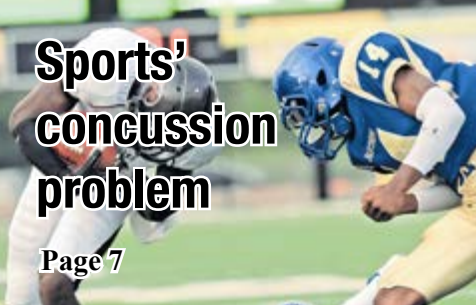
NSU needs healthier food

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Sports' concussion problem

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South Florida's best Hispanic dishes

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DISCOVER ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR

By: **Li Cohen**

The Office of Career Development will host the Graduate School Fair on Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center to introduce students to graduate schools and help them learn about academic opportunities and programs.

Career Adviser Emilio Lorenzo said representatives from roughly 50 national and international institutions will attend to provide information about their programs. The programs will include fields of study in law, health care, education, public affairs, biomedical sciences, psychology, criminal justice and more. When students sign in at the event, they will receive a map with all of the institutions and their locations.

"It's really beneficial because if you're interested in going to graduate school, you get to talk to representatives from schools and find out some of the things you need to do," he said.

Lorenzo encouraged all students to attend, regardless of



A past career fair hosted by the Office of Career Development. This year, the office is hosting the Graduate School Fair to help students plan their futures.

FACEBOOK.COM/NSUCAREERDEVELOPMENT

their academic year, so they can get more information on their interests and decide if they want to explore those interests further.

"If you're a freshman or sophomore who's not ready to think about graduate school just yet...talk

to individuals who are immersed in that subject matter [that you are interested in]," he said.

Career Development also invited representatives from the Office of International Affairs to set up a table at the fair. This will

be the first time the office will attend the graduate school fair to provide information on traveling or taking an internship abroad for semesters or summers abroad.

Office of International Affairs Associate Director Alejandra Parra

said that Career Development decided to incorporate International Affairs into the fair to provide students with more opportunities to prepare for graduate school.

"When they have this opportunity to travel abroad, the experience prepares students for a more global experience and profession," she said. "It has been proven that it is beneficial for undergraduate students to prepare for a globalized society."

Representatives will mainly provide information on studying abroad, but will also provide information on travel study. Study abroad programs allow students to spend an extended period of time in another country where they will attend educational courses for credits that will transfer back to their program of study. Unlike study abroad, travel study programs are part of a particular course at NSU in which the professor organizes the trip and the class travels together as part of the course criteria.

There is no dress code for the fair, but Lorenzo said students

SEE GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES 2

NSU RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS

By: **Li Cohen**

The United States Department of Education awarded NSU a \$2.85 million Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans grant to expand post-baccalaureate educational opportunities and academic offerings for students from Hispanic or ethnically diverse backgrounds who are studying computer science and related fields in college.

Co-Project Director Meline Kevorkian said she and Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences Professor Gregory Simco designed the grant to help undergraduate students who are studying computer science or related

fields get accepted into graduate school. The proposal was made to coincide with the education department's focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Kevorkian said that STEM fields are in high demand and a lot of jobs available to students nationally, but there are a limited number of students who are prepared to enter those fields.

"We decided to help students find these kinds of successful pathways to support them to be successful in their undergraduate programs," she said.

The grant was provided through the education department's Title V program, which provides grants to

SEE HISPANIC STUDENTS GRANT 2

TIME TO BREAK THE SILENCE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

NSU's Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, the Division of Student Affairs and Women in Distress will host the Silent Witness Memorial to honor those who have died from domestic violence on Oct. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. on Fellows Way, located between the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center and the Carl DeSantis Building.

The Silent Witness Memorial is a national movement that focuses on the victims who lost their lives to domestic violence. The memorial brings together students, faculty, law enforcement and political figures to fight against domestic violence.

The event will include an opening speech presented by NSU's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



COURTESY OF GOODHOUSEKEEPING.COM

Life-size silhouettes will be placed around campus in honor of the victims who died from domestic violence.

Jacqueline A. Travisano, live entertainment including songs, poetry, a candle light vigil and resources to help others cope with domestic violence.

Kappa Alpha Psi Secretary Joshua Moody, senior legal studies major, said the mission of Silent Witness is to stop domestic

violence abuse for everyone through intervention, education and advocacy.

"There are rarely signs of domestic violence on campus and the majority of all domestic cases are never reported," Moody said. "By showcasing these matters and

SEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES from 1

should come prepared with a list of schools they would like to speak and what they would like to ask about specific programs.

“If you’re really passionate about a certain subject matter, it’s really beneficial to master that

subject,” he said. “It’s a lot of future planning and asking yourself what your career outlook is going to look like with or without the degree.”

If students are unsure of what interest they want to pursue, Lorenzo said that they can visit Career Development for assistance.

“The degree isn’t as valuable as when it’s coupled with experiences, so find out what the programs will offer you along with the degree,” he said.

For more information, visit nova.edu/career, call 954-262-7201 or email career@nova.edu.

HISPANIC STUDENTS GRANT from 1

help Hispanic-serving institutions retain Hispanic students and expand opportunities for them.

“In computer science, we generally see less Hispanics, Latinos and underrepresented minorities than in other fields,” Kevorkian said. “However, everything we do is to benefit all students who have the interest and desire to pursue these areas.”

The grant will prompt changes to the curriculum and programs associated with NSU’s STEM colleges. Kevorkian said they will work closely with industries to identify what skills are needed for those careers and make sure that the curriculum in place will help students develop those skills.

“We’re preparing students to work in technology jobs that haven’t even been invented yet,” Kevorkian

said. “This is not an area where you can sit still.”

Simco agreed that the lack of students prepared to enter the STEM fields is a global issue.

“Our mission here at NSU supports the need for employment in high-demand fields in STEM programs,” Simco said. “As the older work force starts to retire, we want to make sure that we’re prepared for the next 10 to 30 years.”

With the grant, Kevorkian said that technology students will have a great opportunity to engage in graduate level activities and research, just as the science and education students do. She and Simco believe that the early exposure to graduate education will help with program retention and with students’ transition between undergraduate and graduate school.

“The student becomes engaged

in not only the theory, but also the practice, at a much earlier stage in their education and career, and they get to have more of an intellectually stimulating relationship with the faculty members,” Simco said. “The exposure to the outside industry will allow students to see what they will be doing in their career a lot sooner.”

The proposal outlined what Simco and Kevorkian wanted to change at NSU and how they would go about reaching those goals. They submitted the proposal to the education department and it was officially approved on Oct. 1. They are currently readjusting curriculum and programs to reflect the goals of the proposal.

For more information on the education department’s STEM initiative, visit its website at ed.gov/stem.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE from 1

addressing the students, we can help to prevent domestic cases that may come about locally or in the future. We must end the corrupt behaviors of domestic violence that have been adopted into households, college campuses and other places of living.”

This is the first year the Silent Witness Memorial is taking place on campus.

Angelica Brodeur, prevention specialist for Women in Distress, a nationally accredited full service domestic violence center, said, “In past years, the event was at a park or [the Women in Distress] center, where we had to invite people. This year, having it at NSU opens it up to the community — we are going to a place where people are”

The Silent Witness Memorial was also brought to campus this year in hopes that students will seek help if they are in a domestic violence situation.

“I want students to know where they can turn when in need of help,

whether they need it now or down the road — they know they can come to us for support,” Brodeur said. “NSU and South Florida need to be knowledgeable about what’s happening in its community. Domestic violence can be anyone’s reality.”

In the weeks leading up to the event, life-size silhouettes will be set up on campus to honor the 11 individuals who died from domestic violence in Broward County within this last year. The silhouettes are a way for attendees to understand the reality of domestic violence. Brodeur said the three-dimensional foam silhouettes will feature a personalized plaque that tells the story of the victims.

Women in Distress Education and Prevention Manager Ron Osborne-Williams said the silhouettes portray the person’s domestic violence story.

“The audience will be able to learn about the ones who lost their battle. This is a time for our society

to wake up and see that violence isn’t a joke and that domestic violence is very detrimental to us and affects everyone,” Osborne-Williams said.

Osborne-Williams said having this event on campus allows youth to take action.

“College students are the ones who create our future and take action,” he said. “They are the ones who will ultimately decide what our society will become.”

Osborne-Williams encouraged students to recognize and bring light to the issue of domestic violence.

“Promoting peace and responsibility are ways to heal and improve relationships. Attending this event will allow people to be educated in the area of domestic violence and hopefully take action if it does occur,” he said.

For more information about this event or domestic violence, contact Brodeur at abrodeur@womenindistress.org or 954-760-9800.



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NSU PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

By: **Alyssa DiMaria and Keren Moros**

NSU will take part in the second annual Block Party for Higher Education on Oct. 16 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event is hosted by NSU, Broward College and Florida Atlantic University and highlights higher education opportunities in downtown Fort Lauderdale. This year, Broward County has teamed up with the universities to start its yearlong centennial celebration, dubbing the event Broward 100 @The Block Party for Higher Education.

Departments from the three different schools will set up booths so visitors can learn more about them. Emily McCrater, communications and public

relations manager at NSU's Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale and coordinator for the block party, said two departments from each school will be highlighted. Visitors will receive a passport at an informational booth, and the ones who complete the passport by visiting the booths of the highlighted departments will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win an iPad.

NSU will highlight the museum and the AutoNation Academy of Art and Design. Representatives from NSU's Oceanographic Center, Fischler School of Education, College of Nursing, the Aquatics Center, College of Pharmacy, College of Osteopathic Medicine, NSU's Area Health Education Centers and

more will provide information and giveaways at their assigned booths.

"The Block Party promotes education during a night of fun, food and festivity," McCrater said.

The said networking with other universities is great for NSU.

"Joining together will allow more members of our county to be aware of the education in our area. The event is also important for the NSU community because they get to learn more about NSU's museum and what a wonderful resource it is," McCrater said.

The free event will take place along Las Olas Boulevard, from Andrews Avenue and SE Second Avenue. The event is open to students, families, children and the public and includes art exhibitions, live music and performances, several

food trucks, family activities and informational booths.

Catherine Hickland, a Fort Lauderdale High School graduate known for her role in ABC's "One Life to Live" and Broadway's "Les Miserables," will serve as the master of ceremonies. Hickland will begin the event by introducing Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief and other speakers.

The museum's activities will include live graffiti painting, a disk jockey, and images of some of the public's art projected on the wall.

"It's raising awareness that the museum is a part of NSU and that NSU is in downtown Fort Lauderdale," McCrater said.

For more information, contact McCrater at emccrater@moafl.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

Collecting toiletries for Women in Distress

Throughout October, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month, the NSU Public Interest Law Society will collect toiletries for Women in Distress, a nationally accredited, state-certified, full service domestic violence center serving Broward County. Items including toilet paper, shampoo, body wash, tampons, etc. are needed and will be collected in a box located in the Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall atrium. For more information, contact public relations director Loyal Souwed at 561-870-6952 or ls1626@nova.edu.

Flight Deck Pub special of the week

The Flight Deck Pub will offer two special menu items until Oct. 16 in honor of Oktoberfest. Between 2 and 4 p.m., the pub will serve bratwurst on a bun with spicy mustard and sauerkraut with a side of tater tots and a non-alcoholic beverage for \$6.99. Between 9 and 11 p.m., the pub will serve a classic Rueben sandwich with a side of tater tots and a non-alcoholic beverage for \$8.99. The Flight Deck is open every day from 11 a.m. to midnight. For more information, contact the Flight Deck at 954-262-5528 or flightdeck@nova.edu.

NSU welcomes Entrepreneur Hall of Fame honoree

The H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship will welcome James Donnelly, the founder and CEO of management company Castle Group, on Oct. 16 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 3000 of the Huizenga Sales Institute. Donnelly will discuss his book "LifeShaping — How to Live Your Life Consciously" and how students can shape their lives to meet their goals and become who they want to be. RSVPs must be made by Oct. 13 to Bauj Chang at bchang@nova.edu or at 954-262-5065.

Calling all dancers

NSU will host dance auditions on Oct. 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center Performance Theatre for students to perform at the Team 2020 Celebration. Students can audition individually or in a group and must prepare a futuristic three-minute dance with their own music. For more information, contact Barbara Packer-Muti at packer@nova.edu or Ale Matias at amatias@nova.edu.

How do you feel about our food?

Shark Dining has issued a guest satisfaction survey for the semester. Students, faculty, staff and visitors can choose to take the survey for as many on-campus food venues as they want. The survey covers food quality, value, venue atmosphere and customer service. The last day to take the survey is Nov. 21 and participants who complete it will receive a coupon for a free cup of coffee. To take the survey, visit sharkfins.nova.edu/?p=26426 and click on the link. For more information, contact Amanda Goodwin at amanda.goodwin@compass-usa.com or 954-262-5330.



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Diary of...

"the red shirt guy"

By: **Ian Bates**

Ian Bates is a 21-year-old junior English major. His goal is to become a fiction writer. His hobbies include reading, writing short stories and playing World of Warcraft.

Starting in 2005 and continuing for every year after, except for 2006 and 2012, Blizzard Entertainment has held a convention called BlizzCon in Anaheim, California. I have attended every BlizzCon except for the first one. However, it was not until BlizzCon 2010 that something extraordinary happened.

BlizzCon is devoted to Blizzard Entertainment's games, such as World of Warcraft, Diablo and StarCraft, as well as the communities that have developed around them. At the convention, new games in those series are revealed and fans are able to play them for the first time. Panels are held discussing behind-the-scenes information, and fans from all over the world can meet up. The question-and-answer panels at BlizzCon are especially interesting to me. Fans can ask the game developers anything they desire, if they get in line soon enough.

I was too nervous to ask a question the first time I attended BlizzCon. I tried to in 2008 and 2009,

but the line was too long and the session ended before I reached the front of the line. Finally, in 2010, I was able to ask a question. It was far more unsettling than I had assumed it would be. I am not the best at social interaction, so I had hoped the structured format of the question asking would help me. This proved incorrect. Aside from nervousness, I heard my own voice echoed through the microphone as I was speaking, which was disorienting and confusing, but I persevered and finished my question.

My question was that in "The Shattering," one of the many novels based on the game World of Warcraft, a character named Falstad Wildhammer had been slated to become an important lead character in the game. However, in the World of Warcraft game itself, Falstad had been removed and replaced with another character named Kurdran. Chris Metzen, the senior vice president of story and franchise development for Blizzard, answered that he thought Falstad had been killed in a previous novel and they would fix the issue.

I didn't think much of the event afterwards. As far as I knew, I had merely asked a question and provided valuable feedback that would be used to improve the game. Little did I know, I had been filmed by a YouTube channel called The Game

Cavern. They uploaded the video to YouTube under the name "Blizzcon 2010 - The Red Shirt Guy," and it has since gone on to obtain more than 5 million views. Apparently, people were impressed I had managed to "best" Metzen at his own job of keeping track of and developing the story content for the franchise. I had no idea of the significance of the video until I returned home and a family friend told me that I "was on the Internet."

I was amazed to learn I was "internet famous," though when I first saw the video it had only just began to spread. It quickly reached one million views and didn't show any signs of slowing. It was not entirely a pleasant experience, however. A lot of the earlier comments on the video made fun of me. Jimmy Kimmel even featured a clip of the video on his late night show and made an obscene, insulting joke. Everyone at my high school recognized me and tried to talk to me. Unlike the comments, they were nice, but all the attention was overwhelming. Luckily, it died down by the next school year. In BlizzCon, it's only intensified. For each BlizzCon I've attended since, the developers have made references to me and I am frequently recognized by the other



COURTESY OF I. BATES

Ian Bates became an Internet star when he questioned the continuity in the "World of Warcraft" story.

convention goes. There, I'm prepared for people to come up and talk to me, so it's not as uncomfortable.

What surprised me even more was that, when Blizzard did restore Falstad to the game, they added a new character: a character in a red shirt called the Wildhammer Fact Checker. Upon first learning about the Fact Checker, I thought it was a joke, a fake screenshot somebody on the Internet made. To get a character based on you in World of Warcraft is one of, if not the, highest honor Blizzard bestows upon their fans. When I checked in the game and saw it was real, I was overjoyed.

In years the since, I've frequently been mentioned by

Blizzard employees and I am on their list of influential community members, who they occasionally reach out to in regards to community events. At this moment, the original video has exactly 5,244,790 views. Thankfully, as things have died down outside of these conventions, my life has resumed a fairly normal structure. I learned that I didn't like the attention of fame constantly and was happy to remain anonymous outside of controlled environments. My outlook on life hasn't changed much, aside from a hope that I've made an impression on Blizzard that could help lead to a potential future career. I guess I'm not the kind of person who craves fame.



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FINDING THE PERFECT STUDY SPOT

By: **Ashley Figueroa**

Do you ever feel like Goldilocks looking for the right study spot? The library is too quiet. Your roommate is too talkative. The Don Taft University Center is too loud. You're in search of the study spot that will be just right. Here are some off-campus study spots that will be perfect for studying for exams.

Your Big Picture Café

4900 University Drive, Davie

As soon as you walk into Your Big Picture Café, you'll feel more relaxed. The café's laid-back atmosphere, combined with their self-help books, wellness items and spiritual products gives off a new age, hippie vibe. There's plenty of table space and comfy chairs to make studying a more pleasant experience and, while sipping your fair-trade tea or coffee, you'll be able to use their complimentary Wi-Fi for your studying needs. They offer organic and gluten-free options as well as alternatives

for those who are milk-sensitive. Make sure to mention that you're an NSU student and you'll get a 10 percent discount. However, if you're looking for a quiet study atmosphere, avoid Your Big Picture Café during their live music performances on Friday and Saturday nights.

Second Cup

11045 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines

Second Cup will make you feel as if you've walked into a coffee shop in a different city. The store's inviting nature comes from its friendly staff, comfy chairs and couches and the smell of fresh coffee and treats. Second Cup offers free Wi-Fi and an ample number of power outlets, which makes it easy to hunker down and study for hours. Plus, you can enjoy your drink in a ceramic mug that will make you feel right at home. At eight miles from NSU's main campus, this location may be a little far if you don't have your own car. However,

you can use a caffeinated bribe to convince a friend with a car to take you there.

Robbins Preserve

4005 Hiatus Road, Davie

When you think about study spots, the last place that comes to mind is a park, but before you dismiss the idea entirely, hear me out. Getting some fresh air and a change of scenery will help you focus better. This park's quaint charm makes it a perfect place to disconnect from distractions and get studying. There are a few gazebos and tables where you can set up and, for the most part, the park is quiet because it is secluded. Keep in mind that the park does not offer Wi-Fi, so plan your studying accordingly. Also, make sure to take a study break and explore the park.

Mojo Donuts

7906 Pines Blvd. Pembroke Pines

This gourmet donut shop isn't your average study spot. Mojo Donuts will make your

dreams come true with two simple words: bacon donuts. If that hasn't already rocked your world, there are many other flavors to catch your attention and taste buds. On top of free Wi-Fi, there are couches, tables and chairs where you can find the comfiest spot to study. The shop opens at 6 a.m., making it a great place to get breakfast and cram before that early exam. Also, because it's pumpkin-flavored-everything season, you'll be sure to find a treat that will make you feel cozy and might even make you forget about your exams, which may or may not be a good thing.

Starbucks

4751 University Drive Davie

When exam time rolls around, you can always count on Starbucks. They offer coffees, teas, Frappuccinos and various pastries that will make your study time a little bit sweeter. Of course, like every other Starbucks, they provide free Wi-Fi along with

their welcoming and relaxing atmosphere, which is perfect for studying. Keep in mind that this particular location's proximity to three major colleges keeps it bustling at all times. You can make sure to catch a table by coming during off-peak times: between breakfast and lunch time or after the lunch rush.

Panera Bread

2699 University Drive, Davie

At Panera Bread, you can have a meal, coffee and dessert, all while studying. The great thing about Panera is that it's open from early in the morning to late at night. So, in theory, you could spend the whole day studying there. The Panera atmosphere is perfectly conducive to studying alone or with friends. Also, this location's proximity to the NSU campus makes it a convenient study spot. They offer free Wi-Fi, but keep in mind that access may be limited to 30 minutes during the lunch and dinner rush hours.

SUCCESS COACHES' PLAYBOOK

Tips to help you get organized

By: **Sheila Fabius**

Sheila Fabius is the director of the Office of Undergraduate Student Success.

Still struggling to manage course work, study time, employment, friends and family? If you find managing your time is a challenge, try some of these quick tips to get your schedule on the right track.

1. Print syllabi. Manage your semester by printing and reading all of your course syllabi. Printing your syllabi allows you to easily reference and compare class assignments when creating your time management schedule. You can also place each syllabus in a designated folder or binder for easy reference.

2. Choose a time management tool. Decide on what tool will make time management a breeze: NSU student agenda, Outlook, iPad, iPhone or a time management app. Don't forget to create a daily to-do list to keep your assignments on track.

3. Use SharkMail. Visit the Help Desk on the first floor of the Alvin Sherman Library to sync your smart phone with the SharkMail calendar. Your personal and academic calendar will sync into one calendar on your phone.

4. Enter assignments and deadlines. Pick a quiet space to organize your thoughts. Use your time management tool to enter class times, course assignments and deadlines.

5. Schedule your online courses. Set a specific time and location to

complete online class assignments, complete online tasks and study. Creating a specific routine prevents online coursework from accumulating.

6. Schedule study time, reading, reviewing and prep time. Be sure to record outside-of-the-classroom preparation time such as studying and reading course material. Ask yourself, "When is the best times and location for me to study? How much time does it take for me to read and understand course readings? Do I need to break large assignments into smaller manageable chunks of time?" Create a management schedule that brings out the best in you in and outside of the classroom.

7. Set calendar reminders. Set study reminders five to 10 minutes before your scheduled study time to allow you to mentally disengage from your current activity and actively engage in studying.

8. Include student clubs and organizations. Use your scheduled courses, study time and work schedules to begin prioritizing your clubs and organization involvement along with your family responsibilities.

9. Share your schedule. Share your academic schedule, including study times, with your employer, family and friends to solicit their support.

10. Create a time management habit. It takes 30 days to master a new habit. Don't be so hard on yourself. If you are having a difficult time creating or following your schedule, make an appointment with an academic success coach for additional assistance.

Wellness Bite

"Core, cardio and vegetables — I focus on exercises that strengthen my core, high intensity interval training that keeps my heart healthy and feed my body with yummy green veggies."

Erinne Kennedy, dental student and personal trainer

Sustainability Tip of the Week

By: **Leela Mansukhani**

Your Need for Speed

Do you often spend time in your car when you're not driving? Or do you enjoy accelerating your car very quickly or driving at fast speeds? Believe it or not, these habits increase your gas consumption and your impact on the environment. Idling in your car gives you zero miles per gallon, and you could otherwise use that gas for driving and get 45 miles per gallon with today's technology. Accelerating hard increases the work your car has to do against wind resistance, which requires more gas than necessary. Also, when driving at extreme speeds, your car eventually reaches a point where the MPG starts to go down very fast due to increased wind resistance. By avoiding spending time in your car when you aren't driving, accelerating a tad bit slower and driving at normal speeds, you will save money at the gas station and reduce your frequency of gas station trips, gas usage, and air pollution resulting from gas usage. This is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint and help protect the Earth for future generations, which is the goal of sustainability.

Athlete of the week: Victor Cardoso

By: Randa Djabri

Victor Cardoso, senior sports management major, describes himself as a lazy person unless soccer's involved.

Cardoso grew up in Brazil where soccer is deeply ingrained in the culture. He started playing at 7-years-old in a small soccer club. Soon, at 9-years-old, he transitioned to competitive soccer in some of the biggest clubs in Brazil: Plameiras, São Paulo, and Corinthians.

"I feel like soccer is in my blood. Growing up, my brother and I would play soccer anywhere we found space," Cardoso said.

At 14, Cardoso joined the Brazilian Youth National Soccer team and played there for three years. He also played for the national youth teams of Sweden, Denmark and Norway as well as a few other countries in South America.

Cardoso would have probably followed the same path as his brother, Nathan Cardoso, a professional soccer player in Plameiras soccer club in Brazil, if it weren't for frequent injuries and surgeries.

"I would have surgery and stay out for six months and on the first day back, I tore all my ligaments," he said. "All these injuries made me question whether soccer was really for me. I took a year off to figure out what I was going to do with my life."

During this hiatus, Cardoso learned about an opportunity to come to the U.S. to go to school get a degree — and play soccer of course.



Born in Brazil, soccer player Victor Cardoso hopes to play sports professionally.

COURTESY OF E. CANAL

"I already had my chance, and I'm doing my best in a new path," Cardoso said.

With only a year and a half of age difference, his brother was a best friend and a main source of inspiration throughout Cardoso's life.

"My brother gets me going. When I see him on TV, I feel very proud because he always talks about me and mentions that I was better than him and how I couldn't make it but he did," said Cardoso.

Balancing soccer and academics is a big challenge for Cardoso. To him, time management, responsibility as well as resistance to peer pressure are very important to get through college.

"It's hard. I'm a senior, so I've been doing this for four years. Time management and responsibility are important, but learning to say no to things is most important, because there are people who don't have the same responsibilities I have," said Cardoso. "They would say, 'Hey, let's hangout or let's watch a movie,' and I have to say no because I have things to do. It's not easy."

Cardoso hopes to continue the path he started as a kid and play professionally.

"I don't see myself doing anything other than soccer. If that doesn't work out, I plan on becoming a coach. As long as I'm involved," said Cardoso.

I got the chance to sit down with Cardoso and ask a few questions.

What's your favorite part of the game?

"When I score, because I give it everything I have. I just let everything out. A lot of people have celebrations and dances, but I don't. I just scream and yell."

How would you describe yourself as a player?

"I'm a little different from the traditional American soccer player. The culture of American soccer is different here. It's way bigger in Brazil. Here, there's a variety of different sports. In Brazil, it's 99.9 percent soccer."

What has been your most memorable moment?

"It was when I was playing in Sweden. I got to the final and I scored the final goal. There were 58,000 people watching. It was a big deal to me."

Do you have any special rituals before games?

"I just think about my mom and my brother, and that gets me going."

Who's your favorite soccer player?

"My brother. But besides him, I like Neymar."

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

"I would go to Brazil because I

haven't seen my family in four years. I would also like to visit Italy because I have a lot of team mates who tell me about beautiful places there."

Is practice harder after losing?

"Yes. Definitely. It brings us down, and we don't have as much energy as we usually do when we win. Even the bus ride seems longer; if it's two hours, it feels like two days. Losing is horrible; no one likes losing."

Do you have any personal goals you want to accomplish?

"I would like to have a project that would give other people the chance that I didn't have. There are millions of people in Brazil who want to become professional soccer players, but there aren't enough chances."

Who's your favorite soccer team?

"In Brazil, I'm a Palmeiras fan. Not because of my brother, I've always been a fan long before my brother became part of the team. I also like Barcelona, which is Neymar's team."

What do you miss the most about being away from home?

"Being able to hug my mom and my brother. We can talk everyday on Skype or Facetime but it's different than actually being able to touch them. I don't miss the food, like most people. I left really young and now I'm growing. I still feel the same way I did when I left."



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ON THE BENCH

Commentary by: Keren Moros

We've all done it. Bumped our heads against desks and car doors and even windows. We mutter and rub our heads in pain, and later we might get a bump or maybe a bruise and forget the whole thing later.

But for athletes who regularly crush into each other and the ground during practice and games, there is no such thing as a bump on the head. Simply playing the game they love brings the usual risks of broken bones and sprained limbs, but they're also in danger of suffering from dangerous concussions. But in general, there has to be more awareness of the danger of concussions among sports officials but sports fans as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, concussions aren't life threatening but they can become serious. A non-athlete suffering one concussion throughout his or her life is one thing, but it's a whole other issue when an athlete suffers several concussions over the course of his or her lifetime.

Recently, University of Michigan coach Brady Hoke came under fire for keeping quarterback Shane Morris on the field after the player took a hit.

Morris looked shaken and unstable and later learned that he had suffered a concussion. Hoke said a lack of communication led to his keeping Morris on the field. But this is no excuse given the knowledge of what other football players have suffered due to concussions.

Sean Morey, former Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals player, has post-concussion syndrome, a result of suffering dozens of concussions throughout his 10-year career. He takes several prescription medications a day to help with sleep, focus, depression and headaches. His family has also suffered from his bouts of anger. He has said that his concussions have hurt his family and brought him dysfunction, pain, desperation and misery. Because of his experience, Morey has decided his brain will be used for medical research when he dies, and he is a member of the NFL Players Association's committee on traumatic brain injury.

You don't have to be a genius to figure out that if you're bashing your head against other players' protective gear every game, you're going to suffer some damage as a result, and players have noticed too. In fact, more than

5,000 retired NFL players are currently suing the NFL for \$765 million dollars for the damages and long-term trauma of their head injuries. So many former hockey players have sued the NHL for their concussions that a federal panel announced that these lawsuits would be combined into one.

Thankfully, the NFL has instituted protocols to make sure players are safe on the field; a certified athletic trainer is on call during the game, watching the players to check if anyone may have suffered a concussion. But it's not just people on the sidelines who should worry about players. Coaches, players and sports administrators all have a stake in preventing concussions and keeping athletes safe, but there has to be a wakeup call. We can't afford to let athletes waste away in pain in their later years.

Though I'm not the biggest sports fan, I've often admired the enthusiasm fans have for games and I've gotten caught up in it myself. I don't believe in the statement, "It's just a game," because sports are an integral part of our culture and personal identities, but when it comes to players and the risks they take, the game becomes of secondary importance. More should be done to prevent these injuries as much as possible, even if that means changing playing techniques or benching a star player in the middle of a game. In the end, all these players have is their health and well-being, which are more valuable than winning games and displaying trophies.



Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team won their second straight Sunshine State Conference game, taking down Barry 1-0.



Women's Volleyball

The women's volleyball team took a tough 3-2 loss to Barry University last week.



Women's golf

The women's team finished as runners-up, falling behind Lynn University at the Guy Harvey Invitational.



For more results, visit nsusharks.com

ON DECK

WOMEN'S SOCCER

vs. Lynn University
NSU Soccer Complex
Oct. 22, 6 p.m.

vs. Eckerd College
NSU Soccer Complex
Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

vs. Lynn University
NSU Soccer Complex
Oct. 22, 6 p.m.

vs. Eckerd College
NSU Soccer Complex
Oct. 25, 4:30 p.m.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

vs. Westminster Academy
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Oct. 25, 5 p.m.

MEN'S GOLF

McDonough Cup
Eagle Creek Golf Club
Orlando, Florida
Oct. 27 and 28, all day

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

vs. Eckerd College
St. Petersburg, Florida
Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

vs. Rollins College
Winter Park, Florida
Oct. 25, 4 p.m.

For more game information, visit nsusharks.com

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ALEXANDER AND THE OUTSTANDING, WONDERFUL, NOT BAD, VERY GOOD MOVIE



The Coopers have a terrible, no good day, learning that you need to have bad days to enjoy the good day.

By: **Destinee A. Hughes**

The joys of reading a book cover to cover growing up no longer has to live only in our childhood memories. Bringing innocent giggles and effortless laughs for more than 40 years, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" has finally been brought to life in Disney's new feature film.

Just like the book, Alexander Cooper is an unavoidably magnet for dire disaster. The movie begins with Alexander waking up with gum stuck in his hair, followed by a number of extreme calamities that force him to believe that he is, in fact, cursed. Alexander is fed up with being the only one in his family who has incessant bad

luck, and, filled with envy, he wishes his family could experience just one bad day as he does every day. Little does he know, his one seemingly innocent cry for help turns into a whirlwind of catastrophe for the Coopers.

Jennifer Garner and Steve Carell do an amazing job playing Alexander's quirky but devoted parents. Carell is his usual sarcastically funny self, while Garner excels at being the loveable mother she usually plays. They remind family audiences of the imperative comforting role parents play in everyone's life.

Dylan Minnette and Kerris Dorsey play Alexander's seemingly perfect teenage brother and sister whose their so-called perfect images become tainted within a matter of 24 hours.

Both young actors embody the idea of teenagers who are completely engulfed in their teenage problems, like prom and school performances. Though Minnette and Dorsey may be fairly new actors, they do an exceptional job convincing audiences that they were made for these roles.

The acting in the movie is superb and truly engages audiences. It makes you feel as if you're experiencing all the ups and downs of Alexander's horrible day. But, if you're having a bad day like Alexander's, then this movie will certainly reassure you that you have to have bad days to enjoy the good ones.

Although the movie is fairly short, running only 81 minutes, it's just enough time to discover the importance of family bonding. It's the perfect PG movie to see with young ones or anyone who's read the book who would enjoy a quick run down memory lane. It's packed with appropriate family jokes and sends a joyful message that through laughter and a positive outlook, bad days can easily be turned into great days.

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" is a super cute, family friendly, entertaining movie. Though it may not have the same plot as the book, both mediums make it unmistakably clear that regardless of a good or bad day, with a supportive family, anything is possible.



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BATMAN MINUS BATMAN EQUALS NOTHING GOOD

By: **Richard Rodriguez**

Batman is one of the most iconic superheroes in the world today. He's got a large collection of movies, comics, cartoons and TV shows that have run the gambit from dark and brooding to silly and goofy. But Batman is probably the least interesting part of his own story. What really sticks out in people's minds are the villains. Be honest. The one thing you remember about "The Dark Knight" is the Joker.

With that in mind, perhaps it was inevitable that a TV show would be made about Gotham City before Batman's rise to power. The makers of "Gotham" are obviously very excited to be part of the immensely popular Batman story line. They're so excited, in fact, that they can't seem to wait a few minutes before reminding the audience that the show they are watching involves the Caped Crusader's gallery of rogues.

"Gotham" follows Detective James Gordon, played by Ben McKenzie, the newest member of the Gotham City Police Department. His first assignment? Find out who killed Bruce Wayne's parents. Yes, this show starts out with the one murder everyone, even the most casual Batman fan, knows about. Don't worry though, the entire show doesn't revolve around just the one murder. It seems Gordon also has to deal with the fact that the entire police force is more corrupt than today's Ferguson police department.

The main focus of the story seems to be the corruption of the

GCPD, as everyone with a badge is working for the local mob boss, Carmine Falcone. It's not even something that these cops are able to keep under wraps; after James Gordon has seemingly become corrupt too, everyone continually questions him on whether he's "with the program" or not. I guess there's no point in keeping it a secret when the entire force is working for the mafia.

The acting in the series so far has ranged from believable to wildly over the top. McKenzie falls more toward the former. He has a good tough-and-gruff attitude that people come to expect from cop dramas. You can really tell he's struggling to maintain his corrupt facade while still truly being a good cop. Still, Gordon isn't all that interesting to watch because at his core, he's just the by-the-book-no-nonsense cop that we've all seen countless times before.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is Jada Pinkett Smith who plays Fish Mooney, Falcone's second in command. Pinkett Smith, quite frankly, doesn't seem to know what she's doing in this role. Whenever she's trying to be intimidating, she seems to be channeling Eartha Kitt's performance as Yzma in "The Emperor's New Groove." Her anger is a joke: her yelling sounds more like a whining child than a furious mob henchman. Everyone else on the show is good enough. If nothing else, they play their parts decently. But Pinkett Smith is so bad that she stands out as the queen of overactors.

The absolute worst part of this show is the way that it keeps winking



In "Gotham," officer James Gordon tries to solve the murder of young Bruce Wayne's parents.

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to the audience that it is, in fact, a show about Batman's baddies. It seems every five minutes we have to be reminded of the fact that this is Gotham, the city where Batman grew up. Let me give you a few examples. Oh, look, that guy's name is Edward and he loves to constantly ask people riddles. I wonder who he could be? That guy works for the mob and hates it when people call him a penguin because of the way he walks and dresses. Who could he possibly be?

That girl! She is a pickpocket and she slinks around on rooftops and feeds cats milk. Who on earth could she be? The heavy winking gets old very quickly; the show winks so much that, if it were a person, you'd swear it developed a horrible twitch.

Ultimately, the show is only a halfway decent cop drama that puts a nice spin on old tropes by making the cops members of the mob. However, as a part of an immensely popular superhero's background, it's subtle

in every single reference it has to that story, and the characters are completely uninteresting to watch. You'll probably like this show if you're looking for a newer kind of cop show or if you're a hardcore fan of the dark detective's fearsome foes. I recommend a drinking game where you take a shot for every obvious reference you can spot in the show. On second thought, don't do that. You might die of alcohol poisoning before the title sequence starts.

¡AYYY QUE RICO!



Mangu con huevo, queso, salami con mojo de cebolla con longaniza/mashed plantain with eggs, cheese and salami with sausage from Punta Cana



Arepa de choco from Mi Casita Bakery



Arroz chaufa con mariscos/seafood fried rice from Las Cholitas



Filete de pollo/chicken fillet from Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine

ALL PHOTOS BY D. HUGHES

By: **Destinee A. Hughes**

Whether it's the lively salsa dancing, rhythmic bachata music or the beautiful language, the Hispanic culture is certainly one of the most alluring in the world. Though this vivacious culture is appealing for many reasons, one of my favorite reasons is the delicious, colorful, enticing food.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I felt it was my duty to embrace different Hispanic foods and try signature dishes from several countries. This past month has been filled with arepas, tostones, pinchos and much more. Though there are many places in South Florida to eat a great meal, here a few around campus to cure that foreign food craving.

Las Cholitas – Peruvian
1831 Pine Island Road Plantation
954-306-6041

This Peruvian restaurant may blend in easily with the rest of the shops surrounding it, but it has no problem standing out when it comes to a colorful well-presented platter like the arroz

chaufa con mariscos. This dish is where Peruvian cuisine and Chinese influence meet. I was served fried rice with fresh green onions, scrambled eggs and a variety of seafood including scallops and squid rings. This mouthwatering dish looked like a rainbow of seafood delight served on a platter just for me. Because this was such a large portion of food, it didn't take long for me to ask for a box. I'd never been so excited to take home food in my life. The prices are a little steep, but the food and portion size is certainly worth it. However, they do have pretty reasonable lunch specials and coupons and they deliver. Las Cholitas will certainly be seeing a lot of me. Nos vemos pronto, Las Cholitas.

Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine – Cuban
2150 University Drive
Pembroke Pines
954-538-0111

Eating at this Cuban restaurant was a calming, relaxing, savor-the-moment-between-you-and-your-marinated-chicken experience. I was feeling very chill this day so I decided to order a simple, yet satisfying dish, and

the filete de pollo seemed just right for me. This flattened chicken breast came topped with sautéed onions, shaped white rice, steaming black beans, sweet plantains and sour lime for extra flavor. I cut my chicken into little pieces, mixed my beans into my rice, squeezed a little lime on top and went to work. This is just enough food to finish in one sitting without feeling guilty about it, and it's totally worth every bite. Typically, chicken and white rice taste exactly how it sounds — like chicken and white rice. But the filete de pollo tasted like chicken cooked in Cuban love. Not one grain of rice remained on my plate when I was finished. I left Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine with a full belly and inquisitive mind, curious as to what I was going to try the next time I came.

Mi Casita Bakery – Colombian
8280 Pines Blvd. Pembroke Pines
954-447-4753

Mi Casita Bakery made me break all the rules I had about eating pork and beef. I haven't eaten anything besides chicken or fish in the last two years, for personal health reasons, but the moment

I saw this signature Colombian dish in front of me, I couldn't resist. Indulging myself in steak, pork rind, rice, beans, fried egg, plantains, avocado and tostones (smashed fried plantains) was one of the best decisions I've made in a long time. I made sure I ate this meal at a glacial pace, slowly taking in the last time I'd probably eat beef or pork again. Besides the bandeja paisa, the arepa de choco was my other favorite item on the menu. Arepa de choco is a sweet corncake with cheese; it kind of tastes like a buttery fried pancake filled with sweet corn and crême cheese on top. Sounds odd, but believe me, one bite of this and you'll be asking for más.

Punta Canta – Dominican
9119 Taft St. Pembroke Pines
954-885-1225

Since I had already tried plenty of late night appetizers from various restaurants, I decided to switch it up and try a well-known Dominican breakfast, mangu: mashed plantains with eggs, cheese and salami. This hearty breakfast woke me up with its colorful display and distinct flavors. It tasted like I was

embracing the Dominican Republic with each and every bite; the only thing that was missing was bachata music playing in the background. Punta Canta has a large selection of items on their menu, offering everything from cocido (cow feet soup) to langosta enchilada o al ajillo (scampi lobster creole style). Though I may not be brave enough to try the cow feet soup, I'm looking forward to enjoying my Dominican style breakfast again.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a great time to experience different cultures by tasting their dishes. The dish at Las Cholitas was everything I imagined a Peruvian dish to be. Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine is the perfect place to bask in marinated chicken. Mi Casita Bakery's Colombian dishes made me question my strict diet, while Punta Canta's Dominican breakfast gave me a good reason to wake up early. Each restaurant delivered extremely flavorsome food in large portions at a reasonable price. Now that I've found where I find Hispanic flavor in South Florida, es tiempo para ir a comer.



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BRING HEALTHY FOOD TO CAMPUS

By: **Nicole Cocuy**

From Pizza Loft to The Flight Deck Pub, NSU's food options are every diet's worst enemy.

I know complaining about the lack of healthy options on campus is a little cliché, but after spending the past few months trying to live a healthier lifestyle, there was one massive, unavoidable roadblock in my way: the Don Taft University Center food court.

Although I am a commuter student, I practically live on campus. I spend all day, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., studying, working and wandering around campus. As a result, a majority of my daily meals are in the UC.

The already severely limited amount of food options on campus became even more restrictive when I completely cut Pizza Loft, Monty's Café, The Flight Deck Pub and Starbucks from my diet. I relied heavily on moderately healthy veggie subs at Subway, bland and soggy salads at Greens Etc., sugary smoothies at JuiceBlendz, and carb-heavy brown rice bowls at Chick-N-Grill.

My only escape from the monotonous meals has been the weekly farmers markets, which are, sadly, only once a week, and there are rarely days when I have adequate time to go off campus for lunch. Eventually, after getting sick of eating the same thing every day, I faced an ultimatum: I could either resort back to my previous comfort food diet or not eat at all.

Dieting shouldn't have to be an impossible task for NSU students. Picking unsatisfying salads at Greens Etc., rotten fruit salads at Outtakes and overpriced meals at

the Food Bar over pizza and burgers is hard enough. Yes, we have an impressive gym on campus and a variety of group exercise classes, but how can any incoming student avoid the notorious freshman 15 if nutritious, balanced meals are few and far between? The university should strive to make it easier for healthy eaters left wanting more. Every university's goal should be to foster a healthy living environment for its students and providing a wide variety of healthy options should be a priority.

While I can always leave campus and find food elsewhere on days when I cannot stomach another prepackaged salad, residential students who do not have a car do not have the same liberty. In fact, to make matters worse, several residential students are required to have a meal plan. If students are forced to eat the food NSU offers, the least the campus can do is add more variety instead of just carbs, carbs and more carbs.

There are probably thousands of changes NSU can implement to become a healthier campus. For example, NSU should consider adding another healthy restaurant on campus other than Greens Etc. or at least switch out one of our existing options because what we have is not enough. In addition, the prepackaged salads and fruits in Outtakes should be fresh because they are repulsive. In fact, the quality of the produce, including Subway and Chick-N-Grill, in each restaurant shouldn't be just tolerable.

But, unless NSU does something significant to improve the availability of quality, healthy food options, the campus is doing the entire student body a disservice.

TEACH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

By: **Jazmyn Brown**

As a full-time freshman who works and still manages to find time to be a part of multiple organizations, I wish some of my professors would match the effort I put into their classes. It's shocking to me that the first impression I got from several of my professors was that they didn't care about teaching their subject effectively or about the students themselves. I imagined that undergraduate professors fell somewhere between demanding high school teachers and tough graduate or post-graduate professors when it came to their ferocity and willingness to get students engaged, but my guess missed the mark entirely.

There is minimal effort in PowerPoints that come straight from the textbook and online classes that consist of assignments and assessments that check to see how well students can teach themselves the material without cracking. I did not kill myself in high school to maintain a high GPA so that I could get into NSU and be in a class taught by a professor who's not engaging or interested in the students' well-being. Professors need to understand that what students need is guidance from an engaging individual with a passion for educating.

Students do not go to a professor's lecture to be read PowerPoint slides that contain the same exact information that can be found in the textbook. Professors should go beyond the textbook. Not straying from the pedantic redundancy of a textbook shows that the professor is trying to maintain impersonality and a base level of understanding. What we can learn from a textbook is a bare minimum amount of knowledge; what we can get from a professor is a deeper understanding of the material. The point of a textbook is to give general information about a subject that the professor can then expand upon and use to introduce new ideas to get students thinking. Do some professors not have anything else to say about the

subject that actually shows that they are interested in teaching the subject? A lecture is supposed to be engaging, not monotonous, and it sure as heck should not induce a coma-like sleep.

NSU prides itself on excellence, student-centeredness and integrity (just to name a few core values), but I don't think the university is living up to those standards by hiring professors, adjunct or not, who don't really care if students have a grasp on the material. If they are slapping together 60 or more slides that come straight from the textbook, then there's no point in going to class. The pointlessness of this is so frustrating, especially when I consider the amount of money I'm spending to go to such a highly esteemed university. I'm essentially just paying for the name with no real substance behind it. Students come to class to learn, not to sit back and listen to professors read off of a presentation as they collect their check. It's wrong that students are forced into such a one-sided profit system.

The same can be said about online classes. They are no less important than actual, on-ground classes. For those of us who can handle having a full-course load, it may seem easier to have an online class in which the professor is totally uninvolved and everything is up to the student. However, a professor should be there to offer encouragement and advice. If students register and pay for a class, I don't care if it's in the classroom or online, they'd better be getting something out of it more than what they could pay a fish to teach them.

With an online class there's a physical and cyber barrier between the professor, your peers and yourself, but that doesn't mean we should be completely cut off from each other. It's possible to host virtual lectures and live chats, so why aren't professors interested in doing so? If a professor is going to teach on-campus and get paid to do so, why is that same professor

getting paid to have an online class and be as uninvolved as possible?

What's missing is effort on the side of the professor. It doesn't make sense for students to work so hard to teach themselves the material when there's a professor who has the knowledge and tools to impart understanding to students and just chooses not to. Just because a student is taking an online class does not necessarily mean that they want to teach themselves the material. Students hope to gain something from professors who are more knowledgeable and experienced in real-world situations.

If professors are too lazy to give notes, have enriching lectures, answer questions, say something other than what the textbook spells out and actually teach the class, then why do they still get paid while students are left hanging? Why are these professors gaining and students are not? The medium of gains may be different — professors earn money while students earn knowledge — but the system is meant to remain balanced.

I've been fortunate enough to experience not just one end of the types-of-professor spectrum. While some of my professors aren't the greatest, I also have some really encouraging professors who go out of their way to make sure they do their job right. The difference between effective professors and professors who don't care is how well they pay attention to their students' needs. Good professors wait until all their students have a firm grasp of a concept before moving onto the next one; they take the time to explain the concept several different ways until everyone gets it.

Everyone has a different way of doing things; there is no one right way to do a single thing. But I know that the disconnect between professors and students in the classroom and online does not foster the same kind of discussion and understanding that engaging lessons do.

Shark Speak: One in five women is sexually assaulted in college. What are your thoughts on this?

"Universities should make a point to educate students that it happens and provide resources to prevent it."

Rebecca Nosal,
junior biology major and dual admission student for osteopathic medicine

"We should look at what happens in society that promotes this idea that guys can take what they want from women."

Zach Conaway,
graduate business student

"It's sad that women at the prime of their lives get put in predicaments where they're taken advantage of. Rape is caused by rapists. Stop blaming the victims."

Cherokie Boyd,
freshman biology major

"Sexual assault is the worst crime outside of murder. A plan needs to be put in place to stop it."

Kevin Baxley,
sophomore exercise and sport science major

"It sucks because we're not really allowed to protect ourselves. Like here at NSU, for example, we're not allowed to carry pepper spray which is kind of ridiculous because I feel like we need to be able to defend ourselves if anything is going on."

Elle McRae,
freshman education major

"Sadly, crazy stuff happens everywhere. I can believe this statistic for that reason. I believe education of this and how to protect ourselves is important."

Brooke Duncan,
freshman pre-nursing major

SHE WASN'T ASKING FOR IT

By: **Brianna Walker**

Last year at my old college, my friend was sexually assaulted at a party. It was a Saturday night at 3 a.m., and I got a phone call from her. She was crying hysterically into the phone, telling me how a guy at a party had sexually assaulted her just moments before.

She willingly went to the basement at a house party with a guy she barely knew and he wanted more than she did. As soon as I heard this, my first thoughts were, "Well, what did she expect to happen if she went to the basement during a party with a guy?" Even though I know now that what I was thinking was wrong, I honestly felt, at the time, that she should have known better. It took me a while to realize that I was indirectly taking his side and somewhat justifying his actions. I didn't realize it then but I was unknowingly participating in victim shaming.

Victim shaming is blaming crime victims, either completely or partially, for the crime committed against them. Victim shaming changes what it means to be a victim by taking the fault off the suspect and placing the fault on the victim, excusing the suspect in some ways. Victim

shaming makes victims feel that what they experienced was their own fault. It takes a heartbreaking and violent situation and makes it insignificant. Victim shaming also allows individuals who have no part in the crime to judge the victim and the legitimacy of their experiences.

We often perceive that it is the woman's fault when a man makes unwanted sexual advances, and it's wrong. There are many myths and rumors we need to educate ourselves on to see how offensive victim shaming is. One myth is that once a man gets sexually aroused, there's no going back, as he is not in control of his own body. This idea is deranged. What makes us human is the fact that we have control over our own bodies. Men can quite easily control their bodies just as well as anybody else, even if they are aroused. Finally, just because a woman dresses a certain way, it doesn't justify a man's violent actions toward her.

We also have to ask ourselves some critical questions as to what the truth is behind victim blaming. Does a person's clothing or the way they carry themselves make them more likely to get raped or assaulted? Not at all.

Rape is not about how attractive a woman is or her behavior; it's about dominance. We need to get rid of this stigma that rape is associated with dressing and acting "slutty." Most women are raped by people they know, be it a coworker, boyfriend, classmate or acquaintance. According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey "51 percent of female victims were sexually assaulted by a current or former intimate partner and 41 percent were sexually assaulted by an acquaintance." Only 14 percent were assaulted by strangers.

If a person walks into a bad neighborhood, should they expect to be mugged? No, they shouldn't. Why is it not the same for a woman who wears revealing clothing? Just because a woman is dressed a certain way doesn't mean that she wants a guy to whisper raunchy remarks in her ear about her appearance or, by any means, sexually assault her. The idea that the clothing on a woman speaks louder than a verbal "no" is ludicrous. We all have to work together to banish victim blaming and squash the idea that anything other than explicit consent determines whether or not "she was asking for it."



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR nsunews@nova.edu

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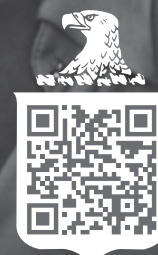
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