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SGA AIMS TO EXPAND SHARK SHUTTLE ROUTES

By: **Li Cohen**

Senators from the Undergraduate Student Government are reaching out to students to gain support in expanding the Shark Shuttle routes to the beach, downtown Fort Lauderdale and other popular locations.

SGA Athletic Senator Kelsey Obringer, senior political science major, said that the service would be free and that the main consideration for the route is Las Olas, where there would be multiple stops for students to go to the beach and other downtown Fort Lauderdale locations.

"It gives students an option if they are downtown and need to get back to campus," she said. "They know they'll have the security of the Shark Shuttle and that they will get home safely, instead of getting a ride from a stranger or use public transportation."

To implement the route expansion, Obringer and Warlich met with William Faulkner, associate dean of student development, and created a survey to ask students where they would



SGA members are seeking to expand the Shark Shuttle's route options.

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like the new routes to go. After the survey closes on Jan. 30, they will then analyze the results and present their findings to Anthony Iovino, assistant director of Physical Plant, to discuss the logistics of the shuttle.

Obringer, along with SGA Athletic Senator Bethany

Warlich, sophomore business administration major, hope to present a resolution for the route expansion at a weekly SGA senate meeting as soon as possible and have it put into place before the end of the semester. They are waiting for the survey to close and analyze the responses to figure out

the logistics of the expansion.

Warlich said that many students like her don't have a car, which makes it very difficult to explore outside of Davie.

"It's sad that we live in Fort Lauderdale, and there are students who have no idea what's in downtown Fort Lauderdale or where

they can go out to eat or anything," she said.

Once logistics are finalized, Obringer and Warlich will write a formal resolution to present at an SGA senate meeting, where attendees will vote on whether they want to pass it or not.

Obringer came up with the idea of the expansion after learning about the University of Florida's Later Gator transit system, which takes students to popular locations Wednesday through Saturday evenings for free.

She and Warlich both agree that this system would help keep students safe when they go out at night and on weekends.

"If you choose to go to downtown Fort Lauderdale, the Shark Shuttles keep people safer because you know who you're with, and everyone's going together back and forth," Warlich said.

To suggest a route or voice your support for the resolution, contact Obringer at ko235@nova.edu or Warlich at bw726@nova.edu. To take the survey, visit opinio.nova.edu/opinio/s?s=11258.

FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION: 2015 WINTER VOLUNTEER FAIR

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

The Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement will host a Winter Volunteer Fair on Jan. 28 in the Don Taft University Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Around 20 local community affiliates from the South Florida community, including the American Cancer Society and Best Buddies of Broward, will set up booths along the Don Taft University Center Spine. Community affiliate representatives will be on hand to talk about available projects, as well as ongoing opportunities.

Graduate Assistant for Civic Engagement Tara Scagliarini said it is important for NSU to host the volunteer fair each semester.

"The volunteer fair allows attendees the opportunity to experience the culture of our

campus, as well as have direct contact with our students," Scagliarini said.

Students can stop at one or many tables to meet community affiliates and hear information about area nonprofits and volunteer opportunities.

Lauren Soares, graduate assistant for Leadership Development and Civic Engagement, said the volunteer fair allows students to learn about the different opportunities to get involved in the community.

"Whether it is for service hours or to volunteer for fun, a student can find an organization that fits with their interests and passions," she said.

Soares said students should attend the fair because it will help them meet community affiliates who work at nonprofits.

"Rather than a student having to

find out about organizations that offer volunteer opportunities on their own, students can meet the individuals that work there face-to-face and ask questions about what it's like to volunteer at their organization," Soares said. "Some affiliates even have internship opportunities."

Attendees do not need to dress a certain way.

"The main reason why we have the fair set up in the spine is so students can walk through on their way to lunch or class," Soares said. "Bringing business cards would be helpful to hand to the community affiliates students are interested in working with, but it is not mandatory."

Some community affiliates attending the fair include Debbie's Dream Foundation, Easter Seals South Florida, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Feeding South Florida, Habitat for Humanity, March



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM/SLCEATNSU

A student learns about volunteer opportunities at a past Volunteer Fair.

of Dimes, Miami Rescue Mission, Special Olympics and the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Lauderdale.

For more information or to learn about the community

affiliates, please contact the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at slce@nova.edu or at 954-262-7195.

OBAMA ADDRESSES THE NATION

By: **Li Cohen**

On Jan. 20 during the annual State of the Union address, President Barack Obama proposed enacting the America's College Promise program to make tuition for the first two years of community college free to increase graduation rates and improve middle-class economics.

The goal of the program is to help students earn the first half of their bachelor's degree and learn basic workforce skills. If approved, the program will be implemented on a state-by-state basis. According to White House officials, approximately 40 percent of students attend community college, and if all states participate in the program, an estimated 9 million students could benefit.

"We still live in a country where too many bright, striving Americans are priced out of the education they need," Obama said. "It's not fair to them, and it's sure not smart for our future."

Under the program, students could, on average, save \$3,800 in tuition per year. They will be eligible for the tuition waiver if they attend a community college

at least half time, maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA and show steady progression toward graduating.

Director of NSU Admissions Bridget Varisco said she doesn't foresee the program affecting NSU's recruitment and retention rates too drastically and that she is hopeful that it will help NSU recruit new transfer students.

"We have a large number of transfer students. Maybe we can find a niche at NSU for the students who are planning on going to [a private university after completing] community college for the first two years," she said.

In his address, Obama also stated that by the end of this decade, two in three jobs will require some higher education. Varisco said that NSU aims to recruit students from around the world who are high-achieving and highly involved in their communities and who will come to NSU to become successful.

To help prepare students for their careers, NSU created the Office of Career Development to help students find jobs and internships, participate in mock interviews, develop resumes and even find what

career they want to pursue.

Associate director of Undergraduate Admissions Clyde Lewis said, "Every person who comes here should know that they get the best of both worlds. We have a vibrant student life experience that is student-driven, and that is rare to find. Students here tell us what they want, and we do our best to make it happen."

Varisco said students should consider going to a private university because it provides a richer experience, and it is not necessarily more expensive than a community college, due to financial aid.

Approximately 94 percent of students who attend NSU receive an average of \$13,199 in grants or scholarships. NSU provides more than 150 scholarships for students, who also have the option of obtaining federal aid and becoming student employees.

"We're interested in producing students who are going to be successful. The more successful students are, the more successful we are," Varisco said.

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3301 College Avenue
Student Affairs Building, Room 310
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NEWSROOM	BUSINESS & ADVERTISING
Phone: (954) 262-8455	Phone: (954) 262-8461
Fax: (954) 262-8456	Fax: (954) 262-8456
nsunews@nova.edu	thecurrentad@nova.edu

Keren Moros	Editor-in-Chief	nsunews@nova.edu
Jazmyn Brown	Copy Editor	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Alyssa DiMaria	News Editor	thecurrentnews@nova.edu
Li Cohen	News Editor	thecurrentnews@nova.edu
Faren Rajkumar	Features Editor	thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu
Destinee A. Hughes	Arts & Entertainment Editor	thecurrenta&e@nova.edu
Randa Djabri	Sports Editor	sportseditor@nova.edu
Nicole Cocuy	Opinions Editor	nsunews@nova.edu
Amanda Kaplan	Multimedia Manager	nsunews@nova.edu
Rafael Brazon-Di Fatta	Chief of Visual Design	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Maria Yunez	Visual Design Assistant	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Nick Mashburn	Business Manager	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Open	Distribution Manager	nsunews@nova.edu
Leela Mansukhani	Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
Erinne Kennedy	Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
Monique Rowe	Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
David Alen	Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
Tiffany Smith	Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
Megan Fitzgerald	Faculty Adviser	mf821@nova.edu
Michelle Manley	Adviser	mmichell@nova.edu

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SHARKS ON THE SCENE: MAKING EVERY WEEKEND YOUR BEST WEEKEND

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

The Office of Special Events and Projects introduced its newest program, Sharks on the Scene, offering students exclusive discounted tickets with free transportation to popular events in South Florida.

The tickets are only available to NSU students on a first come, first served basis. All attendees must ride in the transportation provided by S.O.S. events.

The office decided to offer this program because it provides more options for students on the weekend, said Director of Student Activities Andrea Kovachy.

"We thought this would be a great way to showcase South Florida, provide students with a unique experience and get them connected with fellow Sharks," said Kovachy. "We have also extended our partnership to Campus Recreation in order to offer adventure

trips for our Sharks."

Kovachy said students should be excited for this new program.

"Through this program, students will have the ability to explore South Florida and take advantage of what is here; hopefully they will also meet other members of our NSU community during their trip," said Kovachy.

Graduate Assistant for Special Events and Projects Lorena Cabrera said the Sharks on the Scene will unite NSU's student population.

"This program will allow students to intermingle and meet new people while having fun and exploring the great things that South Florida has to offer," she said "And what better way to do this than with fellow Sharks?"

International student Logan Schamber freshman biology major said he thinks the new program is a great idea.

"It gives students, especially international students, an opportunity to

explore places in Florida outside of Fort Lauderdale and allows students to go to sporting events," he said. "Basketball is one of my favorite sports and I've only been to one game my entire life, so being able to get Heat tickets at a cheaper price is great."

S.O.S. upcoming events will be announced through email, posters, flyers, social media and word of mouth.

The upcoming events for this month include Miami Heat vs. Dallas Mavericks basketball game on Jan. 30 at the American Airlines Arena. Tickets for this game went on sale on Jan. 26 at noon for \$25. Other events include an EcoAdventure Bike Tour, in conjunction with Campus Recreation Outdoor Adventures, on Jan. 31 at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne. Tickets are \$14 and includes lunch, cost of tour, bike and helmet rental.

"We are hoping students will appreciate what the area has to offer

in terms of theater, art, adventure and sporting events," said Kovachy.

Schamber said it's important for NSU to take notice of everyone on campus and be able to cater to people that have cars, as well as those who do not.

"I've been in situations where I was unable to attend events because they were located off campus and I could not find a ride or I did not want to hassle other people to drive me there," he said. "So it is great to know that NSU is willing to offer transportation to these events so that no one is left out and everyone is able to go."

All tickets will be sold in the Office of Student Activities, located in the Don Taft University Center. Phone, email orders, or ticket reservations are not allowed.

For more information on any of these trips, contact the Office of Special Events and Projects at 954-262-7494 or specialprojects@nova.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

Learn about Sickle Cell Disease

The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and Center for Psychological Studies will co-host the lecture, "Developing a Conceptual Model of Transition Readiness for Sickle Cell Disease," on Jan. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 3057 of the Maltz Psychology Building. The lecture is the first in the winter 2015 Psychology Graduate Series and will be led by CPS Assistant Professor Jessica Valenzuela. The lecture series is free and open to the public. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Associate Professors Mercedes Fernandez at mf934@nova.edu or Sarah Valley-Gray at valleygr@nova.edu.

Become an admissions ambassador

NSU is taking applications for fall 2015 admissions ambassadors from Jan. 5 to Feb. 20. Ambassadors will be responsible for helping recruit new students through tours, overnight stays and discussions. They will receive a full housing scholarship, partial meal plan and a bi-monthly stipend. There will be a mandatory session for those who are interested in applying on Feb. 3 at noon and 5 p.m. in Room 112B in the Horvitz Administration Building, and interviews will be conducted between Feb. 18 and Feb. 20. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at the welcome desk in the Horvitz Administration Building. For more information, contact Michelle Betts at mb2899@nova.edu.

Sign up for the racquetball tournament

The RecPlex will host registration from Feb. 2 to Feb. 23 for an intramural racquetball tournament, which will begin on Feb. 25. The tournament will include men's, women's and co-recreational division in single and doubles teams and is free for NSU students, faculty and staff. To register, visit imleagues.com. For more information, contact Alina Cioletti at ac2447@nova.edu or at 954-262-7305.

Tune into the Town Hall Meetings

President George Hanbury will host Town Hall meetings at NSU's regional campuses throughout the winter 2015 semester. The meetings will allow students and faculty to discuss issues related to NSU with the president. To view the schedule of meetings and to ask a question or comment in advance, visit nova.edu/townhall/students. For faculty who wish to attend a meeting, visit <http://www.nova.edu/townhall/employees/index.html>. For more information, contact Dr. Barbara Packer-Muti at packerb@nova.edu.



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HOW TO HOST AN OFF-CAMPUS SUPER BOWL PARTY

By: David Alen

Thanksgiving is over. Christmas is done. And, you are still recovering from your New Year's Eve party. Time to start thinking about the next big social event: the Super Bowl.

The holidays are a time to spend with family, but the Super Bowl is a great way to start the year because you can spend it with friends. Everyone loves the Super Bowl, even people who do not watch football love this event. The game might be entertaining to some, but the commercials, the halftime show, the food and the drinks are sometimes even more enjoyable than the game itself.

So how do you throw an awesome Super Bowl party? Here are the steps to make sure your party is a touchdown.

Step one: television

You must have a good TV. This is vital to the experience. If you have a 27-inch box from 1999, no one is going to come to your place. Make sure you have a high-definition television, the bigger the better, because most of your guests will not be sitting by the TV. They will probably be watching the game from the food table, from the back of the living room or even from outside, so 40-inches or larger is usually the way to go. You do not have to shell out for the most expensive TV. Most electronic stores have sales as the game draws near, and, according to CNBC, prices for TVs drop five to 10 percent the



Melissa Ospina aspires to be a doctor and help children with diabetes.

week of the game, and drop even lower the day before the game. So go out there and get that nice TV. Your guests will love it, and you will love it after the big game.

Step two: food

Have a variety of food and drinks to serve to your guests. You can always go for your typical store-bought chicken wings, chips, nachos, finger foods, etc. but, to make your party really pop, put some more effort in your Super Bowl spread. Fire up the grill and make your own chicken wings, grill up burgers made-to-order, hot dogs and shish-kabobs.

The food you prepare can also have a theme. Since the New England Patriots are playing, have New England clam chowder, lobster rolls and Boston crème pie for dessert. A theme shows your guests you really put some effort into the party and did not just buy a bunch of chips and dip and call

it a day.

Always remember, however, to have food for the little ones. Adults will appreciate the effort, and, if you do not have chicken tenders and other kid-friendly foods, you might have some cranky parents leaving the party early because their kids will be starving.

Also, do not forget to have alternatives for guests who are health conscious. Some suggestions for them are baked chips, grilled or cold veggies, hummus and maybe some grilled fish. If you're considerate of everyone, everyone will have a good time.

Step three: decorations

Just because you will be sitting around a television watching a football game does not mean you do not have to decorate. Birthday parties, baby showers, bridal showers and engagement parties entail decorating, so your Super Bowl

party should not be an exception.

Having great decorations makes it fun for casual sports fans. Party City is a great place to pick up Super Bowl decorations. The store's Super Bowl sets come complete with table decorations, cups, plates, matching utensils, bowls and serving dishes, and some even include party games, all for a moderate price.

You can get great decoration ideas from sites such as Pinterest and Etsy and blogs such as Hostess with the Mostess. They are always easy to do and are, most importantly, affordable. The most important part of decorating your home for a Super Bowl party is to have fun. It can be as simple as having a couple of footballs near the food and TV or printing out team logos and hanging them around the house. Putting effort into the decorations shows your guests that you care, and they are more likely to attend other parties

you throw in the future.

Step four: games

For adults, having a score pool is a fun way to get everyone involved in the game. Have guests guess what the final score will be for each quarter of the game, and award them with either money or prize ribbons, which can also be purchased at Party City. A dart board is always a great idea, but be sure to get soft-tipped arrows in case the kiddies get their hands on them.

For kids, set aside an area or a room where they can play. Make sure the area has a television and things for them to do. For the younger ones, crayons and coloring paper is vital. You can print out black and white logos of the teams playing and have the kids color what team they think will win.

For the older kids who are not interested in football, make sure you provide them with your Wi-Fi password and an area where they can charge their devices.

The most important thing about a Super Bowl party is for you to have a great time. Do not stress too much, and do not worry about whether your guests are having a good time or not. You will know, and if you follow these four steps, you will have one of the best Super Bowl parties ever, and your guests will leave saying, "Can't wait until next year!"

David Alen is a senior communication studies major.



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Diary of... the next financial shark

By: **Jacob Silver**

Jacob Silver is a senior business administration major born and raised in South Florida. His hobbies include playing basketball, hanging out with friends and listening to music. Besides being a member of the South Florida Young Professionals, he is a licensed financial advisor and an aspiring attorney. His life philosophy is to not let anyone tell you what's the right way to do something and follow your own path to success as there are a million ways to the same destination.

I've always strived to be different from the everyday college student. Whether the distinctions I was looking for came as planned or not, my long and bumpy road has brought me here. I'm finally at the end of my undergraduate studies, applying to law schools and trying to cherish every last minute of college life I have left. I wasn't always the best student or best candidate, but my hunger, drive and outgoing personality never failed to bring me to the top.

I've managed a full-time job and full class load throughout school, and although it wasn't easy, the things I learned and

experienced along the way have helped mold my dreams and future endeavors into something I could've never dreamed of. Dreams have always played a colossal role in my everyday life; they're what convinced me every morning to get out of bed. For without dreams, what is there to chase?

As a kid, my dreams consisted of 94 feet of hardwood, two baskets, and my childhood friend named Spalding. Basketball was my life; I played for a nationally ranked team and competed against a lot of guys who play in the NBA today. But as you can tell from the title of this article, that dream did not come to fruition. But basketball taught me a lot more than what happens on the court. It taught me how to be a leader. Those leadership skills brought me to an internship in the financial services industry with Sagicor Life Insurance, a reputable international company that has been around for over 170 years, as a licensed financial advisor. They presented me with an opportunity to run my own business with full financial backing and an opportunity to learn from many different successful professionals. I'll never forget my first time stepping into the office and seeing all of the different awards

and accolades each adviser received, from being million-dollar producers to getting community recognition.

These guys were no joke, which was no help to my overwhelming nerves. Jonathan London, the office's career development manager, gave me the opportunity to jump start my career by taking me under his wing and giving me unmatched attention and opportunities. The training Jonathan gave me applies not only to the financial field, but also contains many life lessons and tools to be a better person. John Petrucco, our branch manager, has spent 20 years in the industry and started his career under Jordan Belfort, better known as the "Wolf of Wall Street." Sagicor and John have given me the opportunity to create a business for myself, but without being by myself. I get all the perks of running my own business, but without the risks.

Another opportunity this internship has provided me with is the ability to learn how to make a lot more money than any regular college student. Everyone thinks life insurance is just about death, but that could not be any further from the truth. I've watched client after client change their lives by properly investing their capital and developing a detailed plan on how to reach their



COURTESY OF J. SILVER

Jacob Silver got the chance to meet P. Diddy at the Revolt Music Conference in Miami.

financial goals. While building my own business and learning from the best, Sagicor gave me the jump start I needed to catapult myself and my financial practice.

Sagicor even sent me to the Revolt Music Conference in Miami, where I was able to network and learn from some of the biggest names in business. I will never forget being able to sit down with P. Diddy and talk to him about my goals and where I'm at today. To hear one of my idols tell me I'm destined for great things

and that he expects to see me at the top soon was a dream come true. As if that wasn't enough, I was put in a high-end tux and placed on the Miami Children's Hospital Diamond Gala Ball's red carpet. Sitting at the same table as world renowned artist Romero Britto and other huge names in the Miami area was an amazing honor that I will never forget.

I never went the route of most students, it never suited me. I knew I was destined for greatness and settled for nothing less

Wellness Bite

"Be present. The best resolution you can make for yourself is to be present. In class, in the moment, in the post or in the breath let your thoughts go and enjoy the present." — Erinne Kennedy, personal trainer

Sustainability Tip of the Week

By: **Leela Mansukhani**

Sprinkle, Sprinkle Little Hose

These days, most of us have automatic sprinkler systems that keep our lawns and yards perfectly green for that American dream we've chased (and maybe caught!). Automatic sprinkler systems are extremely convenient. However, they can also be a waste of water if you're not paying attention to the weather. If it is raining every day, or raining enough for your grass's health, it is smart to turn off your sprinkler system. Running your sprinklers during the rainy season is a waste of water. You can also purchase a rain sensor for your sprinkler system that will turn the sprinkler system on and off depending on weather conditions. Another way to conserve water is to run the sprinklers early in the morning before the sun rises, to prevent water from evaporating in the heat. You should also make sure that you aren't over watering. If your sprinklers are watering to the point where water is running off your yard onto the sidewalk or street, you may want to reduce the amount of time the sprinklers run. Happy watering!

SICKNESS IN THE PURSUIT OF HEALTH

By: **Michaela Greer**

Last November, as I was heading home, Nia Roach-Duncan, a friend of mine, called and calmly informed me that she was being admitted to the hospital. Thinking that she was just pulling one of her usual pranks, I continued to question her about our weekend plans. I mean, rhabdomyolysis? She could at least have come up with a more believable name for her fake illness.

Except it was absolutely real, and she would end up spending a little more than a week in the hospital.

Roach-Duncan, a naturally skinny girl desiring to become a firefighter, decided it was best to start training in November in preparation for the January 2015 fire academy recruitments, so she would have the opportunity to develop strength and "bulk up." She found a trainer and went to her first workout, where they went through a lengthy list of exercises.

"Looking back, we really did a lot of things that day," said Roach-Duncan. "I didn't stretch. I didn't want to, and my trainer didn't ask me to. When I told him my arms felt dead, he told me to press through it, so I did. After, when I called him about pain he told me to stretch it out."

Over the next few days, she stretched as her pain levels increased, but when her urine changed color and her muscles started to feel tender and warm to the touch, she knew that something was wrong. Some research on the Internet revealed that it could be rhabdomyolysis, and against insistence from her mother that she

was blowing it out of proportion and should just drink water and stretch, she went to the emergency room. After a few tests, the doctor on call told her that she had correctly diagnosed herself as having rhabdomyolysis.

"It's a good thing that I went to the hospital because my urine cleared up on the way due to the water I drank. But there was still a problem. Had I waited, I might have thought everything was okay," said Roach-Duncan. "Who knows what could have happened? I could have died."

Rhabdomyolysis is an illness in which damaged skeletal muscle tissue breaks down and enters the bloodstream. Left untreated, toxins and proteins, namely myoglobin, can overwhelm the kidneys and lead to kidney failure and even death. Symptoms and warning signs include thirst, headaches, muscle redness, warmth and tenderness, limited range of motion and dark urine. Rhabdomyolysis typically targets larger groups of muscle such as the biceps and calf muscles, and anyone who exhibits these symptoms should contact their doctor immediately.

Program Director of Athletic Training Elizabeth Swann said that rhabdomyolysis can be caused by a number of reasons and factors, such as dehydration, poor nutrition and incorrect fitness techniques.

"Rhabdomyolysis is a rare condition, but unfortunately, it does happen," said Swann. "People with the sickle cell trait and those who abuse creatine may be at a higher risk. Training correctly and consuming more protein instead of creatine is a better way to safely accomplish goals."

Creatine is an acid that supplies energy to the body's cells, especially muscle cells. It is a known additive in supplements and other products for muscle building, but some research has shown that the negative effects outweigh the benefits.

Swann stressed that students need to stay hydrated while working out and suggests drinking water instead of a sports drink during a shorter workout. Sports drinks should be saved for longer exercises, such as marathons, when the body would better welcome the electrolytes and hydration.

Although Roach-Duncan has been cleared to begin working out again, progress has been slow. She not only has to rebuild the muscle lost, but also gain additional muscle in order to perform in the Fire Academy, a goal that has unfortunately been postponed.

"I am thankful that I was able to overcome my illness, and in hindsight, I learned a few lessons from it," said Roach-Duncan. "For example, before I didn't understand the importance of stretching and staying hydrated. Now I do."

Illnesses like rhabdomyolysis shouldn't scare students into avoiding exercise, but simply warn them of what could happen if they don't take the right precautions. The pursuit of a healthy lifestyle doesn't have to turn into a nightmare. With proper nutrition, a healthy goal for your body and correct fitness techniques, pursuing health won't make you sick.

Michaela is a sophomore communication studies and art major.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: Alexander Fernandez

By: **Monique Rowe**

Running around with a ball and glove in hand since the age of 2 is where Alexander Fernandez's passion for baseball began.

"I've always had a ball in my hand. When I was three years old, I was part of the T-league," said Fernandez.

It is no surprise that Fernandez, a Cuban-American who grew up in Miami, decided to take the same route his father and uncle took in the past; baseball. It's as if baseball is in his genes and the number one sport in his culture.

Fernandez is a senior majoring in sports management, and he has been a part of the NSU baseball team for two years. He transferred from the University of Miami, where he played his first two years of college baseball.

Describing his experience so far as a student athlete at NSU as awesome, Fernandez believes that he made the best decision when he transferred to NSU because he feels more of a connection with the coaches and athletes.

"The best thing about being a part of the NSU baseball team is the family unit here; there is really no individual," said Fernandez.

While many students only have to worry about school related activities and schoolwork, but being a student-athlete requires a lot more work and dedication.

"The hardest part about being a student athlete is time-management; you have to fit doing homework, going to class and doing baseball-related work all in one day," said Fernandez.

Fernandez plans on taking his talents to the major league after college and to somehow utilize his sports management degree.

After sitting down with Fernandez, I gained some insight and learned interesting



Fernandez is a senior member of the baseball team who hopes to play professional baseball after college. COURTESY OF M.CALLAHAN

facts about him and the NSU baseball team.

What is the most challenging thing about playing baseball?

"Hitting the ball."

Who is your favorite baseball player and why?

"Derek Jeter because I think he is a good role model, and he does everything the right way. I also think he is a good leader."

How did you feel about Derek Jeter's retirement?

"His career was awesome. I think he went out the right way; even though he wanted to win, he went out there and did everything he could."

If you didn't play baseball, which other sport would you play?

"I like football and basketball, but I would need to be a lot bigger. I would probably try to play basketball."

What is your most memorable game, and why was that game so special?

"In high school, my senior year state championship game because it was my last game in high school, and I was one of the captains on the team, so going out and winning felt really good."

Do you have any rituals that you do before or after you play?

"Not really. I just talk to my mom and dad before and after the games."

What is a stereotype about baseball players that you hate?

"I don't hate it, but if I had to choose, I would say it's that all baseball players are cocky."

How many meals do you typically eat before a game?

"If we play around 7 p.m., I'll probably eat four to five."

How long is practice on a typical day?

"We practice four to five hours a day."

If you could change one rule about baseball, what would it be?

"There is nothing that I would really change. That's why I play baseball."

What made you choose to play for NSU's baseball team?

"I didn't have many options after playing for the University of Miami my first two years [of college]. I had to play for a Division II school to avoid sitting out for a year. I also spoke with and maintained a good relationship with the NSU coaches before I went to the University of Miami because I almost came here right out of high school. I also really like the baseball program at NSU."

How do you celebrate winning?

"As a team we try to celebrate by doing team bonding things, like going out to eat. For myself, I don't really celebrate; I feel like it's expected."

How do you deal with losing? Do you feel that it's harder to practice after losing?

"I hate losing, so I just work harder, and as a team, we try to figure out why we lost. I think it's easier to go to practice after losing because we have to come together to figure out why we lost, whereas if we win, we tend to get more laid back, which is not a good thing."

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

"Spain and Cuba."

Do you have any advice for anyone interested in becoming a member of the NSU baseball team?

"It's hard work. It takes a lot of effort."

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Baseball

The baseball team was chosen fifth in the 2015 Sunshine State Conference Preseason Coaches' poll, released by the league office last week.



Cheerleading

The cheerleading team placed third overall at the UCA World University Cheerleading Championships last Sunday at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Walt Disney World.



Men's Golf

The men's golfers Santiago Gomez and Ian Facey finished in the top 25 at the inaugural Latin America Amateur Championship at the Pilar Golf Club.



Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team fell to the Barry Buccaneers 91-76, while the women's basketball team defeated the Buccaneers, 76-68 and gained a conference win.



For more results, visit nsusharks.com

ON DECK

BASEBALL

vs. Stillman College
NSU Baseball Complex
Feb. 1 and 2, noon

MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Eckerd College
NSU Arena
Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S GOLF

Matlock Invitational
Lakeland, Florida
Feb. 9 and 10, All day

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

vs. Florida Tech
Orlando, Florida
Jan. 31, 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Eckerd College
NSU Arena
Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

vs. Ave Maria University
AD Griffin Sports Complex
Feb. 1, 1 p.m.

For more game information, visit nsusharks.com



ON THE BENCH

Commentary by: **Michaela Greer**

Countless documentaries and features have showcased the undeniable team spirit athletes have. Of course it is not always “Kumbaya” circles and sprinkles, obvious by reports of locker room betrayals, bullying and full-fledged brawls on the field.

However, for the most part, stories of team sacrifice such as that of the Cincinnati Bengals, who re-signed defensive tackle, Devon Still, enabling him to afford treatment for his 4-year-old's pediatric cancer, warm our hearts and show us what it is like to belong to a team. But what happens when the “what's-mine-is-yours” mentality turns into the “what's-yours-is-mine” and teams begin to control parts of players' lives?

Every amateur athlete dreams of becoming a professional in his or her sport, to sign on the dotted line and be welcomed to the team, play their heart out and spend their bulging controversial paychecks. All is well until the athlete decides to add some spice to his life and go shark cage diving off the coast of South Africa or volcano boarding in Nicaragua, and a clause in his contract slaps him with a penalty.

Each team has its own rules and contracts vary so a complete list of activities that athletes are prohibited from doing probably doesn't exist.

Fortunately, Real Madrid's history of penalties can give us an idea. In the last year, goalkeeper Iker Casillas was fined for riding a scooter with his wife. Midfielder Asier Illarramendi was forced to apologize for dressing like Batman and running with bulls in Spain, and most recently, their striker Karim Benzema faces disciplinary action for skydiving in Dubai during New Year's.

Sports teams want to protect their investments, which is understandable, but how far is too far? Anyone who views news broadcasts on a regular basis or who has seen any of the “Final Destination” movies knows that even casually strolling on a sidewalk could potentially end your life. Should athletes also be forced to quit smoking when entering a league in fear of developing lung cancer? Should they run to the nearest pharmacy or doctor's office every flu season, too? God forbid — what if an athlete were to sneeze or blink while driving on the highway?

Let's be real: dangers lurk behind every closed door. Athletes should not have to live in constant fear for their lives. How can we expect athletes to perform on the field, risking their health and even their lives but restrict them from letting loose and enjoying

themselves off the field? Most people put in their hours at work, clock out on Friday and give no thought to their job until Monday morning. Most employees don't have to check the clauses in their contracts before packing for a vacation or booking tours. Athletes are employees too and deserve the same freedom.

There's a difference between advising someone and limiting what they could do with their lives. Athletes are already being restricted with limitations imposed upon them, such as which headphones they can flaunt in public and which products they are allowed to endorse. It is unfathomable to think that what they are allowed to do in their free time is also up for grabs. Athletes are then reduced to pawns in a game; unfortunate individuals who signed their lives away as if it were a plank of wood.

Athletes are humans just like you and me who want to have fun while they still can. Let them eat cake, bungee jump or ski if they want. If athletes weren't thrill seekers and adrenaline lovers, they wouldn't be in the game in the first place. Sports teams can't have their pie and eat it too.

Michaela is a sophomore communication studies and art major.

TOP SUPER BOWL COMMERCIALS

By: **Amanda Kaplan**

For years, the Super Bowl has been the most watched event in America, with well over 100 million viewers. That's a lot of people who like football. But actually, studies have proven that 50 percent of the audience only tune in for the commercials. Super Bowl commercials have become the main buzz of the event, and there is no Super Bowl without them. From standing at the water cooler with coworkers or talking to the guy at the bagel store, Super Bowl commercials are always talked about the Monday morning after.

Since the first Super Bowl aired in 1967, there has been endless competition between companies to see who can make the best ad. Although Super Bowl commercials cost companies millions of dollars to produce, there have been thousands of commercials created to air during this crucial four-hour spot. Out of the thousands of commercials, there have been many unforgettable ones. Here's a list of some of the top rated and most memorable Super Bowl commercials of all time.

1. Coke, “Hey Kid, Catch!” Mean Joe Greene

This 1979 commercial almost caused one of NFL's toughest defensemen to lose his “Mean Joe Greene” nickname after the ad changed his image during Super Bowl XII. The commercial begins as the Pittsburgh Steeler is on his way to the locker room, and a young boy offers him a Coca-Cola. Greene declines the offer but eventually accepts the

Coke. The boy is disappointed because he is about to walk away empty-handed when Greene says, “Hey kid, catch!” and throws over his #75 jersey. After this aired, he suddenly became approachable. Today, it continues to be voted one of the greatest Super Bowl ads of all time.

2. The Force: Volkswagen

During Super Bowl XLV, this commercial touched the hearts of many. In this commercial, a little boy pretending to be Darth Vader is shocked when he thinks he started his dad's VW Passat. He doesn't realize his Dad used the key from inside the house. This 2011 Volkswagen commercial has become the most shared Super Bowl commercial of all time, with more than five million shares. They also released a sequel to the commercial during the 2012 Super Bowl titled “The Dog Strikes Back.”

3. Honda CR-V - Matthew Broderick's Day Off

This 2012 Super Bowl XLVI commercial recreates Matthew Broderick's role in “Ferris Bueller's Day Off.” As himself, Broderick calls in sick to take a day off from filming and have some fun. This ad contains dozens of references to the original movie, including the character Mr. Rooney and the famous Ferrari. His day off takes place riding around in his Honda CR-V, and it feels like you're watching the 80's classic all over again.

4. M&Ms “I'm sexy and I know it”

2012 struck again with the M&M's commercial featuring Mrs. Brown, the first

female M&M character to be shown in a commercial, and LMFAO's song, “Sexy and I Know It.” As she is talking to friends at a party, she points out that it looks like her milk chocolate is showing. A red M&M enters making jokes, and he begins to take off his shell while dancing to the popular song. Mrs. Brown is not amused. They hit the spot with this one.

5. Budweiser 9/11 Tribute

In 2002, during Super Bowl XXXVI, Budweiser aired this commercial to acknowledge 9/11. It features the company's famous Clydesdale horses and the New York skyline. It is the company's most shared ad to date. The only time this commercial ever aired on TV was during the game. An updated version of the commercial was aired on the 10-year anniversary of 9/11.

6. Clydesdales Brotherhood

Budweiser did it again in 2013 during Super Bowl XLVII with a commercial that tells a story of one their famous Clydesdale horses, showing the bond between him and his trainer. The trainer raises the horse to watch it leave for the big city. Three years later, the man and horse have an emotional reunion at a big city parade. This commercial definitely warms your heart.

7. Snickers “Playing Like Betty White”

During Super Bowl XLIV, Betty White

starred in this hilarious Snickers commercial. The 91-year-old gets tackled on a football field and huddles with the players after she gets up. To get her energy up and ready to play, she needs to eat a Snickers bar. Maybe it's just Betty White, but this makes for one funny commercial.

8. Old Spice: Smell Like a Man, Man

This 2010 Super Bowl XLIV commercial starred Isaiah Mustafa, who was an NFL wide receiver for four years. He begins in a bathroom that transforms into a boat, and then he finally drops onto a horse. This ad went viral as soon as it was aired and has more than 3.5 million views on YouTube. The entire commercial presents Mustafa as what a man could smell like. This ad opened new doors for Old Spice, as it expanded into a new, successful marketing campaign.

9. Doritos Time Machine

In this ad, the man is invited by a young boy, played by Gavin Anderson, to try his cardboard time machine so he could get his hands on the man's Doritos while he's inside. This 30-second commercial is even cuter when you know the story behind it. This 2014 Super Bowl XLIX commercial was the winner of a contest held by Doritos. A single dad, Ryan Anderson, and his son Gavin, created the ad for less than \$300.

HAVE AN OPINION ON A SPORTS ISSUE?

CONTACT OUR SPORTS EDITOR, RANDA DJABRI, AT NSUNews@NOVA.EDU AND WRITE FOR “ON THE BENCH”

15 BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ BEFORE THEY HIT THE BIG SCREEN IN 2015

By: **Alyssa DiMaria**

“Where Rainbows End”

By Cecelia Ahern

If you have a weakness for romance, this is your soft spot – the author of “P.S. I Love You” creates a story of a powerful childhood friendship. Rosie and Alex, best friends who are separated as teenagers, are still inseparable via email and letters and are constantly on the brink of a potential romance.

Release date: Feb. 6

Starring: Lily Collins, Sam Claflin and Suki Waterhouse

“Fifty Shades of Grey”

By E.L. James

The steamy, sexy and stimulating “Fifty Shades of Grey” is ready to be unleashed on the big screen. We know the enticing story: an innocent and independent girl falls for a rich, powerful and dominant man. The book is 530 pages of sex, and the trailers prove that the movie does not fall short.

Release date: Feb. 13

Starring: Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson, Rita Ora and Luke Grimes

“The DUFF”

By Kody Keplinger

The Designated Ugly Fat Friend (DUFF) falls in love with her number one, gorgeous, man-whore enemy. The friends-with-benefits relationship turns into more, and the enemy keeps the DUFF company in her time of need.

Release date: Feb. 20

Starring: Mae Whitman, Bella Thorne, Allison Janey and Robbie Amell

“In the Heart of the Sea”

By Nathaniel Philbrick

This true story of the tragedy and loss of the Whaleship Essex is a suspenseful read. As the story unfolds, a sperm whale attack leaves several crew members at sea for more than 90 days, and their survival instincts are awakened, helping them to take desperate measures. This was also the story that inspired Herman Melville’s “Moby Dick.”

Release date: March 13

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cillian Murphy and Charlotte Riley

“Insurgent”

By Veronica Roth

The second book in the “Divergent” trilogy, “Insurgent,” will pick up where Divergent left off, as a war emerges and conflict between the factions and their ideologies grows. As Tris fights to save the people she loves, she must also confront grief, forgiveness, identity, loyalty, politics and love.

Release date: March 20

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Ansel Elgort and Kate Winslet

“Serena”

By Ron Rash

All right, we’ve seen the talent of Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, but now imagine the two on screen – together, again. Prepared to be thrilled as newlyweds George and Serena Pemberton begin their journey to create a timber empire, while they ruthlessly kill all who fall out of favor. The story takes a turn when Serena finds out she can’t bear children and she seeks to murder the illegitimate child she believes George is trying to protect.

Release date: March 27

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper

“The Longest Ride”

By Nicholas Sparks

Nicholas Sparks is at it again, this time with the producers of “The Fault in Our Stars.” As we know, Sparks’ books involve romance and secrets. This story is centered on two couples whose lives intersect in profound ways. Reviews state that the book is hard to put down, and, hopefully, the movie will follow the novel more than the previews imply.

Release date: April 10

Starring: Scott Eastwood and Britt Robertson

“Child 44”

By Tom Rob Smith

The thriller novel follows a loyal officer of Stalin’s Soviet Union who is demoted and exiled when he begins to investigate a serial killer targeting children. Admitting that these crimes are being committed is a crime itself against the state. The officer decides to set out to find the killer and ends up uncovering shocking revelations in the process.

Release date: April 17

Starring: Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman and Noomi Rapace

“Far From the Madding Crowd”

By Thomas Hardy

An independent, beautiful woman attracts three very different suitors: a shepherd, a sergeant and a rich bachelor. The novel is about encountering tough choices, the nature of relationships and learning to cope with hardship. This is your classic love story, and you won’t be disappointed.

Release date: May 1

Starring: Carey Mulligan, Michael Sheen, Matthias Schoenaerts and

Tom Sturridge

“Paper Towns”

By John Green

A mystery. A journey of revenge. The search is on for the missing “girl next door,” and it’s uncertain if her friends will find her dead or alive. Clues have been left and the road trip has begun.

Release date: June 19

Starring: Cara Delevingne and Nat Wolff

“The Scorch Trials”

By James Dashner

“The Scorch Trials” is phase two in “The Maze Runner” series. The trials begin, and the race to earn a cure for the Flare virus is in full swing. While facing a series of dangerous weather conditions, the boys attempt to complete their mission.

Release date: Sept. 18

Starring: Dylan O’Brien, Kaya Scodelario and Thomas Brodie-Sangster

“Frankenstein”

By Mary Shelley

A classic tale with a twist: it’s a story of Victor Frankenstein and his creation of a monster built from several corpses. This time around, the story focuses on Igor, Victor Frankenstein’s hunchbacked young assistant. This contemporary “Frankenstein” is sure to be a creepy treat.

Release date: Oct. 2

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe and James McAvoy

“The Jungle Book”

By Rudyard Kipling

The beloved childhood story

is hitting the big screen again. An orphan boy named Mowgli is raised by a pack of wolves and befriends a bear named Baloo and a black panther named Bagheera. It’s a classic story, and the talented cast of the film makes this a wildly anticipated Disney release.

Release date: Oct. 9

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Idris Elba, Bill Murray, Lupita Nyong’o, Christopher Walken and Ben Kingsley

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay: Part II”

By Suzanne Collins

“The Hunger Games” series comes to a dramatic and heart-wrenching end when the battle to get the real Peeta back unfolds. Katniss Everdeen’s rebellion against the Capital continues and the fight to bring President Snow down is on. The last movie of the crazed series is going to be a memorable one.

Release date: Nov. 20

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth

“The Martian”

By Andy Weir

Following the recent trend of space movies, be prepared to send yourself to Mars in this fictional book. Astronaut Mark Watney was one of the first people to land on Mars, and he’s sure to be the first person to die there. After his crew believes Mark died in a dust storm, he’s stranded and completely alone with no way to signal Earth. This movie is bound to be another thrilling and nerve-wracking two hours.

Release date: Nov. 27

Starring: Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Jeff Daniels and Kristen Wiig



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GETTING TO KNOW NALA



Nia Holloway graces the stage as Nala in "The Lion King."

PRESSROOM.TRUSTARTS.ORG

By: **Destinee A. Hughes**

"The Lion King," the musical has been on tour in Fort Lauderdale for the past week and will continue its run at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts until Feb. 1. After watching the performance, I had the pleasure of speaking with Nia Holloway, who plays Nala in this adaptation of the Disney classic. Here's what she had to say about her experience playing Nala, "the warrior princess."

Can you tell me a little bit about your character?

"Nala is Simba's playmate, and they grew up together learning the ways of the Pride Land. She grows up to be this princess warrior when Mufasa dies, and she takes on the role of a leader. She's also very young and powerful, but she's also very vulnerable when it comes to being around Simba and finding Simba. I'm in love with the character Nala, and I enjoy playing it every single day. I feel like I embody some of the characteristics from Nala within myself."

How do you merge yourself and Nala into one character?

"I try to find similarities. I'm very young and driven, I want great things, and I feel like I find that in the character. Nala is very strong, and she is going to do whatever it takes to take care of her family and just find a way for things to be the way they used to be. So I feel like I embody the strength within her, and I pull that out from within myself to portray the character."

How long have you been singing and performing?

"I've been singing since I was about 4-years-old. My aunt heard me sing, and she told me the first song I sung was "Bag Lady" by Erykah Badu. So I've been singing forever. It's in my blood and in my family line. I've been performing seriously since I was about 11. I've done things like the Apollo Theater; I was on a TV show named Majors and Minors which aired on The Hub network, and I've done arenas and all types of competitions and performing in school. So it's always been in my blood and always been something that is a part of me."

How long does it take to prepare for a whole tour?

"With this production, you would think it would be a few months,

but actually, about a year and a half ago, I started the tour and rehearsed for five weeks. It was the most intense five weeks of my life. It's usually about five weeks, and you constantly learn on the job; we perform [almost] every single day of the week, so we constantly learn new things and find different ways to tweak the way we perform every day."

Do you ever make errors or miss a line in your performance?

"I've definitely missed lines. When you're on stage and you miss a line, it literally feels like an eternity, but it goes by so quickly that you're able to pick up where you left off. It's been a while since I've missed a line. The first two nights I ever performed, I missed lines. I was born in Illinois, but I've been in Georgia since I was eight years old, so I have a bit of an accent. My cast mates tell me I have a little bit of a country twang. I have to work really, really hard to make sure my accent doesn't come out, so that's about the only thing I go through on stage. You also have your slips and falls and stuff."

How is it working with the other cast members?

"Ben Lipitz, who plays Pumba, is absolutely hilarious and Nick Coreleon, who plays Timon, is the nicest guy ever, and he's so funny. The whole cast gets along. You have your besties, but it's like a big family. We tour together all year long, so we have to make light of it, and these people do become your family."

Do you ever get homesick while you're on tour?

"I get so homesick. I see my family very periodically, and it's sporadic, too, because our schedules are so constant. We get vacation time, but I definitely do get homesick. My family and I are a super duper close tight knit family, and it does get tough. I can go a few months, but maybe like the fourth or fifth month of not seeing my family at all, that's when I start to go crazy and I'm like, 'I need to go home.' It's something you don't get used to, but you learn to deal with it."

How long are you guys on tour?

"It's a yearlong tour, and it all depends on if you get another contract. The principle contracts are a year long, and the kids have six-month contracts. For as long as they want you, you're here. I'm very excited that I got offered another contract, so I'll be with the tour

going on a third year in July."

How does it feel to be the youngest person part of the performance?

"The animated film came out a year before I was born, so this show has been around for as long as I've been on this planet. It's truly amazing and humbling every single day when I get to be in a production that's impacted so many people's lives for as long as I've been alive. And it's impacted me from a very, very young kid. To be a part of it is like a dream come true, and it was an amazing opportunity; I was so blessed to be 17 years old starring in what they say is "the greatest show in the world." To do that at 17 was so humbling, and it made me want to work even harder to achieve this goal of sustaining the role well and also achieving other things in my career, so this was a great jumpstart. I'm really excited about what's in store for me."

If there were any other musical that you would do, which one would it be?

"If it was around longer, I would love to be in 'Cinderella.' That would be a dream come true to play Cinderella. I live my everyday life saying that I'm a princess, so to play one of the greatest Disney princesses would be amazing. But I do hope to play Nala on Broadway. That's always a goal to get to. People work so hard to get on Broadway, so that's also a goal for me to also achieve that. I have a lot of time, I'm very young and I'm very driven, and I have a lot of goals as far as acting. I want to do a lot of plays and television and also have my own music career, which I constantly work on while I'm on tour. I actually just released a song on iTunes called 'Favorite Love Song,' and I have the video coming out for that soon. I'm really excited, and I just have a little fire under me right now, so I'm just going to keep going."

What do you want your audience to know about your character Nala?

"I want people to embrace her and just fall in love with her strength and also how the character is so dynamic. She's a teenager but she takes on this huge role, and she also has vulnerable moments; embrace her strength and enjoy. It's truly an amazing experience to do it, so I want people to think it's amazing while they watch it."

NSU STREET STYLE

The Current will be incorporating a new weekly fashion segment featuring three stylish students around campus. Photos will be posted on all of our social media sites as well as in the newspaper. NSU students using the hashtag #NSUStreetStyle will be incorporated in our online/social media version of this section.

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Name:
Lexi King, a.k.a Leyonce

Major:
Communication Studies

What inspired your outfit today?
"Beyoncé, obviously."



Name:
Fanny Shuster

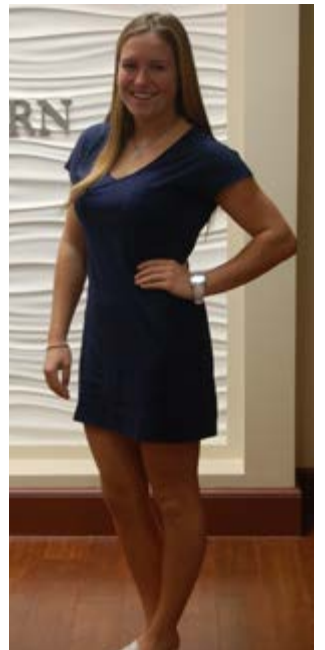
Major:
Psychology

What inspired your outfit today?
"Something comfy, but stylish."

Name:
Sarah Personelli

Major:
Business Management

What inspired your outfit today?
"I have to look cute for work, and it's a bright day."



BLAME THE PERPETRATOR, NOT THE VICTIM

By: **Nicole Cocuy**

Imagine that every time a victim reported a stolen credit card to the police, they were questioned by officers and, in most cases, even the public, like they perpetrated the crime. Was the victim dressed in flashy, designer clothes? Were the victim's pockets too easily accessible? Was the credit card visible and tempting, pressuring the thief to commit a crime he couldn't resist? Was the victim drinking? Was the victim sleeping or unconscious? Was the victim in an area notoriously known for crime or was the victim surrounded by impoverished people who desperately needed the money? Is this the first time the victim has misplaced his credit card? Did the victim give the accused "thief" the credit card, but report the theft because he regretted his decision?

Imagine if the victim answered

"yes" to any of these questions and, suddenly, his case was no longer taken seriously because, by default, the crime was his fault. While this scenario seems a little ridiculous and exaggerated, this is exactly what happens to victims of sexual assault when they bravely come forward. The only difference is that a credit card can always be cancelled and replaced, while the effects of sexual assault are life-changing and severe.

For some weird reason that I will never understand, people love to sympathize with rapists, perverts and abusers. People refuse to recognize that anyone, even great athletes, nice neighbors and star students, is capable of being a creepy violent predator who likes taking advantage of others for his own enjoyment. Instead, we assume that the victim is lying or must have done something to provoke this surprising behavior.

But, when we gossip about

sexual assault victims and imply that the allegations are either fabricated, exaggerated, or not the perpetrator's fault, we are just as bad as the disgusting abusers. When we victim blame, we not only are bullying a person who courageously chose to report her attack; we are also trivializing, tolerating and excusing sexual assault and abuse, fostering a hostile, dangerous society for young women to live in.

To be considered a human being worthy of respect, women are forced to follow a dress code and a curfew. Women can't drink in public, especially around men, can't flirt, even if it's mild, can't be a known "slut," a word with an arbitrary definition, and can't walk alone, especially at night. These are just a few of the strict rules women need to follow on a daily basis for our safety. If we decide to stray from the rules for the night and actually have fun,

whatever happens to us is entirely our fault.

These social pressures to keep women in line so that they don't supposedly become "irresistible temptations to men who just can't help themselves" are dangerous and ineffective. By questioning the validity of the report and the credibility of the victim, we make it that much easier for perpetrators to get away with crimes — and possibly commit even more crimes. By placing the blame on victims for their actions and their appearance, we teach men that sexual assault is totally OK as long as the victim looks like or acts like she is asking for it. Punishing women for their actions — actions that would have been completely socially acceptable if the victim was male — does not prevent sexual assault. It only excuses abuse.

To prevent sexual assault, the real pressure should be placed on

potential perpetrators. According to a recent study published in scientific journal "Violence and Gender," a third of male university students admit that they would rape if they could get away with it. Sexual assaults won't stop until men are taught that sexual assault is wrong and disrespectful, regardless of the circumstances. Sexual assaults won't stop unless men are reminded that women are human too, not sexual objects that lack autonomy. Instead, pressures to ingrain simple phrases, "yes means yes", "no means no", and "consent is consent" are not nearly as severe as the complicated guidelines enforced on women to protect themselves.

Instead of putting sexual assault victims on trial after they come forward with their alleged attack, we should remember that the perpetrators are the actual criminals who deserve to be interrogated and cross-examined.

Sharks Speak:

Undergraduate Student Government members want to extend the Shark Shuttle to reach local attractions. What do you think should be included in the new route?

"Sawgrass Mills Mall."

Diana Mansur,
senior exercise science major



"Fort Lauderdale Beach."

Angela Vu,
Freshman biology major



"Young at Art Museum."

Joe Dellavecchia
Senior applied professional
studies major



"Aventura Mall."

Yevgeniya Green,
Junior business major



"Cowboys, Tower Shops
Plaza and downtown Fort
Lauderdale."

Stephanie Martinez,
Sophomore neuroscience
major



A COURSE THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

By: **Tiffany Smith**

When you hear the words “personal finance,” you get one of two reactions: either your heart leaps for joy because you’ve found your calling in life, or your heart sinks because the subject is too boring for you to bear. But sooner or later, you’ll come to realize that personal finance focuses on more than just handling money and budgeting wisely; it’s about your future car, your future living arrangements, and, of course, taxes.

A recent report by Forbes Magazine has revealed that millennials do not possess enough financial literacy to confidently handle their finances on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, students graduate from universities as doctors, dentists and engineers without realizing the importance of paying bills on time, maintaining a good credit score or focusing on investing and saving for retirement.

On top of this, CNN Money reports that nearly 40 million Americans owe a total of \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt, which surpasses all other types of debt. And with a lack of financial literacy, students enter the workforce unprepared to tackle their loans and are unaware of how factors such as interest rates function. It’s understandable that many students across the country can’t bear to face their

loans. I suppose it’s OK if you’re a freshman entering college for the first time, but you’ll really be wiping tears from your eyes if you wait till graduation to unveil the mystery number.

A personal finance course should be required in high school so students can enter their university with more confidence and a greater understanding of how to budget and balance the cost of books, tuition and personal expenses. Unfortunately, the Council of Economic Education, a national organization, reports that as of March 2014, only 17 states required high school students to take courses that integrate elements of personal finance. Out of those 17 states, only four make personal finance an obligatory stand-alone course necessary for graduation. Thus, students are left to wander through the deep, vast unknowns of the world and learn some of the most important life lessons through trial and error. I don’t know about you, but I don’t fancy the thought of sitting in the bank, twiddling my thumbs, while my mind hangs on unfamiliar terms like “line of equity” or ponders the difference between IRA and 401k.

A study by the Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2012 showed that more than one in six students are not financially literate. The Council for Economic Education

is working with states to rectify this problem, but there remains a generation of students with minimal knowledge on personal finance, and outside of tax season, managing your expenses and tracking your spending becomes your responsibility.

So, what to do? Well, for starters, if students have a chance, they should take a personal finance course. Unfortunately, it is not a general education requirement, so most students will not be exposed to this critical subject. But it ought to be, so students no longer enter the world with the false notion that personal finance is just about pulling out a piece of paper to outline where every penny is spent. It teaches you about insurance and loans and why taking out store credit cards can potentially hurt your credit score, despite the immediate perks they tend to promise.

Personal finance may not be as exciting as watching the latest sitcom, but learning how to manage your finances and understanding monetary terms are vital in this day and age. At some point, we’ll appreciate the value of understanding finance sooner or later, or when you’re sitting across from the bank clerk while he starts talking about mortgage premiums, and all that’s going through your mind is, “I wonder if it’s too late to sign up for a personal finance course?”

A VICIOUS CYCLE

By: **Jazmyn Brown**

Because I have family in law enforcement, I feel obligated to show appreciation for police officers, as their profession is a sacrifice they make for the protection of society. Their own well-being is secondary to that of the public, which is something people have to respect. The world is an unforgiving place. For those who put their lives on the line and face danger, it’s better to be safe and alive than sorry.

Policing has an aura of authority because of its aim to uphold the law. But what’s the point of having a police force without any force? I’m not saying that the police should make examples of people to instill fear in the hearts of men. But when force is necessary, why are cops blamed? Americans love having someone to pin the blame on, to be the scapegoat. So, we lump all cops together and hate them when it’s one or two who have abused their power. But if we’ve learned anything at all, it’s that any stereotype is dangerous.

The media will sensationalize instances of police brutality and ignore the instances that show their humanity. There’s this misconception about police that they want, even like, to kill people. But for any person, taking another’s life, even in self-defense, is devastating. CNN reported that an officer, Grant Morrison, fatally shot an unarmed man after he refused to comply and keep his hands visible. After realizing the man was unarmed, Morrison broke down in tears, collapsing on a police car, barely able to breathe.

People can’t expect cops to show up at the scene relaxed, guns at their sides, politely asking if there’s a criminal around. They have to take all calls seriously, whether they are false alarms or not, because they can’t predict what they’re coming up against. But at the same time, cops must also be careful that they don’t endanger innocent people who are at the wrong place at the wrong time. It’s all about respecting people and treating them right. No one, not even a cop, has the right to needlessly treat people like they’re less than human.

A lot of innocent police officers die at the hands of violent and unstable people who go cop hunting. In the wake of Michael Brown and Eric Garner’s deaths, two officers were shot and killed by Ismail Brinsley, who took it upon himself to get revenge. Prior to the shootings, his Instagram post showed the gun he used to kill the officers, and he said he was “putting pigs in a blanket.” The officers he killed had nothing to do with the tragic deaths of either of the wrongfully killed men.

There are countless other officers who lose their lives in and out of the line of duty simply because people stereotype all cops as a threat to society’s peace, instead of its guardians.

The cops, and people in general, who we should have a problem with are the ones who let their authority get the better of them and have no respect for the inherent dignity of human life. It does no good to blame those who protect us because of the select few who choose to racially profile and abuse their power.

It’s a vicious cycle of people condemning cops and bad cops supporting the image that all police officers are soulless monsters. When a bad cop acts out, it gives (ignorant) people the chance to say, “See? I told you cops are evil.” What everyone needs to stop and realize is that one bad apple, or even a couple of them, doesn’t spoil the whole bunch.

The police are still people, and they respond to pretty traumatizing things in order to keep us safe. They see car accidents, the aftermaths of a suicide or a murder, kids who are abused and domestic abuse victims, and they deal with hostage negotiation. You can’t criticize police officers and then turn around and call 911 when you’re in danger because that makes you a hypocrite. Deep down people know that police means safety, that they’re the ones who will try their best to rescue you, so why condemn them? Why the needless hate?

At the end of the work day, it’s as hard for cops to cope with what they see as it is for soldiers who return home from a tour. If we can have respect for the people who protect us overseas, we should be able to scrape up some sort of respect for those who protect us at home. Without cops, we’d be lawless, and there’d be no need for the military if we couldn’t even protect ourselves on our own soil.

My family who are in law enforcement can die on the streets protecting the public and upholding the law. Their daily sacrifice is enough for me to want to defend them from the people who insist all cops are “pigs.” No, cops are human with human feelings and human reactions to danger. Law enforcement, as an institution, is society’s barrier against murderers, thieves, rapists and any other threat to our peace of mind and safety.

We, at some point in our lives, have some sort of relationship with a cop, whether they are family or a friend or even someone who pulls us over. People can’t get mad at a cop for stopping you for something they did wrong. Their job is to maintain the law. For cops who aren’t racist, apprehending people is nothing personal; they’re just protecting a fragile peace.

WANT MORE?
GO TO OUR WEBSITE
NSUCURRENT.NOVA.EDU



Help Wanted

All students should contact the Office of Student Employment Website to apply for these positions:

http://www.nova.edu/financialaid/employment/how_to_apply.html



Graduate Student- Administrative Assistant-(110)

Job ID: 5055
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Students will file paperwork for student and employee files, distribute mail, take inventory and submit requisitions. The student will also be in charge of preparing recruiting materials and will assist with event organization.

Administrative Student Assistant-(1096)

Job ID: 5399
Hours: 10 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Assists with filing, data entry, reports and other office duties. Helps with special events.

Lifeguard-(165)

Job ID: 4542
Hours: 10 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Ensures the safety of all swimmers, patrons, and user groups. Communicates and enforces pool rules/regulations in a professional manner. Provides emergency care and treatment as required until the arrival of emergency medical services. Maintains a professional appearance and attitude at all times, and carries out a high level of customer service. Conducts simple water test to determine water quality. Performs various maintenance duties as directed to maintain a clean and safe facility. Assists with the setting up and breaking down of events/competitions. Attends scheduled staff meetings and in-service trainings

Student Assistant - Technical Services-(033)

Job ID: 4899
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$8.50/hour

Works under direction of acquisitions manager, checks titles in Innopac, writes order slips for librarians, notifies professors if books are owned or out of print, checks books in print in computer, calls publishers for information, checks annual reports.

Student Assistant-(679)

Job ID: 4666
Hours: 25 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Provides clerical support and administrative assistance to the various administrators.

Administrative Student Assistant-(HPD89)

Job ID: 5039
Hours: 15 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Assists in the day-to-day operations in the academic and special events area of the department. Photocopies, faxes and answers

phones. Heavy data entry input.

Graduate Student Assistant/ Student Advisor-(355)

Job ID: 4973
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$9.25/hour

Assists international students with check-in process; general questions regarding F1 visas; common application procedures and questions (OPT, CPT, Reduced Course Load, required documentation, etc.) Creates new student files, maintain existing files. Establishes contact with incoming and current students regarding office processes and requests. Mails and tracks official documents to students and government agencies. Other related duties as assigned.

Math/ Science Tutor-(67)

Job ID: 4509
Hours: 12 hrs./week
Rate: \$8.75

Works with students in one-on-one tutoring session both live and online. Discusses learning, test-taking, and study strategies while assisting with course work assignments and questions. Maintains familiarity with all courses that you are responsible for tutoring by reviewing textbooks, software/videos, and solutions manuals.

Tutor (Accounting)-(1012)

Job ID: 5156
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Provides individual and small group tutoring to accounting, finance or economics students in the Huizenga School undergraduate program.

Program Assistant-(891)

Job ID: 4776
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$8.50/hour

Students assist with the overall operation of programs and services related to the office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement including, but not limited to: leading campus initiatives and events, maintaining databases, designing and posting publicity, answering phones, take students to event locations.

Desktop Computing Assistant-(039)

Job ID: 4487
Hours: 15 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Assists full-time technicians with the daily installation and maintenance and support of personal computer hardware and software. Troubleshoots technical issues relating to faculty and staff desktops. Assists OIT logistics in the pick-up and removal of surplus equipment.

Phonathon Caller - (500)

Job ID: 4588
Hours: 12 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

The Phonathon Caller primary functions involve contacting alumni, parents, and friends of Nova Southeastern University to learn about their experiences, build rapport, provide updates about new developments at NSU and most importantly raise support for the NSU annual fund.

Network Specialist-(503)

Job ID: 4590
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$11/hour

Assists in the installation of networking equipment. Assists in trouble-shooting network outages. Gathers and compiles information for special projects.

Group Exercise Instructor-(550)

Job ID: 4608
Hours: 5 hrs./week to 10 hrs./week
Rate: \$14/hour

Creates and leads safe and challenging group exercise classes.

Administrative Student Assistant/ Proctor-(732)

Job ID: 4692
Hours: 5 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Responsible for administering the Child Care Exams at exam site. Sets up room for testing, admits persons to testing site, verifies person, test and date, maintains security of exams, validates inventory prior to and after the exam. Ensures that the room is prepared and materials are distributed and returned; maintains integrity of the tests.

Administrative Student Assistant-(752)

Job ID: 4700
Hours: 15 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Assists Imaging System Administrators in the office and field. Sets up and troubleshoots computer workstations, scanning equipment and imaging-related software: Ascent, DPO, Unisearch 32, Netsearch XL and Unisearch Interactive. Performs routine maintenance, hardware/software installation and assists in moving heavy equipment.

Facility Supervisor-(785)

Job ID: 4721
Hours: 10 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Manages recreational facilities in conjunction with and in lieu of a professional staff member. Supervises other student staff through training, supervision and evaluation. Opens and closes the facility, attends to injured patrons, supervises all behavioral control incidents, prepares shift reports, supervises all facility reservations, set-ups and breakdowns.

Student Assistant/Front Office Staff/Security Supervisor-(809)
Job ID: 4735

Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Assists in training, scheduling, and supervising 20 – 30 front desk assistants. Serves as primary customer service representative for the Residential Life and Housing staff. In addition, assists the Assistant Area Coordinator with all duties associated with front desk management.

Assists in the general operations of office procedure and functions. Offers assistance to residents and general NSU community. Works with resident advisors, clubs and organizations in scheduling rooms in the commons utilizing Ad-Astra database. Prints out and e-mails daily schedules of classroom availability in respective hall. Assists with scheduling and facilitating front desk staff meetings. Answers and responds to inquiries via phone, in person, e-mail and by mail. Performs inventory and replacement of front office supplies. May be required to commute to other campus offices, conference rooms, and on occasion, to off-campus sites to attend meetings, workshops, and seminars, etc. Follows proper procedures when an incident occurs; as well as accessing the necessary emergency information in a confidential manner. Other duties as assigned

Water Safety Instructor (Swim Instructor)-(866)

Job ID: 4767
Hours: 10 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$11/hour

This position is responsible for the planning and teaching of group and private swim lessons. Be familiar with American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program/levels and other Red Cross water safety courses and know how to teach and apply course material. Communicates effectively and efficiently participant progress, cancellations and/or rescheduling. Completes records and reports in a timely manner and returns them to Coordinator of Aquatic Program's and Services. Performs miscellaneous job-related duties as assigned by supervisor. Maintains certifications. Assists Coordinator of Aquatic Program's and Services with special demonstrations/events. Helps with the promoting of swim lessons and other programs. Attends scheduled staff meetings and in-service trainings

Graduate Assistant/ Writer of Stewardship and Donor Communications-(872)

Job ID: 4769
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Writes and prepares all gift acknowledgments and receipts of major gifts. Revises all communications as specified by supervisors, the Vice President or the President. Inputs gift and pledge

acknowledgment data. Assists in the development of pledge reminders, gift acknowledgment receipts and letters. Produces labels, correspondence and reports as requested. Sets up and maintains appropriate files. Other administrative duties as assigned.

Senior Student Assistant/ Marketing Assistant-(878)

Job ID: 4772
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Supports marketing efforts including: press releases, visual displays, targeted mailings, market research and other projects as needed. Supports development efforts including: special events (RSVP management, auction support, etc.).

Student Assistant/ Office Assistant-(895)

Job ID: 4779
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$8.50/hour

Assists in maintaining correspondence with all interested student volunteers before and after each event. Assists with all relevant paperwork (legal waivers, etc.) before, during and after each event. Assists at all events.

Career Ambassador-(1055)

Job ID: 4998
Hours: 6 hrs./week
Rate: \$8.50/hour

Outgoing, energetic undergraduate student who markets the office from a peer to peer relationship. Informs student about resources and events offered by the Career Development Office.

Career Ambassador/Lead CA-(1058)

Job ID: 4999
Hours: 10 hrs./week
Rate: \$9/hour

Outgoing, energetic undergraduate student who markets the office from a peer to peer relationship. Informs student about resources and events offered by the Career Development Office.

Videoconferencing Technician-(506)

Job ID: 5018
Hours: 20 hrs./week
Rate: \$10/hour

Provides basic level technical support services to the students, faculty and staff in the use and maintenance of technology resources provided by the university, including but not limited to videoconferencing classrooms, smart classrooms, electronic classrooms, peripheral technology and all other University facilities on campus or off as requested. Provides office support answering telephones, monitoring videoconferencing bridge connections, perform data entry and provides detailed daily reports on technical support provided at the end of each day. Other duties as assigned.