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The Current

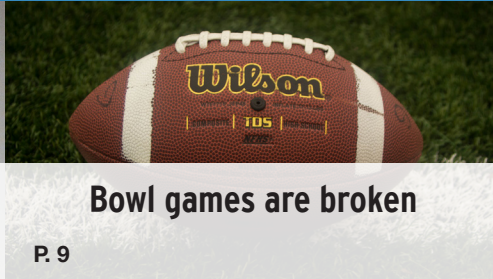
The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

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NSU forms international collaboration for new Cell Therapy Institute

By: **Li Cohen**
@Current_Yakira

As part of the Center for Collaborative Research, NSU will open the Cell Therapy Institute for cell-based biomedical research in spring 2016, in collaboration with Sweden's Karolinska Institutet, one of the world's leading medical universities that has conducted over 40 percent of academic medical research in Sweden.

Research programs at the new institute will focus on cancer, cardiovascular disease and disorders known to cause blindness. To help support the programs, the institute will offer high quality resources in the areas of genomics, cell therapies and flow cytometry.

Thomas Temple, senior vice president for translational research and economic development and an orthopedic surgeon, is one of the new researchers at CTI. He will conduct research on cancer stem cells and bone regeneration alongside Director of the Cell Therapy Institute Richard Jove, who was previously the director of molecular oncology at the Moffitt Comprehensive Cancer Center and Research Institute.

Temple said that the new group of researchers has a "global flavor" and that many of the primary researchers are from the Karolinska Institutet.



PHOTO PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM J. KATZMAN
The Center for Collaborative Research is expected to open next semester.

"It's all part of NSU President George Hanbury's vision to create a truly transformative research enterprise at NSU and leading scientific discovery with clinical enterprise — in other words, getting ideas from the bench to the bedside in rapid order," he said.

Aside from the research projects already announced, Temple said the institute is also in the process of forming groups of computational biologists, recruiting more researchers from Europe, working with Professor Stephen O'Brien

from the Department of Biological Sciences to set up a genomics group and collaborating with the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center to discover drugs that stem from sea life.

"It's really taken off in a major way," Temple said. "Everything is coming together at once. The educational piece is linking to the research piece, which will be linked to the new hospital. It will all be seamless — all these new discoveries will make their way into the hospital and be available to the patients who need them."

Temple said that students must be involved in research at the institute and that he believes the opportunity will attract a lot of students who have a profound interest in research and have a scientific background.

"It's all about education and training the scientists for tomorrow. We really want students to be involved in the laboratory enterprise and in educational processes," he said. "Students are the future of scientific endeavor, and if they don't engage, then we're going to have a problem in society. This is really going to raise the bar as far as sophistication, greater jobs, a sense of purpose and a sense of pride in the community."

The Center for Collaborative Research is a 215,000-square-foot facility next to the Health Professions Division. It will include wet labs for research, a General Clinical Research Center, the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, the Emil Buehler Research Center for Engineering, Science and Mathematics and a private incubator for information security businesses.

For more information on the NSU Cell Therapy Institute, visit nova.edu/research/cell-therapy/index.html. For more information on the Karolinska Institutet, visit ki.se/en/startpage.

By: **Darren Hendricks**

NSU's Facility Management will finish an ongoing construction project over the winter break to renovate 36th Street so that it is safer to travel on and to open up space for new residence halls on the field across from the Shark Athletics Building.

36th Street starts at University Drive and connects to SW 75th Avenue, just in front of the Shark Fountain. 36th also connects to SW 72nd Avenue, which curves around Cultural Living Center (CLC), The Commons and Goodwin Residence Hall.

Project Manager Randy Seneff said, "This whole project will improve the structure of 36th Street and free the area for future development of residential halls. This road will cause less traffic around the residence halls."

Once the project begins, it will take nine months to complete. The project will first focus on renovations around the residence halls.

Seneff said, "The entire project has been divided into five parts that will take about six weeks each. Once we are finished around the

Construction on 36th Street

residence halls, then we will work on 36th Street."

The first part of the construction project will be from Dec. 7 to Jan. 23, and will be from College Avenue to the first entrance of The Commons/Goodwin Residence Halls. During this time, the section of the road will be closed; however, students will still be able to access the parking lot for The Commons and Goodwin.

"This part will be the most inconvenient because students like to use this road as it is the quickest way to get to the residence halls from the highway," Seneff said.

The second part of the project will be from Jan. 25 to Feb. 27, and will be from the entrance in The Commons/Goodwin parking lot to the entrance in front of Cultural Living Center (CLC). Students will also have access to the parking lots during this time.

Although there is no set date, as of set, part three will be from CLC to the three-way stop sign of 36th Street. Part four starts at the three-way stop sign of 36th Street to the entrance in front of Founders, Farquhar and Vettel Apartments

(FFV). The final part will be from FFV to the four way stop sign of SW 75th Avenue.

"We will maintain detour points throughout each part," Seneff said. "The trickiest part will be part four, but we will have a detour road so traffic can go around the construction. But there shouldn't be too much confusion, as students will still have access to the entrances to the residence halls."

While originally expected to be completed in March, Seneff said that because of the time it took to get a permit, the project likely won't be completed until fall 2016.

Even though it is almost a year away, Thomas Ingalls, junior marine biology major, said that he cannot wait for the new road.

"It's about time they started renovating. The road is not adequate for the amount of traffic going through that area," Ingalls said.

Not only is the road going to be new, but some students agree that it will be safer for drivers and their vehicles.

Gilberto Torres, sophomore exercise science major, said that 36th Street is a mess and

that it's falling apart with potholes.

"It's good they are renovating because the road has gotten small, and it's a tight fit which could cause an accident," he said.

Maddie Uilk, freshman criminal justice major, said it's nice that Facilities decided to renovate the road.

"We have such a nice campus, and people take the roads for granted. 36th Street is old and needs to be fixed so we can have a road as nice as our buildings."

With detours provided and with the multiple entrances around campus, Ingalls said that, based on his experience at NSU, even though construction around the residence halls could cause confusion, the project is a good idea and students will be able to adjust.

Even though the renovations will change the routes, Uilk remained positive because she said the construction will help traffic run more smoothly.

For questions or more information, contact Facilities Management at 954-262-8845.

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NEWS ANCHOR

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Second-largest diamond discovered in Botswana

The Lucara Diamond firm reportedly found the second-largest gem quality diamond in company mines in Botswana, a south African country between Namibia and Zimbabwe. The 1,111-karat diamond, called the Karowe AK6 after the mine in which it was found, is the largest diamond to be found in Botswana and the largest find in 110 years. The largest diamond in the world, a 3,106-karat gem, was discovered in South Africa in 1905. It was cut into nine smaller gems, some of which are the British Crown Jewels. Two other large karat diamonds were found in the same mine, one gem 813 karats and the other 374 karats. Botswana is the world leader in diamond mining and exports.

Scotland Yard's Crime Museum opens to the public

Home to Scotland Yard's crime artifacts, from a spade used to bury a murder victim to the revolver of the last woman to be executed in the U.K., the Crime Museum opened to the public after more than 140 years. The museum, founded in the 1870s to educate police recruits, contains weapons and other evidence from high-profile cases from as late as the 1820s. Only law enforcement officials were allowed to use the then-private museum. Exhibits include the medicine case of poisoner and Jack the Ripper suspect Dr. Neil Cream and the tools used by the 1949 acid bath murderer, as well as the nooses used to hang criminals. The more disturbing parts of the collection, such as human remains, will not be on display.

Study shows that more Mexicans leaving U.S. than entering

A study conducted by Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan group based in Washington D.C., found that one million Mexicans returned to Mexico from the U.S., while only 870,000 Mexicans migrated to the U.S. Uneven economic recovery is cited as the reason for the net loss of 140,000 people. The research group found that existing border controls have made it difficult for Mexicans to illegally cross the border. While the U.S. has increased efforts to deport illegal immigrants, the study showed that the majority of Mexicans returned of their own accord, and the most common reason for returning to Mexico was to reunite with family.

90 killed in Myanmar landslide

On Nov.22, at least 90 people were killed in a landslide at a jade mine in Kachin state in northern

Myanmar, according to witnesses. A pile of dumped waste material from the mining company collapsed, burying the victims. A state-run newspaper reported that many of the victims were asleep at home when they were buried by the landslide. At the time of the landslide, dozens were reportedly missing. Local community groups, the army, the police and the Myanmar Red Cross undertook rescue operations.

Largest Austrian state powered completely by renewable resources

Lower Austria, the largest of Austria's nine states, announced that all of its electricity is produced by renewable resources. The state invested \$3 billion in solar, wind and biomass power plants to replace fossil fuel plants, which were all closed. It also refurbished the Danube River hydroelectric stations, which produce two-thirds of the state's electricity. With 38,000 green jobs created since 2002, the state has a goal of 50,000 new jobs by 2030. In total, Austria produces three-fourths of its electricity from renewable resources.

Colombian government to pardon 30 FARC prisoners

The Colombian government said in a statement that it would release 30 FARC guerrillas serving time for minor crimes from prisons across the country. The government said the decision was made to set a peaceful tone with the leftist rebel group. FARC, or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, has been in contention with the Colombian government since 1964. The two sides formally initiated peace talks last September when Colombian president Miguel Santos and FARC chief Rodrigo Londoño, also known as Timochenko, agreed to sign a final peace deal by March 2016.

Solar thermal plant to give electricity to one million Moroccans

The plant in Ouarzazate, capital of Ouarzazate Province in south-central Morocco, will use the sun's warmth to melt salt, which will retain enough heat to power steam turbines and generate electricity for the entire city. Arabian Company for Water and Power Development, or ACWA Power is running the project and said the plant's mirrors will move and track the sun throughout the day, optimizing the amount of solar heat captured. The plant is just one part of the country's plan to generate 42 percent of its energy with renewable resources by 2020 and will be one of the world's largest solar plants with an area of approximately 45 square miles, the size of the country's capital, Rabat.

The Current

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Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributing writers must be meaningful and of interest to the NSU community. The Current reserves the right to edit, publish or deny submitted works as it sees fit. The Current shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello NSU,

The holiday season has arrived. After 16 weeks of textbooks, coffee, numerous all-nighters and memories that will last a lifetime, the time has come for us to depart for a much needed break. As much as we are all looking forward to spending this season with our families and friends, we cannot wait to come back to our home-away-from-home and spend another semester with all of our favorite Sharks. For those of you who will be back next semester, we can't wait to see your bright, shining faces in January, and to those who are graduating within the next few weeks, we are going to miss you, but we are just a short swim away!

Fall 2015 was a semester to remember here at The Current. All of our staff members and contributing writers worked extremely hard to up our game and bring you the best of the best when it comes to news, sports and entertainment. The past few months at NSU have proved that NSU is not only a catalyst for success, but a community of tradition in our events, strength in our values and compassion for the world.

Next semester, we hope to maintain the same caliber of work that we have exhibited so far this year, and make the remaining issues of the paper the best that they've ever been. This has been the best volume of The Current so far and we aim to end strong.

The Current's resolutions for 2016 are to give students a larger voice, emphasize and local world issues and to epitomize NSU's 2020 Vision. We can't wait to help all of you achieve your dreams and resolutions, and we are looking forward to starting off 2016 on a good note.

Here's to making a memorable holiday season.

With Love,
Nicole & Li

SEA Thursday
@UC Spine
12 - 1 PM

Theta Phi Murder Mystery
Dinner
@Commons 123
6 - 10 PM

Alpha Phi Omega Shark Sync
@UC Pit
7 - 9 PM

DEC 3

ACS Review Biochemistry
@DeSantis 1048/1049
2 - 4 PM

ACS Review General
Chemistry
@DeSantis 3032/3034
2 - 4 PM

Chemistry Club ACS review
Organic Chemistry
@DeSantis 1052
2 - 4 PM

DEC 4

On Shore Calendar

ACS Review General
Chemistry
@DeSantis 1047
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Crunch Brunch
@UC Pit
9 - 11 PM

DEC 7

Expand your knowledge at ITPalooza

By: **Li Cohen**
@Current_Yakira

To educate the community on information technology and raise donations for children in South Florida, NSU's College of Engineering and Computing will host the fourth annual ITPalooza on Dec. 3 from 1 to 11 p.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building.

James Parrish, chairman of the Department of Information Systems and Cybersecurity, said that while ITPalooza is meant to provide educational opportunities for the IT community, it's important to note that it is a charity event.

"Over the past few years, we've collected tens of thousands of dollars to really help the underprivileged kids in South Florida have a much better holiday season," he said. "Getting Toys for Tots involved just seemed like a logical decision, so the tech community can give back to the tri-county area."

Toys for Tots was started by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to collect new and unused toys from communities for redistribution to underprivileged children.

This year's conference will include a pre-conference event about advanced data analytics

with Microsoft's new Cortana Analytics program on Dec. 2, educational breakout sessions, a hiring fair, holiday party and the annual hackathon.

In previous year, the hackathon was during the day of ITPalooza and was produced by the event committee; however, this year, the hackathon will be produced by AT&T Developer Program and will take place on Dec. 4 and 5. Attendees will build information technology solutions and mobile applications in a competition for prizes. The first place winner will receive a \$1000 gift card, and other prizes will be given for various categories.

There will also be free Microsoft certification training, which Parrish said is beneficial for attendees of any industry.

"Technology is impacting every sector of our economy, whether it's bio, business or engineering — everything uses technology," Parrish said. "Technology is important, and students need to grasp a good concept of technology fundamentals to be successful in any discipline."

Approximately 2000 people are expected

to attend this year's event, and Parrish said that the number of people has grown almost 100 percent over the past four years.

"This is the one place you can go in the year to see the progress of technology in South Florida," he said. "It's not just a networking event; it's an educational event and a hiring event."

Parrish said that the event wouldn't have been able to grow as much as it has without the help of those involved, including Event Chairman Alex Funkhouser, Team Lead Rick Sebaly, Public Relations Specialist Jessica Rodriguez and the volunteers who have driven the event every year.

"It shines a spotlight on the IT industry here in South Florida... ITPalooza is actually a very nice vehicle to demonstrate the vitality and the strength of the technology industry in our region," he said.

To see a full schedule of events or purchase tickets, visit itpalooza.com/schedule. For more information, email info@itpalooza.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Road closure on campus

Sections of Perimeter Road will be closed on campus due to construction. From Dec. 7 to Jan. 23, the section between The Commons parking gate and College Avenue will be closed, and from Jan. 25 to Feb. 27, the area between CLC and The Commons parking gate will be closed. During these times, students will still be able to enter and exit CLC and The Commons parking lots. For more information, contact the Office of Residential Life and Housing at 954-262-7052 or at reslife@nova.edu.

NSU athletes inducted into Hall of Fame

Four former NSU athletes were inducted into the ninth NSU Athletics Hall of Fame class on Nov. 11. Inductees include women's golfer Maria Garcia Austt, softball player Lauren Lopez, women's rower Cheyenne Poskey and former Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine Larry Starr. To see more about each athlete, visit the NSU athletics website at nsusharks.com

Gain confidence at the leadership conference

Registration for the fourth annual Leadership Conference, which will focus on self-confidence, is available until Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. The conference will be on Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the RecWell Basketball Courts and is hosted by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. Business casual attire is required. To register, visit orgsync.com/45785/forms/168459. For more information, contact the SLCE Office at slce@nova.edu or 954-262-7195.

Apply for Homecoming Council

Applications for the 2016 Homecoming Council are available on OrgSync until further notice. The Council is responsible for planning next year's Homecoming events and activities. Available positions include Novelty Chair, which is responsible for ordering giveaways, Kick-Off Chair, which is responsible for coordinating the kick-off events, Homecoming Court Chair, which is responsible for drafting emails and nomination forms for homecoming court and taking care of any other logistical information, Marketing/Media Chair, which is responsible for determining the theme, social media and working with vendors and the Shark Race Chair, which is responsible for planning and implementing the tricycle race. To apply for a position, visit orgsync.com/37641/forms/100011. For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 954-262-7288.

Calling performers for CommunityFest

The Department of Special Events and Projects is looking for hosts and performers for the 2016 CommunityFest, which will be held Feb. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. The deadline to sign up to is Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up, contact Danielle McCalla at dm1840@nova.edu or Lorena Cabrera at lorencabr@nova.edu.

Recharge for finals week

The Office of Campus Recreation and Wellness will host "Finals Week Recharge" on Dec. 2 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center pit to provide students with free coffee, pastries and entertainment. The event is in collaboration with Delta Phi Epsilon sorority and Whole Foods Market and will feature a stress-buster game. For more information, contact RecWell at 954-262-7301 or wellness@nova.edu.

Review for the ACS with Chemistry Club

By: **Scott Black**

To help students prepare for the American Chemical Society (ACS) cumulative exam, the Chemistry Club will host ACS review sessions on Dec. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Carl DeSantis Building, rooms 3032 and 3034.

The ACS exams are standardized tests that all chemistry students take for each general chemistry, organic chemistry and biochemistry course they are enrolled in. The review, designed by the Chemistry Club, will cover each subject to help students prepare for their exams, which impact their final grades.

Dr. Beatrix Aukszi, associate professor of the department of chemistry and physics, said, "It's kind of a gearing up session, getting the students into battle mode."

Each exam is a cumulative test with about 70 multiple choice questions and cover either one or two semesters worth of material. Aukszi

said the review sessions will remind students of important concepts that were covered earlier in the semester.

Isabel Olivera, senior chemistry major and chemistry club president, said, "While these reviews session are in no way meant to be the entirety of a student's review for their exams, it gives them the opportunity to survey what information they have forgotten or have a weak understanding of."

The Chemistry Club organizes these review sessions every semester. General and organic chemistry will each have a two hour review session, and biochemistry will have a one hour review session.

Katrina Fins, senior chemistry major and public relations chair of Chemistry Club, said, "Every year, we receive positive feedback from the students about these reviews, and they are

by far our most popular event throughout the year. Faculty members have volunteered their time for a comprehensive review of the test, as well as to answer any questions."

Olivera suggests that all chemistry students should prepare probing questions, review their material prior to taking the ACS multiple choice review test and attend the reviews again the following Monday to discuss the results of the Friday review.

The reviews are complimentary for all students, and priority seating is given to members of the Chemistry Club. For additional information about the review sessions, changes to room locations, and RVSP, please contact the Chemistry Club President, Isabel Olivera at io65@nova.edu.

Take a break with Crunch Brunch

By: **Jordan Lusciur and Li Cohen**

The Student Events and Activities Board will host their semi-annual Crunch Brunch to provide students with free food, games and prizes on Dec. 7 at 9 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center pit.

SEA Board Vice President of Traditions Daesha Roberts, junior business administration major, said that Crunch Brunch will be buffet-style and will include hot foods and a cereal bar. In the past, games were available for students to partake in, but this year, SEA Board is hosting karaoke in hopes of getting students more engaged.

"This will hopefully help all students have a moment of fun and relaxation during the stressful week of finals," Roberts said. "This week of finals is so stressful because it is the last thing students have to do before they complete a course, and sometimes a grade on a final will make or break a student's grade in the whole course."

SEA Board Cinema Tuesday Chair Kristen Bingham, sophomore biology major, said that Crunch Brunch is a way for students to come together and de-stress during finals week, which is from Dec. 7 to Dec. 11.

"The students find this event beneficial because they come to the event stressed out over their exams and then by singing karaoke

and taking a snack break it takes their minds off the exams they need to study for," she said.

Liz Rinaldi, sophomore biology major, attended Crunch Brunch last year and said that it was a nice way to take a break from studying. She said that getting a chance to be with her friends and eat and watch a movie was enjoyable and a good break before continuing their studies.

"As a bio major, finals can be pretty stressful," she said. "Actually for anyone it's stressful, so it was nice to take a break in the UC."

Yabsera Demissie, first year graduate student in the College of Student Affairs, said that the event is the perfect break for students.

"Students need a break in order to be successful on their exams, and having the students come in an enjoy karaoke and breakfast will allow them to have a break and take their mind off finals," she said.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 954-262-7288 or studentactivities@nova.edu.

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Fact checking the second Democratic debate

The second Democratic debate between Democratic presidential candidates was hosted on Nov. 14. The following statements were made by candidates throughout the debate, and the verdicts were decided upon by The Current staff after heavy research of reputable sources. Full transcripts of the debates can be found online on CNN.com, The Washington Post and other news sources.

“I think that what happened when we abided by the agreement that George W. Bush made with the Iraqis to leave by 2011 is that an Iraqi army was left that had been trained and that was prepared to defend Iraq. Unfortunately, Nouri al-Maliki, the prime minister, set about decimating it. And then with the revolution against Assad — and I did early on say we needed to try to find a way to train and equip moderates very early so that we would have a better idea of how to deal with Assad because I thought there would be — extremist groups filling the vacuum.”—Hillary Clinton, on whether ISIS was underestimated

According to factcheck.org, the Status of Forces Agreement, which former President George W. Bush signed with al-Maliki on Dec. 14, 2008, U.S. troops would be removed from Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011. The Washington Post reported that after U.S. troops left in 2011, the Iraqi army deteriorated because of corruption.

Iraq has experienced a long battle between the Sunni and Shiite people of the country. Maliki had a primarily Shiite government, and the Sunnis retaliated against it, leading to the creation of extreme protestors. One group of these protestors became known as Al Qaeda.

VERDICT: True

“What is important to understand is we have organizations, whether it is ISIS or Al Qaeda who do believe we should go back several thousand years, we should make women third-class citizens, that we should allow children to be sexually assaulted, that they are a danger to modern society.”—Bernie Sanders, on the term “radical Islam”

According to CNN, ISIS has claimed that murdering, enslaving and raping women is justified by Islam. The Washington Post explained that the reasoning for this is that the jihadist group says the torture of women is a long-standing tradition. The article continued that after women are ranked by age, some younger than 13 years old, and physical attributes, they are distributed to men based on hierarchies. Multiple reports show that although ISIS claims this is part of their religion and tradition, the abuse of women is not an official part of Islamic teachings.

VERDICT: True

“The blueprint in Maryland that we follow was, yes, we did, in fact, raise the sales tax by a penny. And we made our public schools the best public schools in America for five years in a row with that investment. And, yes, we did ask everyone — the top 14 percent of earners in our state to pay more in their income tax. And we were the only state to go four years without a penny’s increase to college tuition.”—Martin

O’Malley, on making public college debt free

According to Maryland.gov, during his two terms as Governor, Martin O’Malley created the fastest job growth in the region, led Maryland public schools to number one ranking of all public schools in the country for five years in a row and helped make Maryland colleges number one in ranking for keeping tuition costs down. He also made Maryland number one nationally in median income, number one in Ph.D. scientists and researchers per capita, number one in research and development and number one in women-owned businesses.

VERDICT: True

“There is a broad consensus. 92 percent in the most recent poll of Americans want gun safety measures.”—Hillary Clinton, on gun control

Gallup reported that in a poll released Oct. 7 through Oct. 11 about the selling of firearms, 55 percent of participants wanted more strict laws, 11 percent wanted less strict laws and 33 percent wanted laws to stay as they are now. The poll also found that 86 percent of participants were in favor of universal background checks for gun purchases.

VERDICT: Misleading. While the majority of poll participants did show they wanted more gun safety measures, it was not 92 percent.

“This nation is the most powerful military in the world. We’re spending over \$600 billion a year on the military. And yet significantly less than 10 percent of that money is used to be fighting international terrorism.”—Bernie Sanders, on Syrian refugees

Nationalpriorities.org reports that for the 2015 fiscal year, \$598.5 billion of federal discretionary spending, the portion of the federal budget requested by the president each year, was spent on the military. The report shows that 83 percent of that money was spend on the Department of Defense, 11 percent was spent on overseas contingency operations, 3 percent was spent on nuclear weapons and associated costs, 2 percent was spent on international security and assistance, and 1 percent was spent on other defense needs.

VERDICT: While he overstretched the amount of the budget, Sanders was correct in the amount of the money spent to fight international terrorism.

“But two of our counties actually went to \$12.80. And their county executives if they were here tonight would also tell you that it works. The fact of the matter is the more our people earn the more money they spend and the more our whole economy grows.”—Martin O’Malley, on the economy

According to the Department of Labor, the federal minimum wage has increased 22 times since 1938, and, since that time, the real GDP of the economy has steadily increased as well. The site also says that raising the minimum wage allows families to have more money to spend on goods and services, which will stimulate local and national economic growth.

VERDICT: True

The candidates’ takes on Syrian refugees

On Nov. 19, the House of Representatives passed a bill that, if passed by the Senate, won’t allow Syrian and Iraqi refugees into the country until national security says they are not a security risk. The vote was passed 289-137. Because of the majority vote, it could override President Obama’s veto power. On whitehouse.gov, Obama announced a plan to bring in at least 10,000 Syrian refugees to the U.S. next year. The plan is to have each refugee go through high-level security checks, and priority will be given to what the U.S. government defines as most vulnerable, including survivors of violence and torture, those with severe medical conditions and women and children. The following statements were made by presidential candidates regarding the refugee debate.

“Turning away orphans, applying a religious test, discriminating against Muslims, slamming the door on every Syrian refugee — that is just not who we are...It would be cruel irony, indeed, if ISIS can force families from their homes and then also prevent them from ever finding new ones.”—Hillary Clinton, via CNN

“The United States honestly, sadly, cannot relax our entrance criteria. We are having to be very careful about who we let enter this country from these war-torn regions to ensure that terrorists are not coming here. I think the Europeans need to continue to step up here both in terms of the amount of money they provide for humanitarian relief. They have not done as much as the United States has done on that front.”—Carly Fiorina, via NPR

“I was the first person on this stage to say that we should accept the 65,000 Syrian refugees that were fleeing the sort of murder of ISIL, and I believe that that needs to be done with proper screening.”—Martin O’Malley, via The New York Times

“What the magic number is, I don’t know. Because we don’t know the extent of the problem. But I certainly think that the United States should take its full responsibility in helping refugees.”—Bernie Sanders, via The New York Times

“But we have so many problems of our own...We have border problems that are big league that I exposed...We have so many problems to solve...We have to fix our own country. Now, Europe is handling it. Germany has been very generous so far, which is very surprising to me, to be honest with you. But there’s a huge problem, and we should help as much as possible, but we do have to fix our own country.”—Donald Trump, via CBS news

“That’s [inadequate background checks are] one of the reasons why I said we won’t be able to take more refugees. It’s not that we don’t want to, it’s that we can’t. Because there’s no way to background check someone that’s coming from Syria. Who do you call and do a background

check on them.”—Marco Rubio, via ABC’s “This Week with George Stephanopoulos”

“If we’re going to be bringing 200,000 people over here from that region — if I were one of the leaders of the global jihadist movement, and I didn’t infiltrate that group of people with my people, that would be almost malpractice.”—Ben Carson, via The Washington Post

“People talk about the large influx of people leaving the Middle East, going to Europe and some of them wanting to go to the United States, that it may not be a benign thing to accept so many tens of thousands of people coming from the Middle East because many of them actually wish us harm.”—Rand Paul, via The Boston Globe

“The one thing I’ve learned from Paris is that we need to have a timeout on bringing refugees into this country until we have a system that we think will work.”—Lindsey Graham, via The New York Times

“There should be really thorough screening [of refugees coming to the U.S.], and we should focus on creating safe havens for refugees in Syria rather than bringing them all the way across to the United States.”—Jeb Bush, via The Huffington Post

“No, we shouldn’t be taking on any more Syrian refugees right now. In the last year, America has received almost 70,000 refugees, of which nearly 2,000 are from Syria. We’ve spent something like \$4 billion in humanitarian relief in terms of helping the situation in Syria. So we’re doing more than any other country in the world, and it’s got to be clear that the problem that has to be addressed is not the refugee issue — that’s a symptom. The real problem is this administration fails to deal with taking on ISIS.”—Scott Walker, via NPR

“Our immediate role should be to support our regional allies who are on the front lines through public and private assistance to the international organizations who are best poised to administer aid...In terms of settling the migrants, if the ultimate goal is to return them to their homes, which I believe it should be, it doesn’t make sense from a logistical or a security standpoint to move large numbers of them to far-off countries like the United States. Ultimately, we need to address the cause of this crisis or we will just have more and more migrants displaced.”—Ted Cruz, via CBS News

“I’d sit down with [our allies] and say let’s look at what the flow of the refugees is going to be and the United States should play their role in it along with other allies.”—Chris Christie, via NPR



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THAT TIME I...

ROSE ABOVE "SOCIAL FLEXPECTATIONS"

By: **Brittany Calaluca**

Brittany Calaluca is a graduating exercise and sport science major at NSU. In 2014, she spoke at TEDxNSU about "Rising above the Magazine Covers," to discuss her experience with fitness, Photoshop and health perceptions of society.

I'm an escaped prisoner. Not the normal type of prisoner you may come across, but I fled from a prison of expectations. I was an anxious soul with a strong arm and chain for control over my own body. I shared this sentencing with other people seeking the same fate I was. Fortunately, they soon joined me on the journey to escape from the social jail we had succumbed to.

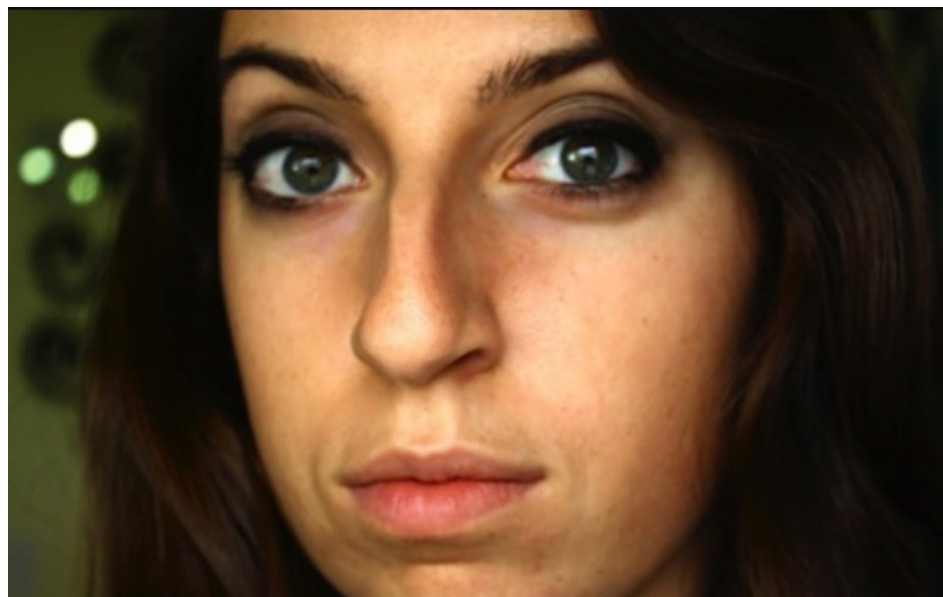
I had mountains of magazines with women I dreamt to look like, I had the nutrition background to know what to eat, and, as a trainer, I knew how to train my body for every inch of it. As a young woman figuring out this world, there was one thing I was always seeking. I was looking for a life that I could live without

a ball and chain attached to my leg.

After a series of events, such as the preparation for a bikini competition, food obsessions and a Photoshop class, it came to my attention that perfection was not obtainable, and anything close to it would be short lived or technologically created. As a fitness professional, it became my mission to air out the industries "dirty laundry" of diets, obsessions and Photoshop capabilities in creating the image of fitness modeling.

Rawk Sport and Fitness, my no-Photoshop magazine and small business was created as a release of the "Social Flexexpectations" in the fitness industry and general culture. I began the magazine to give myself, and the many people I have encountered, a reason to question what they see on the magazines claiming to show "health." I wanted people to start seeing themselves as healthy beings without the approval of six pack abs, or Photoshopped perfection.

I have come a long way since the beginning



COURTESY OF B. CALALUCA.

Brittany went through a journey to discover a balanced perspective of health and beauty, and shared her experience at TEDxNSU.

of my own journey and have met amazing souls who have helped me in spreading my mission. My greatest opportunity was speaking at TEDxNSU last year. My talk featured my own edited photographs and the speech of a lifetime about the experiences I have gathered in my young life so far. TEDxNSU gave me the chance to spread my wings as a public speaker and gave my mission room to grow.

It is safe to say that both men and women are affected by this issue and need to see that it's okay to be in your own body and not what is already out there. It is time for a paradigm shift in the perception of health and beauty. I want to give other people a chance to get a look from the

inside out, and a gain a sense of pride in what each of us has to offer this crazy and beautiful world with no Photoshop required.

Since I graduate from NSU this semester, for the next chapters of my life, I plan on pursuing graduate school in sports psychology and grow Rawk Sport and Fitness as a whole-bodied company. I have not "written" my path, and I can't "edit" it either, so it looks like all of us will have to look out for the next issue of Rawk Sport and Fitness Magazine to see what else I have learned.

Three steps to keep your resolutions

By: **Jenna Kopec**

The New Year comes with the opportunity to start, well, new. According to various sources, including Forbes magazine and The Washington Post, anywhere between 40 percent and 50 percent of Americans will make a resolution for 2016. This isn't hard to imagine—almost everyone has something that they want to improve on. The problem is, according to Forbes magazine, only about 8 percent of those who make a resolution end up keeping it.

Doesn't sound very encouraging, right? Don't worry; there is plenty that can be done to help you keep yours. Here are some helpful hints to consider while creating your New Year's resolution.

Pick the right resolutions

April Coan, academic success coach and the assistant director at the Office of Undergraduate Student Success, said you should choose resolutions that are going to make positive changes in your life.

"Everyone has his or her own personal goals, so whatever is meaningful to you should be your resolution," said Coan.

Depending on where you are in life, there may be a lot of things that you want to change. As a college student, you may want to do everything from making new friends, fixing your grades, making money and getting fit. That's a tall order for anyone to accomplish in a lifetime, let alone one year.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with trying to achieve all of these goals. But for the sake of keeping your New Year's resolutions, try to stick to a small list of attainable goals. Want to get healthy? Try a resolution like going to the gym at twice a week, cutting out fast food and drinking three bottles of water a day. Not only is this list easier to handle, but also it's also easier to measure.

Make a plan

Whenever trying to accomplish anything, it

helps if you have a plan. Sometimes, making a plan can sound a lot easier than it actually is, so the first step is to do your research.

Any time a big change is made, it's important to go about it in the correct manner. If your resolution is to bring up that GPA, use your resources to research study strategies and organizational strategies. If you're trying to socialize more, hit the internet to see what events are going on. If you're trying to get fit, talk to a trainer about the work outs that would be right for you.

After doing research, write out a plan of action. This can include steps you are going to take and scheduled times for when you are going to do them. Make sure you give yourself that hour at the gym or that block of study time. Knowing how to accomplish a resolution will make achieving it that much easier.

Don't give up

Coan said, "It takes 28 days to form a habit.

That means it takes a little bit of effort to make a positive change."

When making a resolution, it's unlikely that you'll see the change instantly, especially with any of the big-ticket resolutions that are so popular. However, by sticking to your plan, you're bound to see results. Perseverance is key. Unless your resolution is to party, you most likely aren't going to have a good time trying to keep your resolution at first.

"By the third week, it's just going to feel like part of your routine," Coan explained.

And that's the ultimate goal, isn't it? To make a positive, permanent change.

So over winter break, think about what's most important to you. Think about everything you want to change. Create a plan. Make a resolution. College is the time to work on you and grow as an individual. Part of being a Shark is moving forward, something we are all capable of. This New Year, what will you change?

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Make the most out of your holiday break

By: April Coan

My name is April Coan, and I am an academic success coach and the assistant director at the Office of Undergraduate Student Success. Throughout the fall semester, I will offer tips and suggestions in *The Current*, which will focus on topics like success in college and taking advantage of the unique opportunities available at NSU.



COURTESY OF A. COAN
April Coan provides tips for students on how to make the most of their undergraduate experiences.

The holiday break is a great time to enjoy home-cooked meals and spend time with family; however, the long break is also a great time to take advantage of opportunities and plan ahead. If you're thinking about ways to get ahead of the game and take advantage of your time during the break, you might want to consider these options:

Update your CV or resume. If you're thinking about getting a job near campus or if you're preparing for a summer internship, the holiday break is the perfect time to update your resume or curriculum vitae (CV). To learn how to create a more impressive resume or CV, schedule an appointment with a career adviser at Career Development before you leave on vacation. To make an appointment, call 954-262-7201

Plan for your next semester. Reserving time to study and planning ahead is a great way to ensure your success in the winter semester. You can plan ahead by reviewing your syllabus, ensuring you have the right textbooks for the upcoming semester, and creating a weekly study schedule. To learn more about creating a weekly schedule planner, you can contact the Office of Undergraduate Student Success at 954-262-8386.

Volunteer. If you're the type who gets bored during the holiday break, you might want to think about volunteering. Volunteering is a great way to get experience and build your resume. For volunteering opportunities and ideas, you can contact Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at 954-262-7195.

Regardless of how you decide to celebrate your vacation, remember to relax and have a little "you" time. The holiday break is a great time to celebrate and reward yourself for completing another semester of school. During the break, do something that makes you happy so you can recharge your mental batteries and come back feeling refreshed the next semester.

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World AIDS Day: Know your facts

By: Cerone White

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is the end result of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and it has taken the lives of millions of people around the world. World AIDS Day, on Dec. 1, was instituted to help bring worldwide awareness and to unify, show support for and commemorate people who have died from this deadly disease.

"HIV is no longer the death sentence that it once was over a decade ago," said Gregory Timmer, linkage & navigation specialist at Latinos Salud in Wilton Manors, a support and resource center for gay Latino males. "Once you know the facts, the resources available to you and having that support system, one will be able to function like any other person in society."

Care Resource, one of South Florida's oldest and largest HIV/AIDS service organizations for over 30 years, provides treatment and services to people who have contracted the disease and are now living with HIV/AIDS in the Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Care Resource reported that since 2014, the Miami-Dade and Broward Counties have been ranked number one in the state of Florida for new HIV and AIDS cases. Broward County has 17,632 people living with HIV/AIDS and is ranked third in the nation for newly diagnosed HIV infections, as of 2011.

HIV/AIDS is most often affiliated with the LGBT community with closer ties with the homosexual community. The CDC reported that gay and bisexual men are more severely affected by HIV than any other group in the U.S. and that HIV infections are highest among young black/African American gay and bisexual men. As the virus has grown more rampant among communities and awareness has increased on what the virus is and how it is contracted, people come to learn that HIV and AIDS are not specific to homosexuals, but are a risk to any person who engages in sexual activity.

World AIDS Day has been recognized since 1988, and since that time, science has evolved

and new treatments for this deadly disease have emerged. People are living longer and healthier lives. However, there are still misconceptions about the virus and how it is contracted and spread.

Getting the right information is important to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. So it's time to separate fantasy from reality. The following answers to common myths were reported by the Centers for Disease and Prevention.

Myth #1: If I am diagnosed with HIV, then I should be sick.

This is false because people can have the HIV virus in their bodies for years and not know about it. It doesn't matter if a person has HIV and he or she feels well and looks like his or her usual self; the virus can still reproduce in the body and be passed on to other people if safe sex is not practiced.

Myth #2: HIV only affects certain people.

Anyone can get HIV; it does not discriminate. Anyone can become infected the first time they are exposed to the virus. This virus is spread through different bodily fluids, including blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk.

Myth #3: Receiving an HIV diagnosis is an automatic death sentence.

HIV is a serious disease, and there is no cure. However, people who have contracted HIV can now live longer, healthier lives. This is, in part, due to early detections and new effective treatments.

Myth #4: Since I have HIV, I have to be careful about everyday activities such as sharing my cellphone, shaking other people's hands and hugging someone.

One cannot get HIV from everyday activities or casual contact, such as shaking

hands, or touching everyday surfaces, such as the toilet seat. The virus does not live long enough outside the human body to infect someone.

"People can live longer, healthy lives, and now HIV-positive females can even produce HIV-negative children thanks to the advancement of modern medicine," Timmer said.

HIV/AIDS will always be a taboo topic within certain circles, not only in the LGBT community, but also within the heterosexual community. The more people know, the better informed they are to handle situations when they arise and the more awareness they can spread to those around them.

Medication	Fast Facts
The latest medications, PrEP and PEP, are designed to help those who practice high-risk sexual behaviors and those who are knowingly having sex with individuals who are HIV positive. These medications help suppress the HIV virus and help fight off the possibility of one potentially getting the disease. According to the Care Resource, PrEP or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is to be taken every day in conjunction with other preventative options, such as using a condom. PEP, or post-exposure prophylaxis, is to be taken after a high-risk sexual encounter where one thinks that they might be infected with HIV within 72 hours of exposure, according to the CDC, because HIV makes copies of itself once it enters the body, and it takes about three days for it to spread through the body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 16 percent of new HIV infections in women in 2010 were attributed to injecting drugs o Women accounted for 20 percent of new HIV infections in 2010 o White gay and bisexual males between the ages of 13 and 24 accounted for the greatest number of HIV infections in 2010 o Hispanic/Latinos accounted for 21 percent of new HIV infections in 2010

*All data was found on the CDC's website at cdc.gov/statistics/overview/ataglance.html

'Sorry, mom, I'm still single': The singles' holiday survival guide

By: **Chantel Grant**

The holiday season is upon us. For most college students, this is an exciting time to go home and brag about how you conquered the semester. It's also time to introduce your significant other to your parents and sell them on the idea that you are doing well in school and in the ideal relationship with someone who brings out the best in you. Also, at some point, you even imagine yourself marrying this person and living in the suburbs with that white picket fence. Well, if you found yourself reading the previous sentence and nodding your head in affirmation, then you have my permission to stop reading now. But if you're anything like me, which means you're hopelessly single, and you have already started to prepare your "I'm single because..." speech, please continue reading because I am about to save your holiday.

Below are five tips that all single college students should use before and during their holiday visits back home. These life-saving tips will reduce your anxiety about going home and allow you to focus on the important things during the holiday season. You know, things like, gifts, good Wi-Fi and free food.

Tip #1: Appear busy

In a couple weeks, you will head home, so if you want this to work, you need to start now. Start ignoring your parents' calls and then

text or call them a few minutes later. Keep the response simple, with something like "I am in a meeting..." "I'm studying Mom" or, my favorite, "Mom, I'm about to save a unicorn — can't talk." This lays the foundation for your holiday comeback. So when that one inquisitive relative starts to question why you're single, just say that you were so busy that you didn't have time to date and use the fact that you ignored your parents as proof of your busy-ness.

Tip #2: The bad example

This tip blurs the line between right and wrong, but desperate times call for desperate measures. Use a friend's awful relationship as an example as to why you have chosen to remain single. We all have that one friend who has a mean significant other, so use their relationship as a counterexample, and watch your parents become thankful you're single. Please use pseudonyms. If your friend's name is Jill, call her J or something like that; you wouldn't want your parents to judge your friend's poor relationship choices. If you don't have a friend who is in a bad relationship, then get creative and make one up.

Tip #3: The picky dater

I think this is the best tip thus far. The picky dater excuse makes you look like you have such

high standards that you could never settle, which is why you are single. In reality, on a scale of one – to – 10, one meaning you have really low standards, the average college student is between three and five. Like the "appear busy" tip, you need to start laying the foundation for this excuse. So start complaining about the boys or girls at school. Start telling your parents that they are subpar in comparison to what you want and that they raised you better than to simply settle. Your parents will be so proud. Also, this gives the illusion that you are wholesome and self-righteous. This will make them drop the "Why are you single?" question faster than Hillary dismissing the Benghazi scandal.

Tip #4: The little white lie

This is probably the most obvious tip on the list: lying to your parents. I would say that this is immoral, and lying to your parents is a big no-no, but you're in college, and I'm sure you've lied to your parents before, so this one little lie isn't a big deal.

However, the lie shouldn't be a crazy one like, "My boyfriend/girlfriend and I are great, and we wish we could be here." Your parents will see right through that excuse, and it makes you sound like a lying psychopath. Instead, say something like "I'm dating someone, and it's not at the 'meet-the-family' level yet." It will keep

them in suspense and get them off your back for the holiday. I mean, maybe it's not even a lie because maybe you are seeing someone, but it's a premature relationship. Like I'm in a premature relationship with Netflix, and I don't need my parents to get involved and ruin my blossoming obsession.

Tip #5: Own it

The previous tips were all about dodging reality. However, this tip is about owning your situation and not being ashamed of it. Most of you are in your early 20s — still trying to figure who you are and what you like. You shouldn't let anyone pressure you into rushing through this phase of your life. So don't be ashamed of it, and explain this to your parents. They will love you regardless. I hate self-love articles and team single hashtags, but there is some truth to it all. You're the most important person in your life, and although having a significant other is fun and all, you don't need that in college. Schoolwork and getting good grades are priority, while boyfriends and girlfriends can wait until you're ready. Continue to date and figure life out. Be confident about being single, and no one, not even your parents, will make you feel badly about it.

A college student's guide to final papers

By: **Erin Herbert**
@erin_herbert

As a college student, there's nothing more stressful than taking final exams. An entire semester's worth of information crammed into one test is a nightmare for any college student. But some final exams don't consist of the typical multiple choice or short answer questions. Some professors assign final papers to take the place of traditional exams, and coupled with the studying students already have planned, final papers can cause more stress than necessary. However, final papers don't need to be a stressful endeavor; by following a few simple tips, you can streamline your writing process and finish all of your final papers with ease.

Plan out your paper before you begin writing

Before you sit down and start furiously typing away at your computer, take the time to plan out your paper. Familiarize yourself with the sources you have chosen to use, and ensure that they contribute to your paper in a positive and constructive way. Create a thesis and establish which main points you will be covering in your paper before you begin the writing process. Planning out your paper ahead of time lets you organize your ideas and decide what information or research will best support your thesis.

Additionally, make sure you fully understand the assignment before you begin writing. If you have any questions, contact your professor before you start working; it's easier to make edits to an outline than a partially completed paper. Planning ahead will making starting your paper must less stressful and time-consuming.

Keep your browser free of distractions

The Internet is one of the most useful tools for writing both research papers and essays. But as useful as the Internet can be, it can also be very distracting. Writing a paper can be a tedious task when you're constantly tempted to check Facebook or watch a video on YouTube. Avoid distracting websites while you're trying to write a paper, and only open tabs that have information that is relevant to your topic. You can reward yourself with a quick social media break after you've completed a portion of your

paper, but, otherwise, keep your internet browser distraction-free to create a productive writing environment on your computer.

Take frequent breaks

Don't try to write your entire paper in one sitting; cramming an entire paper into the span of a few hours will only create more stress. Taking short, frequent breaks will help you stay focused and will allow you to work on your paper longer. Set small goals for yourself when writing, and take a break once you've reached those goals. You can set your goals for a certain time period or in terms of word count.

When taking breaks, try to avoid doing other tasks on the computer; give your eyes a break from looking at the computer screen, and do another activity, such as stretching or taking a short walk. Be sure to keep your break brief, though, because stepping away from your paper for too long could cause you to lose focus or motivation.

Proofread

There's nothing more tempting than finishing a paper and hitting submit right away, not giving your work a second thought. But proofreading is an integral part of the writing process, and reading through your work once or twice can help you avoid careless mistakes, such as spelling or formatting errors. After writing each paragraph, read your work aloud to ensure that all of your sentences are coherent and flow well. Proofreading your work periodically will allow you to correct mistakes and avoid needlessly losing points on your paper.

Final papers may seem intimidating and can be a major source of stress for many students, but adding a few simple steps to your writing process can make academic writing a breeze. So don't let final papers make you panic during exam week — remember these tips, and you'll be sure to finish the semester with a stronger paper.

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Athlete of the Week: Dakota Villella

By: **Erin Herbert**

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For Dakota Villella, junior education major, softball is one of the biggest parts of her life and has helped mold her into the person she is today.

Villella, a Hollywood, Florida, native, attended American Heritage High School, where she played softball for four years and soccer for three. During her senior season at American Heritage, Villella was named First-Team All County for both the Sun Sentinel and the Miami Herald.

Last season, Villella played second base for the Sharks and was a starter in all 45 games for the season. Villella scored 19 runs and stole seven bases on eight attempts, ranking second on the team in both categories.

I got the chance to sit down with Villella and ask her a few questions about herself.

How did you get started in softball?

"My whole family is an athletic family; we all love sports. My older sister use to play [softball], so it all kind of started out with her. My twin sister and I followed her and ended up playing together."

What do you think is the most difficult aspect of softball?

"It's how you handle everything. Softball is more of a game of failure. Not everything will go as planned, and you have to anticipate and think through the game, and that's when you'll be most successful. You need to understand the game and give it the respect it deserves. But I think it's just how you handle it, and in return I

think that's what has really made me who I am as a player."

Are there any specific tools that you use to motivate yourself to handle those failures?

"I've grown up a lot from when I started playing, and I think you just learn to take those failures as they happen. No one thinks you meant to make a mistake. But how others see your reaction when you make a mistake, if you can still make the out, or get a hit, then that shows more than the actual mistake. It's all about how you respond and how you rebound from it. So I think that's really my motivation."

Do you have any coaches who have influenced you during your softball career?

"I've had a lot of coaches, and as a player in the game, you try to get as much as you can from them. It can be reversed too. They're trying to grow as a coach, and we try to grow as athletes. Everyone comes from different places, and they learn different things, and everything is taught differently, but it all has the same outcome. Like our new coach now; she has so much passion. Both of them actually, Coach Jonas and Coach LeMaire, they both have so much passion and high expectations, even more than we thought was possible. They really want to push us to exceed those expectations. But I think every coach I've had has molded me to the person I am and the player I am."

Does the softball team have any rituals they perform before or after games?



COURTESY OF K. SMITH

Dakota Villella participated in softball, as well as soccer, in high school, but committed to the Sharks softball team during college.

"We just played in our double header, and we have a cheer called 'Boom Chicka Boom Boom,' and we do that before every game. We got in a circle, and I was the leader, so I had to make a dance, and then everyone else follows, which I think is going to be really cool. It looks cool, but it's still new. Team-wise, were still growing and going through a new transition. Personally, I don't have any superstitions, but I think the team ones will be fun."

What has been the most rewarding part of playing softball for you?

"There are a lot of rewarding factors. It keeps you humble and grateful. We take a lot of things for granted, especially now with everything going on in the world. Just being

able to play a sport that you love puts a lot into perspective. It reminds you to just have fun, love the sport and don't take anything for granted. It keeps everything in perspective for me. I think that's why I love playing and why it's more than just a game to me."

Do you plan to continue playing softball after college?

"If I'm not playing the sport, I'd like to give back and coach. I have little cousins who are seven and eight, and I want to make them better than I am. But I'd like to give back if I'm not playing after college, which I really don't want to see that day come, but I know it's coming soon."

SPORTS SHORTS



Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team defeated Lynn 67-58 on Nov. 18. Junior Taylor Buie led the team with 14 points. The Sharks are now 3-0 for the season.



Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team earned a victory over Lynn with a score of 88-84 on Nov. 18. Junior Casey Carroll and Senior Chris Page both scored 17 points for the Sharks.



ON THE BENCH: College bowl games are not legit

By: **Erin Herbert**

[@erin_herbert](#)

Since their start in 1902, college bowl games have been a major source of entertainment for fans during the college football postseason. But now, college bowl games are incredibly overdone and have become nothing more than a way for college football programs to make a quick buck. Bowl games should be a chance for some of the best teams to display their skill one last time at the end of a season, not a way for universities to make even more money off of college football.

In the early days of college bowl games, there were only a handful of bowl games played exclusively on New Year's Day, but now, there are over 40 different bowl games dominating sports television from mid-December to early January. Bowl games were originally created to display match ups between the top teams in the league. But now, teams with losing records can easily qualify to compete in a bowl game; a team only needs to have a total of six wins in order to be invited to play.

Although these not-so-elite games were originally created to break up the monotonous period of time between the end of the regular season and the championship game, they are now nothing more than an over-commercialized mess. Long gone are the days of prestigious sporting events and bowl games like the Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl and Sugar Bowl. Now just about any team can play in one of the corporate named and sponsored bowl games such as the TaxSlayer Bowl or the GoDaddy Bowl. There are so many bowl games going on that they've honestly become uninteresting. Who cares who won the Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl or the

AutoZone Liberty Bowl? These wins or losses don't necessarily count for anything, and many of these matchups don't add anything exciting to college football.

Bowl games have lost their tradition and have become nothing more than universities exploiting their athletes to earn a massive payout. According to statisticbrain.com, in 2014, each team that competed in the Fiesta Bowl earned an \$18,000,000 payout. Even teams that play in one of the more obscure bowl games can earn a minimum of \$325,000. Bowl games really aren't about the football anymore; it's all about getting the biggest sponsorship and walking away with the biggest paycheck. I used to love sitting down to watch bowl games with my dad over winter break, wondering whose team would come out on top. But in recent years, we've found ourselves absentmindedly flipping through the games, wondering how much each university is getting paid.

College Bowl games used to be a fun and exciting tradition. There was no better way to end a winning season than with a bowl game appearance. But now that almost any team can qualify for a bowl game, a lot of universities only compete for the money and the sake of having their name on television one last time for the season. Due to mass commercialization, bowl games are no longer fun and exciting, and this winter break I definitely won't be tuning in to see which of the 40 obscure bowl games is on ESPN.

ON DECK

Women's Basketball

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
NSU Arena
Dec. 2, 5:30 p.m.

vs. Rollins
NSU Arena
Dec. 4, 2 p.m.

vs. Shaw
NSU Arena
Dec. 17, 2 p.m.

vs. Miles
NSU Arena
Dec. 19, 2 p.m.

vs. Albany State
NSU Arena
Dec. 20, 2 p.m.

vs. Embry-Riddle
NSU Arena
Jan. 2, 2 p.m.

vs. Eckerd
St. Petersburg, Florida
Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
NSU Arena
Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

vs. Rollins
NSU Arena
Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m.

vs. Eastern
NSU Arena
Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

vs. Arkansas Tech
Melbourne, Florida
Dec. 18, 4:30 p.m.

vs. Lane
Melbourne, Florida
Dec. 19, 12 p.m.

vs. Embry-Riddle
NSU Arena
Jan. 2, 4 p.m.

vs. Eckerd
St. Petersburg, Florida
Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

Shark Invitational
NSU Aquatic Complex
Dec. 2-5, All Day

vs. Limestone
NSU Aquatic Complex
Jan. 6, 3 p.m.

vs. Florida Southern
Lakeland, Florida
Jan. 9, 1 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

NCAA South Regional
TBA
Dec. 3-6

NCAA Elite Eight
Tampa, Florida
Dec. 10-12

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OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Canelo Alvarez becomes first Mexican to win junior middleweight, middleweight world titles

New middleweight champion of the world Canelo Alvarez defeated Miguel Cotto after a unanimous decision on Nov. 21. The judges scored the match at 119-109, 118-110 and 117-111 in favor of Alvarez.

Chargers retire LaDainian Tomlinson's No. 21

During the Nov. 22 halftime of the San Diego Chargers game against the Kansas City Chiefs, the Chargers retired Tomlinson's No. 21 jersey. Tomlinson, a former running back, is one of four Chargers to be honored with a retired jersey number. The team will also induct Tomlinson into its hall of fame as its 38th member. The Chargers' top pick in 2001, Tomlinson was the NFL MVP in 2006 and is a three-time All Pro selection, making the Pro Bowl five times. Tomlinson retired in 2012 after two years with the New York Jets.

Red Wings Johan Franzen on long-term injury reserve with concussion-like symptoms

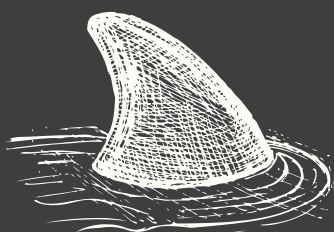
Ken Holland, Detroit Red Wings general manager, said forward Johan Franzen will be out indefinitely due to concussion-like symptoms. Franzen was out for 49 games last year due to a concussion. He was also out for much of the previous season due to concussion-like symptoms.

UF QB Will Grier suspended until 2016

University of Florida Gators quarterback Will Grier will not play until the seventh game of 2016 after he appealed his year-long NCAA suspension for testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs. The NCAA denied his appeal to shorten his suspension, and Grier will not return until Oct. 15, 2016, in the Gators vs. University of Missouri Tigers matchup.

Cameron Maybin traded to Detroit Tigers for Ian Krol, Gabe Speier

The Atlanta Braves traded Cameron Maybin to the Tigers in exchange for Ian Krol and Gabe Speier. Maybin, 28, coming off a career-best 10 homers, 59 RBIs and a .267/.327/.370 triple-slash line. Krol, 24, made more than 100 appearances as a reliever over three seasons with an ERA of 4.91. Speier, 20, had an ERA of 2.86 in the Single-A minor leagues last year.



Holiday fun in the Florida sun

By: **Roddia Paul**

You would be surprised at the holiday fun just around the corner. Take a second, and if you're in search of some holiday spirit you might want to read below. There is a ton of holiday fun in South Florida.

Let there be lights

Everyone loves lighting their way into the holiday season. So if you are looking for some good spots to view some holiday lights, see below for constant night lights.

Santa's Enchanted Forest

When: Nov. 1-Jan. 3
Where: 7900 SW 40th St., Miami
Phone: 305-559-9689

Santa's Enchanted Forest is also a theme park.

Admission: Season pass tickets are good for unlimited visits through Jan. 3, 2016. Season pass tickets cost \$42.99 for children ages 3 to 9 and seniors ages 65+ and \$53.27 for ages 10 to 64. Single day passes are good for one admission to the park. They cost \$21.49 for children ages 3 to 9 and seniors ages 65+ and \$30.84 for ages 10 to 64.

Holiday Lights at the Edison Estates

When: Nov. 27-Jan. 3
Where: 2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
Phone: 239-334-7419

Admission: General admission for adults is \$20, \$2 for children ages 6 to 12 and \$10 for students ages 13 to college age with a student ID. Guided tours for adults are \$25, \$8 for children ages 6 to 12, and \$12 for students ages 13 to college age with a student ID.

Festival of Lights

When: Through Dec. 31
Where: 1200 W Retta Esplanade #57A, Punta Gorda
Phone: 941-639-8721

Symphony of Lights

When: Nov. 27-Dec. 31
Where: 501 S Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach
Phone: 954-378-0900

Ft. Lauderdale shows its holiday spirit

If you're looking for lights, cameras and action, Fort Lauderdale is where you need to be. This holiday season, you can look forward to light tours, boat parades, music, dancing and more. The tours will consist of famous homes and a boat parade. With a nickname like, "The Greatest Show on H2O," we can only imagine how much fun that must be — and this year's boat ride will even feature rapper Nick Cannon.

Light show tour

When: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from Nov. 23-Dec 16
Where: Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi - 1881 SE 17th Street Causeway
Admission: \$25 for adults and \$10 for children
Phone: 954-467-6677

Seminole Hard Rock WinterFest Boat parade

When: Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood
Phone: 866-502-7529

Boat this and boat that

Considering we have summer weather year round, Floridians are quite fond of boats, or

yachts if you're fancy. It's only normal that we incorporate boats into our holiday festivities, so see below for upcoming boat parades that will get you in the holiday mood.

Boca Raton Boat Parade

When: Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: From the C-15 Canal at the Boca/Delray border and will travel south to the Hillsboro Blvd. Bridge
Admission: free
Phone: 561-367-70737

Boynton/Delray Holiday Boat parade

When: Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Lantana Bridge near Old Key Lime House and motor south along the Intracoastal Waterway to the C-15 Canal in Delray
Admission: free, but gifts to donate to Toys for Tots are welcome
Phone: 561-243-7000

Jupiter and Palm Beach county boat parade

When: Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.
Where: Up the Intracoastal Waterway from North Palm Beach to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse
Admission: free, but gifts to donate to Toys for Tots are welcome
Phone: 561-863-0012

Candy Cane Parade

Feeling jolly? Join the city of Hollywood as they celebrate the 60th annual event in honor of Christmas. You can expect marching bands, floats and lots of fun.
When: Dec. 5 from 7-10 p.m.
Where: Hollywood Beach
Admission: free
Visithollywoodfl.org

Sandi Land

This celebration is perfect for SoFlo weather. Enjoy the holiday feel and Florida weather as you admire snowie-ville, aquariums, snowflakes and holiday concerts.
When: Dec. 3-Dec. 31
Where: On the waterfront at West Palm Beach
Admission: free
Wpb.org/events

SWAY: A dance trilogy

If you love dance, you'll just love this magical show. Be mesmerized by this ballroom dance mixed with urban youth vibes and Latin culture. This year's performance will include Roxie Hart and Rumer Willis. Their performances will definitely add some passion to your holiday celebrations.
When: Dec. 3-Dec. 6
Where: Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in Miami
Admission: Director's box tickets are free with admission, second level balcony tickets are \$69, first level balcony tickets are \$99, orchestra tickets are \$149, mezzanine tickets are \$189, premium tickets are \$249 and VIP tickets are \$649.
Dancewithmeusa.com/sway

Islamorada holiday festival

Come enjoy the 11th annual holiday festival of Miami and embrace a 35-foot Christmas tree, snow, a 20-ton snow mountain, parade, costumes and baked goods.
When: Dec. 4
Where: Founders Park, 87000 Overseas Highway, Islamorada
Admission: free with \$5 dollar parking fee.
Islamoradachamber.com

World AIDS Day: HIV/AIDS in film

By: **Jazmyn Brown**

The entertainment industry has a huge impact on our awareness of the various issues society faces, and HIV/AIDS is no exception. Here are some noteworthy HIV/AIDS films that can help viewers understand the different perspectives of those who were directly and indirectly affected by the virus during the 1980s and that awareness is just as necessary now as it was 35 years ago.

"How to Survive a Plague" (2012)

This documentary, directed by reporter, author and filmmaker David France, follows the efforts of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) and Treatment Action Group (TAG), two organizations dedicated to increasing awareness and research of AIDS. The film, dedicated to France's partner Doug Gould, who died of AIDS-related pneumonia, includes news coverage, demonstrations, interviews, and conferences and follows AIDS activists as they push for research and development of HIV/AIDS treatments during the AIDS outbreak in the 1980s.

"How to Survive a Plague" also features the underground HIV drug market, ACT UP's founding of the International AIDS Conference and TAG's petition of the immigration policies that prevented HIV-positive immigrants from entering the U.S. and its lobby for more effective treatments of the virus.

France's first film, "How to Survive a Plague" stars Ed Koch, David Barr, Bob Rafsky, Larry Kramer, Barbara Starrett, and many others, all as themselves. ACT UP and TAG are credited with making AIDS, once a death sentence, a manageable illness. The documentary was named best documentary of 2012 in the Gotham Independent Film Awards

and by the Boston Society of Film Critics. In the 85th Academy Awards, "How to Survive a Plague" was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

"Dallas Buyers Club" (2013)

Starring Matthew McConaughey as Ron Woodroof, this critically-acclaimed biographical drama film portrays the fear and stigma surrounding the HIV/AIDS virus during the 1980s. It is based on the true story of electrician and electrical bull-rider Ron Woodroof, who was diagnosed with AIDS. Woodroof, given 30 days left to live, smuggles unapproved medicine from Mexico into Texas after he discovers the only FDA-approved drug used to treat AIDS, zidovudine (AZT), adversely affects his health.

Woodroof begins supplying others diagnosed with AIDS with the new drug, peptide T. He founds the Dallas Buyers Club with Rayon, a HIV-positive transgender woman addicted to drugs, played by Jared Leto. The club was originally a way for Woodroof to make money, but after several run-ins with the FDA and the death of a close friend, Woodroof puts all of his effort into supplying members of the club with the peptide T, still unapproved by the FDA at the time, despite its benefits.

After the credits roll, it's revealed that Woodroof died seven years later than predicted after the FDA allowed him to take peptide T. "Dallas Buyers Club" is the true tale of a man who gave up everything to help others when the government and medical field wouldn't, in a time of widespread fear of AIDS and the LGBT community, when AIDS was under researched and misunderstood. For their outstanding performances, at the 86th Academy Awards, McConaughey and Leto won the Academy

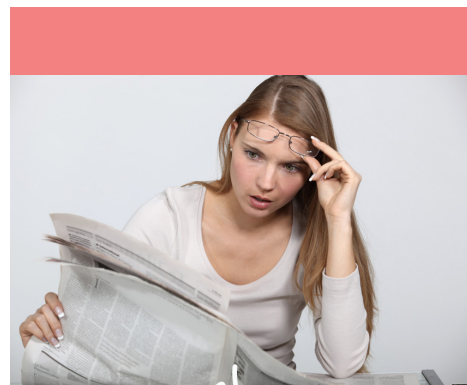
Awards for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor, respectively.

"The Normal Heart" (2014)

Directed by Ryan Murphy, creator of the TV series "Glee," "Nip/Tuck" and "American Horror Story," this drama TV film is based on writer Larry Kramer's 1985 play of the same name and stars several big names, including Matt Bomer, Mark Ruffalo, Julia Roberts and Jim Parsons.

Set in the 1980s, "The Normal Heart" follows writer and activist Ned Weeks, played by Ruffalo, on his heartbreaking journey amidst the 1981-1984 AIDS crisis in New York City, and later the rest of the nation. The discovery of a sexually transmitted disease among gay men prompts the medical community to refer to it as gay-related immune deficiency (GRID), and Weeks sets out a course to fundraise and provide services to gay men through a new support and advocacy group called Gay Men's Health Crisis. Weeks, along with several friends and doctor Emma Brookner, played by Roberts, push for national awareness of a disease that the government dismisses and consequently kills many.

This film unflinchingly portrays the effects of AIDS and the consequences of limited awareness, as the number of those who succumb to the illness grows even after the film is over. "The Normal Heart" won Best Movie in the 2014 Critics' Choice Television Awards, Outstanding Television Movie in the 2014 Primetime Emmy Awards and Best Motion Picture in the 2014 Online Film & Television Association Awards.



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Staff Picks: The best and worst of 2015

By: The Current Staff

2015 was a big year in entertainment. From highly anticipated albums, box office hits and memorable celebrity moments, this year had several highs and, equally, many lows. The Current staff listed their favorite and least favorite arts and entertainment moments of 2015.

Best of 2015

Nicole Cocuy, co-editor-in-chief, said
“No No No” by Beirut

I fell in love with Beirut, an indie band from Santa Fe, when it released “The Rip Tide” in 2011, and I never thought anything could ever top that album. But the group of six multi-talented musicians led by the prodigious Zach Condon proved me wrong when it dropped “No No No” in September. Like in its previous albums, “No No No” pairs an eclectic collection of random instruments that I’ve never even heard of, like glockenspiels and flugelhorns, with sweet, delicate indie vocals to create classic Americana with a traditional eastern European folk vibe. However, “No No No” is much more polished than its predecessors and features a minimalist approach. Previous albums were random, funky, folksy sounds and melodies piled on top of each other in a way that still managed to be cohesive; in “No No No,” Beirut gives each melodic riff air to breathe and masters the inclusion of brief milliseconds of silence. Nonetheless, “No No No” is the happiest and most creative I’ve ever listened to and is definitely the best album of 2015.

Li Cohen, co-editor-in-chief, said
Shia LaBeouf’s motivational speech

Nike’s slogan seems like a distant memory now that Shia has adapted the popular phrase “Just Do It.” The actor posted a hilarious speech on YouTube telling people to “just do it” while standing in front of a green screen, prompting people all over the world to upload their own renditions of his speech. The simple slogan transcended from a checkmark on a shoe to a checkmark on our hearts in 2015, and for that, we couldn’t be in more in love with our favorite former Disney Channel star.

Jazmyn Brown, copy editor, said
“Orange is the New Black”

The 2015 season of “Orange is the New Black” was released a day early for a reason: it’s just that good. Perhaps one of the only shows in which the side characters’ story lines are more interesting than the main character’s, “OITNB” manages to be equal parts hilarious and poignant. The 13-episode third season is short but so bittersweet and ends on a cliffhanger to end all cliffhangers, bringing you right to the edge before yanking you back. Uzo Aduba, who plays Suzanne Warren or “Crazy Eyes,” is the

only actress to have ever win Primetime Emmy Awards for comedy and genre in the same role. The third season of “OITNB” has definitely set the bar for next year’s episodes.

Destinee Hughes, arts and entertainment editor, said

Beyoncé’s Global Citizens Festival

Oddly, 2015 didn’t too much for me in regards to thriving entertainment, which is why I’m taking the safe route and relishing in Beyoncé’s Global Citizens Festival in September. As always, Beyoncé delivered in the most stage-worthy, regal way. Who cares if she was performing songs from her last album that dropped two years ago — sometimes even with the same dance moves we all saw back in 2004. The point is Beyoncé performed, and it was amazing.

Erin Herbert, sports editor, said
“1000 Palms” by Surfer Blood

I’m the kind of person who firmly believes that my favorite band can do no wrong, which is why for me, Surfer Blood’s newest album “1000 Palms” was the best album of 2015. This album is a lot more mature than the band’s previous work and features a number of love songs but is still catchy enough to sing along to in my car. “1000 Palms” has become one of those albums that I could listen to repeat for days and never get tired of hearing, and it is, without a doubt, one of the best albums of 2015.

Roddia Paul, opinions editor, said
“Mad Max”

Call me cliché for loving the female role in this movie, but Charlize Theron, you did your thing, girl. Being someone who has never seen any of the “Mad Max” movies, I was a little skeptical about seeing this movie because I was worried about not knowing the back story and being confused. My mother somehow still got me to go with her to see it. The way my mom described the movie to me, I thought it would be centered on Max, but I soon learned that wasn’t the case. Action-packed from start to finish, you see the story behind a one-armed female warrior unfold. Not only was it racy, but the story line behind the female lead was also so intriguing and powerful. I’d like to thank my mom for talking me into this one, again.

Tiffany Smith, contributing writer, said
“Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future” by Ashlee Vance

By many, Elon Musk has been dubbed the next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates. This biography is about an up-and-coming innovator and entrepreneur who, against all odds, capitalized on his dreams to redefine industries as we know them. Ashlee Vance takes a unique look inside the life of someone who put everything on the

line, even his own finances, to see his shuttle launch into space and the first electric luxury sedan rock the market. Musk’s biography takes the reader through his upbringing in South Africa to his adventures in Silicon Valley. It’s the perfect book for business minds, hungry innovators and just about anyone who is ready to be inspired by this prominent figure.

Worst of 2015

Nicole Cocuy, co-editor-in-chief, said
Season 11 of “The Bachelorette”

I have a confession to make: I am addicted to garbage reality TV. My mom and I watch “The Bachelor” and similar shows together to bond and to complain about how terrible it is afterwards. Every season, we vow to never watch it again, but I somehow always get dragged back into watching it. These shows are generally pretty terrible, shallow and degrading. However, this season of “The Bachelorette” was particularly sexist. While “The Bachelorette” is still incredibly sexist, at least women were put in power for once to decide their own partner while the men fought over her attention. This year, though, they included a special twist: two Bachelorettes were selected and the men, the ones who would have otherwise been on the chopping block, stripped these poor girls of their power and autonomy by voting on essentially which one they thought was hotter on their first night. I didn’t think “The Bachelorette” could have gotten worse, but it did. Fortunately, I think I am cured of my bizarre, unhealthy addiction.

Li Cohen, co-editor-in-chief, said
Jon Stewart leaving “The Daily Show”

If I were to admit to being in love with any man whom I’ve never met, it would be Jon Stewart. He’s the guy who has spent just about every night in my room, has endlessly talked to me about politics and has never failed to make me laugh whenever I see him. “The Daily Show” was one of the only shows I would dedicate time to watch, and even though it has continued on without Jon’s presence, it is not the same as it once was. Jon was the “something special” that show needed, and without him, the humorous depiction of current events will never be the same.

Jazmyn Brown, copy editor, said
Donald Trump

Where to begin with this monster — or man, to be politically correct. Married to a Czech-American, Trump not only wants to build a wall to stop “criminals, drug dealers and rapists” from coming from Mexico, but his proposed surveillance program on Muslims and his Syrian immigration policy eerily resemble Hitler’s gold Stars of David and the time just preceding the Holocaust — all to “make America great

again.” I don’t know if this man understands that this nation was built on immigration, that the founding fathers, who are surely turning over in their graves, escaped to North America to freely practice their religion. If he isn’t pulling an elaborate, long-term fast one on us, the worst of 2015 is surely the third incarnation of the Antichrist, right after Napoleon and Hitler. It baffles me that this man could actually become the next POTUS, the most powerful individual in the world.

Destinee Hughes, arts and entertainment editor, said

Kylie Jenner’s lips

There are plenty things that can be labeled as “worst” when referring to the Kardashian-Jenner and affiliates clan. Like the Glamour magazine “America’s First Family” issue, the Kanye West for President incident and even when Kim proved to us how “selfish” she really is when she cropped out poor baby North in one of her Instagram pictures. But the worst thing this family could have done in 2015 in my eyes is approve of Kylie Jenner’s Botox-filled lips. They’re horrible. And the fact that she tried to deny it makes it even worse. We’ve seen your before and after pics, girl; you’re not fooling anyone.

Erin Herbert, sports editor, said
Miley Cyrus’s music video for “Dooo It!”

Between the twerking and questionable costume choices, I thought I had seen the worst of Miley Cyrus. But I was horribly wrong. Watching Miley’s music video for her single “Dooo It!” was one of the most horrifying things to watch in 2015. Watching anyone vomit glitter for four and a half minutes is disgusting, but add in Miley’s odd tongue gestures and atrocious music, and you’ve pretty much created my worst nightmare.

Roddia Paul, opinions editor, said
Raven’s comment on skin color

Can we please just acknowledge for the last time before the year ends how Raven Symone disowned her own skin complexion. Not only did she say she does not identify as an African American but that we shouldn’t refer to her as black but instead “dark white.” Raven, I am appalled and a little hurt by your statements. As an avid “The Cosby Show” and “That’s So Raven” lover, two shows with predominately black cast members, I never would of thought you’d have such self-hate. I even owned a “That’s So Raven” Barbie doll as a child, and I remember being so proud of my black and beautiful playmate. I was so wrapped up in Raven that I thought I could see the future. Well, Raven, I didn’t see this one coming.

Off Shore Calendar

Art Basel @Miami Beach Convention Center 3 PM DEC 3	III Points Art Basel Concert Series 9 PM DEC 6	Silverstein and Senses Fall @Revolution Live 7 PM DEC 7	The Nutcracker @Aventura Art and Cultural Center 10:30 AM DEC 11	Jingle Ball @BB&T Center 7:30 PM DEC 18
Howie Mandel @Coral Springs Center for the Arts 7 PM DEC 3	Atlas Genius @Broward Center for the Performing Arts 8:30 PM DEC 5	Glass Animals @Revolution Live 7 PM DEC 8	The Comedy Get Down @American Airlines Arena 8 PM DEC 12	The Weeknd @American Airlines Arena 7:30 PM DEC 19
III Points Art Basel Concert Series 9 PM DEC 3	Art Basel @Miami Beach Convention Center 12 PM DEC 6	Jojo @Culture Room 7:30 PM DEC 9	The Nutcracker Ballet @Sunrise Civic Center Theatre and Gallery 2 PM DEC 12	
Craig Ferguson @Fillmore Miami Beach 8 PM DEC 3	Art Basel @Miami Beach Convention Center 12 PM DEC 6		Amy Schumer @BB&T Center 7 PM DEC 12	
			No Snow Ball @Mizner Park Ampitheater 5 PM DEC 12	
III Points Art Basel Concert Series 9 PM DEC 4	Kansas @Parker Playhouse 8 PM DEC 4	Art Basel @Miami Beach Convention Center 12 PM DEC 4	Dance Gavin Dance @Culture Room 6:30 PM DEC 4	Juanes @American Airlines Arena 7:30 PM DEC 4
		Mac Miller @Fillmore Miami Beach 8:30 PM DEC 4		



SOUNDBITE

Dealer by Foxing

By: **Marie Ontivero**

Interested in independent music, emerging artists and new album releases? DJ Marie, music director at Radio X, will keep you updated every week in *The Current* on what's new in the world of music. You can catch her on Monday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. on 88.5FM, bringing you new music you're sure to love.

The St. Louis darlings of Foxing are back at it with the release of their sophomore album "Dealer." For those who may not know, Foxing toured with Brand New, opening their shows last year, which is a huge deal, considering Brand New's cult following. It was a great way to expose themselves and promote their debut album, "Albatross" (remastered version). Now a year later, "Dealer" was released with the same magic they put into "Albatross." There's Conor Murphy's voice, with those occasional cries of love, and then, of course, there's the lyrics that'll leave your chest feeling heavy with emotions. For example, in the track "Night Channels," you hear the words "Future love, don't fall apart" over and over again, magnifying the importance of not messing things up. In "Laundered," there's the simplicity of being able to belong to someone: "Call me what I am, I'm yours." However, it's interesting to note that like "Albatross," there are two tracks on "Dealer" that do not contain any vocals. They're not exactly the most fun to jam out to, but, for performance reasons, these are the songs that



PHOTO PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. ONTIVERO "Dealer" may leave you with some emotions, but the energy of the band will be sure to make you feel a little bit of love.

are going to open the shows with the dim lights before all the action begins. In a sense, it's the potential warm up, if not breather, toward the middle. Regardless of the order, Foxing is a phenomenal band to catch live, due to all their energy that effortlessly transcends into their audiences. Unfortunately, they won't be making any stops in Florida on their current tour, but do not stress — these boys are constantly on tour.

You can find "Dealer" on Spotify. We'll also play the s--- out of it on 88.5FM.

Perfect if you like: Modern Baseball, Dads

Favorite Tracks: "Night Channels," "Glass Cough" and "The Magdalene"

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2": All's (un)fair in war

By: **Grace Ducanis**

The Hunger Games series has come to a conclusion with its final installment, "Mockingjay, Part 2," the fiery culmination of an impressive saga. Led by the Oscar-winning Jennifer Lawrence, the tale of Katniss Everdeen, an ordinary girl who finds herself the unwilling face of a rebellion, comes to a satisfying and predominantly organic conclusion.

Katniss has won her first Hunger Games, survived her second and is now a symbol of revolution for the oppressed people of Panem. "Mockingjay, Part 2" opens with offsetting abruptness, picking up inside the rebel's base after brainwashed ally Peeta attempts to strangle Katniss. Fortunately, the story re-orientates itself quickly, throwing the self-determined and emotionally devastated heroine back into the heart of the battle.

Much of the Hunger Games' popularity stems from its ability to balance all of the elements that attract audiences: suspenseful action scenes, romantic subplots, high stakes and a world that is interesting and immersive. The series' brilliance comes from the subversion of tropes that usually accompany those elements and the questions it raises about the moral ambiguity of war. "Mockingjay, Part 2" continues to raise these questions, as each side of the fight makes decisions that ask the audience to consider which side is the good side and whether there is a good side at all. The death toll climbs high as Katniss doubts her place in the fight, resulting in a dark and thrilling third act.

"Mockingjay, Part 2" is decidedly more depressing than its already-depressing predecessors, and as a result, the few attempts at comedy crash and burn spectacularly. Scenes that aren't meant to be funny, like Gale and Peeta's discussion of Katniss' feelings and Katniss yelling at the family cat, induce the barest trace of humor because of their sheer absurdity.

The film occasionally builds unnecessary suspense with lingering camera shots and James

Newton Howard's driving score for mundane scenes, such as when Katniss' squad slashes through city sewers. In later scenes, the score shines for good reasons — in a Capitol execution punctuated with the sound of a single drum.

However, Jennifer Lawrence's performance shines. After three movies, Lawrence has a good understanding of Katniss and plays her character with a stiffness that is fragile and breaks when Katniss breaks down, which happens often in "Mockingjay, Part 2." Katniss is determined, but she is far from sure about anything. Lawrence fluently portrays Katniss' inner turmoil.

Josh Hutcherson's Peeta is a charming and a steady foil to the hot and cold heroine, while Liam Hemsworth's Gale provides a soldierly and dutiful contrast. "Mockingjay, Part 2" sees the graceful conclusion of the series-long love triangle.

The final installment will more than satisfy fans. It follows Suzanne Collins' original book almost to the letter, despite the fact that *Mockingjay* is arguably the weakest book in the series. In truth, some parts of the film, like Katniss' nightmarish fight with mutated creatures underneath the Capitol, reek of comic-book unrealism, undercutting the already-established realism of Panem. Other parts, in which staggering numbers of men, women and children are killed, feel all too real, venturing into territory not often traversed by the young adult genre of books and films.

"Mockingjay, Part 2" is by no means a coherent, self-contained movie. It is the conclusion of a story which spans four episodes and should be viewed as such. The ending may seem drawn-out to viewers who have neglected to watch the film's predecessors. However, viewers who have rooted for Katniss from her first Hunger Games to "Mockingjay, Part 2" will be rewarded with satisfying and thought-provoking closure.

Movie mania: Holiday edition

By: **Roddia Paul**

The holidays are the time for bringing people together, so what better way to bond this winter break than watching a good movie with your loved ones while sharing a bucket of popcorn. Storylines aren't all that will unfold this holiday break; relationships and bonds will form, too, with the help of a good flick or two.

"Krampus"

Release date: Dec. 4

As this main stream trailer begins, you quickly want to change the channel because you think you're watching another horrible Hallmark holiday movie, but as you reach for the remote the trailer takes a turn. Due to a lack of Christmas spirit, Krampus, a demonic spirit, appears to punish this already-clashing family. See what happens as this Christmas-movie-turned-horror-film reveals the power of the Krampus. Starring Adam Scott from "Parks and Recreation," you won't want to miss this.

"Macbeth"

Release date: Dec. 4

All hail the king. Watch this rendition of one of Shakespeare's classic plays with a new-age screenplay feel. The directors of this movie stuck to Shakespeare's original words and 11th century setting. Here you'll see the story of a man, played by Michael Fassbender, who under direction of his wife, uses evil means to overthrow the king.

"In the Heart of the Sea"

Release date: Dec. 11

Even if you haven't read "Moby Dick," this movie brings the classic you've constantly heard about to life with extremely realistic animations. See what captain Chase, played

by the heroic Chris Hemsworth, and his team go through as they fight for their lives against the viscous whale monster, Moby Dick.

"Son of Saul"

Release date: Dec. 18

Many of us can appreciate a movie based on historical events. This movie takes place at Auschwitz, one of the most well-known Jewish concentration camps. A prisoner, played by Géza Röhrig, whose job is burning the dead bodies of his own people, thinks he sees the body of his own son in the flames.

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens"

Release date: Dec. 18

Meet this brand new cast full of diversity and life. Over a decade later, Han Solo played by Harrison Ford, and his team must face another threat. As if defeating the Galactic Empire wasn't enough, now they must fight the evil Kylo Ren, played by Adam Driver, and his army. Let the force be with you this holiday season.

"Concussion"

Release date: Dec. 25

A Nigerian neuropathologist is the first to discover CTE, a football-related brain trauma responsible for many deaths and major injuries of pro players. Although it is a theatrical screenplay, the movie is highly based on true events experienced by Dr. Bennet Omalu, many of which were unpleasant. See what he goes through as he fights for the lives of those who cannot fight against the sports authorities themselves. Bad boy Will Smith plays the lead role.

Once upon a time...

By: **Destinee A. Hughes**

@DestineeAHughes

If you've ever wished upon a star to live in a world where knights shine in armor and adoration, love prevails even in the darkest of times and happily-ever-after endings happen to everyone, this no longer a dream — it's a reality every Sunday night at 8 p.m. on ABC. "Once Upon a Time" has taken its viewers on a fantastical journey ever since its debut in 2001, filling its audience with the untold stories of our favorite childhood characters. Through plausible performances and imaginative storylines, this show creates the ability to merge the innocence of our childhood favorites with a matured perceptive.

The plot of the show is based around a curse enacted by the Evil Queen, Regina, who was envious of Snow White's happy ending. Because of her unwavering hatred, the Queen sought out help from one The Dark One, Rumpelstiltskin, who created a curse which would transport all of those living in the Enchanted Forest to a land without magic, robbing them of their memories of being fairytale characters.

The only way to break the curse lied within the fate of Snow White and Prince Charming's child, the child made from the truest of loves. To ensure that the curse wouldn't affect the child, Snow White and Prince Charming made the difficult decision to send the newborn baby to another world before the curse was cast.

The child, Emma, who's lived her life as an orphan for the last 28 years, mysteriously found her way to Storybrooke, the secret town full of fairytale characters where time has stood still for over two decades. With the help of the town's youngest and truest believer, Emma begins to piece missing parts of the puzzle back together, which sets her on a path to begin the final battle of good and evil.

What's most interesting about this show is despite the elementary fairytale theme, it has an uncanny ability to develop an intertwined storyline connecting the fairytale characters together in the most intricate way. The profiles of the characters are extremely intriguing and allow viewers to reimagine the behind-the-scenes of the classic fairytale stories we all grew up with. The evil characters who once threatened the happiness of our beloved heroes finally get a chance to tell the story of how their troubled path led them to a destination of darkness. For instance, the Evil Queen's story explains how her mother murdered her first true love because he was a stable boy and couldn't provide a wealthy future for her daughter, which was ensured with newly-widowed King Leopold, Snow White's father. Snow White's mother just so happened to be the woman who interfered with the Evil Queen's mother's attempt to marry into royalty, which is why she was so adamant about who her daughter getting married. Throughout the series, fairytales such as Little Red Riding Hood, Mulan, Beauty and the Beast and more all manage to intertwine in the most addicting way, all while making a conscious effort to redefine the heroic roles gender plays in these tales.

"Once Upon a Time" allows it viewers to indulge in classic fairytales without the shame of childish doings. The original plot and strong assembly of a heroic female-dominated cast are trivial reasons to appreciate the imaginative ingeniousness of the show. From the Little Mermaid to Merlin the Magnificent Sorcerer, "Once Upon a Time" validates the idea that fairytales aren't just for children, they're for those who believe in redefining happily-ever-after endings.

Seriously Kidding

a satire column

Purging on Black Friday

By: **Roddia Paul**

Incoming reports from last week show that this was the most successful Black Friday to date, with the most aggressive shoppers thus far.

When you heard the sirens, you knew what time it was. Those that weren't hardcore shoppers knew it was time to gather their loved ones and take cover. Streets were pitch-black and the only lights that could be seen were the ones beaming from the crowded stores.

At 5 a.m., many people dressed in disguise and left their homes to participate in Black Friday, and none of them returned home the same.

"I participate in the Black Friday event every year," Ana Miller said. "It's the only time of year that I won't get penalized for violently pushing a fellow shopper down an escalator at the mall."

It has been reported that there were over 60 cases of pushing and violent trampling in the Aventura Mall alone.

"They stole my cart," Michelle Sanders said. "I turned my back for one second, and all of my hard work this Black Friday was gone."

Theft and other acts of violence rapidly increase during the annual Black Friday. Children need to stay indoors, or they risk becoming hostage victims forced to hold their kidnapper's place in line.

People can be seen knocking down house doors and breaking into garages trying to steal their neighbors' SUVs and trucks so that they can have more trunk space to carry their new merchandise home.

Just know that if you choose not to participate, you can still find yourself a victim of Black Friday rage. A message was sent out from President Obama himself regarding the issue.

"Folks, if you do not participate in Black Friday, I suggest you protect yourself by staying indoors. Do not call 911, and do not

expect help. Michelle and I will be catching the sale at J. Crew. Sales will not come to us if we wait for some other day or some other time. These are the sales we have been waiting for. We must act accordingly."

Immediately after President Obama's message to the nation, sirens were heard all around the U.S., and Morgan Freeman's voice resonated from the White house to South Beach.

"The annual Black Friday will now commence," he said.

After a house intrusion we spoke to the victims and this is what they had to say.

"I was locked up in a secret room with my family, when all of a sudden the doorbell rang," John Carrington said. "I told my family to be quiet, but before I could silence them, I heard my front door being opened."

Carrington's 14-year-old son let the stranger into his home. Apparently, he was running away from some Black Friday participants that were chasing him for his Walmart coupons.

Carrington's son said that he does not see why we have Black Friday; the violence is uncalled for.

His father quickly responded, "I know that this is difficult to understand at your age, but Black Friday allows people a release for all the hatred and violence and aggression that they keep up inside them all year."

Carrington said the only reasons he does not participate in Black Friday is because he knows how vicious it can be, and he cannot stand the thought of his children not having a father.

For those of you who survived yet another Black Friday, kudos to you. Those who did not, may your souls rest in peace and your coupons be valid for next year. This holiday season, let's remember all the good Black Friday does.

Am I really an adult at 18?

By: **Sarah Kelly**

"Can I see your ID?" This is a question that haunts, and sometimes upsets, anyone who wants to sneak in a drink or acquire alcohol under the age of 21. That being said, I probably seem like a typical angry college student who wants to buy alcohol on the weekends. While this may be half true, my main purpose for ranting is that I genuinely doesn't understand why the drinking age is still 21. It would make more sense to change it to 18 because at this age, you're legally considered an adult. You can join the service, get married and go to jail, but you can't purchase alcohol? This doesn't make sense.

At 18, we are entitled to all the punishments and consequences of adulthood without any of the freedoms. A The New York Times survey showed that America has the highest legalized drinking age in the world, yet it hasn't reduced underage drinking. By senior year of high school, over 72 percent of the population has consumed alcohol. Let's be real — alcohol is easy to get, even though the legal age is 21. All the drinking age does is encourage those who are under-age to buy fake IDs, become a little sneakier or find friends who will purchase the alcohol for them.

Most of those who support a higher drinking age believe alcohol causes people to make poor decisions since the brain is not fully developed until 21. Additionally, they believe teens will drink and drive, which will eventually

lead to the increase of accident rates. However, a study from the Office of National Statistics in 2009 showed that other countries have drinking ages under 18 and have extremely low accident rates. Other countries are more lenient about their drinking age and have very few problems. For example, Ida Krogh, a 24 year old from Denmark, grew up with a lower drinking age and has been able to drink since she was 16, but she wasn't able to drive until 18. So at 18, when she could finally drink and drive, she knew not to mix them together.

Another reason the drinking age should be lowered to 18 is because drinking is a fun and enjoyable activity, which, at age 18, we should legally be able to do. Why should we be denied that enjoyment, when we're allowed to do other pleasurable activities at the same age? If you can join the military, and risk your life on a daily basis for the U.S., I think you should be able to buy alcohol. It's astonishing to know that you're considered an adult in every aspect of life at 18, except for when you want to relax and have an alcoholic beverage.

From wanting to drink on the weekends with friends, to just wanting to relax on the couch and have a drink after a long week, we should be able to enjoy both of these activities at the age of 18. Though, until that day comes, ladies and gents, drink responsibly to avoid trouble.

Degrees should be earned, not given

By: **Cerone White**

Since the late 1420s, honorary degrees have been awarded to notable individuals who have made acclaimed contributions to society or to a specific field of study. However, in recent years, honorary degrees have become a pop culture phenomenon, recognizing celebrities with doctoral degrees.

In a 1991 New York Times article titled "Recognizing Achievement, Adding Glitz," former president of the Teachers College of Columbia University Arthur E. Levine said, "Honorary degrees are sometimes used to reward donors who have given money, [and] sometimes they are used to draw in celebrities to make the graduation special."

The major hang up on this honorary degree title is that many who receive them demand that they be referred to as "doctor," when in fact they have not done the work or received the academic degree that entitles them to be called a doctor. Just because an institution decided to honor a celebrity for commitment or donations does not mean he or she is entitled to a recognition that many others work hard for.

An honorary degree is not a real degree. It's a way to say "thank you" for the million of dollars that a celebrity donated so that the school can continue to house, teach and provide resources for students who are actually working towards their academic titles.

A college degree is far more than a piece

of paper that one gets in the mail once they complete a required number of credits that the university requires. A college degree can serve as one more opportunity to be successful that might not have existed prior.

For schools just to give it away for a dollar and a handshake when people all over the world work hard daily just for the same recognition is a slap in the face. The best part of it all is some of these celebrities cannot construct a proper sentence on their own without the help of their publicist.

Money runs the world, even though some people think otherwise; universities and colleges need money to carry out their daily functions and operate business. However, they need to consider ways of making money and attract people of power and prestige to donate and support their academic institution in a classier way.

Getting a degree is an accomplishment. All of the hard work and dedication to achieving a goal has been met through the education system. This degree, which so many people have worked hard for, will ultimately enhance the life of the recipient and the lives of those who are connected to that person. When money, cars and houses are gone, what will one do? An education will always remain, unlike other material things. Education is the ultimate power.

Read before you click 'agree'

By: **Emalee Shrewsbury**

700 million — the amount of messages sent via Snapchat in 2014 alone. 700 million pictures and messages we all thought were private and vanished permanently after they were viewed can now be posted on a billboard without consent from their creators. This is because Snapchat changed their Terms and Conditions in the 9.18.0.0 update released on Oct. 28.

The revised terms and conditions state that all of the snaps that users send are stored in the Snapchat servers and can be publically displayed at Snapchat's discretion. Any pictures and messages that have been sent since the recent update could be up on a billboard or in a magazine tomorrow.

Who reads the terms and conditions anyway? "I have read the terms and conditions" and "I agree" are probably two of the biggest lies smart phone users tell. Name one person who scrolls from the top to the bottom of the policy pages, reading them word for word. I'll wait. No one reads those things. They are usually too long or in too small of a font or people do not "have time," and some just don't care.

Maybe Snapchat users were too eager to virtually barf rainbows or engulf their faces in flames to realize the changes.

There will be nowhere to turn, nowhere to complain and no one to blame if pictures were published and the originator was not pleased with the photo. What if someone sent a picture with a silly face they only intended for their best friends to see, and that picture ends up as an ad for Snapchat? Embarrassing. What if two people in a relationship were sending intimate pictures they only intended for each other's eyes, they had a bad break-up and one had the ability to create ads for Snapchat? Scary. It would be no one's fault but the user's. The user could not do anything about it because they hadn't read the terms and conditions properly.

Read the privacy policy and terms of service pages, people. These long and dreadful-looking documents which we are presented with in most apps we download and websites we access have potentially valuable information lurking in the fine print.

Too many organizations are lurking and waiting for a naïve young adult to sign something without reading it thoroughly. What if

the document to be initialed said that users who agree must pat their head and rub their tummy every 30 seconds? They would be breaking a contractual agreement if they did not comply. Granted, this is a simple example and would be impossible for Snapchat to enforce and monitor, but it shows just how important it is to read what is put in front of the user to sign.

Document signing is becoming more and more important as college students make their way to becoming adults. More documents requiring a signature, requesting initials and demanding a sign on the dotted line. No more signing without reading. No more initialing without questioning. No more accepting without understanding. Homes, renting, cars, credit cards, insurance, memberships, all of these and then some require signatures and should not go unread by the signer. Lawyers are a useful tool when it comes to contracts, but they should not carry the responsibility. In the grand scheme of things, a Snapchat contract agreement seems minimal compared to home and insurance contracts, but nonetheless, the overall idea of reading before signing is identical.

Let's look at Kylie Jenner's leaked Snapchat video of her sister, Kendall, who was shown with no hands on the wheel while driving her car and one leg out of the window. This just goes to show that anyone's life, whether they want it published or not, can be leaked, published and misconstrued. One false move, and now she is being called a "bad influence" and "naïve and reckless." This may or may not be true, but either way, that video and those names will be forever attached to her name and image.

It is important to use this as a learning experience for the future. Snapchat updating their Terms and Conditions may have been a rude awakening that many young adults and teens needed.

The changes that Snapchat has made and users have agreed to may not be as detrimental or severe as some other contracts people may sign. But don't complain when your photo is plastered on a billboard in the city. As of the 9.18.0.0 update, Snapchat has those rights.

Snap wisely, my friends.

AIDS awareness is important

By: **Erin Herbert**
@erin_herbert

When most college students think about their personal health, they probably think about the bottles of vitamins sitting on their kitchen counter or about the brief physical checkups their parents force them to go to whenever they visit home. But for a majority of college students, sexual health and the threat of AIDS may never cross their mind. The spread of AIDS is an increasingly prevalent issue in the U.S., which too many people choose to ignore. People take the dangers of AIDS too lightly, and due to their lack of information, they never stop to think that it could happen to them. However, AIDS is a real health threat and is a topic that everyone should be thoroughly educated about.

According to aids.gov, the acronym AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. AIDS is the final, and most developed, stage of HIV or human immunodeficiency virus. HIV

and AIDS are diseases that lower the number of T cells in an infected individual's body, and over time, as the number of T cells in the body decreases, the infected individual becomes more susceptible to viruses and infections. AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of age, race or gender.

AIDS awareness is incredibly important because it is a disease that, once infected, you will carry with you for the rest of your life. Although AIDS is very manageable with modern medicine, there is no safe and effective cure for the disease yet. Everyone is potentially at risk, but recent studies show that college-aged students are at more of a risk than ever. In fact, the Florida Department of Health reported that "16 percent of all new HIV infections reported in 2014 were among persons under the age of 25." They also reported that Broward County has the second highest concentration of AIDS cases in

Florida, meaning that students at NSU have an increased risk for exposure to the disease.

Students in South Florida are in an environment that makes them much more susceptible to AIDS than other college students, and being informed about AIDS can make a world of difference. AIDS awareness should be a top priority for both students and universities. The only way to stop the spread of AIDS is to inform individuals about the causes and risks of the disease. Everyone should take the time to inform himself or herself, as well as others, about what AIDS is, how it can be contracted and how it can be prevented.

A general understanding of what AIDS is can also help end the stigma towards those suffering from the disease. Too many people believe that those who suffer from AIDS contracted it through carelessness, unsafe sexual

contact or even drug use. But in reality, AIDS can unknowingly be passed on through pregnancy, breastfeeding, incidental contact with infected blood and a number of other ways. There are far too many myths about AIDS that could be ended with increased AIDS awareness.

Increasing awareness about AIDS is an important step in ending the spread of AIDS and helping to spread acceptance and compassion for those who are already living with the disease. Awareness is especially important for college students because they are typically at a higher risk of contracting AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases. Knowledge is power, and understanding AIDS is the best way to keep yourself safe and healthy.

Sex doesn't sell: You can still keep your clothes on

By: **Cerone White**

British pop singer and songwriter Adele released a new single, "Hello," from her third album, "25," released on Nov. 20. Within 72 hours of the single's release, it had over 71 million views on YouTube. 71 million views not because she was portraying violence in her music video or exposing herself in a sexual manner, but because she had a message that was unique and was packaged to fit the content of her character.

Adele garnered 23.2 million views in the first 24 hours. Compare that to Taylor Swift's 2014 "Bad Blood" video that was viewed over 20.1 million times within 24 hours. According to Head of Culture and Trends at YouTube Kevin Allocca, Adele drew over 1.6 million views per hour the day her single was released. Now that is nothing to sneeze about.

Without delay, let's switch our attention to the over-polarizing of sexual content that has dominated today's music industry. In today's society, sex sells — everything from the latest

accessories to the clothes we put on our backs. We live in a society that believes if a product doesn't have a sexual image associated with it, then the sale or viewership will be reduced dramatically or even fail. Society needs to steer away from this notion that if it is not sexy then that means it is not good. In today's music industry, artists are finding different avenues to display their bodies from album covers to their onstage performances.

Adele has broken that mold. She has been able to sell millions of records, without exposing her body to make a dollar, unlike other female artists in the music industry such as Nicki Minaj, Beyoncé, Rihanna and Lady Gaga. While I respect these artists and others who bear it all on stage and give a peek show on occasion to solicit cheers, I have a greater respect for those who choose to approach their craft from a different perspective.

I applaud artists like Fantasia, Chisette Michele and Alicia Keys who conduct their

business and themselves in a professional and tasteful manner. These artists have taken a page from the likes of Pattie Labelle, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and other artists from that era who relied on their talent to sell records rather than their body parts to entice viewers to buy their music. These artists did not expose that which was intended to be seen behind closed doors in order to make their music careers successful.

A study conducted by Dawn R. Hobbs, a psychology professor at the University Albany in New York, concluded that 92 percent of the top ten billboard songs of 2009 were about sex. While Adele songs are not primarily about sex, but rather heartbreaks and dysfunctional relationships, she consistently breaks this mold that one has to dress in sexual manner to get to the top of the charts. She is indeed a trailblazer, and others should follow in her footsteps.

It is said that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. Oftentimes, the beholder is blinded by society and yearns for the love of society, and

that love is stipulated by rules and regulations that come with a price. A heavy price that not all can afford. One such price tag that comes with this sexual exploitation is that in order to be successful, you have to sell sex, or what was meant to be private has to be shared for public consumption for monetary gains. I salute artists who choose not to conform to the beauty that society requires of them. Their courage and the positive message that they are sending to young girls and boys is one that many others need to follow. This is the generation that will follow them, so they need to leave a legacy, one of class and high morals.

Artists should know that their bodies are temples, and they should be treated as a sacred place. Something ought to be left to the imagination and not for public viewing. You do not have to expose yourself to be successful, and Adele proved it once again with her latest single.

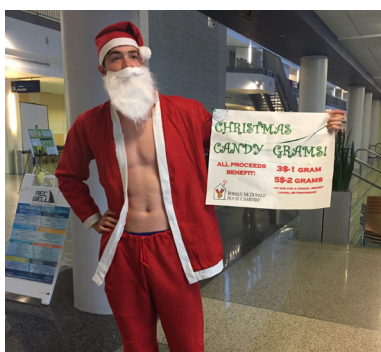
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO MOST DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON?

SHARK SPEAK



"I look forward to all of decorations on campus, like the characters on the dorm doors."
- *Kristi Jaravelil, sophomore biology major*



"I really look forward to spending quality time with my friends and creating new traditions."
- *Morgan Kiloh, sophomore finance major*



"[Starbuck's] holiday featured drinks make me so happy, and they really get me in the holiday spirit."
- *Nadia Siddiq, sophomore biology major*



"I look forward to the decorations during Christmas. It really creates a jolly mood, and I just feel surrounded by good vibes and happiness. The holiday season really makes you want to smile and be happy. I even tend to spend more time in the UC."
- *Mohammad Farraj, junior biology major*



"I look forward to all of the holiday activities at NSU; last year, they decorated and threw snow throughout the UC."
- *Carolina Ruiz, sophomore speech pathology major*



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