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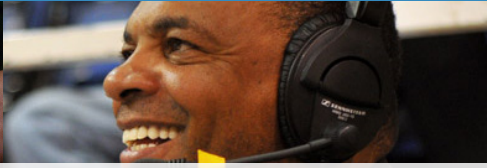
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South Florida declares public health emergency

By: **Li Cohen**
@Current_Yakira

On Feb. 3, the Surgeon General of Florida declared a public health emergency in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties due to reported cases of the Zika virus, which may lead to Guillain-Barre Syndrome and birth defects.

According to Miami Herald, as of Feb. 11, 16 people have tested positive for the virus in Florida, six of whom are in Miami-Dade and two of whom are in Broward. All cases are travel-related.

Although none of the reported cases in Florida were contracted in the continental U.S., officials have expressed concern that the virus will spread in the counties that those infected reside in, including Broward, Hillsborough, Lee, Miami-Dade, Osceola, Santa Rosa and St. Johns.

The mosquito species *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* carry and spread the virus through bites. Symptoms are generally mild and include fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes.

Bindu Mayi, associate professor of microbiology, said that, because symptoms are mild, many people don't realize they're carrying the virus.

Mayi said the best way to respond to mosquito-borne diseases is using mosquito eradication techniques, such as insecticides and repellants that contain DEET or picaridin.

"Use [the repellants] as the manufacturer recommends so you minimize any adverse

effects," she said.

Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez sent out a memo to the Board of County Commissioners that outlined the procedure of the Department of Solid Waste Management's Mosquito Control Section in Miami-Dade.

The mayor said that, if necessary, the DSWM's Mosquito Control Section will spray EPA-approved insecticides in areas with high concentrations of mosquitos.

Though symptoms are mild and often go away, pregnant women who contract the virus may pass the virus on to the fetus. This could lead to a birth defect called microcephaly, where the baby's head and brain are disproportionately smaller than expected, and other disabilities.

The first confirmed case was in Brazil in May 2015, and Brazil says nearly 4,000 babies have been born with Zika-related microcephaly since October 2015, according to BBC.

Mayi also said scientists are researching the connection between the virus and Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a non-contagious disorder that attacks the peripheral nervous system, which may cause extreme weakness or paralysis.

There are currently no vaccinations available to prevent the virus. It is recommended that people wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, stay indoors when possible, use EPA-registered insect repellants, and treat clothing with permethrin.

Mayi also recommended that people living in South Florida should drain any stagnant water they keep in or around their homes, as stagnant water is typically a breeding location for mosquitos.

In the memo sent out by Gimenez, it was also recommended that people cover doors and windows with screens and discard old tires, drums, bottles and other items that they don't typically use.

"The key is a level of awareness in which we respond to any health issue or emergency," Mayi said. "It would be ignorant of us to expect that we will always have a lid on every infectious illness that affects humans."

On Feb. 8, President Barack Obama asked Congress to provide \$1.8 billion to help fight the virus in the Americas through mosquito control, training programs and laboratory expansion. If agreed upon, the Department of Health and Human Services would receive \$1.48 billion, and \$250 million would be allocated to aiding pregnant women in Puerto Rico.

The proposal came after a case was reported in Texas on Feb. 3, where someone contracted the Zika Virus after having sex with a partner who had recently traveled to Venezuela, where the virus has spread.

As reported by CNN, Zika remains in the bloodstream for about a week; however, it is unknown how long it is able to remain in

semen. Researchers are testing the virus to find a timeframe.

As of Feb. 8, officials have reported cases of Zika virus in Venezuela, Mexico, Jamaica, Ecuador, Colombia, Ireland, Australia, the Pacific Islands and Cape Verde in Africa. Locally transmitted cases have been reported in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa. For a full list of infected areas, visit cdc.gov/zika.

In a memo sent out by Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez on Feb. 4, the outline of the procedure of DSWM's Mosquito Control Section is as follows:

- Conduct property inspections to eliminate mosquito breeding
- Treat storm drains in the area
- Initiate local and area-wide insecticide applications
- Collect mosquito surveillance data to assess the mosquito population before and after the mosquito control measures are implemented
- Collect mosquito for laboratory screening to determine if they carry the mosquito-borne viruses

Run to stop the violence at Safewalk-run 5K

By: **Jazmyn Brown**

Registration is open to join Women in Distress as they raise funds to end domestic violence at the 17th annual Safewalk-run 5K on Feb. 27 at NSU's Fort Lauderdale-Davie campus.

Registration for the race/walk will be open until the day of the event. Participants can register at the event from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. From 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m., when the timed 5K race begins, Women in Distress will have a warm-up program, which includes a welcome message from the center's CEO and a 10-minute Zumba dance. The race, which is 3.1 miles, will start and finish between the Alvin Sherman Library and the Don Taft University Center.

According to Mary Helen Olejnick, manager of the event, Women in Distress is the only state- and nationally-certified domestic violence center and is the biggest domestic violence center in South Florida. It provides, in addition to shelter services, professional therapy for adults and children, and it has an innovative early childhood therapy program for infants and children up to 4 years old.

Olejnick said that not only will the event's proceeds go toward funding the services Women in Distress provides, but they will also be used to raise awareness in the community about domestic violence.

"That's why it's great to have [the race] at NSU, our host sponsor," said Olejnick. "It is

so important to us because college students are the biggest age demographic that this problem affects."

Women in Distress hopes to raise \$150,000 through the 5K to help break the cycle of violence in abusive relationships, Olejnick said.

"We're a bit under that, so we're looking to get more folks out there, but whatever we raise goes to providing these services," she said.

Olejnick said anyone who's a serious racer can sign up to participate in the 5K. Women in Distress encourages those who sign up for the 5K to raise at least \$200; however, fundraising is not mandatory.

"But it's also fun to have competition amongst the teams, and we have teams that participate every year and get very competitive," Olejnick said. "It's a fun way to be competitive for a good cause."

Olejnick said Safewalk-run 5K is also a chance for attendees to show support for survivors as they celebrate a violence-free life.

"Our survivors come to participate, and they're often lined up along the route cheering everybody on because, for a lot of them, this is the first time they're out in public as a survivor, where their safety is not an issue and where they can celebrate the steps that they took to lead a violence-free life with their family," she said.

The registration fee for the 5K is \$25 for those 18 and older, \$15 for children 6 to 17

years old, and free for children 5 and younger. Registrants will receive a T-shirt and breakfast.

There will also be a dog walk for an additional \$10. Olejnick said the proceeds from the dog walk will go to providing services to survivors and making sure their dogs are safe through Women in Distress' partnership with the Humane Society.

"Seventy percent of surveyed victims said they wouldn't leave their abuser because of the family pet, which is often used as a means of control," said Olejnick. "If the person has a family pet, we'll provide bedding and boarding services for the dog until the victim finds a safe place."

Along with sheltering and providing therapy for victims of abuse, the center provides education and prevention in schools, colleges and doctor's offices, according to Olejnick.

"All of the services Women in Distress offers are completely confidential, and they're available to anyone in the community, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation," she said. "We have housing for men in our shelter. Often, families are coming in with a teenage son, and most shelters in Florida will not accept the family because of that. We have a special wing where we can accept families with [children of any age]."

Olejnick emphasized the educational aspect of the 5K and Women in Distress'

mission to increase awareness for the people whom domestic violence affects.

"This is our second year at NSU, so we're really looking to really get the college crowd out there because we feel like this is such an important issue [for] them," she said. "A lot of people don't know that this resource exists — that it's completely anonymous, completely private. If you're in an abusive situation, our only concern is to get you out of that."

Olejnick said Women in Distress' education and prevention team works closely with NSU, and the center has had a long-standing relationship with the psychology department, which provides interns.

"[The interns are] the direct service providers for the victims, and they provide them with counseling services," she said.

Until Feb. 19, Women in Distress is also holding a special contest in which those who sign up and raise at least \$100 get the chance to win a FitBit, restaurant gift certificates and other prizes.

General attendance is free. For more information about Safewalk-run 5K, or to register, visit womenindistress.org/events/safewalk-run-5k. For more information about Women in Distress, or to learn about volunteering and internship opportunities, visit womenindistress.org.

NEWS ANCHOR

Stay up to date with international events.

France plans to strip convicted terrorists of their nationality

France's National Assembly voted 162-148 in favor of President Francois Hollande's plan to strip passports and citizenship from convicted terrorists following the November 2015 Paris attacks. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks that killed 130 people, and some of the attackers were French citizens who trained with the militant group; both factors prompted Hollande to call for a revision of the French Constitution and the addition of a clause that would allow the country to revoke citizenship from those convicted of terrorism. The lower house reaffirmed its support, 317 in favor and 199 against, in another vote on Feb. 10. The Senate and three-fifths of France's Congress must support the proposal before the government can amend the constitution.

Canada to end airstrikes against ISIS

By Feb. 22, Canada will cease its airstrikes against ISIS in Syria and Iraq and recall six F-18 fighter jets to fulfill Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's campaign promise in October. Two-thirds of the Canadian population oppose the withdrawal and support the bombings. Canada will increase the number of special forces to 210 and send in a refueling aircraft, two surveillance aircraft and aircraft personnel, and their deployment will continue until at least March 31, 2017. Canada has been the fourth largest contributor in the 65-member coalition against ISIS.

President Obama signs initiative to bring electricity to sub-Saharan Africa

After taking almost two years to pass in the U.S. House of Representatives and Congress, U.S. President Barack Obama signed the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 into law to bring electricity to 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020. The act gives legitimacy to Obama's Power Africa initiative, which aims to provide access to electricity across Africa through public, private and government partnerships, and it ensures that the initiative will continue after Obama leaves office next year. The legislation aims to reduce reliance on toxic fuel sources, like coal, which produce deadly fumes, providing people with affordable and reliable energy. The U.S. has and other public and private partners have pledged to invest a total of \$50 billion to bring electricity to Africa, where two-thirds of people do not have access to reliable and safe energy.

United Arab Emirates PM creates ministers of happiness and tolerance

Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced the creation of a minister of state for happiness "to create social good and satisfaction" and a minister of state for tolerance to promote tolerance "as a fundamental value in UAE society." These ministries, along with the newly created UAE Youth National Council, are a part of an initiative to institute a flexible government that is capable of adjusting to change. A female minister of state younger than 22 will lead the youth council, which will advise the government on youth issues. "The energy of youth will fuel our government in future," Sheikh Mohammed said.

49 dead, 12 injured in Mexican prison riot

A riot broke out in the Topo Chico jail near Monterrey in northern Mexico when rival groups fought with sharp weapons, bats and sticks for 30 to 40 minutes, according to Nuevo Leon state governor Jaime Rodriguez, leaving 49 inmates dead and 12 more injured, five of which were in critical condition. The inmates also set fire to a storage room. Juan Pedro Zaldivar Farias, known as Z-27, is a member of the Los Zetas drug cartel and led one of the groups, while Jorge Ivan Hernandez Cantu, member of the rival Gulf cartel, led the other. Officials reported that no inmates escaped. According to a National Human Rights Commission report, the Topo Chico jail housed nearly 1,000 more prisoners than its maximum occupancy in 2014. Mexico's prisons are notorious for their gang violence, break-outs, overcrowdedness and corruption.

North Korea could have weapons-grade plutonium within weeks

According to James Clapper, director of U.S. National Intelligence, North Korea could obtain plutonium from a restarted nuclear reactor within a few weeks. The country conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and, more recently, launched a satellite and long-range missile. In 2013, North Korea announced that it would restart and renovate its nuclear facilities in the Yongbyon nuclear complex, which includes a graphite-moderated reactor that produces weapons-grade plutonium. The reactor shut down in 2007. Last September, North Korea confirmed that Yongbyon was operational and was working to produce weapons to be used against the U.S.

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Greek Week promotes unity and spirit

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

To build pride and spirit in Greek life, Order of Omega, a Greek leadership honors society, will host Greek Week, a week of social and philanthropic events, from Feb. 16 to Feb. 20.

Greek Week will include a field day, karaoke night, lip-sync battle, women's clothing drive and a fundraiser. Fraternities and sororities will compete with each other throughout the week for first-, second- and third-place trophies. The sorority or fraternity who wins the first-place trophy will donate all the money raised during the week to a philanthropic organization of their choice.

Allison Siegel, senior exercise science major, president of Order of Omega and member of Phi Sigma Sigma, said she hopes Greek Week will give the organizations and councils involved a sense of pride.

"I want them to be proud of who they are and what they represent," she said. "I want them to be proud to be an NSU Greek."

Nicole Almeida, junior business administration major, Delta Phi Epsilon member and vice president of programming of Order of Omega, said that, while Greek organizations have different values, they all strive to create a family atmosphere.

"It's really about having that family away from home and being unified," she said.

Katlyn Magnotta, sophomore biology

major and president of Sigma Delta Tau, is part of the Greek Week committee and said that she's very passionate about Greek Life because of the legacy associated with it.

"It's an honor to be part of something that's so much bigger than myself," she said. "Only a small percentage of students on this campus are Greek, and I'd love for more people to get involved in our organizations. We want to show people how great Greeks actually are."

Siegel, Almeida and Magnotta said that part of the purpose of Greek Week is to break stereotypes about fraternities and sororities.

Siegel said that Greek life at NSU is different because it focuses on service and leadership, not partying.

"You've probably seen a lot of negative stuff in the media about Greek life," Almeida said. "But, at NSU, we're really not like that. We definitely strive to do better in the community and to do better on campus."

Greek Week is an opportunity for Greek students to meet new people.

"While most of us mingle, there might be certain members who don't know each other, so we wanted them to be able to network with each other and build connections with other sororities and other fraternities," Almeida said. "We also want uninvolved NSU students to become more informed about Greek Life."

Siegel and Magnotta are most looking



NSU's sororities and fraternities celebrate Greek Week last year.

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Greek Week events

Feb. 16—Field Day 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. @ Library Quad (Greek students only)

Feb. 17—Karaoke Night 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. @ Flight Deck

Feb. 18—Fundraiser @ Menchie's on University Drive

Feb. 19—Mock Rock Lip Sync Battle 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. @ Shark Circle

Feb. 20—Beach Cleanup Service Day @ Dania Beach

forward to Mock Rock, a lip sync battle between fraternities and sororities.

Siegel hopes that this week will set the standard for future Greek Weeks, since the events have been smaller in past years.

Almeida has worked on Greek Week since the summer.

"Showing our presence on campus and our unity is really important to us," she said.

For more information about Greek Week, contact Almeida at na503@nova.edu.

Play video games with SAGE

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

The Society of Anime, Gaming and Entertainment (SAGE) is hosting Game Wars, where students can play games on the latest gaming systems for free, on Feb. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center Pit.

Game Wars is a Ft. Lauderdale-based company that provides games and gaming systems for events. For the event, monitors will be set up in the UC Pit, and students can stop by any time throughout the event to play.

Shanelle Grizzle, senior biology major, is the event coordinator for SAGE, and said that the event is an alternative way for students to de-stress before midterms.

"It's a really fun event because it brings the NSU community and friends together so they can play together and have a good time," she said. "Also, since Game Wars is the Friday before midterms, it'll let students relax before they have to crack down on studying for midterms."

Jennifer Cecere, art major and member

of SAGE, said that Game Wars is a chance for people who don't have time to come to SAGE to be able to participate in their events.

"We're meant to be a place where people can relax and don't have to stress about school," she explained.

Cecere, a gamer, said she is looking forward to seeing what new games and systems are out.

"Sometimes, you don't have money to buy the games or a certain gaming system," Cecere said. "Game Wars is fun because I get to play on a system I may never own."

SAGE is a society that celebrates nerd culture, according to Grizzle.

"We watch anime, we read comics, we play video games," she said. "We try to find other people who share the same interests that we do. You can come in with any weird or interesting things that you like, and, more than likely, you'll find someone else who's interested in the same things you're interested in."

Grizzle wants Game Wars to get more people interested in SAGE.

"We're a small club, and we're not that well-known," she explained. "This event will get our name out there so people will know who we are. Hopefully, people who have been looking for a group like us will be able to find us."

Grizzle hopes the event will showcase SAGE's diversity and show that any stereotypes about gamers aren't true.

"Our club is proof enough that there's a wide range of people who can be considered gamers and nerds in general," Cecere said. "We have people in SAGE who major in biology, criminal justice and art."

SAGE is also planning a student café for later in the semester where members of the club will act as wait staff and serve food to students.

For more information about Game Wars and SAGE, contact Grizzle at sg1352@nova.edu, or visit sagensu.weebly.com.

Serve the homeless with SLCE

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

NSU students can serve the homeless at Broward Outreach centers in Hollywood and Pompano Beach on Feb. 20 with the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement (SLCE) from 8:15 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students will organize clothing, toiletries and other items.

Camilo Yibrin, assistant director of SLCE, said that service trips are a great opportunity for students to learn about the community.

"They become more concerned with why things are happening and more aware of all the community problems," he said. "That's when they decide to do something for themselves and become active citizens."

Schae Maynard, junior environmental science major, is a student facilitator for the service day and will help students reflect on their experiences throughout the day. She said that she loves seeing fellow students get excited about service work and being part of the experience with them.

"My experiences with service days have been absolutely incredible," she said. "The energy of the groups is the best part of the day. People really get excited to help others and make an impact on our local community. The opportunity to get to give back to something bigger than yourself is really awesome."

Yibrin said service work that involves people is more fulfilling than service work that involves picking up trash or weeding.

"In my opinion, homeless people in Florida aren't being helped the way they're

helped in other states," he said. "The interest is not as much as you see in other places. They need help. They need to get back on their own feet, and they will, if you help them."

Maynard said that service helps students to reflect on their lives.

"I take a lot of stuff in my life for granted," she said. "Having the opportunity to see that the way your life is isn't necessarily the way that everyone else's life is helps you reflect on what you, as a person, can do."

Elizabeth Mazorowicz, graduate assistant for SLCE, said that service days are a good way for students to develop a passion for service.

"I know it sounds cheesy," she added. "But it feels good to help people. It's easy to forget that a lot of people have different circumstances when you're at a university and constantly focused on your studies."

Yibrin said that service allows students to understand community-related issues.

"They're able to see things that they've never seen before in their lives," he said. "They get interested in those things, and, hopefully, they become more engaged citizens."

SLCE will provide transportation to and from the centers; buses will leave from the Shark Circle at 8:15 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Students can sign up for the event at orgsync.com/45785/forms/177373. For more information, contact the SLCE office at slice@nova.edu or 954-262-7195.

On Shore Calendar

Education Abroad Fair
@UC Spine

11:30 AM - 1 PM

SGA Senate Meeting
@Rosenthal 200

3 - 5 PM

GlowYo Yoga
@Recwell Multipurpose
Studio 3 (\$5 at door)

7 - 8:30 PM

FEB 17

LOD Session
@Rosenthal 200

4 - 5 PM

Mardi Gras SEA Thursday
@ UC Spine

12 - 1 PM

Black History Month Event
7 PM

Interview Skills Workshop
@Career Library in
Horvitz Building

12 - 1 PM

FEB 18

February Day of Service
@Shark Fountain

8:15 AM - 2 PM

FEB 20

NEWS BRIEFS

NSU receives grant for oil spill projects

Researchers at the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography have received over half a million dollars to further their research on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Abigail Renegar, Tammy Frank and Bernhard Riegl are working with fellow researchers at Texas A&M University as part of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. The anticipated three-year project will explore toxicity of deep-sea zooplankton and micronekton ecologies that resulted from the oil spill. The team will receive approximately \$590,000 over three years.

Learn about leadership

NSU students have until Feb. 19 to register for a chance to attend the World Leaders Conference on March 2 and 3 at the West Palm Beach Convention Center. The event hosts speakers from industry, medicine, professional athletics and leadership fields, including John Maxwell, H. Wayne Huizenga Jr., Joyce Meyer and Tony Robbins. Usually \$600 per person, the student tickets are free for the first 40 students who sign up and include lunch and transportation. The event will last from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days, and business casual attire is required. To register, visit orgsync.com/37641/forms/172487. For a full list of speakers and more information about the event, visit worldleadersconference.com.

Discover time at TEDxNSU

Tickets for TEDxNSU, a day of presentations by the NSU community, are available until March 10. The fifth annual event, hosted by the College of Psychology, will focus on the idea of time. Presenters include video producer Brendan Eldom, professor Steven Gold, assistant professor Malav Trivedi, visiting professor Rheanna Rutledge, Scholar in Residence Isabel Rimanoczy, alumna Michelle Rozen and students Robert Hayward II, Stephen Rafferty and Qaas Shoukat. Tickets are limited to 200 people. The non-refundable fee is \$10 for NSU students and \$25 for non-NSU students. To apply, visit sharkfins.nova.edu/tedxnsu-2016. For more information, contact TEDxNSU@nova.edu, or visit psychology.nova.edu/tedxnsu.

Go on an adventure with RecWell

The Office of Recreation and Wellness will host three trips as part of the Outdoor Adventures Program from March 12 to April 16. All trips will be at 10 a.m. They include a visit to K1-Speed Indoor Go-Karts on March 12, paintballing at Extreme Rage Park on March 19 and a beach day at John U Lloyd State Park on April 16. The times and locations are subject to change. For more information, contact Emily Powell at ep668@nova.edu, or visit rec.nova.edu.

Get the real deal on real estate

The Office of Career Development will host a real estate career panel on Feb. 22 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building Rooms 3032 and 3034. Attending professionals include Chris Rotella, an associate from Rotella Group, Larry Genet, senior associate from CBRE, Robert Richter, vice president of business development at Flagler Global Logistics, Jessica Joly, senior development manager at Stiles Corporation, Evans Gedeon, financial analyst from Altman Companies, and Viola Sanchez, director of real estate at Watsco, Inc. To attend the workshop virtually, visit nova-csm.symplicity.com.

Save the sea turtles

To help raise funds for the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program of the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, NSU will host a "Party with a Purpose" on Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Mickey Byrnes Irish Pub. Tickets are \$10 in advance, all of which will go to the program, or \$10 at the door, 50 percent of which will go to the program. The party will feature a silent auction and raffle prizes, and 50 percent of the activities' proceeds will go directly to the conservation program. For more information on the event, and to purchase tickets in advance, contact the program at 954-262-3672, or email bcstcp@gmail.com. For more information on the program, visit cnsu.nova.edu/seaturtles/index.





Fact-checking the Democratic debate

On Feb. 11, PBS hosted the Milwaukee Democratic debate. Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders participated in the event. Candidates made the following statements throughout the debate, and The Current staff determined the verdicts after heavy research of reputable sources. Full transcripts of the debate can be found online at The Washington Post, The New York Times and other sources.

“The American people are looking around, and they see a broken criminal justice system. They see more people in jail in the U.S. than any other country on earth, 2.2 million. We’re spending \$80 billion a year locking up fellow Americans.”—Bernie Sanders, in his opening statement

According to BBC, the prison population in the U.S. is approximately 2,193,798 people.

o CBS News reported in 2014 that the U.S. does spend approximately \$80 billion a year on incarceration.

VERDICT: True.

“I know a lot of Americans are angry about the economy. And for good cause. Americans haven’t had a raise in 15 years.”—Hillary Clinton, in her opening statement

The Social Security Administration reported that, from 2001 to 2014, the national average wage index increased from 32,921.92 to 46,481.52. The only segment in that time frame that didn’t show an increase was from 2008 to 2009, when the index decreased from 41,334.9 to 40,711.61.

VERDICT: True.

“Who denies that real unemployment today, including those who have given up looking for work and are working part-time is close to 10 percent? Who denies that African-American youth unemployment, real, is over 50 percent?”—Bernie Sanders, on the economy

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of Feb. 5, 2016, 7.8 million, or 4.9 percent of the U.S. population, is unemployed, and 6 million people were employed part-time. This is almost equivalent to 10 percent.

The BLS also reported that the unemployment rate for African-Americans aged 16 to 19 is 25.2 percent, as of January 2016. The 50 percent Sanders is referring to comes from research from the Economic Policy Institute that showed that 51.3 percent of black high school graduates are underemployed. It is important to note that the students used in this research were between the ages of 17 and 20 and were not enrolled in further schooling.

The most important aspect to pay attention to is Sanders’ use of “unemployment.” Unemployment, according to Investopedia, is when someone is actively looking for a job but is unable to find work. “Underemployment,”

on the other hand, is a measure of how people are utilizing the labor force in terms of skills, experience and availability to work, according to Investopedia. These workers are highly-skilled but working in low-paying or low-skill jobs or are part-time workers who prefer to be full-time. Unlike people who are unemployed, underemployed persons are working but not to their full potential.

VERDICT: Half true. Although Sanders was right about the first statistic, he was only partly accurate about his later statistic. Sanders failed to use the correct terminology, as the report he referenced was focused on underemployment, rather than unemployment, which made the statistic misleading.

“The statistics from Wisconsin are particularly troubling because it is the highest rate of incarceration for African-Americans in our nation, twice the national average.”—Hillary Clinton, on black incarceration

According to a University of Wisconsin report, the state incarcerated 12.8 percent of African-American men. The national average is 6.7 percent. The other top incarceration rates were 9.7 percent, 9.4 percent, 9.1 percent and 8.6 percent for Oklahoma, Iowa, Pennsylvania and California, respectively. The report used data from an April 2010 U.S. Census Bureau report.

VERDICT: True.

“The reality is four times as many blacks get arrested for marijuana. Truth is that far more blacks get stopped for traffic violations. The truth is that sentencing for blacks is higher than for whites.”—Bernie Sanders, on black incarceration

In an article in The Washington Post, in 2010, the incarceration rate for blacks was more than 700 per 100,000 people, and, for whites, it was just under 200 per 100,000 people. This article also showed that, in the same year, less than 15 percent of blacks used marijuana within the previous year, and nearly 12 percent of whites used marijuana in the previous year.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that, in 2011, more than 12 percent of blacks were stopped for traffic violations, while less than 10 percent of white were pulled over for the same offense; however, the reasoning for the violations are higher for different races. While white drivers were pulled over more than blacks for speeding, sobriety checks, seatbelts, cellphones and stop signs/lights, black drivers had a higher stop rate for vehicle defects, record checks, illegal turns and no given reason.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reported in 2014 that sentencing for black males was nearly 20 percent longer than those on white males for similar crimes.

VERDICT: True.

“Look, I am deeply concerned about what’s happening in every community in America, and that includes white communities, where we are seeing an increase in alcoholism, addiction, earlier deaths.”—Hillary Clinton, on the working class

The Proceedings of the National Academy

of Sciences published a report that said that the death rates for whites aged 45 to 54 in the U.S. has increased since before 2000. Since that time, there has been a steep incline in deaths by poisoning, suicide and chronic liver disease.

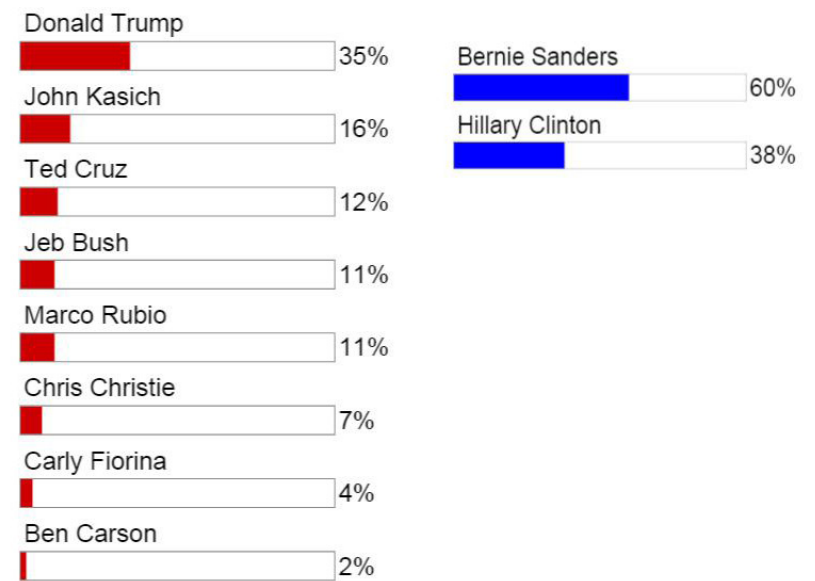
VERDICT: True.

Voter Results

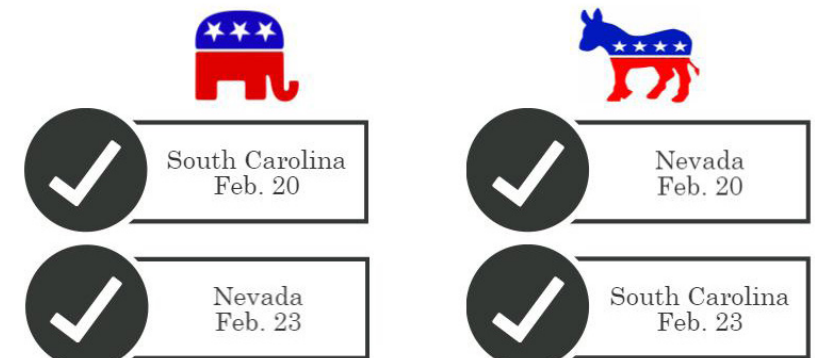
The voters in New Hampshire have cast their primary votes. See who's in the lead.

New Hampshire Primaries

Republican Voter Results Democratic Voter Results



Upcoming primaries and caucuses



THAT TIME I... I LEFT HOME TO PURSUE MY PASSION FOR SOCCER

By: **Gaby Alfaro Alvarado**

Gaby Alfaro Alvarado is a junior finance and business administration major and the business manager of The Current. She is also a member of NSU's women's soccer team. After graduation, she hopes to become a professional soccer player and entrepreneur.

It all started around seven years ago when I was 13 years old and left San Jose, Costa Rica, on Aug. 21, 2009, to pursue my passion for sports. It was the beginning of many lonely birthdays and holidays away from family and friends.

At the age of 5, I became passionate about soccer and tennis. I remember I would always tell my dad that I wanted to be a professional soccer player when I grew up. Obviously, he did not take me seriously because I was only 5, and he believed soccer was only for men. At the age of 7, I was playing soccer and tennis with girls who were already 10. I was good at both sports because I was naturally athletic.

Eventually, I started winning awards for most improved player, best player, most coachable player and others for both sports. However, my father still refused to believe that I had potential for soccer because, in his head, soccer was still only for men.

I continued to play soccer for my school, but it was recreational because tennis was still my main focus. At this time, I was roughly 11 years old. One day, I went up to the men's

coach and told him that I wanted to play with the men's team. I wanted to improve my skills and challenge myself. I wanted soccer to be my main focus not tennis. He said, "Yes," and next thing I knew, I was playing soccer with the guys.

In the meantime, I was still playing tennis as well. A year after playing with the men's team, the school got invited to go to Minnesota to compete for the Schwan's Cup. The Schwan's Cup is an international soccer tournament held in Minnesota. There were 25 players on the team, but only 21 could travel, so that month of training was very competitive since everyone was trying to make the roster. Thankfully, I made the roster and was the only girl on the team. I was the only female in the entire tournament, which was quite hilarious. Not going to lie, though — I had so much fun competing against and alongside male athletes.

Months after that tournament, my mom received an email from IMG Academies, which is a very well-known sports academy in Bradenton, Florida. In the email, the academy offered me a full scholarship to play sports. They had seen me play at the Schwan's Cup up in Minnesota and believed I had the potential to pursue my sport at another level.

Next thing I knew, I was finishing my last semester at my middle school before going to the U.S. It all happened very quickly, and I didn't really get a chance to say goodbye to my family and friends or to my country, Costa Rica.



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM G. ALFARO
Alfaro's passion for soccer brought her to NSU from her home in Costa Rica.

It was difficult at first; I remember spending my sweet 15 all alone in a room crying. But, as time went by, I started to adapt and understand that every sacrifice I made was going to pay off, and it has.

I would say what I miss the most, though, is

spending time with my family, seeing my nephew grow and playing with my dogs. Fortunately, I still keep in contact with my friends and family, and I visit Costa Rica maybe three times a year.

Day trippin'

By: **Roddia Paul**

Spring break is rapidly approaching, and if you are anything like the average college student, procrastination is your middle name. Whether you're planning last minute or in need of something quick but fun, a day trip may be just what you need.

Location, location, location

Paradise is closer than you think, especially in sunny South Florida. There are many nearby cities with beautiful shopping centers and even prettier beaches: Naples, Port St. Lucie and Key West, just to name a few. The location you choose really depends on what experience you are looking for. If you're looking for a theme park, you'll probably want to take a trip to Orlando. If museums are your thing, St. Petersburg is for you. If you just want to shop and get that small-town feel, you might want to take a trip to Clearwater. Figuring out what you would be interested in doing, finding what cities offer that amenity and then choosing the closest one to you is definitely the first step in

a successful day trip. Remember that a day trip means that your fun journey can only last one day, so you have to make sure your destination is realistic.

Lovin' the crew

You can have fun all by yourself, but not on a day trip. In all honesty, you need at least one companion to make this a successful trip. When you think about the amount of hours you'll be driving, it's much more enjoyable if you have someone to take turns with or at least provide you with good conversation. Plus, a vacation, even a mini one such as this, is much more fun when you have someone to share it with.

Make sure you choose wisely. You need to bring someone who will aid your trip, not hinder it. That means no broke friends, no "I don't drive" friends and no party-pooper friends. You have to bring someone along who can help you split the bill and who knows how to have a good time. If you do that, your trip will definitely be quick, successful and full of laughter.

Space isn't just for NASA

You need something that's comfortable enough for a long drive and stylish enough to be vacation-worthy. Decide whose car you will be using for the trip. Hopefully, someone in your group has a spacious, smooth and stylish car. Remember every good day trip has a shopping spree or two included, so you need to make sure that your ride has sufficient space; whether its trunk space or seat rows is up to you.

Stock up prior

Depending on how far your destination is from where you live, you are going to need snacks. Because this is a day trip, you want to minimize the time spent at stops to maximize the time you get to spend at your destination. The only time you should be stopping is to use the rest room, so you will need to stock up on all of your favorite snacks prior. Even more importantly, you need to stock up on gas, so make sure you stop to the gas station before your trip so when you leave the house in the morning for your trip,

you can head straight on the express way. Time is of the essence.

'Twas the night before

The night before a day trip is like Christmas Eve. You might find yourself so excited that you become restless. However, being well-rested is the number one key to success when planning a day trip. Often, depending on what you are planning to do on your trip, you might want to leave early in the morning and drive back late that night. With that said, you need to make sure you go to bed early, eat a good dinner and have a good night's sleep to ensure that you have the energy to enjoy all the of fun that awaits you.

Day trips are fun, if you do them right. Whether you're planning a spur-of-the-moment trip or planning a day trip a week in advance, small steps such as these are crucial. Once you experience your first day trip, you'll definitely be day trippin' all across the state.

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The more you know: Investing 101

By: **Li Cohen**
@Current_Yakira

Money is the universal language of college students, and, most of the time, the language focuses on their lack of this trading tool. For many students, college is the time to gain knowledge but lose money, and the struggle to find a happy medium has proven to be challenging.

Part of the money problem is the financial terms that come along with understanding how to better manage income. From savings to checking, from stocks to bonds, the money dictionary is filled with confusing words that make maximizing profits seem like a far-fetched notion. However, one of these terms is actually quite simple and is beneficial to earning some extra income.

The name of the income game is investing, and it's not as daunting as the term may sound.

Albert Williams, associate professor of finance and economics, said that investing is using savings to purchase assets that increase in value over time.

"It's putting your money to work today so it can grow in the future," he said. "You can buy things that you can see will go up in value, and then, after a while, you can sell it for a higher price [than when you bought it]."

There are many types of investments, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds and alternative versions. While many people typically think of investing in the stock market, Williams said that students should also consider investing in valuables, such as jewelry or artwork, and small businesses.

Williams said that students need to have a cushion in case of an emergency and that financial security is extremely important.

"You need to have funds to live," he said. "If you make \$5,000 a month, and you spend \$6,000 a month, you're in big trouble."

Many students focus on putting money into savings accounts, but Williams said this isn't always the wisest decision. With savings accounts, the money put in gains less than half of a percent of interest per year and that barely covers the cost of inflation, which is approximately 2 percent.

"I usually don't encourage a long-term investment in a savings account except for when you're older and retired, and you don't want your money to be exposed to a lot of risk," Williams said. "You're never too young to start investing."

As an alternative to placing all extra money into a savings account, students should create a budget that allocates an amount to paying bills, spending, savings and investments.

According to Williams, figuring out what to invest in is one of the hardest tasks people do. He said that students should be aware that, while there are great benefits, such as long-term financial security, there are also risks. The more money one invests into an asset, the greater the risk associated with that investment.

"If you love to take risks, go for the really risky investments," he said. "It just depends where you fall on the risk-certainty spectrum."

According to Investopedia, bonds are usually for those who like to be more certain of the return they will receive, though it will not be much, while stocks are typically more high-risk with a higher potential of return.

To figure out what to invest in, Williams said to look around the house and pick out

items that are the most useful. Upon researching the manufacturers of these products, one can then decide to invest in their companies, and, generally, make a profit.

Although he is an advocate for investing, Williams strongly suggested that students take personal finance courses, which give overviews on how to manage money and do research before becoming involved in the stock market or bonds.

"Get your financial education. It's almost non-negotiable," he said. "You need to get a hold of some books or take a course and learn how money works. If you don't do this, you'll take your money and spend it, and you won't have money in the future."

NSU offers personal finance courses every semester, and there are also websites available that allow students to compete in a mock stock market to gain experience.

"When you put your money out there, you can make [more], and you can lose," Williams said. "All NSU students need to learn how to manage money. When you're in college, you can take advantage [of your education] and learn how to do so."

Williams said that, in college, it's difficult to find time to invest, but once students are out of college, they will need something to fall back on. He said that investment isn't only critical for individuals, but also for corporations and the government, and that it's a key part in developing the country.

"Investment is a continuous process," he said. "Every student who comes to NSU is making an investment in human capital. Everybody is investing every day to increase their value."

Where can I learn more?

Investopedia.com
forbes.com
stockmarketgame.org
etrade.com
Scottrade.com

Terms to know, as stated on Investopedia.com:

Stock: "A holder of a stock has a claim to a part of the corporation's assets and earnings...A shareholder is an owner of a company. Ownership is determined by the number of shares a person owns, relative to the number of outstanding shares."

Bond: "A bond is a debt investment, in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed interest rate."

Mutual fund: "An investment vehicle that's made up of a pool of funds collected from many investors for the purpose of investing in securities such as stocks, bonds, money market instruments and similar assets."

How to stay up-to-date on current events

By: **Chantel Grant**

College is the ultimate twilight zone. A student's workload and the struggle to maintain sanity overshadow almost everything that happens outside of the classroom. While it's easy for current affairs and news to fall to the wayside, it's still important to have some a general idea of what's going on in the world.

While Facebook and other social media outlets may bombard your timelines with news and current events, sometimes they lack validity and are misleading. In the event you want to leave your twilight zone, here are a few pointers on how to keep up with news and events.

Staying current with The Current

The NSU newspaper is one of the best ways to know what's going on around the world. If you're someone who hates sifting through countless news articles, just turn to page two

of the Current where the staff summarizes the important international news under a section called News Anchor. If you can't find a hard copy of the paper, you can always go online at nsucurrent.nova.edu to read the latest issue and catch up on some current events.

There's an app for that, too

The Newsbeat app, free and available for both Android and Apple users, is a fun and convenient app that college students can use to stay informed about current events. After downloading the app, simply choose the topics that interest you the most, and the app will display the most current news for each section.

But here's what separates this app from its competitors: it has a narrator that will read the article like a real-life news anchor. It doesn't sound electronic, and there are even musical

interludes before it reads each article. The narrator reads the summary of each story, and, if you want to hear more, at the end of each article, there is a link to the full online publication.

Each narration is about two to three minutes long, and the voices vary for each story so you won't get bored of hearing the same monotonous voice repeatedly. Furthermore, the news and current events on the site are accurate, as they coincide with the news published on reputable websites, such as CNN and BBC. So, the next time you have a break between classes, you can pop in your earphones and catch up with what's going on in the world.

They now make it short and "snappy"

Major news outlets like CNN now have Snapchat accounts and are sharing their stories. While some college students may whine about

being strapped for time, there always seem to be time for social media, especially trendy ones such as Snapchat.

CNN, The Daily Mail and a few other media outlets have outpaced their competitors by sinking their teeth into the new social media app. According to expandedrambling.com, 77 percent of college students use Snapchat every day, so the next time you find yourself idling on the app, simply wander over to CNN's account and view a story or two about what's going on the world.

No one wants to be that student who becomes so consumed by college that he or she sounds like an oblivious, self-centered college student when he or she tries to socialize with friends and family. So save yourself, and stay current with current events.

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In Our Own Words: Student debt a concern

By: President George L. Hanbury II

This guest editorial was originally published on NSU News on Sept. 21, 2015. It was reprinted with permission from the Office of Public Affairs.

Student loan debt is of great concern to me as president of NSU, as I am sure it is to all college and university presidents. At NSU, we do everything to keep tuition as low as possible and offer the quality education expected of a private selective research university. Of our nearly 26,000 students, 80 percent, or approximately 21,000, of whom are graduate and professional students. On a per student loan basis, we have made an examination of the average loan amount, versus per institution, revealing that there are more than 170 colleges and universities with higher average unsubsidized loan amounts per student and more than 180 with higher grad PLUS loans per student than NSU.

Our student debt burden is indeed large, and, when NSU students feel they must borrow funds to assist them in paying for their education, they do so confidently because of our solid track record of professional job preparation and employment. In fact, NSU graduates have a loan default rate that is among the very lowest of any university in America, graduate or undergraduate, private or public, at just 3.5 percent. This supports that, after completing rigorous academic programs, our graduates are getting jobs in professional careers sufficient enough to keep current with their student loans. Although we are just 50 years old, we're seeking

to build our endowment and expand research in an effort to attempt to offset rising tuition costs, just as older research universities have been able to do successfully in the past.

Unfortunately, many of the recent articles on graduate student debt, while dutifully reporting the contents of a study, omitted much of this important information and perspective. The discussion about graduate student debt needs to be in context with the academic programs offered at an institution, the total number of students and the ability of the student to repay the loan after graduation.

The proof for NSU is indeed in the low default rate statistic, but also in the stories that our graduates tell. They are physicians, dentists, lawyers, college and university presidents, school system superintendents, government officials, chief officers of national companies, and one is the vice president of a country; and the list goes on.

As the largest private, not-for-profit research university in Florida, our value proposition is outstanding. We have been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as High Research and Community Engaged, and NSU is also designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. With our roots in graduate-level educational excellence, we are equally dedicated to research, and the betterment of our community, our nation and our world.

That is the whole story.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM L. COHEN
Freshman Ryker Hess rocks out on the drums with the Pep Band at the basketball game on Feb. 10.

How to learn a foreign language for less

By: Chantel Grant

Almost everyone has had some exposure to foreign languages, even if it was just learning in the first grade that “el gato” is Spanish for “cat.” However, by the time many of us are in college, we simply lack the time or resources.

Unfortunately, everyone thinks that learning a foreign language means forking out hundreds of dollars on highly-advertised foreign language programs like Rosetta Stone. As college students, one of the biggest deterrents for trying new things is the cost, but here are a few cost-effective ways to learn a foreign language.

Mr. Alvin Sherman is your private tutor

NSU has one of the best libraries in the county, so it would be a waste not to use it to your advantage. The Alvin Sherman Library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. almost every day, and after hours, you can search for books from home using your NovaCat account.

For example, visit sherman.library.nova.edu, sign into your NovaCat account and type “German language” into the search engine, and in a matter of seconds, you will find an audiobook titled “German, Part A: The complete course.” Of course, the hardest part will be dedicating a few hours a day to studying the language, but telling someone “Halt die Klappe,” German for “shut up,” when they upset you will be worth it in the end.

Free websites

It's very hard to find websites that do anything for free these days, but with a little research, you can find a website that is either free or so cheap that it's basically free. A few of these websites include openculture.com, which lists other websites that you can use to learn a particular language, and babel.com, which goes straight into teaching you the language. On babel.com, you can choose from 14 different languages, and the best part about using this site is that you can hear the pronunciations after you

select each word. Also, if you're always on the go, you can download the Babbel app on your phone via iTunes or Google play.

Friends are teachers, too

The best way to learn something new is to practice it. So if you meet someone who knows a language that you want to learn, practice speaking to them as often as possible. They will be easy to talk to and nice when correcting you so you won't feel like a complete idiot. If you're serious about learning someone's native tongue, he or she will be patient and open to teaching you. Go as far as to schedule some time for you guys to run through some vocabulary and simple phrases. You can also google terms and phrases on your own and then ask your friends to clarify and verify their meanings. Don't be shy about doing your own research, as this will definitely prove to your friend how serious you are about learning his or her native tongue.

Foreign movies or TV series

YouTube can be used for educational purposes. Use free movies on the website to learn new words and learn how to construct sentences. Just don't forget to type “with English subtitles” after the foreign language. If you miss a term or phrase, you can always pause or rewind the video, and you can watch the same video repeatedly, which will help you to become even more familiar with the language. Watching a TV series is also helpful because shows are shorter than movies, so you won't be easily overwhelmed with all the foreign terms and accents.

If this is how you are going to learn another language, try picking a movie or TV series that you actually like. One of the worst things that could happen to you is feeling stuck watching something that isn't interesting. Sometimes, you can even find mainstream English movies in another language. Try searching for your

favorite movie in the language you want to learn; you won't be distracted by the plot if already know it.

Spend a little, learn a lot

In addition to each of these tips, buy a dictionary in the language you want to learn

and download as many apps as possible, like DuoLingo or iTranslator. You can also take a foreign language course in the language you want to learn, like Chinese, Spanish, French or Arabic, especially if you have an open elective. With that being said, “viel Glück und einen guten Tag,” or good luck and have a good day.

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On the Bench:

The major league sports coaching conundrum

By: **Erin Herbert**
@erin_herbert

Coaches are the backbone of any sports team. Whether it's little league sports or the major leagues, a team is nothing without a good coach. It may seem like all coaches do is give motivational locker room speeches or bark orders from the bench during games; however, a coach's job is certainly not that easy. When a team is performing well and consistently winning, the players receive praise and applause for their hard work, but when a team is losing, the coach will often shoulder a majority of the blame.

Coaches are quickly becoming a target for angry fans and team owners and are often put on the hot seat in the midst of a losing season. It's understandable to want a coaching change when everything seems to be going wrong, but it seems like major sporting organizations are taking their frustration out on coaches more and more often.

According to New York Daily News columnist Gary Meyers, in the National Football

League, 24 of the league's 32 teams have seen a major coaching change since the end of the 2010 regular season. That translates to approximately 75 percent of the league firing and replacing their coaches within the past six seasons. It's hard to believe that 75 percent of the league's coaches were solely responsible for losing records.

There are a large number of factors that contribute to a losing team, and the coach isn't always one. For example, in the National Hockey League, the Boston Bruins Head Coach Claude Julien is in the hot seat after missing out on last year's postseason. However, the team's recent lack of success isn't solely Julien's fault; a lot of the blame actually falls to the Bruins' front office staff, namely former General Manager Peter Chiarelli.

In the final few years of his nine-year career with the team, Chiarelli managed to make a mess of the team's salary cap through bad contracts and forcing key players to be traded or leave as free agents. Julien now has very limited

talent to work with due to Chiarelli's mistakes, but he is still taking the heat for the team's losing season. Julien will most likely be one of the next coaches in the NHL to be fired despite his great track record with the team up until the past two seasons.

However, there are a number of situations in which firing a coach is the most fitting. The Brooklyn Nets of the National Basketball Association recently fired Head Coach Lionel Hollins. Hollins led the Nets to their worst season in his one-and-a-half-year career with the team and had a career coaching record of 48-71. However, a losing record isn't the only element that warranted Hollins' termination. Many players on the team had little respect for Hollins, and, by the middle of this season, he had completely lost control of the locker room. Firing Hollins was the appropriate course of action to take in this situation because a team can't be expected to win when they have no real leader.

OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Browns LB Armonty Bryant indicted on felony drug possession charges

Cleveland Browns linebacker Armonty Bryant faces charges for possession of Adderall and Oxycodone, which are Schedule II controlled substances.

Former practice squad member De'Ante Saunders was indicted for improper uses of a firearm in a vehicle. On Dec. 25, police stopped the two for speeding and, upon searching the vehicle, found a Glock handgun, a 22-round magazine and the drugs. Police arrested both men. Authorities later released Saunders, while Bryant's arraignment is set for Feb. 24.

Marc Gasol out indefinitely with broken foot

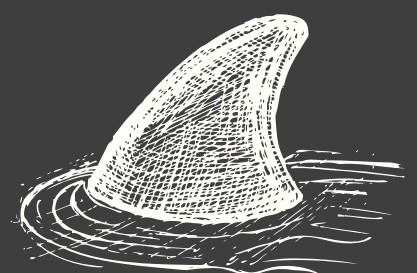
During a Feb. 9 game against the Portland Trailblazer's, Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol, 31, broke a bone in his right foot, sending him to the bench for, potentially, the rest of the season. He started in the game despite a preexisting issue with his foot; team officials cleared Gasol to play and said he was not at risk for re-injury. Gasol, who averages three minutes more per game than his teammates, leads the Grizzlies in scoring with 16.6 points per game.

Marshawn Lynch reportedly hasn't touched his NFL salary

According to Business Insider, former Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch earned \$49.7 million during his nine-year career with the NFL, none of which he has spent. Forbes reported that Lynch makes an additional \$5 million in company endorsements from brands like Skittles and Pepsi. Lynch retired in a tweet during Super Bowl 50.

Dion Phaneuf traded in one of NHL's largest deals

The Toronto Maple Leafs traded defenseman Dion Phaneuf to the Ottawa Senators for nine players in one of the league's biggest trades. The Maple Leafs also sent forwards Matt Frattin, Casey Bailey and Ryan Rupert, as well as defenseman Cody Donaghey to the Senators. The Maple Leafs received defenseman Jared Cowen, forwards Colin Greening, Milan Michalek and Tobias Lindberg, as well as a 2017 second round pick.



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Music to your ears



Athlete of the Week: Santiago Gomez

By: **Erin Herbert**
@erin_herbert

For senior business administration major Santiago Gomez, coming to NSU meant being one step closer to accomplishing his dream of playing professional golf in the U.S.

Gomez, who is originally from Colombia, is no stranger to success in golf, both inside and outside of the U.S. In high school, Gomez was ranked number one in Colombia and played on the Colombian National Team.

Before coming to NSU, Gomez spent two years at Midwestern State University, where he earned two first place tournament finishes, and the Golf Coaches Association of America named him to the All-Freshman Team.

In 2015, he was the number-one ranked golfer in all of Division II, earned the Jack Nicklaus Award and was also a member of the NCAA National Championship team.

After graduation, Gomez plans to pursue a professional golf career.

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

How did you get into golfing?

“I am from Colombia, and my family has a membership to a country club there. My mom used to play tennis and would take me to tennis lessons there when I was 3 years old. When I would walk to the tennis courts, I had to walk past the tee box, and I would just stay there and watch the guys hit the ball. I was the one who told her I wanted to play golf, so she started taking me to lessons, and that’s how it started.”

Do you plan on continuing to play golf after college?

“Absolutely. I am planning to turn pro at the end of the year, obviously to pursue my dreams, and maybe get into the PGA Tour.”

What do you think is the hardest aspect of golf?

“I think you just have to be really humble. Golf is a really mean sport; it can take your confidence down very easily. It’s not like other sports, where every match you play is similar. Obviously, the opponents are different, but when you play something like tennis, all the courts are the same. They aren’t very different, maybe the weather, but golf is different. Every week is a different course, and, actually, the same course changes every day because of the pin position. A lot of the best golfers in the world can win one week and then next week miss the cut. So you need to be humble every day in golf because it can really get your confidence down, and it might never come back. You need to have a strong mentality for golf.”

What do you think is the most rewarding part of playing golf?

“I think the most rewarding thing would be getting to know a lot of people from around the world and getting to travel and learn about different cultures. Getting to enjoy the nature, too, since we play outside. It’s relaxing and fun.”

What is your proudest achievement as a golfer?

“I would say getting to come to the U.S. I got the opportunity to come here and get a scholarship, and study my whole career in the U.S. It wasn’t very easy for me to come here since I’m from another country. Not a lot of people have the opportunity to come here, and it was my dream. But I’m here now, and I’m graduating very soon, so I’m very proud of getting this scholarship and coming to the U.S. to start my career.”

How was the transition coming to the U.S. from another country to play golf?

“It was tough in the beginning, obviously,



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Gomez is known for being number one on and off the green.

because things are different, like the culture, the food and the people, but it was my dream, and I wanted to live the experience of going to college in America. It was tough because I miss my family and my friends, but I got used to it, and it’s helped me grow a lot, not only as a golf player but also as a person. I love the U.S., but you’re really independent in this country. You do everything for yourself. You don’t have your mom to do laundry or cook. All of the stuff that I didn’t have to do in Colombia, I’ve been doing here for the last five years. It’s helped me be responsible and learn time management.”

Have you had any coaches who have influenced you throughout your golfing career?

“For sure. My coach here Ryan Jamison is a great person and has been a great coach to have. He’s taught me a lot of things throughout my three years here at NSU. I have accomplished a lot of things since I came to NSU, and I could do a lot of those things because he helped me.

He’s helped me in a lot of stuff, not only my golf game but also in my school work and in learning responsibility. He’s definitely been a person who has been influential. Also, my golf coach from Colombia was the one to build my swing and a lot of my personality, too. I have a strong mentality to play the game, and that’s why I’m here. He’s one of the people that gave me all of those values.”

Are there any professional athletes who you look up to?

“Yeah, obviously, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth. All of the young guys. I admire them. They showed me that it’s possible to get there. We’re all humans. They’re not perfect either. We all commit errors, and so it shows me that it’s not impossible to get to that level. You’ve got to work hard, obviously, but I do look up to them, and I admire how they play and how they deal with all of the elements of pro-life; they’re really mature.”

Do you have any goals or expectations set for yourself for this season?

“Absolutely. As you might know, we won Nationals last year, and we’re trying to do that again. We want to win tournaments in the fall as a team, and then win as individuals. Last year, basically every tournament, I was close to winning, but I couldn’t win, so I really want to do that.”

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

“I enjoying working out, watching TV shows, traveling and getting to know places I haven’t been. Maybe go bowling with the team or play ping pong or go to the pool. I like all of that stuff.”

ON DECK

Men’s Baseball

vs. Tuskegee
NSU Baseball Complex
Feb. 19, 6 p.m.

vs. Tuskegee
NSU Baseball Complex
Feb. 20, 1 p.m.

Men’s Basketball

vs. Embry-Riddle
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

vs. Eckerd
NSU Arena
Feb. 20, 4 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Swimming

Sunshine State
Conference
Championship
Orlando, Fla.
Feb. 18- 21, All Day

Women’s Softball

vs. Kentucky State
AD Griffin
Feb. 17, 5 p.m.

vs. Barry
AD Griffin
Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

vs. Embry-Riddle
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m.

vs. Barry
AD Griffin
Feb. 20, 1 p.m.

SPORTSSHORTS

Men’s Baseball

The men’s baseball team fell to the University of Alabama-Huntsville by a final score of 5-10 on Feb. 6 in the final game of their double-header. The Sharks won game one by a score of 7-4, but lost game two to split the series.



Men’s Basketball

The men’s basketball team suffered a 78-75 loss against Rollins College on Feb. 6. Chris Page and Harrison Goodrick, who scored 22 and 21 points, respectively, led the Sharks.



Women’s Softball

The women’s softball team finished out the Eckerd College Spring Invitational with two losses on Feb. 7. The women fell 6-3 to Lynn University and 6-0 to Tampa.



Karena Washington: Bringing sax-y back to NSU

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

Karena Washington started out at NSU as a marine bio major, but the rhythm was too hard for her to resist, so she switched her major to music.

Now, she plays the saxophone with NSU's pep band, performing at volleyball and basketball games and at other events. The pep band's repertoire includes "Forget You" by Cee Lo Green, "Party Rock Anthem" by LMFAO and other pop songs.

Washington was instrumental — pun intended — in restarting the pep band during the fall semester. To find out just how peppy NSU is, I sat down with Washington to ask her some questions.

What's your background in music?

"I grew up in a family where my parents were like, 'You're going to play music and sing.' I took piano lessons when I was in second grade. In middle school, I joined the chorus, acapella and band where I played saxophone, which is what I play in the pep band now. Now I do band and the acapella group here on campus."

Why did you decide to switch your major from marine biology to music?

"I liked marine biology, but it's a tougher field. You have to be really devoted to it because, if you don't get funded for your research projects, you can't really do anything. Music was always in the back of my mind, and I thought about music education. I really want to be a band director, so I decided that music was a better fit for me because it was more of a secure job, and

I really like it. Also, the school that I really want to go to after NSU has a great music program, and I want to be involved with the band there."

Why do you want to be a band director?

"A lot of my best mentors were band directors, and I really want to be like them. I've given lessons in other small-group settings, and people have always told me I would be a great teacher or great music director. It really stuck with me."

Why is it important for NSU to have a pep band?

"It gets more people to come to games. It gets people spirited and into the games. We're there to have fun and to help other people have fun. President Hanbury has come up to us and told us that he has wanted a pep band for a while. Also, the arts programs are really small here, and we're trying to get it to grow. Having the pep band shows that we have a band here because a lot of people don't know that. I'm hoping that, one day, the pep band will get really large and that more music people will come to NSU."

Why is the pep band important to you?

"Music has always been my number-one passion, so to get it started here on campus was a big deal for me because I get to watch other people enjoy music just as much as I do."

What songs get the crowd going?

"Power" by Kanye West, "The Hey Song" and "Kencraft 400." "Power" is my favorite song to play."



Washington and her band-mates performing at a volleyball game.

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Have you guys ever messed up during a performance?

"Yes. A lot of times, people are timid and don't want to start the song because they don't know if they're coming in at the right time. So the drummer will start, but not everyone will realize that we're actually starting, so we're like, 'Where are we?' One game, we didn't have our band director there so we didn't know what we were doing and played at times we weren't supposed to. But, now, that's all worked out."

What do you like most about being in the pep band?

"I came from a place where I played mostly classical music, so to be able to play music that's on the radio lets me groove with what I'm playing more. Also, I get to help others develop their music skills. I get to learn what works when

teaching someone and what doesn't."

Why do you love music?

"With speaking, it's hard to express yourself sometimes. But, with music, you can shape how you want to play something to explain how you feel or what you want to say. It's also a time to escape, in a sense. If you're stressed out, you can play out your stress and have a little break. It's just you and your instrument."

You can catch NSU's pep band at games and at their concert on March 20. The location of the concert is yet to be determined.

Follow the pep band on their musical journey on Twitter @NsuPepBand.

'Taffetas': A spotlight on doo-wop and all things retro

By: **Nicole Cocuy**
@Current_Nicole

The College of Performing and Visual Arts will present "Taffetas" from Feb. 19 to Feb. 21 in the Don Taft University Center Performance Theatre.

"Taffetas" follows four sisters from Muncie, Indiana, who make their musical debut on a TV show called "Spotlight on Music."

Daimien Matherson, senior theatre major and director of "Taffetas," said the play references American music and pop culture from the 1950s.

"It's definitely going back," said Matherson. "You've got songs like 'Mr. Sandman,' 'L.O.V.E,' 'I'll Think of You,' a bunch of things that are very 1950's. Their costumes are 1950's. Everything is totally period."

"Taffetas" will star NSU students who have rehearsed since the beginning of January.

"The music is difficult," said Matherson. "They're in four-part harmony, and all of them are carrying a part by themselves in these really complicated chords — because the 50's is very jazz-based — but they have hit them like champs and are really getting them well."

NSU students have also assisted with the show's set design, costume design and theater tech.

Matherson said the play is set up so that viewers will feel like they're in a studio audience at a live taping of a TV show.

"['Taffetas'] is very presentational," said Matherson. "It's as if you're a watching our version of 'The Ed Sullivan Show.'"

Matherson said the choreography of "Taffetas" is one of his favorite parts of the play.

"I think the choreography is the most fun for the audience to partake in and for the girls to do," he said. "The choreography is not difficult in the sense that they're not doing a chorus line,

but they're moving all of the time and are on-stage the whole show."

Matherson also praised the play's character development and how well the actresses have been able to adopt their characters' personas.

"I really love how we've been able to take this sister relationship and give them their own personalities," said Matherson. "The audience will really be able to tell who is the oldest, who's the one in charge. They're going to be able to see the one who's kind of dumb. The way that they've been able to develop their personalities in a show that seems so simple is really beautiful to me."

Matherson said students should go see "Taffetas" to be entertained and appreciate music.

"I think they're get a new experience when it comes to music they have not necessarily been exposed to or music they don't realize they've been exposed to," said Matherson. "They'll get a lot of laughs out of it, and it's just a really fun experience for people to come together and enjoy something they wouldn't necessarily go do everyday."

The show times for "Taffetas" are Feb. 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for NSU students and \$10 for general admission. To buy tickets online, visit cahss.nova.edu/arts/performance-series.



SOUNDBITE

'August EP' by Figure Eight

By: **Marie Ontivero**

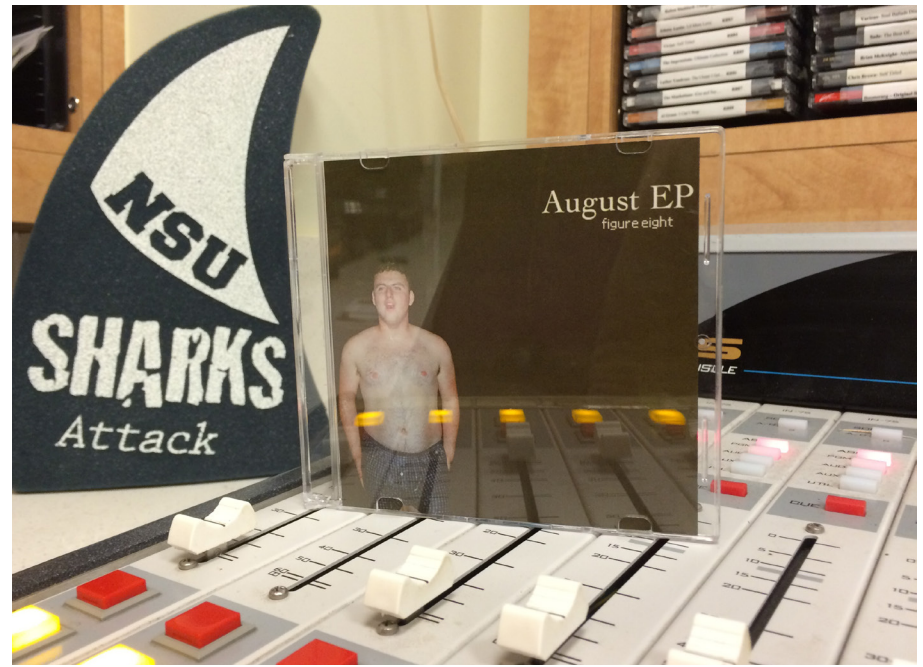


PHOTO PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. ONTIVERO

Figure Eight's album may not be long, but it is packed with great music.

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 Thursday nights from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. on 88.5FM, bringing you new music you're sure to love.

Getting started is always the hardest part, but that's just where Figure Eight is at: the very beginning. They released "August EP" in July 2015, just in time for August. The EP is only 26 minutes long with seven songs, including a track named "Buffy 16" in honor of 90's fictional vampire slayer Buffy Summers. Figure Eight performed at a College Media Journal event in October

2015 without the help of a promoter, and they are now in rotation at many college radio stations around the U.S. thanks to Portland-based Distiller Promo. This garage rock band is finally getting the debut they deserve, and, considering that they have less than 300 likes on Facebook, the only way to go is up. We, at RadioX, are excited to both chart them to the top and play their music at our station.

You can find "August EP" on Spotify and Apple Music.

Perfect if you like: American Football

Favorite Tracks: "Solace" and "Moonlight"

Mission complete: Taste buds satisfied

By: **Erin Herbert**
@erin_herbert

There's nothing more American than barbecue, and Mission BBQ brings the greatest flavors from around the country to South Florida.

Stepping into Mission BBQ isn't like stepping into a traditional barbecue restaurant — it takes that southern log-cabin feel and gives it a modern twist. The owners have a deep sense of respect for the men and women who serve in the military, members of the police force and first responders, and this joint is about as patriotic as it gets. The wood and metal-clad walls are adorned with patches and photos from every branch of the U.S. Military, and they even play the national anthem every day at noon.

From brisket to ribs, and everything in between, Mission BBQ has something for every barbecue fanatic. They offer tender pulled pork sandwiches piled high with coleslaw, smoky fall-off-the-bone ribs and moist or lean brisket. All meals are served up hot and fresh with a huge selection of sauces, including Memphis Belle, Smoky Mountain and Texas Twang. Customers can spice up their meal anyway they like.

But the barbecue isn't the only great thing Mission BBQ has to offer. Their side dishes are good enough to steal the show. "Maggie's Mac-N-Cheese" is hands down one of the best items on the menu; the warm and gooey mac and

cheese, with a light and crispy breaded topping, is enough to make anyone's mouth water. And the menu's other options are just as appetizing. Customers can get baked beans and brisket, coleslaw, green beans and bacon or fries in sizes of a serving, a pint or a quart to suite any appetite.

Mission BBQ makes it easy to ensure that the customers get all the great barbecue they could ever want. They offer an XL Combo, which allows customers to choose an entrée, one side and a drink. But if that's not enough to fill you up, they also offer an XXL Combo, which allows you to choose one additional side.

If you need something to wash down that barbecue chicken or mac and cheese, Mission BBQ has you covered. In addition to the standard fountain drinks, they also have a sweet Summertime Lemonade and hand-brewed sweet or unsweetened iced tea. If you're looking something a little more authentic than iced tea or a fountain drink, Mission BBQ offers a wide variety of classic southern favorites, like Cheerwine and RC Cola, in glass bottles.

However, great food and drinks aren't Mission BBQ's only claim to fame. They also have some of the friendliest staff and fastest service around. As soon as customers walk

through the door, cashiers yell out a greeting and ensure that customers know where to find menus. Once you place your order, it takes mere minutes before they call your name, and your food is ready at the front counter. After you take a seat at one of the tables or booths to start your meal, staff members will come by to offer you napkins or drink refills and may even bring a tray of complimentary fries to your table, as well.

If you're ever worried about dietary restrictions, simply ask one of the friendly staff members to see a menu of gluten free options. Or, if you have food allergies, visit their website mission-bbq.com/allergy for a comprehensive list for every menu item that could pose a threat for an allergic reaction.

Thanks to Mission BBQ, the residents of Davie can finally taste what good barbecue is.

Location: 2411 S University Dr., Davie
Hours: Monday through Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
mission-bbq.com



Off Shore Calendar

Free Line Dancing lessons
@Firedog Saloon

10 PM

FEB 17

NY Comedy Night Presents Michael Mack
@ Boca Black Box Center for the Arts

8 PM

Mutemath
@Revolution Live

7:30 PM

FEB 18

Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games
@BB&T Center

7 PM

Guitar Gods Festival
@North Beach Bandshell

4 PM

FEB 19

Virginia Key GrassRoots Festival
@Historic Virginia Key Beach Park

9 AM

Festival Foodie Feud
@Festival Flea Market Mall

NOON

Bryan Adams
@Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater

8 PM

FEB 20

Victorian Tea Party
@Stranahan House

2 PM

Dinner with the Divas
@Lips

6:30 PM

FEB 21

Bowl & Skate
@Miami Beach EDITION

9 PM

FEB 23

Rihanna's 'Anti' is anti-climactic

By: **Chantel Grant**

After making fans wait for almost four years, Rihanna finally dropped another album.

The highly anticipated "Anti," released on Jan. 28, made fans go crazy on social media. Tweet after tweet, all anyone seemed to care about was that Rihanna's absence on the music scene was finally over. The self-titled "bad gal" finally put her fans out of their misery, as the album leaked, and Tidal officially released it. The album went straight to number one, and the Recording Industry Association of America even certified it platinum. But did "Anti" live up to the hype?

Truthfully speaking, the first listen to the album is disappointing. The songs are weird and lacked her usual catchiness. The only fun track is "Work," featuring Drake, and it's reminiscent of Rihanna's Caribbean upbringing. The two can do no wrong when they decide to collaborate, so the fact that the song was an instant hit came as no surprise.

However, a second listening to the album changes everything. "Love on the Brain" and "Close to You" displayed the Bajan's raspy but melodic voice, and "Pose" serves as a reminder that Rihanna is still the "bad gal" of the music industry. With lines such as "All my haters so so broke," we get a glimpse of that playful cockiness that fans love about her.

The album is composed differently than anything fans have ever heard from the singer. "Anti" still has her style and swagger, but the album, like almost everything Rihanna, pushes the boundaries, as some songs are a Travis Scott-esque: a mixture of heavy metal and hip-hop,

which is an interesting combination.

Unfortunately, "Anti" lacks the lyrical impact that her previous album, "Unapologetic," had. "Unapologetic" was all about conveying emotions through her words, which is why songs such as "Stay" and "Diamonds" did so well. With this album, few songs tap into the listener's emotions with lyrical complexity. Instead, the emotions in this album are found in the bass guitars and percussions, as Rihanna uses the acoustics and melody to give her album the kind of depth we usually expect from lyrics.

Even though the album is bursting with rhythm, fans won't hear any of these songs in the club anytime soon. "Work" is probably the only song that DJs will play from the album, which probably means that Rihanna purposefully didn't want "Anti" to be a mainstream album. Instead, the album is filled with gothic undertones and sexual innuendos that definitely take some getting used to.

This album won't make non-fans of Rihanna reconsider, but, for the "Navy," this is just Rihanna exercising her right to be artistic. The album didn't live up to its hype, and this isn't her best work. It was only released a few weeks ago, and the buzz surrounding the album is already dying down.

This album won't add any awards to Rihanna's collection, but fans must be thankful she finally released it.

Do you want to be a DJ?
RadioX is looking for volunteers

If interested visit us at the
Rosenthal Student Center, Room 104

RADIOX

Donate as you dance: Virginia Key Grassroots Festival

By: **Nicole Cocuy**
 @Current_Nicole

To promote local and international musicians and sustainability awareness, Virginia Key Grassroots will host the Virginia Key Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance from Feb. 18 to Feb. 21 on Virginia Key Beach.

Grassroots is a four-day not-for-profit music and cultural festival featuring performances by over 50 bands, including The Family Stone, The Wood Brothers and Charles Bradley. All of the proceeds of the event will go to local and international causes, like AIDS organizations and Doctors Without Borders.

Natalee Carroll, university outreach coordinator for Virginia Key Grassroots, said the festival lineup will be diverse, representing a variety of music genres.

“Funk, jazz, bluegrass, electronic, afro-Cuban, rock, blues, folk — there will be a very wide variety,” said Carroll. “The idea is to be as diverse and multicultural as possible.”

While local artists will perform at the festival, musicians from around the world will attend the festival, as well. Carroll said she hopes the blend of local and international talent will benefit the local community as much as it benefits the musicians.

“We want to nurture the local talent and also introduce locals to international and bigger movements, different ways of life, different

people and different music,” said Carroll. “I think that’s very beneficial for everybody to understand each other.”

In addition to music, the Grassroots Festival will include cultural workshops, like salsa dancing, African drum and dance, Colombian folklore percussion, morning meditation and other dance, music and healing arts courses.

The Grassroots Festival will also offer a variety of different activities for guests, including various arts and craft projects, instrument contests, a silent disco and a zen tea ceremony. For younger guests, Grassroots will also set up a children’s village, which is a tent with a full line-up of kid-friendly crafts, educational activities, obstacle courses and more.

Carroll said the cultural workshops and activities intend to unify and enrich the community.

“I think different cultural diversity and exposure is highly beneficial, especially for youths and in order to sort of bring people together,” said Carroll. “Music, art, dance and education are all wonderful ways that we can come together as a global community, not just individual, small communities. And also, it’s going to be very freaking fun.”

The festival will take place on the beach, and, for an additional \$60, festival goers can

camp on the beach for all four nights.

“The whole idea of actually having a festival on the beach is a cool idea, you know. We thought it would be nice,” said Carroll. “The beach is a pretty good place to camp and listen to music and take yoga and meditate and whatnot. The venue is perfect.”

Guests can bring their own tents, coolers and gear, but if they don’t have camping equipment, they can purchase gear from Project Shelter, a non-profit organization that is collaborating with the event. Project Shelter will sell tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, lanterns, water bottles, chairs and pillows. When the festival is over, guests can either choose to keep the equipment or donate it to Project Shelter, which will deliver the camping gear to a housing project in South Florida.

According to Carroll, Virginia Beach Grassroots prioritizes sustainability, and the festival’s programming and policies reflect that.

“[Sustainability] has always been part of the philosophy of the founders of Grassroots, the band Donna the Buffalo,” said Carroll. “The region they’re from in upstate New York is a very progressive area, and they’re constantly looking for new ways to better the environment and to protect it. It’s just part of their fundamental belief system, and it was sort of a no-brainer to

incorporate that into the festival.”

Through its zero waste mission, Grassroots promotes guests to bring their own reusable bottles and mugs and will also place recycling stations throughout the festival grounds. In addition, all vendors are required to use compostable materials. There will also be a sustainability expo at the festival to educate the festival’s attendees about environmental issues and solutions.

Also, if guests bike to the festival on Sunday, they can purchase their tickets half-priced.

Virginia Key Grassroots is also looking for volunteers for the festival. Carroll said volunteers can assist the festival in many different capacities, including working in the café, the ticket booth, decorating, stage set-up and the children’s village.

If attendees would like to volunteer, they can sign up online up to the day of the event. Those who volunteer for four hours will get a free one-day pass, and those who volunteer for 12 hours will get a free four-day pass.

For more information about the Virginia Key Festival of Music and Dance, including the line-up of performances and activities, or to sign up to volunteer, visit the festival’s website at virginiakeygrassroots.com.



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Seriously Kidding

a satire column

Planet of the spring breakers

By: **Roddia Paul**

This just in: a herd of spring breakers broke out of the Jungle Island Zoo here in Miami and are reportedly on their way to Daytona Beach. We advise you to stay indoors, gather your loved ones, and wait out the commotion.

Apparently, a zoo employee was about to give the spring breakers their daily feeding of booze and burgers when one spring breaker trampled him and stole the keys to the cage. The rest of the group trampled the worker, who wishes to remain nameless, as they frantically escaped. Before leaving the zoo, the spring breakers raided the food storage and took all of the remaining booze.

Security attempted to stop the crazed spring breakers from escaping, but were highly unsuccessful. In a last-ditch effort, the police arrived at the front of the zoo and asked the spring breakers to halt and put their hands up. Each spring breaker, hands full of beverages, looked at the cops and charged. The leader of the pack stood 6'2 and was barefoot and chiseled. Running on all fours, he jumped on top of a police car, raised a beer to his head, and screamed "This is college," as he beat one fist on his chest.

Animal cruelty laws prevented the cops from using harsh force on the spring breakers, so they fled the scene. No major injuries have been reported; however, several car dealerships are missing their Jeep Wranglers, and Sam's Club reported that their Nathan's hot dogs are missing.

The owner of the zoo said, in a statement, "After no zoo in Florida would keep the spring breakers, I thought this would be a challenge that would triple my revenue. This species is distinct in nature, and it is so hard to get up close to them in their natural habitat, the beach. Keeping them here at the zoo meant that people from all over could see the species do its everyday rituals of beer pong and belly flops into the manmade

beach we provided them with. I never once thought they would lose control."

You know we like to hit you with the news first, so when my studio got word that the spring breakers were heading to Daytona, we packed up the news van and hit the road. Before we knew it, we were in a car chase alongside local police, animal control, the Humane Society and Budweiser. When we arrived at Daytona Beach, the spring breakers were in full spring-break mode. It had been exactly six years since they had been in their natural habitat, and the ferocious mammals were homesick.

The spring breakers were chugging booze and flinging Frisbees, and the alpha male was in the middle of crowd surfing. To top it all off, Budweiser began flinging beers to the already aggressively drunk spring breakers. That was a huge mistake. Instantly, the alpha fell from his reign at the hand of a police officer who shot him with a tranquilizer. The rest of the pack was in uproar, and they began intensely playing beer pong, their ultimate defense. The police had to think fast and, as back up, called in a SWAT team to take the beastly pack down.

The next thing we knew, the pack lied unconscious in the back of the animal control vehicle, and back to the zoo they went. Sources said that the spring breakers are now back in their second home, the Jungle Island Zoo, but, this time, under high surveillance and security. You should have done that the first time, Miami — you had to learn the hard way, like usual. On the bright side, although this was a major scare, no spring breakers or civilians were hurt during the outbreak.

So, you already know, it's your girl Robin signing out. For video clips of the spring breakers, visit our website www.getyo411.com. Thanks for reading, guys, and tune in to the "411" blog for tomorrow's topic: who Donald Trump's hair stylist is and how he got a toupee to grow from Trump's scalp.

White History Month: Should this be a thing?

By: **Shayla Rooks**

Everyone knows that February is Black History Month and Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month; there is at least one culturally historic holiday celebrated every month. Among the multitude of different cultures celebrated every month, white history has been excluded. So the question is: should there be a White History Month?

Drumroll, please. No, there should not be a White History Month. First off, the history class we were forced to take during school is basically about the accomplishments of the white community. Of course, there's a small section devoted to discussing minority history, but that's it. Everything else is dedicated to white people: how they started America, who signed the Declaration of Independence and so on.

Throughout middle school and high school, we had social studies courses that taught us all about American history, which is the same thing as what many would consider to be white history. With that said, why would we need to devote a whole month to what we learn every day? It's a fact that white people have greatly contributed to America's foundation, but can we learn about what the other under commercialized races and ethnicities have accomplished?

Additionally, we have culturally historic months to celebrate the progress made as we struggled toward freedom. Historic months, such as Black History Month or Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrate the accomplishments that the people of those cultures have achieved and offer an opportunity to learn about the hardships they had to endure as they made

their way towards a better life. These months also show the determination that these people possessed to be able to push forward, even when they were denied their rights. History months should be dedicated to those cultures who were not privileged with rights and freedom but fought for what they believed in and achieved their dream. This is not true of white people.

The only reason that some people want a white history month is because there are many other cultures celebrated during the year, which they perceive is "racist." However, there is a white history month; it's every other month of the year. The couple of months that minorities claim for their celebrations isn't being racist; rather, it's just taking the time to recognize history and accomplishments that would otherwise go unnoticed.

With the belief that, in the U.S., all things should be equal, one would think that everyone here deserves to be treated the same. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Having a white history month would draw attention to the wrong people. For example, holidays such as President's Day or the Fourth of July are celebrated to recognize the great leaders of our country and the struggle that people went through to gain independence for our citizens. Having a white history month would create a deeper rift between races and would be unnecessary.

So, should White History Month be a thing? No. As much as it may seem that white history isn't celebrated, white history is all around us.

No new friends

By: **Roddia Paul**

In Kanye West's recent single, "Real Friends," he cynically describes all the friends he has lost as he became famous and how he had to learn the true definition of friendship. This, unfortunately, is the anthem for friendship in 2016.

Whether we would like to admit it or not, many of us haven't been real friends to the people we refer to as our second family and vice versa because we are becoming increasingly self-centered. But how can we not be, with the way pop culture influences us to be materialistic and greedy?

Music and pop icons often glorify being your own best friend and not trusting others, when we should be striving for neither. The belief that doing things on our own makes us better than those who do it with help influences our perception of friendships. Instead of seeing a friendship as a bond, many of us see it as beneficial, and, if it does not have a material value, it has no value at all.

The problem with young adults, especially college students, is that we are in the most fun part of our lives, so we often get caught up in what's trendy, and we forget to do important things like maintaining healthy relationships for the future.

There are three type of friends in this world: the genuine friend, the moocher friend and the jealous friend. The saddest part is the former is the least common nowadays. College students change friends more than they wash their laundry, and then we wonder why we can't trust anyone.

OK — let's not jump to conclusions. It is very true that we outgrow people, or, sometimes, bad things happen that cause us to part ways with someone we thought we would be friends with forever. But these two exceptions don't back up this friendless mentality. Whether we would like to admit it or not, we all need assistance, and we should not let the fear of someone being a bad friend discourage us from

seeking support from others.

That's not to say that we should become dependent on people or that all friendships entail some sort of obligation, but that is the beauty of friendship. True friendship is about being able to call that one friend when hard times come. Instead, we have friends like The Plastics in "Mean Girls," who all secretly hate each other almost as much as they hate themselves, and friends like in "Dawson's Creek," who try their hardest to ruin and/or come in between the happiness of other friends.

It's almost like no one can be genuinely happy for anyone else, and that's not what friendship is all about. We shouldn't become friends with people because we hope that, later in the future, we'll benefit from their success. The truth is, friendship means helping to motivate each other and supporting each other on the journey to success. Whether or not we make it, we should still be there for our friends.

In "Real Friends," West even talks about how he barely calls his "friends" and that he only sees them on holidays, which is just preaching to the choir. Everything is text this and tweet that, and the longest phone calls we make are to say, "Hey, I'm outside," as we go to visit our friends for the first time in months.

Not everyone in our generation practices the art of fake friendship; however, it is definitely a growing epidemic, so much so that people are starting to have a hard time trusting others. Some of us can count the amount of real friends we have had up until now on one hand and still have fingers left over — that's disheartening.

This rant may not apply to those of us who think we are real friends, but it is definitely important for all of us to reclaim the meaning of friendship and remain the good friends we are or become the ones we should be. College is hard enough — everyone could use a real friend or two.



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HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR MIDTERMS?

SHARK SPEAK



"I like to write everything down from class and put them on flash cards, and then I use the flash cards to help me study as far as a week ahead. Being organized and taking good notes is always very helpful."

- Maria Salaverria, freshman biology major



"To be completely honest, I try not to think about midterms until about three days before midterm week. To get prepared, I get a lot of espresso, take a good, long sleep the night before, and then I get my beach stuff ready. I like to go to the beach or somewhere off campus so I can just focus on studying, relax and have no distractions or time restrictions."

- Amy Anfinrud, sophomore marine biology



"I really like to join study groups. I feel like I am more disciplined while studying my material if I have people there who push me to focus and study. I just think that study groups help you stay on track, and the input of others is beneficial."

- Brianna Law, freshman marine biology major



"I study by reviewing all of my past notes, quizzes and tests, making sure to focus mostly on the parts that I got wrong or struggled with, and, sometimes, I even form study groups so that I can have discussions about the material with fellow classmates."

- Lauren Santana, freshman education major



"I like to focus on stress relief. Midterm week can be very overwhelming, and to make sure I perform my best, I like to detox my stress by doing yoga, eating well and getting a lot of sleep."

- Krystal Khemkaran, junior psychology major



"I try my best to pace myself and not overdo it with studying. Midterm week can make us feel exhausted, and I just prefer to review my notes and take my time."

- Casey Glass, sophomore marine biology major



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