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The Current

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Curing senioritis

P. 8



Dance for fitness

P. 11



Oscar nominees

P. 12



Local elections matter, too

P. 14

Time to get tickets for TEDxNSU

By: **Grace Ducanis**

@GraceDucanis

Tickets are now available for the fifth annual TEDxNSU, an event that features a series of short talks from students and faculty, on March 12 from noon to 5 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center Performance Theatre.

TEDxNSU, hosted by the College of Psychology, will showcase NSU community member's ideas and inspire intellectual analysis. Nine NSU faculty members and students from different colleges and departments will speak on this year's theme, "time."

To comedian and YouTuber Stephen Rafferty, junior communication studies major, TEDxNSU isn't traditional entertainment.

"It's more of someone telling their stories and giving opinions and a different perspective from what someone might normally consider," he said. "The speakers are from all walks of life, so you get something unique from each speaker. Someone who wants to learn different things from different people should attend."

Rafferty will present a spoken word piece titled "The State of Time" on how time impacts the human psyche. Rafferty said he looks forward to interacting with the TEDxNSU audience.

"I want to get [the audience] motivated and inspired to do whatever they want to do in terms of goals, dreams and aspirations," he explained. "I want people to realize that even though they're not the best at everything, they have the tenacity and experience and work ethic to do what they want to do. Time is everything, and all decisions are affected by time."

To prepare for his talk, Rafferty said he practices the verbal part of his presentation



PHOTO PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM L. BOUCHER GILL
The audience displays their Shark pride at TEDxNSU at last year's event.

every day and tries to simulate the feeling of presenting in front of a large crowd. He studied performance-based TED talks when creating his own.

"Spoken word has a lot of elements of rap," he said. "There are a lot of rhymes and lyrical transitions, so you can't really mess up, or you'll affect the speech as a whole."

Rafferty heard about TEDxNSU his sophomore year of college and applied online this year to speak.

"I thought this would be a cool opportunity, and it's not something you do every day," he said. "TED's a pretty big organization and it will be a very unique experience."

Rheanna Rutledge, a visiting professor in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social

Sciences, heard about the event through The Current.

"I've watched a lot of TEDx events on YouTube, and I've always been inspired by them," she said. "I thought it was important to put myself out there in the same way I ask my students to."

Rutledge plans to use her experiences as a lead social scientist with the U.S. Special Forces to talk about the importance of living in the moment.

"We have to live in the now," she explained. "We're not guaranteed any moment in our lives, and at any moment our lives could end, so we need to find meaning in what we're doing with our lives. It's ironic that I'm talking living in the now, but, in writing the speech, I have to go back

to past events in my life."

Rutledge said she sees her TED talk as an opportunity to encourage people to break out of their routines and open themselves up to new opportunities. Writing the presentation has challenged her because she wants to make her personal experiences, especially her religious experiences, helpful to an audience who doesn't have the same experiences.

"I'm speaking about something so deeply personal," Rutledge said. "It's a lot more challenging than talking about something that you can disconnect from."

Qaas Shoukat, freshman biology major, will also present at TEDxNSU about how technology affects peoples' perceptions of time.

"Technology is so quick and so instant, and all sections of our society are moving in that direction," Shoukat explained. "For some things, it's great, but, in some situations, you can't control how much time something takes, you get impatient and that's not good. You become angry and make wrong decisions because you're not thinking right."

Rafferty said that the presentation is based on the fact that words are powerful.

"You get to control the crowd based on what you're saying," he said. "You can make them pumped up, you can make them excited, you can make them interested, you can make them inspired."

Tickets are \$10 for NSU students and \$25 for non-NSU students. To get tickets for TEDxNSU, visit psychology.nova.edu/tedxnsu.

NSU tool eases transfer process for prospective undergraduates

By: **Li Cohen**

@Current_Yakira

One of the most difficult aspects of enrolling in any university is transferring credits from advanced placement, dual enrollment classes or a previous institution. To help ease this transition, NSU's Transfer Evaluation Services (TES) worked with education technology company CollegeSource, Inc. to create the Transfer Credit System, which shows students course equivalencies for credits they have earned.

The online tool has more than 1000,000 equivalencies from regionally-accredited institutions in the U.S. Using the tool, prospective students select their prior institution and see a list of courses that will transfer to NSU and their equivalent courses. Once students find an equivalency, they can also see the credits,

departments and prerequisites associated with the course at NSU.

Randi Miletsky, associate director of TES, said the new system will make the transfer process faster and more efficient for prospective students.

"Because it's web-based, and we have over 100,000 courses in the database already, if we have to add courses to it, it'll enhance how we get the equivalencies done," she said. "Anybody within the university can get into the website, and it's much easier and convenient to use to find out course equivalency."

Students can apply up to 90 degree-applicable transfer credits toward their degrees, including credits for College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), proficiency exams and

experiential learning experiences. Only courses in which students earned a grade of "C" or higher will be transferred.

Although courses may be transferrable, the website states it is not guaranteed that credits for those courses will satisfy degree requirements. There also may be some courses and/or institutions that are not currently in the system but are transferrable.

TES formed in 2008, and, until now, only specific people within the department could access its internal database. After conducting research on other programs, they implemented the online tool, which is in place at other universities.

Miletsky said that the new system is

expected to enhance undergraduate recruitment.

"You can have a person out in the Midwest who says, 'Hey I want to go to NSU,' and they'll be able to [figure out course equivalencies] themselves, and then just contact the admissions office directly," Miletsky said. "It'll make students want to come to NSU."

If students' courses don't transfer, they can contact TES at esstes@nova.edu. To see NSU's transfer policy, visit nova.edu/tes.

For more information, visit the Transfer Evaluation Services website at nova.edu/tes. To access the tool, visit TES's website and click on the link for Transfer Credit System.

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NEWS ANCHOR

Stay up to date with international events.

Former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali dead at 93

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, accomplished Egyptian diplomat who served as United Nations secretary-general for one term from 1992 to 1996, passed away at 93 on Feb. 16 at a Cairo hospital after breaking his pelvis. Boutros-Ghali was the first U.N. chief from Africa and the only secretary-general to serve a single term after stepping down amidst a clash with the Clinton administration and an attempt to reform the U.N. He negotiated a landmark peace deal with Israel in 1979 while serving as a diplomat, and his grandfather, Boutros Ghali Pasha, served as Egypt's prime minister from 1908 to 1910.

Indian police arrest student union president on sedition charges

Following a rally against hanging of Mohammed Afzal Guru in 2013, police arrested Kanhaiya Kumar, president of the student union at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, for allegedly using anti-India slogans. University professors condemned Kumar's arrest as a display of "excessive police action" and called for police to release Kumar, saying his arrest only aggravated the situation. Kumar was in police custody for three days and denied the charges against him, saying, "I dissociate myself from the slogans which were shouted in the event. I have full faith in the Constitution of the country." Afzal Guru, convicted in 2001 for plotting to attack India's parliament, denied involvement in the attack that left 14 dead. Correspondents confirmed a recent increase in the number of sedition charges in India.

Police perform one of the largest drug busts in Australian history

Authorities seized \$900 million worth of liquid methamphetamine bound for Hong Kong smuggled in imported silicon bra inserts, Australian federal police said. After a three-month long anti-drug operation that concluded in December, authorities found nearly 190 liters of the drug hidden in thousands of bra inserts and hundreds more liters, as well as crystal meth, hidden in art supplies, estimating the total value at \$1 billion. Police arrested three Hong Kong nationals and one Chinese national, charging them for importation and manufacture of the drug.

Israel imprisons former prime minister

Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, 70,

became Israel's first premier to go to jail, beginning his 19-month imprisonment for bribery and obstruction of justice last week. Olmert entered Maasiyahu prison after his bribery conviction in 2014, in which he was accused of accepting bribes in exchange for promoting a real-estate project while he was mayor of Jerusalem and trade minister, prior to becoming prime minister. In a three-and-a-half minute video Olmert released the day before going to prison, he accepted his sentence but emphasized his attempts "to create an opening for hope and a better future of peace, happiness and well-being" while prime minister, rejecting the corruption charges. Olmert was prime minister of Israel from 2006 to 2009, when he resigned because of the corruption allegations.

Bosnia applies for EU membership

President Dragan Covic submitted Bosnia's application for European Union membership to Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister in Brussels, hoping that the EU will grant Bosnia candidate status within a year. Brussels, located in The Netherlands, currently holds the EU presidency and said Bosnia would need to improve its economy, judicial system, public administration and political institutions, among other aspects of society, after a brutal war in the 1990s divided the country along ethnic lines and destroyed its economy. Despite the signing of a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU trading bloc in 2008, unresolved ethnic tensions has prevented any possibility of reform, causing a 40-percent unemployment rate. In 2014, nearly 70,000 Bosnians left the country in search of economic opportunity.

Great Britain to introduce new sexting guidelines

To avoid criminalizing minors who send sexually explicit photos to each other, the National Police Chiefs Council in England and Wales announced that it was developing new guidelines for reporting children who sext consensually. The council will send the rules to schools and police; the rules will advise teachers on when to report sexting to police. Parents and professionals will be able to exercise their own judgments. Current Home Office rules state that individuals must report any incidence of sexting to police. Taking and sending indecent photos under 18 is illegal in England and Wales, even if the sender and recipient are both under 18. A 2015 report showed that police investigated 1,000 minors for sexting between 2012 and 2014.

The Current

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VITA offers students free income tax assistance

By: **Natalie Payan and Li Cohen**

 @Current_Yakira

As the April 18 deadline to report taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) approaches, many students are trying to find out how and where to complete their tax returns.

To help students complete their income taxes, the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) is providing free tax return assistance until April 17 in the Alvin Sherman Library, room 1048, on Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to irs.gov, through VITA, IRS-certified volunteers provide income tax return preparation and electronic filing assistance to those making \$54,000 a year or less, people with disabilities, limited English-speaking people and the elderly.

Some students believe learning how to file taxes is important, including sophomore biology major Angelica Castillo.

"I have no idea how to do taxes," Castillo said. "Students should [utilize the program] if it will benefit them in the end."

Individuals or businesses who receive an income during the year must file their taxes yearly. If that individual or business paid excess taxes in the filed year, they will receive a tax refund.

To prepare taxes at a VITA session, students must bring a photo ID, social security

cards for themselves and their dependents, wage and earning statements from employers, interest and dividend statements from banks, health insurance statements, routing and account numbers for their bank, and, if applicable, a copy of last year's federal and state returns, health insurance exemption certificate, and copies of income transcripts from the IRS.

Individuals filing returns use Form 1040. Students filing also use Form 1098-T, which qualifies them for educational expenses that usually count for tax deductions and translates into more money received in tax refunds. Form 1098-T can be accessed on each student's account at webstar.nova.edu under the "Student" tab. Student employees can also access their W-4 information and W-2 forms under the "Employee" tab on the site.

In previous years, NSU's Accounting Club provided free tax assistance. This is the first year that VITA is preparing taxes on campus. Appointments are not required to attend.

Jenna Kopec, first year in secondary English education student, said tax assistance will greatly benefit students.

"It would be nice to do my own taxes because my parents are doing them right now," she said. "I like to not have to depend on other people."

Students will also need their tax forms to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2016-2017 academic year.

The VITA program also offers income tax certification classes from September through December, providing everything from books to free parking passes. Once the person passes the exam, he or she becomes income tax-certified and can volunteer with VITA and help others file their taxes. The certification lasts for one year.

Sonya Gopalani, master's in accounting student and historian of the Accounting Club, has taken part in the VITA program and believes learning to file taxes is important.

"VITA teaches people why numbers matter and the importance of doing tax returns," she said.

For those who want to volunteer with VITA, visit research.net/r/vitacsignup, and you will be directed to a local VITA organization. In Davie, the program is run through Hispanic Unity of Florida, an organization that strives to empower people to be "self-sufficient, productive and civically engaged."

Jodie Neufville, sophomore management major and treasurer of the accounting club, believes students will learn a great deal from the program.

"I think students should give the program

a try and see how they like it," Neufville said. "They can also ask the professor to break the material down for them, and there are peers they can talk to there."

The IRS reported that, last year, more than 90,000 people became volunteer tax preparers through the program and helped prepare over 3.7 million tax returns.

Gopalani said the program is beneficial to anyone who wants to get involved.

"It's a great program for anyone, especially accounting students," she said. "It helped me get a job, and it looks great on your resume."

Gopalani said the VITA program will help students grow in the long run.

"It's so good to volunteer for something that's real life and that you benefit from," she said. "You learn more about finances and how to organize your income taxes. As a student, it's really good for networking. I recommend it to everyone."

For questions regarding tax return assistance times, contact the Alvin Sherman Library Circulation Desk at 954-262-4601. To learn more about filing taxes and VITA, visit irs.gov.

Recyclemania: Cleaning up campus

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

NSU is cleaning up with Recyclemania, a 10-week national competition between universities to recycle the most waste from Jan. 24 to April 2.

Schools rank in the competition based on the percentages of “waste diverted,” or the amount of waste recycled divided by the amount of waste not recycled. Last year, NSU diverted 24 percent of its waste during the eight-week competition, ranking 162nd out of 232 schools for waste diverted and 13th out of 142 schools for waste minimized.

Anthony Iovino, assistant director of waste management, reports NSU’s progress each week. To help NSU do better in the competition, he said that students should try to recycle as best they can and inform the school and SGA of issues they see that are keeping NSU from becoming more eco-friendly.

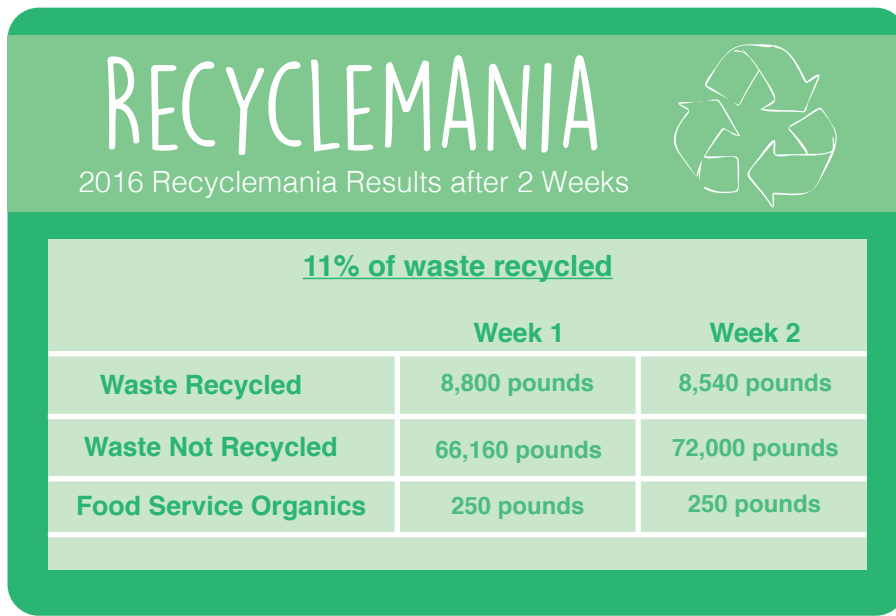
“We all need to be good stewards of the environment,” Iovino said. “Some people use scare tactics, saying if you don’t do this, terrible things will happen. But I think we just need to be smart about the planet we’re leaving for our kids and our future. If each one of us is a good steward, and we do the things we can, it will magnify and have a big effect.”

Iovino said that recycling is even more of a focus this year for NSU since NSU signed the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge, which is not just about recycling but also encompasses sustainability in general.

Campus groups are getting involved with Recyclemania this year, helping to spread the word about the competition and educate students about recycling. Green Sharks, which students started last year, is a student sustainability club focused on advocating for sustainable initiatives on campus and educating students and faculty on why sustainability is important. They introduced the Climate Pledge Act to administration at NSU.

At SEA Thursdays, Green Sharks hosts a table where students can sign a recycling pledge and check on NSU’s progress in Recyclemania.

Cassi Lobaugh, junior environmental studies major and president of Green Sharks, said that she hopes more students will start thinking about how their actions affect



sustainability.

“If students are more conscious about what they’re throwing away, then they’ll remember to walk a few more steps to put something in a recycling bin, and that’s a big deal,” she said. “Every cup matters.”

For Lobaugh, Recyclemania is a way for members of the NSU community to work together.

“Everyone likes a little bit of competition, and recycling is just an important aspect of life,” she said. “We only have so many materials on this earth, and we don’t want them all going into landfills. Recycling is easy to do, but people just don’t do it.”

NSU has a single-stream recycling program, which means that recyclables don’t have to be sorted into mixed papers, glass and plastic before leaving campus, making recycling easier. Single-stream recyclables include paper, cardboard, aluminum and tin or steel cans, as well as plastic bottles and containers. Food waste, plastic bags, plastic wrap and foam cups or containers cannot be recycled at NSU.

Iovino installed a food digester last year in University School cafeteria as part of a pilot program to divert more organic waste from landfills and make NSU more sustainable. If

the program is successful, he said he wants to get approval to put food digesters in more of NSU’s kitchens.

To make the campus more eco-friendly, Green Sharks wants to get rid of plastic and paper utensils and dishes in the University Center food court and create a compost garden.

“It will be really cool to set an example for Florida schools,” Lobaugh said. “If we can get students to remember to recycle, that would be a success.”

Students can put recyclables into the blue bins around campus. Some bins list what materials are recyclable and what materials aren’t. Visit recyclemaniacs.org to learn more about the nationwide initiative and NSU’s participation.

NEWS BRIEFS

Show off your talent

Applications are open until March 25 to participate in the annual NSU’s Got Talent, which will be held on April 6 at 8 p.m. at the Shark Fountain. The talent show, set up like NBC’s “America’s Got Talent,” is an opportunity for individuals and student organizations to show off their talents, ranging from singing to demonstrating sign language. The first-place winner will receive \$500, the second-place winner will receive \$300, and the third-place winner will receive \$200. “America’s Got Talent,” is an opportunity for individuals and student organizations to show off their talents, ranging from singing to demonstrating sign language. To sign up, visit the Office of Student Activities. For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities.

Take a survey for a chance to win

The NSU Libraries are conducting a survey to learn students’ opinions on the resources available until Feb. 25. Participants will get a chance to win one of three \$100 Barnes & Noble gift cards. Students must be 18 years or older to win a prize. To fill out the survey, visit nova.edu/librarysurvey. For more information, contact the Alvin Sherman Library reference desk at refdesk@nova.edu.

Shark Dining to host theme night

Shark Dining will host “A Night at the Oscars” on Feb. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center food court. Staff will serve authentic dishes that some of Hollywood’s biggest stars consume. They will also host a movie trivia session for a chance to win dining dollars. For more information, contact Stefanie Furniss, director of operations, at 954-262-5330 or stefanie.furniss@compass-usa.com.

Stay tuned with regional town hall meetings

President Hanbury will host student town hall meetings at regional campuses until mid-April. Meetings will be in Tampa at noon on Feb. 26 and 11 a.m. on Feb. 27, in Puerto Rico on March 9 and 10 at 6 p.m., in Jacksonville on April 1 at noon and 6 p.m., in Palm Beach on April 7 at noon and in Orlando on April 14 at 10 a.m. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but would like to submit a question, fill out the form at nova.edu/webforms/town-hall/question-student.html.

Volunteer to clean the waterways

The 39th annual Broward County Waterway Cleanup, where people clean waterways of debris, will be March 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at more than 30 sites around the county. Sites include, but are not limited to, Alsdorf Park, Dania Beach Pier, John U. Lloyd State Park and Lauderdale Isles. Registration is required. Trash Bash, a celebratory party for volunteers, will follow the event and will have food, drinks, raffle prizes and live music. For a full list of volunteer sites, for more information and to volunteer, visit waterwaycleanup.org.

Register for Scholarship Golf Classic

Registration is open for the 31st annual NSU Scholarship Golf Classic, which is set for April 8 at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens. Proceeds from the event will go toward scholarships and academic support for NSU’s student-athletes. Sponsorship levels for participants includes Corporate, which is \$5,000, Host, which is \$10,000, Presenting, which is \$15,000, and Mako, which is \$25,000. Each sponsorship level offers foursomes, pre-tournament dinners, tournament day meals, signage offerings, shopping experiences at Nike and inclusion of corporate logo on print material and event website.

Go over the edge in Broward

Gilda’s Club South Florida, a non-profit cancer support organization, will host the fourth annual Over the Edge for Gilda’s rappelling event on March 12. This year’s event will be at Ft. Lauderdale Beach, where participants who have raised \$1,000 or more for the organization can rappel down the side of the Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach, a local hotel. Though only qualifying participants can rappel, the event is open to the public. Ninety rappel spots are available, and all proceeds will go to support groups, lectures, workshops, children’s and teen programs and social events. To register, visit gildasclubsouthflorida.org. For more information, contact Kim Vassar at 954-763-6776 or kim@

On Shore Calendar

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
@Library 1048
1 - 5 PM
FEB 27

SGA Senate Meeting
@Rosenthal 200
3 - 5 PM
MAR 2

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
@Library 1048
1 - 5 PM
MAR 5

SEA Board General Meeting
@Rosenthal 200
12 - 1 PM

Zeta Phi Beta Informational
@Commons 126
7:20 - 9:20 PM

MAR 7

Sophomore Summit
NOON - 1 PM

Open Mic Night ft. G-Yamazawa
@Flight Deck
7 PM

MAR 8

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Fact-checking the Republican town halls

On Feb. 17 and 18, CNN hosted back-to-back GOP town halls. Presidential candidates Ben Carson, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio debated in Greenville on Wednesday night, while Donald Trump, Jeb Bush and John Kasich debated in Columbia on Thursday night. The evening of Feb. 20, Bush suspended his campaign, so his quotes were not included in this article.

Candidates made the following statements throughout the debates, and The Current staff determined the verdicts after heavy research of reputable sources. Full transcripts of the debate can be found online at CNN, The New York Times and other sources.

“Now how did that [the government saying it would eliminate poverty] work out? You know, \$19 trillion later, 10 times more people on food stamps, more poverty...out-of-wedlock births, crime, incarceration. Everything is not only worse, it’s much worse.”—Ben Carson, on balancing traditional Christian values with social issues

Debt – According to the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. has a debt of over \$19 trillion as of Feb. 2016.

Food Stamps – The Food Research and Action Center reported that, from November 2010 to November 2015, the number of people in the U.S. using food stamps increased from 45,415,445 to 45,453,806, which equals a 10-percent increase.

Poverty – According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people below 50 percent of poverty increased from 20,541 in 2010 to 20,803 in 2014.

Births to unmarried mothers – Childtrends.org reported that, from 1960 to 2014, there was a gradual increase of births to unmarried women. The percentage of all births that were to unmarried women was approximately 33 percent in 2000 and 40.3 percent in 2015.

Crime and incarceration – According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. increased from 500,000 in 1980 to 2.3 million in 2008. However, the Brookings Institute found that since the 1990s, the U.S. has had a steady decline in crime rates; between 1990 and 2012, the rate fell approximately 45 percent.

VERDICT: Mostly true. The only comment that was wrong was the crime rate, which has gone down.

“In 2006, for example, when the Democrats took over Congress, Donald Trump and his son gave about three times as much to the Democrats as they did to the Republicans. They helped fund putting Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid as Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate. They helped set the stage for Obamacare.”—Ted Cruz, on Donald Trump

The Washington Post reported that, in 2006, Trump gave \$25,000 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. His son, Donald Trump Jr., also donated \$22,500 to the committees. That year, both Trumps gave approximately \$1,000 to the Republican committees. There are also numerous records of Trump donating large sums of money to Democrats and Democratic groups and significantly less money to Republicans and Republican groups.

VERDICT: True.

“And I’ll tell you the problem with the Cuban government. It’s not just a communist dictatorship, it is an Anti-American communist dictatorship. The Cuban government, three years ago, helped North Korea evade U.S. sanctions. They were caught trying to sell missile parts to North Korea but nothing happened...The Cuban government today harbors hundreds of fugitives of American judicial, Medicare fraud — there are people there who have stolen your money.”—Marco Rubio, on if he would visit Cuba as president

In 2013, the United Nations Security Council filed economic sanctions against North Korea after the country conducted its third underground nuclear test on Feb. 12. After this sanction passed unanimously, Cuba and Singapore organized illegal shipments of Cuban fighter jets and missile parts to North Korea, as reported by Al Jazeera. Included in the shipment were instructions on how to load and conceal the shipment and how to make false statements to customs officers in Panama.

A year-long investigation by the Sun Sentinel found that Cubans are legally-permitted to enter the U.S. and return to Cuba without visas or background checks of their criminal histories. Investigators found that Cuban criminals had staged car accidents for insurance fraud, hijacked trucks, sold Medicare numbers and wired money through Western Union.

In one case, it was found that a Cuban scam artist sent millions of dollars to Cuba, allowing the government to seize \$200,000 of that sum.

Cubans are allowed to come and go so easily because of their refugee status; once they come to the country, they are automatically considered political refugees and can receive welfare, food stamps and more. If they stay in the U.S. for a year and a day, they receive a green card.

VERDICT: True.

“And if you look at unemployment with African American youth...it’s 58 percent, 59 percent. Probably even higher than that. If you take African Americans...in prime age, 30, 40, 45, even 50, their numbers are not comparable to what white men or women in business are. It’s not good.”—Donald Trump, on small businesses

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of Jan. 2016, the unemployment rate for black or African-American youth aged 16 to 19 years old was 25.2 percent. The unemployment rate for black or African-American adults was 8.8 percent as of Jan. 2016.

The unemployment rate for white youth aged 16 to 19 years old was 14.4 percent, and the rate for white adults was 4.3 percent.

VERDICT: The general idea was correct, but the numbers were wrong. While Trump was correct in saying that the “numbers are not comparable to what white men or women in business are,” his statistics were significantly inaccurate.

“You know, I’ve spent 18 years on the board of Kellogg’s, 16 years on the board of Costco, learned a tremendous amount about business, both domestically and internationally, and a lot of things that people who are politicians who are running have never done.”—Ben Carson, on if he’s qualified to be commander-in-chief

The Detroit News reported that Carson was on the board of directors for Kellogg’s since 1997, and for Costco Wholesale Corp. since 1999. Both terms on the boards ended when Carson announced he was running for presidency in 2015.

VERDICT: True.

“For 80 years it has been the practice that the Senate has not confirmed any nomination made during an election year. And we shouldn’t make an exception now.”—Ted Cruz, on a hearing to replace recently deceased Supreme Court Justice Scalia

The New York Times reported that, since 1900, the Supreme Court has confirmed six nominees during an election year. The last time a justice was both nominated and confirmed in an election year, as reported by The Washington Post, was in 1940, which is 76 years ago.

VERDICT: False.

“We [the U.S.] have the highest combined corporate tax rate in the world...We are the last major industrial country that double taxes its companies from making money overseas. That’s why you have \$2 trillion of American corporate cash sitting overseas; \$2 trillion is equivalent to the GDP of Russia.”—Marco Rubio, on the

economy

There are 34 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), and, out of those countries, the U.S. has the highest combined corporate tax rate of 39.3 percent. The next highest country is France with 34.43 percent, according to OECD’s database for 2015.

In an article published by Time, it was found that the U.S. is the only industrialized country that taxes citizens who live in other countries. Bloomberg reported that, as a result, there were approximately \$2.1 trillion in profits from U.S. companies overseas last year. Microsoft Corp., Apple Inc. and Google Inc. are among the eight tech firms known for accounting for more than a fifth of this profit.

The World Bank reported that in 2013, the GDP of Russia was \$2.097 trillion.

VERDICT: True.

“We [the U.S.] spend more money per pupil than any country in the world by far, and we’re ranked number 30 in the world.”—Donald Trump, on spending cuts

OECD reported that, in 2011, the U.S. spent approximately \$11,000 per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student in elementary and secondary education and more than \$25,000 per FTE student in postsecondary education. Although Switzerland spends more per FTE student in elementary and secondary education with almost \$15,000 per student, the U.S. dominates expenditures for postsecondary education by over \$2,000.

U.S. spending is also well-above the OECD average for both categories.

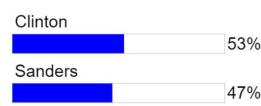
VERDICT: True.

Voter Results

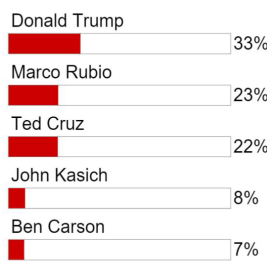
The voters in South Carolina and Nevada have cast their primary votes. See who’s in the lead.

South Carolina/ Nevada Primaries

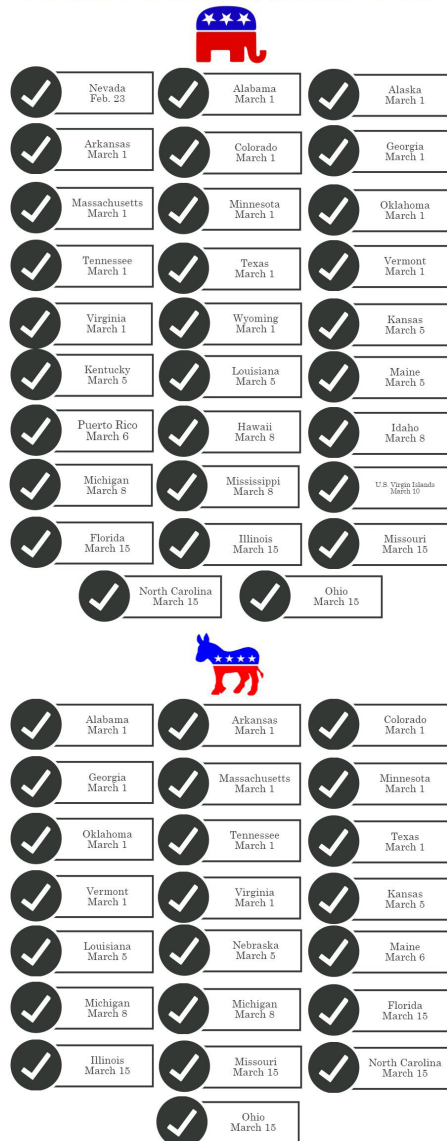
NV Dem. Primary Results



SC Rep. Primary Results



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Help fight children's cancer

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

NSU's Pediatrics Club will bring the fight against childhood cancer to campus with the PJammin' 5K on Feb. 28, where participants can run in their pajamas to raise money for cancer research, and a hair shaving/donation event on March 13.

The money raised from the 5K will go to St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization dedicated to children's cancer research. Two cancer survivors will speak at the race.

The hair shaving/donation event will take place in the Don Taft University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with undergraduate club Locks for Cause. Participants can choose to shave their heads to raise awareness about childhood cancers or donate at least 8 inches of hair to cancer patients.

Ashley Van Putten, second-year medical student and president of the Pediatrics Club, said the events will unite NSU in the fight against cancer.

"Cancer is so universal," she said. "It can affect anyone at any time, and it's so unexpected. These events are bringing our club, our class and people throughout the university together for a common cause."

Christina Baxter, first-year medical student and member of the Pediatrics Club, said that there isn't enough money allotted to children's cancer to help the number of child cancer patients.

"I hope that students who attend understand that there are organizations working to fight

against children's cancer and that they can partner with them as adults and as students," she said. "Hopefully, people don't need to be convinced that this is a worthy cause. Even if you haven't had a loved one touched by cancer, you can understand that it's awful, and who wouldn't work to change that?"

Roshni Marballi, second-year medical student and member of the Pediatrics Club, explained that children's cancer is different from other cancers, so it's important to raise awareness and money specifically for children's cancer research.

"When you're in school and studying all the time, events like this help you take a step back and realize how something like cancer affects somebody," she said. "You're trying to give back to your community and help in any way that you can, even if it's not in a medical sense. There's other ways to help, even if it's just to hold someone's hand through a rough time."

Marballi said that, last year, a classmate passed away because of brain cancer, and it hit her class really hard.

"You hear about people who die from cancer, but then it's someone you've known for a while," she said. "It really hits a nerve, so, last year, I donated my hair in his memory, and I want to keep these events going."

The Pediatrics Club hopes to raise \$10,000 for children's cancer research. So far, they've raised over \$1,000.

The minimum donation for the 5K is \$20,



PHOTO PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM R. MARBALLI
Thy Hoang Bui, second year medical student, shaved his head to raise awareness for children's cancer.

and the first 250 participants will receive a T-shirt and medallion.

Sign up for the 5K on the PJammin' 5K Facebook page. To find out more about the hair donation event, visit stbaldricks.org/events/nova2016. The events are open to everyone, and food and drinks will be provided.

For more information about the events or

the Pediatrics Club, email Van Putten at av523@nova.edu.

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THAT TIME I... JOINED PRESIDENT'S 64

By: **Robert Willis**

Robert Willis is a junior business and finance major with a minor in economics. He wants to join the Marine Corps and later on get his master's in finance. Willis is a member of the President's 64 and has been a proud member of the prestigious club for almost three years.

Like everyone else, coming to college was a drastic change in my life. With my newfound free time I quickly started filling it up with activities, organizations and friends. I had a mission to meet as many new people as possible. After all, I would be spending the next four years of my life with my fellow students. After one semester, I quickly found myself involved with numerous activities, including rushing a fraternity, participating in Super Sharks and joining numerous organizations. With so many involvements, I needed to prioritize and organize my time as efficiently as possible. So I paid a visit to the Office of Student Success to get my life together. It was after working with my student success coach that I found my college career take a sharp turn toward a very positive

direction: getting accepted into President's 64.

My success coach surprised me when she said, "I've put in an application for you to be a part of President's 64"; as a freshman, I had no idea what she meant or even what President's 64 was. In all honesty, I thought she recommended me for a scholarship, like the Super Sharks program. Just a few weeks later, I found myself going through a very intensive three-tier process consisting of a faculty/administrator recommendation, a thorough application and one of the most nerve-wracking interviews I've had thus far in college. It was only after the thorough process that I finally understood the magnitude of what that recommendation to President's 64 was and the importance the program has to the school for the students, the administration and the community.

President's 64 is a group of 64 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree-seeking students. All of the students who decide to join P64 are then trained on becoming student ambassadors for the president and to



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM R. WILLIS
Robert Willis makes the most of his college experience by getting involved on campus

represent him and the university at numerous events, including ambassador board meetings, recognition ceremonies, business meetings and president lunches. We act as bridges of communication between the students and the

administration, giving feedback on initiatives.

Personally, my favorite events are the ambassador board meetings, where students get to meet the people who link NSU to the surrounding community by spreading awareness throughout their personal connections. Among those at ambassador meetings are school board members, who put in the work to make sure that new initiatives are created to make the school more and more prestigious and valuable to students' lives. Because of P64, I have gained a deep appreciation for the people who help make our school great, and it's those people who have engrained the deep sense of pride I have for NSU.

From my experience, I've gained internship opportunities, connections that have helped my friends, and an appreciation for the people who donate and the opportunities that they give to students. My biggest piece of advice to incoming students and new P64 members is to take full advantage of what college has to offer and to be an active member in the school's community—we want nothing but success for you.

Being 21 is no excuse to overdo the fun

By: **Roddia Paul**

Sometimes, the excitement of getting to unwind after midterms may overshadow your thoughts about safety. To those students who are 21 or older, if you're planning on partying with your friends over break, trust going to hang some of a little guidance on how to safely while doing so, it can be helpful.

Phone home

After choosing your party destination, make sure that you tell at least one person where you are going and whom you are going with. You probably do not want your parents to know what you'll be doing with your friends; however, staying safe is more important than outsmarting your parents, so try to tell them everything they want to know before you leave. Moreover, you do not want to be in any danger and have no one know where you are. At least if you tell someone where you are, in the case of emergency, you'll have someone to count on.

Good things come in pairs

Think back to your elementary school days when you had to hold hands with your classmates as you walked across the treacherous hallways. OK, maybe you don't need to do something as drastic as that, but you still need to practice the buddy system. It does not matter how safe the area looks, how bright it is outside or how comfortable you feel in the environment; never go anywhere alone. Don't let your guard down, and make sure you take at least one friend with you everywhere you go.

Say no to DUI's

If you are 21 and older, spring break and

alcohol are probably synonymous, but with all the alternative forms of transportation, there is no reason anyone should be drinking and driving. If you are going out with friends, and you know you will be drinking, make sure that you have a designated driver who will not consume any alcohol. If no one wants to be the sober friend, then that means it's time to call a taxi or Uber. Sure, you'll have to spend some money, but at least you will make it home safely.

If you really want to be efficient, you can try getting a hotel near where you plan to hang out, so you and your friends can walk to a safe place and not have to worry about driving at all. Either way, you need to plan to drink responsibly if you plan on drinking. You do not want to do anything over spring break that will harm your record or your body; remember, this is supposed to be fun, not costly.

Remember that you're not in a movie

At some point, you'll probably find yourself having the urge to overdo it. Fight that urge. This is not the movies—crowd surfing doesn't usually happen, drunk driving actually leads to accidents, and jumping off a building into a pool can be fatal. Do not get carried away with being cool or using movies like "Spring Breakers" as your reference points. Here, in the real world, actions have consequences.

Have fun this spring break; you definitely deserve it after those gruesome midterms. Students who are of age, just remember that taking precaution and being safe will definitely make having fun even more enjoyable.

My life with a heart condition

By: **Carli Lutz**

@caaarlirose

Carli Lutz is a sophomore arts administration major with a graphic design minor. She is the Chief of Visual Design at *The Current*.

Since I was about 17 years old, I've had these episodes where I would experience crazy heart palpitations out of nowhere, and I felt like I couldn't breathe. I always thought these were just panic attacks triggered by stress from my workload at school, so I just shook them off as if they weren't that big of a deal. However, as I continued to learn more about how to handle my stress, they became more and more frequent and random.

During my first semester at NSU, I found out what was really going on; it wasn't the stress that I had originally thought it was. I found out that I have a heart valve disease.

In my freshman year, during my Principles of Management midterm, my heart felt like it was going to pop right out of my chest. Suddenly, while I was on the last question, I felt as if there was a butterfly trapped in my chest.

As soon as I left the classroom, it got much worse. I felt very dizzy, and my vision began to blur. When I checked my heart rate, it was at 275 beats per minute, which was absolutely off the charts. I was completely terrified, and I didn't think I would make it through what was happening to me. I frantically called my mom and asked her to take me to the hospital.

When we were in the emergency room, they blamed this episode on midterm stress. I knew that wasn't the case, though, as I was fairly confident that I had passed the exam without a hitch. Soon after I left the emergency room, I made my way to the cardiologist where I underwent various tests.

I was diagnosed with Mitral Valve Prolapse and Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT). Mitral Valve Prolapse, also known as Barlow Syndrome, is the irregular closure of the valve that's found between the heart's lower and upper left chambers. SVT is when your heart beats super fast for no reason whatsoever, and, with it, your heart rate may reach up to 300 bpm during an episode, which is far from normal.



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM C. LUTZ
Despite Lutz's heart conditions, she's involved on campus and makes the best out of the situation

While I know for sure that I have these conditions, my doctor thinks that I might have another heart problem as well. Soon, I will undergo testing to see if some of my heart problems stem from an electrical issue that's called Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. With Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, the heart has an extra electrical pathway that causes a rapid heart rate.

While what I have are two of the most common conditions in young people, they make life very frustrating. The condition of my heart makes my day-to-day life very unpredictable because it can go from zero to 100 really quickly. With my episodes happening without any notice or known trigger, it's hard to plan certain things because I don't know if it'll be a "bad heart day" or a good one.

Life with heart problems is hard, especially as at this point in my life, as I'm trying to live a healthier life with regular exercise. Having a bad heart is a constant struggle between wanting to get healthier and not wanting to risk overexertion and cause more heart problems, or even sudden death. My life with a heart condition is like a really bumpy road, but I'm trying my best to make it a bit smoother.

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RADIOX

Nontraditional students redefine the college experience

By: Chantel Grant

Undergraduate students are often defined as young students who use college as a vehicle to achieve greater opportunities and shape their identities.

While that definition may be true in many regards, there are times when what it means to be an undergraduate student extends beyond this simple definition. People like Marion Sherman, Jasmine Anthony and Nasser Vetiatic are redefining what it means to be undergraduate students.

Marion Sherman is a member of the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), sponsored by NSU for retirees, and has taught middle school for 22 years. This is her fifth semester at NSU; she is 75 years old.

Jasmine Anthony is a senior philosophy major, works as an overnight veterinary critical care nurse, is a professional salsa and Afro-Cuban dancer and is 33 years old.

Nasser Vetiatic earns his living as a nurse. Vetiatic is a philosophy major, a classical pianist and admits to being older than most students but prefers not to disclose his age.

All three students offered their perspectives on what it is like to pursue undergraduate degrees and what advice they have for their younger classmates.

“Age ain’t nothing but a number.” So while that may be enough for some to classify as a nontraditional student, in your opinion, what truly separates you from your 19- or 20-year-old classmates?

Vetiatic: “Definitely my life experiences, which help me tackle my studies differently, 19- to 20-year-olds still have the high school mindset and think they can just get by without too much studying. At the university level, you can’t really do that, unless you’re ‘Rain Man.’”

Anthony: “The one thing that separates me from the traditional 19- or 20-year-old student is my overall life experience. This will be my second degree. I received my first bachelor’s in zoology from Rutgers University. I have worked in a multitude of jobs before I had fallen in love with my career as a veterinary nurse. Just to give

you some insight, I was a producer for MTV the second season of the “Yo Momma” show. I handled the interviews. I did corporate property management and owned my own dog walking and pet sitting business. I also taught salsa classes for Columbia University students and performed with various dance teams in salsa and Afro-Cuban competitions. I have always been one to live a full life separate from my career.”

How have those life experiences shaped the way you deal with your assignments and professors?

Vetiatic: “It has made me more mature and more aware. You learn better time management skills, even though there may still be some procrastination — we all do it —but life experiences, good or bad, make you a well-rounded individual.”

Anthony: “That is a struggle because I already have a degree, and, with my age, it’s challenging not to feel undermined as a returning student. I have found that it’s best to get to know my professors. Unfortunately, their office hours are during the times when I’m asleep since I work the graveyard shift. Sometimes, it’s even hard to remember that I am a student rather than equal with my professor. Another way I make the adjustment is to understand exactly what the professor is looking for. Even traditional students have a hard time figuring out their professors, but at least they have the time to get to know their professors. It’s harder for me because I really don’t have the time.”

Why did you choose NSU?

Sherman: “Thankfully, I am here because NSU sponsors the Lifelong Learning Institute, which I am a member of, so I get to attend two classes a semester.”

Anthony: “When I had made a decision that I was going return to school, it was a tossup between Barry University and NSU. NSU won for their ability to be patient with my list of questions and concerns. Also, Professor McNaron was so kind to allow me to sit in his class to get a feel of the course. Even though Barry taught the same theories and concepts, the faculty at NSU won me over.”



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM R.PAUL
Vetiatic (left), Sherman (middle) and Anthony (right) are redefining the college experience as undergraduate students

How does your family feel about you being in college? And how do they show their support?

Anthony: “The only living member in my family is my mother. She is my everything and a full supporter. Even though my Latina heritage calls for me to be a married woman with children, my mother has always admired my tenacity to do what feels right. I was always a determined, headstrong child who never fit the traditional stereotypes of my Puerto Rican heritage. My mom understands why I go through the struggle and exhaustion because she can see my vision. Her support is demonstrated with our daily talks about the material and assignments from the professors. We usually do this at Café Bustelo, with galletas con mantequilla [crackers with butter]. Also, at times, she reads along with me so we can have an informal debate.”

What advice would you give to students just coming into college?

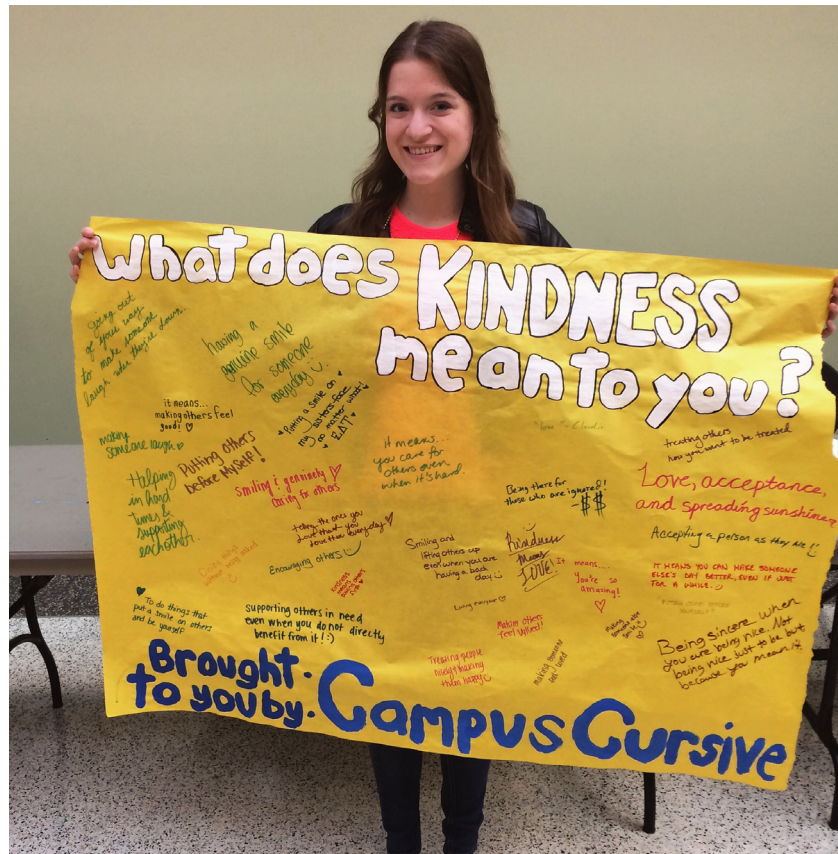
Sherman: “My advice to students is to try to discover what they love to do. If they choose a

job they love, it will never feel like work.”

Anthony: “Before anything, know yourself well, and be grounded in who you are. Never run behind the tail of the job; let the job come running after you. Enjoy living, and, if one is going to be a workaholic, like myself, make sure you have a plan of action for your future. As age creeps up, time becomes shorter. Plan right and accordingly with what you want.”

Vetiatic: “Try not to party like a rock star early on. Do your work, and try your best to do well in class. I always believe that you should never give up no matter what anyone tells you. Reach for the stars toward the heavens themselves.”

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



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Campus Cursive President Taylor Bertolini, freshman environmental science major, shows off her club’s banner that students signed at last week’s SEA Thursday.

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CAREER CORNER

Don't burn out: Guide to letting go of stress

By: **Emilio Lorenzo and Emily Tasca**

Emilio Lorenzo is the assistant director of career advisement in NSU's Office of Career Development. Emilio understands the importance of helping students reach their career goals and works with all students, including undergraduate, graduate and professional level students, to achieve their professional goals.

Emily Tasca is a member of the career advisement team in NSU's Office of Career Development. She works with current students and alumni at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.

Have you ever felt like you have too much on your plate, and you're unsure of how to balance responsibilities? This is probably a very common description of your undergraduate schedule. Whether social or academic, responsibilities can add up and sometimes feel overwhelming. It is how we respond to and manage stress that determines how well we will persevere through life's unpredictable obstacles.

Just as it is difficult to stop a pot of boiling water once it's spilling over, it is difficult to manage your own stress if you only react after it's reached a point beyond your control. Here are some ways that you can keep your stress to a minimum and feel well-balanced overall.

Organize your life

Just like Rey and Luke Skywalker helped to balance the force in Star Wars, effective time management and organizational skills can help you find a balance in your life. A good first step is to evaluate your short- and long-term goals.

Gaining a clearer picture as to where you want to go will help you anticipate challenges and overcome obstacles along the way.

Creating a daily and weekly schedule can help you stay on track with achieving initiatives you set for yourself. Laying everything out at the beginning of each week allows you to evaluate where you may have free time or where you have conflicting or overlapping responsibilities. Keep in mind "Murphy's Law": anything that can go wrong will go wrong. Having a plan in place to deal with daily challenges or unexpected events will increase your confidence to meet such challenges head on.

Find a support network

Even with the best strategies in place, stress can be overwhelming, which is why having a network of individuals, whether they're mentors, friends or confidants, who can help to alleviate the pressures of everyday life. Having someone to talk to can help you pinpoint the root cause of your stress and provide feedback on strategies to work through and find a balance.

If you don't have a mentor, or aren't sure of who could be in your support network besides family, you could join a club, organization or even a study group. These outlets can be an ideal support network, because, for example, if you are a biology major with a long-term goal of entering medical school, being a part of the pre-med club surrounds you with others who have similar goals and likely similar challenges. When you surround yourself with others who



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM E.LORENZO AND E.TASCA
Lorenzo and Tasca help students ease the stress of balancing college affairs with helpful tips.

are going through the same or similar life experiences and obstacles, you will feel more at ease knowing you are not alone and have the right plan in place.

Manage your tendencies

In addition to finding a support network, understanding and managing your own tendencies can be very effective in not only minimizing stress but also making day-to-day activities more seamless. We all have our areas in which we can improve. For example, if you are the type of person who lets stress build up or procrastinates on projects, identifying these trends in your life is the first step to develop strategies to progress toward being well-rounded.

Good strategies to deal with these challenges might be working on projects early on, creating daily and weekly lists for yourself or finding additional outlets, such as exercise or hobbies, which can help you distract yourself from the areas that are contributing to your stress.

Stress can come in many different forms, and, at times, we are our own worst enemy

when it comes to multiplying or enhancing that stressful feeling. If you are a worrier, or a person who has difficulty separating your work and personal life, there are steps you can take to intentionally deal with such anxiety.

This is where making lists for yourself can be extremely useful because, many times, this anxiety stems from unknown places or your own mind going through "what if?" scenarios. Being able to write out what is really causing your stress or possible steps you need to take is the simplest way to entirely eliminate it. Just like someone going into a dark forest would probably be more at ease if he or she actually knew what lies inside the forest, you, as an individual, must shed light on these unknown areas that are causing you stress.

Overall, challenges are a part of our everyday lives, but having strategies in place to manage them can be the shrink ray for your stress. Getting organized, finding a support network and identifying and learning to cope with your tendencies are key ways to minimize the tension, pressure and anxiety that come along with our busy lives.

Attention all seniors

By: **Chantel Grant**

From the day we walk through those glass doors of the University Center, we start planning for when we graduate. Each class brings us one step closer to our departure, which is all the motivation we need to complete college, right? Any freshman and sophomore reading this article will answer that question with an enthusiastic "Yes," but if you're a senior, you know all too well that this is not the case.

When you become a senior, you become susceptible to a disease known as senioritis. According to Merriam-Webster, senioritis is the "ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences and lower grades." Unfortunately, there is no cure for senioritis, so if you have been diagnosed with this disease, here are a few tips to help you cope.

Get tested

This is a preliminary step for seniors to know if they've contracted the disease. The best way to find out if you have contracted senioritis is to look at your grades. After your next test, take a minute to review your results. Ask yourself if the grade you have received is the norm — better yet, ask yourself if you even care about the grade. If you answered "No," then

it's fair to say that you have senioritis.

You need a day off

When you have senioritis, the weekends aren't enough; you need more time to watch Netflix and "chill." So schedule a day in the week where you can get away with doing absolutely nothing.

The only down side to scheduling a day off is that you will need to make sure that it does not interfere with school. Most students have a day when classes end early or they don't have classes at all, so when those days pop up, milk them. If not, you'll find yourself in class wishing you weren't there or wishing you stayed in bed.

You can also find activities for you and your friends to do on your day off. On tripomatic.com, you can organize a day trip and create an itinerary filled with activities. Having a day off can be quite refreshing and may relieve that itch to succumb to your senioritis.

Join senioritis anonymous (SA)

Truthfully, there is no such club at NSU, but one of the best ways to cope with anything is to find people who are sympathetic to your struggle. If you hang out with people who also have senioritis, it might be easier to find some motivation to finish the semester. You guys can even get together and do schoolwork. That

way, if you feel like quitting or not doing the assignment, each of you can help to motivate each other. Try meeting up off campus so that it feels less formal and you can be more relaxed. Also, you guys can join a group chat to remind each other of upcoming assignments and events — GroupMe, free and available on Apple and Android devices, is the perfect app for this. Just remember that misery loves company.

Talk to a professor or professional

By the time you start your last semester in college, you probably have a favorite professor. So go and talk to him or her so he or she can give you some pointers on how to manage your workload with senioritis. Have a heart-to-heart with this professor, and you'll walk away from the chat feeling better about completing the semester.

By the way, there is no such thing as a senior pass; professors will not be lenient with you because you have senioritis. Moreover, if you find that your senioritis has seriously impaired your ability to complete schoolwork, try speaking to a professional. You can schedule an appointment to visit a counselor at the Henderson Student Counseling Center located in the University Park Plaza. To schedule an appointment, visit their website at hendersonbh.org.

End things with a bang

This is probably your last opportunity to make college worthwhile. Try doing everything you wanted to do in college in your last semester — fill your semester with activities and events. If you stay active in your personal life, it will be easier to stay active in your school life, especially if you attend events at or near school.

One of the reasons why senioritis has become so hard to defeat is that it makes us lazy at home, school and work. So try to be everywhere — go everywhere, and have fun. You can use meetup.com to find activities and places happening around Fort Lauderdale. The activities on the website range from upcoming walks to meeting up with the Miami Beach Photography Club or joining the Women's Movie and Book Club.

If you're a senior, and you've made it to this point of the article, maybe you're not a lost cause, and you can actually defeat your senioritis. For your friend who read the first couple of lines and whose eyes slowly drifted from the article to their phones or laptops, please tell them how informative this article was, and just maybe you can help them overcome this disease and be productive again.

Secret Life: Professor Levitt

By: Chantel Grant

It's no secret that Stephen Ross Levitt, associate professor in the Department of History and Political Science in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, is one of the most informed professors on German affairs, but most students are unaware of the history and impact that Germans and Germany have had on his life.

Levitt's areas of focus include war crimes, comparative law and international law, and he is known for his candor and eclectic teaching style.

Levitt offered some insight on his yearly travels to Germany and how they've shaped his teaching career.

How did you start traveling?

"I don't remember how I got it, but when I was 8 years old, I caught pneumonia and had to stay home for three weeks. I told my grandparents I was sad and bored from being at home, so my grandfather asked what I wanted to do, and I said, 'Let's go somewhere warm,' and he said, 'Let's go to Florida,' and I told him, 'We've been there before,' so we ended up going to Malaga, Spain. Also, when I was 10, my grandparents took me to Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines. I think that's pretty good for a 10 year old. Moreover, by the time I was 16, I went to Israel and worked on an archaeological dig with two Ph.D. students. So, as a child, I had a lot of travel experience."

What was one of the most spontaneous traveling experiences you've had?

"It sounds really stupid, but when I was 40, I thought, 'There are certain things that I want to do now.' For some reason, I was thinking, 'What if I don't live much longer?' It was really stupid, but one of my friends lived in Sweden, and I said to him, 'I want to see the Arctic Circle,' so we took the train to a town called Kiruna, at the very top of Sweden. Kiruna is north of the Arctic Circle, which means that, if you're there in the middle of summer like June or July, the sun never sets, so we went there and experienced that, and I liked it. It was different."

Your traveling experiences are enviable, and most students know of your travels to Germany. How did that start?

"As a young boy living in Toronto during the 60s, I was surrounded by families who

relocated from countries in Europe that were affected by World War II. I had friends whose parents came from these countries. My oldest friend, whom I've known since I was five, his mother was from a small town in Austria, and his father was from Vienna, therefore, I had this link to people who spoke German at very young age. I heard their stories, and I had a good understanding of Europe before I ever visited. I had all versions of the European experience. So I guess you could say, as a child, I developed a link to Germany."

What was your first time traveling alone to Germany like?

"My friend and I were in Belgium, and I told him I wanted to go to Germany. His parents said, 'No,' because he was Jewish, so I decided to take a train from Mechelen, Belgium, to Munich. On the train ride, I was sitting beside some young Germans who had just visited Britain. We started to talk, and they told me that the British were mean to them because they thought that they were Nazis. It was funny because I told them that that was 30 or 40 years ago, maybe their parents weren't even Nazis. Anyway, they were really sweet and offered me a place to stay and something to eat. They were very nice, and I will never forget that experience."

How and why did you start traveling to Germany every summer?

"Well, I traveled there a couple of times. I went twice when I was in undergrad, and I went once in law school. At the end of my law school, I went to the London School of Economics, and I studied there for a year and a quarter, which was very significant because, while writing one of my papers, a lady who worked in the archives suggested a man named Jörg Friedrich. He helped me with my paper, and I remember at the end of the talk I said to him, 'Wow, you really know your stuff.' Friedrich is a popular and controversial German author whose writings are usually critical of Germany. But, for some reason, he decided, one day, to write about how other countries affected Germany called 'The Fire.' His book sold hundreds of thousands of copies, so he gained a lot of attention and recognition. So I started to meet a lot of people in Germany, prominent people, from lawyers who



Levitt shows off his garden at his unit in Germany.

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deans to ex-communists. It really attracted me to the country and gave me the type of insight that helps me to teach with detail and clarity. I just kept going back and learning more and meeting better people each time. And, honestly, it's very hard for me to give up my friends, so I love going back to visit them every summer."

Where do you stay, and what do you do there in the summers?

"Every year, I go back to the same street in Berlin, where I rent a unit from the same landlord. I visit my friends and their families; we go out to eat or drink tea. I have a hard drive full of pictures of my vacations, if you don't believe me. But I understand that, when I'm in Germany, great people surround me, so I make sure I take the opportunity to ask questions. I mean, I work with the German legal systems, so, as an outsider, I need help to know the in's and out's, so I ask questions, and they are always willing to answer. I've met all types of people in Germany, people who most would say,

'Levitt, he's a bad guy, why would you go talk with him?' It doesn't matter because they give you their knowledge, so meeting someone from a communist party or a German judge is all a part of the learning experience for me. I mean, prominent German professors have even helped me to write my legal studies textbook. And I don't always just stay in Germany — I visit my friends in London and, sometimes, I even go back to the same street that I lived on when I was going to school there. I like doing that — it brings back memories."

Do you think you'll ever move there permanently?

"I go there every summer — there's no need to move there permanently right now. Going there every summer is enough."



Athlete of the Week:

Katey Blummer

By: **Erin Herbert**

[@erin_herbert](#)

Like most athletes, Katey Blummer had no idea that she'd end up playing at the collegiate level when she began playing sports at a young age. She tried a number of different sports before she finally found her knack for softball.

Growing up in a family of athletes, Blummer was exposed to sports at a very young age. She had experience in horseback riding, soccer and gymnastics all before the age of seven. However, Blummer didn't discover her athletic talent until she enrolled in a little league softball program.

After a brief stint in little league softball, Blummer went on to play recreational and travel leagues and also played all four years at Gulf Coast High School. She is currently competing in her third season with NSU.

Blummer, junior marine biology major and business administration minor, hopes to pursue a career in marine research after graduation. She also aspires to use her business administration minor to open up her own dive shop.

Here's how softball has impacted Blummer's life.

How did you end up at NSU?

"That's actually a really funny story. I was looking at two other schools at the time. I was in my senior year, and I was late, as far as getting recruited goes, and the old assistant coach, Coach Robin Martin, sent me an email saying 'Hi Brittany, we watched you play this weekend, and we really loved you; we would love you to come check out the school.' So I was really excited because I loved the marine biology program here, but, at the same time, I thought, 'What if she sent this to the wrong person?' But my dad said that I had to call her, and I had to talk to her to find out anyway, so I emailed her back, and it turned out that she completely meant to send it to me, and she apologized for [using the wrong name]. After that, I came on an official visit and instantly fell in love with the school. I was debating between this school and one other school, but I liked this one because I'm

actually pretty close to home — I'm only like an hour and fifteen minutes away, and I love my family — so that was a bonus."

What do you think is the hardest aspect of playing softball?

"Time management, as far as being a student athlete. Especially with my major. I was just talking with one of the freshmen on the team who is a marine bio major, and we talked about how the academic advisors very much dislike our sport and our major and trying to schedule when classes are going to be. Sometimes, practice is from 1 to 6 p.m. if you have to go early or stay late, so you can't schedule any classes in the afternoon. So we have all early morning classes, practice and then night class."

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

"You get a family away from home, I guess. So that's really nice. A lot of the times coming in as a freshman, you don't know a lot of people, but I came in and instantly had 18 sisters, whether they liked me or not. We knew we were going to spend a lot of time together so we all better get pretty close. So that was really nice. But in the sport itself, I love the rush. I ripped two doubles in the very first game we played, and I was just so excited. You get this adrenaline rush as you're sliding into second, and you just scored two of your teammates home, so they're screaming, and you're screaming, and that's what I live for."

Do you have any goals set for yourself or for the team moving forward in the season?

"Yes. We actually sat down as a team and set aside a lot of goals before we played last weekend, and I think we're going to make it a common occurrence just to hold ourselves accountable. But our defense was somewhat lacking because we had a couple of people out of position recently, and we've been working 110 percent in practice to be better so that it won't happen again, and we won't make the same mistakes. Offensively, we've felt strong, and we want to keep that going, but, defensively, we would like to improve as a team."



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When she's not busy researching marine life, Blummer spends her time on the softball field.

Are there any professional athletes who you look up to or model your style of play after?

"When I was younger, everyone loved Jennie Finch. She was just a face for the sport, and she's an amazing person, a great athlete, she has kids, and she's really just the whole package. I guess I just always wanted to be that. I mean I can't pitch, and I'm not 6'1, but she's still awesome."

What has been your proudest achievement as a softball player so far?

"To make it to the collegiate level. I'm only 5'2, and being short in the sport definitely sets you back a little bit, and I don't have speed either. Usually, you can be small but quick, but instead, I'm small but strong. So for me to get recruited to a D-II school that I absolutely loved, with a great softball program, was just one of the happiest days for me."

Have you had any coaches or mentors who have influenced you while playing softball?

"My dad, believe it or not. He took on the role of coach for a travel ball team that I played on for about two years. People always think that, if you're the coach's kid, it's easier for you, but

that was never the case. It was always ten times harder because, whether you're on the field or at home, he's the coach. So if you're not going out and getting extra reps, he would be on you about it, or, at practice, I would get into twice as much trouble. But he made me the athlete I am — he definitely motivated me. There were so many days where I didn't want to go to practice, but he would make me go, and I would get there and I would love it."

Does the team have any special rituals they perform to get ready for a game?

"Softball players are notorious for being superstitious, but we don't really have a team superstition yet. Last year, we had an inflatable shark that we had to bring to every game, and it was one specific player's job to bring it. If she forgot it, we would always act like it was the end of the world, but, this year, we don't have anything yet. Me, personally, I get my hair braided by the same player, Haley Gonzales, every game."

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

"I love the ocean and the water, so diving, being out on the boat, tanning, it doesn't matter. It just has to be somewhere near the water."



On the Bench: Fans matter, too

By: **Erin Herbert**

[@erin_herbert](#)

Fans are the most important element of professional sports leagues. Without fans, there would be no one to fill the stands or buy the merchandise and, generally, no reason for professional sports to even exist. Therefore, a majority of sports leagues like to include their fans in a number of different events and activities throughout the year. However, things don't always run smoothly when professional sports leagues interact with their fans, and the National Hockey League learned that lesson the hard way.

Every year, the NHL hosts an event referred to as the All-Star Game, where fans choose the best players from around the league to compete in a tournament and display their skills in a number of different contests. The players chosen are typically some of the highest-scoring forwards and defensemen in the league; it's an honor for most players to even make the cut to be a nominee.

The 2016 All-Star Game featured a new

format in which there would be three 20-minute games of three-on-three hockey. With the new format, there would be four teams competing in the All-Star Game, one to represent each of the league's four divisions: Atlantic, Metropolitan, Central and Pacific. The league was thrilled about the event's upgrade and stated that they wanted to have complete control of the event's roster, so the NHL allowed fans to nominate any player in the league to compete at the All-Star Game.

As with tradition, the NHL opened their fan vote for the All-Star Game on Dec. 1. This online vote allowed NHL fans to nominate and vote for the players who would participate in the All-Star Game on Jan. 31. The NHL has been doing a fan vote to fill the roster for the All-Star for year, but, this year, things didn't go exactly as planned. A large number of fans voted John Scott, a player only known for fighting and frequent suspensions, into the All-Star Game — widely as a joke. Scott earned so many votes

that not only would the 33-year-old compete in the All-Star Game for the first time in his nine year NHL career, but he would also serve as the captain for the Pacific division team.

The NHL believed that allowing an enforcer like Scott to compete in an event that is held in such high regard would be an embarrassment to the league. The other main concern was that including Scott in the festivities would hurt ticket sales. The All-Star Game is typically reserved for the superstars of the league, and Scott is less than super. Throughout his entire career, he had only earned five goals and a total of 11 points. Therefore, the NHL went and made their first of many mistakes by forcing the Arizona Coyotes to trade Scott to the Montreal Canadiens.

Since the Canadiens are in the Atlantic division, the league deemed Scott ineligible to play for the Pacific division team and, ultimately, removed him from the All-Star Game. Scott, along with his two young children and pregnant wife, had to move to Montreal simply because

the NHL didn't agree with what fans wanted.

The NHL undermined the decision of the fans and proved that they were much more concerned with the profits from the game than the experience of fans. The league shouldn't have offered to give the fans the option of voting if they weren't planning on respecting it at the end of the day.

In the end, after boycotts and social media backlash, the NHL finally gave fans what they wanted; they allowed Scott to compete in the games and even named him the tournament's MVP. However, it shouldn't have taken threats and thousands of angry tweets to accomplish this.

All sports leagues need to understand that they can't exploit or disrespect their fans on a regular basis. Fans are the entire reason the professional sports exist, and, without them, sports would be completely irrelevant.

Finding Fitness: Zumba

By: **Erin Herbert**

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Finding Fitness is more than just about scoping out the latest fitness trends; it's about finding exciting new ways to focus on the most important subject of any story: you. From extreme sports to strange and, sometimes, uncomfortable classes, this feature is all about finding the best fitness to maximize your health. Stay tuned to find out what new and exciting fitness endeavors are in the area.

What is Zumba?

Zumba is a fusion of cardio and Latin dance that creates a full body aerobic workout.

Ali Shain, junior speech-language pathology major, has taught various forms of Zumba for about four years. She described Zumba as a mix of dance and exercise. Zumba classes are typically an hour long and feature a high energy environment with loud, exciting music. It is more engaging and high energy than a traditional cardio workout, which Shain believes is the reason for its popularity.

She said, "I think it's popular because there hasn't really been anything like this before. I think that a lot of people, particularly women, look for an exercise where they can leave sweating but are also having a really good time. It's not like running on the treadmill to get a good cardio workout; it's just an hour of high energy dance, and, if the instructor is really fun, you'll have a really good time."

According to Shain, there a number of different variations of Zumba. Participants who are looking for a low impact from of Zumba can try Aqua Zumba, which is a form of aerobic dancing in water. There is also Zumba Gold, which is a Zumba course specially designed for older participants. Other courses include mother and child Zumba, as well as courses for young children.

Shain also explained that Zumba courses can be tailored to the needs of a client, depending on what type of experience they are looking for.

Individuals of all ages and fitness levels can participate in Zumba, according to Shain.

She said, "Honestly, anyone and everyone can try it. I know that people have used it for therapy, to help build up their muscles in a fun way. But I really think that anyone can do it."

What are the benefits?

Because Zumba is such an effective cardio workout, it can be used to lose weight and burn fat. According to a publication in Harvard Health, one hour of intense dancing, such as Zumba, can burn between 360 and 530 calories. Zumba achieves this level of calorie burning through interval training, which continuously raises and lowers the participant's heart rate throughout the class.

However, Zumba is not like any other cardio workout. It involves your entire body and will simultaneously engage a number of different muscles.

Shain said, "[Zumba trainers] know how to get the best heart rate and calorie burn, so your heart rate is up and down, while you're targeting certain parts of your core, leg muscles or your glutes. It's just a great all-around full body workout, that's also fun and enjoyable."

The benefits of Zumba are not only physical but also mental. According to an article published by the Berkeley Wellness Center, dancing can reduce stress and anxiety, aid in overcoming depression and even improve moods and boost self-esteem.

"It has a whole mental aspect to it. Once you leave the class, you'll feel so much better than when you came in. It's a mind, body and soul environment," said Shain.

What are the risks?

There are no immediate health risks associated with Zumba; however Shain warned that participants should listen to their body and know their physical limits when trying Zumba.

Shain said, "Obviously, try not to give up if you don't have to, but if you know that you have low blood pressure, and you're feeling a little light headed, that would be a good time to take a rest and drink some water. But, if done correctly, it's a really good workout."

If you have any major health concerns, it would be advisable to consult a doctor before participating in a Zumba course. Doing so can help you decide what level Zumba course is right for you.

Local Zumba classes:

Recreation and Wellness Center

Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale-Davie
Visit rec.nova.edu/fitness/ for a schedule of classes.

Elite International Dance Academy

8692 Griffin Road, Cooper City-Davie

(Corner of Pine Island and Griffin Road in Timberlake Plaza)
Visit eliteintdance.com/classes/ for a schedule of classes.

Studio B

11330 W. State Road 84, Davie
Visit studiobefl.com for a schedule of classes.

ON DECK

Men's Baseball

vs. Flagler
St. Augustine, Fla.
Feb. 26, 6 p.m.

vs. Flagler
St. Augustine, Fla.
Feb. 27, 12 p.m.

vs. Eckerd
NSU Baseball Complex
March 4, 6 p.m.

vs. Eckerd
NSU Baseball Complex
March 5, 1 p.m.

Men's Basketball

vs. Florida Southern
Lakeland, Fla.
Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Sunshine State Conference
Championship
Daytona Beach, Fla.
March 2, 5, 6, TBA

Women's Basketball

vs. Florida Southern
Lakeland, Fla.
Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Sunshine State Conference
Championship
Daytona Beach, Fla.
March 2, 5, 6, TBA

Men's Golf

South/Southeast Regional
Preview
Howie-in-the-Hills, Fla.
Feb. 28-March 1, All day

Women's Golf

Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational
Winter Park, Fla.
Feb. 29-March 1, All Day

Women's Softball

vs. Saint Leo
St. Leo, Fla.
Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

vs. Saint Leo
St. Leo, Fla.
Feb. 27, 12 p.m.

vs. Tampa
AD Griffin
March 4, 6 p.m.

vs. Tampa
AD Griffin
March 5, 1 p.m.

vs. West Liberty
AD Griffin
March 6, 1 p.m.

Women's Rowing

vs. Bates College
Tampa, Fla.
Feb. 27, TBA

vs. Barry University
Hollywood, Fla.
March 5, TBA

Women's Tennis

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
NSU Tennis Complex
Feb. 26, 2 p.m.

vs. Point Loma Nazarene
San Diego, Calif.
March 2, 3 p.m.

vs. UC- San Diego
San Diego, Calif.
March 3, 3 p.m.

vs. Hawaii Pacific
San Diego, Calif.
March 4, 9 a.m.

vs. Azusa Pacific
Azusa, Calif.
March 5, 12 p.m.

SPORTS SHORTS

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball suffered their second loss of the season against Barry University by a score of 67-65 on Feb. 13. Junior Taylor Buie led the Sharks in scoring, earning a total of 18 points.



Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team defeated Barry in a 105-91 victory on Feb. 13. Senior Chris Page posted a school-record 41 points against the Buccaneers.



Women's Softball

The women's softball team suffered a 7-3 loss against Georgia Southwestern to close out the Palm Beach Atlantic's Sailfish Showdown. Dakota Villella, Rachel Minier and Sabrina Fischer each scored a single run for the Sharks.



OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Argentine soccer player shoots, kills referee

After referee Cesar Flores showed a soccer player a red card for hitting another player during an amateur league match, the player walked off the field, retrieved a gun from his backpack and shot Flores, who later died at Cordoba Hospital. The player shot Flores in the head, neck and chest, according to police, and a bullet hit another player, Walter Zarate, in the chest. Zarate is recovering in the hospital. Authorities did not release the name of the player at the time of the shooting.

Nike drops Manny Pacquiao for anti-gay comments

ESPN writer Darren Rovell tweeted a photo of Nike's statement that the company terminated its endorsement contract with Manny Pacquiao, world champion pro boxer, following his remarks comparing gay people to animals. Nike said Pacquiao's comments were "abhorrent" and that it no longer has a relationship with Pacquiao, who issued an apology on social media. Pacquiao quoted the Bible a day later in an Instagram post that was later deleted, citing a verse that called for gay people to be put to death.

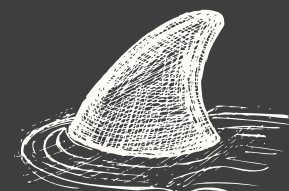
Sports Authority to close all stores in Texas

According to state employees, Sports Authority, the second-largest sports retail

giant behind Dick's Sporting Goods, is closing all 25 of its stores in Texas. Reports say the company is preparing to file bankruptcy, as it missed its million dollar interest payment on its \$643 million debt in January. Sports Authority will close nearly a third of its 450 stores nationwide.

Ronda Rousey opens up about loss to Holly Holm

In an interview with talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres, mixed martial artist and UFC champion Ronda Rousey said she contemplated suicide after her November 2015 loss to Holly Holm. Rousey, who was previously the undefeated champion, said, "In that exact second, I'm like, 'I'm nothing. What do I do anymore?'" while she sat in the post-fight medical room. Rousey also said she got through her struggles because of her boyfriend, UFC fighter Travis Browne, and by choosing to stay undefeated.



Staff Picks: Treat yo'self

By: **The Current Staff**

Surviving midterms week is a huge accomplishment. After cramming up to six classes worth of material to prepare for a marathon of papers, projects and tests, you deserve a treat. Indulge in that tasty but fattening meal that you reserve exclusively for special occasions to congratulate yourself and celebrate the halfway mark of the semester. But, if you don't know where to begin, The Current has you covered. Here are the treats that make midterms week a little bit sweeter for members of The Current staff.

Li Cohen, co-editor-in-chief, said Ben & Jerry's Chunky Monkey ice cream

There is nothing I love more than bananas and ice cream, and this beautiful combination of the two is practically bliss. With the sweet, fruity flavor of bananas, the indulgent pieces of chocolate and nutty chunks of walnuts, this ice cream is the perfect trifecta. Ben and Jerry have always been the two men who never let me down, and this ice cream flavor really brings my commitment to them to a whole new level. Whether I've had a bad day, or I've just accomplished something exciting and wonderful, I can't help but indulge in this sweet concoction. If you love bananas and ice cream as much as I do, then this is sure to satisfy your sweet tooth. And the best part is you only have to walk a few feet to Outtakes to pick up a pint, or three, of this scrumptious treat.

Nicole Cocuy, co-editor-in-chief, said Los Verdes

If I never felt the pressure to eat healthy and stay in shape, I could easily eat at Los Verdes every day for the rest of my life. But, alas, I'd probably be morbidly obese if I ate Colombian fast food on a daily basis, and I must reserve my cheese, carbs and creamy sauce binges for special occasions. And with locations in Sunrise, Weston, Doral, Coral Way, Country Walk and Miami Lakes, keeping off the Verdes belly is extremely difficult. Los Verdes has the perfect comfort food combinations to fulfill every craving: crispy, savory, beef-filled empanadas with garlic cilantro sauce on the side, classic chicken quesadillas topped with crunchy potato chip crumbs and three different sauces, Hawaiian-inspired hamburgers and hotdogs topped with pineapple sauce and ham, warm and fluffy pineapple upside-down cake and so much more. I highly recommend everything on the menu, as there is not a single item they serve that isn't worth the immense amount of calories. Just don't forget to wear comfortable pants to make space for your post-Los Verdes belly.

Jazmyn Brown, copy editor, said Cold Stone Creamery

There's nothing quite like the rich and decadent flavors of ice cream — mint, vanilla, strawberry, coffee and more — and wide variety of toppings — from gummy bears to Oreos to sprinkles to your favorite candy bar — at Cold Stone; they make anyone with an insatiable sweet tooth drool. Not only does Cold Stone offer ice cream creations, but they also have creamy, velvety shakes and ready-made and custom cakes. Whether you feel like you aced or flunked your exams, Cold Stone's cake batter-flavored ice cream with a peanut butter cup, my personal favorite combination, can be either the perfect reward or pick-me-up, in victory or defeat. Make sure to find your favorite flavor in Stirling Town Center.

Carli Lutz, chief of visual design, said lemon pepper boneless wings from Wingstop

The lemon pepper boneless wings from Wingstop are my go-to food reward. They're beautiful little nuggets of happiness and sunshine, and the sauce they come in is the perfect mix of salty and sweet. They aren't the healthiest food, but they are worth the weight that I put on from them. If I could marry any food item to share all of my adventures in life with, I would want that special something to be the lemon pepper boneless wings that I love so much. These boneless wings, paired with fries

and copious amounts of blue cheese, are my kryptonite and the ultimate motivation to suffer through midterms. Just like Superman, the closer I get to this glorious restaurant in Hollywood, the weaker I become to this tasty treat.

Roger Atangana, visual design assistant, said Five Guys Burgers and Fries

There is something about Five Guys Burgers and Fries that I just can't resist. Maybe it's the crispiness of their fries or the oozing cheese on their burgers? All I know is that after taking a bite from a Five Guys bacon cheeseburger and indulging in some fries on the side, I'm glad I suffered through midterms to get a taste from this holy grail. Having these delectable burgers right down the street at The Fountains Shopping Mall definitely puts me at ease after exams.

Gaby Alfaro, business manager, said Menchie's Frozen Yogurt

After midterms, my reward will definitely be Menchie's. This is the best place to get some frozen yogurt, and, luckily, it's right down the road off University Drive. Not only do they have a wide variety of toppings, but they also change the flavors of the yogurt every two weeks. They have toppings ranging from fruit all the way to tiny pieces of cheesecake, which, by the way, are my favorite.

Amanda Kaplan, multimedia manager, said slutty brownies

As a college senior, I have turned to junk food more often than not when I've been stressed over exams, homework or even just what I'm going to watch next on Netflix. Midterms week gives me an excuse to indulge in my favorite junk food without feeling (as) guilty. My go-to snack to reward myself is definitely "slutty brownies." Yes, you read that right; that is their actual name. If you've never heard of them or tasted them, then you need to change that as soon as possible. These masterpieces are three-layer snacks that include chocolate chip cookies, Oreo cookies, and brownies. What could be better than that? The bottom layer is the chocolate chips, then the Oreos, and the brownie layer is on top. Just smelling them while they are baking makes my mouth water. The smooth, chewy,

warm texture makes it impossible to only have just one. I always feel better after having one —, who am kidding —, two of these brownies. But, if you really want to go over the top, add ice cream, and your midterm reward is complete.

Chantel Grant, features editor, said the Snickerville

During midterms week, I eat the unhealthiest foods, which usually include fried mac and cheese and French fries, but out of all of my unhealthy binges, my favorite is a concoction that I have named the "Snickerville." It's a monstrosity of sweetness, and it puts me at ease during stressful midterms. It's really simple and easy to make, as the ingredients include an extra-large Snickers bar and a pint of vanilla ice cream. After I buy the Snickers bar, I place it in the refrigerator for about 5 minutes while I place the bowl of ice cream on the counter so it becomes a little softer. Then, I add a dash of cinnamon and nutmeg and use the hardened Snickers bar to scoop up the ice-cream. The best part of the Snickerville is when the candy bar starts to get soft and starts to break off in the ice-cream, which then makes the ice cream chunky and sweet. Truthfully, I can't stomach the Snickerville any other time, but, for some reason, during midterms, it is the perfect relaxant. And I know that there is Snickers-flavored ice cream available, but trust me — it pales in comparison to my beautiful, sweet creation, the Snickerville.

Natalie Payan, arts and entertainment editor, said Chili's chocolate molten cake

Right around finals week, I always treat myself with my favorite food at Chili's — their chocolate molten cake. The dessert starts with cold, vanilla ice cream on top of a creamy, hot chocolate cake and finishes with chocolate syrup, which covers the entire dessert. I always study hard for the finals knowing that this delicious junk food is right around the corner at The Fountains.

Grace Ducanis, news editor, said Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine

When I've been stressed and feel like treating myself, there's nothing better than a plate of rice, beans and chicken at Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine, located in Davie, Pembroke

Pines, Hollywood and Plantation. The food is so divine that it deserves its own religious sect. Rice is very high on my list of favorite carbohydrates, and no place does rice better than Las Vegas. I can never finish a meal from there, which means more stress-relieving food to take home and eat later. The atmosphere is friendly and warm, and the service is fast. It's a great place to hang out with friends and enjoy a good meal after a distressing week of tests.

Erin Herbert, sports editor, said pizookies from BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse

There's no better way to celebrate acing that last exam than with a pizookie from BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse in Pembroke Pines. This decadent dessert may have a quirky name, but don't let that fool you; pizookies are one of the greatest things that will ever grace your taste buds. BJ's offers these sweet treats in a number of different flavors, including salted caramel, peanut butter, s'mores and cookies and cream, to satisfy your sweet tooth. A warm, gooey chocolate chip cookie fresh out of the oven and piled high with vanilla ice cream is enough to make anyone's exam week a little sweeter.

Roddia Paul, opinions editor, said chocolate-covered dDouts

OK— so, this is going to sound weird, but I could care less if you judge me. It all started last school year, when I was studying for finals, losing sleep and increasing my stress levels. On my way home from a stressful day of work, I stopped at my local 7-Eleven to get gas. For some reason, my card wasn't working, and I had to go inside to pay cash. As I walked up to the register, my eyes laid of chocolatey-covered donuts, and I ues the cashier saw my eyes because she quickly assured me they were delicious. I caved in and bought them, and I honestly have not been the same since. I undoubtedly believe that it was some higher being that forced me to go inside and pay because, if it wasn't for that, I would have never found my first love, chocolate donuts. These donuts have gotten me through the worst cramps and the hardest cram sessions. So, yes, I love donuts from the gas station. Judge away.

OSCAR NOMINEES

Once again, it's awards season for our favorite movies and the actors and actresses that make them so incredible. From discovering the story of the Home Shopping Network in "Joy" to finding our feelings in "Inside Out," 2015 was filled with movies that are destined for greatness. Chris Rock will host the 88th annual Academy Awards on ABC on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., and we can't wait to find out who is going to take home the prestigious Oscar statuette for the following categories.

BEST PICTURE "The Big Short" "Bridge of Spies" "Brooklyn" "Mad Max" "The Martian" "The Revenant" "Room" "Spotlight"	ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE Bryan Cranston—"Trumbo" Matt Damon—"The Martian" Leonardo DiCaprio—"The Revenant" Michael Fassbender—"Steve Jobs" Eddie Redmayne—"The Danish Girl"	ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE Cate Blanchett—"Carol" Brie Larson—"Room" Jennifer Lawrence—"Joy" Charlotte Rampling—"45 Years" Saoirse Ronan—"Brooklyn"	ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE Christian Bale—"The Big Short" Tom Hardy—"The Revenant" Mark Ruffalo—"Spotlight" Mark Rylance—"Bridge of Spies" Sylvester Stallone—"Creed"	ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE Jennifer Jason Leigh—"The Hateful Eight" Rooney Mara—"Carol" Rachel McAdams—"Spotlight" Alicia Vikander—"The Danish Girl" Kate Winslet—"Steve Jobs"
ANIMATED FEATURE FILM "Anomalisa" "Boy & the World" "Inside Out" "Shaun the Sheep Movie" "When Marnie Was There"	CINEMATOGRAPHY "Carol" "The Hateful Eight" "Mad Max: Fury Road" "The Revenant" "Sicario"	DIRECTING Adam McKay—"The Big Short" George Miller—"Mad Max: Fury Road" Alejandro G. Iñárritu—"The Revenant" Lenny Abrahamson—"Room" Tom McCarthy—"Spotlight"	FEATURE DOCUMENTARY "Amy" "Cartel Land" "The Look of Silence" "What Happened, Miss Simone?" "Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom"	SHORT SUBJECT DOCUMENTARY Body Team 12" "Chau, Beyond the Lines" "Claude Lanzmann: Spectres of the Shoah" "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness" "Last Day of Freedom"
FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM "Embrace of the Serpent" "Mustang" "Son of Saul" "Theeb" "A War"	ORIGINAL SCORE "Bridge of Spies" "Carol" "The Hateful Eight" "Sicario" "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"	ORIGINAL SONG "Earned It"—"Fifty Shades of Grey" "Manta Ray"—"Racing Extinction" "Simple Song #3"—"Youth" "Til It Happens to You"—"The Hunting Ground" "Writing's on the Wall"—"Spectre"	PRODUCTION DESIGN "Bridge of Spies" "The Danish Girl" "Mad Max: Fury Road" "The Martian" "The Revenant"	FILM EDITING "The Big Short" "Mad Max: Fury Road" "The Revenant" "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"
SOUND EDITING "Mad Max: Fury Road" "The Martian" "The Revenant" "Sicario" "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"	SOUND MIXING "Bridge of Spies" "Mad Max: Fury Road" "The Martian" "The Revenant" "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"	VISUAL EFFECTS "Ex Machina" "Mad Max: Fury Road" "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" "The Martian" "The Revenant"	ADAPTED SCREENPLAY WRITING "The Big Short" "Brooklyn" "Carol" "The Martian" "Room"	LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM "Ave Maria" "Day One" "Everything Will Be Okay (Alles Wird Gut)" "Shok" "Stutterer"
			ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY WRITING "Bridge of Spies" "Ex Machina" "Inside out" "Spotlight" "Straight Outta Compton"	

SOUNDBITE

'Cascades' by High Highs

By: **Marie Ontivero**

Interested in independent music, emerging artists and new album releases? DJ Marie, music director at Radio X, will keep you updated every week in *The Current* on what's new in the world of music. You can catch her on Thursday nights from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. on 88.5FM, bringing you new music you're sure to love.

A lot of great music has been coming out of Australia and making its way into the U.S. lately; High Highs is a great example of that. The band started out about six years ago in Sydney and has released one EP and two full-length albums, 'Cascades' being their sophomore album. It consists of ten tracks, all of which contain dreamy vocals and soft alternative tunes. Think M83, but less instrumental and more singing. Their sound is actually really relaxed for an indie alternative band, and it's probably this chill sound that's gotten them into commercials for Amazon Kindle and Pacifico. The trio has toured with huge artists like Vampire Weekend and Sky Ferreira to promote their music. The band is currently on tour, but, unfortunately,



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M.ONTIVERO
The High Highs bring the music from down under to Floridians living down south.

they won't be stopping by anywhere in Florida. I suppose we'll just have to wait until next time. You can find 'Cascades' on Spotify and Apple Music.

Perfect if you like: M83 and Wild Nothings

Favorite tracks: "Cascades," "Sun" and "How Could You Know"

Playing her dream role: Katie Travis on playortraying Christine

Daaé

By **Natalie Payan**

Katie Travis is no novice in the theater world, as she played Cosette in "Les Misérables" at the St. Louis MUNY with Hugh Panaro and Norm Lewis in July 2013, performed in "Titanic," "Jekyll and Hyde" and "The Most Happy Fella," among others, and won the Lys Symonette Award in 2014 at the Lotte Lenya Competition.

Travis now plays Christine Daaé in the U.S. National Tour of "The Phantom of the Opera," which runs from Feb. 26 through March 6 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Here's what Travis said about the role she's always dreamed of playing.

Why do you love music so much?

"The older I get and the more I experience life, I realize it's essential, as humans, to express what we're feeling; it's a world-wide commonality between humans. The component of story-telling is a universal thing. I think it's a part of who we are as humans. Music is another level of that story-telling. For me, I feel like it's an extension of my heart and what I'm feeling. It's meant more [to me] as I've gotten older to be able to have an outlet to sing about stuff that's going on in life. I think it's a necessity for people to take part in musical activity."

Why are you so passionate about this role?

"It was the first play I ever saw as a kid. I was 4 years old, and I saw it in Toronto. It was the soundtrack of my childhood. We'd play it all the time in the car. I fell in love with the story and the music. "Phantom," for sure, was a big one for me growing up."

Do you share anything in common with Christine?

"It's about a young woman coping with death, relationships, figuring out where her career's going, and I think I relate to all of those things. It resonates with me a lot more because of who I am and my experiences in life. [I relate to] the challenge and beauty of it all, for sure."

How did you prepare for this role?

"I worked with Sara Jean Ford, who played Christine for many years. I studied a lot and watched a lot of videos. I just tried to make it my own. I also worked with coaches for my voice. I

just really tried to make it work for me."

Was the play's musical element hard for you?

"It was one of the exciting elements for me because of my opera background. It's a component of the show that I didn't realize required so much maintenance. It's a lot of your voice; you always have to be in tune. I always drink water and always take vitamins. It's similar to [athletics]; it's very vocally demanding. There's a major change in your social life. We really give our lives to the show because of the vocal demands."

How do you overcome fear on stage?

"I've done hundreds of "Phantom" shows; there are moments where I still get nervous every day. The biggest thing I've learned is you can't make fear go away, but what you can do is channel it and move forward with it. It's a cool thing that I have this job that's allowing me to learn that every day. You just have to be forgiving of yourself and realize that you're human and that you're facing these fears doing something you love."

Why do you think people should see "The Phantom of the Opera"?

"I think "Phantom" is great for people of all ages. There's something for everyone: romance, the spectacle, music, fighting and beautiful costumes. I think whatever you're drawn to in a show... "Phantom" has it all. It's such an iconic, historic show. I think everyone should see it if they can."

What do you think people will take away from this play?

"I think our particular production is about real people trying to maneuver life's difficulties. Christine is trying to figure out the death of her father, figure out the type of person she wants to be romantically and deal with her career. Those are real-life issues that [everyone relates to]. I think what we're trying to do with storytelling is keep it very real and simple."

What would you recommend to someone who wants to get into musical theater?

"I think it's really important to find good

West's 'The Life of Pablo' goes south

By: **Erin Herbert**

@erin_herbert

Yeezy fans, rejoice — Kanye West is finally back after dropping his newest album "The Life of Pablo." After hundreds of promises, and almost as many title changes, the self-proclaimed "greatest artist of all time" delivered his seventh studio album on Feb. 14.

The 18-track album sounds haphazardly thrown together, as the last-minute inclusion of eight more individual tracks would suggest. The first track, "Ultralight Beam," starts off with a faint sound of small child preaching in a gospel style and keeps the idea of gospel music as a reoccurring theme throughout the chorus. However, at the completion of the nearly five-and-a-half minute song, listeners are left unsatisfied. Apart from the chorus, the song feels stagnant; it doesn't move anywhere, and the high amounts of Auto-Tune are simply overkill. After all of the hype and numerous months of waiting, this is what Kanye's "masterpiece" of an album starts off with: a major disappointment.

The first track also doesn't fit the feel of the album as a whole, with the subsequent tracks doing nothing to complement each other. Each song is wildly different and feels more like a college student's rap playlist than an actual album. Kanye's earlier, and better composed, albums such as "Graduation" and "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" flowed well and had tracks that related to one another. The track list is all over the place, from gospel songs to love songs, and even party anthems.

"The Life of Pablo" is a star-studded album, featuring a number of other talented musicians

like Chance the Rapper, Andre 3000 and Frank Ocean, all of whom seem to overshadow Kanye on his album. It's far too overdone. And for a man who likes to make literally everything about himself, it doesn't make much sense for Kanye to sound more like a back-up singer than the star of the show. The Weeknd's hook in "FML" is the album's only redeeming quality and one of the only memorable elements that can be taken from this project.

Kanye's music is typically riddled with pulsing beats and strange, albeit catchy, lyrics that seem to stick in your head forever; however, this album seems to suggest a change in his artistry. The tracks are less focused on catchy beats and hooks, while Kanye seems to be more preoccupied with the emotional side of his lyrics, as suggested by "Father Stretch My Hands Pt.1." The emotional lyrics and soulful beat are reminiscent of "Blame Game," from his 2010 album "My Dark and Twisted Fantasy." The lyrics indicate that Kanye is reflective of past relationships, and that seems to carry into at least the subsequent track, "Pt.2."

This album surely won't garner Kanye any new fans, and it will probably keep Kanye's haters where they are, but "The Life of Pablo" offers a new side of Kanye, a more emotional side that is a major change from the rapper's previous work. The songs by themselves are decent, but when thrown together onto a full album, it just doesn't work. Kanye may think he's the best thing to happen to the music industry, but this album says otherwise.

Off Shore Calendar

<p>Experience Hendrix @Hard Rock Live 8 PM</p> <p>Iron Maiden World Tour @BB&T Center 8 PM</p> <p>FEB 24</p> <p>19th Annual Melfon Mustafa Jazz Festival @Lyric Theater 6 PM</p> <p>"Grease" @Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center 7:30 PM</p> <p>Robert DeLong @Culture Room 8 PM</p> <p>FEB 25</p> <p>South Beach Wine & Food Festival Dinner @Valentino's Cucina Italiana 7 PM</p> <p>Fall Out Boy @Hard Rock Live 7 PM</p> <p>FEB 26</p>	<p>9 Mile Music Festival @Historic Virginia Key Beach Park 1 PM</p> <p>Jeff Dunham @BB&T Center 5 PM</p> <p>Flager Village ArtWalk @MASS District 6 PM</p> <p>The Beach Boys @Hard Rock Live 8 PM</p> <p>FEB 27</p> <p>Miami Guitar Trio @Wertheim Performing Arts Center 3:30 PM</p> <p>FEB 28</p> <p>Karaoke Night @Ye Olde Falcon Pub 10 PM</p> <p>FEB 29</p>	<p>Dragalious @Lips 7 PM</p> <p>MAR 1</p> <p>Cirque du Soleil @BB&T Center 7:30 PM</p> <p>New Found Glory @Culture room 7:30 PM</p> <p>MAR 3</p> <p>103.1 WIRK's Rib Round Up @Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre NOON</p> <p>Sounds at Sundown @Commission Chambers 5 PM</p> <p>Buckcherry @Culture Room 8 PM</p> <p>MAR 5</p> <p>Steve Miller Band @Hard Rock Live 7 PM</p> <p>MAR 6</p> <p>August Burns Red @Revolution Live 5:30 PM</p> <p>MAR 7</p>
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teachers; you can't do it alone. I realize that [taking voice lessons, taking dance classes and partaking in community theater] are expensive endeavors, but I think there are ways to study and to find teachers who will work with you. If you believe in it enough and you're in it to do the work, then find the best teachers, keep working and don't stop. If you're in it for the excitement, for the fame or glamour, it's not

just that, and that goes away. It's a process that's always going and if that's exciting for you, by always learning, growing and becoming a better person through that, then go for it. It starts when you feel that love for it. It's also important for parents to recognize that. I think there's a lot to be said about allowing people to grow. Nothing bad could come from that."

Why having faith is more important than religion

By: **Li Cohen**

@Current_Yakira

Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Jainism, Paganism, Sikhism, Taoism. We've heard about all of these different religions with all of their different beliefs, rules and structures. Depending on where we grew up and who raised us, we learn to follow one of the paths to achieve a certain greatness.

For some people, committing to a religion is one of the most structural components of his or her individuality and ideals, but religion is just structured faith, the intangible feeling that instills hope and helps people understand the world around us in a more positive light.

My Jewish father and Catholic grandparents raised me in a primarily Southern Baptist town — I'm sure you can imagine the confusion. I participated in different holidays, prayed when I needed to and refrained from eating certain things when I shouldn't, until one day, when it hit me: why was I doing this? Was it to appease my family? To ensure I go to Heaven? To make me feel not so badly about my poor decisions?

The religion I was practicing was nothing but a structure with rules, boundaries, can'ts and cannot's and leaders who ultimately act as hands of gods or idols to tell us when we're being good and bad. And, quite frankly, it's a load of crap. Maybe it's because I suffer from what some describe as a "perpetual opposition to authority" or because I just never had an eye-opening experience with religion, but I cannot whole-heartedly believe in any of them.

Don't get me wrong; I don't have any problems with religious people. Seriously, that's awesome that some have found a system that they can relate to so much. It's wonderful that religion has allowed some people to find happiness in their lives, but having faith is a hell of a lot more important than claiming a religion.

Religion will always be a controversial topic. There are always going to be people who claim they are more religious than others or that their religion just makes more sense than others, but all of it is subjective.

If someone is religious, that doesn't mean he or she is a better person than those who are not or that the person who is not religious is going to hell or wherever.

If someone attends a house of worship every week, it doesn't mean that those who don't are lazy, as some of us work three jobs and don't get a day off.

If someone who is religious believes followers of other religions are stupid for their beliefs, then those being criticized for their beliefs could say the same thing about the accuser.

There is one thing that all religions have in common, and that is faith. No matter the religious affiliation, faith is the driving force that pushes us to become the best versions of ourselves. The whole purpose of religion is to

establish specific outlines for people to follow, like a recipe for success, so that they can obtain that ultimate self. Faith is our conscious and subconscious beliefs and desires, and it is what reassures us that our decisions will ultimately benefit us and help us accomplish our dreams and goals.

Faith is a mindset. Religion is an organization. Faith is self-motivation. Religion is abidance of rules. Faith is understanding imperfection. Religion is the life-long strive for perfection. Faith is free. Religion costs time, money and, sometimes, freedom. Faith is what unites people for a better tomorrow. Religion categorizes ideas to prevent unification.

When life gets tough, it is faith, not religion, that reassures you that things will get better. When life is going well, it is upholding your faith in positivity, not religion, that creates happiness.

When it comes down to it, nobody is going to remember someone based on their religious preference; they are going to remember someone based on their beliefs, their values and their contributions. We call people individuals because we were created to each be unique and not to succumb to specific ideologies so easily. We were created to discover what our personal ideologies should be so that we can grow into the best version of ourselves.

For those who do follow a particular religion, why do you do so? Is it because that's how you were raised, or because you fully believe and live by those teachings? If you fully believe in the teachings, then kudos to you because you have found yourself, and that's truly an amazing accomplishment that should be celebrated daily.

For those who follow a religion because you were taught to do so, is it really benefitting your well-being, or just a way of appeasing your family? Nobody should subscribe to a religion or any other tradition or task just to appease someone else.

Religion is about reaching a certain enlightenment so its followers may live to the fullest based on their values, but if the teachings that guide you to enlightenment don't truly resonate with you, you can't truly reach that ultimate goal.

This article is not intended to undermine any religious affiliation. This was written to demonstrate why faith, not an affiliation, helps people grow to understand the world. No matter what one's religious preference may be, a religion is nothing without having faith in the teachings.

Whether a religion or one's own mind brings on faith, it is what creates hope and allows us to understand the good and the bad in this journey we call life.

An opinion on opinion

By: **Grace Ducanis**

@GraceDucanis

Unless you are part of a certain group, you're not allowed to have an opinion on the issues affecting that group. This basic idea pervades a lot of discussion about social issues. If you're not a member of a certain race, you can't have an opinion on issues affecting that race, if you're not of a certain gender or sexual orientation, you can't have an opinion on that gender or sexual orientation, and if you're not of a certain religious belief system, you can't have an opinion on that belief system. This basic idea pervades a lot of discussion about social issues.

Naturally, this limitation only seems to extend to negative opinions about any group in question. If the opinion is in line with what the group believes and wishes to promote, it's absolutely allowed, even encouraged. It's only when the opinion is negative that you're not allowed to have an opinion of a group you're not a part of. An opinion, however, is not something you can stop someone from having, regardless of the categories they fall into.

We all have opinions about everything, whether we're aware of them or not. It's not a matter of allowing or not allowing someone to have an opinion on something. An opinion is not a tangible object that you can take away from an individual just because you don't think they have enough experience to have one. I've never murdered someone, but it's my opinion that murdering someone is wrong. Someone who has murdered someone may think that murdering someone isn't wrong. Their experience does not make their opinion more objectively right than my opinion. While murder is perhaps an extreme example, the idea is that objective truth often has

nothing to do with a person's experiences.

However, there is something to be said for a person's credibility. Obviously, a person who has been to medical school is more likely to be correct about a medical diagnosis than a person who went to law school, and person who went to law school is more likely to be right about tax codes than a person who went to medical school. But that doesn't necessarily mean that they are more right — it just means that other people are more likely to believe what they say is true and take their advice.

Besides, assumptions about whose opinion is more informed based on skin color, gender or nationality aren't always correct. For example, an atheist who has researched discrimination against Christians internationally is probably able to give a more informed opinion than a Christian who has never experienced discrimination or researched it.

It drives me crazy to see people telling other people that their opinion isn't valid because they don't fit into boxes x, y and z. Shutting down other people's opinions because you don't think they're valid doesn't help your side in an issue — it just means that if more people agree with you, it's because they're only hearing one point of view. Being able to check a certain box doesn't necessarily make you more wrong or right than anyone else, no matter which box it is. .

Local elections are more important than presidential ones

By: **Chantel Grant**

U.S. citizens are notorious for staying at home rather than heading to the polls, especially in local and state elections. According to ballotpedia.org, in the 2010 gubernatorial elections, there was a 47 percent voter turnout for Rick Scott. However, this is just the tip of a deeper problem found in the U.S., as the highly publicized presidential elections struggle to mobilize citizens. Americans have grown weary of the word "voting" as, year after year, they display more political apathy.

The truth is Americans are under the impression that voting for their executive is the most patriotic and democratic thing to do. However, when presidents fail to live up to campaign promises, a cloud of apathy falls over the population, as the belief that "my voice doesn't matter" starts to replay itself in their minds. Statistics are painting a portrait of how Americans view the hierarchy of their government, and local elections are falling on the lower end of the totem pole.

Apparently, unbeknownst to most Americans, the actions of the president do not affect our everyday lives. The president is not constitutionally responsible for communities. Every day, states take care of amenities and infrastructure, such as transportation and public schooling; the people who are elected in local elections have more impact and influence over citizens' everyday lives than one may think. These people are accountable for almost everything the state is responsible for; the state controls taxes, welfare and the judiciary. Once a state law does not contradict the federal constitution and is not an enumerated right of the federal government, the state can pass it. So the state mandates most of those laws that people are afraid to break.

Moreover, locally elected officials are supposed to be the perfect example of democracy. They act on citizen's behalf and convey their issues to the federal branch of the government. Therefore, participating in local elections is supposed to be the most democratic

aspect of American politics; these elected officials are supposed to represent citizens, but when citizens don't vote, they create a disjoint between themselves and local politicians. They are the buffer between what citizens want and how to get what they want done, so not voting in local elections is not only undemocratic, but it is also counter-productive.

Furthermore, not voting in local elections allows for small groups whose interests may not align with the majority to commandeer local politics. Taken together, the smaller groups' interests become the only interests of the state, and people who do not vote become marginalized in their own community.

It's frightening to think that a state can pass laws and implement programs without the approval of the majority of its citizens. Even then, when a law is passed that citizens don't like, they can still vote against it, which can be easily done at the local level. Yet Americans still refuse to participate in local elections. There's no place where one's voice can be heard more than in his or her own backyard, so bypassing local elections because one thinks his or her voice won't be heard is probably one of the most illogical claims of the 21st century.

Participating in local politics is also the best way to become politically active. If more people participated in their local elections, then it's probably more likely that they will want to participate in presidential elections, as well.

Those presidential candidates that citizens are vying for all started to make their way to the presidency from the local level. If they can understand the importance of local elections and the impact they can have on a community, then why can't everyone else?

Changing America's low voter turnout cannot start at the national level. Instead, it starts with voting for a mayor or voting in the next gubernatorial elections. One's voice can be heard, and one still can make a difference, but it has to start where it matters most: at the local level.



Relationships are hard enough

By: **Roddia Paul**

In this day and age, many people live together long before getting hitched. Reason, Fortunene published an article to inform people of the rights they are not entitled to as a partner in a non-documented relationship. But the lack of documented proof of legal unity should not hinder a cohabitating couple's ability to have the same rights as married one.

This is not in reference to those high school students who move in with their older significant other or those college flings that do not last more than a month. This is about adults, not impulsive teens with roommates who think moving in together will be all sunshine and rainbows.

Not all couples want to get married, some couples may feel they are not in the right place financially to get a marriage license or have a wedding, or, sometimes, couples just don't get around to it. Then something bad happens. People never expect to be in a situation out of their control, but whether they would like to admit it or not, things happen, and it sucks when they can't help their significant others just because they do not have legal documentation of their unity.

The only alternative to being a legally married couple would be for a couple to apply to be a documented domestic partnership, in which two people that are above the age of 18 and consent willingly to be jointly responsible for each other's shelter, food and other basic necessities. In order to have a domestic partnership, the couple has to pay, apply and be granted legal partnership.

This is a great alternative to marriage because it allows couples to circumvent the hassles and cost of marriage documents and a wedding while still reaping the same benefits. Domestic partners receive insurance, health, parental leave and death benefits, amongst many other things. However, the fact of the matter is that domestic partnerships are not recognized in all 50 states. What happens to the couple who would like those benefits and are not permitted access to domestic partnership status due to their individual state laws?

Twenty states in the U.S. do not recognize domestic partnerships, and, out of the 30 that do, recognition and benefits vary depending on the city or county. For example, in Florida, only 9 out of 67 counties recognize domestic partnerships

So for those whom a marriage or a domestic partnership do not protect, death, illness or financial crisis can be their worst nightmare. Because of the lack of documentation, the surviving partner will not have access to the deceased person's possessions, estate or money. This is unfortunate for many cohabitating couples, especially if the partner who died was the breadwinner of the two; he or she could possibly lose his or her home and suffer financially. In some cases, a cohabitant will die, and, no matter how long he or she was with his or her partner, the partner's belongings go to the next of kin, even if it is a relative who the deceased had not talked to in years.

There is also a big concern for children born to cohabitating couples. In the event that the two do split, there can be some difficulty regarding custody and financial support, whereas a married couple usually has some form of legal agreement on custody, belongings and financial support.

Cohabitating couples and married couples all go through the same struggles; they have debt, they have bills, they sometimes have children, they have tragedies, and, of course, they have the stress of maintaining a relationship. The legal system should not exclude cohabitating couples from having spousal rights because they do not have a marriage license.

The unity of marriage is a step that people take for various reasons, but deciding not to do it should not impede a couple's rights. Many times, partners are closest to each other, and whether they've known each other for years or several months, their connection depends on the individual relationship, and the law shouldn't monitor that.

Seriously Kidding

a satire column

Dear Mr. West, Yeezy or whatever

By: **Chantel Grant**

Kanye West is the worst thing that has ever happened to pop culture. He is an arrogant, pompous, vapid human being whom I shouldn't even be writing about. However, my mom always told me that writing a letter is the best way to release your frustration to someone, so here it is: my letter to Yeezy himself.

Dear Mr. West.

Let me start by saying that I never liked your music. I didn't mind hearing your nursery rhyme-like rap music blowing through the speakers of passing cars, neither did I mind the fact that your mouth and brain appeared permanently disconnected. I just thought that you were a loose cannon who would eventually exhaust yourself and become outdated like Vanilla Ice or Carrot Top.

Yet here I am, 12 years later, baffled that you are still a fixture in pop culture. The only reason that I will not admit to myself that I hate you is because I think your daughter is adorable, and it would be a bit hypocritical to hate you and love your daughter. With that being said, I have written down a few reasons why I think you should be exiled and placed on an uninhabited island with your wife, music and overpriced clothing line.

The first reason is simple. I think you're annoying. I can't think of any other celebrity who gets under my skin more than you. I would gladly rather work as an immigrant staff member for Donald Trump than sit and listen to anything you ever have to say. When I hear you speak, all I can think about is a caveman conversing with someone through a series of grunts and moans. That's really what you sound like to me, a caveman who took a time machine to the 21st century whom no one understands. The ironic thing is that I don't think that you're stupid; I just think that you may need a therapist to find out what's going in that massive head of yours. Better yet, maybe you should consider getting a CAT-scan or MRI to see if

something is anatomically wrong with you.

In addition to being annoying — I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news — but your sense of style is nauseating. I don't care if it's Yeezy Season one, two or three, all of your clothes remind me of an old tattered washcloth. I won't even comment on those weirdly shaped space boots that you're trying to pass off as high fashion, and, as a matter of fact, I'm just waiting for NASA to hit you with a lawsuit. Don't get me wrong, Mr. West; I'm all for pushing the boundaries and making fashion statements, but all you seem to be doing is pushing me into insanity with your pathetic designs. What's even more irksome about your clothing line is that your wife has put her hedonistic ways behind her to assume the role of "Yeezy Ambassador."

As a wife, I think the least she could do is tell you the truth about your designs. Instead, she wears them everywhere and forces North to wear them, too. I never disliked Kim. She was always someone I looked up to when I failed an exam. I mean, if she could get famous from a mistake, then I could definitely bounce back from one bad exam. However, after you guys got married, she not only took your last name, but she took your annoying ways as well. Anyway, when you guys get divorced, I'm sure she'll go right back to being the adorable narcissist whom Americans love to hate.

I know I sound like a hater, but I'm really not — I'd like to think of myself as a "disliker," and I know that there are people out there who really love you. That doesn't mean anything to me because I'm sure there are people out there who love Kim Jong-Un, so I'm not worried about your fans.

One more thing: I was wondering if you could do us regular people a favor and shut up. Just take an oath of silence for the rest of your life, or at least until you get the Carrot Top-level of fame where no one cares about you. There are a few more paragraphs that I have left in me, but, for now, I think I've said enough.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO UNWIND AFTER MIDTERMS?

SHARK SPEAK



"After midterms, I like to relax by going tanning and going to dinner with my friends."

- Nanette Weitzman, junior criminal justice major



"After midterms, I look forward to having fun and relaxing in Cancun."

- Ava Cole, junior biology major



"I look forward to spending time with my friends who are coming to visit from various colleges out of state."

- Ricardo Gonzalez, sophomore psychology major



"To relax, I am going to spend time with my family and catch up on shows and books that I couldn't enjoy as much due to my course work and studying."

- Zara Khan, senior biology major



"This year, I am looking forward to spending time with my family on our spring break family cruise."

- Aubreyanne Mayrsohn, freshman psychology major



"Midterms can be very stressful for me and so this year I plan on going on a cruise with other commuter students here on campus. It will give me a chance to go somewhere I've never been, eat good food, and relax and connect with people."

- Kimberly Gutierrez, senior biology major

HELP WANTED

All students should visit the Office of Student Employment Website to apply for these positions:
http://www.nova.edu/financialaid/employment/how_to_apply.html

Clerical Assistant-(HPD263)

Job ID: 5696

Hours: 20 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week

Rate: \$8.50/hour

Assist the staff in the College of Osteopathic Medicine's SIM Lab and SIM Clinic by providing general clerical duties such as typing correspondence, reports, emails, photocopying, filing and assisting in completing projects as needed for special events within the two labs.

Group Facilitator/Vocational Services-

Pembroke Pines-(OFF33)

Job ID: 4895

Hours: 10 hrs./week

Rate: \$12/hour

Facilitate Educational/Vocational groups to clients looking to obtain their GED and job training skills. May tutor or give individual assessment under the supervision of the educational specialist and educational coordinator.

America Reads Tutor-(OFF10)

Job ID: 4927

Hours: 10 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week

Rate: \$13/hour

Work with and help children read well in

Broward County elementary schools.

Administrative Student Assistant-(HPD01)

Job ID: 5027

Hours: 6 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$8.50/hour

Work at circulation desk, check in/out books, organize library materials, photocopy, shelve books and other duties as assigned.

Administrative Assistant for the Achieve in Medicine Medical Immersion Camp-(HPD266)

Job ID: 5716

Hours: 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$9/hour

Assist in the planning, organization and logistics of two one-week medical school immersion camps (summer 2016)
 Assist the Director with the marketing and promotion of the AIM-High Camp
 Manage the registration progress for AIM-High
 Assist in the implementation of camp evaluation
 Assist with the recruitment of medical students to serve as counselors
 Assist with the implementation of the camp

Student Assistant-(092)

Job ID: 5455

Hours: 15 hr./week

Rate: \$8.50/hour

Answer telephones, data entry and mailings for commencement, organization and mailing of diplomas. File, make photocopies, run errands and other duties as assigned, depending on office work loads.

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Civic Engagement Program Assistant-(1120)

Job ID: 5454

Hours: 10 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$8.50/hour

Manage inputting for Community Collaboration Database projects as well as the SERV hour database process
 Work with staff in communications with Community Affiliates
 Answer main office telephone line
 Maintain Community Affiliate newsletter
 Other duties as assigned by SLCE staff

Graduate Student Assistant-(086D)-(SLYN-

1POS)

Job ID: 5535

Hours: 20 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week

Rate: \$11/hour

Answer questions and direct students to the appropriate area. Assist with on-going projects within the department.

Student Research Assistant-(353)

Job ID: 5265

Hours: 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$10/hour

Assist faculty with various research projects. Provide clerical and research support to undergraduate and graduate business programs. Tasks include data collection, analyzing data, data entry, filing and answering phones. Other duties as assigned.

Senior Student Assistant-(63)

Job ID: 5586

Hours: 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$8.75/hour

Perform office duties, such as answering phones, assisting students and staff, photocopying, filing, typing memos and delivering materials to other departments.

Graduate Student-Administrative

Assistant-(110)

Job ID: 5055

Hours: 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$10/hour

File paperwork for student and employee files, distribute mail, take inventory and submit requisitions. Prepare recruiting materials and assist with event organization

Graduate Student ACE Lab Assistant-(1161)

Job ID: 5715

Hours: 20 hrs./week

Rate: \$11/hour

Staff the ACE Lab to maintain inventory of SGDs, alternative input devices for AAC, and other AT to keep them up-to-date and in good working order
 Utilize Boardmaker program to create visual supports and AAC materials
 Program SGDs and assist faculty and students in learning to use them
 Troubleshoot problems with AAC apps and SGDs
 Demonstrate use of ACE Lab equipment and answer questions
 Participate in AAC-related events
 Assist in scheduling and providing AAC presentations
 Work collaboratively with faculty on AAC projects

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 Fri.-Sat. 10AM-11PM • Sun. 11AM-10PM