

4-14-2009

## The Current Volume 19: Issue 26

Nova Southeastern University

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## IN SIDE

### News

Sharks Unite Through Television  
Read the continuation of this article.

Page 3

### Current Affairs

Making a Big Difference in a Small World  
The first annual benefit fashion show, "It's a Small World."

Page 1

### Sports

Sharks Beat Barry  
Women's rowing compete in the first annual Barry-NSU Dual Race.

Page 10

### Variety

Bill Maher Brings Political Humor to NSU

Read about this political television host.

Page 12

### Opinions

Evidently, Art Has No Value in the U.S.  
Protests regarding the price of books  
Amazon Kindle owners have to pay.

Page 14

### Forecast

Today  
Mostly Cloudy  
Hi: 75 Lo: 56

Wednesday  
Sunny  
Hi: 70 Lo: 61

SEE FORECAST 2

# Full Tuition Offered to Bright Futures Scholars



Courtesy of www.promotingyourself.net

**LAURA STARR**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As of March 30, NSU plans to offer full-tuition scholarships to students who qualify for the Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholarship. NSU is the only private not-for-profit university in the state of Florida to offer

this initiative.

Previously, the scholarship would honor the amount of tuition that the BFFAS would pay at a public institution, but students had to pay the remainder to fully cover NSU's tuition. With this new initiative, NSU is honoring the BFFAS portion, and also covering the remainder of tuition for the

new students who qualify.

Another addition is a \$500 Residence Scholarship for all eligible BFFAS students choosing to live in the university residence halls.

"With the economy forcing families to make difficult choices, we want to make sure that a quality education is available and

SEE BRIGHT FUTURES 3

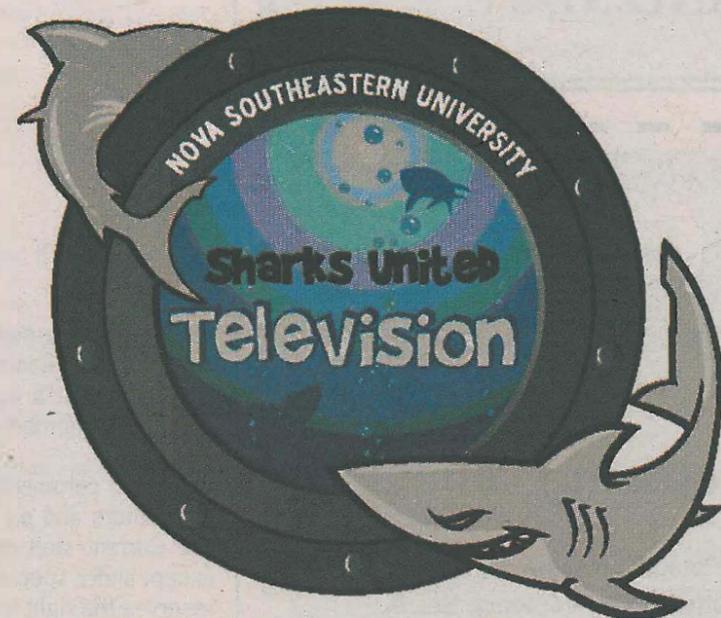
# Sharks United Through Television

**ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

Sharks United Network Television began transmitting a weeklong test run on April 8 through Comcast Channel 96.

The project has been in the making for over a year and it was one of the six proposed actions to unite the campus and make students aware of events and athletics. Other proposals included buying ads in the newspaper, sending more e-mails to the NSU community, and posting more posters and flyers throughout campus.

According to the business plan for the Sharks United Network, the station was picked from the other choices because the cost of it will be minimal to the administration. However, 15 percent of the Undergraduate Student Government Association's budget and 69 percent of the Pan-

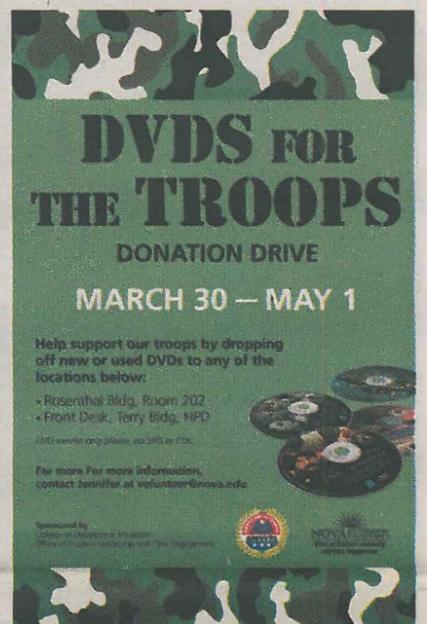


Student Government Association budget was used to fund the project.

"I don't know how many people will benefit from it. There are probably better things that

SEE SHARK TV 3

# Initiative Named-the Blockbuster For our Troops



**LAURA STARR**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jennifer Bowman-Wilson, a graduate assistant for civic engagement in the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, is hosting a DVDs for the Troops Donation Drive, March 30 through May 1. This event is paired with the College of Osteopathic Medicine and in conjunction with the efforts of Dave Womack, a guidance counselor at the University Lower School.

Due to the efforts last year and working with 1st Lt. Dan Nardiello, the U.S. Marine Lt. of the Afghanistan Battalion, the group was dubbed the name "the Blockbuster of Afghanistan."

"They are over there, so we should still care," quoted Bowman on the underlying purpose and mission of this drive.

Bowman-Wilson further notes that this drive is important because DVDs are the only form of entertainment that the troops have. She went on to further note that the troops are not able to entertain themselves with outdoor sports such as football, as they might become targets.

"I think it is an amazing idea," said Jenny Wong, a senior biology major. "It gives them a little piece of home. It helps take their minds away from a lot of stress."

"I commend the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement for trying to add a temporary deviation from the war and add entertainment to their daily lives," said Lesa Phillips, assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Phillips also commented that the

SEE TROOPS 2

## FORECAST from 1

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny Hi: 78 Lo: 72	Partly Cloudy Hi: 83 Lo: 74	Isolated T-Storms Hi: 83 Lo: 71	Sunny Hi: 81 Lo: 74	Scattered T-Storms Hi: 82 Lo: 75

## TROOPS from 1

office is doing a great service because most of the time the basic needs of the troops are covered, but entertainment is forgotten.

This drive is asking the NSU community to drop off new or used DVDs to the Rosenthal Building, Room 202 or to

the front desk of the Terry Building in the Health Professions Division.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bowman-Wilson at (954) 262-7297 or by e-mail at [volunteer@nova.edu](mailto:volunteer@nova.edu).

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The Current, formerly known as The Knight, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in Room 105 of the Athletics and Student Activities (ASA) Building. The Current is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to The Current.

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

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BRIGHT FUTURES from 1

# Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Courtesy of www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

affordable to the best and brightest students in Florida," said NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr.

"[They] go on to bigger and better things which make all of the degrees more valuable."

- Dave Dawson

"My job is making [the student's] degree more valuable," said Dave Dawson, director of university relations. "When we bring the best and brightest here...they provide a more challenging academic atmosphere which...brings more prestige and esteem to the school."

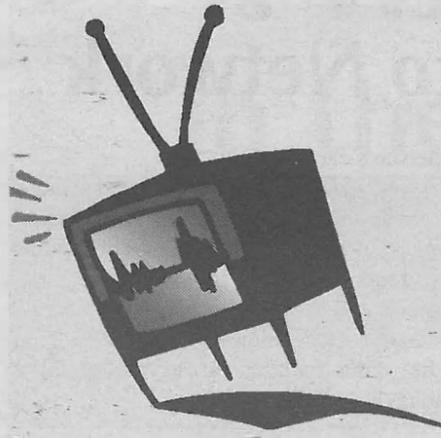
Dawson continued in that, "[They] go on to bigger and better things which make all of the degrees more valuable."

"It should be offered to current students as well," said Amna Bakali, a freshman biology major, who has a concern with this initiative. "After one year of debt, the little extra may help pay off my old debts."

"It should be fair to everyone," said Ayesha Cheema, a freshman psychology major. "We are not saying cut it for [the new students], but make it available to everyone."

The award originally had a limit, but it has now been expanded to all new students who qualify. Applications are due April 30. For more information on this new scholarship initiative, please go to <http://www.nova.edu/financialaid> or call (800) 806-3680.

SHARK TV from 1



could be done with the money that are more useful," said Oscar Trinidad, a junior psychology major.

"I think it is fine and it will make the school grow. I don't think the money should have come from SGA money. I think it should have come from the school because it will help the school," said Elizabeth Pashley, a freshman biology major.

The television station will show commercials from different organizations that will allow SGA to increase its budget, full-feature movies, athletic footage and highlights, films about security on campus, art performances, and footage from events around campus.

"This will be a tool that will bring NSU together as one," said Philip Ortiz, a junior finance major and SGA president. "Also, if a guest speaker comes to campus, but people have to work or have class, they can still enjoy the wisdom these guests bring."

Eventually, the station will be completely run by students and those who are communications or broadcasting majors

will be able to gain firsthand experience. "I think it will be a great opportunity for

"This will be a tool that will bring NSU together as one. Also, if a guest speaker comes to campus, but people have to work or have class, they can still enjoy the wisdom these guests bring."

- Phillip Ortiz

students pursuing a career in television to try their field on campus," said Jonathan Da Silva, a junior legal studies major.

NSU's community will be able to watch the 24-hour station around campus on Channel 96 and online on their Web site, which will be up next fall. The producers of the station will also be taking suggestions from students on the programming of the station on their Web site. They can also be found on Facebook under Sharks United Network TV.

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# Students Mix, Mingle and Learn How to Network

**ALEXIS IRIAS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Career Development hosted "Mix and Mingle Your Way to a Great Career: A Mocktail Hour" on Wednesday, April 8, in the Alvin Sherman Library.

Students ranged from undergraduate to graduate, with a variety of different concentrations and majors, who all attended to get a couple of tips on how to network and how to use proper etiquette from Rochelle Renee Reese, director of catering/concession, who was also hired to teach etiquette to different social groups.

Reese had a set of rules for students to follow in order to play along with the Mocktail Hour role-play. Refreshments were served along with mock wine and tables were set up with artificial candles, reminiscent of a corporate networking cocktail event. Students were randomly placed at different tables to meet and greet new people. Reese showed students how to introduce themselves, how to shake another person's hand and even how to politely excuse themselves from a conversation.

"You should meet 10 people, but get five business cards from prospective business partners," said Reese. She emphasized that going to a networking event is not a social event to make friends or to get a date, but to find people who will be beneficial in a

person's career.

Claudio Li, a business management student commented on how he found this event to be extremely beneficial for him. "Etiquette plays an important role in the social and business society," said Li. The Career Development Office provides the skills required to be successful in today's society."

Reese discussed how students should take advantage of events offered by the Office of Career Development, such as these "networking mix and mingles."

"Up to this point in a student's life, they've been graded on what they know versus who they are," said Reese. "Once you get in the marketplace, it's about the whole package."

Reese also said international students found this event extremely beneficial due to the fact that they now know how to network in their own culture, where etiquette and networking techniques are different than in America.

"The Mix and Mingle workshop was extremely helpful and covered everything from what to say, wear, and do in a business networking situation. I'm excited to put my new skills to work," said Jane Brener, a senior business administration major.

For more information about the Office of Career Development, please visit their Web site at [http://www.nova.edu/car\\_eer](http://www.nova.edu/car_eer).



Photo by A. Irias

Attendees gather around before dispersing into groups.



Photo by A. Irias

Students with Rochelle Renee Reese, who was giving tips on proper posture and hand placement.

## Events Calendar April 14-20

**Tuesday, April 14**

**Life and Death in Post-Invasion Iraq:** Tim Dixon, J.D., associate professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities, will give a lecture about life and death in post-invasion Iraq. His lecture will center on the lives and deaths of the Iraqi people, as well as the problems that the Iraqis face. He will also lecture on other forces, such as United Nations representatives, non-governmental organizations personnel, journalists and volunteer groups who are currently in Iraq. The event will begin at 12 p.m. in Room 240 of the Parker Building. For more information, please visit [www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/fls](http://www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/fls).

**The Death Penalty-Reflections on the Past, Present and Future of the Ultimate Punishment:** Members of the NSU community are invited to attend this panel discussion featuring several faculty members from the college's Division of Humanities and Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The faculty members will discuss the past and current arguments surrounding the death penalty and offer their opinions on the matter. The event will begin at 12 p.m. in Room 201 A of the Parker Building. For more information, please visit [www.undergrad.nova.edu/news](http://www.undergrad.nova.edu/news).

**Wednesday, April 15**



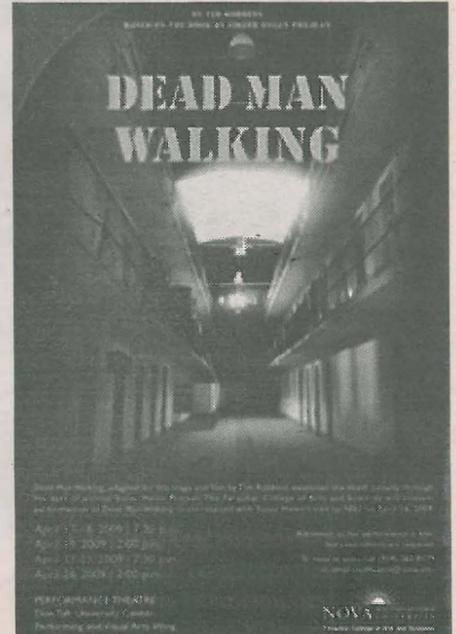
**Biological Forum on Darwin:** Members of the NSU community are invited to attend a biological discussion titled "Life, Death and Darwin: Origins and Extinctions." This event will feature a panel discussion about the deep impact of Charles Darwin, and will be hosted by several faculty members of the college's Division of Math, Science and Technology. The event will begin at 4 p.m. in Room 1124 of the Carl DeSantis Building. For more information, please visit [www.undergrad.nova.edu/news](http://www.undergrad.nova.edu/news).

**Thursday, April 16**



**Distinguished Lecture Series:** The Division of Humanities will host Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J., author of best-selling book "Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States," and advocate seeking to abolish the death penalty in the United States. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Miniaci Performing Arts Center. Tickets are in the college's Office of the Dean, located on the second floor of the Mailman-Hollywood Building, or by calling. For more information, visit [www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/dss/sisterhelen](http://www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/dss/sisterhelen), or call (954) 262-8236.

**Friday, April 17**



**"Dead Man Walking:"** The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Performing and Visual Arts will present an adaptation of "Dead Man Walking," based on the best-selling book by Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J. The NSU's version is directed by Mark Duncan, M.F.A., performing arts coordinator and assistant professor in the college's Division of Performing and Visual Arts. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Theatre in the Don Taft University Center. For more information and to reserve seats, please e-mail [nsutheatre@nova.edu](mailto:nsutheatre@nova.edu) or call (954) 262-8179.

**Saturday, April 18**

**"Dead Man Walking:"** The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Performing and Visual Arts will present an adaptation "Dead Man Walking," based on the best-selling book by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ. The NSU's version is directed by Mark Duncan, M.F.A.; performing arts coordinator and assistant professor in the college's Division of Performing and Visual Arts. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Theatre of the Don Taft University Center. For more information and to reserve seats, please e-mail [nsutheatre@nova.edu](mailto:nsutheatre@nova.edu) or call (954) 262-8179.

**Sunday, April 19**

**"Dead Man Walking:"** The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Performing and Visual Arts will present an adaptation "Dead Man Walking," based on the best-selling book by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ. The NSU's version is directed by Mark Duncan, M.F.A., performing arts coordinator and assistant professor in the college's Division of Performing and Visual Arts. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Theatre of the Don Taft University Center. For more information and to reserve seats, please e-mail [nsutheatre@nova.edu](mailto:nsutheatre@nova.edu) or call (954) 262-8179.

**Monday, April 20**

**GBSA Power Lunch Series:** Members of the NSU community are invited to attend this event designed to provide them with the opportunity to network with other students. Betty Goff, director of human resources, and James Hoganson, director of accounting, will also be present to speak to attendees. The event will begin at 1 p.m. in Room 1048 of the Carl DeSantis Building. For more information, please contact Carla Withrow at (954) 262-5149.

## Bach Heard at NSU Concert

ALEXIS IRIAS  
STAFF WRITER

Bossa Nova Chorale held its third appearance at NSU on Sunday, April 5, performing songs that ranged from a 14-century chant to a hip-hop arrangement of the spiritual "Keep Your Lamps," which was accompanied by congas.

Jennifer Donelson, D.M.A., assistant professor of music, gave a detailed explanation of the Bossa Nova Chorale. She said that the festival of student works was, at first, for the music students. The music portion of the program featured performances by the PVA Chamber Ensemble, flute and piano soloists and the Bossa Nova Chorale. The PVA Chamber Ensemble began the afternoon by performing a Joseph Haydn trio and a fantastic tango.

The soloists played compositions by Johan Sebastian Bach, Georg Benda and Haydn. These performances were the culmination of a semester of hard work in private lessons with their teachers and an appreciative audience warmly received them.

Donelson explained that the Bossa Nova Chorale performed four diverse pieces, thus showcasing the versatility of the group and their hard work throughout the semester.

"The Chorale brings together students from all different majors on campus and their performance in the festival was a

great learning opportunity," said Donelson. "This performance complements the work that they do in other classes through-

**'The Chorale brings together students from all different majors on campus and their performance in the festival was a great learning opportunity.'**

**- Jennifer Donelson**

performance dimension and the ability to express themselves in the form of art. It brings out a side to these students that might otherwise be left undemonstrated." Kosta Lagos, a biology major, who performed in the Bossa Nova Chorale in previous years, commented on what he thought about this year's performance.

"They impressed me; it was nice to see and hear them from the other side of the curtain," he said. "They were in sync and they killed the dynamics of their pieces."

Bill J. Adams, D.M.A., assistant professor of the Division of Performing and Visual Arts concluded with commenting on the performance, "They were wonderful."

## Library Helps Students Relax During "Crunch Time"

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

from April 6 through April 8, the Reference Department of the Alvin Sherman Library "offered services to help the NSU community relax while preparing for final exams.

There was a "Zen Zone," where students received free services such as yoga, guided meditation and massages. Other services included tutoring, reference help, resume help and a gaming room.

"I had very interesting appointments today," said Natalie Candela, coordinator of off-campus tutoring. "Since the event was open to the public, I had an eighth grader come in and we looked at his essay. It was interesting because he was writing at a college level. Then, I helped graduate and undergraduate students also, so it was a whole spectrum of students."

The purpose of the event was to alert students to the current services offered by the library, while also offering new, innovative services to help students relax. "We looked at our reference statistics for the past couple of years and saw that a couple of weeks before finals our statistics spiked," said Lori Abrizio, a reference and instructional librarian, who also coordinated the event with the help of the department committee. "It is an outreach with the intention of helping students where they need it, when they need it."

The idea for the event came from one of the reference librarians, Monica Haddad, who attended the University of Texas

in Austin.

"We checked online and contacted them," said Haddad. "Their event mostly promotes the library's services. We changed it a little. We added the wellness part of it, the 'Zen Zone,' yoga, massages, meditation [and] snacks."

Not many students used the "Crunch Time" services on the first day they were offered, but attendance picked up on the second and third days when students requested all of the services.

On Tuesday, however, the meditation instructor could not make it to his session. "I usually come everyday to study but I wanted to try the meditation and find out where I can go to practice it on a regular basis," said Laura De Pefia who works as a dental assistant in the College of Dental Medicine. "I tried to do it alone but it is not the same, like when you have someone personally helping you."

The most popular service of the event was the massage session.

Molly McLane, a third-year-law student commented on her massage saying, "It was great. This is the first time I used the school services, because I'm going to start studying for exams and I'm going to be very stressed out."

"I think it is a good way to de-stress, since we have final exams and the Bar coming up. I feel ready to get back to grinding now," said Michelle Javid, a third year law student.

This was the first semester the library offered these services, but the coordinators are hoping to make it a semi-annual event.



Students were able to receive a massage during "Crunch Time."



One student takes advantage of the free tutoring services that were offered during "Crunch Time."

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**You may reach him at (954) 262-8461 or [knightad@nova.edu](mailto:knightad@nova.edu).**

# A Life of Trials and Tribulations Creates an Author

**KRISTINE BELIAIRE**  
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

Members of the NSU community gathered on March 7, in the Alvin Sherman Library, for a lecture featuring author Bonnie Glover, on behalf of the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Glover received her law degree from Stetson University and currently resides in Davie, Fla. Her book, "Going Down South," was recently nominated for the 2009 NAACP Image Award for outstanding literary work of fiction. In 2006, her first book, "The Middle Sister" was nominated for the International IMPAC Award.

She began the lecture by speaking about her experience at the NAACP Image Awards, where she had a chance to see actors such as Tracey Ellis Ross, Blair Underwood and Will Smith. Though she did not win the award, she was honored to be nominated, saying that she almost fell off her seat when she found out that she was nominated.

She wrote her first book, "The Middle Sister," 13 years ago after the birth of her second son, and finished it in the middle of moving down to Florida. It was a very dramatic time of her life. She had undergone 80 blood transfusions, three emergency surgeries and the doctor had

told her family that she would not survive the birth,

A few months after she got better and learned how to walk again, her husband gave her a laptop. She began to write. At the time, she visited a Web site called Zoetrope: That is where she met Eugene Data, an aspiring writer who lived in India. When he received a fellowship to come to the U.S., he got an agent and recommended her. That agent was Elizabeth Sheinkman, who agreed to represent her.

When her book was nominated for the International IMPAC Award, Glover was shocked: "You have no expectations," she said.

She went on to speak about her most recent book, "Going Down South," which looks at the relationship between mothers and daughters. This book was also written during a tumultuous time of her life, as her best friend and mother-in-law both died.

Glover ended the lecture by reading a passage from both of her books. Her reading was met with applause, and some patrons stayed to ask her questions and purchased her books.

Kimberly Kidd, an adult services programming librarian for the Alvin Sherman Library, enjoyed the event, "I thought it was good... We hope to continue it and encourage patrons to read and enjoy good books."



Bonnie Glover signed and sold her books after the lecture.

Photo by C. Balaban



Bonnie Glover poses with her books after the event

Photo by C. Balaban

# 'Advising CPR' Teaches Students How to Plan Their Academic Careers



Photo by C. Balaban

Suzette Siviter, senior academic advisor from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, gave advice to students on how to plan out a successful four years.

**ALEXIS IRIAS**  
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, April 8, Title V hosted "Advising CPR," the sixth session in the Tools for Success seminar series. The session featured Suzette Siviter, senior academic advisor from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, who gave advice to students on how to plan out a successful four years.

A range of undergraduate, graduate and even doctoral students attended the workshop. Siviter advised them to take advantage of all the resources NSU has to offer students. She emphasized taking the time to meet with academic advisors, at least once every six months.

"Students don't use their advisors enough. [Students need to] make sure they know what's going on with their academic progress," said Siviter. "Students should learn everything they can learn through the Web and we are here for any questions they may have."

Siviter discussed the importance of maintaining a strong GPA throughout college. "The time to strengthen and build your GPA is your first year," she said.

Although NSU offers students a

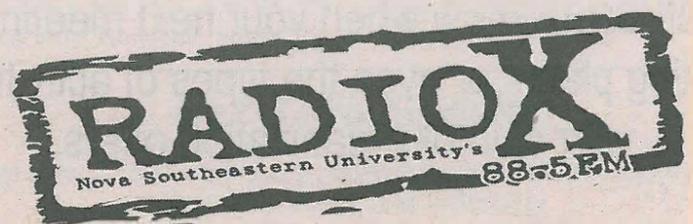
forgiveness policy, which allows students to retake any class they may fail and replace their previous grade with the better one, students must be advised that although this improves their GPA, the previous grade still appears on their transcript.

Instead, she advises students to take a load they can handle and strengthen their GPA through the years. "Don't overdo yourself; pace yourself," said Siviter.

"I thought it was interesting; I learned so much, especially on how to plan my academic career and take advantage of my advisor," said Francisco De Jesus, a sophomore in business administration.

Another student commented on how beneficial she found the online resources. Siviter showed students how to look at their curriculum and handed out a sheet that would help them plan out their four years academically.

"I learned more about how to use online resources to keep up with my academic courses. This was a very informational session; I advise students to attend them," said Shannon MacDonald, a freshman in business administration. "I feel more organized now, and they also had great food!"



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# Making a Big Difference in a Small World

**ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

The International Muslim Association at NSU hosted its first annual benefit fashion show, "It's a Small World," on April 9 in the Don Taft University Center. People from all over NSU and the outside community gathered on the second floor of the UC to see the different fashions that people who practice Hinduism and Islam usually wear.

"It [was] really good. There was a lot of variety. It was riot just fashion, but there was also a comedian and rappers," said Lamaar Evans, a first-year-graduate-business student and Kappa Alpha Psi brother. "My favorite part though, was the rapping: It as not dirty; it was classic and it had meaning behind the words."

"It was nerve-wrecking, but also a wonderful experience," said Yasemin Kanar, a sophomore biology major and one of the models in the event. "My favorite part was getting ready with the girls. I mean, this is what we usually wear and it was fun to show it to everyone so that people learn about the culture because a lot of people don't know that much about Islam."

After an inclusive call to Islamic prayer 15 minutes before the event started, which

anyone who wished to join was welcome, NSU's Indian Student Association began the show modeling their iconic clothes to the music of Radio X. The show also

religious organizations around NSU;" said Afroza Khan, a stnior biology major and production manager of "It's a Small World." "The event was a huge success,

The cause was SOS Children's Village, an orphanage for kids in Broward County. Although they have been an international organization since the 1980s, the first one in the United States was opened in 1993 in Coconut Creek and it is now home to 69 children.

"We love finding new friends, especially when they come out of the blue, like they did," said Vicki Walter, community relations manager for SOS Children's Village in Coconut Creek. "We rely on the support of our friends and neighbors, to inform others about foster care and support our kids."

"It was a lot of work, but seeing it put together makes us realize that it was worthwhile," said Shaika Noor, a junior accounting and business major and president of IMAN. "It is a different show for NSU to see. Hopefully it will bring diversity to NSU, but it is for a good cause and a good way to end the year."

Through the selling of refreshments and raffle tickets, as well as donations, the members of IMAN collected a total of \$800 for SOS. To find out more about SOS Children's Villages please log onto www.sosfl.orida.com. To find out more about IMAN visit www.nova.edu/IMAN.

- " We love finding new friends; especially when they come out of the blue, like they did. We rely on the support of our friends and neighbors through forms about foster care and support our kids."

- Vicki Walter

included the traditional clothing worn in the Middle East as well as a segment in Islamic fashion in South Asia. Before every walk, the students of NSU's Indian Student Association explained the culture and traditional clothing they were about to model.

" 'It's a Small World' fashion show was held to raise awareness on the different

and IMAN did an amazing job putting the entire show together. It was definitely one of the highlights this year."

Inspired by the 2007 event "Faith Through Fashion," the event brought so many people to the second floor of the UC that the seats set up around the catwalk were all full and people were standing and leaning against walls to enjoy the show.



Photo by A. Rodriguez

Two of the models wear the traditional Hindu clothing and dance as part of the show. The song playing, "Jai Ho," was in the movie "Slumdog Millionaire" soundtrack.



Photo by A. Rodriguez

Two students from IMAN model traditional Hindu clothing for women. The students from IMAN partnered with the Indian Student Association to show the audience a little bit about both cultures.



Photo by A. Rodriguez

The students who participated as models in the show pose for a picture backstage before the event starts. Students modeled both Hindu and Islam clothing throughout the night; others also performed during the event.



Photo by C. Balaban

The members of the board for IMAN make one of its four raffles. All proceeds from the raffles and the tickets for the event went to SOS Children's Village



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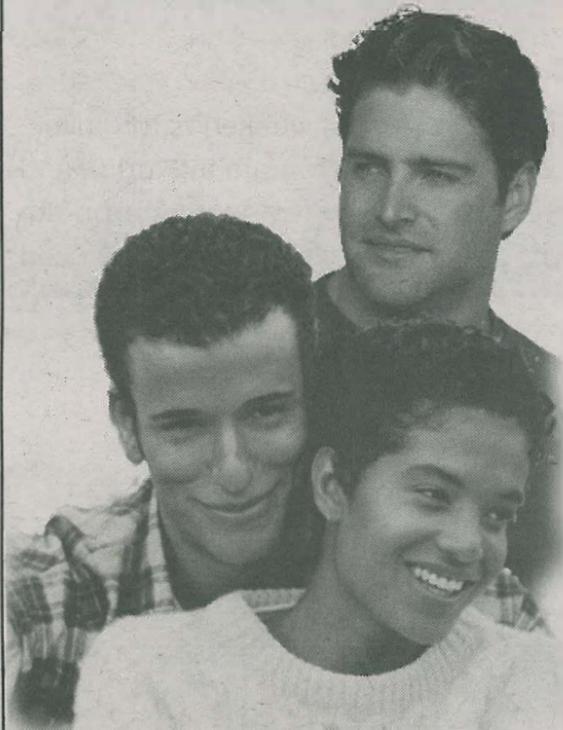
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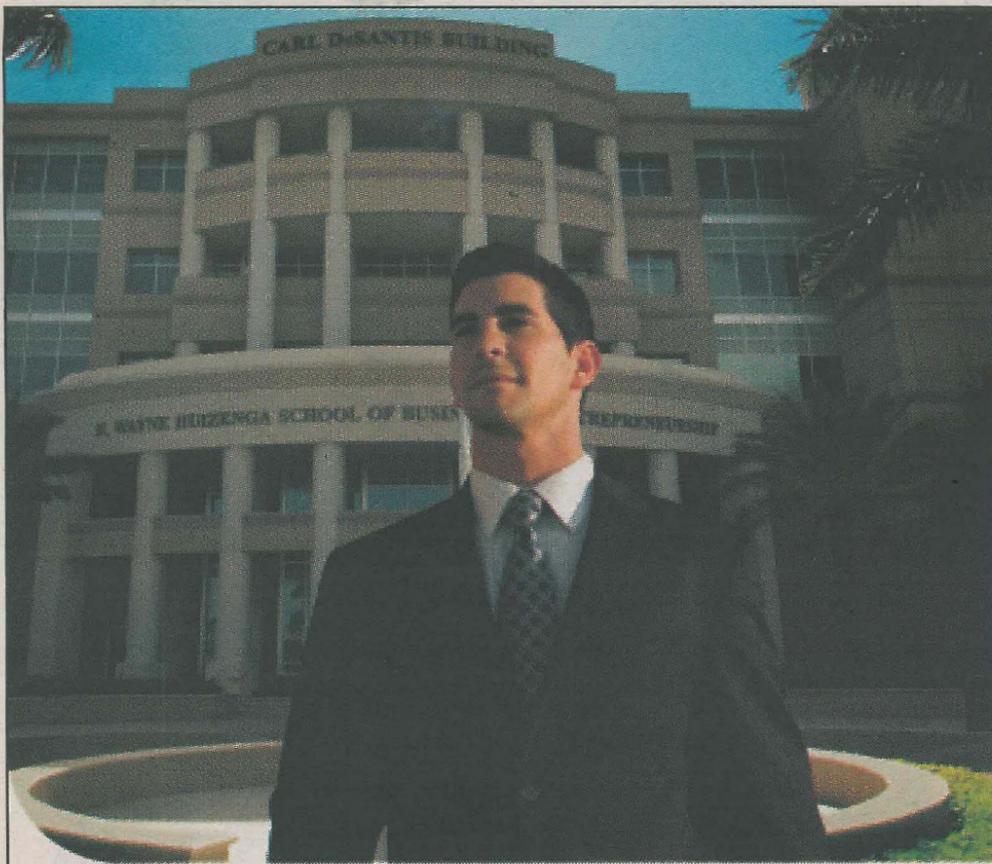
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# Baseball Comes Back to Defeat St. Thomas University



Junior Ricardo Martinez

Photo by C. Balaban

## TIM COENRAAD STAFF WRITER

NSU's baseball team (28-10, 4-8 SSC) dropped a series, 1-2, to Sunshine State Conference rivals Rollins College the weekend of April 3 and 4, bringing them to seventh in the SSC and eight in the South Region. However, the Sharks were able to pick themselves back up and defeat St. Thomas University, 12-8, in a non-regional match-up on April 7.

After falling short 7-0 in the first few innings, the Sharks fought back and chipped away at the St. Thomas Bobcats' lead. Senior Dexter Butler scored in the third inning to put NSU on the scoreboard, 8-1. Fellow senior, Dale Alberto, got a Shark rally going toward the bottom of the

fourth inning after driving in two RBIs off of a solid triple to right field. Butler added an RBI of his own off of a squeeze bunt, bringing Alberto in to score.

NSU continued hacking away the Bobcats' lead, until they saw the lead for the first time all game in the bottom of the eighth inning, as junior J.D. Martinez scored on a passed ball, 9-8.

The Sharks did not stop there as they took all they could get, with freshman Chris Hamper scoring on another Bobcats' passed ball and senior Pete Simon adding on the insurance runs after slamming a two-run homerun.

The Sharks will be back in action, on their home turf, on April 17 at 6 p.m. for the first in a three-game series against SSC rivals Barry University.

## Men's Golf Takes Third at Buccaneer Invitational.



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

The men's golf team

## TRANELL MESA SPORTS EDITOR

NSU's men's golf team put an end to the 2009 regular season, placing third amongst 14 competitors at the Buccaneer Invitational on April 5, shooting a team total of 285-293-296-874.

Junior Byron White alongside freshman teammate Ben Vertz took charge

in leading the Sharks, as they entered the top ten, tying for 10th place individually. Sophomore Bobbi Bode came up close behind, claiming the 13th spot individually as he shot a 72 in round three.

The Sharks will now compete in the Sunshine State Conference Championship in Winter Haven, where Rollins College will be hosting, on April 20.

# Sharks Beat Barry



Photo by T. Mesa

Rowing Varsity 8+ at Barry-Nova First Annual Dual

## TIM COENRAAD STAFF WRITER

NSU's women's rowing team participated in the first annual Barry-NSU Dual Race on April 4 in Miami Beach, Fla., where the Sharks made up for a disappointing performance in the Fall season of 2008, crushing Barry University's Buccaneers in both the Varsity 8+ and Open 4 races.

Senior Amber Bishko of the V8+ jokingly stated, "My goal all week was to make Barry's V8+ cry once we crossed the finish line before them!"

The Sharks' Open 4+ "A" and "B" boats finished first at 8:04.08 and second with a time of 8:07.74, respectively, with Barry trailing 30 seconds behind.

The "A" boat consisted of freshman coxswain, Heather Clayton; senior stroke seat, Lauren McElhenny; followed by freshmen Claire Kurlycheck, Bridget Musto and bow, Christie McElhenny. The "B" boat followed close behind as junior coxswain, Natalie Chaiser, kept her crew consisting of freshman Ericka Wenzke, junior Megan Kim, freshman Ivan Gagula and junior Carolina Ricchi, going strong.

## Tennis Concludes Regular Season, 5-3 SSC

### TRANELL MESA SPORTS EDITOR

NSU's tennis team (14-6; 5-3 SSC) concluded their 2009 regular season with a bit of an upset, as they were defeated 3-6 by the No. 9 team in the country and Sunshine State Conference rivals, Rollins College. Despite the loss, the Sharks were able to hold onto their No. 20 national ranking, while maintaining the seventh spot in the South Region and fourth in the SSC.

"Fin-atics" will now wait to see what the future holds for this talented school of Sharks, as the team awaits seeding for the SSC tournament which begins on April 16 in Boca Raton, Fla.

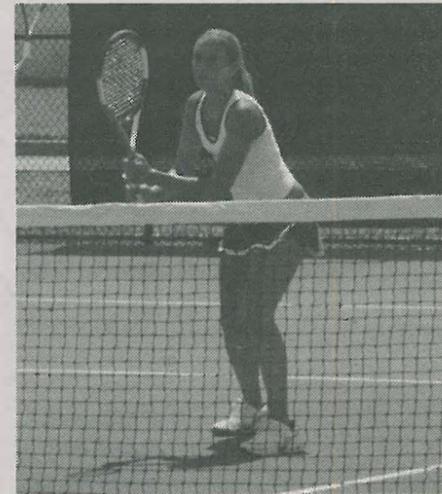


Photo by C. Balaban

Senior Ulia Talalenko

## SSC Baseball Pitcher of the Week

NSU's Shark baseball team was honored as their junior superstar pitcher was named Sunshine State Conference Pitcher of the Week, on April 6, for the second-time in the 2009 spring season.

This 6-foot-5-inch, 215 pound pitching phenomenon wears the number 40 while on the field and on April 6 he threw a complete nine-inning shutout in the Sharks' 1-0 win over SSC rivals Rollins College. He did not allow a single walk while striking out six batters and at one point, retiring 15 batters in a row.

ANSWER: -----

# Fan of the Week

**CHRISTOPHER BALABAN**  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/WRITER

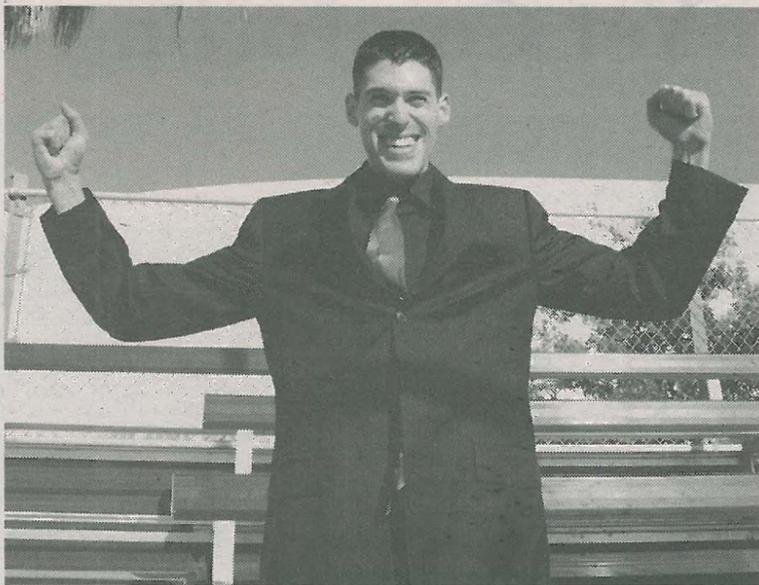


Photo by C. Balaban

Craig Adler, an NSU graduate student studying human resources, was out supporting the Sharks' softball team for their 8-0 win against Eckerd on April 4. Adler is enjoying his first semester here at NSU and claims he has the most "Shark Spirit" on campus. Outside of class and sporting events, Adler enjoys watching T.V. and working out at the Don Taft University Center. His favorite T.V. shows include "King of Queens," "The Bachelor," "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars." He hopes to one day be on "Dancing with the Stars!" Congratulations Craig Adler on being NSU's "FAN OF THE WEEK!"

## Sports Corner

M	K	M	C	D	O	N	A	L	N
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N	R	I	G	E	J	S	I	E	I
E	M	I	L	y	C	A	R	L	E

### ACROSS

1. I am a senior on the NSU rowing team. I have been rowing since I was six years old and I dream of becoming a dock master upon graduation.
2. I concluded my senior year on NSU's volleyball team in the fall of 2008. I wore the No. 2 and played the position of middle blocker.
3. I wear the No. 1 while playing goal keeper for NSU's women's soccer team. In my spare time, I love to train animals and upon graduating, I would love to become a professional trainer at Sea World.

## Answers To Sports Corner: Issue 24

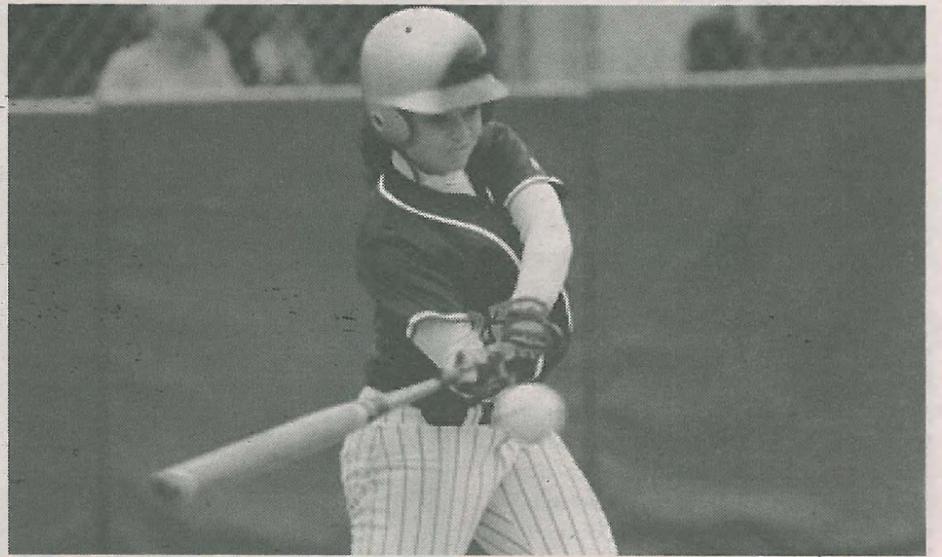
### ACROSS

1. Kevin Rogers
2. Ryan York
3. Chris Hamper

### UP/DOWN

1. Joshua Leo

# No. 23 Softball Takes Another SSC Series



Junior Brittney Lamb

Courtesy of Sports Information

**TIM COENRAAD**  
STAFF WRITER

With the softball season nears its end, the No. 23 nationally ranked NSU softball team (39-11; 12-6 SSC) is making its charge to secure a post-season appearance. The Sharks took care of the Eckerd College Tritons on April 3 and 4, with a 2-1 Sunshine State Conference series win.

The Sharks' first win was made easier by another spectacular pitching performance from sophomore Lexi Sarradet (6), as she pitched all seven innings conceding only three hits, no runs and accumulating eight strikeouts.

On the offensive end junior Dana Bergner (11) opened NSU's account in the second inning, with an RBI single to right field. In the ensuing inning, NSU put the game on ice with a five-run inning with RBIs coming from junior Jessica Hernandez (2) and senior April Donachie (8), who hit two RBI singles to left field. With the rest of the game remaining scoreless, the Sharks took

the win 6-0.

The first game of the next day's double-header saw much of the same from the first as NSU pitcher junior Dani Carron (10), who provided the Sharks with their second shut out in a row, gave up just two hits in five innings of play.

The NSU offense remained potent with junior Brittney Lamb (23) leading the charge going two-for-three at the plate, with three RBIs and two runs. Lamb was followed by fellow junior Laurefl. Lopez (15), who went two-for-two, with two RBIs and a run with Bergner along with senior Katie Pepper (9), adding an RBI each as the Sharks took game two, sealing the series with a 8-0 win.

Determined to avoid the sweep, the Tritons took a 2-0 lead in the second inning of game three off of two RBIs and held on to take the final game of the SSC series. Despite seven hits from the Sharks' offense, NSU was not able to mount a comeback as Eckerd went on to take the game 1-0.

## FAN POLL

**TIM COENRAAD**  
STAFF WRITER

*Who do you think should be NSU's Coach of the Year?  
(100 NSU students were polled)*

**Volleyball Head Coach, Stephen Wilcosky: 48%**

**Rowing Head Coach, John Gartin: 29%**

**Women's Golf Head Coach, Kevin Marsh: 23%**



# Bill Maher Brings Political Humor to NSU

STEFANI RUBINO  
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

On April 11, NSU hosted comedian and talk-show host Bill Maher at the Don Taft University Center Arena. The arena was packed from the floor to the upper level seats, as people waited patiently for Maher to walk onto the stage.

At around 8:30 p.m., Maher finally made his way onto center stage, wondering exactly where he was.

"Where am I? Is this some kind of gym? I've never done my act in a gym before. This should be interesting," he said laughing.

Quickly after that, he dived straight into the comedy. Like Maher's show, "Real Time with Bill Maher," most of the jokes revolved around American politics, the Obama and McCain campaigns, the ridiculousness of Republicans and religion and why the U.S. is in the situation it is currently. He started the show with a few jokes about the recession.

"I was in Orlando last night. You can really see how hard they're being hit by the recession when even Disney is laying people off. There's only like three dwarfs left and about eight of those Dalmatians. And the food court is selling something called 'Korean Barbeque' now."

The crowd was a little hasty to laugh at the "Korean Barbeque" joke, but Maher swiftly snapped back explaining that the night would only get worse from there, and that the audience should get used to it.

His act moved onto talk about how much things have changed since Obama has been in office, even going so far as to call Obama "Chocolate Thunder" because "he has achieved a lot in a short amount of time." He told the audience about how many reporters have been calling him asking him if the comedy is going to stop now that Bush is no longer the president.

He joked, "Look, Obama is not some infallible chocolate Jesus...that's Kanye West you're thinking of. Of course, the comedy isn't going to stop. Obama is human; He's bound to make mistakes."

Maher's comedy has an incredibly unique effect. While he is extremely funny, he has this ability to make a crowd laugh hysterically and then pause to process and agree with the problems he is pointing out. This was especially apparent later on in his act, when he began to talk about conservatives, healthcare, immigration, religion and the environment.

"Most Republicans don't care that the planet is burning up, just as long as the flaming Mexicans don't try to use the emergency room," he commented. He further explained, "All the sane people have left the Republican party. Now, we're stuck hearing from Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck...the 'Axis of Stupid.'"

He pointed out how calling free healthcare "socialized medicine" is just another way for Republicans to keep the lower classes down, yet they claim free healthcare is "bad" because patients will not be able to make their own decisions.

His response to this idea was "Decisions about healthcare are not made by patients or doctors or government bureaucrats; they are made by insurance companies. And like that paper gown, chances are your ass isn't covered."

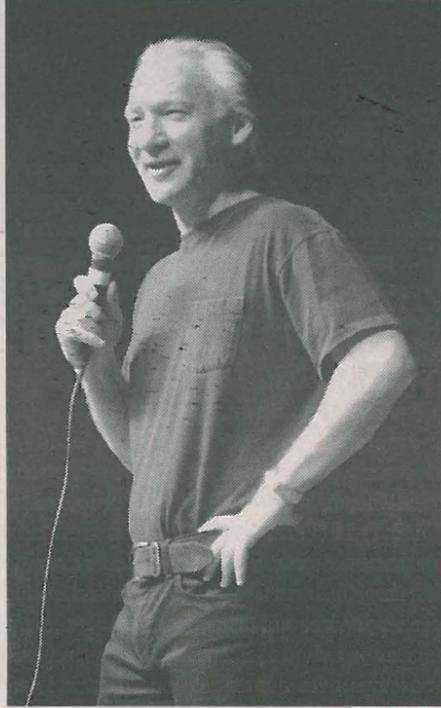


Photo by L. Starr

Political comedian Bill Maher talks about politics, the economy, poisoned American food and religion, to a crowd of hundreds on April 11, 2009 in the Don Taft University Center Arena.

Unfortunately, the laughter started to die down a little bit when he began making jokes about religion. Although I was a bit surprised and felt a little embarrassed that only about a fifth of the crowd was laughing at that point, he said that's why he waits until the end of the show to talk about it, because "a lot of the time, people just walk out, even though it's obvious I'm going to talk about it," he said.

He laughed as he said, "I think it's my job in life to show people how religion is hurting people. For example, Obama comes into office and we get to have stem cell research again."

He continued to talk about how conservatives do not believe in evolution. He said, "Now there's this 'superbug' going around that's antibiotic resistant, cannot be cured with anything and literally eats your flesh. It's because we've been eating this garbage with [antibiotics] all our lives and this thing has had time to adapt and change and protect itself against our drugs. So, Republicans, you may not believe in evolution, but it believes in you."

Maher started getting more laughs when he was concluding the show with comments on popular culture and how sex is portrayed in films.

"I feel so old when I watch these movies with young people just having sex everywhere and anywhere," he said, and then began gyrating his hips in a humping motion, "you see these scenes where he's just got her up against a chain linked fence, just pounding, or in the elevator, or stumbling into the house and throwing things off of the kitchen counter making way for them to [have sex] on it."

At this point, Maher had the entire audience laughing so hard from his movements, but he ended the show with, "If someone were pushing things off of my kitchen table to [have sex], me, I'd be like 'No, no, wait! My mother gave me that!'" Even though Maher struck out a few times during the show, the audience seemed to forgive him by the end. As I said, I am sure he has made some of these jokes on his show or during other performances, but he presents them in what feels like a fresh and flawless way.

# Bill Callahan's Newest Album is Ominous Yet Comforting



Courtesy of www.alarmpress.com

Bill Callahan

STEFANI RUBINO  
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

Though the title of the album, "Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle," sounds like some kind of a joke, Bill Callahan's new album, due out April 14, has very little comedy in it. Unlike his last release, "Woke on a Whaleheart," which was lively and lighthearted, "Sometimes..." explores the darker side of Callahan's soul.

Some of the tracks have up-tempo beats, but in the lyrics there lies a more disheartened, depressed Callahan that is reminiscent of his earlier albums under the pseudonym "Smog." "Sometimes..." also shows a tremendous amount of growth in not only Callahan's composition, but also in his personality as well.

The album opens up with "Jim Cain," a slow and steady, almost monotone track that seems like it was plucked straight out of Callahan's earlier days. Truthfully, the track is not all that impressive, but it does serve as a decent enough beginning to an incredibly deep album.

The album really gets moving on the second track, which also happens to be my favorite track, "Eid Ma Clack Shaw." The song starts out with the lyrics "Last night I felt your touch/ gentle and warm/ the hair stood on my arm./ How, how, how?/ Oh,

Show me the way, show me the way, show me the way, to shake a memory." However simple the lyrics may seem, they show a playful but misanthropic side of Callahan that is rarely ever seen.

After "Eid Ma Clack Shaw," the next best tracks come with "The Wind and the Dove" and "Faith/Void." "The Wind and the Dove," again, has an extremely dark side, while exploring different Indian melodies and special scales pretty much unheard of from Callahan; his compositional skills are showcased here more than ever.

"Faith/Void" is the last track on the album and the longest, clocking in at almost 10 minutes. The track opens with the lyrics "It's time to put god away," which seems fitting for the title of the track. Although "Faith/Void" has an almost dreary feeling and is long, the instrumentals and Callahan's somewhat monotone, sing-talk is almost comforting, especially if listeners feel the same way he does. The song is an epic of doubt and skepticism, which serves as a sort of anthem for the times we are living in.

Regardless of the annoying title and a couple of unimpressive tracks, Callahan's newest release will definitely please old fans and new. If listeners can learn anything from Callahan, it is that no topic is off limits, and no composition is completely impossible.

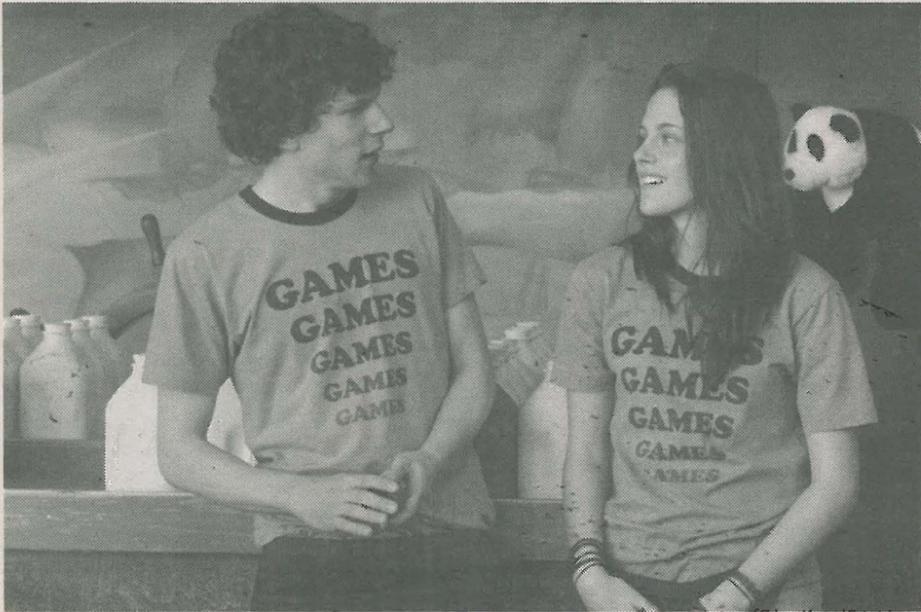
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FatehKAR

# 'Adventureland' is a Delightful Retro Ride



James (Jesse Eisenberg) and Em (Kristen Stewart) getting to know each other on the job.

**RACQUEL FAGON**  
VARIETY EDITOR

Since I have no first-hand account of the happenings of the "awesome" '80s, for me, "Adventureland" is more of an informative feature of the winsome uncertainties of that era that consequently are not much different from today's qualms.

The film does stay true to the usual "underdog story," where the quiet, unassuming boy finds himself through young love and quirky friends. "Adventureland" takes on this classic theme and is predominantly propelled by the charismatic cast in the movie.

Recent college graduate, James Brennan (Jesse Eisenberg), has to change his plans of touring Europe and settling into graduate school at Columbia University, after his parents inform him that there is not enough money to fund either venture. Brennan is then left with only one option, which is to find a job, even though, according to Brennan, never having one makes him unqualified for manual labor. His hope of gaining employment rests with a semi-dilapidated amusement park, Adventureland, managed by Bobby (Bill Hader) and Paulette (Kristen Wiig).

Brennan then gets two job opportunities at the park, to either be in games or rides. Since he is not cool enough to be working with rides (and since Bobby already had the "Games" T-shirt out), he is placed in the games area.

While working at this "Mecca" of humiliation evolving into self-realization, Brennan gets close to "super nerd" Joel (Martin Starr), "lost in translation" adolescent Tommy (Matt Bush); and half musician, half maintenance man Connell (Ryan Reynolds). However, the defining part of Brennan's coming-of-age story is his love interest Em (Kristen Stewart), who is trying to find herself as well, in spite of her tumultuous past.

The film has a transcendental quality, as it gives a personal account of an ordinary story that can be used as a blue print for self-discovery and universal truth.

Writer/director Greg Mottola left some of his "Superbad" ideals and created an easy-going, tapered account of crossing the rickety bridge between college and the real world. With a kaleidoscopic-like cast and a phenomenal script, "Adventureland" glorifies the youthful enthusiasm of the '80s, while making it very relevant today.

# A Window in the Roof



ANONYMOUS

"Why am I even seeing this now?! I'm already dead--can't I just stay dead?"

"You need to understand the reasons for your demise," she said again.

"I know the reason for my demise, I killed my brothers." There was hollowness in my chest that seemed to be getting deeper and deeper.

"Yes... but there's more." Her voice seemed to fade in and out as she spoke, as if she were skipping from this timeline to the next. "You never cradled any love or consideration for anyone but yourself. Your misanthropy has caused many people pain and anguish. This is how your pain will begin. Watch and see."

This time, I saw in the crystalline well, me at seven, playing cops and robbers with Tyler, a kid who lived next door. I made him be the robber, and I was the cop. We were in the backyard; Mom and Dad were in the house... somewhere; Mike was out playing football with Thomas and some friends.

"Jay?"

"Yeah."

"I don't want to be the robber anymore. I'm always the robber," Tyler whined. He was always such a baby, and he was a year older than me.

"Well, that's all you're really good at Thomas, so suck it up. We all can't be good guys you know," I told him. Then he started to cry.

"Jeez--what are you wailing about? You better stop before my Mom and Dad think I'm doing something to you."

He cried even louder.

"Will you shut it Tyler! You're acting like a big retard!" I yelled.

"I'm not a retard! I'm not stupid," he stammered.

He was leaning against the side of the big pine tree that was shading my house. The tree was pretty big, so it was impossible to see anything on the other side of the tree from his house. He was just leaning there, balling his eyes out; snot running down and into his mouth. That was the first time I felt like I could actually kill someone. He just looked so pathetic--like a waste of cells, blood and bones. I honestly believed that another being deserved his life. I always felt that he was left here by his alien family, because they couldn't stand him anymore. I told him that once too; he cried and told our teacher that I called him an orphan alien. Stupid kid got me in detention for a week.

"Jay, are you going to be nice to me now?" he asked quite stupidly.

My eyes started to burn from all the blood that was pumping in my head. It was like a jackhammer was digging through my skull, my brain--it's getting louder--no the jackhammer is in my chest, no, my eyes. It

burned so bad...

"Jay, are you crying? That means you're going to be..."

I had a thick piece of wood in my hand that I was using as a mock AK-47. When my eyes soothed a bit, I saw the piece of wood on the ground next to Thomas, with his velvety, black cherry blood creating a pool of evidence around his cracked skull.

I stood above him, and watched the blood snake its way through the freshly cut grass; he didn't flinch.

As if a camera flash went off in my head, I saw what I just did to Tyler. I decided that it was wrong. I decided that I needed to make myself sorry for what I did; I needed to avoid detention.

I will not be punished for doing the world a favor. I will not be punished for people's lack of understanding.

"Did you forget about Tyler? You killed him too," she said it with such satisfaction, like she accomplished something.

"I know I killed Tyler; I just don't believe he's important enough to remember. He deserved to die; he was a waste of life," I stated matter-of-factly.

"You must have been really angry when your parents adopted Thomas. He was no different than Tyler."

"Oh yes, he was different from Tyler. He was now my loving brother. It made killing him a little more complicated."

I still couldn't move any part of my body. But my eyes went back to their intended spot--in the front of my head. The area I was in was still pitch black, but a light seemed to be emanating from the crystalline well.

"Do you regret any of the things that you have done?" she asked me.

"Do I have to regret anything?" I asked.

"No you do not."

"So what do you want from me then? What in God's name do you people want from me?!"

"We already got it," a cacophony of voices responded eerily.

Outlines of faces started to peep through the darkness. They were unrecognizable at first, but then they gained flesh and form, and I could see who they were. Tyler's face floated towards me with his head still open from when I hit him with the piece of wood. Then I saw Mike and Thomas--their grisly, charred bodies coming towards me like Frankensteins out of hell. Then I saw every living creature I have ever killed, hurt or ignored purposely. They all surrounded me like ravenous dogs on road kill.

"This is only a fraction of some of the pain you caused, Jay," they said in unison. "The window to your life is open Jay... look into our eyes and see."

"Ahhhhhhhh!!!!!"

## Fruits of Spring

H	E	E	T	A	N	A	R	G	E	M	O	p	E	R	S
S	W	E	E	T	O	p	G	S	N	A	M	T	R	E	E
p	M	U	L	S	L	E	O	E	C	U	A	E	T	R	L
L	S	E	G	U	E	E	B	L	L	E	B	S	T	y	p
U	W	R	M	H	M	A	I	p	y	E	W	I	A	R	p
M	E	R	C	M	N	H	G	p	S	E	C	U	A	R	A
y	E	y	A	A	N	O	T	A	M	O	T	R	D	E	E
R	T	E	N	E	H	B	N	A	R	G	I	F	T	B	N
R	S	A	H	B	W	A	R	T	S	N	U	K	I	W	I
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B	p	W	E	D	y	E	N	O	H	M	F	E	R	R	E
E	O	H	N	S	T	L	U	R	F	I	D	M	F	T	B
S	G	A	E	S	E	p	A	R	G	R	A	O	K	S	E
A	T	T	E	M	A	R	C	S	R	A	E	p	C	N	S
N	A	S	O	p	O	S	T	O	C	I	R	p	A	A	A
D	E	N	I	R	E	G	N	A	T	S	B	A	J	N	N

Apricots	Dates	Jackfruit	Mango	Pomegranate
Apples	Figs	Kiwi	Naseberry	Strawberry
Bananas	Grapes	Lemon	Pear	Sweetsop
Breadfruit	Hog Plum	Lychee	Pineapples	Tangerine
Cranberry	Honeydew	Me.ion	Plum	Tomato

# Evidently, Art Has No Value in the U.S.

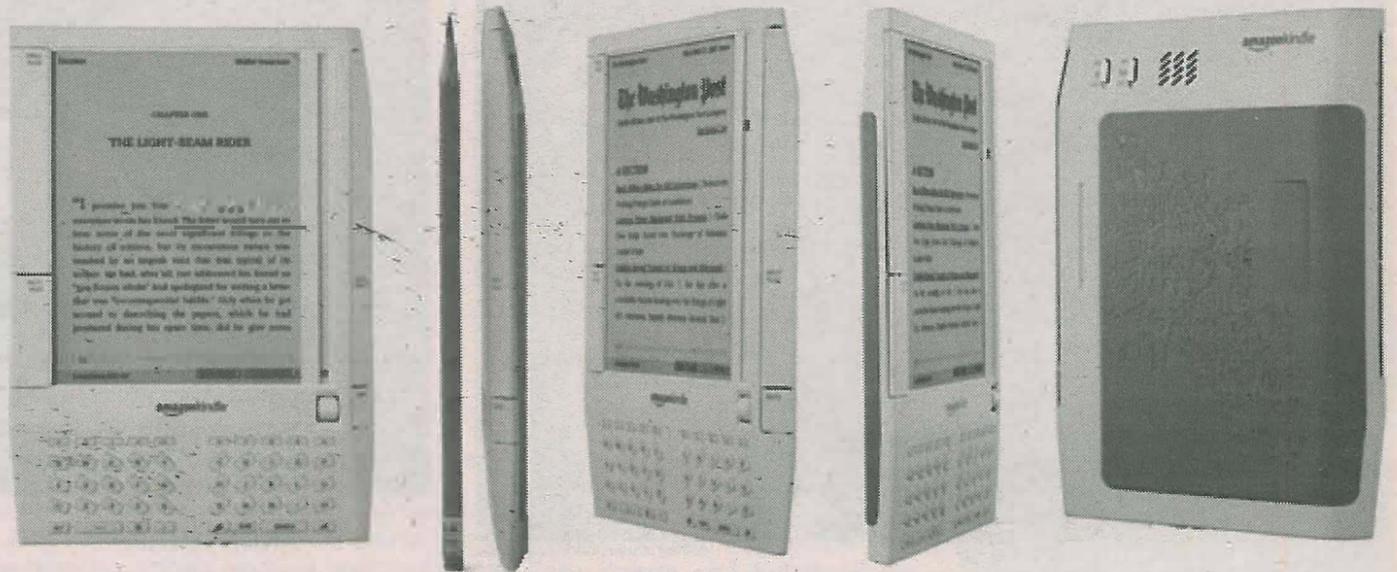
STEFANI RUBINO  
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

In a Wall Street Journal article about a protest at the Author's Guild by the National Federation of the Blind and the American Association of People with Disabilities, the writer went on to talk about other protests regarding the price of books Amazon Kindle owners have to pay to download them.

The article talks about groups of Kindle users who have organized protests and boycotts, on the Web and off, regarding the prices (usually set at about \$9.99) of e-books. Shocked and discerned by this, I immediately thought, what is art really worth in our society and why are their frustrations aimed at authors, who make a considerably less amount of money than musicians and filmmakers?

According to Amazon, it is the publishers who suggest the price for the e-books they produce: In this case, a measly \$10 is nothing compared to the \$30 or more people pay for Blu-ray Discs and television show box sets. To be honest, I was completely appalled by this reaction to the service Amazon and the publishers are providing.

Sure, the Kindle, priced at about \$350, is incredibly expensive, but the Kindle itself benefits Amazon, not writers. The money publishers charge for ebooks, however, directly affect the amount of money writers make, which is not much



The Amazon Kindle 2 is the subject of scrutiny amongst book lovers and writers.

Courtesy of www.amazon.com

compared to how much money different types of artists (i.e. musicians, actors and actresses, filmmakers, Web designers, etc) make.

Besides that, Americans have made it clear that they have no interest in supporting the people who entertain them. Music piracy is at an all-time high and has been rising since the creation and death of Napster. Now, movies and television shows are being ripped off as well. Where does this leave the artists?

There was a brief time in the U.S.'s

past when writers could actually make a living from what they create. Obviously, times have changed and people who want to write professionally have to make sure they have another job or something like it on the side, so that they can afford to pay the rent. In this economy and society especially, artists are expected to live their dream, but have a hard time making money doing it.

Not only that, but when the iPod first came out, it was heavy and bulky, and cost upward of 300 bucks. After some

time passed and the iPod gained interest, the prices went down and continue to go down. The Kindle itself will lead the same life, but the prices for the e-books are completely reasonable.

In the society we live in, anything enlightening or entertaining has to have a monetary value, because the person behind the creation is depending on it for sustenance. If we continue to cheat writers out of money they clearly deserve, how can we expect any artists to release their work to the masses?

## Look familiar?

Psoriasis often strikes between the ages of 15 and 25.



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3. fl'so-rl-uas Jf qlte na



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# Democracy Prevails as Gay Rights Movement Pushes F-ward



Photo by Toby Talbott/Associated Press from www.nytimes.com

Same-sex marriage advocates in Montpelier, VT brought to tears after the announcement of the overturning of the veto of a bill that would legalize gay marriage in the state.

**STEFANI RUBINO**  
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

Last month, Iowa's Supreme Court ruled that a ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional. Last week, Vermont's State Legislature overrode the veto of a bill that would allow gay people to marry, making it the first state to go through legislative action, instead of a Supreme Court ruling. Now, nine other state legislatures, including New York, New Jersey, Maine and New Hampshire, are considering similar measures.

Most people do not understand how important it is for states to be taking this issue on, instead of regular people filing suit against the states they live in for their rights. Not only does this show how this movement is gaining momentum, these initiatives also show democracy at its best.

After the passing of amendments and propositions that take away domestic partnership and civil union benefits across the country, the fact that bills allowing gay marriage are on the table in many different states is a big step.

Though the struggle for gay rights does not exactly compare to other human rights struggles of the past, the road towards gay

marriage bills and gay parenting bills has been difficult and completely unjustified.

The most interesting thing about is that Americans set aside racial discrimination to elect an African-American as president, but cannot set aside discrimination based on sexual orientation to allow homosexual couples the right to adopt children, visit each other in the hospital or have their relationship recognized by the government.

However, it does seem as if Obama's election is what opened the door for these initiatives. Finally, state governments realize how important their rights are and are taking the necessary measures to ensure their people are granted the proper rights, as well.

Just as this is a victory for the gay community and gay rights activists, this is a victory for all states taking the initiative to grant homosexuals these rights. More than anything, these initiatives prove that the power of state governments can be just as significant as the power of the federal government. Hopefully, this movement will continue gaining more momentum and states will continue to realize their importance in the infrastructure of the U.S.

## Editor's Note

**LAURA STARR**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As you have read earlier in this issue, NSU is offering to pick up the remainder of the tuition, when it comes to students who qualify for the Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholarship. To this, I had to write a note to express the upside of this initiative and the one main concern that some current students have.

This is an amazing initiative because it offers more options to students in the state of Florida, who may have discounted NSU when considering the cost of attendance. Also, some of the brightest students may have only considered UF or UM for medical or other prestigious degrees.

The initiative helps put NSU right in contention with these other more established schools, which could really increase enrollment and foster a fuller campus experience and "Shark pride."

Many current students are not as pleased with this initiative as the grant does not apply to them. This does seem a little unfair as freshmen, who are only finishing up their first year, are still not close enough to the new student mark, to be applicable for the grant. While I realize that the school



is helping new students attend college, particularly in these tough economic times, it may be wise to help out current students fiscally, for retention purposes.

Overall, in this economy, I appreciate NSU for creating such initiatives, regardless of the stipulations and requirements, because it helps NSU be in contention with the other universities that surround us and possibly those that are out of state.

## Write a Letter to the Editor

Want to say something about what you have read? Do you have an idea that you think would be great in The Current? Then send a Letter to the Editor at [nsunews@nova.edu](mailto:nsunews@nova.edu). You can also visit our Web site at [www.nsucurrent.com](http://www.nsucurrent.com).

While you are on our Web site, take a look at the changes we have made, comment on articles, view videos and go through our archives.

## Issue 2j Correction

The article "Art and Science Symposium" stated that Alexandra Paroulek was recognized by the AACW, African American College Women. The organization that in fact rewarded her was the AAUW, American Association of University Women.

# On The Scene

**KRISTINE BELIZAIRE**  
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

## What do you think about the new NSU Web site?



"I don't think that the Web site serves NSU justice. The colors are baby blue and white and our school color is dark blue. It's also kind of difficult to find information."  
**Karla Jean, a nursing and psychology major.**



"I don't like it. It is more complicated than the other one."  
**Nikita Maniar, a pre-med major.**



"At first I didn't really care for it. But I've gotten used to it and it's not too bad."  
**Nina Shah, a sophomore biology major.**



"I think it's definitely a little more modern, but I've had trouble finding some of the old links."  
**Norberto Mancera, a sophomore biology major.**



"I like it. It is very different from the other one and I like the video in the beginning."  
**Luis Tascon, a master's in business administration and finance major.**



"I think it's good. It was a little bit confusing at first."  
**Michael Ratliff, a senior biology major.**



"I think it would have been [alright] to launch it in the summer. At the end of the semester, it's kind of inconvenient to get used to the new Web site."  
**Kaitlyn Reddy, a junior psychology major.**



"I think it's easier to navigate a bit. I don't think it was designed well. It honestly looks like a teenager did it."  
**Colin Morgan, a senior theatre major.**



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