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Black Student Union opens discussion at NSU

By: Jenna Kopec
@Jen_Kopec

The Black Student Union (BSU), in collaboration with Campus Life and Student Engagement and Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, is hosting the panel "So...Black Lives Matter?" on Oct. 18 in the UC Pit from 7-9 p.m. During the panel, community members, whose names have not been announced yet, will discuss social issues that impact the black community.

Kadeem Hall, sophomore biology major and president of BSU, said that the panel is part of the club's "implode to explode platform." Hall said that implode refers to the learning process about black culture and the self and explode refers to breaking out into the community to spread that information.

"A lot of the issues that we have today are from a lack of knowledge," said Hall.

The phrase "black lives matter" refers to a national grassroots organization. Nelson Bass, assistant professor in the department of history and political science, said the Black Lives Matter organization and movement are an organic response to raise awareness about issues the black community faces, such as a higher rates of incarceration and police brutality.

In the past month, at least three instances where a black person was shot and killed by a police officer made national headlines.

Kalifa Gooden, senior political science major and secretary of BSU, said it's important for individuals in the South Florida community to acknowledge occurrences around the country.

"We're all citizens of America," said Gooden.

Bass said that discussing instances that occur both locally and nationally helps connect the country and the young people who take part in the Black Lives Matter movement.

"I think you're seeing the same trends everywhere. It doesn't matter if you are in Charlotte or Tuscon, it seems that the things that Black Lives Matter is trying to raise are important everywhere," said Bass.

Jimmy Camulius, junior legal studies major and vice president of BSU, said he hopes the panel will raise awareness about the black community through intellectual conversation.

"We're not out here to show our angry face and fight with anybody or look for revenge. We're all intellectual beings, and we can address this situation and look at what's going on without blaming one another," said Camulius.

For more information about the panel, students can visit the Facebook event page "So, Black Lives Matter?"

NATIONAL NEWS RELATED TO BLACK LIVES MATTER AND POLICE SHOOTINGS

Headline: Why Charlotte exploded and Tulsa prayed

Source: CNN

What happened: Terrence Crutcher was shot and killed in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Sept. 16, and Keith Lamont Scott was shot and killed in Charlotte, North Carolina on Sept. 20. Police said they were responding to calls and thought both men were armed. Families of both Crutcher and Scott said the men were unarmed, and the killings resulted in protests in both cities.

Headline: LAPD: Video shows teen was armed before he was shot by police

Source: CNN

What happened: Police released video footage of the shooting of Carnell Snell Jr. who was shot and killed Oct. 1. The Los Angeles Police Department said the footage shows that Snell appeared to have a firearm before he was shot after fleeing from police. Later, the police learned that Snell did not have a real firearm but a replica.

Headline: Tyre King, 13, fatally shot by police in Cleveland, Ohio

Source: NBC News

What happened: Tyre King was shot and killed Sept. 16 after police say it appeared that he drew a firearm from his waistband. It was later revealed that King only had a BB gun.

MAKO Rangers get creative for charity

By: Erin Herbert
@Erin_Herbert

NSU's MAKO Rangers are selling original Power Ranger-themed merchandise on Redbubble, an online artistic marketplace, to help raise money for the victims of Hurricane Matthew.

The MAKO Rangers is a service-based organization with a focus on service to children. Their name stands for Monumental Action through Kindness and Optimism.

Jake Bence, junior chemistry major and co-president of the MAKO Rangers, said, "We really work to put a smile on kid's faces. We go to children's hospitals dressed as superheroes, and we do a lot of the child-based events on campus, like a Day for Children."

The MAKO Rangers began selling their original Power Ranger-themed designs earlier this semester as a way to keep their fundraising efforts going year-round.

Li Cohen, senior communication studies major and vice president of the MAKO Rangers, came up with the idea to design and sell MAKO Ranger's merchandise online. She said she got the idea after completing a project for a graphic design course.

Cohen said, "I'm currently in Graphic Design I. Our first project was designing wrapping paper, and my professor, Tennille Shuster, told us about some websites where you can actually sell it. After doing some research online, I found Redbubble and thought that selling our custom designs would be a fun way to fundraise for our organization and donate



The MAKO Rangers suited up at local children's hospital to surprise the patients.

some money to a charity."

Redbubble is a web-based platform where artists and designers of all skill levels can upload and sell their artwork. Customers can order these designs on a number of products, including t-shirts, tank tops, phone cases, posters, stickers and much more.

According to Cohen, all proceeds raised from merchandise sales on Redbubble will be donated to the GlobalGiving Foundation's Hurricane Matthew Relief Fund.

The GlobalGiving Foundation aims to provide individuals in Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas with emergency survival supplies like food, clean drinking water and medicine. To donate directly to GlobalGiving's Hurricane

Matthew Relief Fund, visit globalgiving.org/projects/hurricane-matthew-relief-fund/?rf=pr.

Although the MAKO Rangers have not set a specific monetary goal for their fundraising efforts, they hope that students will take advantage of this unique fundraising opportunity to help the thousands of individuals affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Cohen does the majority of the designing for this fundraiser and has created custom merchandise for the pink, red, green, blue, black, white and yellow Power Rangers. Bence said that the designs are gaining popularity online, and they have already begun making sales.

"It's actually been pretty successful so far. Our pink ranger design already has a couple

hundred views. We've also had a few purchases from our club members, as well as anonymous purchases too," said Bence.

"We want to raise as much money as possible for those who suffered from Hurricane Matthew. South Florida got incredibly lucky to not be severely impacted by this storm, and we believe that our community should use that luck to help those who were. Buying a custom MAKO Rangers product isn't just buying a cool product, it's buying materials needed to shelter, clothe and feed the hurricane victims in Haiti," said Cohen.

For more information or to view the designs available for purchase, visit redbubble.com/people/lc1456.



NEWS ANCHOR

Stay up to date with world events.

Hurricane Matthew hits Haiti

CNN reported that hurricane winds in southern Haiti reached up to 125 mph, destroying homes and flooding villages. Around 350,000 people were affected; 15,623 displaced people are living in shelters and around 800 people are confirmed dead.

Pakistan passes legislation against honor killings

According to CNN, honor killings are now illegal in Pakistan under a new law. Pakistan's prime minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, was placed under pressure to indict those committing violence against women. A killing now leads to a minimum sentence of 25 years in jail, even if the murder is pardoned by the family.

Iraq prepares to end ISIS control

Reports from CNN state that living quarters are being brought in for the troops of Iraq's 9th Armored Division to stay in Erbil, Iraq. This will be an improvised base as an assault is prepared to end ISIS control of the second largest city in Iraq.

Hundreds in India arrested for IRS scam

According to NPR, thousands of American taxpayers lost tens of millions of dollars to phone scammers posing as tax collectors. The scammers asked for the taxpayers' names and proceeded to tell them they owed money from audit miscalculations and that police would come to arrest them if the payment was not made. Indian police questioned more than 700 and arrested over 70 suspects during their investigation of this scam.

Shortages in medicine lead to death in Venezuela

NPR reported that Venezuela currently suffers from a lack of food, water, electricity and medicine. Though Venezuela is going through an economic crisis, they currently refuse donations from other countries and turn back shipments from the U.S., keeping out all medicine.

NEWS BRIEFS

SEA the future

Student Events and Activities (SEA) Board is holding a fortune telling event on Oct. 19 in the Don Taft University Center Spine from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, email SEA Board at sea-board@nova.edu or call 954-262-7223.

Wildlife weekend service trip

Sharks and Service (SAS) is planning a trip to the Everglades Outpost Wildlife Rescue in Homestead, Florida from Oct. 14-16 to help rehabilitate injured animals and release them back into the wild. To sign up, go to orgsync.com/139343/forms/221930. For more information, email slce@nova.edu or call 954-262-7195.

Trick to the treat of a research or internship

Career Development and The Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography will host the 5th Annual Trick to the Treat of an Internship or Research Experience event on Oct. 20 in the art gallery on the second floor of the Alvin Sherman Library from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will present their biology and medicine internship experiences and learn how and why to apply for science-related internships and research opportunities. Career Development staff and faculty will be on hand to answer questions about programs and provide information. For more information or to RSVP, visit Handshake at nova.joinhandshake.com/login, contact Career Development at 954-262-7201 or Emily Schmitt at 954-262-8349.

Maasti Indian bake sale

The Maasti Dance Team is having a bake sale in the Don Taft University Center Spine on Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Indian sweets, appetizers, and meals will be available for purchase, and the proceeds go towards the dance team's expenses.

Wellness workshop

Kiss your unhealthy habits goodbye at this free wellness workshop on Oct. 17 in the Rosenthal Student Center, room 200 from 12 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and a giveaway are included in the workshop. To sign up, call 954-262-7301 or go to the RecWell front desk. For more information, email nsuwellness@nova.edu or call 954-262-7301.

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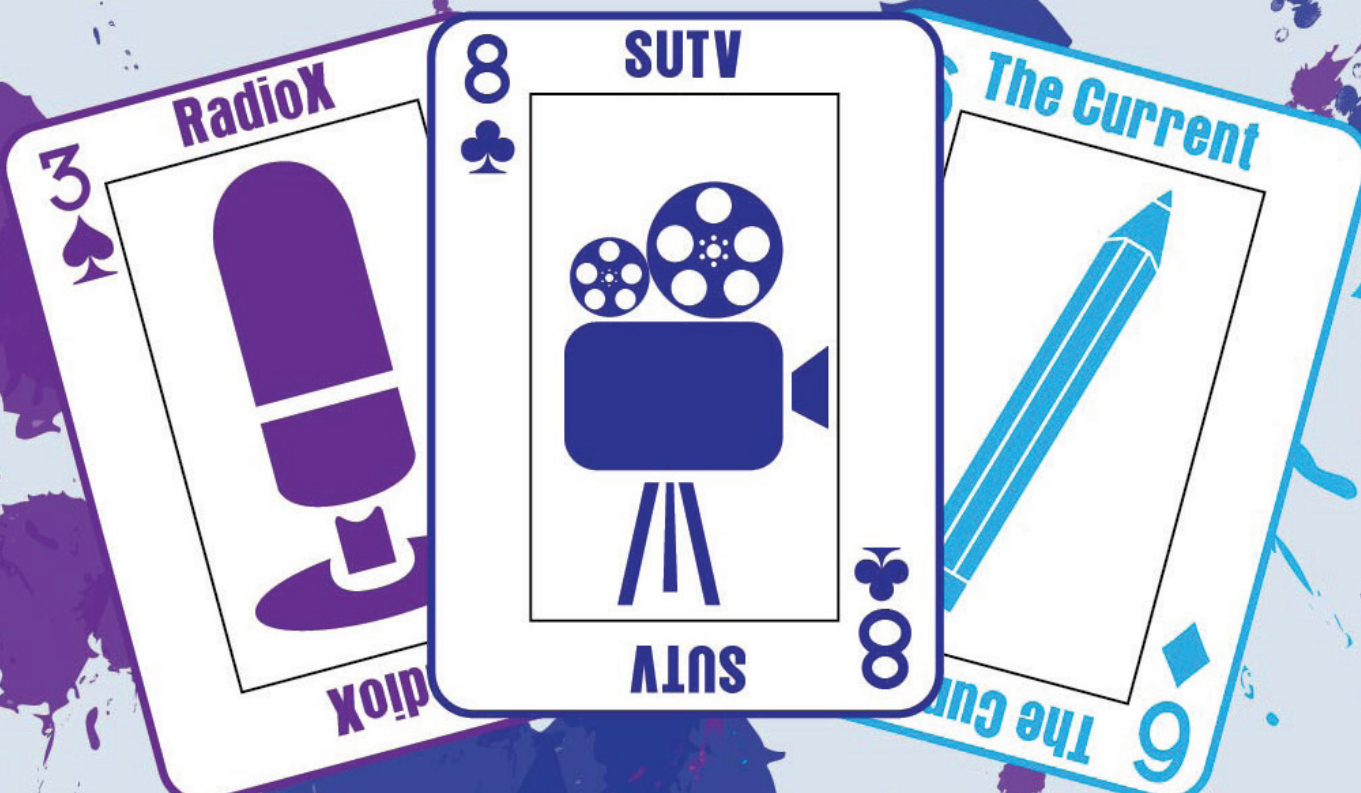
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The Current serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in Room 310 of the Student Affairs Building. The Current is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute.

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HAVE A HAND IN STUDENT MEDIA!



Homelessness: An ongoing problem

By: **Oswaldo Tortoledo**

It's one of the biggest issues worldwide: people that live in the streets because they can't afford a home. Homelessness occurs for different reasons. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, an estimated 2.5 to 3.5 million people are homeless. Drug addiction and crime involvement are a couple of things that cause homelessness, but others who are homeless have had reduced opportunities at a normal life because of a mental or physical disability. Here in the United States, however, there are other reasons that people become homeless.

Florida has been voted the most dangerous state for homeless people.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, in 2012 hate crimes in Florida against people living in the streets more than doubled crimes committed against the homeless in other states. Since 2008, this organization has named Florida three times as the most threatening state for the homeless.

Jerry Jones, National Coalition for the Homeless' executive director, said that this is

because of a "lack of empathy for fellow human beings: the same moral failure that allows our society to tolerate the larger tragedy of homelessness."

According to HomeAid, more than half of homeless are families with children

HomeAid, a non-profit organization that provides housing for the homeless, says that the majority of people who are homeless became homeless because of a life-altering event or a series of events they weren't expecting. These events, such as a job loss, losing a loved one or going through a divorce leave many families at a tipping point, emotionally and economically. Without proper care, if these families can't get back on their feet, they may end up losing their homes.

Some of the homeless are veterans

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 11 percent of homeless people in the United States are war veterans. Many have ended up in their situation because of a lack of healthcare, unaffordable housing and few job opportunities that give them

a livable income.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) says that most homeless veterans are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and are mentally incapable of maintaining themselves. According to NCHV data, homeless veterans are usually younger than others in their situation, and are mostly between the ages of 18-30. NCHV has determined that 1.4 million other veterans are currently at risk of homelessness.

Ways to help

Even though there are a number of services that help the homeless every year, citizens can also get involved in their local community by supporting non-profit organizations that benefit the homeless, like HomeAid. HomeAid has built more than 200 multi-unit shelters. They provide transitional homes and temporary houses for the homeless and help them regain a normal life. Individuals can also volunteer or make a donation to different shelters or homeless services, like Chapman Partnership, Miami Rescue Mission and Camillus House in Miami.

Due to the high number of homeless people in Fort Lauderdale, the city has been the center of many controversies regarding state laws about homelessness that have in some cases prevented the community from helping them. For example, in the past the city banned feeding the homeless on the streets, but have since backed off the ban. Today, in Broward County there are organizations that help accommodate the homeless and reinstate them into society, such as Broward Partnership and the Broward Outreach Center.

Even though homelessness is an ongoing issue there are ways to prevent people from ending up in that situation. Just learning more about the problem and getting involved in the community takes you one step closer to helping people currently living in the streets. Don't forget to check out your local shelters and see if the workers there need anything. For more information on homelessness, visit endhomelessness.org, which has specific data regarding homelessness in the United States and ways to help.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR GENES?

**Weds, October 26th
10am - 2pm**

**Don Taft University
Center in the Arena
Main Court**

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NSU HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TESTING, TEST RESULTS OR GENETIC COUNSELING

THAT TIME I... MOVED TO THE U.S.

By: **Aldana Foigel**

Aldana Foigel is a sophomore communication major with a minor in business. She is from Argentina and is currently a contributing writer for The Current.

When I was a little girl, I used to watch Disney movies and dream about visiting the U.S. one day. I wanted to go to Disneyland and meet Mickey and Minnie Mouse. I would never have imagined that my dream would actually become reality.

I have many passions in my life, and golf is one of them. I started playing when I was 10 years old, and the day that I began, my life changed forever. I traveled to a lot of countries to play in golf tournaments, including the U.S.

After playing various tournaments in the U.S., I got to know the American culture and how college works. In Argentina, we don't have a system where you are able to study and be part of a team that competes at a national level at the same time. I knew that I wanted to pursue a college degree for sure, but I didn't want to give

up on golf. When I found out about the NCAA, I decided that moving to the U.S. might be a great opportunity.

At first, I could not imagine my life in any other place but Argentina. I was so scared to move away from my house, more than 5,000 miles away.

Not only was I moving to another country, but I would also have to speak in a different language. Back home, we speak Spanish, and although I studied English for more than eight years, I had never spent more than three consecutive hours speaking English.

Over a year ago, I arrived in the U.S. Everything felt so different and strange to me. Moving to the U.S. is not the same as playing tournaments for a few weeks and then going back home.

I did not know what to expect from college before I came. That is what scared me the most, but college gave me a good surprise.

My first month at college was the hardest one. My roommate, who is from England,



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Aldana Foigel posing in The Commons Residence Hall.

and I cried a lot because of homesickness. We missed everything: our family, dogs, friends, house and even the sofa. However, we learned a lot from those tough days, and we became stronger people. We started to actually enjoy our "new life," our life in the U.S.

Getting used to the educational system was not easy either. I did not understand my professors the first two weeks of school. I was not used to speaking in English all day, and it

seemed to me that they talked so fast. However, after two months, everything was so much easier. English became part of my routine.

The opportunity to study abroad is awesome. Getting to know new cultures and new styles of life is what I like the most because interacting with people from different countries is so fascinating. Although it is sometimes hard to be away from home, it feels like NSU is my second home now. I am comfortable here, and this is definitely one of the best experiences of my life.

I am having an amazing time with the golf team, playing golf tournaments all around the U.S. I like getting to know many states and the similarities or differences between them.

Moving to another country is a very enriching experience. I have grown up so much since I moved to the U.S. I learned that every problem has a solution, and there is nothing better in life than experiencing new things. I still miss home sometimes, but I now think of it as a good feeling. I love my home and the people there, but I also love my life here. I am grateful for what I have.

By: **Jenna Kopec**
@Jen_Kopec

NSU's sexual misconduct policy

On Sept. 13, a student at the University of North Carolina held a press conference stating that she was raped by a football player and that the university did not take the proper actions in the investigation. This case follows a series of sexual assault cases on college campuses that have made headlines in recent years.

This year, Laura Bennett and Alexis Martinez joined NSU administration as Title IX Coordinator and assistant dean for student development within the division of student affairs, respectively. Together they've worked to update the university's policy and procedures regarding sexual misconduct on campus.

When it comes to such a large topic, both Bennett and Martinez said that the policy, legislature and procedures can be confusing for both faculty and students. It is important, however, for both faculty and students to learn about the process, at least at a basic level. Here's what you need to know about instances of sexual assault and how NSU handles them.

What is Title IX?

Title IX is a piece of federal legislation designed to protect students and their ability to go to class, regardless of gender. According to Bennett, Title IX is an umbrella term that covers topics such as student pregnancy, transgenders and sexual misconduct. In the law and at the university, sexual misconduct is an umbrella term that refers to anything from sexual assault to intimate partner violence to sexual harassment.

Title IX requires the institution to respond to reports of sexual assault within 60 days. The legislation sets the outline for how universities form procedures to handle sexual assault.

What happens when a student files a report?

It depends.

Although it seems like a hackneyed response, the actions that take place after students file a report depend on a few factors. When a student reports to a responsible employee, someone who has to send the report to administration and a university investigation will occur. According to Bennett, a responsible employee includes those whose job it is to protect the campus, those who the university says has an obligation to report and anyone a student may reasonably think has the authority to report.

However, students have the option whether or not to file a report with the police. Bennett said that it's important to note that the institutional process for handling misconduct is not the same as the process for criminal investigations, but survivors are entitled to both.

Martinez acts as the chief judicial officer after an investigation has been completed. She said that both the student who filed a report and the accused individual will receive copies of the reports. She said that she is responsible for looking at the information objectively and making a determination of guilt and consequences. Martinez said an appeals process can bring the case to Brad Williams, vice president of student affairs and dean of the college of undergraduate studies, who has the final say.

Title IX gives students the rights to an investigation when a case of sexual assault happens on campus or off campus when the case affects their ability to come to class. In cases where the survivor does not want to report to police, or when the assault did not involve another member of NSU, Bennett said the university can still help the student access resources to support him or her.

"I want students to feel like we will honor and respect them throughout the entire process," said Bennett.

In some instances, a survivor of sexual assault may not want an investigation to take place at all. In that case, Bennett said that it's important to report to a confidential source, which are discussed next. Responsible employees will have a legal obligation to report the information.

Who can students report to confidentially?

Students can report to mental health and medical professionals confidentially, meaning that providing them with information won't necessarily result in an investigation. By reporting to confidential resources, students can ensure they still receive the help they may need.

During the 2016-2017 school year, Bennett said she hopes to establish an online reporting system that will allow students to leave out their names if they choose to do so. Bennett said that this system might help make students feel more comfortable about reporting, while helping her

bring the information to an investigative body.

How can students know what's happened on campus?

Another piece of federal legislation, the Clery Act, manages what and how universities report crimes that occur on campus. The Clery Act covers when institutions are required to give out alerts to students and what they are required to report annually. NSU's annual clery report can be accessed at nova.edu/publicsafety/clery/index

Martinez said that Title IX defines crimes and actions differently than the Clery Act does. Title IX also grants students the right to report confidentially, which can change the way reports appear. She said that the process and policy NSU has put in place this year may result in a rise in some of the report numbers.

"That's not necessarily a bad thing," said Martinez. It would mean that students are feeling more comfortable with the reporting process, said Martinez.

Anything else?

"I want students to know that there are resources and departments and people in place at NSU that will support them through the entire process," said Martinez.

Students have the right to know the procedures, accommodations and resources they are entitled to, whether they are a survivor of sexual assault or accused of sexual assault. For more information on student rights and actions that students can take, visit nova.edu/title-ix.

NSU's breakdown of Title IX:

nova.edu/title-ix

All about the Clery Act:

nova.edu/publicsafety/clery/index

CSCA explains campus versus court procedures:

theasca.org/Files/Publications/LPR487May12014.pdf

Students interested in participating in a peer education program contact:

Laura Bennett at
laura.bennett@nova.edu

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Tis' the season to register

By: **Chris Densmore and Jessica Tavares**

Jessica Tavares is an academic adviser in the Undergraduate Academic Advising Center. She works with undergraduate students within NSU's online and off-site populations. She helps students cultivate degree plans to attain their goals.

Christopher Densmore is a NSU alumnus and an academic adviser in NSU's Undergraduate Academic Advising Center. He works to encourage students at the undergraduate level to achieve their highest learning potential and pursue academic challenges.

Midterms are approaching and some students are already excited to register for the new semester — well, maybe not excited but instead a little nervous. So, where do students begin when choosing their classes for next semester?

While there are many factors to consider when planning, a schedule is not as daunting as it may seem. Begin by reviewing a degree audit (CAPP) from SharkLink and schedule a consultation with your academic adviser, who can help you with a review of all requirements. This audit will list all of the credits that you have as well as the credits you are still missing and need to register for.



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Students may wonder which instructor matches their learning style and best suits their academic needs. It is important to form academic relationships with instructors as that will set the stage for courses.

When considering a schedule it is

important to keep in mind that time spent in the actual classroom accounts for some of the work but there is also time required outside. This includes time for study groups, lab activities and library research, to name a few. Taking all of this into consideration, it would be a good practice to leave a few hours between classes and not to take more than three classes on any one day. For example, take three classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and then two classes on Tuesday and Thursday.

Students typically register for the upcoming semester about midway through the current semester. Although a student may only register for the next semester, except in the case of summer registration, planning really involves the scope of the remaining degree program. If a student needs to take a course that has several prerequisites then it is best to begin planning when to take those courses. For example, MATH 2020 Applied Statistics has several prerequisites and serves as a prerequisite for several research based courses, so it would be best to carefully plan this course into your schedule.

A well-thought-out schedule can make a big difference in the outcome of not only the next semester but the next few years. The Office of Academic Advising provides assistance with scheduling in addition to many other areas that apply to the curriculum.

True life: I worry too much

By: **Samantha Yorke**

Samantha Yorke is an assistant director and success coach for the Office of Undergraduate Student Success at NSU. She earned her bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida and her master of science degree in higher education from Florida State University. Samantha is a proud Floridian with a passion for empowering others.

Worrying: We all do it. Our lives are filled with challenges and obstacles that make our hearts race a little faster than we would like sometimes. The thing is, worrying means we care — it is healthy to be a bit anxious. Of course, it is important to make sure this stress is manageable on a day-to-day basis.

Here are some tips to calm some of those unwanted nerves:

Accept that you are anxious

Avoiding your feelings can only make matters more stressful. Accept that you are anxious and more importantly, that it is okay to be anxious. Being able to accept the anxious feelings you have is the first step in finding your confidence again. There are many assessments you can take to evaluate how stressed or anxious you truly are or what type of stress you are currently feeling. Some of these assessments are the Life Pod Balance Assessment and Priority Management Assessment, both of which are available in the Office of Student Success.

Use positive self-talk

When you wake up in the morning, look in the mirror. You may be hesitant to try this at first, but compliment yourself: “Bob, you are incredible and you are going to conquer the world today.” This can make a difference in your mindset for the remainder of the day and squash those nerves of yours. “Attitude is everything” and “mind over matter” may serve as cliché quotes, but they are true.

Realize that your brain is playing a trick on you

Worrying is betting against yourself. You know how much you are capable of, and you know there is a light at the end of the worry tunnel — you just have to get through it first. Reflect on what it is that you are actually worried about and how probable or improbable that idea is. Realize that what you are worrying about is an outcome that may never even happen... ever.

Focus on the now

You aren't able to plan or predict the future, but you are able to manipulate the present. Focus on what's in front of you for the day. It is more manageable, practical and a lot less stressful. Focusing on the present may assist you in taking control of future situations. For example, if you are worried about a final exam, stop worrying about a grade that does not yet exist. Instead, use the present time to study, which will influence that grade later on.

Use your resources

The Henderson Student Counseling Center provides tips and tools to help you stay as stress-free as possible, including professional staff to discuss concerns or questions with. Check out their website at nova.edu/healthcare/studentcounseling or call them at 954-424-6911.

Breathe

Take three deep breaths every single day. This will assist the circulation in your body and calm you down quite a bit. You can even try it right now.

The next time you feel tense or overwhelmed over various components of your life, remember that you have all of the control to change your mindset. You also have a great deal of resources and friendly faculty, staff and peers to support you along your NSU journey.

Chilling in the PouchCouch

By: **Grace Ducanis**

@GraceDucanis

Ever wanted to try out a product you saw on TV?

I have, and I did. One Monday night, I went to Bed, Bath, and Beyond and bought my very own PouchCouch, which resembles an oversized trash bag with lips.

The PouchCouch commercial advertises that the PouchCouch “fills with air in seconds” for “instant relaxation anytime, anywhere.” But how well do these claims hold up in real life?

Inflating

I opened my PouchCouch, which comes in its own appropriately-named pouch, and immediately was confused about how to inflate it. Eventually, I turned to YouTube, where I found an official tutorial from PouchCouch.

The PouchCouch has two chambers, which are supposed to be filled by moving the openings of the chambers through the air until they are fully or partially inflated. After inflating each chamber, the demonstration said to roll up the ends of the PouchCouch, clip them together, and the PouchCouch would be ready for relaxation.

I had a much harder time and looked much more ridiculous inflating the PouchCouch than the demonstration made it seem. In order to fill each chamber, I had to run back and forth across the room several times. Rolling up the ends by myself was a struggle and so was clipping the ends together, but I got better at it each time.

From start to finish, it took me about two minutes to inflate the PouchCouch and one minute to roll up the ends and clip them together. The “fills with air in seconds” claim was exaggerated.



Relaxing on the PouchCouch during Hurricane Matthew.

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Relaxing

It's hard to maneuver around in, but once I settled in, I liked sitting in the PouchCouch. The fabric wasn't the most comfortable, but it was sturdy. The bottom of the PouchCouch is rounded, so I was able to rock back and forth as easily as a rocker on a South Carolina porch, which I found relaxing. I was able to get out of the PouchCouch easily.

Reactions from my friends were mixed. We set up the PouchCouch in The Current's office, and almost all of the staff tried it out. Most of them had a difficult time getting out of the PouchCouch but half liked sitting in it and half didn't.

Also, the PouchCouch deflates very easily, which is a major downside. The advertisements claimed that the PouchCouch can support up to 500 pounds, but whenever more than two people tried to sit in it, the product began to deflate.

So, the “instant relaxation anytime, anywhere” is mostly true. The PouchCouch didn't agree with everyone, but I liked chilling in it, although I can't think of many contexts in which I would use my PouchCouch.

Tearing down

The first few times I put my PouchCouch away, it was difficult to get in the bag. After watching the demonstration videos again, I realized that I had been packing it up the wrong way. However, even when putting my PouchCouch away incorrectly, it still took less time to fit into the pouch than it did to set up.

The PouchCouch is fun, and the product fulfilled about half of the claims in the commercial. It wasn't worth the \$40 I spent on it, and I don't see myself using it often, but the laughs I've enjoyed watching people try to gracefully exit the PouchCouch are priceless.

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Big Papi leaves a big legacy

By: Alyssa Johns

David Ortiz, better known as Big Papi to baseball fans, celebrated his last regular season game at Fenway Park in Boston on Oct. 2. Prior to the game, Ortiz was honored by fans and the Red Sox organization. The Red Sox announced that early next season they will retire Ortiz's No. 34, making Ortiz the first Red Sox player to have his number retired prior to joining the Hall of Fame, according to ESPN. The pregame ceremony lasted 40 minutes. Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina were all in attendance.

Ortiz was born Nov. 18, 1975 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He attended Estudia Espillat High School, where he played basketball and baseball. Ortiz's father, Enrique "Leo" Ortiz, played in the Dominican Professional Baseball League. Leo Ortiz was a huge influence for his son. David Ortiz was never able to see his father play baseball, though, as his father quit playing when David was born to find a steady job, according to grunge.com. Leo Ortiz, while a talented fielder, couldn't hit for anything. Fortunately, David Ortiz could do what his father could not, and became one of

baseball's most talented designated hitters.

Ortiz was originally signed by the Seattle Mariners, playing four years for their minor league teams before being traded to the Minnesota Twins. He played his first major league game on Sept. 2, 1997 against the Chicago Cubs. His first hit of the major leagues was a double off of the Cubs' Mark Piscottia Sept. 3, 1997. Ortiz hit his first major league home run off Julio Santana of Texas on Sept. 14, 1997. This home run would be just the beginning of the record-breaking talent possessed by David Ortiz. His first full year in the major leagues was 2000. His last season for the Twins was 2002. He was released at the end of the season due to injuries and a sharply increasing salary.

Ortiz finally joined the Boston Red Sox in 2003. The Red Sox already had a designated hitter and a first baseman, and only signed Ortiz as a favor for fellow Dominican, Pedro Martinez, whom Ortiz looked up to as a kid. Ortiz finished third in the American League during the 2003 season with a slugging percentage of .592. Ortiz has played for Boston ever since and has won numerous awards.

Ortiz is one of only four major league

baseball players to have finished a career with more than 500 home runs and three or more World Series titles. The only other players to have accomplished this feat are Mickey Mantle, Reggie Jackson and Babe Ruth. In 2011 Ortiz was the recipient of the Roberto Clemente award. This award "recognizes the player who best represents the game of baseball through sportsmanship, community involvement and positive contributions, both on and off the field," according to mlbcommunity.org.

Ortiz's talents are not limited to the field. Coaches, players and administrators alike applaud Ortiz's ability to make people feel important and welcomed.

In an interview with ESPN, Mike Lowell, a former teammate of Ortiz, said, "The fact that he is someone from another country that endeared himself to learning English and being able to express himself, I think he was able to really bridge a gap. He already had that relationship with the Latin players, but I think it really extended to guys from everywhere. When you're that good and you still make other people feel important, I think that's a pretty special quality."

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred called Ortiz "transformational" and said that he "changed the course of this franchise" and "changed the city." Following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, Ortiz helped lift up the city by making an expletive-filled speech during a game shortly, noting that the Red Sox uniforms read "Boston" instead of their usual "Red Sox" to help unite the city. It's no doubt that Ortiz is beloved by Red Sox and baseball fans everywhere. His impact on the game is unparalleled.

Ortiz has played professional baseball for the last 19 years, and will retire after this year at the age of 40. Although it's sad to see a legend step off the field, Ortiz will continue to inspire players young and old for generations to come.

In an interview with Tom Verducci of Sports Illustrated, Ortiz was asked what he was most proud of in his career.

He answered, "I got to say the relationships that I have built with everybody around. You guys — the media — my teammates, the fans, the opposition. I think people are going to remember me more for that than what I had done on the field."

OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

FSU beats bitter rival Miami

Saturday's Oct. 8 game between rivals FSU and Miami ended dramatically. According to ESPN, FSU's Demarcus Walker blocked an extra point attempt that would have tied the game for Miami. The Seminoles won the game 20-19.

Sharapova's appeal upheld

The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova's appeal. Her two-year suspension for doping has been reduced to 15 months. According to ESPN, Sharapova feels that she may have been targeted by the International Tennis Federation and the World Anti-Doping Agency to set an example for other athletes accused of doping.

Marlins consider trading important players for pitching help

According to Clark Spencer of the Miami Herald, president of baseball operations Michael Hill "did not rule out possibility of Marlins trading one of their core pieces to acquire pitching." Hill offered Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton as potential trade pieces. Jim Bowden of ESPN says that the Marlins "might have to consider trading for a big-contract pitcher or two."

Rookie cornerback Xavier Howard out with knee injury

According to Dolphins coach Adam Gase, cornerback Xavier Howard will be on a "week-to-week" basis, due to a knee injury. Howard recently had his meniscus repaired and his return to play will depend on how he reacts to rehab.

Coach's Corner: Doug Neagle

By: Aldana Foigel

After spending seven seasons coaching for Division I Towson University's women's tennis team, Doug Neagle became NSU's women's tennis head coach. Passionate, not only about the game, but also coaching, Neagle is enthusiastic and excited for the competition season to start.

Neagle was introduced to tennis at the age of eight by his older brother. Neagle said that he played many sports before he finally focused on tennis in high school.

"I come from a family where we all play sports. We're the American boys, you know. We played baseball, football, basketball, soccer, all the sports," he explained.

After a successful college career at Salisbury University, a Division III school on the eastern coast of Maryland, Neagle was motivated and inspired by his coach to later become a coach too.

"The experience [at college] was unbelievable; I would say it was one of the best experiences of my athletic career. We had a great coach, motivator and recruiter. He kind of was who motivated me and got me into coaching," Neagle said.

Although the new women's tennis head coach said he is thankful for the opportunity to coach at NSU, he explained that leaving his old team was very hard. Neagle spent seven years as the coach for Women's Tennis at Towson and leaving a team after such a long time was anything but easy.

"That was the hardest conversation I've had to have in my professional career," he said. "Telling the girls, you know, that was just a few weeks ago and they just got back [from the summer break]. They were in shock...but happy for me."

During his first season as a coach at Towson, Neagle's team played at NSU. He said he saw that the team and facilities at NSU had a lot of potential and envisioned himself coaching for NSU one day. At that time, his brother was his volunteer assistant.

"Seven years ago, we played [at NSU] and my brother was my volunteer coach, he was sitting on the bench next to me, and I said, 'You know, I can see myself coaching at this school,'" Neagle said. He also mentioned that Florida is a great location for tennis, because while other teams might struggle to practice during the winter, the weather here is perfect to practice on outdoor courts.

"I know the resources and the location here truly compete for a national championship,



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Coach Neagle hopes to further the success of NSU's women's tennis team.

consistently that's what we are hoping to do," Neagle said.

A coach can be one of the most influential people in a student athlete's life. Neagle explained that the way to learn to be a coach is through experience.

"I am looking forward to get to know this team and getting to know their personalities during their matches," he said. "You are with [the players] so much during the season so you learn a lot about them in the van rides but then we play so many matches. You are sitting in the court with them and you learn a lot about that person."

Neagle said that the Sunshine State Conference is one of the toughest conferences not only for tennis, but for most sports.

"For what I understand it is [hard] for all sports, but that was one of the attractions for me, you know, I didn't want it to be easy. I wanted challenge," he explained.

Neagle said he has a lot of goals for the spring season, but they were all set by the players. Some of the goals include being a united team on the court, being competitive and encouraging. Winning conference and going to nationals is on the list as well.

"I let them establish the goals and then we are going to meet and go over them... The way I look at [the goals], the big picture is that they want to come together as a team this year and make it more like a family atmosphere where they are really supporting each other," Neagle stated.

Neagle wants to help the girls to succeed not only on the tennis court but also in life.

He said, "I want them to become better people along the way, on the court and off the court. Getting better in the classroom and learning from each other."

SPORTSSHORTS

Women's Volleyball

NSU volleyball lost 3-2 to Palm Beach Atlantic on Oct. 4. NSU won the first two sets but PBA took the next three in a hard fought battle. Denvyr Tyler-Palmer lead the game with 17 kills and 14 digs. Jessica Ronyak came in second with 15 kills and 18 digs. Megan Burns, named SSC Defensive Player of the Week, tied her all time high with 31 digs.



Men and Women's Soccer

Both NSU men's and women's soccer games Oct. 8, were cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew.

Men's and Women's Swimming

Both men's and women's swimming matches Oct. 8, were cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew.

Athlete of the Week:

Richard Mansell

By: **Aldana Foigel**

As the only senior on the NSU men's golf team, Richard Mansell hopes to be a leader for his teammates. From Staffordshire, England, Mansell transferred to NSU after his freshman year at Newberry College.

After two successful years at NSU, including a National Championship in 2015, Mansell is looking forward to his last year as a Shark. His main goals are to enjoy himself and to become a professional golfer after graduation. Although he already has a lot of experience, he is willing to keep learning every day.

Mansell explained his passion for golf and why coming to NSU was the right decision.

How did you start playing golf?

"My dad and grandfather both played. I was nine years old when I started, but I played soccer as well. It got to the point when I was around 12 and soccer was my favorite sport. I always wanted to play professionally and everything, but then decided I was better at golf. People were telling me that and I had to pick, so I picked golf."

Are you happy now that you chose golf?

"So far my amateur career has been successful, I would say. I haven't got an individual national championship yet, so fingers crossed for this year, but I am happy with how it's been and obviously now that [golf] is what I want to do in the future I am happy."

How did you find out about college in the US?

"One of my family friends used to play for NSU, Ben Taylor. He transferred from NSU to LSU but I saw the success he had in the U.S. and I kind of thought that I could be like him. I also came on vacation a couple of times when I was

younger and played golf out here and just fell in love with the country."

Why did you decide to transfer to NSU?

"I wasn't happy at Newberry. I didn't like the area and felt like I wasn't getting the most of what I wanted to get basically. I was struggling with reaching where I wanted to go so I contacted the coach here [at NSU], Ryan Jamison, at the time. I was talking to a couple of other schools... but I came on a visit to NSU and fell in love with the campus and the area. Practice facilities were great and just thought it was a great step for me."

What do you consider your biggest achievement in your athletic career?

"I would say my freshman year, I went from being ineligible my first semester, didn't compete once, to play in the spring...I came to NSU without knowing what the coach expected [from me] but then I went on to my sophomore year to have still a very successful season. I had three wins, eight or nine Top 10, was ranked number two in the nation and then was First Team All-American...For me that was a big step, because going from my freshman year being at a not very good Division II school, I didn't play my first semester and then just worked hard and knew where I wanted to be and achieved a lot that sophomore year."

Who is the most influential person in your life?

"Definitely my dad. Really I should say both parents but I'm the only boy in the family. I have three sisters, so me and my dad have kind of a special bond and then we both love the game of golf...Also knowing how he opened up his business and what he had to go through for me to be where I am today. He worked 24/7 for 10 years straight trying to get that business running. Now me and my sisters can have whatever we



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Mansell hopes to win an individual national title in his final year at NSU.

want today but if it wasn't for my mum and dad doing that, there's no chance I'd be able to even be here today. So yeah, I would say my parents, but specifically my dad because we have that father and son bond."

Do you have a favorite golfer?

"I do. It has to be Tiger Woods. His whole career is just unheard of. Currently I really enjoy watching Jason Day and Rory McIlroy play. Just the flare and spark they both play with and I really genuinely think that those two separate themselves when their game is on. There's not [apart from those two] anyone who can beat them. Dustin Johnson is obviously coming up in the ranks but I think right now it has to be between Rory and Jason Day."

Arnold Palmer passed away a few days ago. What are your thoughts about him?

"The man is a legend. If it wasn't for him, the game we play would not be where it is today."

It just shows how he has every aspect besides golf, like obviously he's one of the greatest ever, top three greatest ever, but outside of golf he was a gentleman. Everyone loved him and I just think, obviously it's hard for athletes to say this, but there is more to life than just a sport and he showed and represented that more than anyone...He was the role model. I think it is obviously a really sad time for the game but at the end of the day he was 87 years old, he had a great life and we have to sort of celebrate that."

What are your plans or goals for your last year at NSU?

"This year I am trying to enjoy my last year in college because the step from college golf to next episode is a big step and I really want to enjoy being part of a team. Deep down I know I have the talent to do some good things here in my last year so I'm going to keep that thought in mind and then just really go and enjoy myself... really trying to be a leader for the team. I'm the only senior this year so I hope some of the guys can learn stuff from me and I hope we can all learn stuff from each other. This year I haven't really thought about the end result, I'm more just focusing more on the day to day and just trying to really enjoy it. I know that if I put the work in good things will come."

What are your plans after you graduate?

"After college I am going to play next summer as an amateur and then I plan to turn professional next year. That's always been a dream of mine and I'm sort of waiting to see how this year goes and see what opportunities come to me after I graduate. Whether I am going back to Europe or staying in America, I don't know yet. I am switching my mind all the time so I'm sort of open to opportunities right now but I definitely want to play professional golf after I graduate."



On the Bench:

Women in sports journalism

By: **Alyssa Johns**

Sports have always been a tougher arena for female journalists. In a predominantly male profession, female sports journalists often fall under much harsher scrutiny than their male counterparts.

Recently, Houston Astros minor league infielder, Brooks Marlow, tweeted, "No lady needs to be on ESPN talking during a baseball game specially Mendoza sorry." The tweet, directed at ESPN broadcaster Jessica Mendoza, was later deleted. The Astros stated that they "do not condone" Marlow's behavior and issued an apology statement. Though Mendoza probably never saw the tweet of a minor league player, it's the principle of the matter.

Mendoza is a former professional softball player, holds five Stanford records and is partially responsible for bringing Stanford to its first ever Women's College World Series, according to jmendoza.com. Her website also details her story as a former member of the U.S. Women's National Team and her win of both silver and gold Olympic medals. In 2008, she was named Women's Sports Foundation Sportswoman of the Year. Needless to say, she is accomplished in the sporting world. She is currently a game analyst and appears on Baseball Tonight and Sports Center as a studio analyst.

Mendoza's success in sports and sports media is inspiring. The scrutiny she faces from fans and players like Marlow likely affects

young and upcoming female journalists more than it affects her. Little boys are not the only ones who look up to professional players and commentators. Girls make up a significant portion of the fanbase, and should be treated like the equals they are. Players and organizations should be more aware of the impact they have on young players and fans. According to Nina Mandell of USA Today, a woman thanked Mendoza for inspiring her daughter, saying, "Just thank you, she probably won't even do this but just the fact that she can understand that there are things in this world that it doesn't have to be what her friends tell her to do."

Mendoza isn't the only female sports journalist that receives hate mail for simply being female and a sports journalist. A video by Just Not Sports showed men reading disgusting tweets directed at Chicago sportswriters Sarah Spain and Julie DiCaro. The men became so uncomfortable reading the tweets aloud, they apologized on behalf of their gender.

Unfortunately, there are too many instances where women in sports media are the victims of sexist hate speech. Support is growing however. Many players and others involved in sports media are standing up for women and the Astros stance on the behavior of its players is a start. The question is, when will gender equality in sports media become commonplace?

ON DECK

MEN'S SOCCER

vs. Florida Tech
Melbourne, Fla.
Oct. 12 | 7 p.m.

vs. Rollins
NSU Soccer Complex
Oct. 15 | 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

SSC/GSC Crossover
Orlando, Fla.
Oct. 14 - 15

vs. Barry
NSU Arena
Oct. 18 | 7 p.m.

MEN'S GOLF

Otter Invitational
Seaside, California
Oct. 17 - 18

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Indian River State College
Fort Pierce, Fla.
Oct. 14 | 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

vs. Florida Tech
NSU Soccer Complex
Oct. 12 | 7 p.m.

vs. Rollins
Winter Park, Fla.
Oct. 15 | 7 p.m.

Letting loose after midterms

By: **Jeweliana Register**

If you're reading this, then it's official – you're in the middle of midterms week. But once you've taken every last test and submitted every last paper, the time will come to emerge from the library, put down the venti lattes and trade them for the sun and the sand. Basically, it'll be time to relax, at least until 8 a.m. on Monday rolls around again.

Beach trip

Whether you drive yourself or take the Shark Shuttle, a little sun and sand will have you feeling rejuvenated after midterms. To soak up the vitamin D, a day trip with friends to Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hollywood or even the Keys, if you are feeling adventurous, is always a good idea. Just remember to check the weather beforehand and pack the sunscreen.

Laser tag

The Laser Quest Center, located in the Sunset Square Shopper Center, is a great place to go with friends to let off some steam after midterms. The \$8.50 per game fee includes playing time and your equipment pack. The establishment offers an "Ironman Game" on Fridays and Saturdays starting at 10 p.m. The Ironman Mission, according to the website, is in the multi-level arena and includes fog and music. The Ironman Mission is offered for the special cost of \$11.50 for a game.

Laser Quest Sunrise
2101 N University Drive
Sunrise, FL 33322

Jungle Queen Riverboats cruise

Jungle Queen Riverboats offer different options for day cruises that leave from The Bahia Mar Yachting Center on A1A. The four different tours offered vary from 90 minutes of sightseeing to a dinner and a show cruise that

visits a tropical isle. The prices vary per tour, but coupons and deals can be applied. Exact dates and prices, as well as more information on the cruises, can be found at junglequeen.com.

Paintball

Extreme Range Paintball Park located in Hollywood, Florida is an outdoor paintball area that serves the greater Fort Lauderdale area. The park has a \$15 entrance fee for the day, a \$15 equipment fee and rounds of paintball varying in size and price from \$5 to \$60. Upgrades are available as well. The park is open on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as Monday to Thursday by appointment.

ER Park
6401 Sheridan Street
Hollywood, FL 33024

Unlimited bowling

AMF Davie Lanes offers unlimited bowling every Friday night after 10 p.m. for \$10.89. The price includes unlimited bowling until 2 a.m., but shoe rental is not included. AMF Davie Lanes also offers a snack menu with daily deals on pizza, fried snacks, sweets and an array of beverages.

AMF Davie Lanes
8200 W. State Road 84
Davie, FL 33324

NSU Museum of Art

Located in downtown Fort Lauderdale, the NSU Art Museum is easily accessible to students. The museum offers a student admissions price of \$5 when you present your student ID. The hours of operation are Tuesdays-Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12-5 p.m.

The museum has a plethora of collections, as well as a café that creates the perfect atmosphere for relaxing over lunch.

NSU Art Museum
One East Las Olas Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Tour of the intracoastal

The Fort Lauderdale water taxis are a great way to explore the city. The tour runs through the Intracoastal Waterway, a prime area for famous homes and beautiful yachts. The taxi's Fort Lauderdale route offers 12 stops in total, including the Las Olas Riverfront and Shopping Center, Bahia Mahr and Bokamper's Sports Bar. Prices, locations and times for the taxi vary. Visit watertaxi.com for more information.

Netflix marathon

Let's face it, after midterms you are probably going to be feeling worn out and somewhat drained, so going out might sound about as appealing as reading your textbook. In this case, staying in your dorm to watch an entire season of "American Horror Story" is probably your best route. Luckily for you, between the "Coming to Netflix in October," the "Leaving Netflix in October" and all of the continuing streams of show lists, there are hundreds of options for you to choose from, like "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "Supernatural" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." Sometimes a day in bed with takeout is just what you need after midterms.

Whatever path you choose for the weekend, be sure to catch up on sleep and have some fun. You deserve it after all that studying.

Staff Picks: Study Music

By: **The Current Staff**

It's midterms week, and The Current staff is hitting the books. Here's what we like to listen to while we study.

Grace Ducanis, copy editor, said repetitive, acoustic and guitar-based.

When I'm studying, I like to listen to music with a steady, calm beat. Classical music distracts me because it changes so often, so when studying, I prefer music that's repetitive, acoustic and guitar-based. My favorite artists to listen to while I study are the Goo Goo Dolls, Phillip Phillips, Needtobreathe, James Bay and Lifehouse. Listening to music helps me drown out background noise, and since I'm so familiar with most of the songs from these artists, I don't get caught up listening to the lyrics.

Jenna Kopec, features editor, said Daughtry and Hoobastank.

I have two go-to stations on Pandora that I like to listen to when I study: Daughtry and Hoobastank. Although both stations play similar songs, they provide a really relaxed and focused vibe to accompany the mountains of material I have to cover. A lot of the songs are throwbacks or from my favorite bands as well, so the lyrics aren't distracting so much as comforting.

Ben Underhill, arts and entertainment editor, said instrumental post-rock.

As specific as it is, I enjoy listening to instrumental post-rock while I study. The laidback melodies and mellow feel of the songs creates an almost white noise feel while the song is played at a lower volume. Since it's instrumental, there's no lyrics that will distract

you from your studies, and the genre itself doesn't energize you or tire you too much.

Jacqueline Lytle, co-editor-in-chief, said anything without lyrics.

When I study, I usually just go on YouTube and type in 'study music.' Ninety-three percent of the time, the search offers a list of hourlong instrumental and/or classical music. I listen to the first few minutes of the top three and choose one. I'm not too picky, but if I listen to anything with lyrics, you'll find me singing more than studying.

Morgan Thorn, business manager, said country music or rap.

Whenever I'm studying, I have to have noise in the background. Classical music makes me want to fall asleep, so I normally listen to country music or rap. This semester I've been listening to Spotify's "New Boots" playlist or Turnpike Troubadours.

Alyssa Johns, sports editor, said instrumental.

I listen to instrumental music when I study. I can't listen to anything that has words because I am very easily distracted. My current favorite is "to e.s." by Portland Cello Project. I also love to listen to movie soundtracks. My favorite movie soundtrack is "Finding Nemo," scored by Thomas Newman.

Erin Herbert, co-editor-in-chief, said Weezer.

I'm the kind of person who absolutely needs to have music playing in order to be productive. I have a playlist on Spotify that has about 30 songs from my favorite band, Weezer, that is always my go-to for studying. Weezer's mix of hard rock riffs, catchy pop tunes and even slow ballads is perfect for any study session.

The big screen of the Miami Film Festival

By: **Ben Underhill**

[@ActualBenU](https://twitter.com/ActualBenU)

Film festival season is coming up once again, and for the 34th annual Miami International Film Festival (MIFF), it's another year of new and exciting films. The Miami Film Festival will be from March 3-17, but even sooner is the GEMS festival, a branch of the MIFF, which will be Oct. 13-16.

Rachel Bleemer, associate director of brands for the festival, explained that the GEMS festival is a mini version of the festival in March.

Bleemer said, "It's a good way for people to understand what a film festival is and what kind of films to expect. It's really exciting."

The GEMS festival will be displaying a variety of different movies.

Bleemer said, "For GEMS we have a little bit of everything."

GEMS will be showing "Gimme Danger" which is about Iggy and the Stooges and was directed by Jim Jarmusch, the Rolling Stones' new documentary "Olé Olé Olé" which follows the band through countries they were banned from for 30 years, "Christine," which is a true story about a news reporter from Sarasota who committed suicide on-air, and "Neruda," which is about Pablo Neruda, the Chilean activist and stars Gael García Bernal.

To select films, Bleemer explained MIFF has different programmers that have the strenuous job of travelling around the world, going to different film festivals and bringing films to Miami.

"They keep their ear really close to the industry, know what's coming out, know what works for Miami, or South Florida in general, what our patrons like to see," Bleemer said.

Bleemer said that despite the strenuousness of the programmer's job there is a payoff to the work.

She explained, "For the premieres, and getting the talent, there's a lot of different hands, but, for the most part, you do have a fun job...finding these films and bringing them here."

An interesting aspect of this year's GEMS festival that Bleemer pointed out is the earlier release of the MIFF posters, which will happen during the GEMS festival.

"We usually don't show our 2017 posters until closer to the festival in March," Bleemer explained. "We have this Spanish artist named Juan Gatti...he also specializes in movie posters... he's actually going to be here, we're going to unveil the poster, be able to have a conversation with him. So that's something earlier than usual."

Bleemer said she believes that the MIFF, and film festivals like it, provide a platform for film to thrive.

"These films would not be able to come to Miami, especially with such a varying culture," Bleemer said. "It's so nice to be able to go to the theatre and see your home, wherever you're from, especially South America, go and see a movie in Portuguese or go and see a Chilean movie and have that experience with the filmmaker. [You] hear about how they got the movie made, ask some questions. That's just something that's priceless for so many people. Right now we're really seeing such a love for film...I think people are getting more and more engaged in independent films...It helps continue the film community."

GEMS will be located at MDC's Tower Theater Miami, and tickets for the festival are on sale online at gems2016.miamifilmfestival.com under "Buy Tickets" in the top bar.

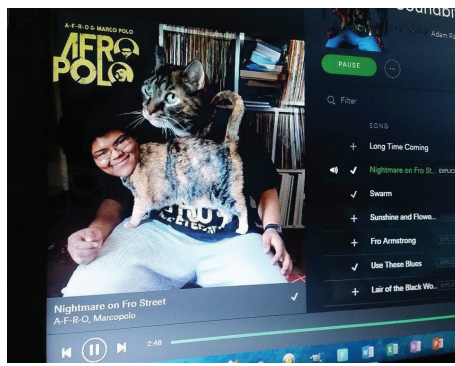
SOUNDBITE

A-F-R-O POLO by A-F-R-O and Marco Polo

By: Adam DeRoss

Ever since the mid 80s, hip-hop has become more and more prevalent in the music mainstream. It exploded as a genre in those days because of the various talented MCs and rappers that are now considered legends. Titans like Tupac, Biggie, A Tribe Called Quest and NWA all mastered their art from the mid 80s through the late 90s in what is now affectionately called the golden era of hip-hop. This has no doubt inspired many emerging artists who wish to reach the same level as their idols. However, hip-hop has changed so vastly since then that the old school sound seems to have been completely snuffed out. That is, until the extremely talented 18-year-old rapper A-F-R-O (All Flows Reach Out) came onto the scene with his producer-partner Marco Polo. Since blowing up on YouTube because of his insane flow and freestyle skills, he has appeared on various talk shows such as Jimmy Fallon and finally released his debut EP "A-F-R-O POLO" on July 15.

The most successful hip-hop is the most wholesome. What truly makes a great hip-hop cut is a high-quality beat backing up high-quality and creative lyrical content delivered smoothly and skillfully, and I have to say that almost every track on this debut record delivers exactly that. In the first cut "Long Time Coming," Fro raps about the struggles he has gone through to get to this point and how he's ready to deliver. The rap is backed up by soulful piano progressions



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM A. DEROSS
A-F-R-O POLO is available on iTunes and Spotify.

paired with crooning echoes of his words, staple record scratches and hi hats of the good old days. The cut "Fro Armstrong" uses space as its theme and provides funky and almost psychedelic horn samples, deep bass riffs and plucky string synths straight from an 80s disco. While the lyrics on this cut don't necessarily mean much, as Fro is just rapping about how his raps are cosmic and transcend space, they are delivered with the same quality of flow and smoothness as in the rest of the cuts.

My two favorites on this record, however, are "Nightmare on Fro Street" and "Use These Blues." "Nightmare on Fro Street," along with "Lair of the Black Worm," shows that Fro is a horror fan. Aside from the title reference to the cult classic horror film "Nightmare on Elm Street," the instrumental uses staple horror sound effects like wavering piano chords and cheesy

80s horror movie chimes. In these songs Fro spits lyrics comparing himself to a serial killer in the way he kills all of his flows and uses imagery of zombies and skeletons as a metaphor for his resurrection of old school hip-hop style. "Use These Blues" takes a vastly different approach and especially struck an emotional chord with me. The instrumental with its soft guitar chords, playful bells, synths and samples of a soulful woman's choir reminds me of classics like "Can I Kick It" by A Tribe Called Quest. The lyrics explore depression and hardship and provide inspiration as Fro raps about how you need to believe in yourself and allow the love of your friends and family to uplift you.

Although I love the record just the way it is and am very impressed with both the musical quality and the creative lyric writing, there is one thing that disappoints me. Fro became well-known on the internet before this record for his ridiculously fast and smooth flows as well as his lightning-quick thinking during freestyles. However, none of this is showcased in this record. All of the tracks take on slow to medium paces and, although they all flow very well, Fro is too comfortable. He never introduces anything too complex and seems content with keeping the entire record going at the same pace. Regardless of this shortcoming, this very talented individual has not only been given the opportunity to share his music, but also brought old school back. I can't wait to see what he comes up with next.

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"Rent" returns: Kaleb Wells on playing Roger Davis

By: Ben Underhill

@ActualBenU

Twenty years ago, "Rent" took the stage and immediately stole our hearts. Combining the raw feelings of starving artists and those suffering from the AIDS epidemic with rock music, "Rent" has been capturing hearts and minds ever since.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning show, a national tour of the show, directed by Evan Ensign, has been announced.

I had the privilege of interviewing Kaleb Wells, who is playing Roger Davis in the Rent 20th Anniversary Tour.

How would you explain "Rent" to someone who's never seen or heard of the musical before?

Wells: "The story of "Rent" is about a group of artists, some of them gay, some of them straight, some of them music performers, artists and filmmakers, who are struggling to live in the East Village [of New York City] in the late 80s, early 90s amid the terrifying AIDS epidemic. It really covers everything. It covers living as an artist, being true to yourself, being faithful to your art, while also being aware that terrible things are happening around you to people you don't know and to people you love and friends of yours, and friends might die. [It's about being] a human and an artist in that time period and in that struggle."

How did you originally get into theatre?

Wells: "I'm from a small part of New Hampshire, and there's a great number of local theatres that have productions all the time. I grew up doing theatre as a hobby. My parents kind of wanted me to get my energy out because I was super loud, you know, making noise any time I could, because that was kind of my outlet: running around, getting my energy out, screaming, singing."

How did you feel when you first heard that you were casted as Roger Davis for the Rent 20th Anniversary Tour?

Wells: "Oh man, it's truly a dream come

true, honestly. Like, I grew up with this show, I listen to it constantly in the car, I sing along with it. It's certainly one of the dreams that I had, to just have the honor of bringing that story every night to people. You know, when I found out, it blew me away."

You're about to perform at your sixth location, so how does it feel to be travelling around the country?

Wells: "It's great. There are a lot of places that I've never been to that I'm getting to check out, which is really nice. I've done some travelling before, but not really within the country. Our country is so big and so vast and so different, you know? People are different, the places are different. But the reaction to the show and the reception are very much the same. People are reacting very positively to it. It's a message that I think needs to be heard, and it needs to be heard right now specifically, so I think a lot of people are happy that we're coming through."

In your opinion, how do the themes in "Rent" apply to the world today?

Wells: "I think it is a slice of time. It is very much a period piece, and it kind of has always been a period piece, but the themes are universal. They're so human. Thankfully, AIDS is not as much of an issue. It's not a death sentence anymore, but people are still suffering with it and living with it. But loss is always going to be there. Death is always going to be there. Creativity, passion, strive and poverty are going to be there. Homelessness is going to be there, so people are always going to have things to relate to. There's so many messages right now that are preaching the exact opposite of this show, that are preaching hate and fear and xenophobia, painting the image that the world is this terrible place, and I think people need this message. Even if they've heard it a bunch of times, it's always good to be reassured and hear this message of love and acceptance and living every day fully."

So you mention a lot the different topics related to being an artist in "Rent." What do

you think the importance of being an artist actually is?

Wells: "One of the messages of "Rent" is to just do and to create and not try to be anything else but yourself. And I think that the interesting thing about "Rent" is that it is somewhat a little bit unfinished as a piece. I'm not sure if you're aware, but the composer and writer of it, Jonathan Larson, died very suddenly and very tragically from Marfan's disease, so the show might have ended up a little bit different had he continued to live. But I think that part of the message is that your art is you, and as long as you do something that you are passionate about and you feel is your truth, that will always be art. It doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be real. It just has to be from yourself."

In your opinion, what is one of the best songs in the show?

Wells: "One of the pieces that I resonate very strongly with and I believe I can always listen to is "I'll Cover You (Reprise)" in the second act, sung by our own Aaron Harrington who plays Tom Collins. It is just so visceral and beautiful and moving and lyrical, but also guttural and heart-wrenching. It's a good song."

How do you, personally, get into character and prepare for a show?

Wells: "Roger is kind of... he's dealing with his own personal battles. I am very much friends with every single person in this cast, and I love to hang out with them and have fun with them, but it is kind of hard to go on stage with that energy, like, friendship and bonding and then kind of have to sit by yourself for a while. I'll usually take a moment before I go on stage just for a bit, collect my thoughts, be by myself and be OK being by myself. I kind of discover the friendships on stage naturally."

What has it been like to work with Evan Ensign, Danny Harris Kornfeld and the rest of the cast and crew?

Wells: "Fantastic. Every single person in the cast and the crew and the production team and creative team are all wonderful, giving

people. They have a such positive energy, high energy, passionate energy, which I think is the most important thing. Every single person shows up every single day wanting to do their job, wanting to do their job to the best of their ability and there's such a passion for the show and you really feel it. Everyone, no matter who they play or what their position is in the show, is ready to do "Rent" justice and to bring the story to the best of their ability. It's such an honor to be working with such talented, passionate people."

What makes musical theatre so distinguished from different art forms?

Wells: "I think musical theatre, when it's done well, is one of the all-inclusive performing arts. It has to be emotionally connected. I find that a lot of musicals are very surface level, very entertaining, very song and dance. But a musical that is really emotionally connected and tells a story that needs to be told tells it through so many different disciplines. You have music, you have acting, you have dancing, you have the set design, you have costume design, you have lighting, you have sound, you have every single sense telling that story in a different way and being informed by different art forms. And when they work together, "Rent" is one of those shows that works. It is a full-body, full-sensory experience that tells a story I don't think can be told in any other art form."

What is one of the funniest things that's happened on the tour so far?

Wells: "One of the first buses that we took from the airport ended up breaking down on the side of the road twice, and it was one of our first stops so the cast hadn't really been on a bus together. We had been in rehearsals and stuff but to have that sense of humor of breaking down and having to restart the bus with people who you kind of just met was a really funny experience, and we had a lot of good laughs."

For more information regarding show dates, visit playbill.com/article/rent-20th-anniversary-tour-launches-tonight

Seriously Kidding

a satire column

Snapchat is the best new medium for long-form storytelling

By: **Grace Ducanis**
@GraceDucanis

Move over, YouTube. Long snap stories are taking over the Wi-Fi, and storytelling hasn't been so innovative since the first cave dweller wrote on the first cave wall. Young people are using their Snapchat to tell their stories and document their lives in the least permanent way possible.

"Like Twitter, this medium was clearly designed for lengthy storytelling," said Anna Sequester, a Snapchat user who regularly posts snaps of herself talking about how much schoolwork she has to do, how tired she is and how fake her always-anonymous friends are.

"Sometimes, because of the 10 second video limit, my words will get cut off mid-sentence," Sequester said. "But I can't get the dog filter on YouTube, so I put up with it."

Sequester said she didn't know how many people watch her stories.

"I'm guessing a lot," she said. "I get messages from people all the time saying, 'Your stories are way too long' and 'nobody has time to watch all of this,' but I just shake them off. You gotta shake off the haters."

Reston Hayes says he doesn't get it.

"Snapchat isn't designed for stories hundreds of seconds long," he said. "It's like when people try to tell a story on Twitter using multiple tweets. Everyone's annoyed, and no one can figure out what's going on. Nobody on Snapchat wants to watch someone else tell a story about running into their ex at the grocery store while getting cut off at 10 second

intervals."

Hayes obviously isn't tuned into how the young people are using new media to tell personal stories.

"I'm 19," Hayes said.

Hayes is obviously socially inept.

Francis Windly frequently posts snap stories upwards of 300 seconds featuring his dog.

"I used to just post one or two snaps of my dog to my story a day," he said. "Then, I realized that since I love this dog so much, all my other friends must love watching him too."

He says he feels like Snapchat has given his life a purpose.

"I'm leaving my mark on the world," he explained. "I spend so much time filming, photographing and posting snaps to my story because I feel like it's my legacy. It's going to last."

Belina Nolife is an avid Snapchat watcher. On average, she estimates that she watches about five hours' worth of snap stories each day. Since she doesn't work or attend school, she credits all her watch time to her extremely uneventful life.

"What's great about Snapchat stories is that each day there's something new," she said. "I wake up wondering, what timestamp did my friends use on their obligatory start-of-work car selfies today? How many different people will my friends face-swap with today? How many different photos of one sunrise can my friends possibly get? Each day is a new experience."

Is the Flow Hive really worth all the buzz?

By: **Erin Herbert**
@Erin_Herbert

Thousands of people have been buzzing on social media about the latest trend in beekeeping technology: the autoflow beehive. With the alarming decline of the world's bee population, thousands of people have begun advocating for safe beekeeping practices. And the Flow Hive, one of the most successful brands of autoflow beehives, seems like the best way to make the honey harvesting process stress-free for both bees and their keepers. But due to the hidden dangers for bees inside of these hives, they really aren't worth all of the buzz.

The Flow Hive was wildly popular, even before its initial release, raising a record-breaking 12.2 million in the first three months of its GoFundMe campaign. The hive has a wooden structure and is equipped with plastic tubes that allow honey and honeycombs to flow freely out of the hive with the turn of a key. The Flow Hive promised to provide a completely stress-free way to remove honey from hives and keep disturbances to bees to an absolute minimum. Conventional honey harvesting techniques involve manually removing bees from their hive, often with the use of a smoker, and then using a heated knife to remove honeycombs from the hive. But although the Flow Hive and other autoflow alternatives seem like the answer to every beekeeper's prayers, there are a number of hidden dangers lurking inside of these hives.

Beehives are living entities and should not

be substituted for plastic parts and other artificial elements. Plastic is completely unnecessary in beehives. Bees typically produce their own wax, which makes up the entire interior of the hive and provides storage for their food supplies. Plastic, unlike beeswax, does not change with the environment and can't change temperatures like other elements of the hive. Plastic's inability to adapt can cause major issues for bees inside the hive, as well as altering the composition of honey and even removing some medicinal qualities from it.

Not only do the artificial components of the Flow Beehive make it dangerous for bees, but it also promotes the exploitation of bees. The creators of the Flow Hive claim that their invention is the easiest, cleanest and cheapest way to keep bees. These claims have led many individuals to become amateur beekeepers. With the elevated number of novices in the beekeeping field, many bees are not being properly cared for. Bees cannot be left in a plastic hive indefinitely and expected to remain healthy and productive.

Although the Flow Hive has done an incredible job of raising awareness about the current bee crisis, it is simply not a safe method for honey harvesting. Between plastic parts and promoting a nonchalant attitude among novice beekeepers, the Flow Hive is destined to hurt bees much more than it can help them.

UNIV 1000 wastes our time and tuition

By: **Melanie Chapilliquen**

Whether you're commuting or living on campus, we all get that deer-in-the-headlights feeling as we walk into our first class as freshmen. We've experienced the constant worry of missing class and the awkward butchering of our names when professors call attendance. Been there, done that. So this year, to help freshmen make the transition, NSU has implemented a new class that all freshmen are required to take, a pointless one at that.

I love to learn, but this class bores me. My professor's attitude makes the class bearable, but the material reviewed is redundant and can make an hour seem infinite.

University 1000 is a three credit class designed to expose the incoming freshman class of 2020 to a plethora of different resources and activities that the campus has to offer. Not only has NSU made this class a requirement, but orientation was also a requirement. In addition to sitting through the daylong orientation, freshmen are forced to sit through an entire semester of lectures and redundant information. Why sit in a classroom and waste your time when the information being taught has already been given to us? There is nothing wrong with the teachers, but the class itself is unnecessary.

"Take the time to study. Plan out your schedule. Have a routine." I understand we have all this newfound freedom and, as freshman, it can get overwhelming. However, at this point, why repeat yourself time and time again? In a university class that is meant to show you resources, relearning APA style typically learned in a required general education class seems

pointless. I fail to see the need to hear about the size 12, Times New Roman font in UNIV 1000.

Furthermore, why force me to sit through outside extracurricular activities that I may not be fond of? As a requirement, freshmen in my UNIV class are expected to attend "Beyond the Classroom Learning Experiences" that reflect cultural, academic, recreational and intellectual activities. This means that we have to attend activities in each category and then write a two page journal reflection about the event. Mind you, we can't forget to take a selfie and attach it to the journal or else it didn't happen. Oh, and just to clarify, the intellectual activities you attend should not be related to your major courses. Clearly, we freshman have so much time on our hands that we absolutely need to attend that soccer game.

It doesn't seem to be just me though. After speaking with different freshman, "Why am I required to take this?" seems to be one of the main inquiries. Why? Because tuition covers a class where I get to know my peers and hear redundant information time and time again: where buildings are located, what resources are available and of course, the location of the main building that has every answer needed to the student, the One Stop Shop. This is what I listen to day after day, week after week.

At the end of the day, UNIV 1000 is pointless. The professors are great; I'm not complaining about them. I am just highlighting the fact that a class that is meant to expose me to new "college experiences," doesn't.

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“Hollow”een is overrated

By: Jenna Kopec
@Jen_Kopec

I remember reading stories in elementary school about the origins of Halloween. I can vaguely recall an explanation that said the term “Hallow’s Eve” eventually morphed into one word. I can’t tell you much more than that, however. That’s probably because whatever intentions set the foundation for the “holiday” have faded away, and Halloween has become one of the most overrated and commercialized aspects of American culture.

Yes, I’m saying it: Halloween is stupid.

I understand why it’s popular among children — the day revolves around the promise of free candy. As a child, that was my reason for dressing up and trudging around my

neighborhood. Now that I’m an adult and have to buy my own candy from stores, I just don’t understand the hullabaloo around Halloween. I think that in American culture, it’s even a stretch to say that Halloween is a holiday.

Merriam Webster defines a holiday as a “holy day” or a day where people get to take off work, neither of which really encapsulate what happens on Halloween. In our society, work and school is always in session for Halloween, and there’s no discussion about its holy origins. I consider Thanksgiving a holiday because it’s centered on the idea of gratitude; I consider Veteran’s Day a holiday because it pays tribute to those who fought for our country. Halloween

just reestablishes my need to go to the dentist for a filling.

I’ve heard a lot of discussion about how multiple origins of Halloween are still relevant in certain cultures, and I think that’s beautiful; I just don’t see it where I live. Nor do Americans take the time to regularly talk about the meaning of Halloween. Instead, during the month of October, which has become Halloween season, all the major TV networks play spooky movie marathons and tons of people spend one hundred dollars for a Halloween Horror Nights ticket. None of these activities commemorate a specific event or idea.

The costumes on Halloween serve no real

purpose once you’re through trick-or-treating. And even then, there’s a lot of discussion lately about how the children’s costumes seen as commonplace are racist — like Pocahontas, to name one.

I know that a lot of Halloween lovers are going to claim that it’s nice to have something to celebrate and have fun with. They aren’t wrong, but it’s just difficult to believe a day in which the main objective is to scare people is everyone’s idea of fun. Halloween doesn’t have much substance to it. If you want to frolic and squeal over fake cobwebs and electronic mummies, be my guest. Just don’t say you’re doing it in the name of holiday spirit.

DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION?



SHARK SPEAK



“Of course. I believe I have to vote for the person who represents my views on the issues that matter most, and I won’t have a voice in this upcoming election if I don’t.”

- Lorraine Sanchez, sophomore biology major



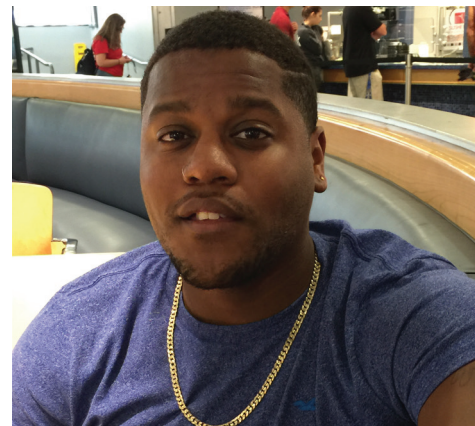
“Yes. It is extremely important to have your voice heard, especially by people who will be running the government. You want the future president to have the same ideals as you.”

- Nicole Almeida, senior business administration major



“Yes. If you don’t vote, you won’t have any input, and right now, the United States has to vote between two bad candidates, so you have to choose the best of the worst.”

- Gaby Alfaro, senior finance and business major



“Yes, because we don’t need Trump in office. If he goes into office, people like me, who are on reserve for the military, will have to get called into battle because he will start a war.”

- Dino Johnson, freshman psychology major



“Yes, because Florida is a swing state, and your voice can really be heard here, and this upcoming election will impact your future.”

- Zack Pearce, sophomore sports and recreation management major



“No. I don’t think it’s important to vote. I don’t like either candidate, and I don’t feel either one deserves my vote.”

- Tristan Semenza, freshman criminal justice major



“I think it is really important for college students to vote because we are the generation that is about to go out into the work force. We are the ones that are going to have to start making decisions on taxes and immigration.”

- Juliet Romeo, junior communication studies major

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11-Oct	Monster House	Marauders	Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising	De Palma	Now You See Me 2	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride	The Conjuring 2	Trick 'R Treat	The Ring	The Ones Below	Warcraft
12-Oct	De Palma	The Cabin In The Woods	Marauders	Friday The 13Th (2009)	World War Z	Insidious: Chapter 3	Warcraft	Warm Bodies	Now You See Me 2	The Purge: Anarchy	The Nice Guys
13-Oct	Friday The 13Th (2009)	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride	The Cabin In The Woods	Trick 'R Treat	Ma Ma	The Ones Below	The Ring	Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising	The Nice Guys	Monster House	Me Before You
14-Oct	Trick 'R Treat	Insidious: Chapter 3	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride	Warm Bodies	Warcraft	The Purge: Anarchy	Now You See Me 2	Marauders	The Conjuring 2	De Palma	World War Z
15-Oct	Warm Bodies	The Ones Below	Insidious: Chapter 3	Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising	Me Before You	Monster House	The Nice Guys	The Cabin In The Woods	World War Z	Friday The 13Th (2009)	Ma Ma
16-Oct	Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising	The Purge: Anarchy	The Ones Below	Marauders	Now You See Me 2	De Palma	The Conjuring 2	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride	The Ring	Trick 'R Treat	Warcraft
17-Oct	Marauders	Monster House	The Purge: Anarchy	The Cabin In The Woods	World War Z	Friday The 13Th (2009)	Warcraft	Insidious: Chapter 3	Now You See Me 2	Warm Bodies	The Nice Guys

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