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The Current

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

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Detecting fake news

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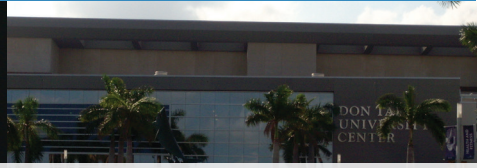
Gyrotomics is a game-changer

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NSU email suffixes to change in June

By: **Brianna Walker**

At the end of this semester, the NSU email suffix will change from @nova.edu to @mysu.nova.edu, for all students and alumni, according to the Office of Innovation and Information Technology (OIIT).

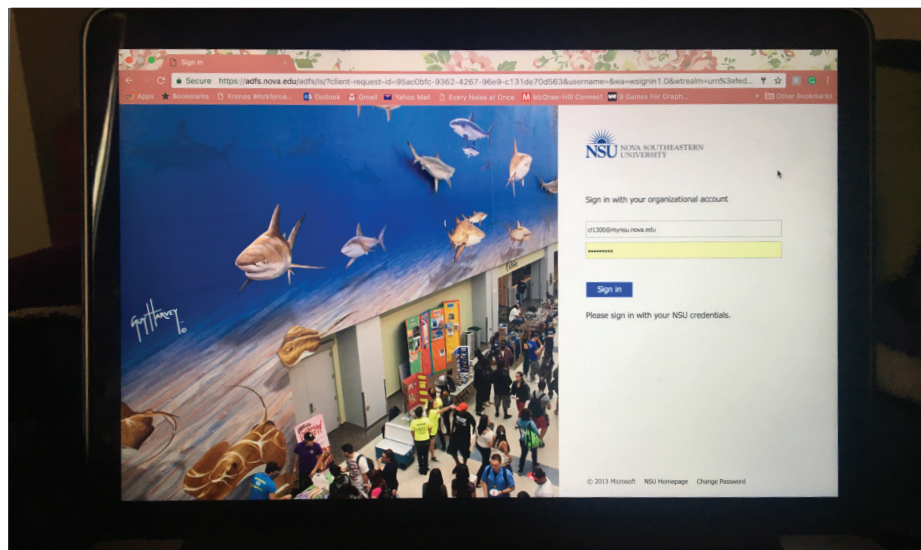
The change is scheduled to take place during the weekend of June 2. There will be a layover period of about 120 days, where emails sent to the old account will be forwarded. While the email suffix will change, the email account and all previous information and emails associated with it will remain the same.

Eliana Coronel, the senior director of systems and infrastructure services, said that changing the NSU email suffix will separate the student and alumni accounts from the staff and faculty accounts.

Lial Knight, the senior executive director of infrastructure, networks, and field services, said that the change is beneficial to both students and the university.

Knight said, "By separating things, it preserves NSU's needs to preserve records and the students' needs to create a portfolio of information that is useful to them in their studies and in their careers. We believe it will be valuable for records retention for the university and students' needs going forward."

In addition to being able to preserve records, the change will also allow Microsoft to differentiate between students and staff and can



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In June, NSU student email suffixes will change from "@nova.edu" to @mysu.nova.edu."

give students more access to Microsoft products.

Coronel said, "We have a campus agreement with Microsoft so there is a potential for them to offer more on the products side to students: tools that could be used to enhance coursework. With the current email, there is no way for Microsoft to identify who is a student and who is staff and who is a faculty member."

Knight said that the decision to change the email suffixes is student-driven.

"Microsoft is enriching the products that

they offer to full time students and we want to take advantage of that," he said.

OIIT has been working on this project for over a year now and reached out to the Undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA) for feedback and comments and to gauge the student reaction.

Gabriella Lopez, a junior English major and public relations director of SGA, said SGA was first approached by OIIT last semester about the possible changes as a gauge

for student reactions.

SGA had voiced their initial concerns to OIIT, like what would happen to messages sent to the old address. They also surveyed the student population to see how the students felt about the email suffix change.

Lopez said that SGA does not have a stance on the email suffix change at this time.

"As SGA, we want to accurately represent the students and if we find that a bunch of students are unhappy with this, then we will try to fight back and we will push against this change because we are here to represent the students," Lopez said.

Knight said, "We have heard very good feedback from SGA and we are going to adjust our deployment process, so that it is done in the very best possible way to make the transition better for the students."

OIIT said that they will start informing the population about the email suffix change in April.

For more information about the email change, contact the OIIT office. If students or alumni would like to voice their concerns regarding the email suffix change to SGA, they can email a senator or go to the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement for a senator's office hours. To find contact information for a senator, go to nova.edu/campuslife/sga.

NSU talks the talk at 6th TEDxNSU

By: **Brianna Walker**

NSU is set to host their 6th annual TEDxNSU event on March 18 at 12 p.m. in the Performance Theatre in the Don Taft University Center.

TEDxNSU features an array of 10 minute speeches, or TED talks, from students and faculty.

TED is a non-profit organization whose mission is to spread ideas worth sharing. This is done through TED talks, which are short and impactful talks designed to inspire others. TEDxNSU is an independently organized event, modeled after TED talks. It focuses on the local community and hearing voices from the local community.

Leanne Boucher, associate professor of psychology and one of the co-organizers for TEDxNSU, said that she thinks this type of event is great for NSU.

"I really liked the idea that TED is built on, which is that we should give ideas worth

spreading a stage and an audience. I really like doing that on a college campus because we all try to be intellectual and think about ideas that are bigger than ourselves, so I thought that it would fit perfectly here at NSU," Boucher said.

The theme this year is, "Stop, Drop, and Roll." The topic stems from the simple pieces of advice that we were all given as children, and how we stopped, dropped, and rolled through different experiences in our lives.

Boucher said, "We were all just chatting in my office one day, and we said it jokingly, but then the more we thought about it, the more we realized that stopping, dropping and rolling is really what the event is about. The event is about stopping and reflecting on what's going on and then acting on it."

Alonzo Williams, senior dance major, is one of the speakers for the TEDxNSU. He said he is very excited to get his ideas out into the public.

"I am excited to be speaking about something that is bigger than me, especially with it being very relevant in the times we are living in right now," he said. "It could change someone's whole perspective and make a difference."

Williams' talk is titled "Creative Violence" and is about utilizing creativity as a form of violence to create social reform.

Williams said, "My talk is about utilizing that art or that God-given gift you have been given and using that form of art as a violence to create change instead of using physical violence."

One of Boucher's responsibilities is to help the speakers give the best speech possible within their time limit.

"I help to curate our speakers and try to help them give the best 10 minute talk of their lives," said Boucher. "I start working with them from the very beginning stages all the way to the end. For me, it is amazing to see that transformation,

where they have this idea and are struggling to put it into words, and then they work hard to cultivate it, and for me it is exciting to see the fruition of their hard work."

Boucher said this event brings together the whole community, as well as uniting NSU.

"I think that it is a great day for us all to get together as one NSU and pull together all of our talents and share it with the community to let them know how great NSU is," said Boucher. "I think we need this event because it is always important to facilitate discussions and talk about topics that people are maybe unaware of, so I think it's good to put things like this on people's radars."

The event is open to anyone who would like to attend. Tickets cost \$20 per person and are available at tinyurl.com/TEDxNSU2017Tix. For more information visit nova.edu/tedxnsu.

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NEWS ANCHOR

Stay up to date with world events.

3,000-year-old, 30 foot statue discovered in Egypt

On March 9, archeologists removed a quartz statue that may depict Ramses II from the ground in Cairo, according to CNN. The statue is an estimated 30 feet tall and 3,000 years old. The statue was found near a temple dedicated to Ramses II in a temple complex destroyed during the Greco-Roman era. According to the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, this discovery is one of its “most important archaeological discoveries.” Parts of the statue will reside in a museum in Giza.

Polish leader accuses French president of blackmail at EU summit

After Poland refused to endorse a joint declaration to stress the importance of unity within the EU following Brexit, French President Francois Hollande reportedly threatened to cut funding to Poland, according to Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo, as reported by BBC. In return, Szydlo attacked Hollande’s popularity at a news conference on March 10, criticizing his remarks. Poland currently receives the most money from the EU, whose budget will tighten when the UK leaves.

Pope considers ordaining married men

According to BBC, Pope Francis has said that he might consider allowing married men to carry out church work under specific circumstances in isolated areas, due to the lack of Catholic priests. Celibacy, however, remains a requirement for Catholic priests, with the exception of married but converted Anglican ministers. According to the article, 25 percent of Catholic parishes have no residing priests.

Trump revises immigration executive order

On March 6, the Trump administration released an updated version of the immigration executive order, according to NBC. The new version bans citizens from Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria and Libya from traveling to the United States for 90 days. The previous list of countries included Iraq, which has now been removed from the order after communication with the Iraqi government regarding more openness with the U.S., according to the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, the new order, instead of completely banning Syrian refugees, will suspend the Syrian refugee program for 120 days. The provisions of the order will take effect on March 16, and the new order will not revoke visas approved before March 16 or affect individuals with green cards and lawful permanent residents.

Thirty-six die in Guatemala fire

On March 8, 36 girls were killed in a fire at a Guatemalan government youth shelter after shelter residents lit mattresses inside the building in protest, according to ABC. Nineteen girls died at the shelter and 17 more died at hospitals after suffering severe injuries. As of March 10, there are still questions over whether one of the girls set the fire and if the doors were left locked while the fire was burning. Survivors were put under guard on March 10 for their own protection as witnesses to the events of the fire.

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 21 issue of The Current, the article “Professor publishes handbook on mediation” stated that Alexia Georgakopoulos helped edit and publish “The Handbook of Mediation: Theory, Research and Practice.” Georgakopoulos has said that she was the sole editor of the book.

Additionally, Georgakopoulos was incorrectly quoted as saying, “I’ve published three mediation training manuals that were improved by the Florida Supreme Court.” The correct quote is “I’ve published three mediation training manuals that were approved by the Florida Supreme Court.”

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Pediatrics club hosts run and shave for children’s cancer

By: **Grace Ducanis**
 @GraceDucanis

To raise money for children’s cancer research, NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine Pediatrics Club is partnering with the St. Baldrick’s Foundation to organize a 5k walk/run and a shaving event on March 18 starting at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Alvin Sherman Library.

Last year, the club raised \$8,000 for St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a non-profit that funds childhood cancer research.

Taylor Bracco, first-year medical student and co-chair of the St. Baldrick’s event for the pediatrics club, hopes that more people will turn out for this year’s event and that the club will surpass last year’s monetary goal.

“Hopefully this money that we’re raising will help find better methods to treat [children] that maybe aren’t as harsh as going through chemotherapy, because going through chemotherapy is hard for everyone but especially for a child who’s so tiny and so young and still developing,” she said. “It is really harsh on them.”

This year’s events will kick off with the



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Rick Cortney shaving his head at last year’s event.

Pjammin’ 5k, where participants will run in their pajamas to raise money. The race will also feature free food and music, and the first 250 participants to register for the race will receive

a tank top and a medal.

At the shaving and hair donation event following the race, participants will be able to donate their hair to childhood cancer patients and shave their heads to show support for children with cancer. A childhood cancer survivor and law school student who has been impacted by childhood cancer research will also speak.

According to Bracco, shaving your head is meant to help children’s cancer patients feel accepted.

“For a lot of people it’s very embarrassing... to lose their hair. It’s to show them support and stand by them and show them that it’s not as horrific and that we’re there for them. We’re not judging them.”

According to the St. Baldrick’s Foundation website, 300,000 children are diagnosed with some form of children’s cancer each year, and less than 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute’s funds go towards research for childhood cancers.

Christina Baxter, second-year medical

student and president of the pediatrics club, said that this event is important to her because it’s why she’s in medical school.

“I see myself working with children and families for the rest of my life, children who have been impacted by cancer and have need of support and encouragement,” she said. “That’s something that we can do now in medical school and also if you’re [an] undergraduate.”

According to Baxter, raising awareness for childhood cancers is important.

“[Childhood cancer] is something we can change now by running in our pajamas and being together as a school and as a community to raise awareness for the problem,” she said.

Both events are open to the community. To donate their hair, participants do not have to enter the 5k race. To register for the race, go to goo.gl/VGzYXq. There is a registration fee of \$20. To find out more about the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, visit stbaldricks.org.

Students suit up to support children's hospital

By: **Grace Ducanis**

@GraceDucanis

Sometimes, superheroes save the world not by defeating the bad guys, but by fundraising.

To collect donations for Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and support their organization's service activities, NSU's MAKO Rangers are hosting a week of events from March 19-25.

The week will include a dodgeball tournament and pool party, cupcake-making, Power Rangers photo booth, Menchie's fundraiser, movie night, Power Ranger-themed dinner, and beach cleanup and cookout. Fifty percent of the funds the club raises, except for the money collected for Relay for Life, will be donated to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

MAKO stands for Monumental Action through Kindness and Optimism.

"Our whole mission statement is really to help out children and put a smile on their face, especially sick children and families," said Jake Bence, co-president of the MAKO Rangers and junior chemistry major. "One of the main events that we do every semester is to try to have at least two hospital visits, so we want to incorporate the hospital visits with [donating] funds to the hospital."

Li Cohen, vice president of the MAKO Rangers and senior communication major, said that the MAKO Rangers have visited Joe DiMaggio Children's hospital in the past.

"The kids are great there," she said. "We want to give back in more ways than just going to visit."

Cohen said that some of the kids the Power Rangers visit have been in the hospital for months.

"Sometimes the kids are all shy, but you can just see that they're excited just to have visitors that aren't hospital workers, and I think it's really important for people to know that going to [MAKO Week] and helping us get to [hospitals] is so important and helps kids have a little more hope than before



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The MAKO Rangers executive board at Sharkapalooza.

we went," Cohen said.

Bence said that this year's MAKO Week has a lot more events than in 2016, and that last year there wasn't a great turnout because it was MAKO Week's first year.

"We really want this to be something where NSU students and faculty and staff can come together to enjoy and really have a good time, while also helping make a difference to the kids at Joe DiMaggio's," Cohen explained.

Bence said that he wants participants to have a great time and learn more about the MAKO Rangers.

"Even if they don't want to join our club, [I want them to] have fun, get involved and know they're supporting a good cause and feel good about that," Bence said.

The MAKO Rangers will hold a scavenger hunt throughout the week on the GooseChase app, and the winner will receive two free tickets for the Power Rangers movie night on March 24.

The dodgeball tournament and pool party is open to anyone in the NSU community. Tickets are \$10 per person before March 17, and there is a five person limit per team. Meal tickets for the event are also available for \$10. To sign up, email Matt Lowater at ml1781@nova.edu.

MAKO Week Calendar

Splash Bash Dodgeball Tournament and Pool Party

March 19 | 1-5 p.m.
@Leisure Pool

MAKO Cupcake

March 20 | 12-1 p.m.
@UC Pit

Morph Yourself Photo Booth

March 21 | 8-11 p.m.
@Commons 123

Makyo'self Some Menchie's

March 22 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
@UC Pit

Chartwell's Power Ranger Dinner

March 22 | 6-8 p.m.
@UC Food Court

Relay for Life Kickoff

March 23 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.
@Shark Fountain

Power Rangers Movie Trip

March 24 | 8 p.m.

Beach Cleanup Service Day and Cookout

March 25 | 2 p.m.
@Fort Lauderdale Beach

NEWS BRIEFS

Four-star restaurant owner and chef to speak about quality food and service

On March 15 from 6-8 p.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building, room 3000, the Distinguished Lecture Series will continue with a presentation by Angelo Elia, hosted by the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship. Elia, a four-star restaurant owner and chef, will speak about putting the customer first and delivering top-notch food and service. To RSVP, email loval01@nova.edu. For more information, go to huizenga.nova.edu/dls or call 954-262-5035.

NSU opens up for Spring Open House

On March 25, NSU will host its Spring Open House in the Don Taft University Center and Rick Case Arena to showcase its different degree programs. At the event, participants will be able to speak with faculty, students, financial aid advisers and admissions counselors, as well as take guided tours of NSU. Volunteers are needed for the event. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Christie Williams at wlchrist@nova.edu.

Wellness bash celebrates National Nutrition Month

RecWell, FitWell and SGA have teamed up to host a Wellness Bash for National Nutrition Month on March 15 in the Don Taft University Center Spine. The event is free for students and will feature giveaways, healthy snacks and recipe books. For more information, email wellness@nova.edu or call 954-262-7301.

NSU's Got Talent applications close March 24

Applications for NSU's Got Talent, which will take place on April 4 at 8 p.m. at the Shark Fountain, are due by March 24. All NSU students are eligible to enter, although non-NSU students can participate as part of a student's act. The first-place winner of the competition will be awarded \$500, the second-place winner will be awarded \$300 and the third-place winner will be awarded \$200. To sign up, go to nova.edu/nsugottalent. For more information, contact Daesha Roberts at dr1215@nova.edu or 954-262-7288.

Network with business professionals at career development event

The Office of Career Development, along with several other organizations, will host a Shark Advantage Networking Event on March 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Huizenga Sales Institute, which is housed inside the Carl DeSantis building. At the event, students will be able to speak with alumni and executives from various companies to build their professional networks. Registration for the event closes on March 15. To RSVP, go to nova.joinhandshake.com/login. For more information, email sharkadvantage@gmail.com or es1202@nova.edu.

Sharks on the court

Sharks on the Scene will be selling tickets for NSU students only to the Knicks vs. Heat game at the American Airlines Arena on March 31. Tickets will go on sale at noon on March 15 for \$37. To purchase tickets, students must present their SharkCard at the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement in the Don Taft University Center. Ticket sales are limited to one per student and tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Transportation to the game will be provided at 6:30 p.m. on March 31. For more information, contact 954-262-7494 or specialprojects@nova.edu.

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students at NSU.

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Aaron Lechner: The man behind those emails

By: **Grace Ducanis**

[@GraceDucanis](#)

As an NSU student, you may have received emails with unconventional titles such as “Today’s short story brought to you by Aaron... Don’t stress it’s not that bad,” “BRUNCH FOR DAYS!!!” and “ARE YOU COMFORTABLE NAKED?”

Don’t worry — it’s all strategic.

Aaron Lechner, graduate assistant for special events and projects, student of college student affairs, pun-lover and introvert, has a process for drafting emails about the events his office sponsors. He asks himself, “What can I do that’s going to make people want to be involved in this?”

For Lechner, the answer is to put part of himself into everything that he does — a philosophy that has shaped how he lives life.

“There are things that I’m passionate about, things that I love being a part of. But to get that across...I have to find a way to connect,” he said.

While earning his undergraduate degree at Central Michigan University, Lechner planned to go into sports broadcasting, but his RA job changed the course of his career. He felt more happiness and joy as an RA but didn’t realize that he could make a career out of serving students until a conversation with his hall director.

“I realized that was what I wanted to do — not necessarily just be a hall director, but work at a university to eventually work with at-risk students,” he explained.

Lechner said that everyone deserves a shot at success.

“I’m not saying that life’s always going to be fair for people, but that doesn’t mean I can’t help make life easier for others and give them a

chance,” he said. “I want people to be successful and that doesn’t mean that college is necessarily going to be that for everyone, but I truly believe that everyone deserves a chance.”

The desire to mentor students stems from Lechner’s experiences with his own mentors. He spoke about his high school athletic director, who gave him a job filming the school’s games after he was cut from the JV basketball team.

“It was the best thing that ever happened to me,” he said.

Lechner explained that through his mentor’s rising career, as well as her two bouts with cancer, she showed him what it is to have dedication, to have spirit and to have personality in what you do.

“Those are things that have echoed in me, every day of my life,” he said. “I believe that if you’re not having fun at your job, you need to find a way to have fun or change something up real fast. You need to put a little bit of yourself in everything that you do, because if you don’t, where’s the buy-in going to be?”

Lechner joked that because of his emails, he gets made fun of in his office quite regularly. After he writes an email, he reads it to his coworkers.

“They’ll listen to it and just go, ‘Why? Why is that a thing?’ and I’m like, ‘It’s going to be a thing, people are going to like it...’ It goes back to what I said: Put a little of yourself into everything you do.”

Lechner said that his office tries to be as strategic as they can with what they send out because he understands that students are constantly being blasted with emails.

At least some students are checking their inboxes regularly because Lechner’s emails don’t go unanswered. He regularly receives



Lechner says it’s important to put personality into everything you do.

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replies, both positive and negative, and he’s heard that people have been talking about the emails on Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram. He’s even been asked to help others create subject lines.

“You’ve got to have personality,” he said. “People aren’t going to be there without that. And the fact that my emails seem to be a thing...I wouldn’t be successful at my job if you didn’t know who I was.”

He said he wants students to know that their ideas and opinions matter.

“We want to make what is enjoyable to you become real,” he explained. “The emails are a good way to reach you, as opposed to me literally knocking on every single one of your doors, and it gives me the chance to be myself, to show that I’m not afraid to make some jokes so that you guys are comfortable going somewhere.”

Although Lechner said some people might

think his entire job is to send obnoxious emails, his passion is engaging students. To that end, Lechner said he’s intentional about everything he does.

“Just because they always see that humor, that doesn’t mean there isn’t purpose behind it,” he said. “I don’t take everything as a joke. There is purpose behind everything that I do.”

Lechner graduates in May, and wants to continue engaging with and encouraging students after he leaves NSU.

“I’ll put my passion, my humility, my excitement wherever I go,” he said. “As tired as I get sometimes, I think about the next email I’m going to send out, or how I’m going to do it. People look at it and go, ‘Come on. Where did you get this from?’ And I go, ‘I don’t know, but it was there.’”

How to detect fake news and media bias

By: **Monique Cole**

In 2016, NPR featured a study from Stanford University that assessed how well students can detect stories with accurate information. Participants ranged from middle school to college students looking at either photographs, news stories, various advertisements or social media posts. The studies found that students of all ages had a hard time identifying “fake” news or signs of media bias.

High school students also had a difficult time discerning between “fake” news and real news on Facebook. The study found that “more than 30 percent of students thought a fake Fox News account was more trustworthy than the real one.” At the college level, students still had a difficult time identifying political bias in social media posts.

The issue of what constitutes fake news is currently debated by news consumers and news critics. The new phenomenon of fake news has even made its way into NSU classrooms.

What is “fake” news?

“Fake news is really something that is almost satire,” said Barbara Besteni, adjunct professor in the Department of Writing and Communication. “The person who hurts is the one who truly believes it is true. And the media hurts.”

For example, the article “Donald Trump sent his own plane to transport 200 stranded marines” was published on [americanmilitarynews.com](#) and had ties with Sean Hannity, a well-known conservative commentator. According to an article from CNBC, while this article does

mention that the story was confirmed by the Trump administration, The Washington Post’s investigation of the article found otherwise. The story racked up a total of around 893,000 views online.

While the internet is a source for gathering and sharing information, it is also a place for people to post anything they want without limitations.

Besteni said once something is posted, it is up for grabs for anyone to see, unless taken down. Trending topics tend to gain more attention and can become problematic when people falsely believe the topic or story is true. This often leads to a hit, like, share or retweet on sites like Facebook or Twitter, which result in the stories being spread.

“What happens when social media picks it up [is that] sometimes the real media will jump on it without checking the facts to make sure it’s legitimate news, and they will publish it and put it on their own social media sites,” said Besteni.

Understanding media bias

Fake news is tied to the concept of media bias. Media bias can occur when different media outlets frame a story in a certain light.

Stephen Andon, assistant professor in the Department of Writing and Communication, said, “For the most part [for] news organizations, the bigger bias they might have is for certain stories and the way those certain stories are told... For instance, media is much more likely to write about stories about things that are overly dramatic, or they are more likely to feature stories in which they personalize a big issue.”

Andon said that the media has “organization bias” in how news stories are presented to the public. However, he explained that the information and content of the story remain the same. While news sources will present the same level of content, the source may frame the story in a certain way. Andon said that bias is more of a problem for a news consumer, rather than a media outlet because news consumers have personal bias.

“The bias is located in people rather than the news itself. But it’s a lot easier to blame the media than to blame myself for not having a sufficient media diet that exposes me to holes in my logic,” said Andon. “For the most part, people want to read things that uphold their vision. Most people would rather read things that affirm their beliefs [than] read things that challenge their beliefs.”

The media isn’t the enemy

The Society of Professional Journalists’ Code of Ethics provides ethical guidelines for members of the media. According to [spj.org](#), some of the ethics presented in the code are always report the truth, avoid conflicts of interest, minimize any chance of harm and always be accountable for work ethic.

Besteni said, “The media becomes a whipping post for a lot of things. Having worked in the media for close to 30 years, I could tell you a lot of the things that the media is accused of are simply not true. We, as journalists, try to be as fair and unbiased as possible, but we’re humans too.”

Andon also said that the media is not the

villain, but the watchdog.

“They are supposed to be the fourth estate, which means that they are supposed to speak truth to power. They are supposed to help us make decisions as a society based on the information and analysis they provide to us. To say, ‘Oh, the media is so biased,’ is bogus. It’s a cop out,” said Andon.

Being a part of the solution

There are certain things people who consume the news can do to avoid believing fake news. For example, being able to identify signs of fake news or bias.

According to [factcheck.org](#), some tips for identifying fake news include looking at the news source and author, being critical of supporting evidence and recognizing the date of publication. A more reliable news source is likely to come from a media outlet that is considered more reputable, credible or well-known. While these considerations may seem like common sense, more complex and difficult tasks include avoiding bias or going out of your way to hear both sides of the story.

“Before you share something, stop and think. Sometimes your gut will tell you if it’s too good to be true it probably is,” said Besteni.

She recommended the website [snopes.com](#), which fact-checks various news sources.

Andon said, “We need people to know the first hit on Google is not the end-all be-all for information. You need to evaluate where the information is coming from, who they are citing, what are the biases... or what are the political connections for some of these media outlets.”

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Places to 'gill' out: Gran Forno

By: **Jeweliana Register**

NSU is a unique and lively campus, but that doesn't mean that Sharks can't band together and take an afternoon to explore the South Florida area — even if that just means finding a quaint place to study.

If you're searching for a place to devour some delicious bakery items, look no further than Gran Forno. Gran Forno, located on lively Las Olas Boulevard, is a traditional bakery-style shop. The bakery offers a variety of freshly-baked goods and beverages, as well as a laid-back atmosphere perfect for hitting the books.

Gran Forno has a wide array of treats. The aroma of fresh baked goodies fills the air in the quiet bakery when you walk in. According to their website, Gran Forno specializes in European, Italian and American favorites. Gran Forno produces approximately 800 ciabatta loaves every single day, so there will be no shortage of delicious, fresh bread in sight.



Gran Forno specializes in freshly-baked goods and treats.

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On the menu there is a variety of cakes, tarts, cookies, muffins and croissants. Some fan favorites include the strawberry amaretti cookies, the blueberry muffin and the asparagus parma prosciutto quiche. Some other delicious items are the Belgium chocolate croissant, the

chocolate chip cookies, the fresh fruit tart and the fresh mango cheesecake.

If you are in the mood for a savory snack, the menu also includes a variety of paninis and house specials. The fan favorite panini is the Italian cold cut, but there are many other options

as well, like the chicken pesto and the caprese panino. Some of the house specials may include chicken lasagna and Sicilian pizza.

In addition to this, Gran Forno also has coffee options for your caffeine fix. Have a cappuccino with friends or fuel your study session with an espresso doppio.

Bustling Las Olas meets traditional family style in this charming bakery. Whether you're meeting friends or flying solo for a study session, Gran Forno is sure to make you feel right at home. Grab a friend or a textbook and head to Gran Forno, but don't forget your appetite.

You can find a full menu online at granforno.com.

Gran Forno Bakery
1235 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Hours: Sunday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Price Range: \$5-\$15

Career Corner

How to handle tough feedback and respond to challenges

By: **Emilio Lorenzo and Emily Tasca**

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

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

Growing up, you may have played some kind of sport. Maybe you remember your coach shouting with feedback in terms of your play: "More hustle." Although this feedback aimed to improve your approach in the given sport, sometimes it might not have been easy to accept constructive criticism. Challenges do one of two things: they can make you bunker down and shun from the challenge, make you well-rounded to meet challenges head-on. Feedback is the cornerstone of growth and development, and although it's sometimes hard to hear, constructive criticism is important to reaching

your full potential. Just like when you write a paper, and then a friend proofreads and finds grammatical errors you didn't even notice, constructive feedback can provide insight into areas for improvement that you weren't even aware of. The key point to take away is that when it comes to taking or receiving feedback, perspective is key.

Perspective can be defined as how one analyzes, interprets and defines information received from their personal viewpoint. Your perspective can thus be influenced by past experiences and be redefined upon encountering new experiences.

Those around us, specifically those that we confide in and consider mentors, also influence perspective. Throughout college, you have faced or will face a multitude of challenges that will require a strategic approach, which can only be developed through appropriate perspective and guidance. These challenges can arise in various aspects of your collegiate journey, and they can be academic, professional or social. A mentor can provide honest feedback when needed and guide you through these rough patches.

At times, you will receive feedback that, although helpful, is not delivered in the most constructive way, which will require you to overcome the shock of the message. This can

happen with someone who chooses a major that may have a different path than a more traditional major of biology or business.

For example, Sally is a sophomore in college and is currently an art major. Sally is very passionate about art and her dream is to have her paintings featured in a gallery as well express herself through her art while making a living. One day Sally is speaking with her friend Bobby who is a business major and advises her that she will have difficulty finding a job with such a major and should do something else, even if it's not her passion. After this difficult conversation, Sally is at a crossroad in deciding what to do next with her major and career planning. Although Bobby's intentions were not to scare off Sally, his delivery of the information created anxiety.

Friends and family don't always know how to package the feedback or message in a manner that's easily digestible. However, these messages will help ground us in terms of understanding challenges that we did not once consider. The key is to not get bogged down on these challenges and to find avenues to empower oneself by receiving strategic feedback on next steps to meet these challenges head on.

For example, Jill is a biology major with a long-term goal of entering medical school.

Unfortunately, Jill has struggled with some of her classes and will be entering her senior year with a 2.7 GPA. In speaking with her adviser, Jill mentions her long-term goal and her current academic standing. Jill is concerned that she doesn't have what it takes to get in to medical school but knows that this is where her true passion lies. Her adviser acknowledges her struggles, but focuses on the avenues available to reach that end goal of medical school. Together they discuss graduate school options and transitional programs, as well as other ways to strengthen her resume and, in turn, her future application to medical school. Although the road ahead will not look as she first envisioned when entering college, Jill knows that this is what she wants and thus has redefined her perspective on how to get to that end goal.

Dealing with challenges, criticisms and receiving overall feedback on past performances is part of everyday life, but it's how we respond that defines who we will be going forward. Remember to establish a network for yourself that includes mentors and other confidants who will provide you with perspective on challenges while grounding you and empowering you to new heights.

Fashion Finatics: How to trick people into thinking you're fashionable

By: **Jenna Kopec**
@Jen_Kopec

Keeping up to date with the latest trends in fashion can be exhausting. With homework, paid work, internships and all the stress that comes with it, who really has the time to figure out what an A-line dress is or what color blocking means? Certainly not me. Maybe you don't either. Don't worry though. While fashion trends come and go, there are some timeless tips to help you trick your peers into thinking you know how to dress well.

Solid colors are a solid choice

You won't have to worry about clashing designs if you stock your wardrobe full of solid

colors. A solid colored top with a nice pair of jeans or khakis, if you're in that kind of mood, creates an instantly classic look. Find out what colors make your inner personality shine and buy 40 shirts in that color. This strategy also works for dresses, skirts, dress tops and cardigans. If you get in the mood to mix and match one day, your wide array of solids will make the task easier. Remember, a solid colored cardigan is worth a thousand outfits.

One nice accessory is enough

Accessories are expensive. Don't break the bank trying to keep up with the latest belt

buckle or purse pom-pom. Instead, invest in one necklace or watch that you really like and wear it every day. It might sound crazy, but this can help you on several fronts. First, you won't have to constantly plan outfits around accessories because you always wear the same one. Second, this prized piece might become your signature.

Focus on footwear

Now that we've established the importance of solid colors and investing in one nice accessory, we can apply these tips to the area of shoes. Shoes can sometimes make or break an outfit. If you have a solid color pair of boots

or dress shoes, you can immediately take your outfit from drab to fab. You may be thinking, "Won't people think it's weird that I'm wearing heels or loafers on a Wednesday afternoon for French class?" Maybe. But more than likely you'll get comments about how adored your shoes are or that you "look nice today."

If you care about looking fabulous, or at least like you tried, but don't have the time to watch one of the fashion weeks that seem to pop up every other week, take a deep breath. Use these timeless tips to rock your day-to-day with fashion that won't fade away.

Athlete of the Week:

Blake Woodrow

By: **Jeweliana Register**

Blake Woodrow, junior psychology major and member of the men's swim team, has been swimming since the first grade. Woodrow is a distance swimmer and has attended nationals for the past three years. He expressed how happy he is that the team is doing so well this year and how great it is to be a part of the success.

How did you get started swimming?

"I got a flyer towards the end of first grade for a swim team. I decided to just try it out for the first week and I liked it, so I stuck with it."

How did you end up at NSU?

"I looked at other places around the nation. I don't remember how I initially found out about it because I live on the other coast of Florida, and I didn't know about NSU for the longest time. Someone had mentioned it to me, and I took a recruiting trip here. I really liked the people, the area and the team, so I ended up coming here."

What is your favorite part of being on the NSU swim team?

"I just like the comradery and how nice everyone is. Once we all know what we're working towards, like this year our specific goal was to win conference, I mean we work towards it every year but we really had a shot this year, so I guess my favorite part is how close we all are."

Who has been the most influential person in your swimming career?

"There are different influences for different reasons. I'd say, to motivate me to work harder, it would be a swimmer by the name of Fran Crippen. He was an open water swimmer who

swam distance, which is what I swim. I won an open water event, and I got my medal from him, which was really cool. A few months later, he died during an open water event in Dubai because it was too hot outside. He just really inspires me to do better. Someone wrote an article about him and how much he pushed himself in practice, and that really inspired me. But, emotional support wise, it would be my mom. She is a very hardworking person. She kind of passed that on to me. I get a lot of inspiration from her as well."

What is your practice schedule like?

"We have Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning practices. We also have Monday through Friday afternoon practices. The morning ones are just swim. We only get Wednesday and Friday mornings off, and we get all day Sunday off. During afternoon practice, we either do dry land or weights before we swim. I think the maximum practice hours are 24 hours, and we get in about 23.75 hours."

What is the hardest part about being a student athlete?

"I feel a bit different than most student athletes because I usually get school pretty quickly. I also do not have to take as many classes since I came in with credits already, so my course load has not necessarily been too difficult. I've always kind of been able to balance things pretty well, which I can tell is important. The most difficult part is probably how much you pour your heart into the athletic side of it all. Being a student is pretty standard. It's actually sometimes easier for some athletes to be students because I am already awake when I go to class because I already had morning practice. Time management is usually pretty set out because we have such a regimented

schedule, but I would say having to pour my all into something, which is swim, and then having extra left over to do other things is somewhat challenging. It's hard having to perform at a high level in everything that I do."

You are headed to nationals soon. Can you tell us some more about that?

"This is my third time going. Every year, you have to qualify or have to be invited. It depends on your time, but you have to either make the cut or be invited. I was invited my freshman and sophomore year, as well as this year. It's a really fun experience. Nationals is such a different event compared to the rest of the school year, especially different than conference. Conference and nationals are our two big meets. Nationals feels so different because you really get a feel for what you are doing. At conference, you are going up against other people in the state of Florida, which is nice because it is a really competitive meet. Then when you move to nationals, those people you competed against in Florida become your friends because now you guys are the Florida group. Nationals is just super cool because you really understand what it means to be an athlete. It all feels very fulfilling."

What is your favorite part of your sport?

"The opportunity to push myself as much as I can. With any type of working out, but especially with swim, it's never easy. If you did the same thing every day, like the same practice every day for the rest of your life, you'd be pretty good at that, but you can still always push yourself to do better. It amazes me how working out is never easy. My favorite thing about swim is how I get to continually push myself and see where I can go."

What is your biggest accomplishment as a swimmer?

"My mom talked to me a few weeks ago, and she told me how much of an inspiration I am to her. I've been swimming for 13 or 14 years now, and she has told me along the way. I had one race in particular when I was 10 where I was behind, and I fought really hard to come back. She woke me up the next morning crying and told me how inspirational it was to her. She told me a few weeks ago after we had just finished conference how inspirational that whole meet was to her. She said she was tired and she was just spectating, so she can only imagine how it is for us to be competing. My biggest accomplishment is having my swimming reach beyond just swimming and having it impact someone else's life. Being able to have someone tell me that it is very inspirational to them, it's just very inspirational in itself."

What are your plans after graduation?

"That's a good question... Don't hold me to it because I don't know for sure. I am a psych major and I feel really in tune with psychology, but these past few years I've been really into stand-up comedy and just comedy in general. I feel I'm pretty funny, well I try, and I did stand-up a lot this past summer. I don't have as much time to do it now because of my swim schedule, but I would like to see what I can do with that after college. If I decide to go to grad school, I'll probably take a year off and then see what I do. While it may not be a great idea to try comedy after getting a college degree, I want to make the decision to try it while I'm still young and still have the energy to fight for that decision."

ON DECK

MEN'S BASEBALL

vs. Southern New Hampshire
NSU Baseball Complex
March 15 | 6 p.m.

vs. Tampa
NSU Baseball Complex
March 17 | 6 p.m.

vs. Tampa (DH)
March 18 | 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Sharks Invitational
Ansin Sports Complex
March 14 | 2 p.m.

vs. Miami
Miami, Fla.
March 17-18

MEN'S GOLF

Matlock Invitational
Lakeland, Fla.
Feb. 13-14

MEN'S GOLF

vs. Southeastern Collegiate
Kinderlou Forest Golf Course,
Valdosta, Ga.
March 12-14

Bobcat Invitational
The Golf Club at Cuscowilla,
Eatonton, Ga.
March 20-22

WOMEN'S GOLF

Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational
Tuscawilla Country Club,
Winter Springs, Fla.
March 13-14

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Florida Tech/Marriott First
Pitch Classic
Melbourne, Fla.
Feb. 3-5

vs. Alabama-Huntsville
Griffin Stadium
Feb. 9 | 5 and 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs. Indianapolis
NSU Tennis Complex
March 17 | 3 p.m.

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No sun, no sand, no problem

By: **Brittany Eyres**

If I had a dollar for every time a relative asked me, “You go to school in Florida. Why aren’t you tan?” I would be driving off in a Lamborghini. There is so much more to Florida than great beaches. Unfortunately, going to the beach every week can become boring. Below is a list of fun things to do around Broward County instead of going to the beach.

Swap Shop Drive-In Movie Theater
3291 West Sunrise Blvd,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

One of the last drive-ins in the nation is located in Broward County. What could be better than parking at the drive-in with your friends, watching a movie and eating popcorn and candy, all in the comfort of your car? Be sure to bring your own blankets and snacks.

Sawgrass Mills Mall
12801 West Sunrise Blvd,
Sunrise, FL 33323

Sawgrass Mills holds the title of the eighth-largest mall in the nation and the largest single-story mall in the nation. You could easily kill at least five hours here. Be sure to make a list of stores you would absolutely cry over if you missed, then figure out the best route and parking. You might get lost or run out of time otherwise.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

201 Southwest Fifth Avenue,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

The center always has great shows running. Be sure to purchase your tickets at the student price.

To see shows and ticket options, visit broward.centerfortlauderdale.com.

Revolution Live

100 Southwest Third Avenue, Fort
Lauderdale, FL 33312

Local artists and major bands play here. It’s always great to go to a live concert and see your favorite band. Get to Revolution Live a little before the show and you might meet an artist or musician that you love. For a list of upcoming events, go to jointherevolution.net/events.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
1 Seminole Way, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

There is so much to do at the Hard Rock in Hollywood. You can shop, dine and attend a concert or comedic performance. While you are there, visit Paradise, which is the outside area of the hotel that has the best restaurants.

Laser Quest

2101 North University Drive,
Sunrise, FL 33322

This laser tag arena is bi-level, glow-in-the-

dark and fog-filled. Move over kiddies, college students enjoy this way more. Grab a group of friends or one of your organizations and experience the fun. It makes for the best team bonding and is a great time.

K1 Speed

2950 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33020

Who doesn’t love go-karts? Although they’re electric, these go-karts reach speeds of 45 mph. Visit k1speed.com to figure out what time and day the course is the least crowded.

Petland

356 North University Drive, Pembroke
Pines, FL 33024

11482 West State Road 84, Davie, FL 33325
801 South University Drive,
Plantation, FL 33324

Petland, the pet store, allows you to play with up to two different puppies during each visit because playing is good human interaction for the dogs and a great stress reliever for the humans. Pick the cutest dogs to play with and relieve some of your college stress.

Treetops Park

3900 Southwest 100th Avenue,
Davie, FL 33328

This park has a viewing tower, which is really cool to walk up. It also has a playground, beach volleyball court, horseback riding stables and a small town for kids to learn about safety.

My suggestion? Go to the viewing tower. It is the coolest thing about the park, other than the lake, where you might be able to spot an alligator.

Vista View Park

4001 Southwest 142nd Avenue, Davie, FL
33330

They say Florida is flat, but this park proves there’re some hills in Florida’s landscape. Sunsets are breathtakingly beautiful at this hilly park, which is popular amongst cyclists, model airplane pilots and hang-gliders.

Von D. Mizell and Eula Johnson State Park
6503 North Ocean Drive,
Dania Beach, FL 33004

Watching cruise ships leave port may sound boring, but it is definitely an experience I recommend. Ships usually leave around 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Be sure to have your cell phone ready to take pictures.

Flamingo Gardens

3750 South Flamingo Road,
Davie, FL 33330

Flamingo Gardens is a local historic site with flamingos, turtles, alligators, river otters, tortoises and eagles, as well as thousands of trees native to Florida. During your visit, take a ride on the tram. It’s fun and educational.

Rebel against the mainstream with independent labels

By: **Carli Lutz**

@Caaarlrose

With over-commercialized music taking over the airwaves, sometimes it gets a little hard to find music from artists that haven’t bought into the corporate agenda of major record labels. Independent record labels, or indie labels, are labels that operate without funding from a major record label and are usually where newer artists start their careers. With an indie label, artists typically have more creative control over the music they put out. Since independent labels feature a lot of newer artists that are still working hard to get noticed and get their name out there, they require a lot of support. If you are looking for some tunes that are not so mainstream, here’s a few indie labels to get you started.

Rhymesayers Entertainment
rhymesayers.com
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Based in Minneapolis, Rhymesayers Entertainment was co-founded in 1995 by Sean Daley, Anthony Davis, Musab Saad and Brent Sayer, according to the label’s website. Rhymesayers is an independent hip-hop record label featuring notable acts such as Atmosphere, Prof, Aesop Rock, Brother Ali, P.O.S and MF Doom on their roster. Rhymesayers hosts one of the biggest hip-hop music festivals in the world, Soundset, which takes place every summer in Minneapolis.

Hopeless Records
hopelessrecords.com
Los Angeles, California

Hopeless Records is a label known to pop-punk fans as the place many of their favorite bands call home. Hopeless boasts a roster that mostly consists of pop-punk, punk rock and alternative bands including Sum 41, Neck Deep, The Wonder Years, The Used, Taking Back Sunday and New Found Glory, according to their website.

Dim Mak
dimmak.com

Los Angeles, California

Founded by electro-house giant Steve Aoki, Dim Mak is an independent record label and lifestyle brand that features artists associated with many different genres ranging from electronic and hip hop to punk and indie rock, according to the Dim Mak website. Artists currently signed to Dim Mak include Steve Aoki, The Chainsmokers, Ookay and Scanners, alongside many more artists.

Fat Possum Records
Fatpossum.com
Oxford, Mississippi

Founded in 1992, Fat Possum is based in Oxford, Mississippi, according to their website. In its early years, Fat Possum mostly focused on blues artists hailing from Mississippi, but now they have branched out to include rock and hip-hop artists as well. Some of the talent signed to Fat Possum includes Seratones, Andrew Bird and The Black Keys.

Mom + Pop Music
momandpopmusic.com
New York, New York

Mom + Pop Music is an indie label launched in 2009 that emphasizes the importance of artistic freedom, according to the label’s website. Artists currently signed to Mom + Pop include several big names in indie music and the DIY scene such as Flume, Metric, Tokyo Police Club and Sleight Bells.

These independent record labels are just a small fraction of the number of independent labels that exist at the moment, and new indie labels are constantly being created. Listen to the music from indie labels for a unique, one-of-a-kind feel. Support indie labels and their talent as much as you support bigger labels and artists, because indie labels are just as important.

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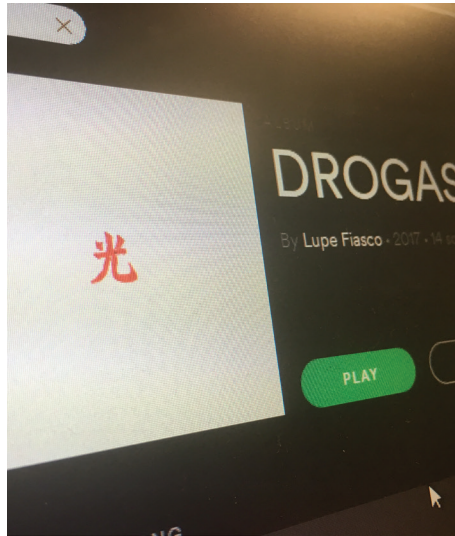
“DROGAS Light” by Lupe Fiasco

By: Aidan Rivas

The name Lupe Fiasco isn't new on the rap scene. Since the mid-2000s, Fiasco has been an active and prominent rapper, as reflected by his Grammy award and several other Grammy nominations. The last album he released was in January 2015, but now Fiasco is back in a sizable way. On Feb. 10, “DROGAS Light” dropped, and Fiasco performed stunningly with mixtures of hard club-like trap and music reminiscent of mid-2000s R&B. This is not at all unwelcome, and is in a way exactly what we've come to expect from Fiasco, considering his past top tracks like “Battle Scars” and “The Show Goes On.”

There are more songs on the album that fit the trap music motif than R&B ballads. “DROGAS Light” is full of high-tempo and high-energy tracks. Fiasco's new sound introduces eclectic beats that will not only make you bob your head, but maybe even make you get up and dance. The first song on the album, “Dopamine Lit,” starts off with a heavier trap mix and leads into high speed rapping in which Fiasco details the album's contents and sets expectations for the rest of the album. This suggests that the album will be motivational and delightful.

The song “Jump” featuring Gizzle features Fiasco and Gizzle sharing an absurd tale of



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Fiasco performs stunningly with mixtures of hard club-like trap and music reminiscent of mid-2000s R&B.

travel through the cosmos after a life of crime. The story itself is fit to make you laugh while also literally jumping to bars that shake you to the core. The song also samples vocals from the track “Bla Bla Bla” by Gigi D'Agostino for rhythmic support. Although the song is just a hair beyond serious, it highlights Fiasco's inclination to make music to be enjoyable and not worry about the sensible aspects.

The album consists of a lot of extended

metaphors, and in some cases, explicit metaphors, as Fiasco will specifically state that what he'd said prior was metaphor, as in the case of “Tranquillo” in which he says “...I ain't talkin' 'bout them drugs, I'm talkin' 'bout that love.” Through these metaphors, Fiasco claims that he spreads a message of friendship and happiness alongside the standard rapping about an extravagant lifestyle. It's an interesting dynamic and theme that persists throughout “DROGAS Light,” notable in songs like “Wild Child” and “Kill.”

The song “Pick Up the Phone” highlights that mid-2000s pop ballad tone that's reminiscent of Fiasco's earlier works. The chord progression brings back memories of “Superstar,” and the hook sounds like something out of an Usher song.

Overall, “DROGAS Light” is a great experience. It has memorable songs that can be blasted at parties, especially “It's Not Design,” one of the most popping and fun songs on the album. The album is rumored to be a lighter version of another thematic album to be released later this year, “DROGAS.” With that in mind, the album scores a 7 out of 10. There are no completely dislikable songs on the album, only ones you need to be in the mood for. Lupe Fiasco, you've done it again.

OFF SHORE CALENDAR

Pilobolus Shadowland
@Au-Rene Theater, Broward Center for the Performing Arts
March 16 | 8 p.m.

Brain Candy Live Tour
@Parker Playhouse
March 17 | 8 p.m.

Soca Paradise Presents: KES
@Revolution Live
March 17 | 11 p.m.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party
@Historic Stranahan House Museum
March 18 | 11 a.m.

City and Colour – USA Tour 2017
@Revolution Live
March 18 | 8 p.m.

Simple Plan 15th Anniversary Tour
@Revolution Live
March 19 | 6 p.m.

Go Gaga for “Joanne”

By: Jenna Kopec
@Jen_Kopec

Little monsters have “A Million Reasons” to love Lady Gaga's latest album “Joanne.” Released in October, this album reveals a softer rock side to the pop sensation that brought us “Bad Romance” and “Born This Way.”

Gaga's vocal and lyrical ability replaces the myriad of disco pop electronic sounds that have become a token of her sound. So, if you had any doubt that the woman could sing, you won't after listening to this album. Some of the most notable vocal performances are found in “Dancing in Circles,” “Come to Mama” and “Perfect Illusion.”

When Gaga performed at the Super Bowl in February, there was some surprise on social media that she didn't take the opportunity to make a political statement. This may seem surprising if you haven't listened to the album. In her push-the-envelope style, Gaga not only talks about taboo topics in her songs but also has several political statements to make. In her song “Come to Mama,” Gaga sings about how society needs to put aside prejudices and let each other live. Lyrics to the song include “there's gonna be no future, if we don't figure this out,” “look what



“Joanne” showcases Lady Gaga's softer, more straightforward musicality.

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that rainbow did” and “the only prisons that exist are ones we put each other in.” In “Angel Down,” Gaga pays an ode to the Black Lives Matter Movement. The song asks for action with the lyrics “I'm a believer. It's chaos. Where are our leaders?” and “Why do we pretend we're

wrong? Has our young courage faded?”

But Gaga doesn't stick to politics. The title track “Joanne,” is an emotional tribute to her aunt. The lyrics “I promised I wouldn't say goodbye, so I grin and my voice gets thin” seem so specific and yet universal at the same time.

Gaga's tribute to her aunt will send your feelings spiraling.

Whereas in the past Gaga focused on grandiose sounds and more abstract lyrics, this softer side of Gaga seems more straightforward, evidenced by her lyrics. But if no other song is a hit for you, “A Million Reasons” should be. It's not the title track, but it seems to speak volumes about what it feels like to want to give up. The song is written like a love song, but with lyrics like “head stuck in a cycle, I look off and I stare” and “I just need one good reason to stay,” Gaga gives a raw rendition of what it feels like to push through when you really don't want to.

Gaga may have changed her sound drastically with this last album, but she hasn't lost what fans have always loved about her. This softer side of Gaga, stripped of electronic sounds and extravagant costumes, brings forth lyrics that better represent her and better connect to her fans. Gaga's “Joanne” has songs that will inspire the little monster in all of us.

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Seriously Kidding

a satire column

Student says virtual reality vacation was the “best spring break ever”

By: **Jenna Kopec**

@Jen_Kopec

Sophia Spudson, junior sports management major, had what some might call a unique spring break experience. Rather than hitting the beach and getting irresponsibly intoxicated in real time with many of her peers, Spudson had a virtual reality check. She spent her week of fun in the sun indoors pretending she was in Puerto Rico, Cancun and South Beach.

“I wanted a story to tell, and I’m glad I got to have an experience that no one shares with me,” she said.

Armed with her Samsung Gear VR headset and smartphone, Spudson sat on her couch travelling the world without actually ever moving or interacting with other people.

“There’s just so many people, ya know? And honestly I live like thirty minutes from South Beach. I didn’t think it was really worth driving through all the traffic,” said Spudson.

She added that the VR experience was so immersive that she felt like she truly travelled to those locations. While her favorite spot was Cancun, Spudson also loved the shimmering blue waters of Puerto Rico, which she imagined would be very refreshing. She also appreciated the amount of money she saved on sunscreen

and the fact that she wasn’t physically tired from any travel. She said her only struggle was interpreting so much visual information.

“It’s kind of like watching a really engrossing film, except worse for your eyes,” said Spudson, who had to take a break from some of the imaginary excitement because she felt so dizzy.

Thomas Headson, social psychologist, said that it’s likely more students will begin to follow the trend of virtual staycations. He said that the only real concern is for pesky socialites who might want to spend time with other living human beings.

“The fact of the matter is that you don’t have to go out and experience the world anymore,” he said. “As long as you can deal with the social isolation, you can do anything you want at home.”

Spudson said she plans to organize her summer vacation in a similar manner to her spring break, feeling sorry for others who don’t plan to follow suit.

“It was totally the best spring break I’ve ever had. Plus it’s so much cheaper, once you invest in the initial equipment,” she said. “Why drop \$500 on memories you can bootleg in front of your face for almost nothing?”

SharkDining workers: Are they consistent?

By: **Kerrigan McVicker**

Imagine your alarm does not go off on time one morning. You jump out of bed, get ready and rush out the door. Class starts in fifteen minutes, so you decide you have time to grab a coffee and food quickly. The lines in the UC are not too long and you step in ready to order. However, the SharkDining workers are not on their game. Even though there are not many customers, they still seem to take forever to make your order. With feelings of frustration and disappointment, you step out of line and run to class. This is not the first time the workers have let you down, and you know it will not be the last. That’s a problem.

SharkDining staff members have a big job to handle as they deal with numerous college students coming and going throughout the day, so I give them credit for coming to work every day. However, some workers do not put their best efforts into prioritizing customer service. For example, I was up early and had time to order an omelet one Friday morning. As I saw no one was in line and the SharkDining workers were preparing for business, I assumed my order would not be hard to tackle. But I was proven wrong, as I stood and waited 25 minutes for something that could’ve been ready in ten. Luckily, I didn’t have class anytime soon, but I was astonished that the workers saw me standing there for that long and did not try their

best to make the order in a timely fashion.

Changes need to be made to SharkDining services, regarding staff and their protocols for productive performance. There seems to be an imbalance of workers, as some days there are many and other days the counters are deserted. Even when there are enough workers to ensure prime customer service, many are often distracted by other staff workers’ conversations or just seem to take their time to attend to customers’ needs. Sometimes, I feel as if I am a disturbance to their day when a worker is rude and reluctant to take my order. Everyone has a bad day now and then, but I’ve noticed a consistent pattern of slow and discourteous behavior coming from some staff members. If I am noticing these things, then I am sure other NSU students and faculty are as well.

The only way to fix this problem is for SharkDining management to come together and decide on a solution to make their customers and their workers happier. It might even be necessary to evaluate each staff member’s performance with the business’ success in mind more regularly. The SharkDining staff need a new game plan; if action is taken, it can benefit both the workers and the NSU community.

Internships or win-ternships?

By: **Aidan Rivas**

I’ve heard claims that internships take advantage of college students, the same students who famously struggle financially and are often attributed as either incredibly hardworking or unfavorably lazy. College students are likely to complete internships, either as a requirement for their majors or as a career supplement. While some internships may not pay much, they are solid opportunities to gain experience in a field of the student’s choosing.

Internships should be seen as what they are: a foot in the door and a chance for a job. When I say chance, that’s exactly what I mean. Jobs are not secured outright with internships, but they

do provide a higher chance of employers asking you to return for a full-time position. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers 2015 Internship and Co-op Survey, nearly 90 percent of eligible returning interns received an offer for full-time employment, and nearly 90 percent of those accepted.

However, these 90 percent all decided to return to the companies they were interning for after their initial internship had run its course. Interns who go back for a second round of interning are the most likely to receive a job offer from a company. For comparison, only 43.5 percent of non-returning interns were

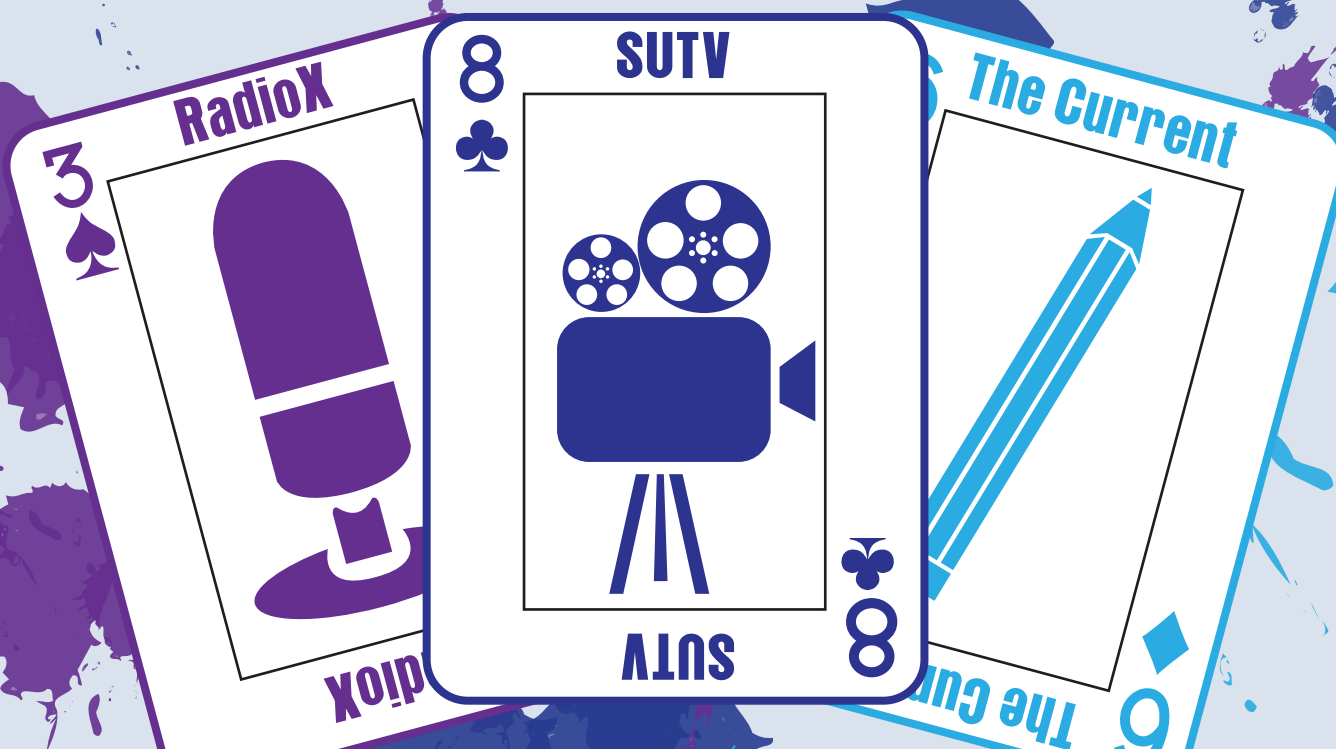
offered jobs. So in order to feel like you’re not being taken advantage of, you have to keep up communication with the companies you intern with and even spend extra time at the job to get the full benefits of an internship.

Of course, there are times when students may take a paid internship as a temporary job to help pay bills. If that’s the case and you have no real interest in the company, simply turn down any job offers. While internships are great opportunities, it’s understandable that they may not be exactly what you are looking for, and that’s OK. Whether you want to work there or not, doing a swell job reflects well on you, and

you may just gain a positive reference and a few lines of relevant experience for your resume or curriculum vitae.

It’s easy to assume that internships take advantage of people, especially unpaid internships, where you may feel like an indentured servant with no added benefits. However, the work pays off in the end. Every college student should accept an internship, paid or unpaid, with goal-oriented learning in mind, rather than immediate fiscal payoff.

HAVE A HAND IN STUDENT MEDIA!



Legal or illegal, graffiti is art

By: **Bianca Galan**

Graffiti is everywhere. You can't walk the streets of New York without finding a few works of graffiti on the buildings or construction walls. You can't walk through Wynwood without finding graffiti everywhere.

Graffiti is the spray painting of drawings or writing of words in different styles and forms, but we often hear the word graffiti and think negatively. Many of us see graffiti and only think about the fact that it might be illegal instead of thinking about the piece of art. Art isn't the legality of something, but the creativity and meaning behind it. Who says art has to be legal?

Graffiti can be considered vandalism, but there are those with a creative eye who will always find a message or meaning in it. Graffiti, to me, is art. Art is expressed and shown in many forms like singing, dancing, drawing and writing. We all see art differently. My creativity makes me see a simple line as a work of art, while someone who isn't creatively inclined might just see the line as property damage. Just

because graffiti is often vandalism because the artist didn't get permission doesn't mean that it isn't art.

Location of graffiti often affects our opinion of it. If you see a wall that says "Art is not a crime" in the middle of nowhere, you might think it's hideous and a sign of disrespect since it may be written illegally. Yet when we see the same graffiti at the Young Circle in Hollywood, the first thing many people think is, 'Wow. This is so simple, yet beautiful,' and take pictures of it. The location of the graffiti shouldn't change your opinion. We judge what we see by what we assume instead of the truth. Just because we might think someone illegally painted on a wall doesn't mean they didn't get permission.

In "The Soul of Man under Socialism," Oscar Wilde said, "Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known."

Graffiti is beautiful because it is someone's way of expressing his or her story or dreams. One word or figure can mean the world to someone. People have their own personalities,



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Art isn't the legality of something but the creativity and meaning behind it.

thoughts and experiences, and sometimes a work of graffiti can be their way to show it to the world. Artists can be vandals, but that doesn't mean vandals can't be artists. Art doesn't have to be legal to be art. I wouldn't mind waking up one day with graffiti on my wall.

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Swiper, start swiping

By: **Celina Mahabir**

From a young age, we're taught about the importance of money. Many of us, at some point, were given a jar cleverly designed in the shape of a pig to deposit the loose change we'd get from our parents. It was crucial to hide away birthday money and Christmas gifts to save it for a rainy day, at least. Of course, none of us expected the rainy day to be a Category 5 hurricane, complete with storms of financial aid and high-force winds of college tuition. And then comes the aftermath: that credit card statement at the end of the month that has you questioning why on earth you thought it was a good idea to buy Chipotle twice a day for three

weeks straight. That aside, it's still important to acknowledge that college students should have a credit card for their own benefit.

Despite parents' tendencies to throw in an "I told you so!" at the end of our life lessons, college students are fully capable of handling a credit card of their own. We have the ability to juggle so many other responsibilities: classes, driving and part-time jobs. Credit cards are only one aspect of our transition into adulthood. This doesn't imply that you need a wallet filled with credit cards, but rather just one card that can help us better understand money management and create a sense of caution when


it comes to spending.

Credit cards are a huge plus versus relying solely on a debit card and cash. Sometimes you may be out of money – whether it's an emergency or you just really want a new pair of shoes – and a credit card is the perfect solution. I've learned that swiping carelessly comes with a price of its own. Having a credit card handy replaces the anxiety of wondering if there's enough money left in your bank account at the end of the day.

Furthermore, keeping credit cards builds your credit score. As unimportant as it may seem to us right now, it'll definitely come in handy

when purchasing a car, renting an apartment, getting life insurance and so on. A credit card symbolizes adulthood in a sense, as you come across more mature and prove that you're capable of financial responsibility.

With that being said, be careful how you spend and swipe wisely. Credit cards come with good and bad, but it's up to you to determine your own outcome. Think twice on that second bowl of rice, chicken and beans, and look forward to saving for something even better – even if it seems like there's nothing better at the moment.



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NSU
EMAIL CHANGE?

SHARK SPEAK



"I'm not really a fan of it. I just feel like it's a lot for no reason. If it's not broken, don't fix it."

- **Dominique Balsamo**,
junior finance major



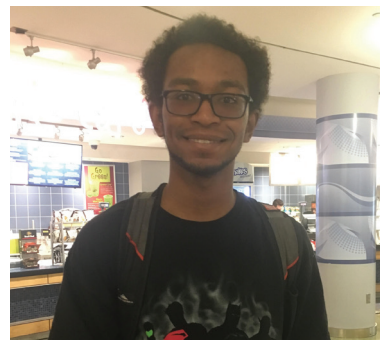
"I don't like it... I've been here for four years. I like @nova.edu. I don't like change, and it's not fair that because they can't separate students' emails from professors' emails, and they can't monitor the students that graduate... That's not my problem. They need to work on that, but they shouldn't change the email."

- **Curtisha Demarco**,
senior biology major



"[The new email is] too long. I would have to change everything."

- **Janelle Johnson**,
junior business major



"I think that's a good idea just because it will distinguish between the two... and keep it more organized."

- **Jonathan Frank**,
sophomore biology major



"At first, I was annoyed just because of the hassles that I know would have come with it. I figured it was just for better user-friendliness and stuff, so I figured it was going to be a good change. I mean all we're doing is pretty much adding another part to our existing email in order for it to work a lot better."

- **Ezana Assefa**,
senior behavioral neuroscience
and biology major



Christian Holstad *Take Stands* 3, 2004

CULT OF PERSONALITY

Christian Holstad

Saturday, March 18 - Sunday, May 28, 2017

Nova Southeastern University
Alvin Sherman Library
Second Floor, Cotilla Gallery
3100 Ray Ferrero Jr., Boulevard
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The title of the exhibition, **Cult of Personality** arises from the term, which describes individuals use of mass media, propaganda, or other methods to

create an idealized, heroic, and at times worshipful image, often occurring through unquestioning flattery and praise. In the beginning, it was described as having no political connotations, but closely related to the Romantic Cult of the Genius. In his writings, Sociologist Max Webber developed a classification

CULT OF PERSONALITY

Saturday, March 18 - Sunday, May 28, 2017

where the "Cult of Personality" holds similarity with charismatic authority. Christian Holstad

(born 1972, California) is an American artist based in Brooklyn, New York. He received his BFA at the Kansas City Art Institute in 1994. Holstad's art practice reflects his interest in crafts, handmade objects, textiles, and his appreciation for American culture and history. His work shares a "Camp" aesthetic sensibility. With references to Kitsch, "Camp" was very much part of the 1960's - 1970's culture and is often associated with filmmakers, artists and performers like John Waters (his films *Pink Flamingos*, *Hairspray*, and *Polyester*), Andy Warhol, *Divine*, *Liberace*, and *Marilyn Monroe*.

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