By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

"In order to save lives, we must start talking about it," was the main message speaker Andy Bogeajis conveyed to students and faculty gathered in the Carl Desantis atrium to celebrate World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. With this year's theme, "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise," NSU decided to promote the day with a host of events to encourage students to sign a pledge to stop the spread of AIDS, practice safe sex and work with others who are dealing with the disease.

Bogeajis, a debate team coach at NSU who was recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, spoke about his personal encounter with the disease, saying that he contracted it at the age of 17 through sexual intercourse with another 17-year-old, and that the discovery four years ago destroyed his marriage of 15 years. He also mentioned that infection rates have decreased and people with the disease are now living longer due to medical breakthroughs.

Initiated in 1988, World AIDS Day is a day to raise money, increase awareness, educate others and fight prejudice. To date, 60 million people worldwide have been infected with the disease, and action needs to be taken to stop this epidemic. When asked about what he would like to see come out of this event he said, "I hope that people become aware; we are not talking about it enough. Today, 48 students will be infected with HIV/AIDS. Why shouldn't we talk about it?"

Bogeajis' speech was followed by the viewing of the National NAMES Foundation World AIDS Day quilt: a quilt with the names of individuals who have lost their lives to AIDS. Quilt panels submitted by clubs, organizations and departments of NSU were also on display. Larger free food, information and the opportunity to sign the pledge to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS was available on the library quad.

By Greg Kryszakakis
Staff Writer

"Giving future NSU students and faculty the opportunity to see what life was like during the growth phases of the university, officials and students are creating a time capsule preserving the university's history to be opened in 50 years. The capsule, which will contain items and essays composed by students, will be unveiled with the opening of the University Center in the fall of 2006."

The idea for the time capsule originated from Timothy Dixon, Assistant Professor at the Farquhar College, who is also a member of the time capsule committee. Dixon said that from a historian's perspective, time capsules are a common inclusion in new, major construction such as the University Center. He explained that one cubic foot will be allotted for each grouping of items to be included, which may, for example, include things like signed athletic jerseys and team schedules and photos. Digital media, as well as compatible players with instructions, will aid in ensuring that future generations will be able to view the capsule's contents. According to Dixon, "Aside from space, the only limit is imagination."

Representing the NSU students, Liz Harbaugh, Vice President of NSUSGA, is aiming to include popular trends affecting students, "I'm working on the social components that are not exclusive to NSU - where students go, what they believe in, what they wear" - such as fashion, movies, and how free time is spent. Harbaugh said that this element of the capsule "will certainly be interactive, and will probably be launched through a joint NSUSGA-Student Engagement Forum." Katie Blanco, Director of Student Engagements, added that a video of a day in the life of an NSU student will be preserved and included in the capsule.

Blancosaid that committee of eight, ranging from members such as Dean of Student Affairs Brad Williams to NSU students, has been meeting consistently since the beginning of the year to discuss the capsule. "We're inviting people to bring things to be included," said Blanco, adding that the committee will soon be asking for individuals, groups and organizations to contribute. Blanco noted that funding for the capsule is being handled through the Office of Student Affairs. In preparing the capsule, Harbaugh noted that "we won't be including anything that could compromise the contents." Dixon echoed this concern, saying that research has been completed on what types of contaminants will be excluded.

NSU students, such as Junior Anthony Labson, believes that the capsule is a good way to "relive the past. The items in the capsule, he believes, will "become treasures 50 years from now."
News from Around the World
Compiled by Paul Saneaux

North America

President Bush promotes new immigration plan
According to the Associated Press, President Bush said last Monday that he wants to reform immigration laws on those entering the country illegally but also to "give more visas to foreigners with jobs." This "dual plan" was designed with the hope to satisfy conservatives and business leaders already lending Bush support. Bush claimed the "American people should not choose between a welcoming society and a lawful society" because both are possible at one time. Many Republicans agree that the plan is necessary to enforce laws and to provide other illegal immigrants with a chance to earn visas. Democrats such as Senator John McCain and Edward Kennedy and some Republicans, however, have offered alternative programs.

For more information visit www.guardian.co.uk.

Asia

Death toll in mine blast rises
The Xinhua news agency in China reported that at least 164 miners are confirmed dead after a large coal dust explosion in the Dongfeng mine on Nov. 27. More than seven miners are believed to still be trapped in the mine as of press time, according to "conflicting reports." The Chinese government has recorded over 6,000 deaths last year, and this year, 5,000 deaths have been reported in country's mines.

Xinhua also said 72 miners have been rescued as of press time, but "the chances of finding more survivors were very low because of the levels of toxic gas in the mine.

For more information visit www.news.bbc.co.uk.

Middle East

Cold weather threatens Pakistani earthquake survivors
Rain and snow began affecting temperatures in Kashmir, Pakistan on Saturday, Nov. 26 and more than 700 people suffering from pneumonia, hypothermia, and other illnesses have been treated as of press time, according to "conflicting reports." The Chinese government has recorded over 6,000 deaths last year, and this year, 5,000 deaths have been reported in country's mines.

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For more information visit www.khaleejtimes.com.

Africa

South African court supports gay rights
South Africa's highest court in Johannesburg ruled on Thursday, Dec. 1 that "it is unconstitutional to bar gay marriage," according to the Associated Press. This step is considered important by supporters, as South Africa is the first country in the continent to legalize gay marriages. The final ruling gave the "country's parliament a year to change the legal definition of marriage to include same-sex couples." Some supporters, however, are criticizing the wait for the change to take place. South Africa began introducing more rights after apartheid ended in 1994.

For more information visit www.msnbc.msn.com.

International

United Nations requests $4.7 billion in aid
On Nov. 30, the United Nations asked for a "record $4.7 billion to ease major humanitarian crises around the world." The Associated Press reported the "one-third of the aid will go to the country of Sudan to aid conflicts in its Darfur region between Arab militias and rebel groups. The U.N. cold reporters that the request is "the equivalent of 48 hours of worldwide military spending." U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said "in a world of plenty, continued suffering is a terrible stain on [the U.N.'s] conscience.

Jan Egeland, a U.N. humanitarian relief coordinator, said the frequent problem is that 90 percent of the aid comes from only 10 countries, including the "United States, Japan, and several Scandinavian countries."

For more information visit www.unhabc.msn.com.
NSU Women's Basketball Team Overcome Lees-McRae 56-53

By Tranell Mesa
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team played outstandingly at their NSU Thanksgiving Classic this Nov. 25 as they went 2-0, holding a current record of 3-1.

The NSU Sharks made a remarkable comeback in a game against Lees-McRae College, as they ended the game victorious 56-53. Regardless of the lead Lees-McRae took in the first half of the game, the Sharks showed wonderful spirit and charisma as they fought back, and managed to steal the win in overtime.

Senior Katie Cloud posted tremendous numbers with 16 points and 13 rebounds. Regardless of the lead Lees-McRae took in the first half of the game, the Sharks showed wonderful spirit and charisma as they fought back, and managed to steal the win in overtime.

Women's Basketball Team Falls to Midwestern State University in 2005 Holiday Isle Classic

By Tranell Mesa
Staff Writer

In Islamorada, Fla. on Nov. 29, the women's basketball team competed in the 2005 Holiday Isle Classic, held at Coral Shores High School in Tavernier, Fla. The women's basketball team is now 3-3 after their loss of 73-60 against Midwestern State University.

Although the Sharks didn't come away with the win, four of the players scored in the double-figures. Missy Guadagnino led with 13 points. Forward Katie Cloud and Sophomore guard Donya Glover both added 12 points; forward Jennifer Haven scored 11 points and center Katherine Maples scored 17 points.

Even though the Sharks gave it their all, the Mustangs held a 34-33 advantage on the boards and outscored the Sharks 42-26 on the inside. Katie Cloud was admitted into the 2005 Holiday Isle All-Tournament Team. Along with her was MVP Michelle Steeue and Denisa Svarova (Emporia State University), Katherine Maples (Midwestern State University) and Chanee Early (Shaw University).

The Lady Sharks basketball team will be playing at home on Saturday, Dec. 17 against Tiffin University at 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball Team Fall to University of Central Florida

By Tranell Mesa
Staff Writer

The NSU men's basketball team (1-3) traveled to Orlando Nov. 22 to take on the University of Central Florida and were defeated 86-67.

Although the Sharks got off to a rocky start, the boys quickly rallied back and went ahead 21-19. Going into the 2nd half, the UCF Golden Knights led 40-35 and continued to add points to their side of the score board to maintain the lead for the duration of the game.

Freshman center Dave Naylor has just begun to prove his skill on the court for NSU, as he managed 12 rebounds and 12 points for the game. Senior forward Calvin Jenkins is kicking the season off with a great start, as he has led the Sharks for in points and rebounds for the past three games.

Despite the loss, the boys put forth tremendous effort and kept the UCF Golden Knights on their toes for the majority of the game.

Men's Basketball SSC STANDINGS

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Women's Basketball SSC STANDINGS

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November Student of the Month and Organization of the Month Announced

By Nicolle Garber
Staff Writer

For the month of October, Student Activities and Leadership Development has recognized Melissa Ruidaz from Best Buddies as Student Leader of the month, and Hillel as organization of the month. Ruidaz and Hillel were chosen for demonstrating substantial leadership and dedication towards improving the campus— as well as enhancing the lackluster social life on campus by holding a number of successful, informative events.

Ruidaz is president of Best Buddies, an international organization whose dedication serves to educate others about people with intellectual disabilities. Stan Kaszuba, the Graduate Assistant for Student Involvement collected statements from emails nominating Ruidaz to be recognized as student of the month. "She has done a phenomenal job recruiting new members; she is efficient and organized; she is great in delegating responsibilities to her members; she is charismatic and encouraging; and no matter how difficult it is to organize events, she always gives 150 percent effort."

"It feels good." Says Ruidaz. "But its kind of weird because we've been going through a rough time because of the hurricane, and we've only had three events this semester— I want to go out with a bang. It feels really good to be appreciated."

Ruidaz will receive a $25 dollar certificate to the Barnes & Noble Bookstore as prize, as well as bragging rights until next month.

Best Buddies was honored as Undergraduate Organization of the Year at NSU's Student Life Achievement Awards in 2004.

Hillel was nominated because they held several informative events that were successful with the NSU community. A few events were Rosh Hashanah 101, the building of the Sukkah, and the "Sex and the Sukkah," an affair where Hillel advocated "Kosher" sex. "We're very open to teaching students on campus about Jewish life and tradition, regardless if they're Jewish or not. I'm extremely ecstatic. We are very appreciative of our members and non-members for this nominating."

Hillel will also receive an award of 25 dollars worth of credit donated to their account.

For the month of September, the winners were Sami Ray as Student of the Month and the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship as Organization of the Month.

Students to Present Once-in-a-Lifetime Experiences

By Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief

For anyone considering study abroad, NSU's Summer in the Amazon program is a great way to experience another culture.

The summer program, which consists of two weeks on a reserve in the rainforest near Iquitos, Peru and includes a three day rowing trip down the Amazon river, has been available to pharmacy students for the last several years, but 2005 was the first year the program was opened to undergraduates.

Senior Lauren Adamczyk said that "Going on the trip to the Amazon was the best, if not the best, experiences in my life. Being completely surrounded by nature and a totally different culture from my own reinforced what I believe is most important in life: the formation of loving relationships with nature and the people that we are surrounded with. It was a truly beautiful experience."

The program, which is offered as a cooperative effort between the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the Global Awareness Institute, includes study of medicinal rainforest plants, indigenous cultures, and sustainable development. But most importantly, the students come back with a new world view and appreciation of nature. They also return from this once-in-a-lifetime trip with experience they'll never forget.

"On the second day of the rowing trip to Iquitos, there was a tropical thunderstorm," said junior Marlee Forsthoffer. "We could hear the rain and see it on the water behind us coming our way. It looked like a wall of water coming toward us and we could not out-paddle it. The river became extremely choppy and rowing became more difficult as the canoe began to take on water. The storm lasted about 30 minutes but felt like hours. It was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life to be at the mercy of nature like that."

The undergraduate students who participated in the program this summer will giving a presentation of photos and artifacts from the trip Dec. 5-7. The presentation will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday and feature a grand opening at noon where refreshments will be served. The presentation will continue until 2:30 p.m. each day.

Senior Party Time: Fourth Annual Senior Prom is Back

By Nicolle Garber
Staff Writer

It is time to don the frilly dresses and tuxedos for the fourth annual Senior Prom that will be held Monday, Dec. 5, 2005 at the luxurious Renaissance-Fort Lauderdale Hotel.

Residents from the Harbor Beach Nursing & Rehabilitation Center will groove to oldies music, have the chance to win prizes, and get their picture taken by a professional photographer. Students and faculty will also be paired with a "senior" date for the night's festivities.

The seniors will receive the special treatment of getting primped and pampered by the Hope Career Institute, Inc., a cosmetology school in Ft. Lauderdale that NSU has partnered with to make the residents of Harbor Beach look their best.

The Senior Prom is an occasion sponsored by Student Development and Special Events, and has been successful for the past four years.

Currently, Jen Bowman, the Graduate Assistant of Volunteerism and Community Service, is in charge of managing the event, but is unfortunately short on volunteers.

"This experience is so important, the students and the seniors get to learn from one another," Bowman explains. "But it is not the same response this year, last year we had a lot of volunteers and this year we don't have enough students to pair up with a senior. Hopefully more students will sign up soon."

The Herald will be covering the event, a notion to how big the annual tradition has become.

To sign up for the event on the evening of Monday, Dec. 5, contact Jennifer Bowman at 262-7257.
NSU Celebrates EID
Students, faculty, and the community enjoy a night of Muslim music, food, and tradition

By Rafia Chodhry
News Editor

Several community leaders discussed the importance of Muslims giving back to the community and serving as positive role models at a Nov. 18 feast to commemorate the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting for Muslims.

Melodious prayers hummed overhead as families from all over South Florida poured into the Carl DeSantis auditorium for the second annual Eid ul-Fitr Dinner.

In the Muslim tradition, Eid ul-Fitr, a day of feasting, occurs at the end of the month of Ramadan, the month during which the Qur'an was revealed.

The dinner doubled as a fundraiser to support disaster relief efforts for victims of the Asian earthquake, and hurricanes Rita and Katrina. More than 1,000 dollars have been raised, organizers said.

Often abbreviated simply as Eid, the dinner replaced the International Muslim Association's annual fast-a-thon, normally held in October, but cancelled this year because of Hurricane Wilma.

"Start as young as you are and plant the seeds for yourself and the community," said Nasseb Khan, a community activist.

Farreza Rashied, a sophomore at Broward Community College who heard about the dinner through friends, attended with her mother and sister.

"My family and I are very glad to be here tonight," she said. "This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to get together and celebrate the end of a month of fasting."

The evening began with a welcome speech by Sadia Dandia, IMAN's President, and Kamal Kaur, ISA President. Afterward, an azan, a call to prayer, led the students into prayer. Soon after, IMAN's advisor Ahmed Albatineh, a math professor at NSU, recited a verse from the Qur'an.

The centerpiece of the event was a skit, inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, which depicted two stereotypical Indian college students, Laila and Majnu, who find each other on Facebook.com.

Majnu sends a picture which resembles popular Indian actor, Shahrukh Khan. Laila sends a picture which looks like Aishwarya Rai, regarded as one of the world's most beautiful Indian actresses.

When they meet in person, neither looks like the picture they'd shared.

The underlying message: stick to traditional morals and values and let your parents arrange your marriage, a practiced tradition in Islamic countries.

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Nicole Terry  
Senior  
Accounting  
Davie, FL  
"$2,000"

Reggie Abaya  
Staff/ Senior  
Biology  
Hollywood, FL  
"About $400"

Terrell Reid  
Senior  
Legal Studies  
Nassau, Bahamas  
"Way too much"

Ryan Pedraza  
Freshman  
Criminal Justice  
Hialeah, FL  
"Over $500"

Django Rogers  
1st Year Graduate  
Clinical Psych  
North Carolina  
"Under $100"

Marisa Hutchinson  
Junior  
Accounting  
Jamaica  
"About $1,900"

Paul Arena  
Staff  
MST Department  
Lantana, FL  
"1,200"

Michele Morgado  
2nd Year Graduate  
Oceanography  
Faro, Portugal  
"1500, including airfare back from Portugal."

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The NSU College of Optometry Eye Institute
Movie Review

"Mix\racks Key Ingredients"

By Marines Alvarez

Rating: $2.50

The title of R&B superstar Usher Raymond's new movie, *In the Mix* might give you a clue as to what happened when the powers that be were piecing together its concept. Take one part African-American stereotypes, two parts Italian mafia stereotypes, a half cup of a *Sopranos* episode, a dash of *Jungle Fever*, a pinch of an Usher video, and the slightest hint of comedy with only a touch of drama, mix it all together and, unfortunately for Usher, what results is not too appetizing.

In reality, the title of this film refers to Raymond's character in the movie, Darrell, an up and coming DJ who is hired to spin for childhood friend Dolly's welcome home party. The swank party is cut short by a Mafia hit, but Darrell manages to jump in front of the bullet intended for Dolly's father. When the Don insists that Dolly gets a bodyguard because of the looming mafia war, she decides that being followed around by DJ Darrell would be much more appealing than being followed around by a guy named Fat Tony.

I'm sure you can see where this is going. Darrell, inexperienced as he is, gets Dolly killed, so he runs away from the mafia and lives like a fugitive for the rest of the movie. No, not really. They just fall in love together and, Mafia Daddy is none too pleased.

This movie tries (not too hard) to fit into several categories and fails at each. First, it wants to be a comedy and succeeds at drawing out very few laughs. The humor, plot and characters are all recycled and cheap. When returning home after a night with Darrell, a flustered Dolly joins her father for breakfast where she tells him she wants her coffee with brown sugar. Get it? The writers obviously thought the audience would be dumb enough to accept the fact that all black men carry guns, all Italian families eat only pasta and are part of the mafia, and an Italian kid trying way too hard to be a "gangster" is funny.

At other times, the movie tries to be a drama. There is nothing dramatic about a storyline you can predict during the opening credits. The end of the movie is anti-climactic and unsurprising. The story behind the mafia hit is broad, and truly, I could not care less.

The other 92.7 percent of the time, this movie is an infomercial selling Usher and all his greatness. In the opening two minutes of the movie, we get the picture that Usher -- er, I mean Darrell -- is supposed to be a ladies man. With all of Dolly's friends drooling on his newly acquired Italian suit within five seconds of meeting him, you have the strong urge to yell at the screen, "we get it!"

In defense of the aspiring mogul, Usher's performance was not too bad and he can't be blamed for the movie's failure (he didn't write it). I can't deny that Usher has a good presence on screen, but he was playing a one note character.

PHOTO RECAP: Usher (Darrell) lays shirtless next to Emmanuelle Chriqui (Dolly) after being shot in a drive-by, and thus reveals the real reason this movie was made. Photo from Yahoo! Movies

December Movie Preview

By Marines Alvarez

November usually ends with the realization that Thanksgiving break just isn't long enough. Thankfully, December has arrived. Besides, with winter classes finally ending and the celebration of the best holidays of the year, people of all ages can look forward to the Hollywood bigwigs taking advantage of our free time and cheery spirits with a slew of spectacular releases.

*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* introduces the reader to the Pevensie children, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy. The film follows their adventures as they discover a magic wardrobe which leads to the fantastic world of Narnia and all the extraordinary creatures that abide there. They soon discover, however, that the world is under the icy spell of the White Witch Jadis. With the help of the Lion Aslan, the children work to free Narnia from the witch's control and fulfill their destinies.

FILMED in beautiful New Zealand and with special effects by WETA, the people behind the Lord of the Rings trilogy, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* is sure to garner comparison to the films based on J.R.R Tolkien's books. But Narnia has a magic all its own, and if director Andrew Adamson (*Shrek*) was able to translate that to the big screen, this film could be one of the best of the year.

Other Family Films Opening in Dec: *Cheaper by the Dozen 2* (Dec 21)

King Kong

Speaking of Lord of the Rings, award winner Peter Jackson sees his dream become a reality as *King Kong* makes its way to theaters.

The story follows a less than honest film director who takes his crew to an uncharted island to shoot a movie. Unfortunately, his leading lady is offered up by the villagers as a sacrifice to the

Please See MOVIES Page 9

Please See MIX Page 8
**Movie Openings**

**December 9**

*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*

**Starring:** Tilda Swinton, James McAvoy, Georgie Henley

**Director:** Andrew Adamson

**Genre:** Adventure, Family, Fantasy

**Available December 6**

This movie follows the exploits of the four Pevensie siblings—Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter—in World War II England, who enter the world of Narnia through a magical wardrobe while playing a game of "hide and seek." Once there, the children discover a charming, peaceful land inhabited by talking beasts, dwarfs, fauns, centaurs, and giants that has become a world cursed to eternal winter by the evil White Witch, Jadis. Under the guidance of a noble and mythical ruler, the lion Asian, the children fight to overcome the White Witch's powerful hold over Narnia.

**Album Releases**

**Available December 6**

*Curse Call* by Emme

See you on the Other Side by Korn

*A Little More Personal (Raws)* by Lindsay Lohan

**Book Releases**

**Available December 6**

*Six is for Silence* by Sue Grafton

Thirty-four years ago, Violet Sullivan put on her party finery and left for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display. She was never seen again. In the small California town of Serena Station, tongues wagged. Some said she'd run off with a lover. Some said she was murdered by her husband. But for me the snail California town of Serena Station, never been explained.

*The Constant Princess* by Ellipsa Gregory

As youngest daughter to the Spanish monarchs and crusaders King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, Catalina, princess of Wales and of Spain, was promised to the English Prince Arthur when she was three. She leaves Spain at 15 to fulfill her destiny as queen of England, where she finds true love with Arthur (after some initial sources) as they plot the future of their kingdom together. Arthur dies young, however, leaving Catalina a widow and ineligible for the throne. Before his death, he extracts a promise from his wife to marry his younger brother Henry in order to become queen anyway, have children and rule as they had planned, a situation that can only be if Catalina denies that Arthur was ever her lover.

**DVD Releases**

**Available December 6**

*Russell Crowe in Cinderella Man*

Jessica Alba in *Fantastic Four*

Johnny Knoxville in *The Dukes of Hazzard*

**Entertainment**

**December 8**

3 Doors Down in the Sound Advice Amphitheater in Sunrise

**December 7**

Johnny Guitar: The Musical at the Actors Playhouse in Coral Gables

**December 9**

Miami City Ballet: The Nutcracker at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Movie synopsis and photo courtesy of www.yahoo movienews.com

Book synopsis courtesy of www.barnesandnoble.com

Compiled by Marines Alvarez

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**MIX**

(continued from page 7)

*The story behind the mafia hit is broad, and truly, I could not care less.*

his lines (and all the dialogue in the movie) were unbelievable, and his interactions with Dolly (the beautiful Emmanuelle Chriqui) were cold compared to the steamy image the movie wanted to portray. The rest of the cast fell in line with the general mediocrity of the movie.

*In the Mix* is not a movie for those of you looking for a comedy, a drama, or a movie that does not include a ten-year-old's definition of the mafia. It is for you, however, if you happen to have a picture of Usher over your bed and you kiss him every night before you sleep and dream about him. Otherwise, don't waste your time.
Hollywood will be providing some spectacular winter treats to keep you warm during those chilly December nights

25-foot tall gorilla that lives in the jungle. Against the odds, the actress and the ape develop a bond, but the gorilla is captured and put on display in New York.

Although most people my age have heard the reference and know the classic scene atop the Empire State Building, the previous King Kong movies were before our time. Jackson brings a retelling true Kong actress and the ape develop a bond, have heard the reference and know on display in New York. the classic scene a top the Empire generation. Starring Adrien Brody and Naomi Watts, this film debuts Dec. 14.


The Family Stone

Though holiday movies can be exciting, there is always the risk of catching the one by-the-book family comedy, complete with a holiday dinner, mistletoe and every other cliché you can think of. This movie is not it.

When the eldest of the large and bohemian Stone family brings his uptight New York girlfriend home for the family's annual reunion, she is met with attitudes reflecting discomfort and opposition. Her presence challenges relationships and forces those around her to evaluate themselves.

Producer Michael London was responsible for the 2004 hit Sideways and looks to repeat that success with this family drama. The movie boasts an impressive roster, with Diane Keaton starring as the matriarch of the Stone family, Sarah Jessica Parker playing Meredith, Luke Wilson and Rachel McAdams playing Stone children and Claire Danes as Meredith's sister. This dynamic cast goes a long way toward depicting the dynamic elements of the film, which is released on Dec. 16.

Other Romance Comedies Opening in Dec: Rumor Has It (Dec. 25), The Ringer (Dec. 25), Hoodwinked (Dec. 25), Mrs. Henderson Presents (Dec. 25)

The Family Stone


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Hoodwinked

I, for one, always thought the story of Little Red Riding Hood was a little fishy. Proving that I am not weird (or at least not alone) is the film Hoodwinked, a remake of the classic tale of a big bad wolf, a granny in the tummy and everyone's favorite lady in red.

In an effort to shake things up, Hoodwinked begins at the end, with Chief Grizzly (Xzibit) investigating a domestic disturbance at Granny's cottage. In light of all the charges against the suspects (Red, the wolf, the Woodsman), each suspect will get the chance to tell their side of the story.

A "Law and Order" spin on a well known tale makes this comedy, which first debuted at the Cannes Film Festival, something to look into.

Showbiz Bits

Compiled by Nicole Garber

A Really Big Surprise

Not. Come on, they were doomed from the start. You'd have to be blind, deaf, and dumb not to see a huge train pummel into the Wal-mart next to your house. That is exactly what Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson's marriage was--a train wreck. According to ET Online they released this statement: "This is the mutual decision of two people with an enormous amount of respect and admiration for each other. We hope that you respect our privacy during this difficult time." My very professional opinion (move over, Dr. Phil) is that Simpson's career shot up and her husband's career took its own grave. The two seemed to become disillusioned with one another, and the side effects were visible on their MTV reality show "Newlyweds." At least the marriage lasted about three years, which in Hollywood time is the equivalent of 10 or more. Not bad. Now that this is over, though, we can focus on guessing how long the Spears-Fedex line thing will last.

Risky Business

I think nowadays that calling Tom Cruise a suace is considered a modern colloquialism. Cruise, after impregnating his girlfriend, actress Katie Holmes, has bought his own personal sonogram machine to follow the development of their illegitimate child. But wait, aren't those things dangerous? Don't you need a - I don't know- a license to work one? According to Hollywood.com, officials at the American College of Radiology (ACR), are highly concerned by Cruise's revelation that he purchased the device, and they're warning him that he could be breaking the law if he's carrying out the scans himself. Cruise probably thinks that the doctors are actually bad spirits in disguise. In an attempt to make people feel better about the situation, Cruise will donate the sonogram, which could have cost from $25,000 to $200,000, to a hospital after his baby is born. Who's going to make the baby feel better about the situation?

Feather Boa Not Preferred Attire

Our favorite flamboyant fashionista Elton John is participating in a civil union with his partner, David Furnish, a Canadian filmmaker. The two lovebirds will tie the proverbial knot on Dec. 21, the day the United Kingdom's new Civil Partnership Act that allows gay couples to formalize their unions takes effect, says Yahoo!. It will be a low-key ceremony, nothing that reflects John's stage style (feather boa, enormous amounts of sequins, etc.). The two have been together for almost 12 years, and John attributes Furnish to helping him get over his drug and drinking habits. On another note, the 80's pop star George Michael is reportedly getting hitched as well when the new edict is passed. I'm really up about the "no sequins" policy, though. Elton John without a feather boa and sequins is analogous to a giraffe without stripes. What, Giraffes have spots, right? Oh gosh, I'm so confused.

Officers, We Were "Lost"

I have a feeling there were no excuses for the two "Lost" stars who were pulled over by police and hailed the field sobriety test. Cynthia Watros, who plays Libby and Michelle Rodriguez, who plays Ana Lucia, were in separate cars when they were arrested, within 15 minutes of each other. According to the Associated Press, both actresses were released on $500 bail on the same day. Unfortunately, their licenses were immediately revoked and they were issued temporary (and very strict) licenses. You know what that means. Next week the headline will read "Lost Stars Arrested For Walking Around Drunk in Hawaii."
A Fly on the Wall:  Resolution

By Paul Saneaux
Staff Writer

With the end of the last Senate meeting, official business has come to a close for the Senators, and they surely must be overjoyed by the prospect of a short break. Well, so am I, but that does not mean that my work is done; when the Senate returns, so will I—and with less reservation when it comes to letting my opinion and the facts be known. As I reflect back, it is apparent that my column is unnecessarily marred with excess politeness.

It was brought to my attention previously that some of the comments I have made have given people the wrong impression of how the SGA functions and why people say what they say; truthfully, it does not matter whether I carefully phrase my opinions or state them flippantly because some readers will always misconstrue. That worry has been swept out of my mind. Conversations, questions, and skepticism need to be instigated on this campus. What we have are silent spectators, holding back interest and involvement in the SGAs affairs. Nothing is worse than a stagnant opinion.

A curious motion was made during the meeting that caught everyone’s immediate attention; Committer Senator Alaina Siminovksiy, also a member of the ad hoc OSB committee, moved to nullify the way the Organizational Standards Board chose the new prospective Senators on the grounds that members of the OSB have not been properly trained. This means the OSB is “not an operational body.” As Vice President of Legislative Affairs Liz Harbaugh said, “since the OSB is not officially an operating body” their decision cannot be recognized at the moment.”

All this was made public after the Senate went back into session following a fifteen minute recess. Students, persons not on the Senate, and even the executive board had to vacate the room. Why was that? As far as I know, what was said in session was what they discussed behind close doors. They have their reasons for clearing the room but secrecy only creates suspicion.

It would be nice to know why the OSB was not trained and who was supposed to train them. Will the applications submitted by the candidates be tossed and re-submitted? Will training of the OSB make them alter their selection after they have made one? And why did the candidates sitting in the room say and ask nothing when they were told they were, in fact, not Senators yet? I personally would have been upset, if not at least curious.

Apathy, people! Those big holes in people’s faces are meant to be opened. Instead, they are mostly opened at inappropriate times. How sad. Nevertheless we will have to wait and see.

Letter to the Editor

"Where Have All the Trees Gone?"

Dear Editor,

Is anyone else on campus as upset as I am about the massive number of trees that are being cut down outside of the dorms?

Today I woke to the sound of chainsaws and beautiful trees falling to the ground. This has been going on for at least three days now. Every time I walk outside to go to class and see the devastation, I immediately become saddened by the loss of nature.

What are the reasons for all of this? I ruled out the possibility of removing the trees because they were destroyed by the hurricanes, mainly because not all of the trees they cut down were damaged. There were 15-20 trees severed that were perfectly healthy. Are they being cut down to make room for the construction of the new dorm building? If so, this is a disgrace. Our first home is nature, and by cutting down all of these trees it is contributing to the problem of developing all of South Florida, leaving nothing of our mother nature.

The economic side of this project is also something I have come to wonder about. Are my tuition dollars going toward this process? Why would relocating the trees to a different location on campus be a problem? Does it cost more to move the trees, rather than cut them down? I am just a concerned student who is very unhappy with the University’s choice to go about creating more space in such a devastating manner. Answers to my questions are welcomed and encouraged.

Lauren Adamczyk
N.A.T.U.R.E. President

How many more trees will meet this fatal end? Photo by Lauren Adamczyk.
Forget everything you know about prison. I'm not sure how a common person actually knows about prison or where such knowledge is acquired, but in any case, forget it. I would personally like to welcome you to Fox River State Penitentiary—home of laws that are more lush than any golf course you've ever seen—and Fox's hit show "Prison Break." That's right folks, get ready to spend more time in prison than any of Michael Scofield's (Dominic Purcell) co-conspirators.

"Prison Break" follows the story of Michael Scofield (Wentworth Miller), a structural engineer whose brother, Lincoln Burrows (Dominic Purcell) was framed for murdering the vice president's brother. After meticulously plotting an escape, Michael robs a bank and is incarcerated, where he immediately begins executing his plan and must learn to work around something he never planned for: the other convicts.

When ever I talk to other people about "Prison Break" there are three general reactions. Number one is the avid fan. They are the ones that can tell you that Dominic Purcell is so monotone, you almost start to hate him. They can tell you that Veronica (Robin Tunney), Lincoln's ex-girlfriend, is the dumbest lawyer alive. I actually have an ongoing list named "People Who Have Been Shot After Speaking to Veronica-Duh." These fans can tell you that their blood pressure rises significantly every time Michael goes into the hole behind the pony in his cell, or every time he smiles at Dr. "I have a feeling that you're not going to like this." They can't believe that anyone would call Michael, a known "bad boy," that "serious." These fans carry the show with great acting skills, which include but are not limited to: his icy blue stare of "what the heck am I going to do now," his cry on cue man tears of "I never knew the convicts were going to be bad enough to cut off my legs" and his cool smirk of "Ha ha, I already knew that." But like I said, this is definitely not me.

Fox originally picked up thirteen episodes of Prison Break, but pleased fans everywhere when they announced they opted a full 22-episode season. On Monday Nov. 28, Fox aired the two-hour "fall finale," which was a little sub par for me, mostly because I was foolish enough to think that they were actually going to break out. Who would have thought they would be stopped by some keen janitor who saw the corroded pipe they were going to burst through and replaced it in the span of a few hours!

The episode closed with crazy T-Bag wielding a knife (like that's going to help), and a coveting Veronica who has just watched her source get shot, before he could hand her the letter with all the important information. Silly, silly TV characters.

I guess fans and newcomers alike can only wait until March to see if everyone's favorite escapes-to-be will actually escape. I'll be there, with my bitterness intact, my "I Love Wentworth" banner (and matching sticker) and my popcorn. You can't forget the popcorn.

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**This Week’s Poll Question:**

Should the semester be condensed to 14 weeks in the Fall of 2006?

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

[ ] I couldn't care less

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