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The Zoo at the End of the Earth

by Barry W. Barker and Maxine Valdez
Contributing Writers

What a view! The Ecuadorian Andes. The four-hour drive from Quito to the Cloudforest town of Baños is breathtaking. Volcanoes fill the horizon with snow capped cones reaching 20,000 feet into a cobalt blue sky. Villages filled with colorful markets and food are magnets attracting the curious traveler. The clear, cool air is an inviting repose from the city pollution.

Then, you go over the continental divide and head towards the Oriente, the name given to Ecuador’s Amazonian Basin.

The road steepens and narrows, the scenery becomes more dramatic, and the pace quickens. There are fewer signs of civilization. Your heart flutters and your eyes close as the car edges next to precipitous drop-offs. The hair on the back of your neck rises nestled at the base of the Tungurahua Volcano. With the volcano on one side and the Rio Pistaza gorge on the other, the town is in a valley of eternal springtime, surrounded by wild orchids and waterfalls. Its year round temperate weather, quaint atmosphere, and jumping off place to the tropical rainforest attracts travelers from around the world and is an intellectual haven for writers, poets, photographers, and esoteric environmentalists.

Baños offers incredible hot springs, dramatic horseback riding, as well as trekking, rafting, climbing and mountain biking. On the weekends and during holidays, Baños erupts with carnival-like festivities.

Families from the surrounding area flock to the town. Children with brightly colored balloons savor the locally produced taffy. Local photographers are available for the perfect photo on the Central Plaza using the famous Black Basilica as a background, and a novel caricature of a rhinoceros pulling a tourist train on wheels bellows through the streets.

Local merchants maintain vivid stalls that sell everything from fine hand-woven sweaters to hardware. Local farmers from throughout the area flock to the town. Children with brightly colored balloons savor the locally produced taffy. Local photographers are available for the perfect photo on the Central Plaza using the famous Black Basilica as a back­ground, and a novel caricature of a rhinoceros pulling a tourist train on wheels bellows through the streets.

Local merchants maintain vivid stalls that sell everything from fine hand-woven sweaters to hardware. The best place to be, however, is sipping Ecuadorian coffee at one of the sidewalk café tables and watching the carnival-like atmosphere. A few blocks away, farmers from throughout

see EARTH page 5

Full Monty for D Phi E

by Piper Griff
Editor-In-Chief

Okay, maybe Mr. Nova Knight wasn’t exactly Full Monty, but it was close enough. Every year D Phi E puts on the Mr. Nova Knight event outside of the recplex. The event is considered a male fashion show, where guys show off their casual, formal and sleep attire. Now we ask ourselves, but what if one of the contestants sleeps naked? Oh, funny you would ask, because contestant Joe Bisset must be placed in that category.

No one seemed quite prepared for this lovely presentation of Joe’s birthday suit, with only a small hat covering his private area. In fact, this was not the start or finish of the stripping. Most of the participants stripped down to their boxers or boxer briefs. It was obvious from the constant roar of the audience that these guys knew exactly how to keep their fans happy.

In the past, Mr. Nova Knight only consisted of the three “fashion” categories and then a question period for the top three winners. This year, the ladies added a new category called DepherDude, where the winner is decided based on the applause of the audience. Roger Roa, Collin Jones and Griff placed in that category.

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A Year With Beta Theta Pi

Beta Theta Pi Press Release

This year, Beta Theta Pi has engaged in numerous activities that most certainly everyone has noticed. During the summer, two brothers were sent as delegates to the 161st General Convention in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of this gathering is not only to reunite brothers from across the country, but also to reaffirm the fire that burns in every Beta’s heart. Beta Theta Pi’s Sophomore Fellow, sponsored by the Alumni Association, this year was Br. Henry Truong, who serves on the executive board as Recording Secretary. The Sophomore Fellow track at the convention is designed to promote extraordinary leadership skills based upon the Men of Principle program. Truong said, “My first convention was more than I had ever imagined it to be. This educational and enjoyable experience provided me the opportunity to meet hundreds of Betas from all over. It was through this experience that further enhanced my knowledge and devotion to the fraternity.”

Back home in South Florida, the chapter continued with its weekly meetings to discuss important issues and tasks. With the exception of Br. Chris Zapalski, Treasurer, a new executive board had been formed under the leadership of Br. President Jason Wagner. His organization and motivational skills have led the group to higher aspirations and goals for the Fall ’00 semester. Wagner comments, “I have an exceptional executive board and brothers. They are to be commended on their attentiveness to each other’s responsibilities, which symbolizes brotherhood in the highest regard. We’ve had many successful events this semester and will continue to host events beneficial to everyone.”

Br. Wagner didn’t exaggerate when he claimed the success of Beta’s events! Despite their busy summers, they were able to coordinate the biggest event the Flight Deck has ever seen: Singled Out. After the idea had dawned upon Br. Arik Chellew and Br. Tom Karakosta, the plan was drawn out and work was immediately started. Recruitment of participants peaked as over one hundred and fifty contestants pranced on stage for the two hundred and fifty cheering spectators. “Everyone enjoyed themselves and the participants won great prizes,” said Br. Karakosta. “This was a great opportunity to show students what Betas are capable of doing on campus.”

After such a flourishing event, Betas had to concentrate on their next task, Rush 2000. Rush Chairman and Vice President Br. Phil Guerra set out an impressive rush schedule for potential new members, ranging from a day of sports to a night with the Hooter Girls. “It’s hard to recruit students at NSU. We are trying to pitch the idea of Greek life to a limited male population without the one defining factor: houses. Even with those minor setbacks, we and the other organizations did great this semester,” said Guerra.

Following Rush, Beta hosted the “Greek Pajama Party.” All participants enjoyed themselves, as the party presented an opportunity for the Greek community to come together after a summer’s absence. The event also provided a prospect to meet each organization’s new members. Despite the vast turnout for the event, Betas were not about to rest just yet.

Subsequently, they organized a series of educational workshops. This was spearheaded by the Robert’s Rules of Order workshop. Presented to all new and old organizations, it was an opportunity to learn about the correct manner in which a meeting is to be run. Br. Chris Zapalski, speaker of the workshop, remarks “Organizations think they know how to run meetings. The truth is that they are one big open forum. Each association needs to learn procedures of meetings as well as their constitutions.” Following the Robert’s Rules of Order workshop, the Drug and Alcohol Abuse workshop took place. “This workshop was aimed at educating our students in not only the dangers of substance abuse, but the legalities as well,” said Risk Management Chairman Br. Ashley Cullen.

The workshop following was a big one. The American Red Cross was called in to certify any interested students in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The great turnout and success of the event prompted the Sun-Sentinel to devote a front page article to the event. According to Nick Stotar, Sun-Sentinel staff writer, local readers have expressed their interest in seeing a follow up story. With all these successes, it is with no surprise that Beta Theta Pi was awarded the Organization of the Month for August and September.

It just didn’t stop there! The brothers looked forward to their biggest event, The Halloween Party, titled “Return of the Embalmer Ball.” As students received their much anticipated invitation, the next step was to sort through the myriad of costume options. Beta seemed to have thought of everything this year. Not only was the party decorated profusely, but also an entire security system, complete with hand-held radios, was implemented. A shuttle service was provided all night long between the university and the location of the party to facilitate the needs of students who did not have transportation as well as those who wished not to drive. To accommodate the masses of students attending, two additional speakers were rented; to resolve a common complaint about heat, industrial sized fans were brought in to keep air circulating and guests cool. These gestures did not go unnoticed as many students expressed their gratitude. Leaving satisfied, many participants tried to confirm their invitation to next year’s party.

After such a fun and booming party, one would think Beta would sit back and relax. This was the last thing on their minds. The social committee had one more event to plan, a social with Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority, which had the biggest social turnout between any two organizations.

Finally, the semester closed with the initiation of their new members. The initiation was held at an undisclosed place and time. The brothers of Beta Theta Pi would like to thank their pledge educator, Br. Arik Chellew, and congratulate their new brothers: Joshua Andrews, Troy Fike, Nicholas Hoo-Fatt, Ryan Iosco, Michael Quinn, and Eric Tillbrook.

The Betas have definitely had one busy semester, and they promise even more for the coming one. To kick it all off, Rush will be coordinated by the new Rush Chairman Br. Eric Eiselman. In this, a Rush Workshop will be offered (date and time will be announced.) Philanthropy Chairman Br. Henry Truong has also scheduled a series of workshops on sexually transmitted diseases and date rape. In the works are also two events in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Of course, the brothers will pledge their annual support at the Love Jen Festival in February. Fundraising Chairman Br. Joel Johnson promises events that will be enjoyed by the entire campus community. The Social Chairman is already planning next year’s Flirtation Party as well as the traditional Mardi Gras Party and Beta Theta Pi Formal. In addition a Greek Decades Dance is in the works. Socials are planned with both sororities.

The Betas have worked hard this semester and will continue to work hard in the coming semester. Be sure to clear your schedules as events to come are certainly going to live up to their reputation.
Sigma Alpha Mu News

by Sean Leahy
Contributing Writer

Sigma Alpha Mu's annual philanthropic event was once again a success. The brothers were able to raise $1007 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Through the selling of raffle tickets, generous donations from students, faculty, and local businesses, the Sammys about matched their sum from a year ago. Bounce for Beats ended Friday, November 17th in the Flight Deck, which coincided with Karaoke. The brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets, contributed prizes to be raffled off, and to anyone who helped support us in making our annual philanthropic a success.

In other Sammy news, Collin Jones was crowned Mr. Nova Knight 2000 on Friday, December 1st. Congratulations to him.

The Wonder of a Single Life

by Noelle Barrera
Contributing Writer

One of my favorite things about the holiday season is watching "It's a Wonderful Life." I watch it on TV at least once every year, and I love it every time. This Thanksgiving, they played it after the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, another one of my favorite traditions. While watching the angels narrate George Bailey's life, I began to actually think about the difference a single human being can make in this world.

An obvious moral to the movie is that George Bailey radically transformed the lives of the inhabitants of Bedford Falls by providing them a defense against poverty and the ever greedy Mr. Potter. It's amazing to fathom that a single man could so profoundly affect the lives and quality of life for so many. It makes me wonder how I affect those around me. Like George, do I provide others hope as a result of acting on what I know is right?

George Bailey's character also had enough integrity to compromise the dreams he had for his own life in order to help others' dreams come true. It is a narrow path he chose, and sometimes a lonely one. As college students, society tells us to leave behind everything that we know is true, blindly accept everything our professors teach, and give in to all of our hedonistic impulses. I believe it is good to be open-minded, but I also strongly believe the principles that have proven true need to be applied and lived out. Once we decide in our hearts what is good and right, then we must act on it. For only then can we truly make the world a better place.

I am reminded of words spoken by another man who radically impacts the lives of millions. Jesus said, "What good is it for a man to inherit the whole world if he forfeits his own soul?" We forfeit our souls when we reject what we know deep down to be true in favor of a selfish life. Jesus also said, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." When we put aside our own plans and ambitions in order to help others, we are showing real love. During this holiday season, I challenge you to show that kind of love to everyone around you and to remember the One who came to earth in order to lay down his life for all the world.

The author is president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at NSU. For more information about the club, please email her at barrera@nova.edu.

* Matthew 20:28, ** John 15:12

P.A.S.A. Leadership Conference

by Nicole R. Robinson
Contributing Writer

On November 16-19, the Pan-African Student Association attended the 25th Annual Fall Leadership Conference. It was held by the African American Student Association, Inc at the Sheraton Safari Hotel in Orlando, FL. Approximately 200 people attended from various schools clubs all over Florida. The first day we had a Cultural Fashion Show and a social to get to know each other. The second day is when we got down to business. We were required to dress in business attire throughout the entire day. There were workshops such as, "Empowerment through Education," and "The Game Theory: How to Manage Your Money." Then we attended meetings to discuss our own clubs and how to improve them, and the day ended with a banquet in formal attire. The banquet speaker was Senator Kendrick Meek, who empowered all of us with his speech. The third day we had more workshops and a luncheon. The luncheon speaker was Dr. Dennis Watson, who is a motivational speaker. He emphasized the importance of staying in school and described how the "real world" would be. The last day we simply met and talked about what we learned and said our good buy to each other. This was also a great chance for networking. The topics for some of our discussions at conference were the election, voting, leadership, motivation, politics, and education. We learned a great deal and we were glad that the NSUSGA helped to make this trip possible for us.

Quilting for the Cause of AIDS

by Noelle Barrera,
Contributing Writer

Nova Southeastern University showed support for people with AIDS during the week of November 27-December 1 through the display of the AIDS Quilt for Hope. This annual event is sponsored by the Office of Recreation and Wellness and is only possible because of all the NSU students and employees who lovingly participate.

This year there was an abundance of creativity among the 3' x 3' panels submitted. Hope and compassion were common themes, expressed with different colors of felt, ribbon, and puff paint. Other panels were less ornate and more simply decorated. These included the rose petal ribbon submitted by members of the Social Action Social Awareness club, and the royal blue circle with HOPE written on large letters entered by the third place winner Debbie Scheiber.

Observers and those passing by were given the opportunity to vote for their favorite three quilt panels while they were displayed across campus all week. Second place went to the piece created by students from the School of Information and Sciences; on this quilt was a map of the world's countries linked by computers with blinking lights. "Give blood with love to people with AIDS. Love them, so their lives won't fade." This made up part of the inscription on the first place panel submitted by Ms. Barnes and her fifth grade class at the Lower School.

If you or your organization is interested in helping with AIDS education and spreading awareness, here are some suggestions. The AIDS Quilt for Hope sponsored by Recreation and Wellness is not part of the international AIDS Memorial Quilt. The local chapter for this is Names Project of South Florida, and information can be found on the web at www.NamesProjectSouthFlorida.com.
AIDS Quilt

To create a quilt piece for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, you can attend a quilt workshop during the first two Thursdays of December at 7 pm at Center One. Center One is Broward County's oldest and largest community-based non-profit AIDS service organization, and their address is 2817 East Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite #200, Fort Lauderdale. They also have an Open Meeting on the third Thursday of December at 7 pm for new people who would like to get involved with the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The number to call for more information on this is (954) 768-0680.

Center One is also always looking for volunteers. They have several departments looking for help in areas such as clerical work, special events, Health Fairs, Expos and distributing information. Volunteers can help with every aspect of the work at Center One. Licensed practitioners such as massage therapists help frequently, too. They do not require volunteers to commit for a certain length of time (which is good for all of us disorganized college students) and allow you to choose in which department you would like to help out. There is an application to fill out, and then a meeting and tour with the head of the Volunteers Department, Dan Romaniello. For questions relating to volunteering at Center One, call Dan at (954)-537-4111, ext. 111.

We cannot sit back and let the world's problems resolve themselves. We must step up and take action in whatever way we can. This is especially true for the fight against the spread of AIDS.

Lending a Helping Hand

by Jen Whitesel
Contributing Writer

N.A.T.U.R.E. presented two exciting programs in November. On Thursday, November 16th three former Peace Corps volunteers presented a very informative talk on their experiences.

Alan and Shoshanna Ehrlich spent 1967-1969 in the Dominican Republic. Before their service work out of the country, they received three months of intense training through the Peace Corps. They were sent to the Dominican Republic to work with other volunteers and to help improve the educational system in less fortunate portions of the country. Alan and Shoshanna's time in the Dominican Republic was highly valued by the teachers and students whom they came in contact with during their service.

Dr. Hammack also presented his experiences with the Peace Corps. He displayed a slide show and told stories about his service in Swaziland, South Africa during the '80s. He taught, in English, high school level math to students. Dr. Hammack had the fortunate experience of working in a rural area, while taking time to travel in different vicinities of the country.

Each of the volunteers recommended that those interested in the program, who have a sense of idealism and want to lend a helping hand, seek more information and apply. The former volunteers admitted that the work was difficult, but added that it was extremely rewarding. For more information, check out the Peace Corps web site:


Leaves of the Air Potato Plant

A volunteer program at Tree Tops Park was also sponsored by N.A.T.U.R.E. Members of the club, along with any NSU students, were invited to help out. The job at the park was simple: gather as many air potatoes as possible. What are air potatoes? Well, years ago, as the Park Ranger explained, the air potato plant was brought from Asia. In Asia, the plant blooms beautiful flowers, but here it only grows expansive vines and huge leaves. The plant stops the sunlight from reaching the other plants and grows over and destroys native plants, ruining the natural environment. The only way to preserve the natural environment is to rid the area of the air potato plants. The volunteers gathered bags upon bags of air potatoes, while enjoying a refreshing day at the park.

N.A.T.U.R.E. has meetings every other Thursday at 5:15 in the conference room at the Flight Deck. The club strives to educate and inform students about different issues that pertain to the environment, and to advocate and demonstrate positive and productive activities for the environment.

If you are interested in more information about the club, come to a meeting or contact Jennifer at whitesel@nova.edu.

NSU Students can advertise for free in the Knight Newspaper. Contact Jason for more information.
Earth Zoo

The Basílica and the Virgin of the Holy Waters

The physical center of Baños is also its spiritual heart. Inside the Black Basílica is a highly prized (and adored) collection of murals that describe local miracles attributed to the Virgin of the Holy Waters, the area's spiritual protector. This is the center for major pilgrimages at Easter and in October, when the town holds an annual celebration in her honor. The streets burst alive with music, dancing, and drinking.

Throughout the week but particularly on weekends, scores of sojourners with physical afflictions make their way to the church to find healing from the Virgin. They seek to be blessed by the holy water that can only be found trickling from a fountain in a back vestibule. Others line up in front of the Basílica on Sunday mornings asking for alms and gifts. Crutches from the healed are displayed along the walls of the church to corroborate the miracle of the divine intervention.

From a promontory point outside Baños, overlooking the Rio Pistaza Valley in Ecuador, one can see the torrential Rio Pistaza River cutting its way through the Andean cloud forest on its way to join the Amazon River in nearby Brazil. This is where you can see the end of the world.

For thousands of miles looking eastward, a deeper green vegetation dominates the landscape, brushed with dramatic clouds that sometimes cloak sections of the forest in a manner of minutes, only to disappear as rapidly as they appeared. City life and its conveniences diminish and the struggle to survive dominates. The tropical rainforest dominates except where man has decimated the land for farming, gold, and oil.

Along with man's intrusion comes the consequences of human domination. As rainforest areas become depleted, wildlife suffers immediately. Because of the complexity of food webs and trophic levels in the tropical rainforest ecosystem, displaced animals cannot simply move next door and begin eating a neighbor's food supply. Competition results in death or injury either from another animal or from humans who still kill or capture animals for profit in the exotic pet trades, or worst their skins.

There are many that try to make a difference. Few succeed. But, there is one man who is quietly using his entrepreneurial skills to save the hurt, injured, sick, and/or displaced animals of the Cloudforest in the Amazonia area of Ecuador.

Ecozoológico San Martín

For the past 25 years, Orlando Vega has worked to save many species that comprise Ecuador's biological wealth. Until 1992, he privately worked with the local community of Dominican priests in caring for hurt and sick animals brought to be rescued.

On August 7, 1992, Vega received a blessing from the Dominican Fathers and permission from the Instituto Ecuatoriano Forestal y de Áreas Naturales y Vida Silvestre (INEFAN) to formally operate a refuge to harbor animals from Amazonia, thereby creating the Ecozoológico San Martín. He possesses the only license to operate a private zoological garden in Ecuador.

Orlando Vega is a balsa wood carver. Throughout the past quarter of a century, Vega has carved balsa wood birds and animals of the cloud forest. The quality of his work is known throughout the hemisphere and is distributed in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The income from these carvings has raised six sons, two daughters, and provided food for the inhabitants Ecozoológico San Martín Zoological Gardens. In the early nineties, he purchased six hectares of land on the east side of the Rio Pistaza Valley.

This is the place where the infinite emerald vastness of the Amazonia Cloudforest can be viewed, occasionally hidden by the clouds that roll in and out of the area. At an elevation of 5500', this land is part of a rugged canyon wall formed thousands of years ago by the dominating Tungurahua Volcano and the eroding force of the Rio Pistaza River. It is a perfect location of natural homes for dozens of displaced animal species of the Cloudforest.

Orlando Vega is a homegrown, self-educated naturalist who works with local governmental and educational institutions to work for the protection and preservation of Ecuadorian animals. Over the past few years, his collection has grown to nearly one hundred different species of mammals, birds, and reptiles.

The first animal given to him and the Dominican brothers in 1978 was a jaguar. The animal came from a nomadic circus transecting the Andes. It arrived in a very small box along and was badly abused. "It was in terrible condition, near death and the owner wanted to sell," according to Orlando Vega, "So, I purchased him with my balsa money twenty years ago. The animal was full of disease and parasites with his canine teeth removed." Now, 31 years old, Sparky is in excellent health, but would die if released to the Cloud Forest.

Another jaguar, Shassa, was an abused resident of a jungle lodge located on the Rio Napo River. She became too difficult to handle and recently given to Vega. There are hopes for an offspring.

Shasha in a Puma. Originally found a 3000 meters in the Andes, her deep red coloring differs from her counterparts of the lower elevations. She was a pet in a private home since birth. When she grew up too big, she was given to the zoo.

The Spectacled Bear is an endangered species. Five have been brought to the zoo, two from Cotapaxi Province. Two bear brothers and a brother and sisters were captured as cubs by an Andean family and again, grew up and were, given to the zoo. One of the owners gave them to a priest as a sacred gift, he had to feed them by hand and a baby bottle. Each bear has a distinct personality, even in its markings. Juanito has two white patches over his eyebrows and is the largest while he Juanita is less spectacled, but more striped.
Toy Stash Bash

by Leigh DeMarco
Contributing Writer

The Pre-Medicine, Pre-Pharmacy and Pre-Dental Societies presented “Toy Stash Bash” on Saturday night, December 2, at the Flight Deck from 8 p.m. to midnight. This toy drive was meant to celebrate the holidays by collecting toys and donations to distribute to the Child Victim Center in Broward on January 27. Games, food, dancing, prizes and a chance to hang out were included to make the event fun and festive for the holidays.

A holiday theme of blue, red, silver, green, gold, garland and twinkle lights covered the Flight Deck. The box of toys overflowed, totaling 256 collected toys!

DJ, Leo Lopez, played music of different genres, but played mostly club music. “Leo kept the party alive by creating a fun atmosphere throughout the whole night. We especially thank him for donating his time,” said Stephanie Cruz, junior and President of Pre-Med.

Games included Holiday Jeopardy and a frozen tee-shirt contest. Holiday Jeopardy was patterned after the television game show complete with a final Jeopardy round, but using only holiday topics ranging from reindeers to history. The frozen tee-shirt contest, in keeping with the cold of winter idea, had only one rule: be the first to wear the frozen tee-shirt.

“Holiday Jeopardy had a only a few minor problems, but everyone had a great time, while the frozen tee-shirt contest was hysterical,” said Leigh DeMarco, freshman and President of Pre-Pharmacy.

A pool tournament lasted for about an hour between the advisors of Pre-Pharmacy and Pre-Dental. The teams included Dr. Shambag, advisor of Pre-Pharmacy, against another team with Dr. Hammack, advisor of Pre-Dental.

“The whole atmosphere was great. Everyone really seemed to enjoy themselves,” said Chris Drennen, sophomore and President of Pre-Dental. “And don’t forget, we won the pool game,” Drennen continued.

Alberto Panero were the three finalists. After the first round of applause, it was apparent Alberto had won with major help from the back row. Peculiarly, Alberto was not one of finalists in the last round, which is decided by how much money the audience places in each contestant’s bucket. Looks like the back row should have put their money where their mouths were.

Other contestants included: Carl Osterman, Rem Dog, Lorenz de Barros, Collin Jones, Chad Woshinson, and Casey Jorgenson. It was a small group compared to previous years, but definitely the most entertaining.

After the money in the buckets was counted, Roger Roa came in third place, Carl Osterman in second, and Collin Jones in first. With Joe’s birthday suit, Remy’s Spiderman suit, the cute Poo Bear stuffed animal slippers from Alberto, a strange Got Blood shirt from Lorenz, a little singing from Collin, and more prizes than anyone could ever want from the raffle, D Phi E pulled off a fun, entertaining, and profitable event – both for them and the many raffle winners in the audience. The proceeds they collected went to Cystic Fibrosis and Anorexia Nervosa foundations; so not only were people having a good time, they were helping people who need it.

The Knight Newspaper
Wishes Everyone the Best of Luck on Finals
SASA (Social Action Social Awareness) held their first coffeehouse on November 28th. The Flight Deck was filled with incredible treats, hot drinks and a positive atmosphere no one could ignore. The small group of about fifteen gathered to speak openly about gender and sex. Dr. Waites and Dr. Ferriss, two professors in the gender studies program, led a discussion that was filled with insight and personal views from all those who attended.

At about 7:40 pm a crossword puzzle of gender-related words was passed around the group. Giggles and glory could be heard from the participants as each slowly but surely marked in their gendered words. But, the discussion really began when different ideas about sexual identity and specifically sexual preference began. The group resolved that it seems sexual preference must only be announced when it is different from the norm. As such, most aspects of one's self that are considered inferior to the norm must be expressed. Just as someone of a minority often feels as though their minority needs to be acknowledged because society refers to the difference as inferior, individuals with different sexual preferences other than heterosexuality feel the same.

The conversation continued with questions and ideas about the physical act of sex related to self-esteem and the frequency of people speaking about sex. Reference to ideas about the sociobiological standpoint of men and women having being placed into these sexually gendered roles because of their physical framework was also touched upon. Masturbation and the repression of sexuality were topics as well. The dialogue ended with Dr. Waites speaking about sexuality and the changes everyone experiences as we grow and take in new information.

Overall, the discussion went wonderfully. No one seemed awkward or hostile toward the topics, which can often be the case when individuals have conversations about sex and gender. SASA was very pleased with the event and hopes to plan another coffeehouse early next semester. If anyone is interested in learning more about SASA you can email SASA@list.nova.edu.

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March 1-8, 2001, a group of students and faculty from the college will travel to Baños, Ecuador for a 7 day program studying the biodiversity of the Amazonia Cloud Forest. Students can also earn 3 credits by enrolling in GEOG 2910 - Cloudforest Biodiversity. Baños is the home to NSU's Biodiversity Program, directed by Dr. Barry W. Barker. According to Barker, "one of the reasons from traveling to Ecuador this spring is to access the damage done by the Tungurahua Volcano that erupted last summer. All of the animals in the San Martin Zoological Garden were evacuated and sent throughout Ecuador. Most have now been returned. Our plan is to assess the damage that was done by this evacuation." All NSU faculty, staff, and students are invited to participate.

Pre-Med Society’s “Small World” Festival A Success

by Leyda Su Ham
Contributing Writer

A variety of ethnic foods, music, and fun impromptu entertainment characterized the Pre-Med Society’s first ever “Small World” Festival at West Broward Care Nursing Home on Broward Boulevard and University Drive. Held on November 19th, the event was aimed at providing senior citizens an early Thanksgiving celebration. It also gave Pre-Med members the opportunity to volunteer for a worthy cause, while learning about geriatrics.

Residents at the nursing home looked curiously as Pre-Med members prepared for the event. But it was soon obvious to determine what was going on as trays of delicious and authentic ethnic dishes were placed on the tables and as the Pre-Med Society decorated the home’s recreation room with objects and artifacts representing different cultures. A variety of cultures were represented at the festival, including many from the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe, and Asia. In fact, the festival truly showed the diversity in the Pre-Med Society and collectively, how far we have indeed come since the first Thanksgiving in this country.

As the festival kicked off, Pre-Med members distributed food and drinks to the senior citizens. They also talked and accompanied the residents as they munched on the food. The event, however, was not just limited to providing this special Thanksgiving meal for the residents. Several Pre-Med members helped liven up the event by displaying their creative talents. Entertainment included Latin dances, a martial arts performance, and even a singing presentation by Pre-Med members. As the event approached its conclusion, the residents showed their appreciation by giving Pre-Med members many heartfelt thanks. Equally important, Pre-Med members were given the opportunity to learn about geriatrics and were provided a tour of the facility. The Small World festival definitely made a difference the Pre-Med Society hopes to improve and continue this important volunteer project in the future. In the meantime, for any one who is interested in becoming involved and doing some worthwhile volunteer work, feel free to email Pre-Med Society at premedsociety@nova.edu. Even if you’re not a Pre-Med major, everyone’s welcome.

Goodbye, Judy!

On Thursday, December 7, members of the Farquhar Center said goodbye to Judy Shulman, who currently serves as an Academic Adviser in the Behavioral Sciences Department. Judy began working for NSU in 1984. After a short hiatus, she returned to the University where she worked, first, as an Admissions Counselor and, most recently, as an adviser. A friend to all, Judy is an accomplished musician, who plays keyboard at the annual commencement ceremony. If asked, she will play again this year. She will be sorely missed by all of her advisees, her colleagues, and the entire Farquhar Center community.
Happy Holidays from the staff of The Knight Newspaper!

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The Knight serves Nova Southeastern University's Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies from its office in the Academic Services modular, located directly South of the Parker Science Annex on NSU's main campus.

The Knight is NSU's established vehicle for the transmission of student reporting, opinion, and arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to The Knight.

The Knight is readily available at several sites around the main campus, for locations please call (954) 262-8455.

Address all distribution concerns to Althea Mease, Associate Editor, at (954) 262-8455.


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Have a Safe and Happy New Year
Five Dumb Blondes: "Oh What a Day!"

by Dee Wright
Contributing Writer

I have always been fascinated by the dynamics of female relationships, sisterhood and cliques/groups. It seems that every time I think I find a particular group common thread, it is not the one thing that holds them together. Especially today when the female hormones rage in a wide range of emotions: from sedate to happy to being a complete bitch, all in the space of ten minutes.

So, I thought to myself what keeps us all close knit, supportive and well, together?

It was one of those hellish Fridays. Veronica, Karen and I have lab in the morning and then class begins at 2:10. **Who in the world made the schedule this semester?** Anyway, the whole fact that lab took three hours on a Friday morning was horrid, then to make it even more horrific we have class in the middle of nap time. Of course, to make it even worse, we were all pms'ing. In fact it got so bad that Karen said that instead of "Spin City" our lab bench was a "Bitch City."

So, since we all felt crappy, on our two-hour lunch break we decided to have retail therapy i.e. we went shopping. Nothing like shopping to make the spirit and the heart soar, as well as make one’s bank balance decline. All satisfied after spending our "disco" money we decided we wanted to eat big, and end the day with a bang.

We headed down to Miramar to my favorite Jamaican-Chinese Restaurant and it seemed that our spirits were lifted. However, when we got there, we inherited the most belligerent and inhospitable service person ever. She pointed to where she wanted us to sit, she sat as she took our order, and she argued with us and basically was not worth the 15% of gratuity. Well, we endured the cruel and unusual punishment and not one of us complained. Yet, when we left she politely returned the tip that we left behind and made us feel like $%*! As if?

We all walked out of the restaurant feeling the pits, all of us questioning what we did wrong. We finally came to the conclusion that even though we were bitchy to each other we are never rude to other people. It was then that I realized, that female cliques and relationships are not held together by some strong innate force, instead they are held together by our willingness to bitch to each other, bitch about each other and about others.

If you’d like to share your advice or comments, send email to deewright@hotmail.com

Stay poised for my friend Veronica’s Beau Part II.
The Phantom of the Opera tour is making a brief stop at the Broward Center for Performing Arts. The play has won 20 major theatre awards including 2 Olivier Awards, an Evening Standard Award, 7 Tony Awards (including Best Musical), 7 Drama Desk Awards, and 3 Outer Critic Circle Awards.

The stunning play begins many years after the events at the Opera. A mysterious individual known as the Phantom of the Opera is haunting the Opera. He falls in love with Christine Daaé, a stage girl and secretly encourages her to practice her singing. He leads Christine to his secret lair where he is revealed as the disfigured Phantom. The Phantom starts demanding that Christine be given the lead role. She has performed well before as the lead female character. The producers of the play do not follow the Phantom's wishes so he causes a chandelier to fall during the play. Christine meanwhile falls in love with Raoul, a nobleman she knew when she was younger. They become engaged. The Phantom wants the managers of the opera to perform his play. They consent because they believe they will be able to trap and capture the Phantom. The Phantom kills an actor and takes his place so he can be near Christine. The trap fails and the Phantom takes Christine to his lair. Raoul finds Christine and the Phantom makes her choose between them. Christine chooses Raoul and the play ends.

This production was magnificent. The exceptional music by Andrew Lloyd Webber keeps the musical running smoothly. This musical is brilliant and this reviewer doesn't have any criticism to offer. Individuals who have never seen the musical should be advised to learn the gist of the play to avoid confusion.

Here are some quick stats on the Phantom of the Opera that were obtained from the Phantom of the Opera website. It has played in 18 countries in 96 cities around the world to over 58 million people grossing over £1.3 billion worldwide. The Phantom's make-up takes 2 hours to put on and 30 minutes to take off. The face is moisturized, closely shaved and the prosthetics are fitted, setting immediately, before 2 wigs, 2 radio microphones and 2 contact lenses (one white and one clouded) are placed. There are 130 cast, crew and orchestra members directly involved in each performance. Each performance has 230 costumes, 14 dressers, 120 automated cues, 22 scene changes, 281 candles and uses 250 kg of dry ice and 10 fog and smoke machines.
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Movie Mistakes: Merry Christmas?

by Erika Diaz
Layout Editor

Well, this is it ladies and gentlemen. This is the last issue of *The Knight* before Christmas Vacation. On that note, I'd like to wish you all a happy whatever-you-celebrate. Having said that, it's time to commence the picking.

**The Santa Clause**
When Tim Allen first puts on the Santa suit, and goes into the house where the little girl is lying on the couch waiting for him, they talk. She has her two front teeth missing. The next year when he is really Santa, he goes back to her house, and she is waiting on the couch for him again. She still has the same two front teeth missing.

When Tim Allen slips on his snow-covered roof, you can see the “snow” wrinkle as he slides.

**Scrooge (1951)**
On Christmas morning he starts to jump around saying the spirits did their work in one night. He looks into the mirror to see if he is still alive. And if you look closely, you can see a production person caught by the camera. This happens whenever he looks into the mirror.

**A Christmas Story**
Scott Farkas, the bully, wears braces. Problem is, the stick-on braces he's wearing didn't become available until the 1970s.

When Ralphie's dad comes in after finding his Buick has frozen overnight, he tosses his hat onto the dining room table. It tumbles onto a chair next to the table. The next time you see the table, the hat has made its way to the table-top.

**Gremlins (It's got a Christmas setting. It counts!)**
In the scene where the cop car flips over, if you pay attention, you can see a metal plate welded under the car that helps it flip over.

When the policemen get back into their car, the gremlin has let the fluid out of the brakes. The policemen drive off, but can't stop. Remarkably, however, they seem to have no trouble in the next scene stopping car and turning left.

In the first shot of the hi-tech phone box, behind it on the right is the time machine from the film, *The Time Machine*. There are people standing around it, while it starts to spin. In the next shot of it, it is gone.

**Home Alone**
When Joe Pesci places his hand on the red hot doorknob on the front door of Kevin's house, he places his hand on the doorknob sideways. Afterwards, he sticks his hand in the snow, he looks at his hand and the letter M that was burned into his hand is straight up and down, not sideways as it should be based on how he grabbed the doorknob.

When Kevin is home alone, the phone lines are broken, so how could he order the pizza from Little Nero's?

When Kevin is remembering what his relatives have said to him, he remembers his brother saying something about feeding Kevin to his tarantula. Kevin's brother never said that.

When Kevin's mother realizes she's forgotten her son and decides to return, she takes a plane, but the plane call from his brother Harry, he tosses the wreath on a table behind him and picks up the phone. In the next second, the wreath is back on his arm.

**Home Alone 2**
In the first film, Kevin says that he's 8 years old at the checkout counter in the grocery store. However, in this film, at the hotel counter scene, he says he's 10. When his parents are in the Miami airport security office, they say that he was left alone last Christmas. That would make him 9.

When Kevin is throwing bricks from the top of the apartment note the position of the gym bag beside Marv -- it is in the wrong place during one of the cutaways between Marv and Kevin.

When Kevin first enters the hotel, he is told that to get to the lobby he should go straight ahead and turn left. The next shot shows him turning right into the lobby.

**Home Alone 3**
At one point, Kevin's mother gets an audible page. When she looks at the display to see the number, you can clearly see that the pager is set to "silent."

When the leader of the robbers is looking for the chip, he rips the car apart across the street in Mrs. Hess's house. He doesn't find it. About five minutes later, the parrot is riding the car into the snow fort and again in the house.

**It's A Wonderful Life**
Clarence tells George that his brother died at the age of 9 because he wasn't there to save him from falling through the ice, but when you see the tombstone, it shows Harry Bailey was born in 1911 and died in 1919. That would make Harry only 8 years old.

In a scene near the end of the movie, George enters the Building and Loan with a Christmas wreath on his arm. On hearing that he has a phone
Unbreakable Lives Up To The Name

by Caleb Kennedy
Staff Writer

Unbreakable is a great movie. This film was written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan whose last film, The Sixth Sense, won an Academy Award.

The plot of this movie is based on the premise that the superhuman powers of comic book heroes are based on humans with above average abilities. David Dunn (Bruce Willis) is the only survivor of a catastrophic train wreck and he survived unscathed. His marriage is falling apart. His wife means to take advantage of this miracle by trying to restore their marriage. His wife means to take advantage of this miracle by trying to restore their marriage.

David’s existence changes dramatically after meeting Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson). Elijah Price is a unique man who suffers from a rare bone disease, which causes his bones to have a low density and break easily. Elijah spent years in hospitals recovering from broken bones and became an avid comic book aficionado.

Elijah has also spent many years of his life looking for a man such as David who has high bone density and survived a horrific accident. Elijah poses the seemingly innocuous question, “How many days of your life have you been sick?” David cannot recall when he was last sick but he refuses to accept the unlikely hypothesis that he has abilities that average humans do not have. David cannot disregard the hypothesis because he inexplicably can bench press massive amounts of weight, and he senses what people have done or are carrying with them.

David’s son Jeremy readily believes the improbable theory of Elijah because of his childlike adoration of his father. Elijah’s insidious theory begins to emerge as the only way of explaining David’s unusual abilities. The viewer learns that the car accident that supposedly broke David’s leg and ended his football career did not occur. David used the accident to leave football so he could marry Megan who was adamantly opposed to him playing the sport.

This movie was excellent. Unbreakable has the feel of an older movie and not that of a contemporary film. The film about a man with superhuman abilities doesn’t rely on action and special effects to carry the film but on dialogue and in this way it seems like a throwback film. The movie takes a while to unfold as it has the feel of a much longer movie. Bruce Willis was cast perfectly in this role as a doubtful superhero that comes to accept his fate. Samuel L. Jackson also gives a great performance as a man who while suffering a rare bone condition lets his rage consume him in his search for his alter ego. Go see this movie right away if you haven’t already.
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Radio X History

NSU Radio X was formed in August of 1990 to provide an opportunity for Nova Southeastern students to gain knowledge and experience in radio broadcasting. After five years of negotiations, NSU and the Broward County School Board agreed upon a contract allowing NSU Radio to broadcast on 88.5 FM on their off hours after 7PM.

NSU Radio X began broadcasting on 88.5 FM in September 1998. NSU Radio X focuses on playing cutting edge music, as well as featuring specialty shows seven days a week. Radio X is a voice in the community because along with introducing new music to listeners, it also provides local and world news, weather reports, sports updates and NSU news.

Update on Radio X

- Radio X will now be seen in the Knight in the their upcoming issues.
- You can tune in on 88.5 FM at 7pm until Where YOU can hear your favorite music and our great DJs.
- Any comments or questions call us at 262-8457 or email us at www.nsusradio.com
- Radio X has just added to their staff Sherone Mullings Public Relations Director and she is also the host of the new show Information Exchange that can be heard 7pm every night on 88.5 fm.
- Change of schedule so check out new DJs and hear your favorite DJ at the new times and hours.
- The local show is every Thursday between the hours of 8-9pm where you can hear your local bands being interviewed on the radio.

Staff Profile

NAME: Colin Hurley
BIRTHPLACE: La Crosse, Wisconsin
SCHOOLING: Graduating third year psychology student
BEEN A DJ SINCE: The fall of 1998
SHOW NAME: Formally called Metal Massacre, currently unnamed
POSITION: News/Sports Director and DJ
MUSIC TYPE: Hard rock, metal, black metal, and hardcore
FAVORITE BANDS: Morbid Angel, Carcass, Gwar, Tool, God forbid, Cradle of Filth, Shai Hulud, and Lungbrush
EMAIL: Colin@nsusradio.com

NSU's Radio X Schedule of Shows 88.5 FM

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>7pm to 9pm</td>
<td>Kate</td>
<td>Dan</td>
<td>Colin</td>
<td>Stephanie</td>
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<td>The Stage</td>
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<td>(Breakbeats &amp; Trance)</td>
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<td>9pm to 11pm</td>
<td>Joe O.</td>
<td>Jason B.</td>
<td>DJ Kid</td>
<td>Josh</td>
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<td>Crazy Joe's Show</td>
<td>Modern Rock</td>
<td>DJ Kid's Block</td>
<td>Indie Air</td>
<td>Doron</td>
<td>Double Negative</td>
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<td>Countdown</td>
<td>Party</td>
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<td>Destinations</td>
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<td>11pm to 1am</td>
<td>(Contemporary</td>
<td>(Reggae)</td>
<td>(Punk, Hardcore, Emo)</td>
<td>(from ABBA to Zappa)</td>
<td>(Trance &amp; Eurodance)</td>
<td>(Oldies)</td>
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<td>Blues Rock)</td>
<td>(Latin Music)</td>
<td>Isabelle</td>
<td>Doron</td>
<td>DJ Leor</td>
<td>Marty</td>
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<td>Ace Von Vikki</td>
<td>Victor</td>
<td>Medianoche</td>
<td>Follow My Beats</td>
<td>Eurobeats</td>
<td>Professor of Oldies</td>
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<td>Ace's Place</td>
<td>El Sol De</td>
<td>Superblend</td>
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<td>1am to 3am</td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>DJ First</td>
<td>Phil</td>
<td>Cap</td>
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<td>Wreckshop Radio</td>
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<td>Xtra large</td>
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<td>&quot;I want to jam with you&quot;</td>
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(Progressive House & Trance)  
DJ TommyC  
Friday Night Club Trax  
The Source:  
Wreckshop Radio
National Football League

The Miami Dolphins are sitting pretty at the top of the AFC, tied with Oakland at 10-3. The Dolphins should be considered Super Bowl contenders, since their only losses have come to the Jets (twice) who may not make the playoffs, and against the Vikings, the best team in the NFC. The Dolphins manhandled the Buffalo Bills, proving they can dominate a game in all aspects. The ’Fins took control of the game early with precise passing from Jay Fielder, and then put the game away in the second half with the constant running of Lamar Smith. The Dolphins only committed few mistakes on the day, including a fumble on a handoff from Fielder to Smith. However, the Dolphins have to continue to play at the top of their game in order to obtain a first round bye for the playoffs and possibly home field advantage in the AFC.

National Basketball Association

The basketball season is in full gear, and the season looks exciting. Well, at least the Western Conference looks exciting. The East does not have anywhere near the quality of the teams in the West, where the champion is expected to come from either the Lakers, Portland, Utah, or San Antonio. Locally, the Miami Heat is suffering through a poor season. As much as the team does not want to make excuses, the season’s woes are primarily due to the absence of center Alonzo Mourning. When such a player is lost due to injury, it is very difficult to overcome such an obstacle. Mourning would have been the elite center in the league, possibly only behind Lakers big man Shaquille O’Neal, who Mourning has finished in front of in MVP voting in past seasons. The Heat used their injury fund to sign Cedric Ceballos, who will hopefully provide some scoring off the bench for the Heat.

National Hockey League

Not much can be said here. The Panthers are a pathetic disappointment. The team has failed to regain the form that lead them to the Stanley Cup Finals a few years back. Now, the team has to play under the cloud that their coach may be fired any time due to the poor performance of the team.

Major League Baseball

The only news to report in baseball is that the Yankees are on their way to buying another World Series by signing Mike Mussina from the Baltimore Orioles. In baseball, only the rich can get richer as the poor go nowhere. The team’s payroll is expected to rise over the $100 million dollar mark again, as George Steinbrenner will buy whomever he needs to win.
The Bear Market continues to weigh down Wall Street. However, the hope around Wall Street is that the bottom has finally been reached. In the last two weeks, the Dow Jones has dropped another 256.33 points landing at 10373.54. During the same time, the Nasdaq lost more ground, 381.90 points, and is at 2645.29 points. The technology sector has been hit the hardest, as is seen in the decline in the Nasdaq, which is now down nearly 50% from its all time high. The market is hoping for a good holiday season to put some life into the market. The Nasdaq did test the 2600 level, which was seen as a support level. Once investors saw the Nasdaq reach that point, but not fall below it, they began to regain the confidence in the tech sector giving it hopes of rebounding. Though the Nasdaq may not see the 5000 level for quite some time, hope is that the market will finish over 3000 before the end of the year. Investors are also hoping that the New Year does not bring about the massive selling that was seen at the beginning of 2000. However, after the large sell-off at the beginning of 2000, the Nasdaq then reached its all time high of 5200 in March.

Currently in the market several companies are fighting over Quaker Oats Inc. Other companies, such as Pepsi and Coke, are all interested in purchasing the company, mainly to obtain the Gatorade products carried by the company. Pepsi made an offer of roughly $15 billion dollars, but Quaker Oats rejected that offer. Coke also made an offer of $16 billion, but the owners of Coke pulled the offer off of the table.

General Electric finally named Jeffrey Immelt the successor for retiring chairman John F. Welch Jr. Welch had been in control of GE for the past two decades, leading the company as it grew into one of the most powerful and profitable in the country.

In major overseas news, Iraq decided to stop exporting oil. Iraq demands that buyers of its oil must pay a surcharge on the amount of the oil they buy. Iraq is solely imposing this charge in response to the sanctions that were levied on them 10 years ago for the Gulf War. Currently, Iraq is responsible for exporting about 5% of the world's oil supply. Investors are afraid that any prolonged suspension of their oil exports will cause prices to rocket back up to their highest levels. Many countries are planning on using their reserve supplies while Iraq holds back their oil.

Photo Contest

Details? Let's be honest, you don't want to stand here forever and read all this. So we'll be quick:

WHO: N.U.T.S. → Nova Southeastern University Theatrical Society

WHAT: Photo contest (Don't forget two things: It's free and prizes will be given away.)

DEADLINE: Feb. 5th, 2001; bring it to Mailman Building Room # 144

CONTACT: Melissa @ 647-1320 or nuts@list.nova.edu

To participate fill out the registration form or contact NUTS: nuts@list.nova.edu

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What Do You Mean the Piercer is in New Jersey?: A Modification Story

by Erika Diaz
Layout Editor

When I first started working at The Knight newspaper I intended to write an article on body modifications. This of course depended on my monetary situation, or a friend willing to let me stand aside and take pictures as they had work done. Until now neither opportunity had reared its head.

On Saturday December 2 I finally did it.

I woke up Saturday afternoon with a single thought in my head: "I must get a hole in my tongue." Little did I know it wouldn't quite go that easily. I had to wait for my darling boyfriend Adam to get off work before carrying out the master plan. When he finally got here, however, he was far too tired to drive me out to Pompano Beach just yet. While he rested, my roommate and I did some searching and found out that the tattoo parlor I was originally going to go to was already closed. That left a determined Erika with no place to pierce, so we looked for places that were open late on Saturdays in the area. Cheryl and I came up with two places, one that was waaaaaaaaaaay out in Miami somewhere and another called the Electrik Krayon in Hollywood. It seemed promising, only 18 miles away, open till 10 pm, and simple to get to. Thus the journey began.

I woke Adam up and got him dressed and in the car before he even knew what was going on. We decided to stop at McDonalds and eat, in case the piercing prevented that for a while. After that we went on with the directions. Being unfamiliar with the area we couldn't find Orange Dr. for any-thing under God. After about 4 U-turns we caught glimpse of a teeny tiny sign that simply said "Orange" and decided to turn there. After driving for about 15 minutes we spotted the place.

Electrik Krayon is a medium-sized studio that is nicely lit, nicely decorated with flash (tattoo art) covering the walls as expected. I sauntered into the studio with my usual pseudo-confident walk (okay so I was scared) and said rather loudly that I wanted my tongue done. The rather heavily tattooed man looked up at me from behind his book, flipped on the television to Beastmaster, and smirked. After amusing himself at my expense he said very simply, "The piercer is in New Jersey." Adam in all of his eloquence responded with a quick "WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE PIERCER IS IN NEW JERSEY?!?" After laughing at us both for a while he turned back to his book to let us do our thing. I decided to get a tattoo done since I was there.

After searching through literally 12 books of flash, I found a page full of ankhs. Far be it from me to leave anything simple. I decided if I was going to get a tattoo it would be a custom piece. The artist and I sat and combined different elements from all the different ankhs to make my own special tattoo. We discussed the price and placement and he went outside to smoke a cigarette, leaving me at the mercy of my nerves. I sat there, pretending I was okay while in my mind I was resigned to the fact that this would be more painful than childbirth. I had heard from many friends and family that black tattoos hurt the most and that tattoos over bone are excruciatingly painful.

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Tattoos For All

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At that moment my tattoo artist came back into the studio and asked me to sign all the paperwork and watch as he took out all the needles and other equipment. I did as he asked, somewhat trembling the whole time. He had me turn around and move my clothes so he could prep the area and get the design to sit straight. He did all that in what seemed to be half a millisecond and in no time I was kneeling in a chair looking into a mirror at the street outside. I was nervous. Adam was at my side holding my hand, and I heard the buzzing start. I squeezed my eyes tightly closed and waited for that horrendous pain I had convinced myself there was going to be. I peeked an eye open about 5 minutes later out of sheer frustration that he hadn’t started yet. I asked, quite aggravated, “So when do we start?” The artist laughed at me yet again and said “about 5 minutes ago, hon.”

I felt no pain! 15 minutes later I had a lovely little black ankh on the small of my back. I paid the man and left feeling rather giddy. The healing is going well. It’s in that itchy scab phase now and looking pretty good. And so, to all of you who are thinking of getting a tattoo but are too afraid to, IT DOESN’T HURT ONE BIT! Be sure you trust your artist, and that the place you go is clean and that you can live with the design you choose to imbed in your flesh. For anyone interested the number for Electrik Krayon is 954-986-1449. I highly recommend it.

my blurry baby in it’s icky crunchy phase
photo by: Hans

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