The 11th annual Undergraduate Student Symposium took place on April 8 in the Alvin Sherman Library from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students presented posters and papers on their research to judges from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

As part of the symposium, the fifth annual Student Film Festival was held in the second floor of the library.

"I am pleased that we have broadened the definition of scholarship to include the visual arts and other creative works," said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the college.

Winners in the poster, paper and film categories were announced during an award ceremony in the Performance Theater in the Don Taft University Center. The ceremony began with a welcoming speech from Rosenblum, who thanked the students for their submissions and the faculty for their support.

There were several first place winners in the paper category, including Nergess Taheri, senior biology major, who won for her presentation of "Artscience: A Study of the Human Arterial and Venous Systems." She said that for her project she combined her two loves by carving the circulatory system into a linoleum block.

"I just wanted a better model for the anatomy labs. I didn't expect to win," she said. "It was a really interesting and unique experience. It definitely gave me a new perspective on the arterial and venal systems."

Luz Gonzalez Reiley and Aisha Haniff won first place in the poster category for "Expression of AT1, AT2 receptors and a non-AT1, non-

"Common is a rarity"
Farquhar launches Digressions' eighth edition

The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences' Division of Humanities held the eighth annual "Digressions" launch on April 6 in the second floor gallery of the Alvin Sherman Library.

"Digressions" is the college's student literary magazine. The magazine received 118 submissions from 27 students and the staff narrowed it down to 18 poems, three short stories and 13 visual artworks.

Nine faculty judges chose the winners in the categories, and the winners were announced at the launch. Ashley Allred's short story "Abecedarian," Daniel King's poem "They, Who are I," and Lacrima Nemulescu's photograph "The Brown Sugar" won on the basis of that song.

Common also spoke briefly of his feud with rapper for Cube in the early 1990s. Ice Cube felt insulted by the lyrics to "Used to Love H.E.R." that criticized the path hip-hop was on. He publicly Insulted Common in song which surprised the rapper.

Common said, "At first I felt a lot of joy that he had dissed me because at last he knew who I was. I'm a peaceful warrior, but I finally had to respond with my song, and I shut him down."

One of his albums that played a significant role in his life and mindset was "Be." He had broken up with Badu and he was going through a tough time. He said he really started believing in himself while making that album.

"You gotta let your light shine no matter what situation you're in," he said. "Don't be afraid and dim your light for anybody."

Common said the movie "Just Wright" with Queen Latifah to be the type of film he wanted to make — one that could make a difference. He said it showed that beauty does not have to come in one size or color.

"Be" is also involved with PETA and was a part of Will.I.Am's video "Yes We Can," inspired by a speech by President Obama. "I claim to be the first rapper to say Obama's name in a song," he said. He also founded the Common Ground Foundation, a charity that seeks to "empower youth and keep them in a healthy mind and body."

The Current
The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

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**Symposium from the**

AT2 angiotensin II binding site in rat brain after endotoxine-1-induced ischemic stroke.\(^a\)

Rosenblum said the college received a record number of submissions in the poster category. He said more than 60 students submitted posters and the college selected 49 to be presented at the symposium.

**STUEY winners announced**

Written by: **Anatoly Rodriguez**

The 12th annual Student Life Achievement Awards, or STUEYs, were held on April 12 in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

Winners were selected by the Selection Committee, including Ray Ferro, J.D., NSU chancellor; George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president; Frank DePiano, Ph.D., executive vice president and provost; and Robert Ferrero Jr., J.D., NSU chancellor.

The STUEYs were established to recognize leadership, commitment, involvement of academic services, several numbers of the board of trustees and past STUEY winners.

The STUEYs were established by Brad Williams, E.D.D., dean of Student Affairs to recognize leadership, commitment, involvement of their work.

All participants received a certificate and an Undergraduate Student Symposium key chain.

Rosenblum said, "Our students take this opportunity seriously and dozens of them go on to present their work at national conferences. This is not a practice or rehearsal."

**NSU hosts comedy show for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.**

To raise funds for victims of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, the Nova International Student Association will host Stand Up for Japan: A Comedy Jam on April 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Flight Deck, located in the Don Taft University Center. Tickets are $5 for the show or $10 for the show and dinner. Donations will go to the Japanese Consulate in Japan.

You can also donate online at www.nova.edu/donating.

NSU offers full-tuition scholarships

The NSU Trustee Florida Academic Scholarship offers a full scholarship to transfer students and high school students who qualify. Some of the requirements include community service hours, 3.5 GPA and full-time enrollment.

To apply, students must fill out the FAFSA and the NSU state aid application forms found at www.nova.edu/financialaid.

The STUEY winners announced that won first place in the Undergraduate Student Film Festival for his 10-minute comedy "A Perfect Day." The STUEY winners were selected by the Selection Committee, including Ray Ferro, J.D., NSU chancellor; George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president; Frank DePiano, Ph.D., executive vice president and provost; and Robert Ferrero Jr., J.D., NSU chancellor.

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Jamaican ambassador to the US visits NSU

A graduate of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and Jamaica's 10th ambassador to the United States, Audrey Patricia Marks, will visit NSU on April 12 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. She will give a lecture to students in the Carl DeSantis Building about her entrepreneurial and political career. She will also host a town hall meeting open to the NSU community at 6:30 p.m. at the Morton and Marie Morris Administration Building.

Broward County superintendent retires

Broward County Schools Superintendent Jim Notter announced his retirement on March 29 after the Broward County Schools' budget meeting on August 14. He will retire on June 30, three years before his contract ends.

Broward and Palm Beach counties rank high as healthiest counties in Florida

The results of a survey published on March 26 showed that Broward and Palm Beach counties have low obesity and smoking rates, making them the 10th and 11th healthiest out of Florida's 67 counties. Collier and Seminole counties ranked first and second. Miami-Dade county ranked seventh. The survey was conducted by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

More gas hikes on the way

AAA spokesperson Jessica Brady said that by summer, Floridians will be paying an average of $4 a gallon for gas. She said this was due to the unrest in Libya, the producer of two percent of the world's oil. Officials are worried that the unrest will spread to Saudi Arabia or Iran, further raising costs. In light of this, President Obama is putting more effort into America becoming less dependent on foreign oil.
Put the “spring” back in spring cleaning

Written by: Jasmine Lykins

“Spring cleaning” is a physical cleansing of your life. By this time of year, it is common for our cars, our bedrooms and our attics to need a good spring cleaning. But physical spaces aren’t the only things that need organizing every year. This spring, when you aren’t cleaning out your living space, tidy up other areas that affect your daily living.

1. Organize your budget. Create a budget that allows you to live within the means of your income and establish some savings at the same time. Savings might be useful in paying off your car, buying a new car or home, or even traveling. A little extra cash in the bank always helps.

2. Purge your computer. Begin this quick process by organizing your desktop. Take all those documents and photos and place them into one folder. Then, address your computer’s inner workings. Defragment your hard drive. Clean out your trash. Run updates. Create new disk space, and delete or store unneeded documents.

3. Refresh your online image. Update your Facebook (or other social networking sites) profile picture and personal information.

4. Add to your resume. This will keep momentum going. By prioritizing and eliminating important projects to tackle each day, you will keep your list from becoming too long. Start with A1 and close the day out with C4.

5. Clean up your personal life. While you are cleaning up your life, consider the following ways to tackle this category. Pick one bad habit and determine to stop. Forgive others and relieve yourself of burdensome grudges. Call your parent just to say hello. Reconnect with a friend you haven’t seen in a while.

6. Divide big projects into smaller ones. Accomplish part one today and part two tomorrow. This prevents you from getting overwhelmed or burned out.

You can use an "ABC/252" system. On your to-do list, mark A’s as most important, B’s next, and C’s least. Number A’s two or three (from most important to least), and follow the same pattern for the other letters. Ta-da! You have your to-do list prioritized. Start with A1 and close out the day C4.

Now comes the tough part. Roll up your sleeves, and get it done. If you knock out the "worst" project first, the others will seem like a piece of cake. Keep this in mind when you’re planning your “ABC/252” list. You must have the most of the energy on your day and will end up with better results.

Ask yourself what are the most important projects to tackle each day?

Features

Attention procrasitimators: Read now, not later

Written by: Cheleena Seignious

If there’s one thing students learn to perfect in college, it is the art of racing the clock. As the semester comes to a close, tension swells, along with heart rates and blood pressure. The to-do lists grow longer and the hours seem shorter with each fleeting day. Is that even possible? It’s possible for a second a world where you are actually prepared to take on the day, instead of scrambling around at the last minute to whip up a poorly planned project that could possibly denominator a large portion of your GPA. The thought sounds nearly impossible, but with a few tips, you’ll have you out of procrastination, creating more room for relaxation.

Psst. Don’t you dare put down this article for later. You will end up wishing you hadn’t. Plus, we’re trying to help you grow in the anti-acne area, not to. Keep self-harsh advice from a dermatologist.

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Adult acne: Answers and advice from a dermatologist

Written by: Samantha Harfenist

We’ve all done it. After the alarm rings off, we get out of bed and stare into the mirror and do the morning “pimple patrol.” Inevitably, we all have to deal with the outbreak of acne, especially when we are developing a complexion that is mostly acne-free. This can last up to, and beyond, age 40.

Though it is not highly recommended, many people still use the term “pimples.” What is the best way to do this in order to fully extract the pus and minimize the risk of scarring?

First and foremost, try not to “pop” pimples. This will only lead to additional scarring. When a person picks or pokes at these blemishes, it causes more trauma to the area, inducing a possible infection. The inflammation alone, leads to hyperepigmentation of the area, creating a scarier scar, which makes it harder to treat.

One of the most painful problems you can encounter is cystic acne. How would you recommend people treat the disease?

“The best thing a person can do is to go to their dermatologist or primary care physician at the first sign of developing acne. It takes some time to develop cystic acne. This is why it is important to get an acne treatment when the acne is only mild to moderate, you can actually prevent cystic acne from forming. Cystic acne is [the] worst type of acne because it has the largest amount of inflammation in the pore and creates such a painful cyst that it can create a large amount of scarring. Once deep scarring has [been] created from the rupturing of the cystic acne, it can be difficult to treat.”

What are some factors that can improve the health and appearance of skin?

Many disorder antihistamines can help maintain healthy glowing skin, but that won’t work completely if the diet is poorly balanced or the skin is exposed to the sun. Additionally, these medications can be used for the treatment of skin infections and acne, especially dairy consumption.

What is the ultimate advice you would give to people who want to maintain healthy skin?

"The best way to keep our skin healthy is to eat a nourishing balanced diet rich in antioxidants. Exercise on a regular basis, and, most importantly, wear sun block on a daily basis. It should contain an SPF of at least 30. You should reapply it every two hours if you are in direct sunlight. This includes ones that are water resistant, because, as you sweat, it loses its protection somewhat.

"Be sure to wear a hat to protect your scalp, face and ears. The eyelids have the thinnest skin on our body, so sunglasses are a must for UV protection. Be sure to have your eyes examined by an ophthalmologist at least every two years. This includes ones that are water resistant, because, as you sweat, it loses its protection somewhat."

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Paula Quiroz

Paula Quiroz is a sophomore biology major and a Student Life Achievement Award winner. She uses her iPad and her composition books, which she uses to write random notes. Her hobbies include drawing, reading, exercising, learning about different cultures, watching movies with friends and gardening. She enjoys sports, music, dance, martial arts medicine and current events. She plans to join the Peace Corps after graduation and dreams of going to Brazil for the next FIFA World Cup.

I started practicing martial arts at the age of eight at an Olympic-style taekwondo school but had to leave it when I was 11 because my parents couldn’t afford it anymore. Two years later, I brought up the subject again to my parents, telling them that I wanted to go back and continue taekwondo. The school where I previously trained closed, so we looked into other schools close by and found Traditional Taekwon-do of Davie, a dojo that was conveniently across the street from my apartment complex.

The day I first walked in, I sat on a wooden bench near the door with my mom, observing the class. It was obvious that the Olympic style I was used to was different from traditional style. It should have been all-official familiar sight since I had already practiced taekwondo. In some ways, it was. The moves were the same. The forms were the same. However, the manner in which they threw a strike or did a block was different from what I had seen in the other school.

Imagine my surprise when, having been used to full-contact sparring with full gear, I was told that I had no gear at all in competitions.

"Self-control. Here, you must learn to control your kicks and your punches. Here, you must learn to control yourself," said the instructor, smiling as he saw the expressions on our faces.

Still, even though this was something new to me, it clicked. As I saw more and more, something inside me told me this was where I belonged, and so began my journey into the world of traditional taekwondo.

I got my black belt almost six years after I signed up. Most people would say that is sort of quick, but it took me a lot of time and I had to practice every day. By the time I was a yellow belt, I had a full split and end. Whatever teacher told me to put my head on the floor, I made sure to put it there. I was dedicated and determined — traits that I inherited from my instructor, a "Sukma" and the black belts I had the luck of training with, instilled in me. They were examples of the type of martial artist I wanted to be, and my instructor let me be no less.

My instructor would tell his black belts after they finished executing their forms, gasping for air and screaming from exhaustion, "Don’t give up. A black belt is not only a person who can kick high or punch strong. They must know their five pillars of Taekwondo (courtesy, perseverance, integrity, self-control and indomitable spirit) in and out of school.

This is a lifestyle, and you must be the example so that others may follow in the right path."

I graduated and dreams of going to college for my first time in my life. I was offered a scholarship and had the opportunity to attend. I chose to attend Florida Atlantic University. I came to NSU because of the people, the values and the cultural diversity.

NSU became my first choice because it allowed me to stay home and continue doing what I love. After two years in college, it’s different than what I’m used to. I balance school and taekwondo, and a lot of the times I’ve had to miss practices to study. However, every time I need my instructor’s help, he or she is always there to help. 'Don’t give up. Keep moving.'

Dustin Berna

The office of Dustin Berna, Ph.D., assistant professor of conflict analysis and political science in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is characterized by three things: books, artwork and politics.

The objects he puts on his hobby display. He loves art, politics and reading. Besides the thousands of books on his bookshelf, he has more on his desk. The ones on his shelves he has read and the 10 or so on his desk he hasn’t read yet.

"I have to start them taking home because I’m running out of room," he said.

He collects post-modern art. But he also likes new contemporary art.

"I like to see people who are coming up, and if they have something I like, I buy it," he said.

Berna also loves movies and goes to the movies a couple of days a week. Some of his favorite movies are "Some Like It Hot" and "Auntie Mame." His two undergraduate degrees are the arts, music and current events. He has read and the 10 or so on his display. He loves art, politics and political posters.

One of his favorite things is "The Encyclopedia of Islamic Fundamentalist Movements." Berna said he has to assign students controversial books that open their eyes to something they’ve never seen before.

"When I have read real things, I have read the book the book. I have read what members of the Black Panther Party actually wrote, what members of Hamas or al-Qaida actually wrote — not what other academics have written about them because I think students need to read and hear it from the mouth of the people they’re reading about," Berna said.

Berna’s goal in teaching is to facilitate awareness, and he does so by connecting with his students.

"You have to make sure you don’t offend people, because if you offend people, they turn you right off. You have to make that connection with them," he said.

Berna was nominated for a Student Life Achievement Award (STUEY) for co-curricular advisor of the year. He advises three working organizations that work with faculty and students. He advises the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. He is also on the admissions committees that accept graduate and doctoral students and the faculty hiring committee.

Berna’s specializations are Islamic Fundamentalism. He has been interviewed by local television stations regarding the political turmoil in Egypt, Libya and Iran. He has also been an expert witness in court and a guest lecturer at NSU’s Lifelong Learning Institute. He is writing a book titled "The Encyclopedia of Islamic Fundamentalist Movements."

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Jasmine Lykins

A recent poll by the Public Religion Research Institute and Religion News Survey revealed that only 10 percent of people believe that natural disasters are a sign from God, possibly indicative of the world’s coming end.

Well, shocks, if 40 percent of Americans think this way, there must be a reason.

"Apparent, when the rock band REM sang 'It’s the end of the world as we know it' in 1987, they were 24 years too early. Now it is 2011, and we are not so far away from it. People seem to fear this," Berna said. "So, it is important to know the world is not going to end."

"Flee your kids. Hide your wife. And hide your husbands. Ensure that your family is protected. Leave undergarments behind. But make sure you have a generator to power your bunker’s amenities. This way, you can still power your entertainment devices during your time of seclusion.

3. Go to the local garden store and buy all the available canned goods on the shelf. Do you dislike tans? Take away your tan. Do you know how long you will have to survive off this food? Besides, tans is a good source of people.

4. If steps 2 and 3 did not work, you will have to save some money on the bunker’s amenities. Maybe they can help you out.

5. Forget about gun control. Buy all the guns you can find — big guns. Buy tons of ammunition to go with the guns. You can store them in your bunker. Oh wait. You have the bunker, you can’t store the guns. Move on to step 4. Well, hopefully you already own a firearm. If not, befriend a member of the National Rifle Association. Maybe they can help you out.

6. Master the "duck-and-cover" survival technique of the 1950s Cold War nuclear scare. You don’t have a desk to hide under? Any household object such as a table, chair or bed will suffice. In case you are not familiar with this infamous maneuver, here is some background on it. During the Cold War, American school children were taught to crouch under their desks with their heads strategically placed in preparation for a nuclear attack. Though this maneuver has never been tried during an actual nuclear emergency, we don’t have many other options.

7. Finally, learn the anti-end of the world technique. This is simple. Maybe the entire world. Of course, the whole world. Of maybe if the entire human population performs this technique, maybe the entire world might end. But, anyway, drop by December 21, 2012, we can deter the end of the world catastrophe entirely. For the record, no, the handwriting is not on the wall. There is no evidence of the existence of such a dance. Someone just has to discover it.

"If the world is going to end, outside of rescue by alien forces or some other supernatural event, there is nothing we can do to save humanity. Live your best life now."

Jasmine Lykins
Cool off with beach sports

Written by:
Jasmine Lykins

As the weather heats up, the beach is becoming more and more crowded. But if you're not into relaxing in the sand or trying to "get your tan on," make your beach time more exciting by trying a new water sport. These three water sports can be found close to NSU at Fort Lauderdale Beach.

Kite surfing, also known as kite surfing, is a combination of wakeboarding, kite flying and surfing. It is a developing sport that combines wakeboarding, kite flying and surfing into one unique, intense activity. You need a board, a kite, a harness and a bar. Kites are the most expensive part of the equipment package at $1,000 or more. The Fort Lauderdale Kite Surfing Company offers lessons for three to five hour sessions at $75 per hour. The lessons include equipment use. The sport is considered a high-risk extreme sport.

Kite surfing, also known as kite surfing, is a combination of wakeboarding, kite flying and surfing. (COURTESY OF WWW.PAIAINN.COM)

Sailboarding. Rent a stand-up paddle board (SUP) for $65 per day from American Water Sports. Stand-up paddle boarding involves standing up on a surf board and using a pole to maneuver across the water. This sport is a full-body workout and requires developed balance skills.

Beach's Hobie Cat and Catamaran Club. The Club recently held its 2011 Mid-Winter Regatta. Check them out at www.cat44.com.

Next time you go to the beach, don't just pour on the tanning oil and laze around. Do something exciting. Experience something new and try out one of these water sports.

ON THE BENCH

Commentary by:
Josh Streimer

NSU baseball deserves national recognition

This season, the NSU baseball team is making a statement to not only the Sunshine State Conference but also the nation. In the first 25 games of the season, the Sharks had a solid record of 17-8. Their most notable win came against nationally-ranked conference rival the University of Tampa.

While I have an obvious bias toward my own school, I believe that when you look at how well the Sharks compare to the competition it is no reach to say that they could be playing baseball well into May. With their record this season, the team should also be receiving some kind of national recognition.

NSU baseball is a team with a lot of experience with 17 of the 42 roster spots belonging to seniors, all of who are hungry for something more than just another average season.

Senior Shortstop Luis Perez, center fielder Andrew Durden, First Baseman Dusty Maggs, Pitchers Issac Hicks and Nick Avilla, and preseason All-South region selection Sean Albary have had standout performances. They have led the team in major statistical categories as well as on the field.

Another standout player is been freshman second baseman Carlos Asuaje, who handled the season for the Sharks and has the third highest batting average on the team. Asuaje is a leading candidate for SSC freshman of the year.

The Sharks also rely on the strength of their pitching staff, which has done an excellent job throughout the season. With Torey Ekey, senior relief pitcher, Sean Tylke, junior starting pitcher, Tyler Redding, sophomore relief pitcher, and Mauricio Rodriguez, junior relief pitcher, the Sharks have had better numbers this season than in past years. The Sharks rank third in the conference in earned run average, hits and earned runs.

At the helm is a coaching staff with 26 years of combined experience at NSU. The staff is a big contributing factor to the number of Sharks playing professional baseball. Head Coach Greg Brown, Associate Head Coach Ray Romero, and Assistant Coach Ryan Romero and Cliff Terracuso bring various talents to the team.

Although Brown is only in his first season at NSU but "I believe there is no a single person who lives, breathes and sleeps NSU baseball more than he does. Just from watching the team during batting practice, I can tell that Brown shares his knowledge and love for the game with his players."

As of April 1, the Sharks have five conference series that will count toward the overall conference standings. They will play two more conference teams in games that will affect regional standings.

When asked about why they receive little to no national recognition in the rankings from the voters, the players have taken on their coach's attitude. They brush off the question and say "Who cares? It only matters where you are at the end of the season." The NCAA South Regional tournament begins on May 19, and the NCAA Division II College World Series begins on May 28. Don't be surprised if you see the Sharks playing baseball in late May.

SPJORTS SHORTS

Written by
Jasmine Lykins

Senior Okana Krutyenko, Paige Lindsay and Justice Feaster were honored at the tennis team's annual Senior Activities events beginning April 6. Women's Tennis finished their last match of the season before the Sunshine State Conference on April 7. They lost 0-9 to Barry University, finishing their season at 9-9.

On April 4, Abbey Gittings, sophomore women's golfer from Tamworth, England, was named Sunshine State Conference women's golfer of the Week.

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"Say What?" Say art

Written by: Juan Gallo

"Touch please." This is the unorthodox invitation that Juan Reyes, art piece, "Color Journey" offers guests at the Third Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, "Say What?" running from April 4-27.

If you've ever been to a museum or art gallery, then you probably know the experience of getting the stink-eye from security for so much as breathing too close to a piece of art. That's why Reyes' invitation was so refreshing. So I did touch, and I grabbed the book and flipped through its pages to discover an array of colorful and creative works.
It doesn’t take much persuading to read “Persuasion” — Written by: Keren Moros

To read a novel set in the past is to travel back in time and find romance, adventure or even political turmoil. But when you don’t understand the book’s social structure and historical setting, you don’t understand the story and you can’t appreciate it.

This is especially true of Jane Austen’s novels in which social customs and traditions made stricter demands on people’s conduct than they do today, giving romance different rules than we have. In “Persuasion,” strict social rules persuade dutiful Anne Elliot to persuade her uncle to get off her back, Frederick comes back, giving them a chance to rekindle their romance.

In his annotated version of the novel, David M. Shapard does a thorough and efficient job of helping the modern reader make sense of Anne and Frederick’s world. In his annotations, he explains the culture and customs of this world, examining what other scholars say about the book, explaining the traditions of the day, and telling us why characters act the way they do.

He defines unusual words, gives maps of the places the characters visit, illustrates places and clothing, and provides a timeline of events before and during the story and help us understand why she may have written what she did. When you click on a title, a window pops up with a description of the band, movie or show and a YouTube clip to help you decide whether you are interested in that entertainment.

It’s fascinating to read how her love for Frederick is constant throughout the eight years she doesn’t hear from him. And it’s heartbreaking to read how her world is shaken when he comes back and starts flirting with other women.

You also get a feed, which you can update with your likes and comments about the entertainment. You can also follow or like other users to see what they like or dislike. You also get a feed, which you can update with your likes and comments about the entertainment.

One of the best features of the site is that you can search multiple things at once. You can enter “Avatar, Guns and Roses, Monk” and it will promote yourself. The site has an app for the iPhone and the Android phones, which allows you to discover new stuff anywhere you may be.

The purpose of the site, after all, is to discover new stuff. The Web site recommends music, movies, shows and authors based on your likes. You can simply enter the name of your favorite show, band or movie and the site recommends similar shows, bands and movies.

If your friends keep telling you how much you would love “Freaks and Geeks” but you want to be sure you’re going to “love” it before you spend $10 on the DVD, then log on to www.tasteKid.com.

The site gives life to “Persuasion” comments about mo­ ments that would have escaped the modern reader. He explains the things that Shapard adds has made me love the book even more than I used to. His comments give life to “Persuasion” and allow us not only to better understand the characters but also to fully appreciate the nuances that make “Persuasion” an enjoyable, rich and amazing read.

The knowledge and insight that Shapard’s comments add details to the story and help us understand why she may have written what she did. Reading his comments is like reading another book altogether, one that serves as a companion for the novel. Though this may make it longer to read and may interrupt the middle of a sentence or paragraph, the extra time is worth it.

I read the novel once before this annotated version, and I don’t know how I got through it the first time. The knowledge and insight that Shapard adds has made me love the book even more than I used to. His comments give life to “Persuasion” and allow us not only to better understand the characters but also to fully appreciate the nuances that make “Persuasion” an enjoyable, rich and amazing read.

The site also allows you to promote yourself. If you have a band, are an author or have made a movie, you can also share recommendations on Facebook and Twitter, if you wish. If you sign up on the site, you can create a profile with all your likes, dislikes and “meh’s,” which you can’t do unless you sign up.

Site of the Week: Tastekid.com

If you browse the site’s featured bands and movies, you’ll notice the site’s recommendation engine on the right side. The text and video recommendation engine is a great feature that helps you decide whether you would like to watch a particular movie or listen to a particular band. The engine uses a combination of algorithms and user feedback to provide recommendations. The site also allows you to create a profile with your favorite bands and movies.

You can also follow or like other users to see what they like or dislike. You also get a feed, which you can update with your likes and comments about the entertainment.

The site has an app for the iPhone and the Android phones, which allows you to discover new stuff anywhere you may be.

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University Web site’s offer of casual sex has serious consequences

Written by: Samantha Harfenist

Undergraduates at the of University of Chicago created a Web site where students can have free access to online hook-ups. The Web site, eduHookups.com, is aimed at college students looking to have a quick way to have a quickie.

The news gets better. The Web site has expanded to include students of Northwestern University, Columbia College Chicago and Brown University.

Proponents defend the site, claiming that it is a new and safe way for students to have casual, no-strings-attached sex. As Jay Leno joked on The Tonight Show, “We already have that. It’s called college.” I have to concur. Since students at all-girls universities have students who smuggle boys into their dorm rooms.

The site is similar to Craigslist’s “Casual Encounters,” which also boasted easy access to easy people. Yes, the same subsection of Craigslist that Philip Markoff, the Craigslist Killer, went surfing on for his victims. But, no worries. eduHookups requires a “edu” in the email address to register in order to ensure that it’s a student you’re talking to. Hmm, Markoff’s medical school had an “edu” email address, too.

Chicago students have stepped up to claim that the site is no more dangerous than other dating sites. However, eHarmony’s motto isn’t synonymous with eduHookups’s tagline of “Celibacy is curable if caught early.” While eduHookups’s slogan is humorous, the message can be dangerous just like the meaning of the site. The Web site is essentially saying that anyone who posts, and responds to, meeting up, is looking for sex. It poses the very real possibility that, if a girl shows up and changes her mind, things might not go so well.

A healthy sex life is essential. The key word there being “healthy.” Meeting strangers on the Internet for a one-hour stand is not the safest way to do it. And, just because they’re students, it doesn’t mean they’re safe. It just means that they sit next to you in class.

Opinions

Don’t make uniformed judgements about up and coming musicians

Written by: Jasmine Lykins

Justin Bieber may have a new antithesis in the form of Rebecca Black, a YouTube sensation whose amateur single, “Friday,” has received more than 90 million views within the last two months. But viewers are not raving about Black’s extraordinary talent, as in the case of Bieber, who also started his career at a young age on YouTube. Rather, viewers are ranting about Black’s incredible lack of talent. Already, her video has received close to 2 million dislikes and a mere 230,000 likes. That’s a disproportionate amount of hate directed at a 13-year-old amateur musician.

It seems to be a new trend to hate young, aspiring singers who appeal to the preteen population, aka the “teeny-boppers.” Up until two weeks ago, every time I walked past a “Never Say Never” movie poster at the theaters, I was reminded of how much I already disliked the film and the performer, Justin Bieber. But I had never given Bieber a chance. Not once had I actually listened to his music. I was merely allowing a popular stigma to influence my opinion. And the same stereotype is tarnishing poor Rebecca Black’s ratings. People are viewing her YouTube video already predetermined to hate it.

So, I decided to listen to some Justin Bieber the other day, and to my surprise, he’s very musically talented and has an excellent voice. Still, I’m not a fan of his genre of music, and I find his lyrics to be lacking creativity. But now I don’t hate him just because the media and the public tell me to.

As for Rebecca Black, I watched her “Friday” music video. Yes, it’s almost as bad as people say. Her voice has a nasally, 13-year-old whine and the choruses is exceedingly obnoxious. Musically, though, Black can follow a tune, and she’s not tone deaf. When her voice matures, Black may have some kind of musical career in her future.

Don’t avoid or dislike a performer just because other people or the media tell you to. Be open-minded and experience them before you formulate your opinion. Think for yourself. There is nothing more annoying than someone who adamantly holds an opinion that is not based on logical reasoning. Rebecca Black may not be Justin Bieber, but the public shouldn’t treat her as though she’s a talentless hack. Give her a chance. I gave Bieber one.
On the Scene

President Barack Obama will be the keynote speaker at Miami Dade College's commencement ceremony on April 29. The 2011 undergraduate commencement speaker for NSU has not yet been announced.

Who would you want as the commencement speaker at your graduation and why?

"Trey Parkery or Matt Stone [South Park Creators], because they have a more realistic view on society than most people in office now."  
James Cordiano, junior psychology major

"Spike Lee because he has been through a lot and has an interesting story. He came from nothing. We're a young crowd. I'm sure we'd be more interested in Spike Lee than Obama. [Spike Lee] has a very inspiring story."  
Steve Geffrard, freshman business administration major

"Joe Mauer [Minnesota Twins player], I believe he's an inspirational figure as well as a persuasive speaker."  
Arlene Campos, freshman legal studies major

"Jim Carrey. A very funny person. He's an epic comedian. Who doesn't know Jim Carrey?"  
Marco Baer, freshman criminal justice major

"Shakira because she is a singer. She works with UNICEF and is also a minority. She is a good speaker who has good communicational skills."  
Claudia Santamaria, second-year nursing student

"I'm not sure, I think everyone is an idiot right now."  
Irina Cossio, senior psychology major

On the Scene

Opinions

Reality star speaks at university

School needs a dose of reality

Written by:
Samantha Harfenist

On March 31, Rutgers University had Nicole Polizzi, aka Snooki, from the cast of "Jersey Shore" speak to students at a packed auditorium. That in itself is disheartening enough, but what's truly nauseating is the fact that the notable school paid the reality star $32,000 to speak to its students with Snooki. The university paid the reality star a sickening $32,000 to speak to two shows. During the no-doubt-packed auditorium, Snooki shared that she's not a Nobel Prize winner. She just gets paid more than one. Snooki claimed that she wanted to write her novel because, "I'm smart." You write a novel because you're inspired, because you want to inspire others. You don't pen a novel to prove something to people. If you want to show the public that you're intelligent, Snooki, act like it. Don't get arrested for disturbing the peace and have the judge call you a "Lindsay Lohan wannabe." I'm very proud to say that NSU has never stooped so low. We've had incredibly talented people lecture at our school in the Distinguished Speakers Series including Nobel Prize winners such as the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Dr. Philip Zimbardo are among the many others who have been inspiring leaders and professionals in their fields. These are the types of people who should be speaking to our society's future. Speakers at a university represent what a school stands for, what the school hopes to impart on its students. I'm not sure what Rutgers is trying to say to its students with Snooki. The best they can hope for is that you don't have to be talented to be famous. Just promiscuous, plebeian and puerile. Never before has the term Distinguished Speakers meant so much to me. NSU really is extraordinary for the people it finds to speak to its students. We've had pioneers in several fields inform us about the intricacies in everything from the mind to the body to the soul and beyond.
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