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Features

‘Amaze-ing’ delights await you at this Gill Out gem

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

President Hanbury discusses hurricane relief, student concerns at town hall

By: Skyley Vanderveer
Multimedia Manager

Undergraduate Student Symposium open for 2018 applicants

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

Applications for participation in the 2018 Undergraduate Student Symposium (USS) are open for interested students in any discipline. This annual event was created 18 years ago by faculty to encourage undergraduate students to participate in research and showcase work they were doing outside the classroom. The USS is designed for students of all majors and disciplines and offers a variety of mediums to present their work.

Don Rosenblum, dean of Farquhar Honors College, said, “Students can present research through an oral presentation, through a poster ... a paper they’ve written. The film festival is the third dimension of that. As part of the symposium we recognize student scholarship in the arts and other fields. Any kind of knowledge in any of these disciplines is celebrated.”

According to Rosenblum, as students present their research, they often interact and make connections with professors, and create new relationships for possible future mentors and internships. Keerthi Thallapureddy, senior biology major in Farquhar Honors College, has participated in USS for the past two years and gained experience outside the classroom through this unique opportunity.

Thallapureddy said, “For me, I participated in [USS] when I was a freshman and a professor who attended reached out to me in class the following year. She recommended [I] apply to a summer research program at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Because of the symposium, I was able to apply to the program and I learned a lot while I was there. It prepared me for another presentation at MD Anderson. It helped me learn how to build confidence and learn how to translate your research to a wider audience and that’s exactly what the symposium does.”

Rosenblum added, “The experience at USS is often a precursor to an interview for medical school or an interview for graduate studies. It builds a sense of confidence and [students] learn to articulate succinctly, which is an incredible skill.”

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Part of the application process involves completion of CITI training, which is important to the research process, especially when involving human subjects. The CITI training program is built to protect and demonstrate that research has followed the permissions and adequate protocols required for accurate and verifiable research.

“Part of USS is to showcase what they are doing in their research, but it’s also to teach them how to be researchers,” Rosenblum said. “These protocols are used to protect how this research is done.”

This year’s keynote speaker is Daniel Dawes, a health policy lawyer. Dawes will speak about his experiences in the field and in college as he was once an undergraduate at NSU.

The symposium will be held on April 6 in the Alvin Sherman Library. All student and faculty are welcome to attend and experience this opportunity to learn about research and other works that students have been involved in.
Thirteen children freed after being held captive by their parents

According to BBC News, 13 siblings from ages two to 29 were found in their home in Perris, California after police got a 911 call from one of the victims, saying her parents were holding her 12 siblings captive at home. When police arrived at the house, they found “several children shackled to their beds with chains and padlocks in dark and foul-smelling surroundings.” Police were shocked when they realized seven of the children were adults, ranging in age from 18 to 29. The victims’ parents were arrested and charged with multiple charges of torture and child endangerment. The parents have plead not guilty and face up to life in prison if convicted.

Bannon to interview with special counsel regarding the Russia investigation

According to CNN, Steve Bannon made a deal with special counsel Robert Mueller’s team that he will be interviewed by prosecutors instead of testifying before a grand jury. He is expected to cooperate. The date for the interview is not yet known.

Have a Hand in Student MEDIA!

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

Editorials, commentaries and advertisements in this publication reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or its officials. The Current staff or other advertisers. The Current will not publish unsigned letters except under special circumstances at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. The Current reserves the right to edit.

Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributing writers must be meaningful and of interest to the NSU community. The Current reserves the right to edit, publish or deny submitted works as it sees fit. The Current shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

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Second Town Hall Meeting to be held Jan. 30

President George Hanbury will host the Davie Fort Lauderdale campus’ second Town Hall meeting for students on Jan. 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Flight Deck. This comes after a meeting in HPD Assembly Building on Jan. 18. A new aspect to the Town Hall meetings is that they are being streamed for students to watch remotely. A Town Hall meeting will also take place on each regional campus, beginning on Jan. 24 on the Miami Campus. Students are encouraged to RSVP and submit their questions ahead of time by going to nova.edu/townhall.

Alvin Sherman Library hosts third annual Power Publishing Day

The Alvin Sherman Library will host its third annual Power Publishing Day on Jan. 25 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for individuals interested in learning about the requirements for academic publishing. This event is open to NSU faculty, students and alumni, as well as the public. Registration is required for the event and can be attended in person or online. To register or for more information visit lib.nov.edu/powerpub.

Chinese Performing Arts Group, CASEC, performs at NSU to celebrate Chinese New Year

The Chinese Performing Arts Group, CASEC, will perform on Jan. 28 in the performance theater in the Don Taft University Center from 2-3:30 p.m. in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Presented by the Alvin Sherman Library, this event is free and open to the public. To register, call 954-262-5477.

Office of Career Development presents students with free Portfolium access

The Office of Career Development kicked off January by offering an online portfolio platform called Portfolium. Students were offered a link to create their account and have access to a free-for-life digital portfolio to customize. For more information contact the Office of Career Development at 954-262-7001 or career@nova.edu.

Map collection featured at NSU gives audience a glimpse into history

By: Madelynn Rinka

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 6-9 p.m., the public is invited to attend a presentation by Neal Ashbury regarding his collection of maps on display at NSU’s Coralia Gallery in the Alvin Sherman Library. The exhibit, titled “The Discovery of the Americas and the Establishment of the United States: A Selection from the Ashbury Family Map Collection,” has been showcased in the Coralia Gallery since October and will continue until the end of January. Over 100 maps from the 1400’s forward, illustrations and cartographers star maps are featured from the personal collection of Ashbury, chief executive of The Legacy Company. NSU is the first institution to host these works.

Ashbury began collecting maps to showcase their value in the art and entrepreneurial world. As a former music student and current successful international businessman and chief executive, he aims to use this showcase as a way to show the public that maps do more than just give direction. Past rumors about the lost city of El Dorado, the island of California and the rampant plagiarism of maps are all addressed in the collection.

According to Ashbury, the exhibit’s purpose is to show the audience that maps can be seen as a gateway into history. Many of Ashbury’s maps include a detail known as a “cartouche,” which is a decorative element that can depict a variety of things, from the map’s title, religious symbolism or hints as to what society was like at the creation of the cartography. “Nova Virginiae Tabula,” created by Willem Janszoon Blaeu, a famous cartographer, based off of details provided by John Smith, depicts the council at which Smith was condemned to death in the corner of the map. This particular map shows the organization of a specific Native American government in 1640, but many others in the exhibit display a variety of scenes with historical significance.

On top of the stories behind the maps, the showcase also presents the detailed ways in which cartographers made the images. The earlier maps in the collection were done by wood blocks with carved reliefs, ink and handmade paper, until more refined, detailed copper plates were used.

“The wood you wouldn't get as many impressions before that wood block would be destroyed, or had to be very much redone, but with copper, you could get a hundred impressions,” explained Ashbury. “At the time, a hundred impressions of something was really, really incredible.”

Before the presentation, a reception will be held from 6-7 p.m. Wine, beverages and a selection of cheeses will be served. During his lecture, attendees can expect to hear stories of specific maps, map making techniques and other interesting anecdotes about the collection. The gallery is free and open to the public, and can be viewed outside the lecture. Those interested in attending can RSVP at sherman.library.nova.edu/site/spotlight/event/ashbury-lecture-262-7201 or career@nova.edu.

Greek Week to foster teamwork among organizations

By: Diego Galvez

NSU’s annual Greek Week will take place from Feb. 12-16. Greek Week is a celebration of the values, traditions and unity of NSU’s Greek life through a series of events that demonstrate these principles as well as the chance for Greek life to come together.

Greek Week is an opportunity for the councils to interact with each other, which, according to McGeeley Brick, president of the Panhellenic Council and Unified Greek Council — will be in charge of planning the rest of the days and activities, which include a Greek BBQ, all Greek picture, Banner Competition, Brainbowl, Olympic Games, Alumni Mixer and Greek Life Sync as a Relay for Life.

This year, the presidents of each council are the board of Greek Week, and each fraternity, sorority and UTC will have the opportunity to participate on committees.

“All are the heads of [Greek Week] and every organization gets to bring their own members to work on it,” Brick said.

Organizations from each of the councils will be divided into three teams so members and councils interact and work together as one, instead of against each other. The teams will be: the bright orange team, composed by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Phi Sigma Sigma; the bright pink team composed of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Delta Tau; and finally, the bright yellow team composed of Beta Theta Pi, Delta Phi Epsilon, Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. The goal is to have the other two teams through a point-based system to then win an undisclosed prize.

The number of brothers and sisters that participate will also differ. This year, Sigma Delta Tau has seen growth in the number of potential new members. Last year they had 25 new members, while this year they took 30 for formal recruitment and are expected to add more through their informal recruitment later this semester. Other organizations are also expected to add new members in the winter.

All NSU students are welcome to participate in Greek Week, regardless of whether they are involved in Greek life. To view the schedule of events, visit nova.edu/greeklife/greekweek/index.html.

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There are many benefits of belonging to one or more clubs. NSU is home to many clubs and organizations and each one of them has a different goal with varying focuses; some cultural, others athletic, environmentally driven or community service oriented. Being a member at NSU gives you the opportunity to join more than 100 on-campus clubs and organizations, so why wouldn’t we take advantage of it?

**Strengthens your soft skills**

Participating in clubs can give you many benefits, starting with soft skills, also known as people skills. According to the Huffington Post, clubs give you the opportunity to make friends and test your attitude, communication skills and even your work ethic. Additionally, as a club member you will generally reach out to people that you don’t know to announce activities and recruit new members.

Meet new people

Another benefit is the opportunity to engage with people from different age groups, majors and ethnicities. Celina Mahabir, public relations chair for Rotaract and vice president for Nova International Relations Association, said that getting to know other people’s backgrounds will help you gain knowledge in different cultures and traditions, and even places you didn’t know about.

“Joining clubs is important because it teaches you to look at the people around you as companions rather than competition,” said Mahabir. “Regardless of their position, you have to see them as equals within your organization and respect them.”

Find a fresh outlet

Many people have strong passions, be it dancing, learning about different cultures, Model UN or community service. With all the organizations and clubs on campus at NSU it is easy to find one that is perfect for you. Aside from studying, you can find an outlet through a club and get to have fun doing what you love with people who share that passion. So, even though studying is the main reason why we are here, breaking from it is also very beneficial. Taking a break every once in a while gives your body and your brain some time to relax. Clubs tend to have many activities and meetings which could be one of the best ways to take a break; hanging out with like-minded people and even learning from them.

NSU’s Latin American Student Association president, Oritana Lopez, believes that joining clubs is the best way for students to get involved on campus. “It allows you to do fun activities on campus that [match] your interests,” said Lopez.

**Why joining clubs is important**

By: Bianca Galan
Contributing Writer

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**Club Spotlight: Undergraduate Economics and Finance Association**

By: Michaela Greer
Co-Editor-in-Chief

With the introduction of their innovative faculty lecture series, consistency and devotion to educating the NSU community on all aspects of business and the Undergraduate Economics and Finance Association (UEFA) was named the Registered Student Organization (RSO) for both November and December.

The organization prides itself on its commitment to assisting all students in strengthening their professional and financial literacy skills. NSU UEFA President Sadia Khan believes that much of the club’s success comes from the understanding that UEFA is all about catering to the needs of each student, regardless of their degree of study.

“Membership is definitely not exclusive to just finance majors, or even business students for that matter; anyone can join,” said Khan. “A large portion of our members are actually biology majors, including our treasurer, Afirn.”

In fact, Khan added that the organization is so student-centered that they encourage their members to pitch ideas for events on the basis of their needs.

“We are more than open to adding on more events based on what members want, whether it’s networking events or resume building or anything in between,” said Khan.

Khan insists that it was with the same determination to meet the needs of every student that the faculty lecture series was created. For these sessions, NSU faculty members are invited to meet with the student body for lunch to discuss the area of business which they specialize in.

“It’s a great way to engage with your peers and professors outside of ordinary class lectures,” said Khan. “We have a few of these coming up in the semester, so that’s definitely something to look forward to.”

In addition to the faculty lecture series, the members of UEFA host alternative events at least once a month. This semester, UEFA hopes to co-host future events with other student organizations to promote collaboration and community involvement.

To learn more about UEFA’s events, meetings and faculty lecture series, visit the organization’s page on Orgsync or contact Sadia Khan at sk230@nova.edu to be added to the UEFA mailing list.

**The significance of Braille Literacy Month**

By: Diego Galvez
Sports Editor

January is the month we celebrate Braille Literacy Month in honor of Louis Braille, the creator of the braille code. According to pathbility.org, Braille was born on Jan. 4, 1809 and created the braille code almost 200 years ago.

The braille code, a system based in raised dots which the reader runs their fingers over, allows visually impaired people to read texts all over the world. Over the years, the system has helped millions of people with visual disabilities. However, with the rise of technology, like computers and touchscreens, people with visual impairments who use the braille code face various challenges.

In a world moving toward technological advancements, many researchers believe that those who rely on the braille code will have a hard time keeping up with the new technology. However, according to the American Foundation for the Blind, researchers have developed and are still developing various ways to adapt the braille code to a new way of reading, learning and getting information. One of the most useful solutions that almost every new technological device is equipped with is a compensated function that dictates speech. According to The New York Times, this new method has sparked debate over whether or not braille code would become a thing of the past. However, braille has evolved alongside technology. Many devices, such as smartphones and computers, can be customized with add-ons that add braille functionality to it.

In addition, according to the American Foundation of the Blind, the United States has made more of an effort to help the visually impaired in the last few years. BBC News reported that there have been new regulations for braille inclusion in medicine, packages, menus and products, including grocery items.

NSU has signage in braille in its elevators and rooms on campus as well as resources for the visually impaired. NSU’s Student Disabilities Services works to accommodate students with disabilities to make their experience at NSU as smooth as possible.

This service is personalized for every student, and accommodations vary from braille books to braille keyboards.

“We work with the students to provide them reasonable accommodations either in the classroom setting or in the testing setting,” said Jennifer Wilson, director of the Student Disabilities Center, located on NSU’s Davie/ Fort Lauderdale campus in the Rosenthal Student Building, suite 121.

According to the Student Disabilities Center, The Florida Council of the Blind announced that they will have four scholarship opportunities, totaling $4,000, offered to exemplary students who are enrolled in academic education, professional or technical training beyond the high school level who meet the requirements for each scholarship.

For more information about the scholarship program and how to apply, contact Shelisa Young at shelisayoung125@juniorth.net or by phone at 407-425-0300.

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**Features**

January 23, 2018 | nsucurrent.nova.edu
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Tutoring and Testing Center.

We’re busy. We have school, and work...  

RadioX is now streaming online every night from 6pm to Midnight!
Self-proclaimed 15 member “boy band,” BROCKHAMPTON, has exploded in exposure and popularity over the course of just one year. The project is headed up by alternative hip-hop personality Kevin Abstract and features a wide berth of young emerging talent, both in terms of lyrical prowess and gripping production. Despite releasing their debut mixtape “All-American Scum” in March of 2016, 2017 is the year where BROCKHAMPTON really began to shine. In just one calendar year the troupe released a ridiculous amount of content in the form of their SATURATION trilogy, a collection of three full length studio albums. The ultimate record in the trilogy, “SATURATION III,” released to critical acclaim on Dec. 15. Not only has each SATURATION album marked the general improvements that the group has made in their musical consistency and themes, but they also mark the improving confidence and talent of each of its stars. SATURATION III is a shining gem in the alternative hip-hop genre and represents the boys of BROCKHAMPTON giving the world the best representation of their potential yet.

Best Cuts
The record has a perfectly handled start with the explosive and energetic intro track BOOGIE. The track wastes no time with any form of buildup and instead instantly bombards the listener with funky saxophone fills, high pitched police sirens and a deep growling synth baseline that perfectly backs up the energetic lyrical flows. While the actual lyrical content here doesn’t necessarily make any big points, it is necessary for it to do so as this intro track serves to introduce the main rappers of the group and their individual styles. The hooks presented by Kevin Abstract paint a clear picture of his pride in who he is and dismisses all the challenges thrown at him because of his personal interests and sexual orientation. Matt Champion brings his usual charismatic and confessional flair. The smooth flows of Ameer and Dom have short and sweet appearances at just the right points. Merlyn brings his goofy and over the top vocal inflections. And Joba, well, Joba just goes crazy as usual.

What follows this introduction to the record is a collection of extremely solid tracks that all bring some pretty gripping production and lyrical quality. A good example of this is the cut “JOHNNY” which is a more somber, introspective track that delves into the personal struggles of each of the vocalists. The instrumental is emotional and densely layered with lots of interesting, little components. The tracks begin with slightly synthesized strings and some dull and hollow percussion. This then blossoms into the main melody driven by some solemn piano chords, noir-like trumpet fills, wood block percussion and some very subtle record scratches. The bittersweet tone this instrumental creates perfectly backs up the lyrical content from each of the rappers ranging from Joba’s self-deprecation over his history as an ungrateful son and a drug addict to Matt Champion’s retrospective look at how his life could have gone so much worse for him if he didn’t have the support of his family to get him back on the right path.

A Stellar cut off the second half of the record is “BLEACH.” The instrumental on this track is deep, punchy, distorted and strange. It uses some heavily modulated electronic synth chords, a ranting baseline and some wavy and ethereal guitar notes. The flows from each of the boys on this track are equally otherworldly with each one of them somberly delivering lines about their own personal demons that are holding them back or otherwise causing them to have conflicting emotions about their lives. As one of the most emotional tracks on the record, it is also one of the most memorable and the hook has some of the most staying power out of all of BROCKHAMPTON’s discography.

BROCKHAMPTON is a brand-new name on the scene, even if the release of their third studio project might suggest otherwise. In just a year the group has managed to consistently pump out high quality projects that just keep improving and “SATURATION III” is a testament to just how much potential these young men have. With the group already making plans to release their fourth studio album “TEAM EFFORT” in 2018, it is evident that they have no intentions of slowing their roll. It remains to be seen whether they can continue to build steam, but with the SATURATION trilogy under their belts, it is very highly likely that they will continue to release quality content throughout 2018 as well.

OTHER GREAT CUTS
STUPID; HOTTIE; ZIPPER
Res Life just became easy as pie

By: Christina Melaughlin
Online Editor

January 23 is National Pie day, a day steeped in tradition since the early ‘80s to celebrate the coming together of family and friends and most importantly, to make some great-tasting pie. This year, why not give these easy, quick and easy recipes a try?

Mug Pies
Adapted from Gemma’s Bigger Bolder Baking

Ingredients:
2 small bowls
1 ceramic mug
3 tablespoons melted butter
1 packet Quaker Instant Oatmeal (Maple & Cinnamon for an added touch)
2 tablespoons all purpose flour
1/2 cup of desired fruit, chopped fine
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/4 tablespoon cinnamon
1/2 tablespoon of sugar and 1/4 tablespoon of cinnamon. Mix until the ingredients are distributed evenly. Now take the topping and spread it on top of the fruit. Microwave for 2 -1/2 minutes. There will be a lot of steam, so just let it cool off for a few minutes. Feel free to add whipped cream, ice cream or any other toppings. Enjoy.

Ice Cube Pie Nuggets
Adapted from Twisted Food.com

Ingredients:
Choice of fruit decent size
3 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 1/2 teaspoon cornstarch
Ready Made Pie Crust
1 egg wash (1 egg whisked well with 1 part water)

Ice cube tray
Preheat a toaster oven to 390 F. In a bowl, mix the fruit, brown sugar, cornstarch and cinnamon. Lay a layer of pie crust on top of the ice cube tray, leaving room for the crust pieces, where you will place the filling. Fill each well of the tray with your fruit filling, brush the edges with egg wash and top it off with another layer of pie crust. Seal the edges and flip the tray over gently to release your pie forms. Cut around each nugget leaving a little room for crust. Brush each nugget with egg wash and sprinkle some sugar on top (if desired). Bake for 25-30 minutes. Serve these bite sized treats with some caramel dipping sauce, ice cream or whipped cream for a little extra treat. Enjoy.

Bull Market Bar + Kitchen really delivers – no bull!

Located in the heart of Himmarshee Village in downtown Fort Lauderdale, Bull Market Bar + Kitchen has garnered a reputation as one of the city’s “it” locations. Voted as “Best Happy Hour,” “Best Bar” and “Best Brunch” in the New Times yearly awards, I had high expectations when eating at Bull Market for the first time. Thankfully, I was not disappointed — not even close.

First things first, Bull Market offers a friendly atmosphere for patrons to enjoy. I went on a Thursday evening and encountered a happy environment that I didn’t feel was too crowded or empty. There was plenty of traffic around and I felt welcomed by the staff and management. Part of that may be attributed to the specials Bull Market runs every weekend. On Thursdays, the bar offers trivia at 8 p.m. and karaoke at 10 p.m. Ladies, of legal age, also drink for free after 10 p.m. on Thursdays. They also run specials on food, like their “Monday Funday” special which includes $5 mac and cheese.

Speaking of food, I see why Bull Market is being honored. I had their apple cider bacon mac and cheese, which was not only filling, but a mouthwatering experience for my taste buds. My friend decided to order a burger and said it was great. What surprised both of us? Their apple cider bacon apple dessert, which was delicious. For more information about their specials, you can go to bullmarketbar.com.

Bull Market Bar + Kitchen
210 SW 2nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Open: Monday-Friday @ 4 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday @ 11 a.m.

Cirque de Soleil
Jan. 24 | 8 p.m.
@Hard Rock Stadium

Brockhampton
Jan. 25 | 7 p.m.
@Revolution Live

Frank Stellas: Experiment and Change
Jan. 27 | 11 a.m.
@NSU Art Museum

Changing Lanes
Jan. 28 | 10 p.m.
@Aventura Arts and Cultural Center

The Country Doctor
Jan. 30 | 7:30 p.m.
@Palm Beach Improv

Comrades Editor

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM G. MELAUGHLIN
All you need is a microwave some simple ingredients and 15 minutes to make your own pie creations.

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. RINKA
Using a ready made pie crust, or pie crust they have shown you how, if you put an egg wash around your eyes, can help brighten your face and create a well rested appearance.

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. RINKA
Focusing on one part of your face, like a bomb lip color, can help make a morning where you were short on time look like one where you slept on your face.

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. RINKA
Have a go-to look? Try practicing something you’ve always wanted to work, so when the time comes, you can bust out a wicked smokey eye in a few quick swipes. Brush on some mascara, swipe on some gloss and head out the door!

All you need is a microwave some simple ingredients and 15 minutes to make your own pie creations.
ON DECK

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. Lynn
Jan. 24 | 5:30 p.m.
Rick Case Arena

@Tampa
Jan. 27 | 2 p.m.
Tampa, Fla.

MEN’S BASEBALL
vs. Lynn
Jan. 24 | 7:30 p.m.
Rick Case Arena

@Tampa
Jan. 27 | 4 p.m.
Tampa, Fla.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIMMING
vs. Keiser
Jan. 27 | 11 a.m.
NSU Aquatic Complex

Instant Replay v. The Game
By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

Larry Nassar’s victims recount sexual assault in court hearing
On Jan. 16, Larry Nassar sat in court as his ex-patients addressed him and recounted incidents where the former Olympic sports doctor had sexually abused them. According to CNN, Nassar, who has already been sentenced to 60 years in prison for child pornography charges, may be sentenced to up to 120 years if convicted on sexual assault charges filed by more than 100 women. Among his accusers are Olympians Aly Raisman, Simone Biles, Gabby Douglas, McKayla Maroney and Jordyn Wieber.

Colin Kaepernick to complete $1 million charitable pledge
According to the NFL rulebook, a catch qualifies when the catcher gains control of the ball in his hands and maintains control with both feet remaining in bounds. When a ball is thrown, aerodynamically, there will be a lot of energy released. This can cause some bobbing and loss of control once it is caught, especially if you are in motion or being tackled. Each catch is now roughly analyzed by these parameters to determine a clear catch. Making a rule this strict takes away the fun from the game. Sports are supposed to be fast-paced and require a lot of energy and strength. When you slow it down and analyze every motion, not only is it slowing down the game, but it takes away from its true purpose.

There are some other sports like soccer which use instant replays as an effective method for checking the accuracy of completed goals. In English Premier League football, they use replay technology on the goal lines to clear up confusion on a complete or incomplete goal. With this use, the game can maintain its speed and strength while increasing the accuracy of calls. Not every aspect of the instant replay tool is bad; when it is used properly, it’s great and helps the game. However, here’s where the problem lies: when it’s used to confirm technicalities, it adds unnecessary length to gameplay and forces officials to be the star of the game instead of the players. Here’s where the problem lies.

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In an announcement made on Nov. 20 by NSU’s Director of Athletics, Michael Mominey, he discussed the reorganization of the Sharks athletic department, which included promotions for five employees. Mominey said that the decision was made after looking through the department’s organization and focusing on what could benefit student athletes the most.

“The driving force behind the reorganization was growth. We continue to grow as an athletic department and that also involves personnel…” Mominey stated, adding, “it was a product of growth and change personnel change and growth in the department.” Changes are still being made internally, with the goal of helping student athletes in and outside the field improve their performance in their respective sports, as well as improve their GPAs, with the help of a full-time student athlete advisor. The department also created new positions, including a full-time business manager and a full-time assistant athletic director for compliance and rules education. This person oversees the athletic department’s compliance with NCAA rules.

“You always want to be forward thinking because you don’t want to get stale,” Mominey added, showing his support for the reorganization of the department.

Mominey thinks that the change gives students the chance to improve in both their academic and their athletic endeavors, while employees get the opportunity to move up in the department, which provides more responsibility as well as new faces.

Angie Jahis is one of those new faces, and was hired as the department’s new Associate Athletic Director. She comes from the University of Dayton.

So far, students and staff have received the reorganization with acceptance, and Mominey feels that they can see the benefits this change has brought to them now and moving forward. Mominey said the key to measuring the success of this program is “finding the right people for those positions.”

“It’s really exciting to see the university growing, especially at the undergraduate level because it’s the one that most affects us,” said Mominey. “There are more students at the games… especially for soccer.”

New programs are being discussed for the athletics department in the next three to five years, with facilities being renovated or built. NSU Athletics has a lot in store for the upcoming years, though Mominey said those plans are confidential, as NSU carries out more plans to increase its student body and school spirit.

“I hope those students and faculty out there that are reading this come out and support your athletic program. Come and support your Sharks,” Mominey said.
Andy the shark is breaking more records

By: Madelyn Rinka
News Editor

Andy, a tiger shark tagged by NSU researchers in Bermuda, is gaining a new kind of following. Since 2014, scientists at the Guy Harvey Research Institute have been tracking Andy’s path — making him the longest tracked tiger shark on record. With all these travels under his belt, it only makes sense that he’d want to share his adventures with the world.

Followers of Andy’s Instagram, @tigersharktravels, have fallen in love with his picturesque underwater photography of Bahamian beaches and scenic spots in Turks and Caicos — all taken by the shark himself. “He takes, edits and posts every single picture on his feed,” said Mack O’Relle, Andy’s agent since his big media breakout in 2015. “He’s truly talented — to assume that someone else is doing all this work for him is ridiculous and false.”

All his effort has won Andy the title of “Most Followed Travel Account of 2017” on Instagram. With over a million followers across all social media platforms, like Twitter, Tumbir and Sharkspage, it’s easy to see why the tiger shark has rightfully received this crown. Travel websites like Bite Flights,6 Chumcations and Cannivore Cruises have even reported heightened sales on package deals after Andy travels to a new location, and economies in these countries are booming.

“His Instagram is just really inspiring,” said 23-year-old Rick Tides, a recent college graduate. “He’s the reason my buddies and I decided to quit our jobs, buy a hack and live off our savings accounts to travel the world.”

On top of his iconic travels, his photography skills are getting comments from professionals worldwide. Because Andy is a shark, he’s able to dive to depths most human photographers can’t.

His captivating snaps include glowing algae, translucent fish and mysterious creatures. He’s even been credited with the discovery of the Silver Nova Eel on one of his recent expeditions.

Others are praising him for his unique artistic eye. The vibrant colors, glossy landscapes and roaring waves featured in his images are certainly reason for envy.

“He’s got such an amazing eye for aesthetic,” said tween Angelic Fisch. “I know he must use VSCO cam — maybe like A6 or C1? I’m also pretty sure he uses, like, Facetune for some of his selfies — but I’m not accusing him of anything, of course. His feed is just such goals, honestly.”

Andy’s travels are far from over. He promised he’d be travelling somewhere “sigt” in the next coming weeks. Be sure to follow @tigersharktravels if you want to keep up with Andy’s amazing adventure.

Hollywood needs diversity

By: Monique Cole
Contributing Writer

Diversity is coming, but not fast enough. Hollywood needs to recognize that the world is diverse and our diverse groups of people should be represented in movies and television shows.

According to a 2016 study conducted by the University of Southern California, “Across the 11,306 speaking characters evaluated, 66.5 percent were male and 33.5 percent were female — 28.3 percent of all speaking characters were from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups,” in regards to prevalence on screen.

Why diversity is important

Diversity is something that allows audiences to see people just like themselves. According to an article from the New York Times, one of the things that younger viewers want to see on TV is authenticity. Adding in people of different ethnicities, disabilities and sexualities allows people of these various groups to feel represented. It also adds another layer of realism, because real life isn’t just comprised of a bunch of white males.

Diversity can help increase awareness and understanding

This year, Disney will be featuring a LGBTQ+ main character on their TV show “Andi Mack.” While Disney has sprinkled LGBTQ+ characters in other entertainment projects, this is the first time one will be a main character. Showcasing diversity in TV shows or movies is important. It allows audiences to see different scenarios faced by various groups, and how the characters handle the problem. When done in a tactful manner, it might even increase awareness and understanding of certain issues each group encounters.

Portrait is part of diversity

According to the same study by the University of Southern California, females are more likely to be sexualized by men. Group stereotypes portrayed in popular TV shows and movies are nothing new: the minority character is the funny best friend, the black guy is the first one to die, and women can’t talk about anything but men. Characters from different backgrounds shouldn’t be just added to be overshadowed by the typical stereotypes that plague them.

To put this into perspective, audiences can conduct the Bechdel Test. This test was created by Alison Bechdel, and was developed for audiences to help assess how women are presented in movies. For a movie to pass the test, it must pass three tests. The movie must consist of two or more women, the women must talk to each other, and when the women talk, it can’t be about a man. A whole website has been made where people can post and see the results of movies that have passed this test.

It should be done for the right reason

Studios shouldn’t just throw in a bunch of different characters with the hope of being considered “diverse” or “different.” They also shouldn’t just do it to win something during award season. Real change is going to take time, and it is going to require Hollywood to get a facelift in the hiring department. It’s more than having a diverse set of actors, it’s also about having diverse writers, directors and producers.

And it is paying off with shows like “Jane the Virgin,” “black-ish,” “The Mindy Project,” and “Modern Family.” It also leaves room for movies like “Moonlight,” which shined bright during award season and received high ratings.

What if we believed women the first time?

What if we believed women the first time? Ever since Eve allegedly handed over the forbidden fruit to Adam, disbelieving women seems to have become a universal policy. Denial is at the root of today’s society, with many people thinking that men have a more believable innate nature. Although one of the basic goals of feminism is to believe women, it seems to be almost impossible.

Why? According to a blogpost on Huffington Post, “The belief that women aren’t trustworthy stems from feelings. Some people believe that women tend to overreact and embellish stories in their day to day conversations, and assume that women aren’t trustworthy. But that just doesn’t make sense. I mean, come on, how many times have you heard a guy exaggerate the size of a fish he caught or embellish an action he did?”

What’s worse? When going on with now sexual assault cases, street harassment and workplace harassments, this theory of over embellishing is made no sense. If that were the case, that would mean there are thousands of women around the world exaggerating or making up stories, which is highly unlikely. It took doors of women to come out for us to finally believe that Bill Cosby was assaulting women, and the same happened when other male celebrities were accused.

Society should not pick and choose which feminists value to align with. It’s either you want women to be respected and seen in the same light as men or you don’t. As such, all allegations of rape, sexual harassment and assault should be carefully weighed and investigated.
I don't watch the Grammys, here's why

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

This year it is the 60th Annual Grammy Awards and we all know what that means. Good music of the year won't get recognized, all genres won’t be represented and we will yet again question the motives of the Recording Academy and their nomination and selection process.

It’s not only the public opinion of the awards that’s changing, it’s the industry too. Kanye West, Frank Ocean, Will Smith and Lyor Cohen are a few people who have boycotted the Grammys in the past due to unfair voting regulations and the unbalanced categories represented in the telecast.

This whole issue starts with the nomination process; record companies and Recording Academy members enter submissions which they personally deem as worthy into the Grammy Award process if the work fits within the time of eligibility. The eligibility timeframe for this year’s Grammy Awards is from Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017. It makes sense that it takes a little time for the academy to calculate the votes, but shouldn’t it be considered the Awards of 2017 and not of 2016? This year just started and it doesn’t make sense that it should be called the “Album of the Year” the year after it was released.

Once the submissions are sent and reviewed, they are then put through a selection of first-round ballots. The voters that select these first round hallers are experts in their fields in the music world. According to the Grammy’s website, “Recording Academy voting members are professionals with creative or technical credits on at least six commercially released tracks.” But in today’s age anyone can release music digitally with Soundcloud and Spotify. How can they differentiate who is qualified to be a Recording Academy member and how can their opinion on music in any genre be considered valuable? Well, to be a member, you need to pay membership fees and measure up to their guidelines, which are vaguely outlined on their website. So as far as I can tell, as long as you have money and release music regardless of its response, then you can be accepted into the academy. Additionally, all voting members are also eligible to vote in any awards cycle, even if they participated in works of that cycle. Basically, that means they can vote for their own work, which defeats the point of the voting system.

Other than the Grammys being biased in voting, it is also biased in representation. During the telecast, live performances are the forefront, not the actual awards which the show based on. This year, there will be 15 performers, each contributing a few songs. Not only does this make the telecast longer, but it takes away from the awards. This is why you don’t hear who won from a majority of their 84 categories. They usually plan to present only the general, pop, rb & rap categories with maybe a lyrical, theatre or rock category thrown in but not at all evenly. The Grammy’s are considered “music’s biggest night” but how could that be with a biased voting system favoring the popular and underrepresenting some of the largest music genres of today?

We, the people, want to know how low Trump can really go

By: Michaela Greer
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It’s astounding that Trump has been able to remain in office for this long. In fact, Jan. 20, marked one year since the billionaire-turned-politician had assumed office. Since Trump’s inauguration, the world has been watching the events unfold in Washington D.C. with amusement, confusion, but mostly disgust. In fact, according to a Jan. 14 Gallup report, 57 percent of Americans disapprove of the job that the president has been doing. So, exactly how low will we allow him to go before some action is taken to remove him from office?

Throughout the 2016 presidential election, many scoffed at the idea that a billionaire-turned-politician who had been accused of sexual assault could even potentially assume the role of the president. The public’s disgust grew as footage and audio surfaced of the presidential-hopeful brushing off the allegations. After all, why wouldn’t anyone understand that “grab ‘em by the [genitalia]!” was simply standard locker-room talk? Imagine that newspapers like this one even print a statement made by our president because of the nature of the words used. Is it really acceptable that our nation’s children can’t even listen to our leader, someone who scores of influencers tell them that they can aspire to be like, without the use of some parental controls to block out profanity, sexual innuendos and other filth?

Further, Trump has gone out of his way to prove, time and time again, that he is repulsed by the idea of minority peoples living in America. Since he decided to run for office, Trump has been insistent on building a wall bordering Mexico and the U.S. At first the public was told not to worry about the cost because he would ensure that the Mexican government pay for the construction. Later when we learned that Mexico, shockingly, refused to do so, Americans were told that it would only cost taxpayers $12 billion to build the wall — even though according to the Department of Homeland Security the actual cost would be around $21.6 billion excluding maintenance fees. But, that would really just be small peanuts assuming that we all have wealthy fathers to give us modest loans.

Still, if you happened to hold the belief that Trump was merely limiting minority access to the U.S. for security reasons, with a heavily-unsupported travel ban and talks of a giant “impenetrable, physical, tall, powerful, beautiful, impenetrable border wall,” his true intentions were made quite clear on Jan. 11. Because who else could spew such bigoted, hateful language like “shithole countries” at a bipartisan meeting, literally meant for the discussion of differing opinions?

It’s not enough to deride his comments. Quietly complaining about Trump’s leadership behind closed doors or through the digital vortex doesn’t really do very much. If the majority of Americans disagree with what’s happening in Washington D.C., then we shouldn’t need to rely on a poll to know this; we should be able to see that through the movement of the people. If you’re not taking action then you are part of the problem. So, again I ask, how much lower can Trump really go before he’s removed from office?
January 27, 2018 | nsucurrent.nova.edu

Visit www.nova.edu/leadmediaconference for more information and to register.

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