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NSU building a new research lab

By: Diego Galvez
Sports Editor

NSU’s Alvin Sherman Library will host its sixth annual StoryFest, formerly known as StoryWeek, on March 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is a celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday and features activities for the whole family. The event’s main focus is to promote family literacy and reading.

Sarah Divine, adult services librarian, stated, the goal StoryFest is to “encourage kids and families to read together, to enjoy stories and to make that connection between literacy and family time. It’s all about getting kids to read, making reading fun.”

According to Divine, the reason they changed the name of the event was because “we felt that we could expand the subjects, the characters and the experience that we could offer to kids. It was time to grow.”

However, activities will still center around Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Attendees can sing happy birthday and the Cat in the Hat will blow out the candles in honor of Dr. Seuss.

Unlike last year, this year’s event will take place not only in the library but in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center as well as the Don Taft University Center.

“We will have shows in the Miniaci theater and a variety of children entertainers, music, storytellers all around, and in the University Center we’ll have a guest children’s author that will be doing storytelling for children,” Leon stated.

The guest author will be local and award-winning author Lucia Gonzalez. She will present two of her books at the event as well as sign copies of her books.

“We are here to promote family literacy through all of those wonderful experiences for children [we’ll offer] whether in music or stories. They are having a growing opportunity in building their vocabulary and their hearing. It’s a great learning opportunity,” Leon added.

Those who wish to attend the event can expect a day full of fun activities such as storytellers, shows, face painting, activities outdoors, food and more.

The library has multiple sponsors for the event, one of those being the Erwin and Barbara Mautner Charitable Foundation. The foundation will provide books for children to pick up for free, which will be suitable for children of various reading levels.

“When kids arrive to the event, they get what is called the book back and they go to our book giveaway area where they trade their book back for any free book they would like,” Divine explained.

There will be over 30 books that kids will be able to choose from when trading their book back.

“Giving a book to a child is a wonderful gift and opens up a lot of learning opportunities for that child and it can be shared in the family,” Leon added.

For students who wish to volunteer, the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement is offering SERV hours.

MacNamara explained, “We got about 530 square feet, which includes the flooring, air vacuums, gas line, eyewash, shower station, etc. That’s what we are currently planning to do with space.”

Blanar explained that graduate students will also be able to use this space, and the type of research expected to be conducted will be organismal biology-focused.

“Our team has been working diligently to ensure on fast-tracking the project,” MacNamara stated. “We are currently waiting on the town of Davie to issue the permit (to start building the lab).”

Blanar added, “In my perspective it’s a great place. It’s on the ground floor which means that it will be really simple to wheel the samples that we have collected in the Everglades for example. It’s a really good setup.”

According to MacNamara, based on their current schedule and assuming that they get their permits as soon as possible, this new lab will be completed in about five to six weeks and will help double the research of professors as well as double the opportunities for undergraduates interested in research.
US Army honors students killed in Parkland school shooting

The U.S. Army honored medals of heroism to three students who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. The three students, Alyssa Alhadeff, Peter Wang and Martin Duque, were cadets at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School’s Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. According to CNN, Peter and Wang’s families were presented with medals at their funeral services and Duque’s family will be presented with his medal during a service on Sunday. The United States Military Academy at West Point announced on Thursday that Peter Wang was admitted to the academy’s class of 2025 for his heroism.

Students hold protests for safer schools

One week after the Parkland shooting, many students across the country held walkout protests for safer schools. Parkland survivors joined students from across the country in these protests. Florence Yende, a survivor of the shooting, said, “No longer can I walk the halls I walked a million times before without fear and sadness.” According to USA Today, Florida’s Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill last week that will allow teachers, police and others to carry guns in classrooms.

South Korea postpones talks with North Korea

South Korea has postponed talks with the North over the return of South Korean troops to the Joint Security Area, a border guard post that has been closed since 2018. This comes after the recent re-election of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has been vocal about the need for dialogue with North Korea. The talks were scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

Syrian government launches air strikes on rebel-held Eastern Ghouta

The Syrian government has launched air strikes on rebel-held Eastern Ghouta, a besieged region near the capital Damascus. The airstrikes have reportedly killed at least 40 civilians and are the latest in a series of attacks on the region in recent months. The situation in Eastern Ghouta is tense, with multiple armed groups battling for control.

Arranged marriage still practiced in many countries

Arranged marriage still practiced in many countries

According to a report by the BBC, arranged marriage continues to be practiced in many countries around the world. The report notes that the practice often involves parents or other family members arranging a marriage for their children, often without the consent or knowledge of the individuals involved.

In support of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, Feb. 26 - March 4, or NEDAW, the Renfrew Center Foundation in Miami has launched “The This is Me” social media campaign in an effort to show women that everybody and every body is acceptable. People should feel that way year round, according to Adrienne Ressler, vice president of professional development at the Renfrew Center Foundation. “This is Me” is designed to say “this is me, and I am okay.”

Adrienne Ressler, vice president of professional development at the Renfrew Center Foundation

The goal of “This is Me” is to help women treat only females for the time being, which has sparked the purpose behind the movement. “We’re seeing younger and younger populations and older and older women at both ends of the continuum develop eating disorders,” said Ressler. “Eating disorders are a risk for males, [but] women develop eating disorders at two to four times the rate of males.”

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. Editorialists, commentators 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.
Students are.

On Feb. 14, Cruz was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder. It set off an alarm, with an AR-15 rifle. Cruz fled the scene, and it was flagged and subsequently taken down. The Miami FBI field office was never told about Cruz’s possible threat.

On February 15, Cruz was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder. It was revealed that Cruz had been expelled for disciplinary reasons from the high school. He was described as troubled and often expressed violent thoughts. A neighbor said he believed he was diagnosed with autism. Cruz was adopted, and his mother died in November. Those close to Cruz said he took the loss hard.

President Trump addressed the nation in a speech about the shooting. In his speech, Trump expressed, “no child, no teacher, should ever be in danger in an American school. No parent should ever have to fear for their sons and daughters when they kiss them goodbye in the morning,” and that “we are committed to working with state and local leaders to help secure our schools, and tackle the difficult issue of mental health.”

It was revealed that a YouTube account and NSU’s mascot Razor the Shark will be in attendance. There will also be several art workshops, music performances, artists sketching in the cafe and cake. The goal of the celebration is to commemorate and look back on all that the art museum has achieved in 60 years.

“It has brought world class art to downtown Fort Lauderdale for the entire community to enjoy, and it has educated hundreds of thousands of children, teens and adults over the years,” said Clearwater.

“Bonnie Clearwater, director and chief curator of the NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, said, “The event is to celebrate the founders of the museum, and our history and the success that the museum has today. It’s for all ages, and it will be educational. We’ll have tours of the museum and its exhibitions. There’ll be fun, a giant birthday cake, a timeline showing the museum’s history since its founding in 1958.”

In addition, the Sharkeettes will perform by the username of “nikolas cruz” had left a comment saying “I’m going to be a professional school shooter” under a video. The comment was flagged and subsequently taken down. While the FBI was alerted to the comment, many members of the public were disappointed that it appears to have been taken lightly by the bureau. The Miami FBI field office was never told about Cruz’s possible threat.

Saturday, February 17 Emma Gonzalez, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school and survivor of the shooting, delivered a powerful speech about her thoughts on the second amendment. She mentioned other countries that have successful gun laws and called attention to lawmakers and politicians receiving money from the NRA — including President Trump’s $30 million.

Monday, February 19 The NSU community came together and held a vigil in honor of the lives lost and their grieving families. Speeches, poems and prayers were delivered at the vigil, including a message from Eden Hefron, a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

Tuesday, February 20 Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were in attendance when the Florida House voted down a motion to ban assault weapons like the AR-15 by 36-71. The bill will die unless the House votes to remove it from the assigned committees and allow it to be considered by the full House.

Wednesday, February 21 CNN held a town hall meeting with Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson, Representative Ted Deutch and NRA representative Dana Loesch. Among those who spoke were Emma Gonzalez, Fred Guttenberg, father of Jaime Guttenberg, a student who was killed in the shooting, and Cameron Kasky, another survivor. Some topics addressed were the money politicians received from the NRA, the validity of having rifles like the AR-15’s that have been used in two Florida shootings and the safety of children in schools.

Thursday, February 22 President Trump tweeted: “I will be strongly pushing Comprehensive Background Checks with an emphasis on Mental Health. Raise age to 21 and end sale of Bump Stocks! Congress is in a mood to finally do something on this issue—I hope!” Much of the talk about the shooting by politicians has been centered around the idea of mental health.

Friday, February 23 Teachers at the high school were allowed to return to their campus for the first time since the shooting. District officials say this optional work day was not for lesson plans, but rather for teachers to receive the support and counseling needed in the wake of the tragedy that occurred at their school, some of which took place in their own classrooms.

Saturday, February 24 The public learned that an armed Broward County Sheriff’s Deputy Scot Peterson, the school resource officer, did not enter the school during the shooting. Three other Broward County officers also arrived at the school but didn’t enter until the Coral Springs Police had arrived.

Sunday, February 25 Broward Sheriff Scott Israel said that he will not resign after facing criticism that Broward County Sheriff officers had not entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Israel said he was “disappointed” that the school’s armed resource officer hadn’t entered the school and would investigate the allegations toward other officers.

Wednesday, February 28 Students are scheduled to return to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Classes have been rearranged so that no students will have to enter building 12, where the shooting took place.
Transferable skills: putting things into context

By: Rei Hernandez
ExEL Career Advisor

Rei Hernandez joined the Office of Career Development in July as a full-time ExEL Career Advisor. Hernandez works with first-time college students to help them understand the Experiential Education and Learning program and find opportunities that will allow them to gain valuable hands-on experience and skills.

Picture this: You’re a few months away from graduation and are finally getting serious about your upcoming career search. You’ve written a first draft of your all-important resume and have confidently begun searching for positions on Handshake and LinkedIn. You might notice that many of the job postings ask that applicants have some of the same desired skills: teamwork, leadership, written and verbal communication and problem solving. “Great,” you think, “I have all of those skills. I’m going to add them to my resume so employers will see how qualified I am.” Then, you notice that there’s already a built-in “skills” section on your resume template, so you quickly add your newly-realized abilities and save your document. “I’m definitely going to get noticed now, right?” Well, maybe not.

What are transferable skills?
Skills like communication and leadership are known as transferable skills for their ability to be useful in a variety of positions, and should be positioned within your various experiences as part of your descriptive bullet points. This is because, within a bullet point, you can give an employer context for the skill. Context means explaining the “how” and “why” of your skills. For example, let’s say you were the vice president of NSU’s Pre-Dental Society and wanted to write a bullet point demonstrating your ability to communicate. An example of a bullet point which your skills into context may read something like this:
- communicated with dental faculty and student members of the leadership board through emails, phone calls and in-person meetings to gather and disseminate information on various Pre-Dental Society initiatives and opportunities.

I think you can see how this would be more useful to a potential employer than simply seeing the word “communication” listed on your resume or CV. In the Office of Career Development, our advisors often ask students to put themselves into the shoes of employers when drafting a resume or CV. We ask students to do this as they review their own documents for two reasons: to make sure it makes sense, and to help them realize what points warrant an explanation. While you may know that you are a talented leader who has excellent collaboration skills, your prospective employer has likely never met you and will need context to back up those claims.

So, what should go into the “skills” section?
In general, employers are looking for what are known as “hard skills” or “concrete skills” in a standalone “skills” section on a resume or CV. These types of skills can include specific software or hardware knowledge, a second or third spoken language, or maybe even certain licences and certifications. Examples can include phrases like: “fully proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel” or “bilingual in English and Italian.”

What are the best skills to have?
According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the skills employers looked for most in their 2017 candidates were the ability to work on a team, problem-solving skills, written communication skills, strong work ethic, spoken communication skills, leadership, initiative, analytical skills, adaptability and detail orientation. Conversely, only 70 percent of employers believe applicants have some of the same desired skills in a variety of ways:

- Internships are one of the best ways to gain transferable skills as employers understand that the primary goal of an internship is to gain experience. A good internship supervisor will expose you to as much of the day-to-day experience of working as they are able.
- College clubs are another avenue to explore. However, you should make the effort to gain a leadership position rather than simply being a member to have more opportunities to earn these transferable skills.
- Volunteering experiences are an excellent way to gain skills and often require less of a commitment than an internship or leading an organization.
- Studying abroad can provide you greater cultural awareness and can be an excellent opportunity to practice a second language.
- Group projects allow you to practice many of the transferable skills we’ve covered including leadership, communication, collaboration skills, analytical skills and problem-solving, so don’t underestimate their value. If you are participating in a group project, pay close attention to your role and what you are contributing as that project may become a strong addition to your professional documents.

Remember, your professional documents, resume and CV are your primary marketing materials to prospective employers. Being able to provide context to your transferable skills can be the difference between securing that all-important interview or not. Taking some time to truly describe your skills effectively will save you time — and frustration — during your job search.

Staying safe during spring break

By: Michaela Greer
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It’s probably safe to say that college students nationwide collectively exhale a sigh of relief during the first few weeks of March when the time for spring break arrives. Whether you’re taking a vacation or planning to stay in sunny South Florida, it’s important to take precautions to get through Spring break without incident. Here are a few things to keep in mind to make sure that your break is as enjoyable as possible.

Don’t be a统计

Don’t show everything
According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest Network, sharing too much information about your location on social media sites can endanger your safety. Sure, it might be nice to let all of your friends back home know that you’re having a great time in Cancun, but everyone doesn’t have to know what hotel you’re staying in, the room’s layout, or anything else that might point toward your exact location. Also, avoid name-dropping your room number and hotel information while partying.

Be good to your body
Dehydration and sunburn can happen quickly, especially if you’re out and about at the beach drinking. Be sure to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going into direct sunlight, careful not to forget areas like the back of your neck, ears, face and feet. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, people should also reapply sunscreen every two hours and after swimming or sweating.
Bouncing back from midterms, the healthy way

By: Madelyn Rinka and Bianca Galan
News Editor and Contributing Writer

Inside the mind of Brad Meltzer and the launch of 'The Escape Artist'

Brad Meltzer is an award-winning thriller writer and New York Times bestselling authors of "The Inner Circle," "The Book of Fate," and nine other bestselling thrillers. On March 10, Meltzer will host a book-signing event in the Alvin Shierman Library for his new book "The Escape Artist," which officially launches on March 6. I spoke with Meltzer to learn more about his newest book, "The Escape Artist."

Meltzer, who lives in Florida, considers himself a part of the NSU family. He mentions that this is a library he loves, which is why he has many of his book signings there.

"You always want to do something fun in your backyard and this gives us a chance to truly do it at a place we care about and love," said Meltzer.

To Meltzer, there is nothing more powerful than an idea. In his words, "a story is a bunch of ideas." Meltzer says that he writes to raise awareness about prominent issues in society, while entertaining his readers at the same time.

"I love what I'm doing. I still love talking to these imaginary friends, I still love finding these secrets about history and I'm still not bored by it. When I'm bored by it, I'll be done with [writing] or they [the stories] will be done with me.

In high school, Meltzer's teachers helped him find his passions. His 11th grade history teacher opened him up to find his love of history and his ninth-grade English teacher gave him the first critique of his work: "You can write."

Since then, he has been drawn to stories that combine both of his passions. History's secrets and mysteries like the underground tunnels of the White House and George Washington's spy ring — which according to Meltzer, is still operational today — are examples of what sparks the stories that Meltzer can connect with and relate to his readers.

This new book, "The Escape Artist," is no different. For Meltzer, this story started six years ago during a USD trip where he learned about government operations conducted at Dover Air Force Base.

"Dover is home of some of the most top-secret, high-profile missions in the government. It's a building full of secrets and full of mystery. As a thriller writer, how could I not care about a place like that?" said Meltzer.

This new book follows the story of the main characters: Nola and Jim "Zig" Zagorowski. Zig, who works at the Dover Air Force Base, has been through the secret tragedy of his life when he learns that Nola, a U.S. Army soldier and childhood friend of his daughter, is alive after being declared dead. However, Nola, who found out information that no one should have known is forced to go on the run. Nola and Zig then work together to reveal the truth or die trying.

Meltzer hopes that readers will enjoy this new storyline as he feels he has a deep connection with these characters and hope readers can relate to them as well. As for future novels which might feature these characters, Meltzer stated, "I can't shake Zig and Nola. They talk to me every day. So yes, you'll see them again soon."

This event is free and open to the public. From 5:15 to 6:45 p.m., Meltzer will hold a short meet and greet for the Circle of Friends donors of the library. Then, from 2 to 4 p.m. Meltzer will conduct a public book signing where his new book will also be available for purchase.

That Time I... Gave up social media

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinion Editor

Jenna Kopec is a junior communication major with a concentration in journalism and minor in gender studies. She is the co-editor-in-chief at The Current.

Around the beginning of my sophomore year, I took a big interest in improving my mental health. I learned how endorphins can generally help relieve stress — which is why people like the gym so much — and how eating right and drinking water can level your moods sometimes. Last summer, I saw a popular trend in the conversation about how social media impacts one's health and popular practice of an array of comment sections and stories for people to reply to. I felt anxious about this at first, probably because of a FOMO, but then I felt fine. My friends, who were actually my friends, still talked to me anyway. I cared very little about the happening of what's-here-and-what's-here-anymore. Ultimately without social media, I felt better able to focus without the barrage of notifications. I felt calmer all the time.

As a communication major, it's not really possible for me to unplug from social media forever. We're taught to use each one as branding for ourselves and tools to listen to and talk with our audiences. I've held several positions that focus on social media management for companies, which make the whole bombardment of notifications way worse. So, after my 30 days were up I did go back onto my accounts, but I definitely use each app differently.

Now, I'll scroll through my feeds, but sometimes I don't do this for days at a time and I'm always losing snap streaks with my best friend. I put all of my social media apps into a single folder so that they don't occupy the same amount of visual space on my phone. There are definitely some nights where I scroll instead of do some work and I do enjoy social media, but I try to make it more like chocolate noir — only a little at a time.

Jenna Kopec is a junior communication major with a concentration in journalism and minor in gender studies. She is the co-editor-in-chief at The Current.
Although their price tags can journey into the $100 mark. They’re also known to have particularly bridesmaid dresses — that are under $100. They’re also known to have promotions during prom season, which you may be able to take advantage of.

Dresses Four Me
15661 Sheridan St. Davie, FL 33324

Easy
There’s very little you can’t get on Etsy, which includes formal wear for men and women — and you’ll definitely be able to find something for under $100. You’ll want to be careful that you don’t pick something that will take too long to ship and risk missing the opportunity to show off your deal.

Etsy
etsy.com

Goodwill
MacKlemore wasn’t wrong when he rapped about the finds that you can get at thrift stores all those years ago. Goodwill’s a viable option for finding formal attire, sometimes even with designer labels. Plus you have a couple options on how you want to buy: in store or online.

Goodwill
shopgoodwill.com
Or
2418 N Dixie Highway Hollywood, FL 33020

Rent The Runway
Think about leasing an expensive car, but for clothes — that’s what Rent The Runway does. With different pricing and length of rental, women can rent designer clothes for a relatively low cost. Formal dresses can be rented for four to eight days for under $100. They also let you rent accessories. The cheapest rental option comes with free returns and a backup size for your order.

Rent The Runway
renttherunway.com

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**STAFF PICKS:**

**WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC TO LISTEN TO WHILE STUDYING?**

Christina McLaughlin, opinions editor, said:

“When I study I have a few playlists I use interchangeably depending on my mood and the amount of actual concentration I need. If it’s for a class I really struggle in, I have a playlist called ‘Intense Studying,’ which is basically light piano music and gentle love music. When I just need to get into the zone for a while, I have a playlist of my top songs of 2017 on Spotify or a huge ‘Study’ playlist on Spotify, or a John Williams soundtrack. ‘Intense Studying’ is basically light piano music, and it’s not that I find it distracting, I just don’t feel like it helps me concentrate that much. I prefer white noise like a fan or just the regular sounds of the residence halls.”

Skybly Vanderweer, multimedia manager, said:

“My go-to playlist for studying is called ‘Sad covers of pop songs.’ It’s not really a sad playlist — it’s more of unplugged versions of popular songs. It’s super chill and helps me block out the chaos of the residence halls.”

Jenna Koper, co-editor-in-chief, said:

“I don’t normally listen to music while I study. When I do I probably go for soft ‘90s pop just because it’s not too distracting and I know most of the songs already.”

Sydney Stoneback, multimedia and visual design assistant, said:

“I design to literally anything and everything when I study, from country music to dubstep to instrumental playlists when I’m studying. I just instrumental or without lyrics. It helps me stay focused yet entertained.”

Michaela Greer, co-editor-in-chief, said:

“To be honest, I usually don’t listen to music when I study. I tend to have a documentary playing in the background instead. But, if I do listen to music, it’s usually jazz or classical though I sometimes still find myself head-bobbing or pretending to play the piano.”

Madelyn Rinka, news editor, said:

“I don’t really listen to music when I’m studying. It’s not that I find it distracting, I just don’t feel like it helps me concentrate that much. I prefer white noise like a fan or just the regular sounds of the residence halls.”

Carli Lutz, chief of visual design, said:

“When I’m studying or working on projects, I tend to listen to a playlist I made on Spotify of acoustic pop-punk songs. They’re not really loud and distracting and I already know the lyrics to most of the songs so I’m not focused on deciphering lyrics or anything, which makes it easier to focus while I study.”

Diego Galvez, sports editor, said:

“My favorite music to listen to while studying is chill, relaxing music. There’s nothing better than hearing some jazz or some indie music. I personally like the live hip hop radio hop radio video on Youtube. I feel that I can concentrate better when the music I listen to is just instrumental or without lyrics. It helps me stay focused yet entertained.”

Nicole Chavannes, copy editor, said:

“I alternate between several different instrumental playlists when I’m studying. I can’t really listen to songs with lyrics, because I’ll either begin trying to learn the lyrics if it’s a song I don’t know or belt along to the lyrics if I do know it. Instead, I’ll listen to an ‘Instrumental Study’ playlist on Spotify, or a John Williams playlist or some classical music. I enjoy a live streaming of old hip hop on Youtube, as well. The playlist really just depends on my mood, but it’s almost always purely instrumental.”

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**OFF SHORE CALENDAR**

George Winston
Feb. 27 | 7:30 p.m.
@Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Pantha Du Prince
March 1 | 7 p.m.
@Floyd Miami

South Florida Symphony: Musical Expressions of Nature
March 1 | 7:30 p.m.
@Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Sunset Kayak Tour
March 2 | One hour before Sunset
@Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park

Improv Comedy Show
March 2 | 9 p.m.
@Center Stage Performing Arts

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**SOUNDBITE**

‘Alien Boy’ by Oliver Tree

So you might’ve seen an odd-looking fellow gallivanting about on the internet lately. He’s typically seen riding a Razor scooter while sporting a goofy bowl cut and looking like an image ripped directly from an article on BuzzFeed about remembering the ‘90s. If this description sounds familiar, you’ve seen Oliver Tree.

Oliver Tree isn’t just a living, breathing meme, he’s also a talented vocalist with an uniquely unique voice. Tree got his start in 2013 when he released music under the name Tree. Years later, he started collaborating with popular electronic producers like Wheather and Getter, but now he’s stepping up and making a name for himself by releasing his own solo tunes yet again. Tree’s debut EP, “Alien Boy,” was released on Feb. 16, and debuted No. 10 on iTunes charts.

This six-track EP is anything but ordinary. From a hip-hop beat in one track to jazzy trumpet sounds like a song taken from the set list of the indie-rock band, Sex Bob-omb, from the Scott Pilgrim comics mixed with a surf rock vibe.

“Alien Boy” is out of this world and shows you to expect the unexpected, especially if it’s from Oliver Tree.
Many things may come into your head when you think of St. Patrick’s day, from huge festivals and swimming in green beer — if you’re of legal age — to dining on some traditional Irish food and loading up on sweets. While the traditional celebratory nature of St. Patrick’s day may be difficult to achieve in a dorm, here are some quick and easy festivities to plan for your St. Paddy’s party.

Rent some award winning Irish films
The Irish film industry has quite a few flicks to be proud of. To get some authentic entertainment, try inviting a few friends over for a movie viewing. While the possibilities are endless, consider movies like “Brooklyn” for a new take on boy-meets-girl, military thriller “71” or whimsical fantasy “Ondine.” Whatever you choose, be sure to have some popcorn on hand.

Feed the crowd
If you’re having friends over for your party, one thing is definitely necessary: snacks. If corned beef and cabbage is a bit too labor-intensive for you, don’t fret — there’s plenty of other Irish-themed delicacies you can make on a budget and in a hurry. Consider laying out a fruit tray in the shape of a rainbow. Add a dish of gold-wrapped candies or a yogurt-based fruit dip on the end of your rainbow for some added fun. Or, buy some Cauldron-esque plastic bowls, pour in some popcorn and vodka, you have super fast pots of gold. Or, when all else fails, just dye your meal green! Add a few drops of food coloring to Alfredo, eggs, cupcakes or soup. For a more natural option, try using pureed greens like spinach or kale to add a nice emerald hue.

Plan some games and entertainment
“Games” doesn’t have to mean shamrock bingo or coloring in the leprechaun like in elementary school. For a fun, updated way to celebrate, consider having a few activities in place for the night. Tell your guests to dress in the most green they possible can. The winner can get any prize of your choosing — whether it be a little treat or a homemade St. Paddy’s day crown crafted with markers and printer paper. For other fun games, try cabbage bowling by knocking down soda cans with a cabbage, rainbow ball toss by arranging cups in a rainbow pattern with different colored sodas inside to see who can get a golden coin in each cup or minute-to-win it coin toss, pot of gold style: try to bounce quarters into a plastic pot and see who gets the most coins in.

Hit the town
Do a quick search online to see if any local restaurants or counties are holding any festivals that might be fun and free to attend. From Irish dancing to authentic food, going the distance to one of these celebrations might be well worth the drive.

By: Madelyn Rinka
News Editor
Gabriella Papadakis and partner Guillaume Cizeron participated in the Olympics for Skating Short Program earlier last week. These French representatives scored an incredible 81.53 which placed them second behind Canada’s Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. However, rather than speaking about the incredible lifts and turns this couple executed, newscasters were more focused on the wardrobe malfunction Papadakis experienced.

Papadakis wore a dainty emerald-green halter costume which unclasped around the neck. This caused her left breast to be exposed for some of the performance. Even though this is obviously not a part of the program, this became the focus of their entire program.

For some reason, in the United States and other countries, wardrobe malfunctions of this kind are seen as mortal sins and international scandals. Why, as a society, are we shy about the female form in person, yet the second something like this happens, there are close-ups on big screens and slow motion replays? As if we weren’t already embarrassed enough about something she couldn’t control in the moment, it seems like we want to punish her for it. It will forever live on Youtube and other platforms where it can never be deleted. Now this performance will be known as the day her breast was exposed and not the day she had an Olympic debut and executed a near-perfect performance.

Some people are confused about why these skaters didn’t try to fix this mistake mid-performance or try to reinforce the clasps on these costumes. It’s not their fault that when the final performance came, the clasp popped or the seam ripped. All fabrics have a limit, they’re not indestructible. “The show must go on,” and that’s their jobs for representing their respective countries. Even Papadakis said to Yahoo Sports, “It happened in the first few seconds. I told myself I didn’t have a choice; I have to keep going.”

In the face of that adverse situation is exactly what they tried to do. Why can’t they be celebrated for their performances rather than the complications they faced during the performance? These women made it to the Olympics with their partners and rather than speak to their successes we’d rather tear them down because of these mishaps. I guess it’s human nature to point out the flaws, but it would be nice if we focused on the positive.

Is there something that you miss from your home, Canada?
“Yes, my family, my friends. But wherever I live it doesn’t matter as long as I’m in touch with them.”

What do you like the most about South Florida?
“Just the weather. Up in Ontario, Canada you know, it gets cold so it’s nice here.”

What got you interested in track and field?
“It was in high school. My high school teacher’s also the coach and he asked me to come out and from there I kept going up.”

What motivated you to continue doing this sport?
“I was pretty good at it from the start and I thought if I excel in it and I kept practicing and continue then I’d get better, which led me here.”

How has NSU supported you as an athlete and as a student?
“They gave me everything I needed. If I need something and I ask it, there’s no problem. If I need help I’ll ask, but I haven’t needed help so far.”

What advice would you give to grad students who want to be an athlete as well?
“I think manage your time properly cause there’s flexibility but there’s also a lot of time you have to be here [practicing] in the morning and it’s time consuming. But you have to plan your schedule perfectly and you’ll be fine.”

What do you like the most about track and field?
“I love how it’s a single event but at the end it’s a team-oriented sport … you all want to score as many points at conference, but in a single event, so everyone contributes.”

What are some of your traditions that you do before or after a meet?
“I eat a meal full of carbs three or four hours before the meet. Usually we compete in the middle of the day so that’d be breakfast, Oatmeal and some simple carbs and some fruits. But yeah, big meal three to four hours before.”

What do you usually do after a meet?
“Celebrate with my team. [For example] we are on our bus on our way back so we kind of celebrate talking and discussing the meet.”

ON DECK

MEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. No. 2 Tampa
March 2 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex
vs. No. 2 Tampa (DH)
March 3 1 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex
vs. Wilmington
March 6 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex
vs. Lander
March 8 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex
vs. Lander
March 10 11 a.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

MEN’S GOLF
vs. Southeastern Intercollegiate
March 11-13
Kinderlou Forest Golf Club, Valdosta, Ga.

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD
@Tampa (Distance only)
March 2 1 All day
Tampa, Fla.

WOMEN’S GOLF
vs. Peggy Kirk Bell Classic
March 5-6
Golden Bear Club, Windermere, Fla.

WOMEN’S ROWING
@Spring Training Trip
March 3-10
Orlando, Fla.

To see the full lineup of upcoming sporting events for this week and next, go to nsucurrent.nova.edu

ON THE BENCH: So what? She had a wardrobe malfunction
By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

Daniel Polinski is a computer engineering graduate from the University of Miami studying the computer science graduate program at NSU. He’s also part of the men’s track and field team.

How is NSU’s Track team different than UM’s track team?
“It’s a difference in teams. It’s a different atmosphere. Obviously at UM I had different friends, coaches and it’s just a slight adjustment. Just 40 minutes away, which is not that big of a difference to me.”

What is something that you like about NSU?
“The flexibility here. It’s a lot more flexible here which is good.”

What are some of the factors that contributed to the great start the track and field team has had this season?
“For me the opening meet wasn’t the greatest meet, but [we] just opened up and [will] just build it from there. For me, the track meets of the beginning of the season are always the weakest, but it continues and gets better throughout the season.”

How is being a graduate athlete different than an undergraduate one?
“I think it’s the flexibility, too. In undergrad I had a lot more [things to do] and less free time. It can be challenging at times, you know, assignments are all due at the same time. But if you spread [them] out you’ll be fine.”

OATMEAL AND SIMPLE CARBS

What do you usually do after a meet?
“Celebrate with my team. [For example] we are on our bus on our way back so we kind of celebrate talking and discussing the meet.”

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ON DECK

MEN’S BASEBALL
vs. SSC Tournament Quarterfinals
Feb. 28 7 p.m.
TBA

vs. SSC Tournament Semifinals & Championship
March 3-4
Lakeland, Fla.

Women’s Basketball
vs. SSC Tournament Quarterfinals
Feb. 28 7 p.m.
TBA

vs. SSC Tournament Semifinals & Championship
March 3-4
Lakeland, Fla.

vs. 2018 NCAA National Tournament
March 9-23
TBA

MEN’S GOLF
@Spring Training Trip
March 3-10
Orlando, Fla.

WOMEN’S GOLF
@Spring Training Trip
March 3-10
Orlando, Fla.

WOMEN’S ROWING
@Spring Training Trip
March 3-10
Orlando, Fla.

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD
@Tampa (Distance only)
March 2 1 All day
Tampa, Fla.

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD
@Tampa (Distance only)
March 2 1 All day
Tampa, Fla.
Women’s Basketball

The women’s basketball team suffered a loss against Barry with a score of 69-57 on Feb. 17. Junior Alison Hughes led the Sharks with 16 points and three steals. With this loss, the Sharks dropped to the eighth spot in the SSC standings.

Women’s Golf

The women’s golf team brought home the Lady Moc Golf Classic Title that was held Feb. 19 and Feb. 20. The Sharks defeated Barry and Saint Leo twice and earned their championship out of six appearances in 2017-18. Senior Michelle Ruiz had an individual third-place finish while senior Jamie Freedman and junior Sophie Madden finished among the field’s Top 10.

Women’s Softball

The women’s softball team lost the series against Lynn with two matches lost and one won. The Sharks were held to four hits throughout the game. Sophomore Sydney Laygery made two hits in her three at-bats.

Women’s Track and Field

The Sharks had an impressive 2018 start. Senior Maddie Kenyon began the day with a third-place finish in the javelin at 33.68. Sophomore Kacie Tallman, senior Sydney Molina, graduate student Julia Riedl and freshman Jaylynn Thomas also finished Top-10 in the javelin, placing fifth, sixth, seventh and ninth respectively.

Women’s Tennis

The women’s tennis team suffered two losses against Florida Tech and Saint Leo with scores of 4-5 and 3-6, respectively. The match against Florida Tech was held on Feb. 16 in which the Sharks were defeated in two out of three doubles matches and in three out of five matches. Junior Ana Navas, sophomore Isabella Lovery and Daniela Obando won their single matches. On Feb. 17 the Sharks went against Saint Leo which upended NSU’s tennis team. Navas, Lovery, Obando and junior Andrea Ivanovic won their doubles matches.

Men’s Baseball

The Sharks fell to Barry with a score of 105-83 on Feb. 17. Freshman Malik Hardy scored a total of 24 points followed by junior David Dennis with a total of 15 points. This was the Sharks’ first defeat since Jan. 24.

Men’s Track and Field

The men’s track and field team started its season with impressive results from newcomers like freshman Justin Jackson and graduate student Daniel Polinski. Jackson notched the first top finish of his career with a win in the triple jump by leaping 13.60 meters while Polinski broke the school record of the day in the shot put with a first-place toss of 15.02 meters.

OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrestlers honor fallen coach Chris Hixon

Students of the Stoneman Douglas wrestling team, which was coached by Stoneman Douglas shooting victim Chris Hixon, left his funeral service Wednesday and headed straight to a match at Coral Springs High School. According to ESPN, the 12 wrestlers were “riled up” by spectators’ applause as they entered the gym before the match. One of those 13 students was Sara Ochoa, the only female on the team, who pinned her first-round opponent in 16 seconds and later stated, “That was for Coach Hixon.” Ochoa and other members of the team wore white t-shirts honoring Hixon, who was named Broward County’s Athletic Director of the Year in 2017.

Dawn Staley sues Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk for defamation

South Carolina women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley is suing Missouri Athletic Director Jim Sterk for defamation after Sterk made comments to a Missouri radio station alleging Staley encouraged an “unhealthy atmosphere” during a game against the Missouri woman’s basketball team. Sterk claimed that the South Carolina fans spit on Missouri players and called them the “N-word” and said Staley. “Unfortunately, I think Coach Staley promoted that kind of atmosphere, and it’s unfortunate that she felt she had to do that.” In response to Sterk’s refusal to retract his original statements, Staley’s attorney said in a statement to USA Today Sports, “Coach Staley was left with no choice but to respond to his attack on her character, reputation and integrity by holding him accountable for his disgusting and false statement.”

Conor McGregor says he will fight again, “Period.”

In an Instagram post on Feb. 2, UFC lightweight champion Conor McGregor said, “I am fighting again. Period.” He added, “I am the best at this,” according to USA Today Sports. Calling out the UFC, McGregor said he told them he wanted to replace Max Holloway in a fight against former UFC lightweight champion Frankie Edgar after Holloway injured his leg. But McGregor “was told there wasn’t enough time to generate the money the UFC would need.” McGregor further said in the post, “It is on them to come and get me. Because I am here.” McGregor’s post came hours after the UFC announced McGregor would be soon be stripped of his lightweight champion title, as he hasn’t fought in the UFC since November of 2016.

USA women’s ice hockey team takes gold from Canada

The U.S. women’s hockey team broke Canada’s stranglehold on women’s Olympic hockey after a stressful match which went to overtime, according to CNN Sports. This victory was much needed for the U.S. women’s team, who didn’t win gold since the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. This match ended with a shootout score of 3-2 with forward Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson scoring the winning goal who later stated she was “boggling the non-believers.”

The women’s team also celebrated a victory off the ice after winning the Lady Moc Golf Classic Title that was held Feb. 19 and Feb. 20. The Sharks had an impressive 2018 start. Senior Maddie Kenyon began the day with a third-place finish in the javelin at 33.68. Sophomore Kacie Tallman, senior Sydney Molina, graduate student Julia Riedl and freshman Jaylynn Thomas also finished Top-10 in the javelin, placing fifth, sixth, seventh and ninth respectively.

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Scanners need an upgrade

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

Anyone who drives on campus knows the dreaded scanner. This scanner, which is similar to other scanners around campus such as the residence halls, is supposed to be a simple system which grants access to parking lots for students, faculty and staff. However, it's anything but simple. I've recently brought my car to campus and only a few months into driving my car around campus, I understand the frustration that many students and faculty members have experienced.

I've seen this issue numerous times and experienced it myself. I pull into the little area and attempt to scan and it doesn't read the card. This usually means I need to park the car and hop out really quick and place my SharkCard directly on the scanner. Now, it eventually does scan most of the time, which means I need to race back into the car and drive through before the barrier arm times out. It's come to the point that I need to do this little race every single time.

I pull in to the parking lot.

This causes not only a frustration for me but also to the person behind me waiting to get in. I'm stuck in the parking lot with a little line waiting to get into the parking lots during peak times such as in the morning or on weekends. I don't commit to campus but I can imagine this eats up a chunk of time if you drive on campus and have to park everywhere you go.

This also brings up another issue: what happens if you aren't let in? Once or twice the card refused to scan even though the day before it worked fine. You can click a metal button which connects you to Public Safety to help. However, sometimes you do not have time to wait on hold and speak to someone about this issue just to lift this little arm and let you in. It's extremely aggravating and I've seen it happen to not only students, but faculty members as well.

Students, staff and faculty members on campus have busy schedules and we usually are trying to park quickly and easily to make it to a class or to work. When we are stopped at our final destination by a glitch in a system, it can eat up time and put just about anyone in a bad mood.

Speaking of glitches, almost every month the main gate students use in the residence halls breaks or needs repair, so they block it off. This means we need to drive across the parking lot to another gate and loop around campus to get to where we were trying to go. It gets aggravating and I've seen this happen so often and it seems that right after it's fixed, it breaks only a few days after. If it's broken, just replace it. Don't just keep putting a Band-aid on this broken system. It obviously needs work and calling for electricians to come in and fix the problem also interferes with the workers' time.

I've driven around several areas with gated communities and many of them have a scanner similar to NSU's, but instead they run on a barcode system. That way, you just pull up to the gate and it scans the sticker, which lifts the bar. No hassle and it works almost every time. I don't know how much a system like this would cost but we already have a barcode on our parking permit stickers. Even simple improvements would make this system better at this point. The scanners on the residence hall doors are incredibly strong, most can scan your card through a backpack or even a few inches away from the scanner. Why not turn up the level of strength these parking lot scanners have so students and staff don't have to fuss with it so much?

I like to drive around South Florida and explore the area, but every single time I come back on campus I get anxious that this time the scanner won't work, and sometimes that's exactly what happens.

Scanners need an upgrade

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

With the recent tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and similar “mass shootings” that happen time and time again, everyone can agree it is time for this to stop, but it seems like no one knows how to get the ball rolling. Soon after the shooting, students began to speak out in outrage and demanded for the public support and legislative initiatives to prevent this situation from happening again. These students traveled to the state capital to make a stand and were left shocked with the results of a recent bill.

On Feb. 20, the Florida House of Representatives denied a bill which would set limitations and ban the sale, transfers and possession of assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines. At this session, students from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting were in attendance and participated while the Florida House held a vote on the bill. These students traveled to the state capital to participate while the Florida House held a vote on this bill.

So before representatives of the Florida voters voted on this bill, they held a moment of silence and recognized the students attendance. While this moment had still had the audacity to overrule a bill that could prevent something like this from happening again. What's even more shocking is this bill was filed on Oct. 3 by Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith. That means over a month before the shooting this could have been brought up to the attention of the House and even though it might have not prevented this from happening, it certainly was a step in the right direction to prevent future attacks. This vote was brought down with a 31-71 majority voting against the bill. Many students were shocked by how fast these representatives voted and as Sheryl Acquaroli, a junior from Stoneman Douglas, said to CNN, “This vote was brought down with an almost heartless how they immediately pushed the button to say no.” Well Acquaroli, it didn’t seem heartless, it was, and you should be upset. We should all be upset by these actions. Our representatives are supposed to be voted for us and represent what we as citizens of this great nation want for our country. According to a recent poll from Business Insider, 70 percent of Americans support stricter laws on assault weapons. If the public wants a bill to ban assault weapons then it should at least be discussed as the nature of our government intended: for public representation in government and instead of vening a bill without a clear distinction or reasoning for why it was opposed by our representatives.

Adding to the pain the students and the community are feeling, this bill titled HB 219 clearly outlines that “any selective-fire firearm capable of fully automatic, semi-automatic or burst fire at the option of the user...including the use of AR and AK series weapons.” were to be banned and heavily regulated through the process of this bill. This means that not only could this bill have helped with the most recent attacks, it definitely would have prevented it from happening in the future. With so many innocent lives taken in the United States every year, I don’t think anyone can stomach another shooting, especially if there are bills like this that are actively being presented to legislation.

Where is the humanity in all of this? How after so many shootings and attacks in the U.S. have we held onto the Second Amendment with such a vice-like grip? The Second Amendment which allows us to bear arms needs a desperate update. Let’s not forget that when this right was granted to us, the only available gun of the time was a musket. We have definitely come a long way since then.

Politicians cannot avoid this issue any longer. The time for the voices to be heard is now and with the voices of the survivors of the Stoneman Douglas massacre at the helm, I think some progress might finally be made, but only if the playground politics of it all are put aside.
Opinions

Seriously Kidding
A satire column.

Student finds happiness by ‘filling the void with memes’

By: Jenna Kopec
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Shahad Mand is 19 years old, wears a knee brace and has a very large bald patch on top of his head. In many cases bringing this up might be considered rude, however, it’s newsworthy because all of these symptoms, according to Mand’s doctor, are results of stress. Mand’s hair started falling out six months ago after his fourth consecutive all-nighter and his muscles became so exhausted that his knees hurt every time he walks. Other symptoms Mand’s experienced include anxiety, stomach aches and blurry vision. “This is directly caused by becoming too stressed. Shahad is incapable of caring for himself, and that, coupled with the force put on his body, is making him fall apart,” said Dr. Kanya Dusumth, Mand’s physician. Despite this, Mand tells fellow classmates that he’s completely fine. Though he administers to an occasional “outburst” of stress, he said he’s as happy as can be and attributes this to memes. “All the stress can really, really get to you, but you know what gets you through? Kermit sipping Lipton,” said Mand. “I’m a little stressed, but if you keep filling the void with memes you’ll probably be okay.”

Dusumth said that this is not true. “I’m very concerned for Sahad’s health and well-being. It’s important for individuals to find healthy ways to cope with stress, whether that be exercise, venting to a friend or taking less on,” said Dusumth. To which Mand replied, “I’ll do something; keep meme-ing, how bout dah?”

NSU business students need better access to resources on campus

By: Mugahed Al-Ameri
Contributing Writer

NSU students are opinionated about all kinds of things, from universal social issues to NSU-specific concerns. Sometimes, however, we Sharks just need to rant about the smaller things in life to let off some steam. In this column, The Current asks: water your thoughts?

As an international graduate pursuing my master’s degree in business with a concentration in international business, I really enjoy going to the second floor of the Alvin Sherman Library to read the magazines and newspapers that are available. However, I find that there is a need for more resources that are available and we are not able to remove them from the library to read at a later time. Also, we need to develop as professionals, starting with providing the products that students like myself need.

Bullying is the main thing. If [administration] made sure there is no bullying in high school, then these kinds of things wouldn’t happen because a friend would have spoken up.” - Marla Jose Reyes, sophomore psychology major

“I think gun control is the main issue. The U.S. is one country that has the lowest level of gun control and other countries around the world have more regulations. It’s so much easier to get a gun here, so having health and personality tests would be better and we shouldn’t be able to get big guns like the one the Parkland shooter had; that shouldn’t be a thing anywhere in the world.” - Mirary Montero, freshman environmental science major

“Stricter gun laws and harder screenings, but that’s pretty basic. It’s hard with these cases because what could you really do? He has constitutional rights and maybe the FBI should have looked into more but how could they have known? He shouldn’t have been able to purchase a militarized weapon; that shouldn’t have happened.” - Sulaiman Paika, freshman biology major

“There are a lot of ways you can approach alleviating this issue, but screening is one factor that will take us in the right direction. If not, then just having this discussion a lot more mainstream definitely can help sort these issues to find other possible steps to [prevent mass-shootings from happening].” - Patrick Ong, freshman biology major

“I think we need stricter gun laws and stricter screening on who gets to have these guns. I don’t think all guns should be made illegal ... I think it stems from bullying, too. Everyone has a different way to deal [with bullying] and if they don’t know how to deal with that stress in the proper way, then one day they will boil over. If someone is known to have a mental disorder that will inhibit their thought process, they shouldn’t be able to own a gun, pistol, handgun or rifle.” - Jimmy Johnson, freshman biology major

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As an international graduate pursuing my master’s degree in business with a concentration in international business, I really enjoy going to the second floor of the Alvin Sherman Library to read the magazines and newspapers that are available. However, I find that there is a need for more resources that are related to economic, trading and international news on campus. It is also quite difficult for NSU students are opinionated about all kinds of things, from universal social issues to NSU-specific concerns. Sometimes, however, we Sharks just need to rant about the smaller things in life to let off some steam. In this column, The Current asks: water your thoughts?

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NSU MULTIMEDIA CAMP

Join us for a sneak preview during spring break!

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

For ages 12-17
$50.00 (includes breakfast and lunch, t-shirt, and fun activities)

Registration now open at
nova.edu/studentmedia/multimediacamp/previewday

For more information, call (954) 262-7482 or email
nsustudentmedia@nova.edu.