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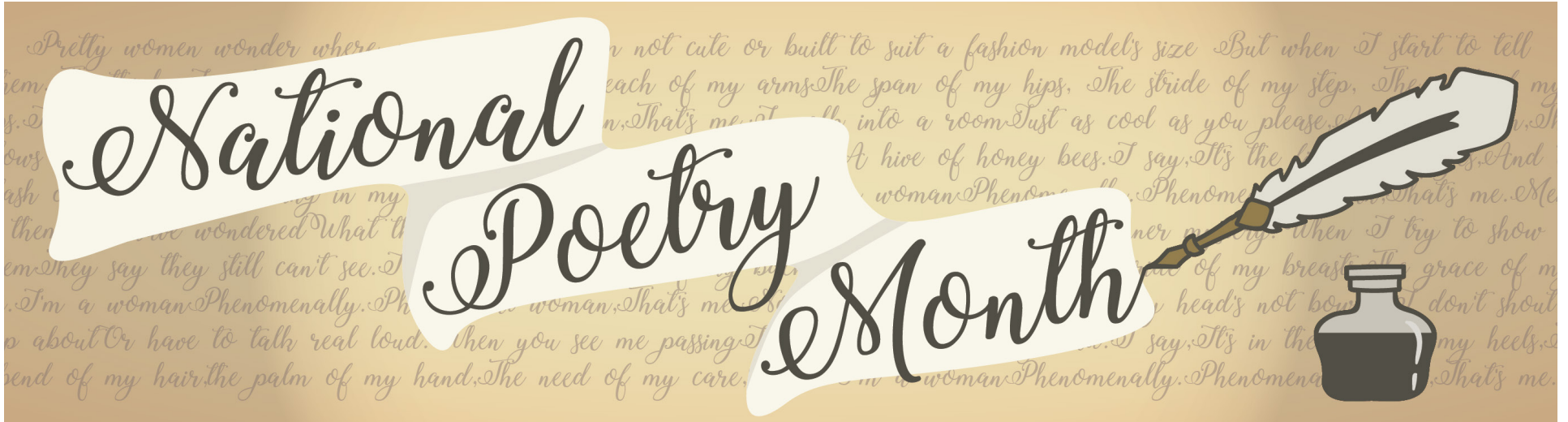
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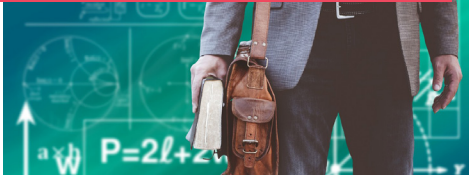
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New administrative office focusing on multiculturalism to be proposed in support of diverse populations

By: Jenna Kopec
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Following multiple instances where students have expressed the desire for an Office of Minority and Diversity Affairs, Brad Williams, vice president of student affairs and dean of the College of Undergraduate students, plans to submit a proposal to President Hanbury, per his request, for an Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Although under a different name, Williams said this office would serve the same purpose as the one outlined to him by students. Some of these purposes include "educating the university on social issues and providing resources" and "support that would create a culture of inclusion" as outlined by a mission statement drafted by students for the office. Both purposes align with the value of diversity, one of NSU's core values, which it defines as including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, philosophy, gender, physical, socioeconomic status, age and sexual orientation.

The idea was first created as part of a Razor's Edge Leadership Legacy project, a tradition in the program where students work

in teams on a project designed to create an impact on the university. Two of these students are Mariah Knowles, senior finance major, and Moira Majaha, junior biology major.

Majaha said that for her, an office of this nature would help celebrate diversity through annual events and programming.

"Coming in as an international student you kind of have this idea in your mind of how you'll be able to celebrate your cultures and that was kind of my disappointment. There was no big event or events that celebrated diversity," said Majaha. "The part of the project that I'm really passionate about is making sure the office can help create that sort of culture that emphasizes that celebration [of diversity] through different events."

Williams agreed that programming like this is important.

"If I could get an office I would be thrilled ... One that could talk about sexual orientation, multicultural faith and spirituality and divergent points of thoughts," he said. "Right now, we don't have anything like that. We might have

"I favor creating a culture of diversity versus just one department so that I can't say one department is responsible for diversity. I think we are all responsible for diversity and need to respect that."

President George Hanbury

some student organizations but they're student organizations and then where do they turn to?"

Stella Duran, senior finance major and former Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) senator, created legislation for USGA to present to Williams illustrating a need for the office. She said that there was definitely a discrepancy between the experience

she has at NSU and the one she had at her previous university.

"I noticed [when I came to NSU] that in comparison to my previous school [Valencia College], a lot of historical heritage holidays weren't being pushed forward or there weren't many events for them," said Duran.

But students hope the office will be involved in more than just events, and will give support to the issues students may face when coming from diverse backgrounds. Majaha and Knowles said that their vision for the office would include staff who are trained to specifically deal with issues that minority students face. Duran said that this would help students who may not otherwise have this support.

"I feel like especially with our political climate, it would help certain people have the support that they need," said Duran. "An office would be more of a central place where students

MULTICULTURALISM CONTINUED ON 2

Dr. Harry K. Moon to join NSU as EVP and COO

By: Madelyn Rinka
News Editor

President George Hanbury announced Dr. Harry K. Moon will become NSU's executive vice president and chief operating officer, beginning July 15.

In this role, Moon will be responsible for the efficient management of the university's administrative operations. Having held several executive positions for Cleveland Clinic Florida, Moon will have a specific focus on student and patient centered clinical performance.

"Dr. Moon is joining NSU at a pivotal moment in our history; one that needs exactly the brand of leadership that he will bring to this critical position in our executive team," said Hanbury. "His vast experience with complex systems will translate well to the world of higher education at a time when educating tomorrow's



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM J. SPECHLER
Dr. Harry K. Moon will become NSU's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

health care providers is more important than ever. He is the right person for the right job, and

precisely the right time."

For the past 25 years, Moon has been working diligently to improve the medical, research and educational programs in South Florida. Among his many titles and accomplishments are his appointment as CEO of Cleveland Clinic Florida, founding and presidential status of Himmarshee Surgical Partners, LLC and clinical associate professor of surgery at NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"It is indeed an honor to join NSU as it further develops its extensive healthcare programs," said Moon. "NSU has created a strong academic foundation and is developing the programs and facilities to become a national leader in education, research and patient care. I

look forward with keen anticipation to helping Dr. Hanbury fulfill the mission of the university."

Several offices will report to Moon under his leadership, including Clinical Operations, Enrollment and Student Services, Facilities Management and Public Safety, and the Office of Innovation and Information Technology, along with many others.

"He is one of those unique individuals who has the administrative background, deep knowledge of health care, community understanding and impeccable integrity which makes him a superb choice for COO," added Hanbury.

News Anchor

Stay up to date with international and national events.

Laura Ingraham apologizes for taunting Parkland survivor

Fox News host Laura Ingraham apologized for taunting Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student David Hogg. After stating in an interview that he had been rejected from several colleges, Laura proceeded to Twitter saying the student was whining about it. After losing several key advertisers, Ingraham apologized online which she said was “in the spirit of Holy Week,” according to BBC.

Citizenship question to be put on the 2020 census

The Trump Administration plans to add a citizenship question on the 2020 census. The announcement was made on March 26 by the Commerce Department. The Justice Department pushed this to be in the census to enforce the Voting Rights Act, according to CNN.

North Korean leader meets with China's President

Kim Jong Un made a surprise trip to Beijing at the Chinese capital's request. Kim met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and discussed giving up nuclear weapons, according to CNN. This was the first foreign trip taken by the North Korean Leader.

Malala returns to Pakistan for the first time since 2012

Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai visited Pakistan for the first time since she was shot by Taliban militants six years ago. Malala, 20, called her return home one of the happiest days of her life, according to CBS Miami. Yousafzai's return prompted a meeting between her and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

News Briefs

NSU Undergraduate Symposium to take place April 6

The Farquhar Honors College will host the 17th Annual Undergraduate Student Symposium on Friday, April 6. The symposium also includes the Annual Undergraduate Film Festival. The event will take place from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit honors.nova.edu/student-symposium/index.html.

'This is My Brave - The Show' co-produced by faculty of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

Kristi Messer, MPH, MSW, LCSW, faculty member in the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, is the co-producer of “This is my Brave - The Show.” This is My Brave is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending stigma around mental health. The show will take place on April 8 at 2 p.m. and feature members of the local community. Tickets cost \$15 for students and \$20 for general admission. To purchase tickets, go to app.mobilecause.com/form/l5lKcA.

NSU Grad Fest to begin April 3

Grad Fest will be held on April 3, 4, and 26. Representatives from Student Affairs, Debt Management, Alumni Association and Graduate Admissions will be in attendance. Students will be able to pick up all their graduating essentials. The event will be held in the Shark Store at Don Taft University Center from 12 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 954-262-4765.

Alvin Sherman Library to host book author Irit Schaffer

The Alvin Sherman Library will host author Irit Schaffer on Wednesday, April 4. Schaffer will speak about her new book, “Good Blood: A Journey of Healing.” Schaffer will also sign copies of the book. The event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, go to sherman.library.nova.edu/sites/spotlight/event/meet-irit-schaffer-guest-speaker-and-author.

Interactive lynda.com workshop to be held on April 12

The Office of Career Development will host an interactive lynda.com workshop on Thursday, April 12 from 12 to 1 p.m. The event is in partnership with the Alvin Sherman Library to show students all of the resources available on the website. The event will be in Room 309 in the Mailman-Hollywood Building. For more information, go to nova.joinhandshake.com.

The Current

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MULTICULTURALISM CONTINUED FROM 1

and faculty can go to understand these issues.”

Leon Peter, junior biology major and president of Maasti, said that there's a need to connect.

“We have a large minority campus and a lot of people feel like they aren't exactly represented. I wouldn't say that people aren't inclusive, but it's just like the school isn't attending as well to the needs of these students,” he said. “I think part of it comes from students just not knowing where to go with their issues. If there was something like the Minority and Diversity Affairs Office, it would be for a versatile amount of things.”

Michelle Manley, director of student media, is working with Williams to create the proposal for the new office. She is currently researching similar types of offices that exist at similar private universities as well as best practices. Williams plans to propose the budget to President Hanbury before the summer break begins.

“I would be thrilled if we launched an office next fall,” said Williams. “I've been here long enough to know that sometimes things take longer than that. But I wanted to get it to the president before the summer just in case we found a space [and the budget].”

Outside of determining what an office would look like in practice, Williams said that the university would also have to consider where this office would since the university is facing a growing population and stagnant amount of space.

Hanbury has commented on the idea of this office before. In a town hall meeting on Jan. 31, Hanbury said that though he was open to the idea of such an office, he didn't think an office under the name of “Minority and Diversity Affairs” would be well-suited for the university.

“NSU is a minority-majority university. Diversity is a core value,” said Hanbury. “I favor creating a culture of diversity versus just one department so that I can't say one department is responsible for diversity. I think we are all responsible for diversity and need to respect that.”

However, Hanbury said in the town hall meeting that he was open to the idea of an Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Williams said that no matter the name, he wants the office to be an umbrella that covers many students and student issues. What's most important to him is that the office serves the proper function.

“For me,” he said, “It's not so much about

the name as it is about meeting the needs of the students. If we meet the needs of the students, that is the most important thing.”

Students, however, said that there was a difference and importance in the different names. Particularly, there's a concern that the word “multicultural” wouldn't be as encompassing as the word “diversity.”

“It's not just the wording. It's the whole aiming. If the name is not right, it feels like the aim is not right,” said Peter.

Knowles said that she and her classmates were intentional in the name for the office they outlined and the word “multicultural” may not be a good replacement.

“People are going to make an assumption about it based on the title. I know when I hear the word ‘multicultural’ I think of ethnic diversity immediately. That's not to say the office couldn't serve more than that [under that name] it's just not going to be immediately associated with it,” she said.

Given that the discussions and plans for the office are still in the developmental stage, it's not certain if, when and under what name an office will form. Although students do feel like the name is important, they agreed that ultimately they would be more concerned that it gets created

to fulfill student needs.

As Duran put it, “If we do have an office under that name [Multicultural Affairs] and it does provide that support then ... a name is a name as long as it gets the job done. I would rather have an office with a name like that than not have an office at all.”

Williams said he plans to update USGA after the president makes a decision about the proposal.

According to the American Cambridge Dictionary:

Multicultural:

“relating to a number of different cultures, especially to the traditions of people of different religions and races”

Diversity: “the fact of many different types of things or people being included in something; a range of different things or people”

NSU to join in a nationwide campaign for sexual assault awareness

By: Jenna Kopec
Co-Editor-in-Chief

NSU will launch a week's worth of programming for Take Back the Night as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month from April 9 to 13.

Take Back the Night, originally thought of as a single event, is part of a nationwide campaign that brings awareness to sexual assault and seeks to end sexual, relationship and domestic violence.

"For individuals, often it's women but any person really, who's experienced some form of violence or who have friends who have experienced some form of sexual violence, night and dark can be a scary thing," explained Laura Bennett, Title IX coordinator. "So Take Back the Night is really meant to be an evening of empowerment where people take experiences or stories or things that they've gone through to try to raise awareness and empower people to really 'take back the night.'"

According to Tamara Lumsden, graduate assistant for weekend programming and chair of Take Back the Night, programming for Take Back the Night looks different on every campus and even yearly at NSU.

"In the past it's ranged from being four or five events throughout the entire month or all week," said Lumsden. "This year we're doing

all week and we've worked with a lot of different departments and organizations to put it on."

Among the myriad of events that will take place during the week is the candlelight vigil and walk, which can be considered the trademark event of the campaign, on April 11 at 7 p.m. beginning at the Shark Fountain. There will also be a community service initiative making survival kits for Women in Distress.

Bennett and Desmond Daniels, deputy Title IX coordinator, serve on the planning committee to help students and staff design and plan programming. Daniels said that along with raising awareness it's also an opportunity to learn.

"I think we want to encourage individuals to take this opportunity to learn as much as they can," said Daniels. "Learn how to identify some of those problematic behaviors that often cause adverse experiences for students, learn how to provide support, learn where our resources are on campus, learn where our resources are in the community so that you can connect individuals to them. Heaven forbid you're subjected to these experiences yourself, you can seek out those resources as well."

Lumsden said it's important to take part in events like this to learn what we as individuals

and as a university can do to support victims of sexual assault, which isn't talked about often.

"The entire month is important because, it's not something that's spoken about a lot," said Lumsden. "And it's important that people know that there are victims of sexual assault on our campus or at least, you know somebody that knows somebody."

According to Lumsden, Henderson Counseling will be available at each event to speak with students who may be triggered or need any form of support. Counselors from Henderson are considered confidential resources, meaning that speaking to them will not launch an investigation if that is not what the student wants.

Bennett added, "One thing we make sure of is that people feel like they can speak out and share their experiences and it's not going to trigger a formal investigation or disciplinary action, especially if students aren't ready for that to happen. We try to make that a safe space and we'll offer support and follow up in a supportive fashion, but students can feel like they can participate without filing a complaint."

For more information on Take Back the Night Programming, contact Tamara Lumsden at specialprojects@nova.edu.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT EVENTS AND LOCATIONS:

Monday, April 9
"Don't Just Stand There, Do Something"
12 p.m. | Commons Room 123
Women Empowerment Stiletto Class
8 p.m. | RecPlex Studio 3

Tuesday, April 10
Social Media Campaign Photos
12 p.m. | Various locations
#RelationshipGoals Workshop
5 p.m. | Commons 123

Wednesday, April 11
Tunnel Vision Experience
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4-6 p.m. | UC Pit
Candle Light Vigil and Walk
7 p.m. | NSU Shark Fountain

Thursday, April 12
Clothes Line Project
12 p.m. | UC Spine

Friday, April 13
Community Service
11 a.m. | UC Pit

PVA flips the script

By: Christina McLaughlin
Opinions Editor

On April 6, the Performing and Visual Arts Department will present the annual Broadway Bash, but this year there's a twist. This year's theme is "MisCast."

A miscast involves breaking the boundaries of gender roles by swapping genders in this collection of Broadway revue of the classic and modern genre of theatre and entertainment. Based on the New York Cabaret style, NSU performers have made this production their own.

As Elyse Rosen, performer and costume designer, explained, "It's not the full show. It's different numbers so you [get a chance] to play these different characters and have fun with it where you wouldn't necessarily get to play that character."

Even though this show is meant to be light-hearted and exhibit the comedy and fun the theatre can present with Broadway material, some of these numbers have some serious, dramatic undertones and some even create an undertone by simply switching the gender.

Kelly Johnson, performer and assistant director, said, "The topic [of gender identity] is relevant now where gender roles are starting to make their way out [of our modern society]. So we are flipping the script on what you would usually see. In our world [of theatre] we can do that. We can do anything we want."

With this newfound artistic freedom, Rosen feels that this year's Bash will open up the doors for the audience to find something new

in the theatre that they might enjoy. Johnson said she hopes the event will break barriers with both gender norms and typecasting.

"We don't have to play what is typically our typecast. Certain people play the princesses and certain people are the goofy best friend. In this, we don't follow that pattern at all," said Johnson.

Audiences can expect to see an eclectic mix of musicals new and old like "Spring Awakening," "Chicago" and "The Wedding Singer," to name a few. Not only are they the originals people are familiar with but some obvious artistic liberties were taken.

"Elyse has a solo from the Full Monty, which is hilarious. Elyse is a sweet, little princess

who is a man drinking beer, playing baseball. It's so funny," said Johnson.

Rosen and Johnson said they hope that students will enjoy this event and be able to generate new themes and ideas like this in future Broadway Bashes.

"Theatre people tend to be open-minded because we are all kind of out there and it's regular for us to live [in this world] where we can be whatever we want to be," said Johnson. "The rest of the world isn't always like that. It's nice to open our theatre door and let people see what it's like."

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Making long-distance relationships work over the summer break

By: **Jieun Son**
Contributing Writer

Summer is filled with long days and warm nights, free from schoolwork obligations. It is no wonder “summer lovin’ happened so fast.” But with summer break comes a three-month separation between some couples, especially those who met on campus and have to part ways to different states during the summer. When it comes, they are no longer a mere three-minute walk away from each other and lose the option of daily summer escapades with night-time dates. As such, summer may not be an easy road to navigate, but there are a plenty of ways to make it work.

Stay in contact

Being a few states away physically does not mean the distance has to pull you two

apart mentally. It is important to establish and maintain an emotional connection as often as you can. According to the HuffPost, it does not have to be a long, in-depth conversation. Let your significant other know your schedules and be curious about his or her schedule as well. It is helpful to know when the other person is busy and when he or she is free, so that you can drop a text or make a call at the right time. This is especially essential when both are living in different time zones. Frequent communication like this, no matter how mundane it is, will show that each of you cares enough to put time and effort into the relationship.

Trust each other and be honest

Trust in a relationship is vital, regardless of

distance. Be faithful. However, if you do make a mistake, Modernlovelongdistance.com states that it is especially important to be honest and tell your partner the truth. Do not try to deal with things all by yourself. Be open and honest with each other, but the best thing to do is avoiding those kinds of situations to begin with.

Invest in alone time and other important relationships

You are alone but you are not lonely, unless you choose to feel like it. You should not let your world revolve around your significant other, and being apart is the perfect opportunity to regroup. According to Lifehack.org, you will suffer more if you focus all your free time and energy on your long-distance love. You will be happier

and healthier in life if you have a strong network of friends and family beyond your partner. Additionally, spending time alone can be the best chance to improve and strengthen yourself.

Do things simultaneously

According to Refinery29, doing the same things at the same time can make the long distance seem smaller and more bridgeable. You can play an online game together, or watch a movie or TV show simultaneously. You will feel closer together and you will bond at the same time if you would do things simultaneously.

Keeping a garden in your dorm when you don't have a green thumb

By: **Madelyn Rinka**
News Editor

If you're looking for an excuse to brighten up your living space, April, National Garden Month, may be the perfect time to start a mini nursery. If the idea of buying one more plant just to watch it wither in under a month seems discouraging, follow these easy tips that will help you turn your grey room into a greenhouse.

Read up on your plants

Not all plants are created equal — especially when it comes to which ones are best for dorms. Some plants like succulents, cacti, aloe vera or bamboo are fairly hardy, meaning that even if you're not the best at remembering to water your mini garden, they'll likely survive through a bit of mistreatment. Others, however, aren't as tolerant. A lot of light, flowering plants require specific amounts of sunlight and watering. They're also pretty delicate — meaning a bit of forgetfulness or less-than-ideal environments, like air conditioning, low sunlight or being potted, can cause your greenery to look a bit more like brownery.

Make it easy for yourself

Plants are supposed to brighten up your life and filter the air in your room — not stress you

out. Pick plants that you think look good, but would also do well in your environment. Also, if you're not looking for something that requires a lot of knowledge and care, don't bother growing anything from seeds. Growing seedlings usually necessitates a lot of delicate steps — from germination and transferring pots, to caring for the fragile sprouts and knowing how much water and sun to give them, it's likely not worth the hassle (and mess!) of saving a few bucks.

Light 'em up

Indoor situations, especially those of residence hall rooms, don't always lend to the best environment for plants. Too little sunlight, and a plant will wither away and die, and too much can result in too much heat energy absorption and will also harm your garden. Be sure to know what each greenery requires, and try to adhere to those recommendations as best as possible. Putting plants as close to the window as possible is usually best for them, as they will be able to get the most sunlight there. Remember, though, that some windows, depending on their direction, can't provide full sunlight conditions.

Give them space

As your thumb grows greener, your plants may grow larger. If you notice the roots of your plants poking through the drainage holes or the sudden slow of growth, it may be time to give it a new home. You can do this by simply removing a plant by grabbing it closest to the

soil, relocating it to a new, larger pot and adding extra potting soil. This might also require you to give it a new home in your room. If the new pot no longer fits on a window sill, consider placing it on a nearby desk or buying a small cart to house your little jungle.

SUCCULENTS AND CACTI

Keep succulents and cacti near a window, as they love sunlight. Wait until their soil feels almost dry before watering them again — they do well preserving water on their own. These plants are perfect for the forgetful student that doesn't necessarily have the keenest gardening senses.

BAMBOO

Bamboo plants like medium to low sunlight, as they grow very delicate leaves. Consider placing them on a desk adjacent to a window. Also, try sprucing up their living space — bamboos love lots of water, and can

grow in pebbles or small stones rather than soil. Add colored fill into a glass jar before planting this grass for a personal touch.

ALOE VERA

Aloe is a member of the succulent family, but requires slightly different care. While they do prefer as much sunlight as possible, aloe requires more frequent watering — don't let their soil dry up completely. Some believe that aloe can help heal minor burns and sunburns as well, so this plant packs an extra punch.

Care instructions provided by Costa Farms.



Career Corner



Resume Tips for LGBTQIA Identifying Students

By: **Ashley Rizzotto**
Contributing Writer

Ashley Rizzotto works in the Office of Career Development with current undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni to ensure the confidence and success of those she meets with.

“Should LGBT-related activities be included on the resume? Should your sexual orientation be mentioned on your resume or in a cover letter?”

In writing your resume, consider your audience ahead of time. Ask yourself, “Is it important for me to be out in the workplace?” If so, being forward with the relevant work or volunteer experiences working within the LGBTQIA community can help you identify employers that will be accepting and provide a safe space for you. When conducting research on the work environment, ask yourself “Is it

likely this organization will look favorably upon LGBTQIA+ activities?” If you are concerned it may be an environment that is not friendly, you may choose to omit some experiences, to be minimalistic with the information or to move on to another company that would be more welcoming.

No matter the approach you choose, focus on the transferable skills you have developed. When it comes to coming out on the resume, it is your choice to keep or downplay LGBTQIA+ affiliated organizations or experiences.

If you'd like a more private approach, but want to include an experience, you can abbreviate the title of the organization, for example:

YouthSAFE - Queer NC as an organization, can be abbreviated to “YouthSAFE”

Bullet points should be skill-oriented and

can address the populations you assisted, so if you were writing:

- Organized annual LGBTQIA Leadership Summit for 30 students
- Facilitated educational workshops on sexual identity and coming out

You can take a private approach by removing LGBTQIA and focus on skills, so it could look more like:

- Organized annual Leadership Summit for 30 students
- Facilitated educational workshops on identity development and community education

If you opt to do this and are asked by employer “What is YouthSAFE?” you can respond with a simple explanation such as “YouthSAFE is an anti-discriminatory organization” if you don't feel comfortable

sharing the details of the organization.

Most importantly, you should always feel comfortable claiming your experiences and achievements. Include LGBTQIA+ specific awards, scholarships, advocacy work or involvement in LGBTQIA+ student organizations in ways that are comfortable to you and make you proud.

This article focuses on sexual orientation and identity expression, but if you have questions relating to navigating the job search in regards to being genderfluid, non-binary or dealing with any identity matter that you aren't sure of how to proceed, consider visiting the Office of Career Development. We are here to see you, hear you and support you.

*Credit to University of Texas at Austin for the inspiration for this article.

That Time I... VISITED A MARIJUANA DISPENSARY

By: **Samantha Villarroel**
Contributing Writer

Over spring break, I had the pleasure of traveling to Colorado. The state’s landscape was captivating and the temperature was too cold for a typical Floridian like me. Yet, the real excitement stemmed from Colorado’s reputation as the “high” state for cannabis.

In Colorado, the only people who are allowed to purchase marijuana must be over the age of 21 or be legal medical recipients. As a Floridian coming from a place where dispensaries do not exist yet, I was curious and decided to visit one named Native Roots Dispensary.

As soon as I stepped inside the Littleton Native Roots Dispensary location, the clerks called out to me requesting my ID faster than I could say ‘Hello.’ I soon learned that the franchises, and other dispensaries in Colorado, highly enforced the age limit; as they should.

As I had recently turned 21, I did not yet change my vertical-oriented driver’s license to a horizontal-oriented one, which would have easily symbolized my “legitness.” The clerk scrutinized my ID, but since I was from a



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Customers are asked to show their IDs in the lobby before being taken to the product room.

different state they allowed me shop even with my vertical-facing ID.

Once I was buzzed into the section where the actual products were held, past the lobby area, I found myself in a Forever 21-styled, marijuana-themed store that had different sections for different products. A budtender — an expert in marijuana — probably realized that

I was new to the whole experience and ushered me over to him to provide some explanations, guidance and suggestions.

He provided an extensive amount of information about the marijuana plant and the products which were available for sale, including beverages and foods like hot chocolate, coffee, muffins, cupcakes, lollipops and sour worms. If you can name it, it was probably there.

The budtenders taught me a lot about tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the chemical compound that gives marijuana its stimulatory effects. They told me about the products that had varying levels of THC percentages, taught me about the different types of marijuana as well as the side effects that might come along with them.

I also learned more about the purchasing and legal rules about using marijuana in Colorado. For example, in addition to having to be 21, marijuana has a 25 percent sales tax compared to the 8 percent medical tax. Though it was legal to possess cannabis, consumers were not allowed to smoke while driving and could only have

one ounce — at most — in their possession. Additionally, consumers are not allowed to smoke within 15 feet of the dispensary and could not smoke in private locations like restaurants. Also, products bought in Colorado had to stay in the state after purchase.

Thankfully, they were used to newbies asking a billion questions, and I had many. In the end I didn’t buy anything because I found that the prices were just a little too high.

This experience left me with an appreciation for the plant, as well as knowledge of how the state has been successful with its restrictions and safety rules. I would challenge people to educate themselves and learn about the usage of the plant and its components. Native Roots Dispensary was a delightful, clean place with funny names for their marijuana varieties and edibles; if you ever find yourself in one of their stores, ask about their Golden Goat. Now, at the very least, even if I never smoke again, I can scratch ‘went to a dispensary’ off my bucket list.

Do you know your rights as a student?

By: **Christina McLaughlin**
Opinions Editor

In our current political climate, we hold civil liberties and individual rights to the utmost regard. With recent protests on gun laws, LGBTQ discrimination and other similar cases being brought to light, students should know what rights they have as a student in the United States. As stated by the Supreme Court in 1969 by the Tinker vs Des Moines Independent Community School Dist. case, “students or teachers [don’t] shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.” And this inalienable right has not changed since. Students are still fighting for their individual rights and under our Constitution, they can reserve that right at anytime.

At NSU, students are granted not only the rights given to us in our constitution but also equal opportunity rights, a strict nondiscrimination policy and general student rights. Outlined in the student handbook, here are the rights that NSU students possess.

STUDENT RIGHTS:

- the right to scrupulous respect for the equal rights and dignity of others
- the right to be treated equally in academic and social settings
- the right to live and/or attend classes in a physically safe environment
- the expectation of a positive living/learning environment
- the right to hold other students accountable to the Code of Student Conduct and Academic Responsibility
- the rights of personal and intellectual freedom which are fundamental to the idea of a university
- the right of dedication to the scholarly and educational purposes of the university
- the right to participate in promoting and ensuring the academic quality and credibility of the institution.
- the right to provide service to our community and beyond
- the right to engage in service opportunities that enhance learning outcomes, both on and off campus
- the right to associate with student

organizations of one’s own choosing

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

NSU follows all the federal and state laws, rules and regulations. This means that NSU does not engage in discrimination or harassment against any persons because of race, color, religion or creed, sex, pregnancy status, national or ethnic origin, disqualifying disability, age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, military service, veteran status, political beliefs or affiliations. This includes any academic, admission, scholarship, athletics or other university programs. If an individual feels that their rights have been infringed upon or discriminated against, they have a right to admonish these acts since NSU views these acts as unacceptable and strictly

For inquiries or complaints regarding perceived discrimination based on gender or sex, contact Laura Bennett, Title IX coordinator by calling 954-262-7858 or emailing laura.bennett@nova.edu. All other inquiries or complaints regarding perceived discrimination should be directed to Alexis Martinez, assistant dean for student development by calling 954-262-7281 or emailing amartinez1@nova.edu.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

FERPA provides students with rights in respect to their personal education records. Each of these rights are granted by the United States Department of Education. Here are basic descriptions of a few of these rights:

Students have a right to inspect and review their education records. They must submit a written request to the University Registrar with

records they are requesting and this access must be granted within 45 days of the processed request.

If a student believes information in their education records is inaccurate, misleading or in direct violation of a student’s privacy, they may discuss these concerns informally with the University Registrar. If the decision is in line with the student’s requests, the records will be amended. If not, the student will be notified that records will not be amended and be informed of rights to a formal hearing.

A student has a right to consent to disclose personal identity information in education records. There is an exception which information can be disclosed without consent but only to school officials when access to the academic record interferes with their professional responsibilities. With request, the university also may grant records without consent if the student seeks to enroll in another school (transfer) so long as it only involves records required for transfer or enrollment.

NSU classifies specific student information as public or directory information. This information can be disclosed by the institution for any purpose, at their discretion. This information includes names, local and home addresses, telephone number, email addresses, major field of study, sport participation, birthplace, dates of attendance, degrees and awards, enrollment status, year in school and anticipated graduation. If a student requests to withhold this directory information, they may do so by completing the Request to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information form and submitting it to the University Registrar. Some consequences of this prevention of disclosure does include Dean’s List or commencement bulletins to be unpublished as well as denied requests from prospective employers.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

A student must give consent, however, to grant NSU the right to discuss or release personal information with a third-party such as a spouse, parent or guardian. This written form must also be presented with a student’s signature. This form, available at the Office of the University

Registrar’s website, is entitled the Authorization for Release of Information.

As stated in the handbook, NSU’s purpose is to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to fulfill their intellectual potential and that means students have a right to learn, inside and outside of the classrooms, in an environment free of discrimination. Students are encouraged to have their rights embraced by the community and observe the spirit of the university’s mission by knowing these individual rights.



Want to
write
for us?

COME TO OUR MEETINGS
EVERY TUESDAY FROM
NOON TO 1 P.M. IN THE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE
HORVITZ BUILDING
TO LEARN MORE.
(YES. WE HAVE FREE FOOD.)

How to stay safe at festivals and concerts

By: **Madelyn Rinka**
News Editor

With concert and festival season right around the corner, fun, sun, music and friends might be on the forefront of your mind. It is imperative, however, that to ensure you enjoy the show and get home safely, you take a few precautions before jamming out.

Don't fly solo

While to some this may seem like common sense, remaining in a group or pair can be overlooked in some situations. Even if you're just leaving for a few moments to get a drink or use the restroom, going anywhere alone, especially while around intoxicated or otherwise impaired persons, can be a huge risk. It's much easier to target people who are sorting money, walking or even just waiting in line if they're alone, which leads to vulnerability in robberies or assaults.

Watch your drink

This is one of the first precautions anyone will tell you, but unfortunately it is one that is ignored or taken lightly far too often. According to LA Weekly, an estimated "2.7 percent of U.S. adult women have been victims of drug-facilitated rape at some point in their lives."

With all the commotion and the close proximity of people at concerts, it's not incredibly difficult for a potential predator to slip something into a cup while its owner has their head turned or is in the bathroom. If, for any reason, you must leave your drink unattended, discard it. Your health and safety is worth more than your overpriced margarita.

Don't accept anything from a stranger

A reality of concerts and festivals is that some individuals choose to bring illegal and dangerous drugs onto the grounds. If a stranger passes you anything, whether they claim it is a cigarette or a candy, do not accept or ingest it. According to Billboard, in 2016, two dozen concertgoers in Ohio were hospitalized after baggies of "candies" laced with large doses of THC caused them to need medical attention. Even if it is what they claim it to be, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Remove yourself from potentially dangerous situations

If you feel like something may be on the verge of going wrong, do your best to physically remove yourself from the area before things

escalate. What may start out as two men fighting in the row in front of you could turn into a violent brawl, or one person who begins to act strangely may be under the influence of potentially hazardous drugs. It is very easy for harmful situations to arise within the crowds at festivals and concerts, and it's safer to lose your seat than potentially be involved in a violent outburst.

Keep track of your belongings — and friends

Even if it's not the epitome of fashion, fanny packs might be the most efficient way to keep your belongings close and safe. It ensures your money, cell phone, sunscreen or keys all have their place right on your person. If you're not using a fanny pack or something similar, make sure whatever other bag you have with you is next to you and closed at all times. And, while keeping track of your belongings, make sure you're also keeping track of your group. The last thing you need is to lose your phone and friends in a crowd.

OFF SHORE CALENDAR

Concerts Under The Stars

April 5 | 7 p.m.
@Bonnet House

Rock the Ocean Tortuga

Festival
April 6-8
@Fort Lauderdale Beach

Destination Fridays Puerto Rico

April 6 | 6:30 p.m.
@African-American Research Library and Cultural Center

Fridays Movie Night

April 6 | 7 p.m.
@Village Design Gallery

Neon Nights

April 7 | 8 p.m.
@W Fort Lauderdale

Buddy Guy with Quinn Sullivan

April 8 | 7:30 p.m.
@Broward Center for the Performing Arts



STAFF PICKS: WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE POET AND WHY?

By: **The Current Staff**

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

"Maya Angelou captured my heart ever since my mother gifted me 'I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings' when I was in the sixth grade. I love her because she was an amazing activist and a public figure who really spoke to the heart of important issues that plagued our society. I'm obsessed with her work because she was a fantastic storyteller, as evident with poems like 'Still I Rise,' 'When Great Trees Fall,' 'In and Out of Time' and 'When I Think about Myself.'"

Diego Galvez, sports editor, said:

"My favorite poet is the Chilean Pablo Neruda. He's my favorite poet because his writing always contains a lot of passion and

emotions. His writing technique was so varied that he wrote poems in a variety of styles. Another reason why he's my one of my favorites poets is because he was one of the first Latinos to have international recognition when he won the Nobel Prize of Literature in 1971."

Christina McLaughlin, opinions editor, said:

"My favorite poet is Edgar Allan Poe. Most people know him just for his work like 'The Raven' and 'The Tell-Tale Heart,' but he wrote these incredible love poems. He went through a lot of tragedy in his life but he was able to articulate that in such a beautiful way through his poems. One of my favorite poems by him is 'A Dream within a Dream.'"

Skylyr Vanderveer, multimedia manager, said:

"My favorite poet has to be Edgar Allan Poe. I analyzed his works in my English Literature class my junior year of high school. No matter how dark the poems are, they remind me of a very awesome class."

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

"Charles Bukowski is my favorite poet. Cue cheers from edgy Tumblr kids and eye rolls from the rest of the world. He's kind of the poet that you either love or hate. For me, there's something about the simplicity and honesty in Bukowski's work that creates the perfect mix of apathy and compassion."

Nicole Chavannes, copy editor, said:

"I have a lot of select poems from several poets like Edgar Allan Poe, Maya Angelou, Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, even Rupi Kaur, that I love. It depends on my mood; sometimes I want to read something I can sit down and decipher while other times I want to read something I can relate to immediately. I think my favorite right now is Walt Whitman. He has so much work to enjoy and every time I read a part of 'Song of Myself' I find new meaning. Plus, Whitman reminds me of one of my favorite films, 'Dead Poets Society,' which makes me love him more."

National Poetry Month: Open Expressions

By: **Madelyn Rinka**
News Editor

Poetry can be used in a variety of ways to express one's thoughts, opinions and emotions. In honor of National Poetry Month, we asked members of NSU's club, *Open Expressions*, "How did you first get involved in writing and/or reading poetry?" Here are some of their responses.

Alyssa Yarbough, sophomore communication major, said:

"Losing my little brother when I was 10. Dealing with such a horrible loss I fell into depression and my dad told me how he deals

with his feelings is writing so that's what I started to do. Since then, it's been a thing for me"

Kamaria Johnson, junior exercise and sports science major, said:

"I think it started when I couldn't find my voice when I used to be bullied from elementary all the way up until eighth and ninth grade. It was a hard childhood for me, and I was always quiet and paranoid. But I was able to find myself and my voice through writing out my feelings on paper and transforming them into the pieces I write today!"

Tyrianna Richards, sophomore English major, said:

"I started reading and writing poetry in middle school when I found a book of my mom's poetry."

Abriana Iverson, freshman elementary education major, said:

"My introduction into writing poetry was actually during my freshman year of high school. It was the first assignment of the year to write a poem following the specified format and from there I fell in love."

Maria Valladares, sophomore legal studies major, said:

"Originally, I got into poetry because of my Nicaraguan roots. There's a belief in Central America that Nicaragua is the land of the poets and I try to embody that belief. So, I was taught poetry when I was very young. I didn't start writing poetry until elementary school! The more I wrote, the more I fell in love with it. It's my way of truly expressing myself and it reminds me of home."

Fall in love with 'Love, Simon'

By: **Kaeleigh Sturgeon**
Contributing Writer

High school — arguably some of the toughest years a teenager will experience. Whether it's applying to colleges, trying to fit in or late nights spent studying to get an A on a test, everyone has a lot going on. In the movie "Love, Simon," released on March 16, Simon Spier (Nick Robinson) is a senior in high school facing all these challenges. He's also hiding a big secret: he's gay, and hasn't told anyone. When it's revealed there's another closeted boy at his school, Simon creates an email account and begins messaging the boy who calls himself "Blue." As Simon begins to fall in love with his anonymous pen pal, conflict arises when fellow

classmate Martin Addison (Logan Miller) slowly causes a divide between Simon and his friends. Everyone deserves a love story, and Simon has to be brave enough to become his true self and find the boy he's fallen in love with.

Whether you're a member of the LGBT+ community or not, "Love, Simon" has something for you. It's a touching, fun story that details the highs and lows of a high school experience. The major message of the movie is that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, deserves a love story. While it isn't the first film to feature a gay character, it's a film made by a major motion-picture company telling the story of what it's like

to come-out. It's a step in the right direction for LGBT+ representation in films going forward.

Over the years, audiences and actors alike have pointed out the lack of representation within television shows, movies and other forms of mass media. Not to mention telling the same narrative over and over again becomes repetitive and boring. When a young children or teenagers sit in the audience and see someone that looks like them, shares similar beliefs or isn't afraid to stand up to others, it empowers them and inspires a future generation of strong, fearless leaders. I've seen posts all over social media about how much this movie meant to LGBT+

teens especially and how it has inspired them to come out to friends, family or even just restore their pride in being who they are.

I have seen "Love, Simon" twice now and wouldn't hesitate to go a third time because it does such a good job of giving us a love story that we needed and haven't seen before. Overall, I strongly recommend anyone thinking about seeing this movie to go, even if you don't have someone to go with you. Be prepared to laugh, cry and walk out feeling hopeful knowing that this movie is paving the way for future films to tell more diverse stories that will inspire people from various generations and walks of life.

A Q&A with smash hit 'The Bodyguard' actor Judson Mills

By: **Madelyn Rinka**
News Editor

Judson Mills was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in a small town in Northern Virginia. Mills majored in Theatre at Barry University in Miami after being inspired to pursue acting in high school, and continued onto the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York afterward. Mills has guest starred on shows such as "Law and Order," "Dexter" and "The X Files," among many others.

How did you get involved in acting?

"I was an athlete in school, and the school that I went to was sort of an arts-oriented school. There was a woman there that was a drama coach and she thought that I should be a performer. She pushed me into doing a play in my junior year, and I kind of liked it, and kept doing it. Then I just sort of decided that a career in athletics might be a lot shorter given injuries than a career in entertainment. I just kind of kept after it. I just really responded to it and enjoyed it."

What is "The Bodyguard" about?

"The Bodyguard" is about a pop star, played originally by Whitney Houston in the



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Judson Mills plays the iconic roll of Frank Farmer in "The Bodyguard."

movie, who has a stalker. Her team hires a former secret service agent [Frank Farmer] and bodyguard, played by Kevin Costner in the movie, to protect her. Ultimately the two are very alpha in nature, and they butt heads and

really have a difficult time getting along as this relationship moves along."

You play Frank Farmer — could you tell me about his character?

"Frank Farmer is a pretty simple, very focused, very dedicated individual. He's perhaps a little bit socially challenged — he prefers to be by himself for the most part, and he's very good at his job because of that. Bodyguards do the best when they're unseen and unheard, sort of undetectable. He's got a little bit of a dry sense of humor, but he's a really simple kind of a guy, which makes him kind of difficult to bring to life on stage."

Why should people come see "The Bodyguard"?

I think there's a lot going on in the world today, and there's a lot of stuff to be stressed about... oftentimes when you turn on the TV or look at your phone you're like 'ugh, really?' I'd like to think that for two and a half hours you can come see our show and be entertained, and laugh, and get involved in the story, and enjoy

the music and remember Whitney Houston, and all of her songs and just take some relief for a minute from all that is going on right now."

If students or young people want to pursue a career in acting, do you have any words of wisdom for them?

"Make sure you really love it, because there's going to be a lot of times where you're not getting paid what you'd like and you're not getting the jobs that you wish you would get. It's a lot of hustle... so if you don't really love it, and you're not really committed to going the distance, I would say find something else to do, because you have more downtime than you do success time."

Catch Mills playing Frank Farmer in "The Bodyguard," coming to the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts from April 3-8. Reserve your tickets by calling 305-949-6722 or go to arshtcenter.org.



SOUNDBITE

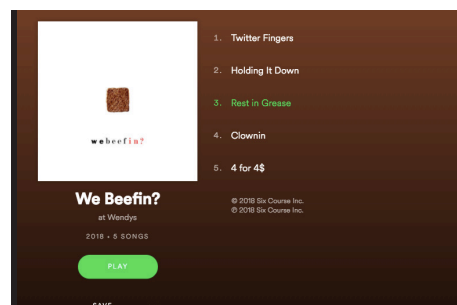


'We Beefin?' by Wendy's

By: **Adam DeRoss**
Contributing Writer

Everybody knows Wendy. She's been serving up her signature square beef patties in the fast food world since 1969. But in 2018, striving to serve good fast food just isn't enough to hold the attention of the public anymore. So, in a bold and unexpected move, Wendy has decided to launch herself into the music industry with her debut mixtape "We Beefin?" released on March 23. No, this isn't a joke. It's no secret that the social media profiles of fast food restaurants have been blowing up recently due to the dramatic "beef" that they start with one another. But Wendy's has taken it one step further by releasing a real, 10-minute mixtape intended to insult other fast food chains. The initial humor of this project is spot on, from the tongue-in-cheek song titles to the cover art parody of The Notorious B.I.G.'s 1994 debut album "Ready to Die." However, the mixtape very quickly wears out its welcome once its novelty wears off and ultimately presents nothing more than five generic trap songs with relatively weak writing and flow.

The intro cut on the project "Twitter Fingers" is a straightforward brag track that sees "Wendy" rapping about her status and



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM J. KOPEK
As if the fast food industry didn't have enough beef, Wendy's released its debut mixtape, "We Beefin?"

influence on Twitter with lines like "Hashtag legend, can't keep the fakes up off me" and "You Twitter beefin' for some clout." The two short verses on this two-minute cut are full of cheesy puns and call outs to other restaurants with some questionable flow choices on some of the rhyme scheme switches. The chorus is just as cringeworthy: "Who got the twang up in they sauce, yeah? Who got the thangs that hit so hard, yeah?" The production on this track is entirely forgettable at best, and just straight lazy at worst. The beat utilizes some simple stock piano samples and tinny hi-hats and snares. The

bass drum hits seem to be inserted without much thought as to how they flow together which throws the timing of the whole track off. Some of the more accentuated lines in the verses and chorus use a painful, cheap autotuned effect that does nothing to enhance the flow or impact of the line. The track itself is essentially unfinished with no discernable ending or breakdown of the beat. The end of the track just suddenly cuts off and then jarringly cuts into the beginning of the next.

"Rest in Grease" is the shortest cut on the record, clocking in at just a minute and a half. Ironically, this track is the best on the project. The production here, while still simple and unoriginal, has the best sense of flow and a healthy amount of variety within its beat. It's instrumentation utilizes a sweeping, heavily synthesized organ sample layered with the usual stock trap beat percussion progressions and some reverbed bass. The writing and flow here is also marginally better than on the rest of the tracks, even though some of the lines are a little too easy and low effort. For example, they decide to call out McDonald's with the lines

"Why yo' ice cream machine always broke? Why yo' drive thru always slow?" But some of these lines are so uninspired and uninteresting that they might as well just be actual lines from a Wendy's commercial, ie. "You can take a fry and dip it in the sauce, it still be so tasty."

Social media beef has become an integral and unavoidable part of internet culture. Fast food restaurants that have decided to capitalize on the possibilities for creative and humorous content creation on social media have become so overwhelmingly popular that many of them even have their own dedicated pages on Reddit, the front page of the internet™. Wendy's has taken this celebrity meme status to the next level with its own parodical mixtape and it's probably just a matter of time before other chains follow suit. The concept itself and the pure shock value that comes from the release of "We Beefin?" has undoubtedly been one of the most entertaining internet happenings in quite some time. However, once you look past the sheer ridiculousness of the project and the humor it initially presents, you're left with a sloppily made sandwich of sound with not as much meat as you were expecting.

ON DECK

MEN'S BASEBALL

@No. 24 Saint Leo
April 6 | 6 p.m.
St. Leo, Fla.

@No. 24 Saint Leo
April 7 | 2 p.m.
St. Leo, Fla.

@No. 24 Saint Leo
April 8 | 1 p.m.
St. Leo, Fla.

MEN'S GOLF

vs. Battle at the Shores
April 2-3
Normandy Shores Golf Club,
Miami Beach, Fla.

WOMEN'S GOLF

vs. Lady Panther Invitational
April 8-10
Duran Golf Club, Melbourne,
Fla.

WOMEN'S ROWING

@FIRA Championships
April 6-7
Sarasota, Fla.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

vs. Florida Tech
April 6 | 6 p.m.
Ad Griffin

vs. Florida Tech (DH)
April 7 | 1 & 3 p.m.
Ad Griffin

vs. Barry
April 10 | 6 p.m.
Ad Griffin

WOMEN'S TENNIS

@No. 1 Lynn
April 5 | 3 p.m.
Boca Raton, Fla.

TRACK AND FIELD

@Miami Alumni Invitational
April 6-7
Coral Gables, Fla.

OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Former Mets All-Star Rusty Staub dies at age 73

Rusty Staub, a former first baseman for the New York Mets, died March 29, which was also opening day for the 2018 MLB season. According to USA Today, Staub died of multiple organ failure at Palm Beach, Florida hospital at the age of 73. Staub had played major-league baseball for 23 years, where he gathered fans from Houston, Montreal, New York and Detroit. He was a six-time All-Star player and started for the Mets in the 1973 World Series.

LeBron James ties Michael Jordan's double-digit scoring streak

On March 27, in a game against the Hornets, Cavalier player LeBron James scored his tenth point of the game in the second quarter. The Cavs beat the Hornets with a final score of 118-105. This would be the 866th game in a row where James' points ranked in the double digits, tying the record set by Michael Jordan. In the same game, Hornets player Kemba Walker became the team's all-time leading scorer.

NFL enacts new "Heads Up" rule

On March 27, the NFL passed a new rule through its legislation at their annual meeting. According to USA Today, the rule states: "It is a foul if a player lowers his head to initiate and make contact with his helmet against an opponent." This rule will replace the rule that banned players from using the top of their helmets in tackles. This rule is an attempt to lower the 47 percent of concussions that occur from helmet to helmet contact, and there is still deliberation to determine the details of the foul and how it will be enacted into game play.

Cubs hit home-run in first pitch of opening day

According to USA Today, on March 29, MLB Opening Day, Chicago Cubs' Ian Happ hit a home-run off of the first pitch of the MLB season against Miami Marlins' pitcher Jose Urena. The Cubs won the game with a score of 3-0, with another solo home run hit off of Urena by first baseman Anthony Rizzo. The Cubs are favored to repeat as the National League Central champions and to compete for the World Series title this year.



Men's Baseball

The Sharks had a successful weekend against Palm Beach Atlantic, winning game one on March 23 7-3. They won games two and three 14-6 and 16-5, respectively. Junior Ian Acevedo had a balanced offensive attack with a 3-for-3 effort at the dish in game one. In game two, the Sharks had a season-high four homers, with 12 different players having at least one hit, and junior Jake Anchia was the only player to have multiple hits. NSU had three more homers in game three.

On March 29, Anchia set the new NSU record for career home runs against Rollins. The Sharks won 11-1 and recorded eight hits over the final three innings.

Women's Golf

NSU propelled to the top of the leaderboard March 26 at day one of the Barry U Invitational. Junior Sophie Madden grabbed the individual lead for a portion of the morning at (-2) 70. Senior and U.S. representative in the 2018 Arnold Palmer Cup, Jamie Freedman, finished the final 13 holes bogey-free, five-under-par.

On the second day of the tournament NSU secured its sixth consecutive team title, with Madden collecting individual medalist honors for the first time in her career and Freedman finishing one shot back. Senior Michelle Ruiz tied for the tournament-high 12 total birdies.

Women's Softball

The Sharks split a doubleheader with Flagler College Saints on March 21, first winning 3-2 then losing 16-3. Redshirt freshman Daniela Bautista scored her second homer of the season.

On March 29, NSU lost game one against Eckerd

7-3. Sophomores Kailynn Blackwood and Sydney Lageyre finished 2-for-3 with Blackwood adding one RBI. Sophomores Lexie Storrer and Alex Suzuki went 2-for-4; Storrer scored once and Suzuki tallied two RBI from her home run.

Women's Tennis

On Saturday, March 24, the Sharks fell just short of victory against Rollins, losing 5-4 at the Bert Martin Tennis Complex. Junior Ana Navas and sophomore Isabella Lowrey prevented the sweep despite Rollins taking an early 2-0 lead.

The next day, sophomore Daniela Obando and freshman Alexandra Yeardley prevented another sweep against Academy of Art, winning a No. 2 8-6 victory.

On March 27, Obando and Lowrey secured wins in singles, but the team fell to the 2017 National Champion and third-ranked Barry Buccaneers 7-2.

Obando and Lowrey secured singles wins again on March 29, with the team losing again to the University of Delaware 5-2.

Men's & Women's Track and Field

Senior Amira Bendrif provisionally qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championship in the triple jump on March 23. Junior Kamaria Johnson tossed 45.78 meters in the hammer throw while senior Maddy Kenyon was just shy of a season best in the javelin. Sophomore Zaheem Anderson set a personal-best in the long jump, 6.57 meters, while senior Jazmine Elleston placed fifth in the triple jump. On the track, sophomore Nisha Bryant ran a season-best 12.77 seconds in the 100 meter dash and freshman Michelle Bauer and graduate Thomas Ingalls had top-10 finishes.

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On The Bench:

Sports ads shouldn't promote unhealthy habits

By: **Diego Galvez**
Sports Editor

Over the years, the sports world has changed in a lot of ways. There has been a shift from covering games to covering the social, political and economic aspects of every perspective that a sports event may have. Nevertheless, there has been one constant in the sports world: their ads. Ads that run through games of the NFL, NHL and even little league have two big sponsor categories — the auto industry and food and non-alcoholic beverages industry.

The auto industry has been, and should remain, a sponsor to sports events. It's been around so long that you can't imagine watching a football game or a soccer match without watching a Toyota or a GMC ad. Although the

reason behind these ads is mainly to hit their target audience, according to The Globe and Mail the ads have slowly become part of the experience, whether you're attending a game or watching from home. However, the food and non-alcoholic beverage industry, though just as much a part of the sports-watching experience, is harming viewers, especially children, in the most ironic way possible.

Since sports are one of the best ways to keep yourself healthy and motivated, the food industry, especially junk food, has learned to take advantage of this perception. This industry spends billions of dollars so unhealthy food ads can appear in as many places as possible. But

why would they spend so much money on ads that don't seem to be working on adults? It's because they're not targeted at adults; at least not directly. Companies prefer to target a more easily molded and entertained demographic to sway the food choices they make for a lifetime: kids as young as age two.

According to a new study in the journal Pediatrics, major sports leagues such as the NFL have millions of young viewers, as many as 412 million under the age of 17. Food industries take advantage of these viewers because 78 percent of all the foods shown on advertisements are junk food, according to a research made by the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and

Obesity research.

To think that food companies use sport events to promote their unhealthy products it's ironic and should be prevented because it can lead to associations between sports and junk food. If you see an unhealthy food ad in between periods, the probability of you misinterpreting the unhealthiness of the food is much higher, according to the Pediatrics study. Some countries, like Chile, are addressing this issue by reducing advertising of unhealthy foods during sporting events and programming. If we don't regulate the ads kids see, we might even face a more serious problem: obesity on an even larger scale.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

Skyla Osceola



By: **Christina McLaughlin and Michaela Greer**
Opinions Editor and Co-Editor-in-Chief

Skyla Osceola is a freshman exercise and sports science major who played on American Heritage School's varsity squad for four years. During her sophomore year, she received an All-Broward County Honorable Mention. As a senior on the squad, she averaged 16 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds per game.

As a freshman, how has your transition from high school to college been?

"Coming here was probably one of my best decisions ever. I know it's pretty cliché to say that but I'm close to home and my family. I have great teammates and coaches that love me and appreciate everything that I do, so it was a great, good choice [that I made] to come here. The transition has been amazing. It was hard at first, but I just stuck to it and kept grinding day in, day out. Everything just fell into place."



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM J. CARTER
Freshman Skyla Osceola said that deciding to play for NSU's women's basketball team was one of the best decisions she's ever made.

music so my tastes are all over the place."

What is your favorite course this semester?

"My favorite class would probably be 'Prevention and Care' because of the friends that I've made. They're pretty great and they've really helped me stay on top of my grades in that class."

What do you typically do before a big game?

"I like to take a deep breath and just tell myself that I need to get through this part to become that player that I want to be. I'll pray and just ask God for guidance and advice."

What got you interested in playing basketball?

"I started at a pretty young age but it was mainly because of my older brother and my sister. My mom and dad — they played. They're great players as well but it was really my older brother and sister because I saw the work that they put in day in, day out as I was growing up watching them play softball and basketball. So, I knew that if I wanted to get a scholarship it was only going to be for one of them [softball or basketball]. So, I put aside softball — I hung my cleats up and my gloves and it was time to just focus on basketball. I wanted to make a name for myself beside just being my brother and sister's little sister."

Who would you say is your mentor or someone that's really encouraged you?

"I would definitely say my mom on the academic side. She's always pushed me to never settle. Even if I thought it was okay just to get a

'B' or something she'd be like, 'You're smarter than that. Strive to be great all the time.'

"Basketball-wise, it would be my dad. He pushes me past my limits all the time and he's always willing to shoot with me even if it's at 11 o'clock at night. He's always been there for me."

How has your relationship with your teammates developed thus far?

"It's been great. I mean we've all had our ups and downs. No team is perfect but I wouldn't trade any of them. They're all special; each and every one of them in their own way. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am at the end of the season like I am right now."

What's been your favorite moment this season?

"I think, just the way that we all grind it out together during practices and preparing for the biggest games and stuff like that because we

have to push each other and we have to make each other better. Just coming out and winning the games is a special moment because all of that hard work pays off."

What are you looking forward to for next season?

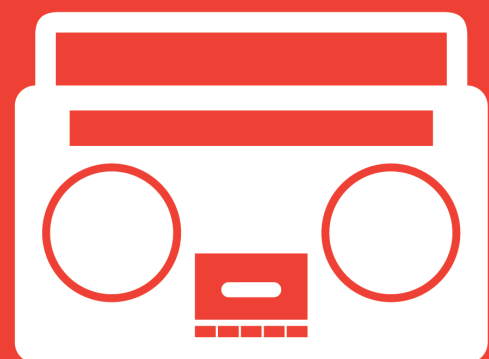
"I look forward to getting the team closer, practicing hard every day, preparing, getting ready, welcoming the newcomers that are coming in and just getting ready to get our team to win a national championship."

What are some of your future aspirations?

"I definitely want to try to win a national championship. I also want to make a difference by coaching in basketball after I'm done since I've learned so much from all of my coaches and my dad. I just want to give all of that back to the kids that are coming up."

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The struggle is real... but it's not yours

By: **Diego Galvez**
Sports Editor

We have all encountered difficulties in our lives. Big or small, these difficulties are undesirable and often unexpected. They make our lives harder than usual, but that's part of day-to-day life. But, are we complaining more than we should? Has this "struggle" become more of a complaint rather than an actual sacrifice that is an important part of life?

Every individual has his or her own definition for what he or she thinks is a struggle. Most students will agree that some of the basic struggles include balancing academics with a hobby, a sport or with work and with saving or budgeting money. However, the hashtag #thestruggle on Twitter, along with a BuzzFeed post that was published in 2014

changed the perception of what "a struggle" is and began to be used as a joke or refer to petty problems. With this correlation, every time someone uses the phrase "the struggle is real," people automatically assume that is about an unimportant problem or a so-called "first world problem," a term that was added to the Oxford Dictionary Online in November 2012. This term refers to issues in First World nations with an absence of more pressing concerns. Some of these First World problems include the speed of the internet, cell phone coverage areas or bad-tasting fruits.

These problems are so unimportant and irrelevant that the fact that people use them just to complain is absurd. The struggles

people have in other countries, especially in developing ones, are very real for them. In Eastern and South Africa, for example, they have to face the struggle of undernutrition that has affected 34 percent of children under five, according to UNICEF. Or Greece who has the second worst unemployment rate of the world with 24.62 percent, according to Forbes. If we use the phrase in that type of context, then I believe we are using it correctly and we should recognize them and try to find a solution to it. However, if we keep using it as we do now, to complain about the little sacrifices or some trivial issue that we have, then we are taking the real context away from it and making a joke about how our lives are so "hard" when they are

not nearly as bad.

Yes, sometimes life can be tough and can make us face big issues that we are not used to. This is where the struggle could actually be "real" and may involve a sacrifice that goes beyond what we are used to. However, if you think that waking up in the morning to learn or to work, and get paid for it, is a struggle, I would suggest being a productive member of society and trying to make the world a better place instead of just staying in bed and complaining about these trivial things. Try to make it a better place not just for you and your loved ones, but for those who are actually struggling and can only imagine having the life that you live as well.

TLC, stop following the trends

By: **Christina McLaughlin**
Opinions Editor

The Learning Channel, commonly referred to as TLC, has brought us some of the "binge-iest" reality television shows like "My 600-lb Life," "My Strange Addiction" and "Say Yes to the Dress." When this channel debuted in the early '80s, it was meant to be an educational channel, a "place for learning minds," which featured shows involving information-based segments on a variety of topics like home improvement and nature. Today, it has definitely strayed from that path.

All of the shows now are either routed around lifestyle or fashion and most, if not all of these shows, are reality television, which isn't the best source of information. It's interesting that it is owned by Discovery, Inc. which is all about educating people about the natural world with their other channels like The Discovery

Channel, Animal Planet and the Travel Channel. So why did they all of a sudden let this channel drop the ball from it's main purpose? Short answer: ratings. They are letting this channel run amok to make some money and close the gaps the other channels don't.

According to The Futon Critic, in 2017 TLC had the best ratings compared to other cable networks with the women's demographic on Saturday nights. The average demographic hit are people ages 18 to 54, though they mainly target women in that age range. The main reason they succeed is not only because of the people they rake in watching their reality shows, but also because they aren't risking anything with their shows. For example, with the recent success of "90 Day Fiance," they added similar spin-offs to keep those viewers interested with

"90 Day Fiance: Happily Ever After."

Shockingly, this isn't the only time they've followed trends in ratings to create a "fresh" spin-off that will keep viewers hooked. It seems like TLC has a thing for family units and "different" family lifestyles. They have a total of 16 shows over the years with a ring of spin-offs. The most common involve polygamy lifestyles like "Sister Wives," "Three Women, One Husband," "My Five Wives" and "Seeking Sister Wife." Any show on TLC that does fairly-decent on ratings automatically gets a spin-off within a year dependent upon to turn around time.

This pattern isn't just for shows about polygamy, either. "Say Yes to the Dress" has become one of the channel's largest money makers with 10 spin-offs like "Randy Knows

Best," "Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta" and "Say Yes to the Prom." There might be no answer to why this channel is so obsessed with these seemingly random topics, but it definitely has made them a successful moneymaker for their boss.

I understand that when you watch a television channel they all have a main topic, like Syfy follows science fiction and Animal Planet follows anything animals, but for a channel with basically no description, it's time they 'fess up to the fact that they have no genre other than reality. They recently released a new tagline, "Everyone needs a little TLC" to try and change the narrative, but, guess what: it's not the best cover-up of the truth. Give us our binge-worthy reality shows, but don't pretend that's not your only offer to your viewers.

Feminism is for men, too

By: **Nicole Chavannes**
Copy Editor

People sometimes hear the word "feminism" and want to run in the opposite direction, change the subject or even roll their eyes and disparage the idea. It's a pretty polarizing subject. Some people embrace the title "feminist" while others, both men and women, shy away from it, associating it with man-hating.

Though the word itself, with its root being "fem," can point to putting women above men or valuing women more than men, feminism is actually a fight for equality. Historically and statistically, women have suffered more from inequality and been disproportionately affected by inequality, but that doesn't change the fact that inequality hurts men, too.

In 2014, Emma Watson announced the HeForShe campaign in a speech at the United Nations, urging men to fight against inequality and discrimination against women, but also pointing out that men are affected by gender

inequality as well. While Watson's campaign received criticism – after all, men had been 'invited' to the conversation about inequality long before Watson stepped up to the plate – she made valid points on the benefits of feminism for men as well as women.

Men suffer from gender roles just as women do; they're expected to dress a certain way, assert their masculinity whenever possible, deemed weak when they show emotion, and are often expected to provide financially as the breadwinners of their households. They want to have a more active role in their children's lives, but are rarely afforded time off to spend with them; paternity leave is virtually unheard of in the U.S. Meanwhile, men expected to repress their emotions, told to "man up" and hide their vulnerabilities.

As a result, men are often emotionally stunted, unable or unwilling to express themselves, and internalize their struggles to

the point of being disproportionately affected by mental illness. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, men in the U.S. commit suicide 3.5 times more often than women, and white males accounted for 7 out of 10 suicides in the U.S. in 2016.

Men can also be victims of sexual violence, and are often judged and deemed weak if they reveal they've been sexually assaulted. However, I will say that while a man might be ostracized or victim-blamed following assault, it's more likely that people will believe his claims immediately. When actor Anthony Rapp accused Spacey of trying to seduce him 30 years prior, Netflix announced the very same day that its show "House of Cards," which Spacey starred in, would be canceled after the sixth season. According to BBC News, The International Academy of Television Arts announced it would no longer give Spacey a special Emmy award in light of "recent events," and a week later Spacey

was completely removed from the film "All the Money in the World," which was already in post-production. In a matter of days, Spacey's career was ruined. Meanwhile, it took almost 50 women speaking out against Bill Cosby over several months before the public said, "Hmm, maybe he did do it."

The reason feminism often seems to focus on women is because, historically, we've been the most affected by gender inequality. However, the movement – aside from extremists, which you'll find in any movement – has never been focused on belittling men or punishing men. It's important to acknowledge that women aren't the only ones who suffer. Most of us suffer, to some degree, from our prescribed gender roles because they're ultimately limiting and harmful. It's important that we all feel able and welcome to express our vulnerabilities, take care of our mental health and practice self-love; we all deserve it, equally.

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Girl who constantly claims to hate everyone confused at lack of friends

By: **Jenna Kopec**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Nida Fren said that she was born knowing that she would hate everyone she meets.

“Yeah, I’m just not like other girls I guess,” said Fren. “People just really annoy me.”

Fren said that this constant annoyance causes her to wear shirts such as “I’m not racist, I hate everyone. I’m a humanist,” to constantly bring up the fact that she’s the type of girl to wear Converse instead of a cheerleading uniform and to inform every man that looks like he may play golf that he “wouldn’t understand” someone like her.

“Sounds kind of crazy to most people, but this is just who I am. It’s my life,” said Fren.

There is one part of Fren’s life that is crazy to her, though. She can’t seem to make any

friends. Since Fren entered college in the fall, she has found that there isn’t really a need for her cell phone save for watching YouTube rants. She’s only been to parties that she wasn’t invited to — or was invited to but only out of pity.

“If I felt emotion it would make me kind of sad, you know?” said Fren. “Just because I hate everyone doesn’t mean I want to be by myself all the time.”

Robert Sucker has Comp 1500 with Fren. Sucker said he’s gone to the movies with Fren once or twice but plans to never do so again.

“I felt bad because no one would sit with her but then I realized why,” said Sucker. “She’s zero fun to talk to or be around.”



Perhaps if you’d read the email ...

By: **Michaela Greer**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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?

Could it be that I just happen to be one of those out-of-the-box thinkers people often talk about, or could I simply be crazy to expect that the recipients of emails, text messages, letters, smoke signals, etc. will read the correspondence instead of inquiring about the cliff notes later? Sure, I can in fact, give you the information at a later date. After all, only silly people would think that it’s sufficient to take time out of their day to jot down specific information, go through the trouble of providing you with appropriate attachments, links and other pertinent information, and delivering it straight to your inbox. So yes, Tom, I’ll give you the elevator pitch and then subject myself to your 99 follow-up questions that I’ve already answered. And, I’ll do it all without blowing a gasket because “it’s not that big of a deal” and you’re right, my

frustration is completely uncalled for.

Or — and humor me with this one — maybe you could just read that email or article which contains all of the information that you need, sandwiched between a precise header and apt call-to-action. Perhaps then, you would be more informed about what’s happening on your campus. By George, it might be possible for us to conclude a meeting on time — a usual gripe of yours — if you’d only prepared yourself beforehand, allowing us to skip the part where we have to fill you in.

Trust me, I understand that we’re all busy people and sometimes, you may need the summarized version because you just received the information way too late to prepare and you’ve had an awful day. There, there; it would be my pleasure to catch you up on such occasions. But, on those other days — you know, the ones where you had ample time to get your stuff together — do us all a favor and do what’s expected: read the — who am I kidding, if this applies to you, you’ve probably stopped reading ... So, if you’re like me, I feel for you. Try your best to hang in there.

Self-love is the new summer body

By: **Siena Berardi**
Contributing Writer

To many, a “summer body,” “bikini body” or “beach-ready body” is attained by spending weeks at the gym toning abs. To others, a “summer body” is literally being a human who inhabits a body in the season of summer, as it should be. People should not focus on the ridiculous goal of losing weight and changing their physiques to find their happiness. Every person has a beautiful body and summer is a good time to be reminded of this.

Social media plays a large role in the lives

of many people and it seems like photos are taken every second. There is a lot of pressure on people to look and feel their best as summer approaches. The stigma that people need to look like a Victoria’s Secret or Hollister model in time for summer vacation is completely outrageous. As one who visits the gym several times I week, I understand the desire to look good — whatever your individual idea of this is — when the hotter months roll in, but I try to focus more on how I feel rather than how I

look. Instead of blindly aiming to fit a societal idea, I prep for my “summer body” by taking care of myself through moderate exercise and a fairly healthy diet. I indulge when I want to and I do it in moderation. Worrying so much about achieving that “summer body” is rooted in caring too much about what others think. Losing weight might not solve all of your problems but gaining confidence is the best way to ensure a that a “summer body” lasts through the rest of the seasons.

The amount of pressure that is put on those who don’t fit the “slim and trim” body types is unnecessary. We should work hard to love the bodies that we are in. We should be encouraged to engage in self-love more than we are encouraged to overanalyze our figures. This summer, the beach will be happy with whatever body I bring to it. I’m alive, I’m happy and to me, that’s the perfect “summer body.” It should be the same for you too.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WORD "DIVERSITY" AND THE WORD "MULTICULTURAL"?



“I don’t really know. I think ‘diversity’ is having a lot of different cultures within one place. For instance you can classify an area as very diverse. But ‘multicultural’ is more like incorporating cultures. Some places can be diverse where there’s different ethnicities but that doesn’t mean that they bring in their culture. Multicultural would be including each other’s cultures. So like, I’m Arabic, and we could include Arabic things and African American things and Indian things and bring that all together whereas ‘diverse’ is just the people themselves and their ethnicities.”

- **Jillian Harb**, sophomore biology major



“I think ‘diversity’ could be diversity of culture, diversity of religion, diversity of region/location, but ‘multicultural’ is more specific to the student’s individual cultures. So I think if you’re focusing on NSU, NSU should strive to be multicultural and diverse. Because you can be multicultural but diversity is what really makes the university great. Everyone has different backgrounds so it brings more to the table.”

- **Alyssa Garcia**, freshman psychology major



“I think ‘diversity’ is more of like people from different backgrounds, where they come from. Whereas something can be multicultural and that’s just including different cultures. For example, you can throw a multicultural party and show like Hispanic culture and Indian culture and that’s multicultural. But if something is diverse, you actually have people of different backgrounds in one place together.”

- **Hiba Azeem**, public health major



“Diversity is just like the difference within everything but ‘multicultural’ focuses on the differences but also has the aspect of bringing everyone together. So, I feel like with that you can admire everything whereas with diversity is seeing everything as different and disconnected.”

- **Jessica Mahoney Melendez**, freshman English major



“Diversity is the state of being diverse. It’s having a range of activities happening, it’s basically a melange of a lot happening. Whereas multicultural, the word defines itself, as having a lot of ethnicities a lot of culture and if I can take NSU as an example we have a lot of different nationalities, a lot of different cultures together. Diversity can be inside of one culture where there’s lot of differences inside of a culture.”

- **Arns Carrenard**, senior computer science major



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