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Honoring Black History Month

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“Face to Face: Art Through Haitian Eyes” – NSU’s Black History Month

By: **Madelyn Rinka**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

NSU’s 2019 Black History Month events begin on Friday, Feb. 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Rick Case Arena in the Don Taft University Center, with the 16th Annual Art Exhibition “Face to Face: Art Through Haitian Eyes” opening reception.

This year’s exhibition, on loan from and curated by the NSU Art Museum in Fort Lauderdale, will feature painted pieces created by Haitian artists.

“This exhibition gives us the opportunity to share the collection with the public... This is the world premier of this exhibition, which has been drawn completely from the NSU Art Museum collection,” said Bonnie Clearwater, director and curator at the NSU Art Museum.

“[The pieces] really transcend the scope of art in the twentieth century, from landscapes and city scenes to more experimental work and abstraction,” explained Clearwater.

The collection will reside in the Alvin Sherman Library Adolfo and Marisela Cotilla Gallery after the event. The celebration will also spotlight work from NSU’s own performing and visual arts department student works, which will be displayed in the UC Spine afterwards.

“I want this to be a celebration. For everyone to come with an open heart and an open mind and realize...everyone is just the same, so why do we resort to this foolishness [separating ourselves from one another]?” said Mara Kiffin, director in the division of public relations and marketing communications, chair of the African presence organizing committee and black history month committee.

“Celebrations of diversity and culture—

it’s important. I hope people embrace it, and I hope people come out and have a good time,” added Kiffin.

The opening exhibition on Feb. 8 will be the kick off of NSU’s Black History Month events, and will include a musical performance by NSU’s Riff Tides, refreshments, giveaways and guest speakers. Additionally, it will also celebrate the Urban League of Broward County for their 44 years of service to the community, as well as black Greek organizations, such as the undergraduate ones on campus.

“It’s important for us to embrace our differences. We learn more from our differences than our similarities. Each culture and ethnic and racial group has something to share, something to offer that we can learn from, we can benefit from and we can appreciate.” said Kiffin. “I think things will be much more harmonious if we embrace our diversity and our differences as opposed to seeing them as a way to keep ourselves apart from each other.”

Black History Month will also feature the 6th Annual “Let’s Speak Truth” poetry and spoken word night hosted by QUICKthePoet. The event will be held in the Alvin Sherman Library Adolfo and Marisela Cotilla Gallery on Friday, March 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit <https://www.nova.edu/blackhistory/events.html> for more information about NSU’s Black History Month events. A link to RSVP for the opening reception can also be found on that page, or call (954) 262-5357 to reserve a seat.

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Manga Cartoon Whitewashes Haitian-Japanese Athlete

Controversy arose online after a Japanese company depicted Naomi Osaka, a Haitian-Japanese tennis player as a blonde-haired, white-skinned woman in a Manga Cartoon. The company, who sponsors Osaka, apologized for “white-washing” after the drawing was posted on Twitter. This isn’t the first time an inaccurate cartoon of Osaka has been created. After an Australian cartoonist depicted Osaka as a white woman in September 2018, the controversy took weeks to die down.

Protests Against Maduro Rise in Venezuela

Last Wednesday, thousands of protesters took to the streets to protest, echoing the nationwide call to force President Nicolás Maduro out of office. The National Guard met groups of demonstrators in Caracas with force, blocking their paths with tear gas. According to the New York Times, the United States and many of Venezuela’s neighbors have called the president an illegitimate dictator and expressed strong support for a plan to establish a transitional government. Since Murados election in 2013, more than three million Venezuelans have fled the country, and those who stayed behind have struggled with food and water scarcity and rampant crime.

EU Cracks Down on “Golden Passports”

The EU Commission has instructed the EU to tighten restrictions on so-called “golden passports” which are given to non-EU nationals in exchange for investments. The EU gives its members unique access to the European market as well as free movement in EU nations, privileges extended to non EU members via these passports. Cyprus, Malta and Bulgaria and 17 other EU nations grant resident rights to foreign investors who invest in their country, putting them onto a path for citizenship. The Commission explains that money laundering and tax evasion have been linked to these visas and warns countries against giving out these types of passports.

Soccer Star Still Missing after Plane Disappearance

Emiliano Sala is presumed dead after his flight last Monday from the French city of Nantes to Cardiff, the capital of Wales, suddenly disappeared off the coast of Guernsey, an island in the English Channel. Search teams have been receiving satellite footage and mobile phone data in efforts to recover any survivors. According to MSN News, the sports star had sent a voicemail to his father explaining how the plane “looked like it [was] going to fall apart” prior to his departure.



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News Briefs

Peer Leader Application Extended

NSU students have the opportunity to serve as mentors for the incoming class of 2023 for fall 2019 UNIV classes. Students will have the opportunity to learn leadership skills, communication and problem solving, classroom management, facilitation, leading groups, conflict resolution and more, all while becoming role models for the next class of NSU Sharks. Applications are open until Feb. 10 and can be submitted via Handshake. Students with questions can contact exel@nova.edu for more information.

TTC to Hold Pre-Health Test Preparation Workshop Series

The Tutoring and Testing Center is holding an informational workshop series focused on pre-health grad school exams. Join them in Desantis room 1047 from 5 to 6 p.m. to learn the ins and out of getting into graduate school. The series consists of five sessions, each focusing on the MCAT, GRE, DAT/OAT or PCAT. For a full schedule of the workshop, students can visit the Tutoring and Testing website or call (954) 262-8350.

NSU Shark Selected to the Bevo Francis Award Top 100 Watch List

For the second time, NSU point guard, David Dennis, has been selected to the Bevo Francis Award Top 100 Watch List, announced by Small College Basketball. The prestigious honor recognizes the top players nationwide throughout both NCAA Divisions II and Division III, NAIA Divisions I and II, as well as the USCAA and NCCAA. On Feb. 15, Small College Basketball will trim the Watch List to 50 players. The list will then be narrowed down to 25 players on Mar. 15. The finalists will be unveiled in a highlight video, on Apr. 6.

Alvin Sherman Library to Hold Job Skills Series

The Alvin Sherman Library will kick off the first of a four part series on Feb. 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is aimed to provide students with information to increase the chances of getting a job. The first session, Get the Job: Learning LinkedIn will focus on making the professional network work for you. Students can RSVP at lib.nova.edu/getthejob or by calling (954) 262-5477.

New “MSD Heroes Challenge” honors slain students and faculty

By: **Alexander Martinie**

Opinions Editor

The inaugural Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Heroes Challenge will take place on Feb. 23 at the Parkland Equestrian Center and Liberty Park. This event will include an obstacle course that is open to anyone of any age or skill level. This event was founded by Parkland community activists Doug Eaton, Amy Kenny, Debra Hizon, and Manny Mair to raise awareness and support for the remembrance of the tragic events that transpired at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018, in which 17 lives were lost. Individual registration is \$25 and a team of at least 4 people is \$15 per person. According to the press release,

on the day of “registration opens at 6:30 AM and the race starts at 7:30 AM. Participants may register for [an] 11:15 AM yoga-only session with Amy Kenny for a small donation or as part of their race package.”

“It is a great way to be involved in my community and to give back to Parkland and to be able to help out locally rather than at the state or national level with our political actions and help out in my community and have a good time with family and friends,” said Lizzie Eaton, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Eaton has been involved in the #NeverAgain Movement, and the rest of the

Eaton family has “been actively working on solutions to help keep the community safer,” according to a press release. “There are a lot of volunteers that are part of different clubs and organizations [at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School] because they can get hours as well as help the community.”

The money raised at this event will fund scholarships to local student leaders and will help to support Stand with Parkland. Stand with Parkland is an organization founded by the families of the victims. Stand with Parkland is “committed to advocating for practical public safety reforms focused on the safety

of our children and staff at school, improved mental health support, and responsible firearms ownership. Personal responsibility and a desire for change are paramount to this effort, and it is the people involved at all levels that will make these goals a reality,” according to their mission statement.

For those unable to attend, but would still like to support this event, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Heroes Challenge will be accepting donations on their Crowdrise page. All funds will go towards scholarships for student leaders.

Local artist exhibition inspired by NSU’s MEEC

By: **Christina McLaughlin**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

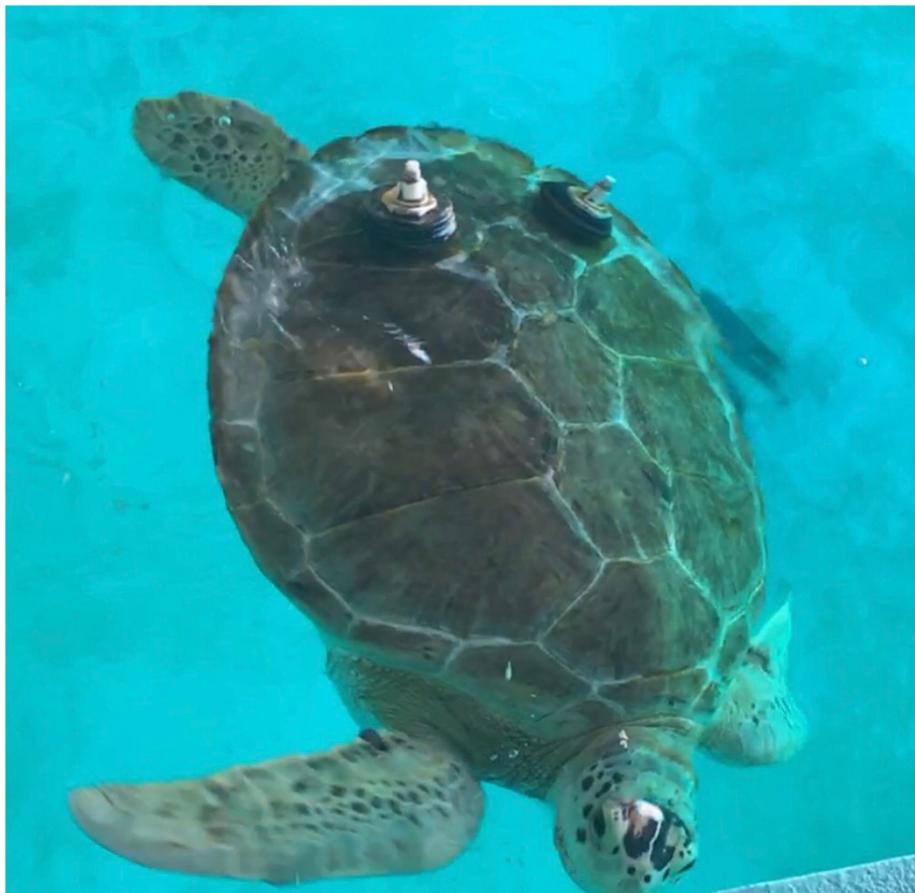
From Jan. 23 through March 17, local artist Maria Isabel Lazo’s latest gallery exhibit, “Captain is Hollywood”, inspired by the MEEC’s resident green sea turtle, will be featured at ArtsPark at Young Circle Gallery in Hollywood.

The Marine Environmental Education Center (MEEC) at Carpenter House was fostered by a partnership between Broward County Parks and Recreation and NSU. Its main mission is to educate South Florida residents and visitors of the need to conserve and protect the marine and coastal environments. This artistic effort grew from the enthusiasm to unite art with conservation issues.

Lazo’s involvement at the MEEC and the center’s resident green sea turtle, Captain, inspired this artist’s latest gallery. Because of Lazo’s love for the ocean and connection to the center, she has also created artworks that are available for purchase and a percentage of those proceeds will benefit the MEEC.

“We are very thankful for Maria Isabel Lazo’s involvement with the MEEC and her steadfast support of our mission,” said Derek Burkholder, director of Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program and the MEEC.

This is not the first time the MEEC has gotten their feet wet in the arts. Last April, NSU’s Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography in partnership with Free Our Seas, Broward County Parks and Recreation and the City of Hollywood, Florida hosted the Environmental Art Festival at Carpenter House.



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Captain, shown here, is the MEECs resident green sea turtle which was the main inspiration for this exhibit and is used as a teaching tool to educate the community on the challenges that sea turtles face.

This event featured art pieces that were not only inspired by the environment but utilized pollution to send a message through art. Art pieces from the event, most notably, a sculpture of a fish created out of about 200 flip flops and many others, took debris and trash found from beach clean ups as materials for the pieces.

This year, Lazo’s exhibit will take centerstage, featuring original acrylics and oil paintings of marine, mangrove and tropical artwork created by the artist.

Along with the month-long showing, an artist’s reception will be held Feb. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Gallery. On the day of the reception, special artwork created from recycled lobster trap wood will be on display as well as conservation discussions that will be given throughout the exhibit.

This exhibit and the artist’s reception are free and open to the general public. Located at 1 North Young Circle, Hollywood, students can visit at any time Monday through Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 9:30.

“Captain is Hollywood” is on display at ArtsPark at Young Circle Gallery from now until March 17.

That Time I....

worked on a professional set

By: **Samantha Villarroel**
Contributing Writer

Over winter break, I had the opportunity to work on a professional television set. Throughout the semester, I was interning with a fairly new production company in South Florida. I was working on smaller sets with people within the local industry. South Florida is not a big market for film compared to New York or California, so when word spread about a potential Netflix series to be filmed in Florida every production company wanted in. Luckily, I was involved with that project.

The first day started with first light, 5 a.m. on location. There was trucks filled with expensive camera equipment, trailers inhabited by the main actors, more trailers for makeup and wardrobe and one for a production office. I was amazed by my surroundings. I've never seen so many people on a set before and because there was so many people the only method used for communication was walkies. My task was to check-in talent and make sure they were transported to the filming location.

I felt like I was at the Warner Bros studio lot. In the production trailer everyone had a set up with their computers and were in charge of handling any mishaps that would happen throughout the day. On set, people would use jargon from the industry like "basecamp", "action", "pickup shot", and I slowly began to

use them too, although on a much smaller scale. But when the director was about to call a shot, the assistant director would call the shot over the walkie so everyone would know that we are "rolling."

We were on location at the Miami Marina for the shoot. While the director was calling the shots, we were surrounded by yachts. It felt like I was in the movie because of how glamorous everything looked.

A lot of people think the film industry is ever-moving and it is true. I learned that time cannot be wasted. Everyone on-set had a purpose to the production. As someone who loves filmmaking, this experience clarified the need for collaboration. No one can create a film by themselves without the help of others— it is almost impossible. So, by working with everyone not only did I learn how to network but I also learned the purpose of each role. There's a place for someone in film regarding camera work, script writing, post-editor, makeup, wardrobe, stylist, photographer and that's only to name of few.

It was intimidating at times because of how fast-paced everything was, but working on a professional set let me explore my future in film and learn how people in the industry organize and time manage.



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Working on a real set is a bustling, surreal experience.



Career Corner



Helping Close the Wage Gap

By: **Ashley Rizzotto & Chandler Lackey**
Career Development

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

Chandler Lackey (bottom right) joined the Office of Career Development in July 2018 as a Graduate Assistant Career Advisor. He is currently pursuing his Master's degree in College Student Affairs at Nova Southeastern University.

For many years, it has been estimated that women earn an average of 77 cents to a dollar. As seen by the data below, reported by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) last year, women of differing racial identities were paid differently, some as significantly low as 53%.

According to new studies released November 2018 by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, it was discovered that the wage gap is now reported as women earning 49 cent to every man's dollar. This number comes when accounting for a variety of biases and roadblocks, incrementally impacted by the likelihood of women taking breaks in their career either to take care of ill relatives or children.

Equity in payment is an important goal to strive for in 2019. With the trends of how the rates have increased over the years, leaving it to increase on its own could take decades. Whether you engage socially by sharing this knowledge with others, politically on a local or global

scale, the information and tools below are one small step forward when facing the dismantling and rebuilding of this long-standing financial practice.

How You Can Make A Difference

Many times, when people are not negotiating for their worth, or negotiating at all!

Know that every experience that you can connect to transferable skills, and every degree you earn can all increase your earning power if shared strategically. Don't feel intimidated when a job doesn't list a salary range, this could be a sign that there is a larger range that they can accommodate based on the research you conduct and the way you share your experience.

Knowing Your Worth

Use glassdoor.com to research the average salary of your current (or future) role. You can search specifically based on your number of years of experience and your geographic location to get the most accurate average. Many employees upload their salary data and years of experience, so this is self-reported by people directly in those roles. Use this information during the negotiation conversation to make sure you are being compensated for your worth based on your research and experiences.

Connect the Dots

Many people think there should be a

divide between skills learned in their personal life as opposed to their professional one. One of your biggest strengths is being able to show how you can relate your day-to-day skills to those listed in the job description. You can also utilize resources like ONet to see what skills and requirements your job field has. Being able to confidently relay overlapping skills in an interview shows critical thinking and ambition to an employer and gives you an advantage over other candidates.

Start Small and End Big

Trying to combat the wage gap as a whole might be challenging. If you aren't comfortable taking on the beast in its entirety, start small on your local, state and federal levels. Being an informed and engaged citizen is key to eradicating the wage gap. Doing research on your city or state's current wage gap and how it compares in relation to others is a great way to broaden your perspective. Keep in mind that, as an engaged citizen, you have the power to promote change on every level through raising awareness, challenging policies and creating structures for change in organizations and companies.



Billy McFarland: this generation's "Madoff"

By: **Christina McLaughlin**
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Recently, Netflix and Hulu debuted two independent documentaries chronicling the events that led up to and the aftermath of Fyre Festival. The “would-be” event of the festival season attempted to top the likes of Coachella and other celebrity-exclusive events. In 2017, Fyre Festival, a three-day festival which claimed to be an intimate party with the social elites and influencers, became a publicity nightmare with attendees having access to limited supplies like food, water and proper lodging on a crowded island not meant to contain that amount of visitors. Now it has been discovered that the whole festival meant to promote the app Fyre, was part of an elaborate scam that landed the CEO in federal prison for a six-year sentence. Both documentaries give a behind-the-scenes look as the events unfold with interviews from those involved and by people who were scammed.

To tell this story properly, you need to start from the beginning— Billy McFarland, the founder and CEO of Fyre Media. McFarland was once the CEO of many similar ventures like Magnises, a credit card company for the wealthy that promoted and provided exclusive

perks for its members. Exclusive clubhouses, V.I.P tickets and luxury accommodations were the main draw to potential cardholders but most of the perks seemed to fall through last minute. The documentary explained that most of the Magnises “perks” were scams to keep members paying for it’s services. As of now, the company seems to have gone dark. The website has been removed and the only remaining evidence of the company are its social media accounts which have not been updated as of April 2017.

The documentaries go on to explain that McFarland along with American rapper Ja Rule, set out to start a mobile booking app, Fyre. Styled the same way as the dating app Tinder, which would allow users to “match” with entertainers and book them for events. With this goal, they started the company Fyre Media and came up with a media campaign that would fit this generation, to promote their new app. This became what is known today as Fyre Festival. Based of the ideology of our generations “fear of missing out”, McFarland and Rule worked to create an exclusive festival on an island in the Bahamas that only those with deep pockets would be able to attend. This would give their

app social buzz and, if successful, would launch their product to the public with a positive reputation.

Netflix’s documentary “Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened” and Hulu’s “Fyre Fraud” examined the pitfalls in planning and execution from all perspectives. Later, pulling off the mask of the successful CEO and company that McFarland made himself out to be. From the untrained and ill equipped staff to the false advertising of the event and unanswered questions of ticket holders , there was no stone left unturned in the quest for the truth. It was discovered that McFarland defrauded \$27.4 million dollars from investors of Fyre Festival and ran another concert-ticketing scam while on bail. McFarland claimed in multiple different statements in the documentaries that this event was meant to appeal to the “middle-class American” looking to live the elegant lifestyle that this event would provide. Using Instagram models and influencers to create hype, and offering ticket packages and exclusive events on the website for anyone to purchase at prices ranging from \$50 to thousands of dollars. In the end, most of those funds were either part of the

defrauding scam or used as “personal funds to pay for McFarland’s lifestyle”, according to an October article of Bloomberg.

After further investigation into the documentaries, there might be some foul play at hand. According to a Jan. 16 article in the Los Angeles Times, Hulu’s documentary directors Jenner Furst and Julia Willoughby Nason, paid McFarland an undisclosed amount of money to license footage and indemnify the production from potential claims of defamation. Netflix partnered with Jerry Media for the documentary, the company that had a heavy hand in the social media campaigns for Fyre Media and ultimately, Fyre Festival. After the downfall of the event, the restaurant owner at the Island who catered for Fyre Festival, started a GoFundme to get out of debt and as of writing this, raised over \$190,000 dollars to start fresh. Some ticket holders are still looking for refunds, while others settled a \$100 million class action lawsuit against McFarland. McFarland by law, is barred from holding a CEO or executive position of any company or business venture in the future.

Konmari your life

By: **Kelsey Bruce**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Japanese organizing expert Marie Kondo released a book in 2014 that has not only helped people clean their homes but detox their lives in general. Instead of targeting quantity or retail worth of a person’s possessions, her Konmari method focuses on what positive emotional significance items bring to a person’s life. As Kondo shares on her 92nd Street Y speech, Konmari enlists a few primary rules to effective tidying:

Rule one:

“Tidy in one shot as quickly, and completely, as possible”

The typical western concept of tidying involves slow progress and sometimes procrastination. Part of what makes the Konmari

method so helpful is that many of its components involve “shock;” in other words, implementing a deadline will force you to acknowledge your clutter without too much distraction.

Rule two:
“Sort by category, not by location”

Most people organize their cleaning by room or area, but the Konmari method suggests you sort your possessions by type and all into one place. Kondo asserts that you might be surprised with how much you actually have, and that can be overwhelming. But seeing a huge pile of clothes on your floor will not only push you to go through them but show you that some things aren’t worth the time it would take to put

them away again.

When cleaning, it’s ultimately more helpful to start with more superficial categories than sentimental objects. This will help you to get the hang of the method in the first place, and by the time you get to the more difficult objects, you’ll be in the flow of cleaning.

Rule three:
Keep what “sparks joy”

Arguably the most intriguing aspect of the Konmari method is the measure by which one decides to keep an object. That is, Kondo says only to keep what brings you happiness. When faced by a huge pile of t-shirts, you might hate the way three of them look, never wear seven of them and only truly love two of them. By

physically picking up each object, it becomes easier to identify items that make you happy and those that don’t, making you wonder why you hang onto objects that don’t spark joy.

Kondo says you will feel the joy in your body when touching an object that indeed sparks it. Your favorite t-shirt should bring a rising sensation to your whole body.

Approached correctly, taking the time to find happiness in your home will spread into your personal and work life. As Kondo says, “the question of what you want to own is actually the question of how you want to live your life.”

The rundown on the government shutdown

By: **Christina McLaughlin**
Co-Editor-In-Chief

On Friday, President Trump agreed to reopen the federal government for three weeks while negotiations proceed over how to secure the nation’s southwestern border. According to the New York Times, Trump signed to restore normal operations at a series of federal agencies until Feb. 15 and began paying the 800,000 federal workers who were forced to work during the 35 day stint of the shutdown without pay. As negotiations over the border wall are now back in session, there are a few ways this situation can proceed. Trump claims that if Republicans and Democrats cannot reach agreement on wall funding by the February deadline, that he is ready to reinstate the shutdown or declare a national emergency and bypass Congress.

As we wait over the coming weeks and follow reports from negotiations, here is a breakdown on everything that you need to know about a government shutdown

The Basics:

The way any government can run efficiently is money, or to put it more aptly it needs funding of a budget. This budget determines what parts of the federal government receive funding and, by how much.

“When legislature has to put together a budget or pass a budget, they are also arguing

what they want the government to do. For the last 15 years, the two parties in Congress can’t agree on policies that the budget will support,” said Charles Zelden, professor of history and political science.

If the government can’t come to an agreement they can pass continuing resolutions which pass the budget, but leave everything the same as it was, with no increase or decrease in spending.

If both a negotiation on a new budget or continuing resolution cannot be reached before the deadline, the government can enter a shutdown.

Shutdowns:

A shutdown typically occurs when there is a fight over policy matter such as the Affordable Care Act, taxes, the Border Wall, or DACA for example.

“These fights are so intense that one side simply won’t agree or use [the shutdown] as a game of chicken so to speak. Who will blink first? By threatening the use of a government shutdown, unemployment of federal workers and pain to american people as leverage for one side to get the other side to blink and give in,” said Zelden.

The most recent shutdown:

In December the Senate voted on a series of continuing resolutions to fund the government through September. Three fourths of the continuing resolutions for the budget passing including the military. The partial government shutdown only accounted for only a quarter of the continuing resolutions being rejected by Trump’s veto power. This quarter involves commerce, Homeland Security, Department of Justice and other divisions that affect our daily life.

Most non-essential workers to these divisions were furloughed but most of these jobs are still essential to our society. 800,000 federal workers were forced to work without pay for the 35 days the government was shutdown. Even though most of these federal workers will be retroactively paid once the government reopens, it doesn’t satisfy the bills that were due during the shutdown.

“It’s a trickle down effect that directly affects the workers and ultimately affects everyone involved in our society. If a shutdown last long enough, it tears away at the supports of society,” said Zelden.

This most recent government shutdown wasn’t only the longest lasting government shutdown in history, but it can potentially

result in zero growth this quarter and costed the incomes of federal workers and businesses that will have long-lasting effects.

“The President [backed] himself into a corner: the wall or nothing, Keeping the government shutdown until there is a budget for the wall, which Democrats have made clear they won’t accept. Or, accept nothing and back off. It’s hard to retreat if you’re a politician. Right now, the Democrats have the upper hand. They passed clean resolutions that the senate passed unanimously and are waiting for the president to approve it,” said Zelden.

In the past, government shutdowns were cases of long negotiations that got too close to the deadline and needed more time before everything was signed and approved. Starting in the 90’s, we began seeing government shutdowns used as a leverage to manipulate parties into agreeing to certain policies. This most recent shutdown is an example of this manipulation. At this point, we are just waiting to see who blinks.

Adding new flare to old clothes

By: **Madelyn Rinka**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Whether you're too nostalgic or just plain don't want to clean out your closet, it's easy to let old clothes accumulate. Here are a few ways you can spruce up your worn out wardrobe.

Rip it up

Rather than throwing out an old pair of jeans or last year's sweater, cut it up. Turn jeans into shorts by putting them on, taking a sharpie to about 2-3 inches below where you'd like them to end and taking a scissors to them. You can let the fringe hang down or roll them up a few times for a cleaner look. For tops, just decide what you'd like to do: sleeveless, crop-top, both or even look up a design on Pinterest. It's completely customizable, but just try to work with fabrics that don't fray or buy seam glue to keep it neat.

2019 bedazzling

While adding glitter and glitz may not be

the hip trend anymore (but you do you), getting crafty with your clothes isn't out of the question. Take an item of clothing with dense, thick fabric like denim (jean jackets work perfectly for this), head over to the craft store, pick up some fabric paint and go wild. Floral landscapes, abstract colors and shapes and words and other designs have popped up in lines by Balenciaga and the like. If freestyling it on your own isn't your thing, try ordering patches or badges that fit your style — they're not just for Girl Scouts anymore.

Turn them into bags

Rather than using plastic bags at the grocery store and farmer's market, repurpose old shirts. Pull a shirt or tank top inside out, and sew it along the bottom. If sewing isn't your strong suit, you can also tie the bottom in a tight knot or use seam glue to secure the bottom closed. If it's a t-shirt, take a ribbon or yarn and tie it through the sleeve and neck hole so that the "handles"

are sturdier. If you're truly a seamstress, you can even add a waterproof lining. Keep the contents of your new bags to be below a few pounds—while they're a great alternative, bags made with thinner fabrics may not be able to hold a lot of groceries.

Get rid of them

If all else fails, consider donating your old clothes to a thrift store, consignment shop or resale store (to get some money back). Or, if you don't want to part with them completely, organize a clothing swap with your friends. Tell them all to bring their clothes over, and everyone can pick out what items they want. That way, you get rid of your old clothes and find new ones. Then, donate the remainders. If you'd like help figuring out what to get rid of, look at PAGE 5 in our features section for information on the KonMari method of tidying.



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Cut up an old sweater or tee, tie dye it or make it a workout shirt.

ARTSAGE: Katreese Barnes

By: **Kelsey Bruce**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The ArtSage Alliance — operated by Venetian Arts Society, John Knox Village and NSU — is bringing in a special treat Feb. 1 by name of Katreese Barnes. ArtSage is hosting a reception at 6 p.m., the main event at 7 p.m., and guests have the opportunity to meet and greet at 8:15 p.m. Barnes is well-rounded musician: she's a producer, composer and Grammy nominated pianist who's also won two Emmys. She's worked in collaboration with a multitude of other artists, including Sting, Roberta Flack, Chakhan and Mariah Carey, whom she adored,

but ultimately Barnes puts a soulful, multi-genre twist on her original music.

Barnes not only pours her distinctive energy into her music, she shares it with other people: in her new streaming show "Welcome 2 My House," she and Chamberfusic meet in her living room only two hours before showtime. That means they've only got around an hour to practice. This kind of intimate structure means the music that comes out is bound to be genuine and filled with excitement — because that's what's coming from the artists. Not to mention,

Barnes brings up that "there's very few platforms to do this kind of old school live performance," so viewers will not only be struck by the rawness in the music but a clear distinction from what they've experienced before.

At ArtSage, Barnes will play Top 40 twists and original music from her 2016 EP "Something to Consider." While performing, Barnes is bound to be a strong as presence, as she has demonstrated in other works. She says a huge part of her excitement for ArtSage is working with people passionate about art, and

afterall, giving a strong performance is that much easier when there's people backstage that believe in both you and in what you believe. If you attend, you might get to hear "Goodbye Butterfly", which Barnes said is a personal favorite.

This ArtSage event is certainly worth your time. Barnes hopes to leave those who attend feeling inspired and uplifted, so while she won't be coming to your living room, she'll make you feel at home and at peace, even just for a short time.

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SOUNDBITE

"Heard It In a Past Life" by Maggie Rogers

By: **Samantha November**
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 18, Maggie Rogers released her highly anticipated debut album, "Heard It In A Past Life." The title just so happens to be a perfect fit — I definitely feel as though I've heard it in a past life. Each of the twelve tracks sound like songs I grew up listening to in car rides on the way home from school, but Rogers twists them with a unique indie-pop-folk-emo spin. While this collection is by no means revolutionary, as I was listening I found myself swaying along to a handful of the melodies.

The album's standout is track five, a catchy, upbeat apology anthem entitled "Light On." This song has my favorite hook from "Heard It In A Past Life." Rogers repeats the line "If you leave the light on, then I'll leave the light on" — one I took as undeniably refreshing, honest, simplistic and relatable. "Light On" is an "I'm sorry" to someone Rogers left out in the cold, perhaps during her rise to fame. The instrumentation is hopeful and energetic, while the more nostalgia-inducing lyrics tell a different story: Rogers will be able to move on if the light is left off.

"Retrograde" is my second favorite song. Rogers describes a situation where she is forced to confront her past when her present relationship ends, stating that "heartache always feels the same." Throughout the chorus, she clarifies the pain she's feeling,

melancholically singing that she is "finding all the things [she] can't do without." Similarly to "Light On," the instrumentation is not as heavy as the lyrical subject matter. In fact, it is light and airy, flowing from verse to verse seamlessly.

Undoubtedly, "Alaska" is the most famous song from Maggie Rogers' debut, but not for the reason one might assume. Yes, it is a beautiful song about starting anew with a clear perspective, but it is also quite literally the reason why Rogers got to embark on this chapter of her life in the first place. In 2016, the singer-songwriter was a normal college girl that happened to partake in a masterclass at NYU's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music. There, Pharrell Williams was the host who listened to and critiqued one song from each participant. Rogers played "Alaska" for him and left him speechless. When the song ended, Pharrell admitted that he had "zero notes": what she created was a unique work of art. A nine-minute video of the interaction went viral, and Maggie's life hasn't been the same since.

Aside from opening for Mumford & Sons next December, Rogers has announced that she will embark on a headlining tour. The tour is scheduled to begin on Oct. 15 and run into early November.



STAFF PICKS: What's one personal quality you've taken the time to improve, and how are you doing so?

By: The Current Staff



Madelyn Rinka,
co-editor-in-chief, said:

"In 2019, I want to take more time to listen to myself. I have a tendency to put too much on my plate and get overwhelmed, because I'm so passionate about so many things. However, that also means that I get burned out pretty easily. I want to focus on staying organized, not letting anything slip through the cracks (whether that be my education, work, mental, physical or emotional health) and stepping back when I need to."



Christina McLaughlin,
co-editor-in-chief, said:

"This year is a big rebuilding year for me and with that, I wanted to come up with some resolutions that could really help me improve. Mainly I'm focusing on time-management and getting into shape. There are a lot of things I need to juggle this semester and time-management is going to be key to make sure I get good grades. I got a really nice planner I take everywhere with me and daily check things off my to-do list to give myself some piece of mind. Getting myself to the gym has always been a struggle for me as I always find an excuse not to work out. But this semester I've really buckled down and told myself to at least make an effort to attend a group exercise class or walk around campus at the end of the day."



Kathleen Crapson,
chief of visual design, said:

"Admittedly, my self-reflections and resolutions have been lacking since the start of the new year. I tend to lay out a framework on Jan. 1 of how I want to improve. Whether it's working on my goals, or myself, I journal my innermost thoughts. In the last few years, the quality of my journaling has dwindled from daily entries to that annual introspection. And then there's this year. January is already off to an interesting start, yet I haven't had the motivation to take pen to paper. For some reason, introspection has become harder and harder to face. This year, I want to get into the habit of spending some time alone cultivating introspection, acknowledging my truth, becoming content with what is unchangeable and being courageous enough to push forward into the unknown."



Mario Lorrimer,
business manager, said:

"I haven't thought much about a new year resolution or improving a personal quality. However, I do want to continue to be nice to everyone. I think that you need to give everyone a chance, even if you may not like them initially. Building on what I said previously I think I would want to try and stop myself when I think negatively about someone. Everyone reacts to things in their own way and so I want to learn and appreciate everyone's preferred method."



Alexandra Herlihy,
sports editor, said:

"Something that I want to improve upon for myself this year is to become more fit. Being a part of a school team is seriously helping with that because everyone on the team pushes each other to do more than their best every single day. Every day at practice I show up and push myself to my limit until I can't go anymore."

Kelsey Bruce,
arts and entertainment editor, said:

"I'd like to focus on putting myself first this year. I have a tendency to prioritize other people's needs over my own, which is fine sometimes. But as I've come to become more and more familiar with my own worth, I want to be able to say no even when it might disappoint or see reality instead of potential in more lackluster friendships. Overall, I want to become more assertive and more familiar with the fact that I deserve respect."

Interested in writing for the Current? Or contributing your photography skills? We have weekly meetings, every Tuesday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in DeSantis 1048.

OFF SHORE CALENDAR

South Florida Fair
Jan. 8 - Feb. 3 | All day
@South Florida Fairgrounds | West Palm Beach

Florida Grand Opera: The Marriage of Figaro
Jan. 26 - Feb. 3 | 7/8 p.m.
@Ziff Opera House at the Adrienne Arsht Center | Miami

Nashville Predators VS. Florida Panthers
Feb. 1 | 7 p.m.
@BB&T Center | Sunrise

The Fort Lauderdale Story Slam
Feb. 2 | 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
@African American Research Library and Cultural Center | Fort Lauderdale

Miami International Map Fair
Feb. 2- Feb. 3 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
@HistoryMiami | Miami

45th Annual South Florida Vintage Glass Show and Sale
Feb. 2 - 3 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
@Emma Lou Olsen Civic Center | Pompano Beach

World Famous "Venice of America" Lesson and Stand Up Paddle Board Tour
First Sat. of every month | 1 a.m.
@Sunrise Paddleboards - Rentals and Tours | Fort Lauderdale

Jekyll & Hyde
Jan. 31 - Feb. 17 | 7:30 p.m.
@Amaturo Theatre at Broward Center | Fort Lauderdale

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ON DECK

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

@Barry
Jan. 30 - 5:30 p.m.
Miami Shores, FL

@Florida Southern
Feb. 2 - 5:30 p.m.
Lakeland, FL

MEN'S BASKETBALL

@No. 22 Florida Southern
Feb. 2 - 7:30 p.m.
Lakeland, FL

WOMEN'S GOLF

V.S. World Golf Invitational
Feb. 3 - 4 - All Day
Slammer & Squire/
St. Augustine, FL

SOFTBALL

DII Gulf Shores Invitational
Feb. 1 - 2 | All Day
Gulf Shores, AL

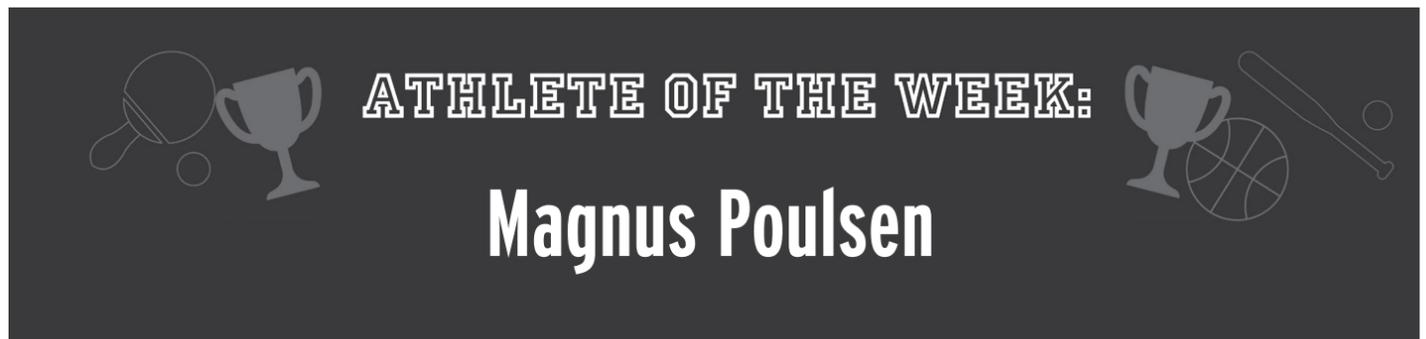
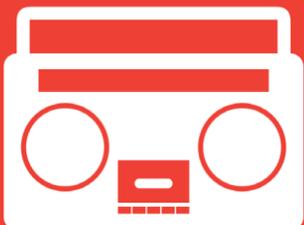
WOMEN'S TENNIS

@V.S. ASA College (Miami)
Jan. 29 - 2 p.m.
NSU Tennis Complex

@Flagler
Feb. 3 - 10 a.m.
St. Augustine, FL

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HAVING TICKET GIVEAWAYS.

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By: **Samantha November**
Contributing Writer



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Poulsen, pictured above, is a real fly-fisher, as he is a record-setting NSU swimmer.

Magnus Poulsen is a junior psychology major from Copenhagen, Denmark. After transferring to Nova Southeastern University as a sophomore, he placed seventh in the 100 fly at the 2018 NCAA Div. II Championship. That same year, he was named an NCAA All-American in the 100 fly and received an Honorable Mention All-American in the 200 free relay, 400 medley relay and 400 free relay. He earned the title of Sunshine State Conference champion in the 100 fly and the 200 fly. His time in the 100 fly was an SSC record, meet record and a school record.

How and why did you get into swimming?

"My parents have been swimming their whole lives, so it was natural for me to start swimming. They threw me in [the water] as a baby, so to speak, and then I just started to get the catch of it from them. [My parents] supported me and I enjoyed [swimming] very much. I got better and better as I grew up.

What is your favorite thing about swimming?

"The way we are as a team. I really like the way we compete together— we are family and we share success. I'm a water animal, so I love being in the water. I'm terrible at land sports."

Why did you come to NSU?

"The swim team, obviously. I was at a school up in Chicago my freshman year so I transferred down here my sophomore year. I really like the coach — Coach Ben — and all of the resources we have here at Nova. The staff is so supportive and understanding. Also, the academics. I'm starting Psychology and [the school] has a very good Psychology Program."

How is swimming here different than in Copenhagen, Denmark?

"The biggest difference about swimming here in Florida compared to Denmark is, of course, the temperature. [In Florida] we practice outside every day. I never practice outside in Denmark because the weather isn't so good for [swimming]. In Denmark, we don't have the whole college experience. It's either you

do your sport or you do your school after high school. The mentality over here [is different]. You do your best every time. Back home, you do your best every time, but there's still sometimes where it's okay not to do [your best].

What are your goals for swimming in the future?

"I'm 23 now, and I've been swimming all my life. I feel like when I'm done with college, then I'll have had enough at this level. I don't want to go pro, I think, just because I want to have a working life. I don't want to be defined as 'the swimmer.' [Swimming] is a big part of my life but I don't want [swimming] to be the only thing I can do."

Do you have any pre-meet rituals?

"I don't have a specific one. I'm sure if you observe me, I'll do [rituals] that I don't even know I do before. I tend to go into meets with the mentality to have fun and to not think too much about the meet. [I try to] take it as it comes and have fun with my teammates. If they're nervous, that gets me fired up, kind of. I know [getting fired up from other people's nervousness] may sound a little weird, but I can take some off their pressure of with me being so relaxed around them.

What is your favorite thing to do after a big meet?

"Hopefully, let's say [the meet] went well, then I like to go out and have a nice dinner with my teammates. We just decide [where to go] at the moment, kind of. We talk about the meet afterward. I might also be extremely tired and just want to go home and watch Netflix. It depends."

What does your downtime look like?

"I like to travel a lot. I would say my favorite place that I've ever been was Thailand. We went to Phuket—Asia is such a different part of the world than the rest. [Phuket, Thailand] was just so incredibly beautiful and everything there was awesome. I also enjoy doing other kinds of sports and activities— wakeboarding and surfing, for example. I try to do that in the

off-season. In the summer, when I'm home in Denmark, I work as an ocean rescue lifeguard."

Do you have any hobbies?

"I love cooking food and trying new recipes. [Cooking] is a stress reliever for me. I like to chill out with my friends and have them come over and taste whatever I cooked."

Who do you consider your biggest role model?

"Steve Jobs. I consider him a huge role model. He built [Apple] up from a garage, literally, and made [his business] what it is today."

What is advice you would give to other student-athletes?

"Hang in there. Don't get behind in school, keep up with it so you can keep on [doing your sport]. That's why I came to America, I wanted to do school as well as swimming. There's a lot of temptations down here in South Florida, so just make sure you are doing the right things."

How have you managed to balance sports and academics?

"I'm very organized. We have practice from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. three times a week and then every afternoon. I know exactly when I have to be in the pool, and I manage my time outside of the pool: now I know I have time for a nap, now I know I have time to do homework, now I have to go swim, have dinner, do more homework as needed."

What do you plan to do after graduation?

"After graduation, I want to get a master's in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. I'm not sure if I'll [go to school] in the U.S. or go back home. [That program] isn't offered at Nova, so I have to find another school if I want to stay here. [Staying in the U.S.] also depends if I get into that school. Or if I say 'okay, those were my four years in America, now I want to go back home.' But I definitely want to get a master's degree."

On The Bench:

Tigers don't eat McDonald's

By: **Alexandra Herlihy**
Sports Editor

It's customary that whatever team wins a national championship for their sport, the president invites them to visit the White House in celebration. Usually, the White House has a whole meal for the team but this year the NCAA Football Champions, the Clemson Tigers, got fast food.

On Jan. 7, the Tigers won a hard game against the University of Alabama with a score of 44-16. This marked their second national championship in three years. Their first trip to the White House happened almost five months after the championship game. This year, it was only a week after the game. When the team walked into

the White House, they were greeted with a buffet of fast food. Usually, the teams who visit get a meal prepared by the White House kitchen staff but because of the partial government shutdown, there was not enough staff to create a meal. My question is, why not just wait?

Obviously, this shutdown will not last forever, so Trump could easily wait for the shutdown to end so that this team can get the meal that they deserve. Trump said: "I had a choice...Do we have no food for you?... Or do we give you some little quick salads that the First Lady will make, along with the Second Lady-they'll make some salads. No, I said, you

guys aren't into salads." Why couldn't have he waited for the shutdown to end? It's not like he didn't wait the last time the Tigers went to the White House. Is this some sort of weird propaganda for ending this shutdown? Trump did mention to the press that there were no kitchen workers because of the shutdown. Either way, a national championship team shouldn't have to deal with this. Trump did also say that he paid for everything out of his own pocket, but that amounted to under \$3,000.

According to the Washington Post, the players were happy to see a full fast food feast, especially after many months of watching what

they ate. The team worked with culinary coaches so that they can stay in good health during the football season, but they were able to take a break for that night. So everything technically worked out, but I still would've waited until I was able to have a whole spread for the team. It was a nice gesture that he paid for the entire team to eat dinner at the White House, but it was highly unusual that there was such a fast turnaround. He should have waited until the government was back up and running.



This Week in Sports History



By: **Alexandra Herlihy**
Sports Editor

From the original Ancient Grecian Olympics to last year's Super Bowl, sports have been around for millennia. Today's public, however, often doesn't know the history of some of the nation's favorite sports. Here you can find some relevant, monumental and inspiring games that have changed the future of sports forever.

January 29

First players elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame (1936)

The first Hall of Fame class for baseball was composed of center-fielder for the Detroit Tigers, Ty Cobb; pitcher for the Washington Senators (now the Minnesota Twins), Walter Johnson; pitcher for the New York Giants (now the San Francisco Giants), Christy Mathewson; right-fielder for the New York Yankees, Babe

Ruth; and shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Honus Wagner.

January 31

Jackie Robinson is born (1919)

Born in Cairo, Georgia, Robinson and his four siblings were raised by his mother. He studied at UCLA where he was the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and track. Due to financial troubles, he had to drop out of college and enlist in the army. After being honorably discharged, he went on to be the first African-American baseball player with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

February 2

The National League in Baseball forms (1876)

The National League of Professional

Baseball Clubs (or National League) was formed by Chicago businessman William Hulbert to replace the National Association, which he believed was not managed well and corrupt. The National League originally had eight members: the Boston Red Stockings (now Atlanta Braves), Chicago White Stockings (now Chicago Cubs), the Cincinnati Red Stockings, Hartford Dark Blues, Louisville Grays, Mutual of New York, Philadelphia Athletics and St. Louis Brown Stockings.

February 3

First Olympic skier to sweep three alpine events (1956)

Austrian skier Toni Sailer made history at the 1956 Winter Olympics by being the first skier to win all three Alpine events — downhill, giant

slalom and slalom. Sailer was also the fifth winter athlete to win three gold medals at one Olympics.

First African-American president of the National League (1989)

Bill White was named the first African-American president of the National League in baseball, replacing Angelo Bartlett "Bart" Giamatti. The 55-year-old former baseball player and broadcaster was also the first African-American to head any major league sports position.

OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

NFL looks into AFC title game laser report

During the AFC title game on Jan. 20, a Kansas City television reporter noticed that a laser was flashed at Patriots quarterback, Tom Brady. There was a green dot flickering around the quarterback's shoulder and face and it looked like whoever was doing it was trying to distract the quarterback. This isn't the first time that the NFL has dealt with lasers during games, like a Monday night game in Mexico two years ago when quarterback Brock Osweiler was caught in the eye with a laser multiple times. The Patriots said that they know about the report, but said that it did not have an effect on Brady. The Patriots did end up beating the Kansas City Chiefs 37-31 in overtime.

Baseball Hall of Fame class of 2019

Four players will enter the Baseball Hall of Fame as of Jan. 22. Closer Mariano Rivera, designated hitter Edgar Martinez and starting pitchers Roy Halladay and Mike Mussina. Rivera made history by being the first player to be unanimously voted into the hall of fame, receiving

the highest possible 425 votes. The votes were cast by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Out of the four who were voted in, Halladay and Mussina were first-round draft picks.

LeBron still out on injury

On Jan. 24, LeBron James had to sit out once again because of an injury. This is the four-time MVP's 15th game out because of a left groin strain. He participated in some drills with the team the day before but hasn't experienced a full practice since suffering the injury on Christmas Day. James is expected to return on Jan. 27. Since Christmas Day, the Lakers have been 5-9 and dropped from No. 4 to No. 9 in the Western Conference.



So... an egg broke a world record

By: **Skylyr Vanderveer**
Multimedia Manager

2019 is, already, off to a weird start. On Jan. 4, a new Instagram account named @world_record_egg set out on a mission. The account posted a stock photo of an egg with the goal of becoming the most-liked picture on the platform. Surprisingly, it did. A picture of an egg became the most-liked image on Instagram, beating out Kylie Jenner's picture announcing her daughter's name. The new record-breaking picture has over 45 million "likes".

As shocking as this may be, this egg has caused some controversy. Some people are outraged that people are more concerned with the picture over "real world" issues. Others think it's funny and just another way the internet has come together to do something

cool. There is also a theory going around that the account was made to mess with Kylie Jenner to get some sort of reaction out of her.

I think the idea of a record-breaking egg is hysterical. Some of the "Egg Gang" has even gone so far as to comment egg emojis in the comments of Kylie Jenner's picture. Also, this account has gotten verified by Instagram and now is selling merchandise. The account's bio says that their record-breaking picture "is only the beginning." What is the egg going to do next?

The way the internet gathers around something weird, dumb and funny is quite fascinating. Overall, this may not be the most important news to talk about, but it will definitely give everyone a good laugh.

Do you really not understand the difference between climate and weather?

By: **Alexander Martinie**
Opinions Editor

I am going to say this nice and slowly. Just because it snows does not mean that climate change is not real. After years of research, people still have the gall to think that climate change isn't real, and a recent argument that snowy weather is some miracle proof that the Earth is not warming. Just when I thought that people couldn't get any less informed about basic principles of science, they go and make assertions like that.

Chief climate change denier, President Trump tweeted recently urging people to be careful with snow and "record setting cold," which was fine to say, but then he decided to use this to make a mockery of climate scientists. This isn't the first time that this argument has been used to deny climate change. In Feb. 2015, Republican Senator James Inhofe, a very active climate change denier, brought a snowball onto the Senate floor to "prove" his argument about climate change. To further the "professionalism" of his standing, he tossed that snowball at someone on the Senate floor. After this took place, the White House under the Obama administration issued a statement explaining NASA studies and other studies that prove that the Earth is warming, according to CNN. Trump tweeted saying, "be careful and try staying in your house. Large parts of

the Country are suffering from tremendous amounts of snow and near record setting cold. Amazing how big this system is. Wouldn't be bad to have a little of that good old fashioned Global Warming right now!"

Really? Just because a region is experiencing cold weather does not prove that the Earth is not experiencing global warming. If the difference between weather and climate is that hard for politicians to understand, then I might as well break down these concepts in such a way that anyone could comprehend. Weather is the condition of Earth's atmosphere over a short period of time. Climate is the long-term condition of the atmosphere. Weather is constantly changing, climate, however, is the average condition of the atmosphere over time. I don't think it can be simplified anymore than that, but people still have trouble understanding such as simple concept. But I digress, a few days of cold and snow does not contradict years of rising temperatures.

Years of valid scientific research confirms that the Earth is in fact warming, and people in positions of power should acknowledge this simple fact. So, I'll say it again. Even though there is snow, global warming is still real.



Celebration Artsage

Katreese Barnes

Two-time Emmy award winner, a Grammy nominated pianist, producer and composer.

Friday, February 1, 2019

Reception 6:00 p.m.
(refreshments served)

Salon Concert 7:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet 8:15 p.m.

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For ticket information, visit venetianartssociety.org/events/katreese-barnes/

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Don't flush your razor – flush your toxic masculinity

By: **Kelsey Bruce**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Too often, we discuss the ills of our society without acknowledging that social issues are not caused by pariahs living in isolation — instead, they stem from the people that make up society. To make any progress on these issues and shape the world into a kinder place, we must create a culture of accountability. That is precisely what Gillette works towards in its “We Believe: The Best Men Can Be” short film, made to go with the “#MeToo” movement.

Their website clarifies these intentions, “As a company that encourages men to be their best, we have a responsibility to make sure we are promoting positive, attainable, inclusive and healthy versions of what it means to be a man.” Boiled down, Gillette’s mission is to promote empathy and self-improvement, qualities any self-respecting human being would like to lay claim to.

But some people don’t see it like that. Some people are taking Gillette’s push in the right direction as a direct attack, and it’s not difficult

to guess why: they see themselves in the film.

The short film explores persistent, common instances of toxic masculinity in American culture. These include phrases like “boys will be boys,” clips of media that frames sexual harassment as humorous and the idea that experiencing and perpetuating aggression is character-building for young boys. After these scenes, Gillette poignantly asks, “Bullying. The #MeToo movement against sexual harassment. Toxic masculinity. Is this the best a man can get?” They go on to say they believe in men, their ability to hold other men accountable, to do the right thing, to show youth that violence and aggression are not the best means through which to conduct one’s life. They even say some men are already doing it but that some is not enough.

Indeed, for those who have decided to boycott Gillette because of the ad, “some” is not enough. An opinion piece on Fox New Network claims the ad treats masculinity as “inherently bad,” and it asserts many men have decided

it implies that men are “universal aggressors and rapists.” Maybe their audio cut out when watching the film, but the most likely reason these people ignore that Gillette directly said “some [men] already are [acting the right way],” is because they are not these men. They are the men who have not begun to separate themselves from toxic masculinity.

Some may indeed be sexual aggressors who rationalize their actions. After all, when 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men undergo rape in their lives, as listed by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, someone has to play the role of the assaulter.

But Gillette isn’t claiming that all men, or even all men that have a problem with the ad, are rapists. Instead, it’s challenging social norms that have gone on for all too long: rape myths that blame the victims, the idea that it’s an alpha move to talk about women like conquests and countless other attitudes that remain socially acceptable to perpetuate. It’s emphasizing that

assault and harassment do not exist in a vacuum, and that we are all responsible for acting against the culture that allow them to happen.

Most men who are angry at this Gillette ad have likely been guilty of being bystanders. They’ve seen other men break boundaries with other women, use violent or dehumanizing language and put down other men for not living up to society’s concept of masculinity, which does happen to be at least partially toxic. Their apparent stubbornness at realizing Gillette is placing their faith in them to recognize their mistakes and change for the better is itself an aspect of their toxic masculinity.

If these men would step outside of their own minds for just two minutes and look around at the suffering they play a role in, we’d advance years in this movement. But they find their own pride more important. They’d rather flush their Gillette razors and ruin their plumbing than take responsibility for the role they have in the chronic occurrence of gender-based violence.

It's okay to change your major!

By: **Flor Ana Mireles**
Contributing Writer

Growing up, we were constantly asked the infamous question, “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Then, in high school, the question mildly changed to “what do you want to major in once in college?” Perhaps we had answers in our minds like a doctor, nurse or businessman at the time and majored in the fields that would help us to achieve those goals. As time passed, however, we realized that we no longer had a desire to work in those fields or simply recognized they were not for us. Do we power through those classes and stay in this major or do we decide to make the switch and try something new? Despite the unspoken stigma about changing majors, according to The National Center for Education Statistics, about eighty percent of college students change their major at least once in their college careers.

As college students, we are exposed to a variety of different classes on a semesterly basis. We are given the opportunity to explore many fields, yet some of us do not venture out of our “designated” fields. I think, however, if you are feeling uncertain about your major or you no longer feel a passion towards it, then you should consider changing it to something else you have an interest in. Some students stick to a specific major after realizing they do not love it for a few reasons. Maybe they feel they have already spent too much money on tuition and courses to change it or they feel pressured to stay in this major because it’s what their parents want or what their friends are studying. The truth of the matter is, though, that our college experience is ours alone and if we are not content studying something we should change what we are

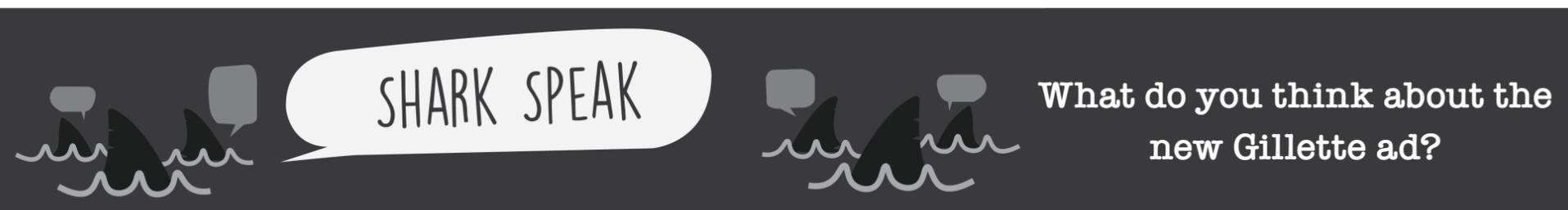
studying.

I began college as a marketing major only to realize towards the end of winter term that I had made this decision only because my parents had suggested I study something relating to business and it was the only business field I found interesting. I knew that this was not the route I wanted to take and I did decide to change my major. Now, two semesters into being a communications major with specificity in journalism, I am not only happier attending and paying for these classes but feel that I did something for myself.

Luckily, I did come to this realization early on as changing your major too late into your academic career may cause a few ramifications. Depending on when you decide to change your major may cause a delayed graduation date as

you need more time to get the required credits towards your degree. It may also add tuition costs to your college years but it may be worth it.

People say college is the best four years of your life but do you want to spend them majoring in something you do not like? Changing your major means many things. It means your personality is evolving and you are learning things about yourself that perhaps you did not know or had not realized. Changing your major provides the opportunity to further finding out what you want to do with your life, career-wise and there is nothing wrong with that. There is no reason to look at changing your major as an impossible or bad thing. It could be the best academic decision you make.



“I thought it was a really good ad. It brought light to those who shy away from toxic masculinity. I feel that people who were threatened by it are part of the problem. I don’t think it will bring too much change because people will still be offended by it. I think eventually, if companies continue to release stuff like that then it might bring some change.”

-**Chiamaka Nkwocha, freshman,**
behavioral neuroscience major

“I think it was really nice for Gillette to do the ad because it fights toxic masculinity and the whole image that men have to be tough and strong. That’s not true we see a lot of guys with depression and treating women badly because of the whole image of being superior; that’s just bull crap. That was an image created and supported by the media, so it’s nice to see a big company engaging with this topic and fighting against toxic masculinity. There is nothing offensive about it. I saw negative feedback from conservative people and that’s what we expect. They supported that image so they don’t want it to be fun. I really liked the ad, great job Gillette!”

-**Gabriel Lindemayer, freshman,**
political science major

“I feel like it wasn’t needed for a Gillette ad. They could have gone about it a different way, that men are great people. It’s wrong, not every guy is like that and not every guy has a bad and good side. That’s what the ad did. It was just wrong how they did it.”

-**Kairee Whitmore, freshman,**
Exceptional Student Education major

I personally believe that they did not have to take this approach to creating a commercial like that. They could have just advertised a razor or something. The message polarized men as either being good or bad; that’s what I took from it. It’s categorizing people, which they shouldn’t do.”

-**Maya Nunez, freshman,**
biology major

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