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Nova Southeastern University

Features



Gill out at Hanji

P. 5

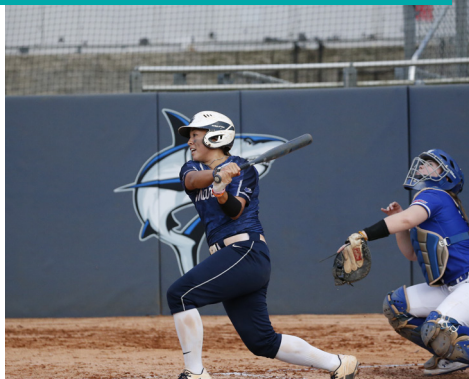
Arts & Entertainment



Birthstones decoded

P. 7

Sports



Meet the athlete of the week

P. 8

Opinions



Shark speak: happiness edition

P. 11

NSU introduces SharkCard loyalty program

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 3, NSU's SharkCard Services launched SharkCard Rewards, a loyalty program that rewards all NSU students — commuter, online, regional campus and main campus students — for making SharkCard purchases at designated locations and attending NSU events. With this program students have the opportunity to redeem points for reward items like gift cards, free oil change, a Zyllion Shiatsu back and neck massager, Bluetooth speakers and much more.

This reward program functions similar to a debit card. Students interested in this program may opt-in and load money onto their card through the GET app or online at www.nova.edu/nsucard with their NSU credentials to earn reward points for every dollar they spend and two points for every NSU home game they attend.

According to Vernol Robinson, director of SharkCard Services, the program's goal is

to improve student engagement on campus in terms of attendance and participation in NSU community-based events, such as sports games and potentially other NSU-sanctioned events in the future.

"[Programs similar to SharkCard Rewards] are a trend we've noticed in the Student I.D. industry that is up and coming. There are quite a few universities that have similar programs that have seen some success with it. Knowing that we would like to see the student engagement increased on campus, especially with on-campus activities and their attendance, this is just a way to boost that up. This program also has potential and the opportunity to grow and expand past its intended purpose further down the line," said Robinson.

With this program, SharkCash or SharkFunds act as the bridge between student access through their pre-existing SharkCard functionality and the opt-in functionality of

the SharkCard Rewards program. SharkCash, a separate allocation of funds than the pre-existing declining balance or the \$75 printing and copying allocation, can be considered a disposable purse that students can add money to with no limitation and can be used for printing, copying, on-campus vending machines and at designated off-campus locations listed on the SharkCard services website such as Midas and Wingstop.

This program has been in the testing stage since last summer and is now fully operational with the opportunity for students to provide feedback to SharkCard services in terms of what they would like to see from the program in the future and any other suggestions they may have in response to the initial roll-out of the program.

Robinson explained that a major part of the feedback stage of this program relies on word of mouth, online activity, satisfaction

surveys and other data-based information. The main questions they have for students with this program are if the rewards are adequate for students and what other suggestions students may have for where they might prefer to see this promotion attached to for specific events.

"We are expecting hurdles with this program and it will take some fine-tuning. We're also not going to make it easy [for students to rack up rewards] so that everyone can just swipe and receive a reward. [Students] are going to have to build up and engage on campus and possibly participate in attending a mix of games and increase their spending habits to build up points," said Robinson.

If students have any questions or suggestions they are welcome to provide feedback via email to nsucard@nova.edu.

NSU student launches Shark Speak program

By: Emma Heineman
Features Editor

NSU Fischler Academy student, Eloise Nieto, has created an English acquisition program aimed at helping local high school students, who are non-native speakers, to develop their English skills by teaching them common English words that are used in everyday conversation. The program, known as Shark Speak, has provided Nieto with a way to apply the skills she has learned in NSU's Fischler Academy to helping people in the community.

Daryl Hulce, the program supervisor, explained that he got the inspiration for the program when his Spanish speaking neighbors vocalized their need for English courses. When Hulce realized the need for a program like Shark Speak, he presented the idea to Kimberly Durham, the dean of the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School

of Criminal Justice and asked if he could hire Fischler Academy students to help people in the community learn English. When he was given the green light, he pitched the idea to Nieto, and when Nieto heard the idea, she took it and ran with it.

"I was in the process of working with students who are already in the process of acquiring English as a second language, so I immediately thought of how it would benefit them... Working together, with my knowledge of working with students and [Hulce's] ideas of what his neighbors needed [we were able] to combine our ideas in a practical way," said Nieto.

The program started in June of 2019, hosting two five week programs in the summer, and has continued with a four week weekend program throughout the school year.

"These kids got out of school on a Friday and came voluntarily to sit in a classroom on a Monday to learn English. That just speaks to how motivated these kids are [in wanting] to learn. I'm still a little baffled by it," said Hulce.

In addition to learning English in a classroom setting, the students are also given the opportunity to practice in real world settings. Being able to see themselves on a college campus is a great way to encourage students to continue learning.

"It's not all focused in the classroom. Last Saturday, we took them to a CommunityFest. During the summer, we took them to the park and the zoo and the beach and places that they might not get to go... For them to meet someone like [Hulce], someone who isn't in education, who isn't a teacher, but who is willing to spend his summer or his Saturdays

teaching them, talking to them and learning from them, is so rewarding. They meet people who are interested in them as people and in their futures," said Nieto.

Nieto reflected on how unique the opportunity to create a program like Shark Speak has been in her college experience.

"The experience I have had working on Shark Speak has been unlike any other [experience]. And the fact that, as a student, they have trusted me enough to give me the green light and say 'sure let's do it, go ahead,' is pretty amazing," said Nieto.

In the future, Hulce hopes to expand the program so that all Fischler students have the opportunity to participate during their time at NSU.

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for more online exclusive content



global news, courtesy of the current

Plan of action for Yemenis

A meeting was held in Brussels on Feb. 13 in order to determine plans of action for providing aid to millions of Yemenis, according to BBC. A briefing given to the UN Security Council declared that 6.7 million Yemenis requiring aid were being affected by access constraints. Yemen has been impacted by conflict and areas of control by different entities, such as the Yemeni government and Houthi forces.

Barcelona Technology Trade Show canceled

The Barcelona Technology Trade Show was canceled on Feb. 12 amid the Coronavirus outbreak, along with "travel concern and other circumstances", according to The New York Times. The trade show is among the largest in the world, typically drawing in over 100,000 people from almost 200 countries. Some companies, such as Nokia and Vodafone, had already withdrawn their attendance for the conference.

Coronavirus given an official name

The illness largely known as the Coronavirus that began in Wuhan, China and quickly spread across the globe, has been named COVID-19. COVID-19 stands for Coronavirus Disease 2019, as the infection began in late 2019. The World

Health Organization stated they chose this name, rather than using geographical places, animals, people or a group in order to avoid any stigma, according to The New York Times.

South Africa to use more renewable energy

Amid efforts to build up its economy, South Africa is looking to utilize more renewable energy sources. The country, which is 77% reliant on coal for power, has been experiencing power cuts that have damaged economic progress, according to AP News. The administration is currently looking into other ways to potentially help with the power crisis, as well as utilizing more existing renewable energy.

Opposition of the Canada pipeline

An indigenous community in Canada began a legal challenge over the environmental impact of the construction of a pipeline, which could affect their territories, according to Reuters. Protests have been staged across the country, hindering the function of the Canadian National Railway for multiple days in a row. The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, explained that he supports the peaceful protest, and he encourages the parties to find a solution.

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News Briefs

get the scoop on events happening on campus

Book launch and signing

On Saturday, Feb. 29, Andrea Shaw Nevins, professor and assistant dean for Academic Affairs in NSU's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS), will host a book launch and signing for her new book, "Working JuJu Representations of the Caribbean Fantastic" which will take place at the West Regional Library in Plantation, FL. The book explores how unreal and fantastic portrayals of the Caribbean shape perceptions of the region. For more information about the book, visit <https://ugapress.org/book/9780820356099/working-juju/>.

Miss Sarajevo documentary screening

On Feb. 22 from 5-7 p.m., the department of history and political science (DHPS) and Gary Gershman, assistant professor of history and legal

studies, will host award-winning author, filmmaker and photographer Bill Carter for a screening of his documentary, "Miss Sarajevo." The documentary discusses Carter's time living in and delivering supplies to Sarajevo and will be screened in the auditorium on the second floor of the Mailman Hollywood building. Students can reach out to Gary Gershman at ggershma@nova.edu with questions.

Pre-Health Week

NSU's Tutoring and Testing Center and the Office of Career Development will host a Pre-Health Week from Feb. 17-20. The week will feature workshops, panels and information sessions to inform students about various elements of the pre-health career path. Some of the sessions will include tips for interviewing for professional schools, an informational meeting about being a medical scribe and a panel with HPD first-year students. For a

complete list of events, locations and times and to RSVP for any sessions, students can visit Handshake.

Abstracts for Undergraduate Research Symposium due

Abstract submissions for the Undergraduate Research Symposium will close on Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. The application and abstract submission form can be found at <https://forms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=538457>. The Symposium will be held on April 11, 2020 at the Biscayne Campus of Florida International University. The symposium is an opportunity for undergraduate students to showcase their research and network with other undergraduate researchers. Students from 12 universities and colleges will be presenting at the symposium, including NSU students.

The Vagina Monologues

By: Tava Boeckel
Contributing Writer

On Feb 28, The Office of Residential Life and Housing, Title IX Office and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a performance of “The Vagina Monologues.” The performance will take place in the Performing and Visual Arts Black Box Theatre in the Don Taft University Center.

“The Vagina Monologues” debuted in 1996 when Eve Ensler, an American playwright and activist, brought her writing to life. The presentation was in the form of monologues in an off-Broadway performance that would forever change the way the world talks about womanhood.

In its original performance, “The Vagina Monologues” provided the tales of women’s relationships within their societies, interactions and traumas. The stories were told through the women talking about their own relationship with their vaginas. Each story was originally performed by Ensler, but through the years the performance expanded to be performed by other actresses. Since the monologues debuted, additional pieces have been added to create a diverse picture of what it is like to be a woman. The full list of pieces include stories of women around the world from different races, ages, sexualities and gender expressions.

These pieces inspired an international non-profit organization called V-Day, which works globally to end violence against women and girls. Through performances like Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues,” V-Day gains funds and promotes global awareness of women’s issues. The V-Day organization

requires that universities and theaters who put on performances of The Vagina Monologues donate the proceeds of the performance to local organizations. In keeping with this requirement, NSU will also be donating the proceeds to local organizations that focus on ending violence against women with their performance of The Vagina Monologues.

Ruth Augustin, area coordinator of the Office of Residential Life and Housing, encourages the NSU community to view the performance and to not be afraid or embarrassed of or by it.

“I think that the title can sometimes scare people and make them nervous to come, especially men in that case, but I’m really hoping to get a big crowd out. It’s not about the numbers, it’s about the awareness and stories people are going to be able to hear from other women,” said Augustin.

The Vagina Monologues encapsulate the explicit triumphs and tragedies of what women around the world experience. Augustin wishes to share with everyone at NSU that the offices backing this performance are here for the students and their needs.

“I hope women see themselves within the monologues, see their stories and know that there is support out there for them and people that have walked through similar paths as them, but most importantly that the staff is here to support them and their stories,” said Augustin.

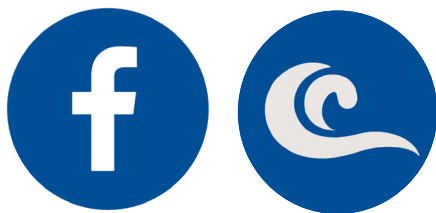
The performance is open to the public and the cost of the tickets will be \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public.



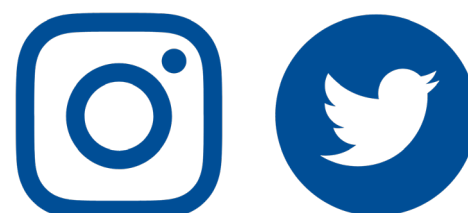
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Democratic candidates drop out of presidential race

Andrew Yang, an entrepreneur with no prior political experience, and Deval Patrick, former Massachusetts Governor, ended their bids for the presidency as Democratic nominees. Having intended to stay in the race till the end, Yang, who ended his run on Tuesday night during the New Hampshire Primary said, “I am the math guy and it’s clear from the numbers we’re not going to win this campaign. So tonight I’m announcing that I am suspending my campaign.” Patrick suspended his campaign “effective immediately” on Wednesday after his low finish in the New Hampshire Primary as well.

Poodle wins Best in Show at the 144th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

Siba, a standard poodle, won Best in Show at the 144th Annual Westminster

Kennel Club Dog Show, held at Madison Square Garden, on Tuesday. Despite the crowds’ chants for Daniel, the crowd favorite golden retriever, Siba took home the title with her fluffy and voluminous fur. Second place was won by Bourbon, a whippet, who was titled Best Reserve in Show.

Scientists detect an unexplainable radio signal from outer space

For the first time on Wednesday, scientists detected radio bursts from a galaxy thought to be around 500 million light-years away. According to USA Today, “The series of ‘fast radio bursts’ – short-lived pulses of radio waves that come from across the universe – were detected about once an hour for four days and then stopped, only to start up again 12 days later.” Science X Network has been coming up with possibilities as to what could be causing the signal stating, “The source could be a celestial body of some

kind orbiting around a star or another body... Another possibility is that stellar winds might be alternately boosting or blocking signals from a body behind them.”

Chitetsu Watanabe officially confirmed as the oldest living man

On Wednesday, Guinness World Records officially confirmed Chitetsu Watanabe as the oldest living man at the age of 112. Born March 7, 1907, Watanabe is the oldest of seven siblings and served in the military toward the end of the Pacific War in 1944. Watanabe states that the secret to his longevity is “[keeping] a smile on your face.” According to Guinness, “[Watanabe] loves to eat desserts such as custards and cream puffs.” The oldest person to have ever lived was Jeanne Louise Calment, who lived to be 122 and died in 1997.

Your vote is your voice

By: Cameron Pritchett
Sports Editor

Voting season in Florida is right around the corner, with the Presidential Preference Primary election being held on March 17, Primary on Aug. 18 and the General Election on Nov. 3, according to the Florida Division of Elections. In an effort to get more college students registered and involved in the voting process, Engage Miami, a non-partisan and non-profit organization, will be coming to Broward County and working with NSU clubs and organizations to educate college students on the importance of their vote. The plan is for Engage Miami to come to NSU sometime in early March, hopefully after spring break to provide details and final paperwork for the clubs that will be tabling at the event. The locations for these registration tables will be in the Don Taft University Center

as well as the HPD building.

Engage Miami's mission to educate citizens of South Florida about the significance of their vote, and to "cultivate a generation of thoughtful citizens who will work to make their community vibrant and participatory, with local government and residents in harmony," according to the organization's website.

According to the New York Times, 57 percent of all Americans were in agreement that "politics and elections are controlled by people with money and by big corporations." This is a stigma with voters, leading them to believe that their vote is almost insignificant, and doesn't really count for much. Take the general election of 2016, for example — 138 million Americans voted, and while this may sound like a lot, this

only makes up 58.1% of the eligible voting population. The number of active voters among millennials in Florida is questionable to say the least, with only about 30% of the segment voting in the 2018 election. According to Charles Zelden, a professor in the Department of History and Political Science at NSU, if this number was closer to 45%, it could swing an entire election.

Regardless of if your candidate wins, voting is important because the issues that we vote for as citizens are taken into account in the next election;

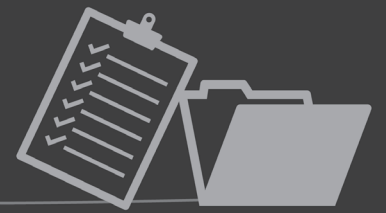
According to Zelden, the point of voting is to show candidates "that you are interested in their policies, you're willing to vote and the policies you vote for can be reflected by the winner of the election, as their job is to try and

win again."

You are eligible to register to vote so long as you submit your voter registration 29 days before an election. This upcoming registration drive with Engage Miami will get voters registered for the general election in November. Those aged 60 and above voted in the highest percentage of all eligible voters in 2016, at 70%. According to the Washington Post, only about half the number of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 29 voted in 2016. As college students, we need to be better than this. This registration drive will give us the opportunity to do just that.



Career Corner



The Purpose of Engaging in Experience

By: Sophia G. Perez
Career Development



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CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Sophia G. Perez joined Nova Southeastern University's Office of Career Development in August 2018 as a career peer advisor. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Behavioral Neuroscience. Perez is excited to collaborate with students and help them meet their personal, academic and professional goals while reaching their full potential.

As a career peer advisor, I connect with undergraduate and graduate students as well as Alumni by providing professional peer-to-peer career development advice. I guide students in multiple areas including resumes, cover letters, job and internship searches, interview preparation and more. I am grateful for the opportunity to help students achieve their maximum potential, goals and aspirations.

Many students are eager to pursue experiences and recognize the importance of shaping their professional development, but what is the purpose behind engaging and participating in internships, research and leadership? Besides developing resumes and increasing competitiveness for jobs or graduate or medical school, experiences provide various benefits. Through interactive experiences, new skills are obtained, connections are established, perspectives are broadened and interests can be narrowed.

Develop new skills and apply knowledge

As a psychology major and behavioral neuroscience minor, I recognize the importance of developing professional experiences. I always emphasize the significance of building understanding through pursuing different experiences.

In the classroom, students develop extensive knowledge in various fields. With hands-on outside experiences, students can apply acquired information into the real-world through trial-and-error. Students also learn about a specific career's typical day, refine and acquire skills, problem solve and connect with others who share similar and distinct goals. Essentially, opportunities promote insight through cooperating and learning from others' experience, advice and perspective.

Make new connections

Besides my career peer advisor role, I also engage in leadership, research experiences, volunteering and more. Not only have I acquired new skills and connections with these opportunities, but I have also built lasting professional relationships by collaborating independently and alongside teams.

Consider the example of a student intern. Connections can be made with others who share similar goals. By developing positive professional relationships, colleagues can effectively provide support, advice and guidance based on previous experiences. Building connections facilitates learning through others' experiences, establishes professional relationships and offers support.

Broaden your perspective

As a career peer advisor, I work alongside a cooperative team and get the opportunity to collaborate and provide insight to achieve goals. With teamwork, you understand how others approach situations and resolve them. As a team, ideas are offered and combined to generate effective solutions.

Collaboration expands perspective and increases insight about others' experience, education and background. Distinct situations may require utilizing problem-solving skills to create solutions, and by understanding how others use strategies to approach situations, perspectives can be broadened and new aspects are considered.

Narrow your interests

Last year, I remember a student arrived for a resume appointment and I congratulated them on their psychology research experience. The student was contemplating potential psychology careers and noted the experience was an area of interest; when it concluded, they realized

they did not want to pursue that area anymore. I recommended focusing on the positive: they acquired amazing research skills as an undergraduate and their psychology interests can be narrowed.

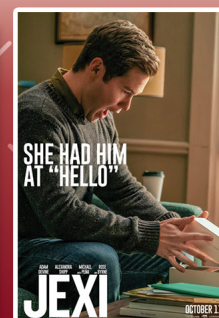
Broad areas of interest can be narrowed through engaging in new experiences. If a particular area is no longer of interest, other career interests can be narrowed and skills can still be developed. Moreover, pursuing opportunities can unexpectedly lead to finding passions and interests for a career you love. Searching up typical job responsibilities is simple; however, truly understanding a role is achieved through engagement.

Overall, experiences effectively prepare individuals for careers by increasing professional development. Additionally, individuals apply knowledge into the real-world and develop their abilities. Collaboration helps expand perspective and promotes unique ways to approach scenarios. Lastly, experiences can narrow down career interests when others are still considering.

If you are interested in searching for opportunities, I recommend focusing on your ultimate career goal and finding experiences to develop the necessary skills to achieve it. As a final note: I always advise my students when they are searching or engaging in an internship, research or leadership role, to think about what you can provide to the position and how the experience can help your personal and professional development.

Visit the Office of Career
Development in the Horvitz
Administration Building

Visit sutv.nova.edu for access to shows and movies before they hit Streaming Platforms!



The fine print of food labels and certifications

By: Madelyn Rinka
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Being an ethical and health-conscious consumer can be unfortunately difficult if you haven't done a fair amount of research. With a seemingly unlimited number of labels and certifications plastered all over food packages, it's not always easy to determine what they actually mean. Some argue food labels should be more consumer-friendly and easier to understand — but until then, it's always best to utilize a variety of resources to look into companies and organizations yourself in order to know more about the foods you're consuming. Here are a few bits of information regarding some of the most popular certifications to help start your research.

USDA Organic

Perhaps one of the most well-known labels, the USDA Organic label is actually a part of a program created by Congress in 2001 in order to create and utilize “uniform national standards,” according to the USDA. In order to use the seal, companies must go through an approval process to ensure that the standards are met. Products must be grown and processed organically and comprised of certain allowed substances, all of which must be verified by the USDA. However, some non-organic and non-agricultural substances may be used depending on the materials.

Where you can learn more: www.usda.gov/topics/organic

Non-GMO Project

“GMO” refers to a genetically modified organism, or an organism that has been altered genetically for a purpose, such as larger crop yield or resistance to certain pests, among many other reasons. Some of these modifications,

however, have come under scrutiny, which is where the Non-GMO Project comes in. The organization is a nonprofit committed to “preserving and building sources of non-GMO products” and other purposes, according to their mission. The certified products go through testing to ensure they meet standards to avoid GMOs.

Where you can learn more: www.nongmoproject.org/

Fair Trade

The Fair Trade Certification stems from a movement of the same name that is committed to “putting people and planet first,” according to Fair Trade USA. Fair trade refers to ethically sourced and made products. In a global market that often exploits and mistreats workers to create products that are cheaper and faster to produce, the certification puts an emphasis on income sustainability, empowerment and other values, designed to ensure the suppliers are respected and safe.

Where you can learn more: www.fairtradecertified.org/

Rainforest Alliance

This certification extends beyond just food and can be applied to farms, forests or tourism companies. The seal is given to show that the product or industry meets the standards of the “three pillars of sustainability:” environmental, social and economic, as decided by the Rainforest Alliance. The green frog depicted on the seal was chosen because of its status as a “symbol of environmental health.”

Where you can learn more: <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/>



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Certified Vegan, Gluten-Free, Keto and other certifications

For those who are vegan, gluten-free, keto or have any other dietary restrictions or preferences, certifications may be an easy way to understand the ingredients in a product. Some of these seals, especially vegan or gluten-free, can be found on other products as well, such as cosmetics or hygiene products. While

the actual standards and processes might be different depending on the certification, doing background research can help clarify exactly what the seal stands for.

Where you can learn more:

vegan.org/

gfco.org/

ketocertified.com/



Hanji

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

NSU is a unique and lively campus, but that doesn't mean Sharks can't band together and take an afternoon to explore the South Florida area — even if that just means finding a quaint place to study.

Those enormous ice cream milkshakes that are doused in syrup and look like they contain enough sugar for one person's diet for an entire month are a thing of the past. Now, classy ice cream is in — and that is exactly what you will get when going to Hanji: snow cream — an ice cream substitute made of shaved snow mixed with sweetened dairy-based or nondairy-based liquid — and boba tea. Hanji serves a menu featuring a variety of milk tea and cups of snow cream with a wide array of toppings and flavors. Offering vegan and non-dairy options for both their snow cream and tea, there are options for anyone in attendance.

Hanji is on Stirling Road, less than 10 minutes from campus and located in a plaza with two other Vietnamese eateries. The outside of the shop is nothing special, looking like any other storefront in a generic plaza. However, upon entrance, there's a clear aesthetic that the store is reaching for and achieving phenomenally well. Hanji has a comforting minimalist vibe with warm yellow lights encompassing the store and light wooden tables with small white stools underneath. There are sporadic decorations in the corners of the store with the main focus on penguin figurines, the evident mascot of the parlor, providing a great place to sit and

converse with friends.

I visited Hanji with a friend of mine who recommended the shop to me, and luckily enough, we each ordered one item each from the two products that the store serves. Our orders consisted of one caffeinated matcha snow and a rose milk boba tea with milk pudding.

The caffeinated matcha snow cup contained matcha snow cream, rice balls, sweet red beans and condensed milk drizzled on top. Aesthetically, the snow cream was something straight out of a trendy Instagram post. The tea, on the other hand, was less than pleasing in its presentation.

However, both items were strikingly tasty despite the presentation. The matcha snow cream was velvety and full of flavor, with the rice balls only enhancing the taste. I just wish there were more of them in the cup. My friend and I thought the ice cream could do without the red beans, but it was an interesting addition nonetheless. The rose tea was extremely flavorful and deliciously refreshing. However, in retrospect, the drink would have been much better with custard pudding instead of milk pudding.

For exquisitely unique ice cream and flavorful tea, the prices were reasonable. The small size for the majority of the snow cream is \$6.50, with more than enough to satisfy two people. The teas range from \$4-\$5.50 as a base price, then whatever add-ons a customer wants to put in.

Overall, Hanji is a fantastic place to grab some refreshing treats and hang out with some



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Low-key things to do on the weekend

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

Sometimes, we all need a break. Working hard every week just to go out and party by the time the weekend rolls around can be exhausting. Every once in a while, the eventful weekends need to be broken up by something low-key that you could do with just a couple of friends, a moment to breathe without feeling like you're wasting your weekend away. Luckily enough, there are plenty of chill activities around the Fort Lauderdale area for anyone interested.

Farmer's market

Sometimes, the food on campus just doesn't cut it, and in that case, why not try and find some tasty fruits and vegetables to reinvigorate your weekend? Farmer's markets are fantastic weekend plans with a great way to invest in your body and overall health. Not to mention, you're also helping small businesses. On Sheridan Street in Hollywood, there is the Yellow Green Farmers Market, only 20 minutes from campus. Like many others, this market is only open on Saturdays and Sundays and features a variety of fresh and local products. Attendees have the opportunity to buy products ranging from fish to jelly and baked goods. The Yellow Green Farmers

Market is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. with a yoga program on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

Coffee house date

A coffee shop is the perfect place to catch up with a friend you haven't spoken to recently. Pick a local coffee place and go relax and talk the day away. If you've got a lot of work to do, bring some work with you to get a head start while staying constantly charged with the flowing coffee. Try and stay away from chains like Starbucks and pick a local shop, like The Neutral Ground Cafe, to enhance that aesthetic atmosphere instead.

Go to a park

After a tiring week, there is nothing better than getting a breath of fresh air. In the South Florida area, there are a plethora of beautiful parks to spend your day in — and near campus are both Tree Tops Park and Vista View Park. Pack a picnic with some snacks and drinks and head on out. Feel the absolute bliss that comes from sitting in a park on a breezy day without a care in the world. If you are indecisive on which park to attend, go on broward.org/parks to find a slew of peaceful places to spend the day.

Visit a museum

Sure, that biology class may be important for your major, but how about experiencing another type of knowledge by submerging yourself in the culture that a museum provides? This one is a personal favorite of mine and a guaranteed go-to for any uneventful weekend. Something that is even better than visiting a museum, is visiting a free museum. One that my mother and I visited during my first trip down to NSU was the Plantation Historical Museum, a quaint free museum that features fascinating information of South Florida's history. This museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. However, if you want more of an art museum vibe, then a trip to NSU Art Museum on Las Olas is always an exciting time and free for NSU students.

Find a garage sale

Need some decorations to spruce up your dorm on a budget? A garage sale is the perfect solution. Finding a garage sale can be surprisingly easy, and if you drive around on an early Saturday or Sunday morning, you will be bound to come across at least one. If that fails, go online to garagesalefinder.com and find some hidden gems.

OFF SHORE

CALENDAR

Jerry Seinfeld Live
Feb. 21-22 | 8 p.m.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino | Hollywood, FL

3rd Annual Soul Vegan Festival
Feb. 22 | 12-6 p.m.

Bandshell Park | Miami Beach, FL

Homestead Eco Fair
Feb. 22 | 12-4 p.m.

Losner Park | Homestead, FL

Riverwalk Chili Cook-off
Feb. 22 | 12-4 p.m.

Esplanade Park | Fort Lauderdale, FL

Lake Worth Street Painting Festival
Feb. 22-23 | Various times

Downtown Lake Worth | Lake Worth, FL

Palm Beach Fine Art Show
Feb. 22-23 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Palm Beach Outlets | West Palm Beach, FL

Polynesian Cultural Festival
Feb. 22-23 | 12-7 p.m.

Jaco Pastorius Park | Oakland Park, FL

South Miami Rotary Art Festival
Feb. 22-23 | Various times

Sunset Drive | South Miami, FL

Hollywood Mardi Gras
Feb. 23 | 1-7 p.m.

Downtown Hollywood
Hollywood, FL

Unconventional studying tips: when all else fails, make sure you don't

By: Emma Heineman
Features Editor

Everyone has one — a study habit or routine that they swear by; one that helps them retain information and ace exams. If you're anything like me, you've probably tried hundreds of these so-called studying "lifesavers" at the recommendation of your friends or peers. Sometimes, however, the end result is not an A in a class or a perfect score on a quiz, but a realization that what works for your lab partner or classmate may not be the best option for you. As midterms loom just around the corner and studying mode kicks into high gear, here are some studying hacks to try if your go-to methods simply aren't cutting it.

Snack smarter

This may seem like a no-brainer, but it is so easy to forget how much food impacts academic performance, especially when you stay up all night studying and get those midnight cravings. While it may be easier to reach for a bag of chips or a microwave dinner during your cram session, filling your body with the

right kinds of food can make a big impact on your study time. Try putting down junk foods and reaching instead for healthy snacks that help improve brain function, enhance memory and boost overall performance. Foods like almonds, trail mix, veggies and hummus, greek yogurt and even dark chocolate — if you're craving something sweet — can give you the boost of energy you need to power through midterms week. Eating foods that are high in fiber, protein, vitamins and minerals will help you curb your cravings and avoid the sugar crash that you can have with junk foods.

Choose your font wisely

Believe it or not, there is a reason that professors prefer Times New Roman 12 on papers and assignments. According to the American Writers and Artists Institute, Times New Roman and other serif fonts are widely believed to be the easiest to read on paper, making it the ideal font to use if you need to quickly go over your class notes. On the other hand, according to the Harvard Business

Review, reading information written in more difficult to read type might help with recall. If you are still in the process of learning and retaining information, using an unfamiliar font can help make information stick. Your brain is more likely to skim over material typed in a familiar font, so using a bold new font can enhance the chances of you retaining the information.

Use your senses

Using your senses to your advantage can also enhance your studying success. Try integrating smell into your study routine by spraying a new perfume or using a new essential oil when you study. This can help your brain associate the information you are learning with that specific smell, and smelling the same scent on exam day can help you to recall the facts. The same is true for taste. Chewing a stick of the same flavored gum while you are studying and during an exam can help you to remember what you studied.



You really can live in a simulation: the impact of “The Sims” franchise

By: Sofia Gallus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

“The Sims” franchise opened up a whole new world (literally) of possibilities for players and continues to produce an environment where all people are welcome and able to play the game to their liking. Having celebrated its 20th anniversary on Feb. 4, “The Sims” franchise, a true household name in the gaming community, remains relevant because, not only are “The Sims” titles popular, but they’re forward-thinking and have often been regarded as huge game-changers for the gaming industry. Let’s take a look at the different impacts the Sims franchise has had on the gaming community.

It was out of the box

The idea of “The Sims” had been pitched a number of times since 1993, but it wasn’t until 1995 that it was accepted by EA Games. After developer Will Wright suffered a house fire, he got the idea to create a game that attempted to simulate real life. Since its release in 2000, the franchise has sold millions of copies between its four base games, not including the many expansion packs and extra downloadable content made available as add-ons to each base game.

Large female player base

“The Sims” franchise has a large female player base. While originally the producers were concerned about this as it was not a game especially geared towards men, it has proven only that there is a larger population than what was originally thought of women who are willing to play games that are different and unique.

Not only does the game have a large female player base, but it also has a large percentage of female developers working on it. While times are slowly changing, in the gaming industry, women have found it exceedingly difficult to be taken seriously and be able to really get a hand on producing and developing games. This is why it is so important and wonderful that nearly half of the developers working on “The Sims” franchise are female.

One of the first games to introduce same-sex relationships

The original game was also one of the very first video games produced by a well-known developer to introduce same-sex relationship options for players. While all sims are technically bisexual and able to pursue relationships with

either the opposite or same sex, the way the game addressed same-sex relationships has changed and evolved with each game.

While in the original “The Sims,” your sim could date and move in with a sim of the same sex. The relationships changed slightly more in “The Sims 2,” wherein during the creation of the sim, there is a preference scale that the player is able to set and same-sex sims are able to be united in a “joined-union.” While the autonomous actions made by the sim are affected by the scale, the player can choose to become romantically involved with other sims that are not the preference set by the scale. This mechanic was carried over in “The Sims 3,” but not explored as much as the autonomy of the sim created by the player changed to be more controlled by the player rather than the presets in the game. However, “The Sims 3” introduced the “married” title for sims who were same-sex. In “The Sims 4,” the most recent installment of the franchise, players are given the most control over the sims out of all the games. The player has complete control over who their sim dates, moves in with and marries. While there is no longer a preference scale during the create-a-sim stage, the player is able to control who the

sim is romantically involved with. “The Sims 4” has also introduced a lot more support from the developers of the LGBTQ+ community, even including an expansion pack with items customized for pride.

Possibilities for creative freedom

One of my favorite things about “The Sims” franchise isn’t actually the game itself, it is the large creator community that surrounds it. “The Sims” games have always been easily modifiable, making a perfect game for content creators who may want to try their hand at programming game mods. Custom content made by fans of the franchise are more easily accessible than ever, truly allowing the player to customize their game to make it more enjoyable and fit their preferences. The modifications available for “The Sims” games let people practice creativity and storytelling in a modern and fun way. It is the mods and custom content that truly makes the game special and the acceptance of people’s creations by the developers that encourages creativity for the fanbase.

What does your birthstone reveal?

By: Flor Ana Mireles
Copy Editor

The American Gem Society believes that the origin of birthstones date back to “the breastplate of Aaron which contained twelve gemstones representing the twelve tribes of Israel.” While birthstones have a place in many traditions and belief systems, typically arranged by month, they are said to hold secrets and legends about oneself. Keep reading to see what your birthstone reveals.

January Garnet

Garnet, deriving from the 14th century Middle English word “gernet,” is known for its deep red color and its resemblance to the seed of a pomegranate. On rare occasions, garnet can also be found in a variety of different colors — some even change colors depending on the light it is in. Anciently believed to aid blood, the heart and the lungs, this gem represents health, passion and trust.

February Amethyst

Deriving from the ancient Greek word “methustos,” which translates roughly to intoxicated, the ancient Greeks believed that if you wore an amethyst, you would be protected from getting drunk. Amethysts are quartz most recognized for their vibrant purple hues and have long been a sign of royalty and nobility. This gem is said to also symbolize security and true happiness.

March Aquamarine

Named after the sea, aquamarine is a gemstone anciently believed to have protected sailors out on open waters and ensured them good voyage. Known for its cool baby blue color, healers believed aquamarines could calm the wearer as they connected with the tranquility of the sea, providing mental clarity and a sense of peace.

April Diamond

One of the rarest gemstones in the world, diamonds are also one of the most beloved gems. Appropriately deriving from the Greek word “adamas,” which translates to invincible, diamonds are the hardest gemstone, said to be 58



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Diamonds are April’s birthstone, and a common choice for wedding bands.

times harder than anything else in nature. They are a symbol of strength, love and eternity.

May Emerald

A rare and valuable stone, emeralds are said to represent youth, growth and intelligence. Deriving from the Greek word for green, “smaragus,” emeralds actually can be a variety of green hues and the more green the emerald is, the more value it has. First mined around 2000 B.C., emeralds were also said to be Cleopatra’s favorite gem.

June Pearl

Pearls are the only gemstones not mined, but rather made by mollusks, like oysters and clams. Coming from the Latin word “perma,” which means leg — referring to the leg shape of a mollusk shell — pearls have been a longstanding symbol of purity. Having been dedicated to Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of

love, this gemstone also represents love.

July Ruby

Arguably the most well-known red stone, the ruby — named after the Latin word for red, “rubeus” — is a symbol of wealth, love and wisdom. It was said in ancient times that rubies were thought to be gems that could amplify energy, heighten awareness and promote courage, bringing success in wealth and love to wearers.

August Peridot

A gemstone with a green vibrant glow, peridots have historic powers for healing and warding off nightmares. Said to also be a symbol of inner strength and confidence, peridots have an unclear origin, but get their name from the Greek word “peridona,” which means “giving plenty.” According to lore, these gems are often associated with prosperity and

good fortune and are even referred to as “the Evening Emerald.”

September Sapphire

Used in ancient religions as a symbol of trust, wisdom and loyalty, like rubies, sapphires can come a variety of blue hues. Coming from the Latin word “sapphirus” and the Greek word “sappheiros” — both meaning blue stone — sapphires were believed to be one of the guiding stones for kings and emperors. This gem was also believed to be a cure for “madness of love” as well as certain types of mental illnesses, providing wearers mental clarity and a sense of spiritual enlightenment.

October Opal

Originating from the Greek word “opallios,” meaning “to see a change in color,” opals are like kaleidoscopes when you spin them or shine them in the light, reflecting a rainbow of colors. They have also been compared to the aurora borealis and were believed to be protection stones, used to drive away evil and bring confidence and good fortune.

November Topaz

Topaz, named after the ancient Greek St. John’s Island “Topazio,” located in the Red Sea, these gemstones, like most others, pick up their yellow color from impurities that form. Topaz is known for its calming effects on wearers as well as its signature yellow hue. It was also believed to help calm tempers, cure madness and alleviate nightmares.

December Tanzanite

With tones of grey and deep blue, the tanzanite gem has been the newest addition to the birthstones gem chart since 1921. Prior to tanzanite being the birthstone for December, the celebrated crystal was turquoise. Named after Tanzania, the country in which it was discovered, tanzanite was originally thought to be a new find of sapphire and was said to represent love and confidence.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

Alex Suzuki

By: Alexander Martinie
Opinions Editor

Alex Suzuki is a fifth-year senior pursuing her master's degree in national security affairs. Suzuki plays on NSU's softball team as a catcher and has been a part of the team since her freshman year. Suzuki is from Ocala, FL.

What got you into playing softball?

"Honestly, it was a P.E. coach when I was younger. He wanted me to come out and play and I just kept going. I started when I was about five or six and [have been playing ever since]."

What has been your favorite thing about playing softball?

"Probably the lessons it has taught me and the friendships I have made along the way. [The team is] pretty close; we have a good bond on and off the field. Trusting each other on the field is important and just having each others' backs all the time [is also important]."

What goals do you have for yourself in regards to softball?

"This season, our goals are to win conference and make it into regional play. I want to leave a mark at this school, leave the program better than it started and just become a better person inside the sport. I think that I have definitely grown as a person here and within the program, but I believe this season will be a good ending for my career."

What made you decide to come to NSU?

"Honestly, it was a school that I have been looking at since I was in middle school or high school. I just pursued it and I really liked the area; the school is nice."

What are the pros and cons of being a student-athlete?

"The pros are getting to play the sport that you love and just being a part of something bigger than yourself. As for the cons, I wouldn't really say there are any."

How do you balance your academics and athletics?

"It does get a little tricky. Coming in, it's harder to balance and do time-management, but once you are in it, it's like second nature."

What advice would you give to other student-athletes?

"Go after it. Always go 100%. Give maximum effort and just have fun doing it."

Do you have any pre game rituals?

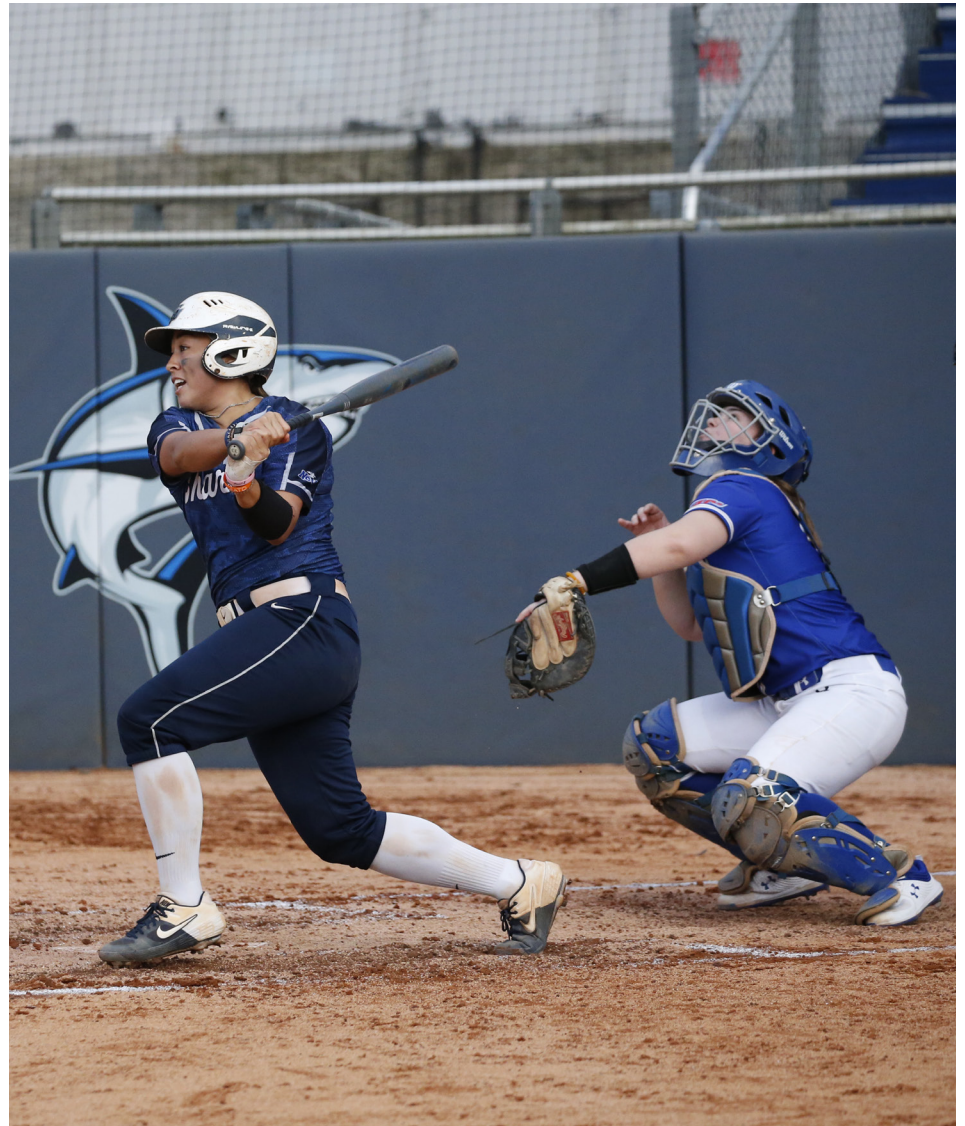
"This season, before every game, my coach has given me a piece of gum and that's kind of it, I guess. It is just a thing that we have. After a big win, we will celebrate, hang out and just be together."

What does your downtime look like?

"Either spending time with the team or just relaxing."

What drove you to play softball in college?

"It's every athlete's dream to play at the next level. That has been my goal since I was a little kid, so having the opportunity to play in college is what drove me."



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OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Penguins trade for Zucker

The Pittsburgh Penguins traded their forward Alex Galchenyuk and defensive prospect Calen Addison for Jason Zucker as he had been a conditional first-round draft pick for 2020. Zucker has a record of 14 goals with 15 assists in this season alone with the Minnesota Wild. Zucker is a top-six forward and this deal marks the start of Bill Guerin's term as general manager of the Penguins. Galchenyuk had only been with the Penguins for seven months before being traded for a more experienced forward. Galchenyuk only scored five goals with the Penguins, and as the season went on, his play-time decreased.

Sixth horse dead at Santa Anita training track

Since December, six horses have died at the Santa Anita training track in Arcadia, CA, the most recent being the death of Double Touch, a six-year-old gelding. Double Touch suffered from what the track's incident report labeled a "sudden death." As of last Wednesday, the California Horse Racing Board had a necropsy pending. Since December of 2018, 43 deaths have been reported at the

Santa Anita track, with six occurring in the last eight weeks. Double Touch had four wins throughout his career.

Chinese Grand Prix postponed

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix has been postponed. Originally, scheduled for April 19 in Shanghai, the new date for the Grand Prix has not been released as both Formula One and Chinese organizers for the race are working to find the best time.

Memorial held for Altobelli family

On Feb. 10, a memorial was held for the Altobelli family who were killed in the same crash that killed Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna. Thousands of people gathered at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, CA, to remember John Altobelli, Keri Altobelli and their daughter Alyssa Altobelli. The Altobellis are survived by their daughter, Lexi and their son, J.J. A public memorial will be held for the Bryants on Feb. 24 at the Staples Center.

**caution: your sports news
is now leaving NSU**

SPORTS SHORTS

Baseball

On Feb. 6, the Sharks baseball team faced off against Colorado Mesa for the first time ever at the NSU baseball complex. The Sharks also took an early lead for the first time ever this season. While it was an exciting game, the Sharks were not able to secure a victory, losing in a very close game, 8-7.

The Sharks faced off against Colorado Mesa in another home game again on Feb. 7, this time trailing behind Colorado Mesa during the opening. It wasn't until Colorado Mesa had gotten a lead of three consecutive innings that the Sharks defense skyrocketed. For a while things looked promising for the Sharks, but they were unable to turn the game back around, losing 6-2.

For the final time on Feb. 8, the Sharks faced off against Colorado Mesa at the NSU baseball complex, coming back with vengeance. The Sharks held a lead at two runs and had their first grand slam since last season, giving them an 8-2 advantage. However, in the fifth inning, Colorado Mesa began catching up until the Sharks halted them at 8-5. Throughout the sixth and seventh inning, the Sharks were able to keep things in check and even hit another home run, taking the score to 9-5. While Colorado Mesa was able to make two home runs in the eighth, it wasn't enough to catch up as the Sharks scored more and finished the game 11-7, the Sharks' first victory against Colorado Mesa.

Softball

On Feb. 7, the NSU softball team played against the Georgian Court Lions at the AD Griffin Sports Complex in Fort Lauderdale and claimed a 2-0 victory. There were only three hits throughout the entire game, with two of them for the Sharks.

On Feb. 8, the Sharks faced off against the Washburn Ichobads at the AD Griffin Sports Complex and secured a victory as the game finished 3-1. While the Sharks and the Ichobads both made four hits per team, the Sharks managed to come out victorious in the bottom fifth after the Ichobads tied the game in the top of the fifth.

On Feb. 9, the Sharks played a doubleheader at the AD Griffin Sports Complex against the East Stroudsburg Warriors, winning both games. The first game was a slow start, and by the top fourth inning, the game was still tied 1-1. By the bottom of the fifth, the Sharks had taken a 4-1 lead and the game finished with the Sharks winning 4-2. During the second game, the Sharks had the advantage by the end of the first inning, taking a 4-0 lead. It wasn't until the top of the third inning that the Warriors made it on the board, cutting the Sharks' lead to three points. By the top of the sixth, the Warriors were able to tie things up, but in the bottom of the sixth the Sharks struck back and finished the game, winning 7-4.

Go online for more Sport Shorts!

**THIS WEEK IN SPORTS HISTORY**By: **Christina McLaughlin**
*Co-Editor-in-Chief***Feb. 18****First Iron Man Triathlon**

On this day in 1978, the first Iron Man Triathlon was held in Kona, Hawaii. The creators of this event, Judy and John Collins, wanted to create an event for endurance athletes who enjoyed high intensity races. The first race involved swimming, bicycling and running non-stop for 140.6 miles. Those who competed in this race created homemade t-shirts and received homemade trophies from the organizers.

Feb. 19**NFL adds a line judge**

In 1965, the NFL added a sixth official to the officiating staff. Commonly referred to as the "Fran Tarkenton Rule," named after the Minnesota Vikings quarterback known for his technique to "scramble" to avoid being sacked, the line judge, which is stationed on the line of scrimmage, made it easier for officials to judge if Tarkenton or other quarterbacks crossed over the line before throwing during a play.

Feb. 20**First Black umpire certified in Baseball**

Emmett Ashford, the first Black umpire in organized baseball, was certified in 1952. After taking a leave of absence from his job at the post office for a trial certification in the Southwestern International League, he was offered a full-season job from the league. Ashford later made his debut in MLB on April 11, 1966 at D.C.

Stadium. Ashford was known for his flashy sense of style on the field consisting of jewelry, fresh-pressed suits and his loud personality. He worked in the MLB for the American League from 1966 to 1970.

Feb. 21**NASCAR founded**

In 1948, the National Association for Stock Car Racing or NASCAR was incorporated by William "Bill" France Sr., an auto-repair shop owner from Washington, D.C. who moved to Daytona Beach, FL. France noticed racing rules varied and promoted dishonesty, gathering members of the racing community to create a governing body to sanction and promote racing. France served as its first president and its first stock race on June 19, 1949 at Charlotte Speedway in North Carolina.

Feb. 22**Golf first introduced to America**

On this day in 1888, Scottish immigrant John Reid taught his friends the game of golf in Yonkers, NY. Reid brought the golf clubs and balls from Scotland and played in a cow pasture with three poles to mark the holes. This was later named the St. Andrews Golf Club of Yonkers and officially formed the following year. Reid is known as the Father of American Golf for bringing it to America through this demonstration.

Feb. 23**Chicago Cubs start playing night games**

On Feb. 23, 1988, Chicago lawmakers passed legislation to allow lights to be installed at Wrigley Field. The anti-noise laws in the city were officially repealed, allowing the Chicago Cubs the ability to play eight night games for the season at Wrigley Field. The first night game for the Cubs was on Aug. 8 of that year against the Philadelphia Phillies. 91-year-old Cubs fan Harry Grossman was chosen to switch on the lights for the game and announced: "Let there be light" as he flipped on the switch to the stadium.

Feb. 24**U.S. Ice Hockey wins gold after "Miracle on Ice" victory**

The 13th Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, NY marked a significant win for the U.S. Two days prior to this game, the U.S. faced off against the Soviet Union and won in what was later known as the "Miracle on Ice," with a movie later produced of the same name illustrating the win against the Soviet Union. As they moved on through the games, the U.S. played against Finland in the final of two games, winning 4-2. The Olympic games finished that year with the U.S. winning gold, the Soviet Union winning silver and Sweden winning the bronze medal.

ON DECK**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
Feb. 19 | 7:30 p.m.
West Palm Beach, FL

vs. Florida Tech
Feb. 22 | 4 p.m.
Melbourne, FL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
Feb. 19 | 5:30 p.m.
West Palm Beach, FL

vs. Florida Tech
Feb. 22 | 2 p.m.
Melbourne, FL

MEN'S GOLF

vs. Saint Leo Invitational
Feb. 24 | TBA
Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club
Dade City, FL

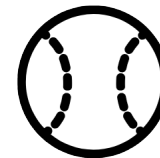
WOMEN'S GOLF

vs. Lady Moc Classic
Feb. 18 | all-day
Grasslands Golf & Country Club
Lakeland, FL

MEN'S BASEBALL

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
Feb. 18 | 6 p.m.
West Palm Beach, FL

vs. Barry
Feb. 21, 22, 23 |
Various times
Miami Shores, FL

**WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
Feb. 18, 19 | Various times.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

vs. North Georgia
Feb. 21 | 5 p.m., 7 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

MEN'S TRACK

NSU Invitational
Feb. 22 | TBA
Miramar, FL

WOMEN'S TRACK

vs. NSU Invitational
Feb. 22 | TBA
Miramar, FL

WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs. Palm Beach Atlantic
Feb. 19 | 3 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale, FL

vs. Eckerd College
Feb. 21 | 3 p.m.
St. Petersburg, FL

vs. No. 18 Florida Southern
Feb. 22 | 10 a.m.
Lakeland, FL

vs. Davenport
Feb. 23 | TBA
Orlando, FL

WOMEN'S ROWING

vs. Barry University
Feb. 22 | 8 a.m.
Hollywood, FL

On The Bench:**Missing football? Look no further.**By: **Cameron Pritchett**
Sports Editor

Almost 20 years ago in 2001, World Wrestling Entertainment CEO Vince McMahon founded the XFL. Originally, this professional football league attempted to appease fans who were unhappy about the lack of football following the Super Bowl. The XFL, which worked with NBC, attempted to combine elements of both American football and wrestling. It was a valiant effort, but was ultimately thwarted by poor game attendance and questionable ratings from reviewers. Fast forward to 2018: McMahon announced he would be making another attempt at making the XFL a force to be reckoned with in professional sports, claiming this newly renovated XFL would focus more on football than wrestling and would shorten games to below three hours, implementing a running clock and fewer clock stoppages.

There are a few key rule changes that are, to say the least, different and arguably more exciting than the NFL. To put some of these rules in perspective, the traditional extra points

after a touchdown have been taken away and replaced with either one, two or three point options by going from the two, five or 10 yard lines. Overtime has also been completely distinguished from the NFL; teams will now battle it out from the opponent's five yard line and are given one chance to score, each score being worth two points and only allowed from the offense. This goes on for five rounds until there is a winner. One of the more recognizable NFL rules in which the receiver must have two feet inbounds for a catch to count has been changed in the XFL to only one foot, making catches easier to bring in. One thing that is extremely exciting for football fans is the lack of flags thrown for big hits from defenders, which fans have become unaccustomed to due to the NFL's research on CTE and concussions; while controversial, it is a widely held opinion in football that the NFL has become much too soft with their calls on penalties, such as roughing the passer or unnecessary roughness.

To me, the coolest thing about the XFL is that it gives former NFL athletes who may have been cut or want to make a comeback — and those fresh out of college who just missed out on making the next level — an opportunity to play with players similar in talent to the NFL. The contracts may be extremely different (the average NFL contract is about \$860,000, where at the XFL is about \$55,000), but the chance to play is all these athletes want. The passion for the game is what keeps these guys playing in the XFL, which makes for a much more entertaining bout of football. I look forward to the rest of the season as it consists of 10 games split between five home and five away games. As a football fan, the void from not watching good and entertaining football until September is almost unbearable. I am excited to see how the season unfolds.

Want to join Student Media? Attend a meeting to learn more**For the writers and designers:**The Current:
Tuesdays at 12:30pm
Rosenthal 200**For the music critics and aspiring DJs:**Radio X:
Wednesdays at noon
Rosenthal 200**For the film junkies and script writers:**SUTV:
Fridays at noon
SAB, third floor



Is the new law to prevent “birth tourism” really effective?

By: **Bella Ameiorsano**
Contributing Writer

The Trump administration issued a new law to help prevent a future possibility of “anchor babies,” babies born into the U.S. by mothers who file for a visa so they can give birth to their babies on American grounds. This law, which took effect on Jan. 24, is giving foreign service officers (FSOs) the right to reject visas to women they believe are entering the U.S. solely to engage in “birth tourism.” This just adds to the growing list of immigrants unwelcome in our country. However, this law is not all that effective.

FSOs aren’t required to ask a woman if she’s pregnant, but they’ll be allowed to apply additional critical interrogations if they suspect a woman is pregnant during her visa interview. Even if a woman says she’s entering the country for medical treatment, she’ll need to prove she has enough money to pay for the

treatments. Although this may greatly assist in keeping obvious expecting mothers out of our country, there are ways that women can easily still access a visa.

Although this law may assist with keeping pregnant women close to their due date out of the country, it’s not that effective. Some visas allow foreigners to visit the U.S. many times over the course of as many as 10 years, meaning they could get their visas, get pregnant years later and still be permitted to visit our country. What if a woman can prove she has funds to pay for “medical treatment” and still gives birth within the country? I think the Trump administration’s new law isn’t that effective as women can still logically find a way to avoid it.



Write for the Current

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ROSENTHAL 200
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Access Codes are costing our education

By: **Tava Boeckel**
Contributing Writer

One undoubtable piece of knowledge is that everything in college has a price. Once necessities of housing, food and tuition are paid for, there is still the lingering costs of class materials. Textbooks are a multibillion-dollar industry in the U.S., and a significant portion of that money comes from the access codes courses are requiring in addition or instead of a traditional textbook. It brings the major issue of rise in expenses.

Textbook prices have been going up dramatically the past few decades. Luckily, we have been able to combat that with the rise of technology. According to a study by the National Association of College Stores (NACS), the average spent by a college student on textbooks each semester had dropped from \$701 to \$484 from 2008 to 2018. This is

presumably due to the ease of access students have on a diverse number of websites to acquire their books, as well as resalebooks they have purchased from students. By doing this, they can get these books cheaper than stores or rent them for a fraction of the price. Unfortunately, with the shift towards these access codes, the prices have been on the rise yet again.

There is no way to combat the prices of these access codes as students have been able to do with traditional textbooks. Without much competition, Pearson and McGraw-Hill dominate the market for access codes. Their material is individualized for their company’s specific system and text. They cannot be rented or sold to other students to make up for the deficit of money spent. For Pearson, I have not been able to find a code under \$70for short-term

use, which lasts around three months. Students who have more math and science intensive courses, like most of NSU undergraduate students, now have to get at least one code a semester on top of other book materials.

This raises the question of why these access codes are now being pushed as heavily for classes. Features of the access code include flashcards, tutorial videos, an online version of the textbook and homework for the professors to assign to students.

According to NACS, “When asked to select the top three words or statements that best describe their feelings toward access codes from a provided list, overpriced was selected by 62% of all students, while 24% selected waste of money and unnecessary.”

While these features are helpful, they are

not worth the mandatory rising costs as most students feel these features weren’t as effective as advertised by the companies. An online textbook is typically a lot less expensive than these features, as well as flashcards and tutorials by reputable sources are all over the internet, thus leaving the only feature left: homework.

Students who use these access codes, whether they get to use the textbook or not, have to now pay to do their own homework. These companies provide what initially looks like a good package deal, but are ultimately monopolizing the industry of class materials. This is causing students to spend even more money in an economy where the cost of education is continuously rising.

The importance of voting

By: **Rita Shuster**
Contributing Writer

When asked who is the voice of the United States of America, what comes to mind? When I reflect on this question, I consider a political leader, current or prior, to be that voice because of their status and ability to enact laws that affect the constituents of America; it is almost like our freedoms are being taken from us, in certain cases. However, this should not be the case. The voice of our country, the power that is held, is us.

Often, the capacity and potential that we have is undermined. Usually, the great power that we can have is not voiced. This authority stems from voting; further, voting in local or national elections can give us, as a whole, the power.

The right to vote wasn’t always given. In the late 1780s, voting was enacted; however, the criteria to vote was strict, only applying to white males who owned property. In 1870, the 15th Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote. Then, in 1920 when the 19th

Amendment was passed, women were given the right to vote. Later in the early 1970s, the 26th Amendment altered the legal voting age, changing it to 18 years old as lawmakers understood the need for young adults to vote, as they represent society differently and hold diverse ideas compared to older adults. Seeing that a lengthy, treacherous path was taken by society to permit all to vote, it is a significant privilege we have that is often taken for granted.

According to a study from Tufts University, 48.3% of college students voted in the 2016 presidential election, a 3.2% increase compared to the 2012 election. However, 68.5% of college students were registered and eligible to vote during the 2016 election, meaning 20.2% of college students who did not vote. That 20.2% of students disregarded their power, their rights, and their voice. That 20.2% of students could have changed the outcome of the election tremendously. In the status quo, students are the most diverse

population, and diversity is proven to ensure that America represents all. Our country is composed of many different races, ethnicities, religions, gender identities and ideologies, so when people who are different begin to vote, they affect the conclusion of the election, dramatically.

For example, a Hispanic voter, who is most passionate about America’s relationship with South America, would vote for the candidate that best supports their argument. This alters the outcome of the election. Students are typically more passionate about certain issues our country faces, compared to older adults including gun reform, education reform, climate change and women’s rights.

In the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy, the issue of gun reform arose and many — especially students — identified the need for change in society. Because students are the ones who deal most with the education system, many hold strong opinions on this and

have new ideas to improve America’s education system.

After the Supreme Court cases that involved women’s rights, many found this issue to be prevalent, which has led in the creation of many movements, by America’s youth, promoting humanism. Seeing that studies have depicted the flaws in the environment globally, the young have taken this issue into their own hands by advocating for environmental change.

There is no doubt that the current young voter population is driven and motivated by current events; it is clear that students’ voices matter. For this reason, it is crucial that we, students, do not allow our voices to be obstructed— register to vote, to ensure that you have a voice.

To do this, visit
<https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>
or find your local elections office today!

Women in sex work: where the line is drawn for Feminist values

By: **Eva Fournel**
Contributing Writer

Sex work has been a controversial topic in the U.S., whether it be from an economic, political or moral standpoint. Nevada is the only state, thus far, to have decriminalized sex work. However, the business's decriminalization is still an on-going conversation among the rest of the U.S. Sex workers are often faced with dangerous circumstances and deemed vulnerable to cases such as assault, abuse and even death, particularly transgender women and women of color. The government's criminalization and marginalization on these women only make them even more vulnerable to injustice, but women still partake in the business. To the core, in a practice that seems to promote misogyny and patriarchal values, where does the line for feminist values lie? The line lies in consent and autonomy. Modern and self-serving sex work can offer women financial security and independence and those factors alone are threatening enough to anyone with rather conservative and traditional values.

According to Refinery 29, Liara Roux claims, "How much I make a year varies. Last

year, it was \$500,000. It's been both financially and emotionally rewarding." Feminism's foundation is the concept of equality between men and women. Sex work is often portrayed as inequality because of how sex work is often portrayed as an unequal and hyper-sexualized profession for women. The truth of the matter is, men are the customers, sex is the purchase and sex workers are the businesswomen. While some may do it as a form of survival and others empowerment, women are relying on themselves, and because sex — something so familiar yet so taboo — is their gateway to independence and security, they are criticized and criminalized for their autonomy.

Meg Muñoz shared her story at the annual West Coast Conference of Amnesty International. The New York Times reported that, "Muñoz started living on her own for the first time. With rent and car insurance to pay and a plan to save for college, escorting became her livelihood. 'I was moving towards a goal and sex work helped me do that.'" This kind of work provides women with the means to

survive, the means to have a building block for more if they want it and the means to not have to beg for government help when it is evident that the help is limited.

Hypersexualization of women is commonly associated with patriarchal values and toxic masculinity. However, a woman's autonomy and freedom to decide when, where, with whom, how and on what terms this sexuality will be consented to is powerful. Sex work gives power to a woman's sexuality, whether it be for her own personal empowerment or her choice to survive on her own terms. Sex workers can often be seen as victims; however, it's important to be clear on what that label represents: it can mean being a victim to the systems in place that put them in this position to turn to sex work to survive financially or a victim to the systems that criminalize them for how they choose to use their body. They are victims who risk losing the respect and protection of the people who should be keeping them safe, but the assumption that they are victims because they've lost respect

for themselves and their bodies is flawed.

People tend to wonder how a person would be willing to sacrifice their sexuality — and if it is necessarily a sacrifice or not — but sex is not a cultural universal. Everyone's value of sex is different and one should not be stigmatized and marginalized for valuing it differently, and the word "differently" is important, not less or more. One's body and sexuality will always be valuable and personal, and the consent to let someone in, whether with a business or romantic mindset, is just as valuable. The right to one's body or the right to grant consent is powerful and taking that away is abusive. Sex work has lived on for centuries and is constantly evolving before our eyes. Shaming, criminalizing or questioning a woman's self-respect and values will not make this profession go away. A sex worker working for herself, utilizing her gift of consent, and earning sexual and financial liberty through her practice, is powerful. The power to work, the power to choose and the power over one's body are powerful.

SHARK SPEAK

What is something you enjoy doing for yourself that makes you happy?



"I really like painting. I'll usually paint by myself and listen to music or watch something funny on Netflix!"
-Caleigh Craddock, sophomore marine biology major

"Recently, I've started working out. That has honestly been kind of eye-opening because, for the last week, I was really hard on myself and my friend pushed me to go to the gym. After I started going, I started to see my skin clearing up and I was really pumped about that. I like having my friends around me as well because it distracts me from being too hard on myself and it makes me feel better."
-Amanda "AJ" Glaser, senior art & design major

"I like listening to music and finding new music. I especially like some of the underground things that not many people know about yet because it's like I'm giving attention to this band and I get to listen to great music that isn't so mainstream."
-Jozef Cruz, sophomore psychology major, sophomore

"When I work out, I feel really good about myself. I like running a lot because the feeling after is good and it just makes me feel more confident."
-Anjana Mandapati, junior biology and neuroscience major

"Reading. I really like to read. I spend a lot of time reading and it always makes me happy."
-Juno Boulet, freshman elementary education major

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