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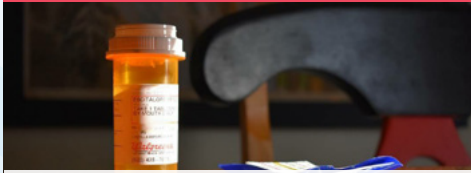
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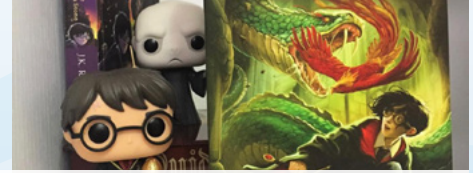
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NSU aims to educate in wake of reported sexual assault

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

“Victims, survivors and those who are affected by sexual misconduct may need support and it may be ongoing, not just protection of their name. NSU follows the Clery Act and Title IX, but also takes into account a student’s personal decisions and considers their own personal safety based on the circumstances.”

Laura Bennett, Title IX coordinator and managing director of Title IX compliance and institutional response to sexual misconduct

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On Sept. 8, a timely warning was sent to the NSU community regarding a reported case of sexual assault on campus. In response, NSU Public Safety and Title IX coordinators reiterate the importance of education, resources and preventative measures for students to protect themselves and the NSU community.

While there is limited additional information available regarding this case, as it is an open investigation, the NSU Alert stated that this incident occurred on the evening of Sept. 7 involving a female student in a residential hall room on NSU’s main campus. The incident took place after a party at a nearby off-campus apartment complex where alcohol was present. There are two potential persons of interest, whose description was also included in the alert. According to James Lambe, associate director of communications and technology for Public Safety, students can also find crime prevention information within the alert, including bystander resources about alcohol safety, consent and bystander intervention.

According to Laura Bennett, Title IX coordinator and managing director of Title IX compliance and institutional response to sexual misconduct, while the community may receive alerts on specific incidents, there are still

actions behind the alert and resources that Title IX coordinators can provide, like confidentiality and other rights.

“Victims, survivors and those who are affected by sexual misconduct may need support and it may be ongoing, not just protection of their name. NSU follows the Clery Act and Title IX, but also takes into account a student’s personal decisions and considers their own personal safety based on the circumstances,” said Bennett.

Title IX protects the rights of both the affected and the accused, providing everyone the right to a fair and equitable process. Students have a right to access support, counseling and other local resources – even for students attending NSU remotely. Accessing these resources does not automatically result in formal action or the involvement of law enforcement unless the circumstances warrant an imminent threat to health and safety. In cases of formal action, students have the right to know the outcome of the case.

“Students have a right to know their options. They have a right to choose the path that is most beneficial to them and their needs. What we do is provide support to them and explain what is available to them,” said Desmond Daniels, deputy Title IX coordinator and senior Title IX investigator.

Two years ago, the Title IX office created

a peer educator program with the approach of giving students access to information on various topics, such as consent and healthy relationships. According to Daniels, peer educators are well-positioned to educate members of the NSU community because students are known to learn more from their peers, which this program ensures.

Another aspect of student education that Title IX focuses on is bystander intervention which according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), describes a situation where someone who isn’t directly involved may step in to give the person who they are concerned for a chance to get to a safer place. This also includes, according to Bennett, the disruption of so-called rape culture.

“There are problematic actions such as a sexist joke, misgendering or homophobic remarks which are considered low level on the spectrum of sexual misconduct, but should be prevented all the same, which could prevent more violent crimes from happening in the future. By reminding students that they have a role to play in preventing these types of things from happening, they have the power to create that change. Students are the best caretakers of their safety. The power and responsibility is in their hands, but we need to help students navigate those tough conversations which requires skill and

education,” said Bennett.

According to Larry Massey, director of Public Safety, every criminal wants isolation and minimal risk of interruption. If a student finds themselves isolated, or in a situation where there is a risk of isolation or interruption, the chances of the criminals’ success increases. Students in uncomfortable situations can rely on Public Safety resources such as SaferWatch, the blue light system and 24/7 safety escorts.

“Every time we have an alert, it is a reminder that we don’t exist in a bubble. 90% of sexual assaults are by someone that an individual knows, which can make it hard to navigate. NSU is a microcosm of society. We like to think it can’t happen, but it can. Even members of our campus are capable of crimes of this caliber. It’s a reminder that crimes can happen anywhere,” said Bennett.

For students interested in learning more about this topic they are encouraged to consult the [Campus Safety Handbook](#), follow NSU peer educators on [Instagram](#), visit the NSU’s [Title IX website](#) and [Public Safety website](#), downloading [SaferWatch](#) or by calling (954) 262-8999 over any safety concerns.



Global news,
courtesy of
the current

Cyclone makes landfall in Greece

A strong cyclone struck the coast of Greece on Sept. 18, according to The New York Times. The cyclone, named Ianos, caused high levels of rain, winds of at least 75 mph and flooding across the country. Greece issued its highest alert warning for the storm. Mediterranean hurricanes, or “Medicanes,” have been occurring more frequently since the 1990s due to increasing global temperatures.

President of Peru faces impeachment

Martín Vizcarra, the President of Peru, faced an impeachment hearing held by the opposing party on Sept. 18, according to the Associated Press. It appeared that lawmakers would not be able to reach the required two-thirds majority vote needed to remove him from office and the hearing was criticized for being “hasty and poorly timed.” The conflict was largely based around Vizcarra’s contracts with musician Richard Swing, stating that the contracts were “questionable.”

Iran faces rising COVID-19 cases

Iran has been seeing new daily COVID-19 case numbers in the 3,000s, which may be indicative of the country’s “third wave” of the virus, according to The Guardian. Case numbers have been comparable to those from February when Iran was one of the first locations outside of China to see outbreaks. The country experienced an increase in cases earlier in the summer as well, but the cases decreased again by August. The director of the National Coronavirus Control Centre, Iraj Harirchi, said the death toll could increase from just below 24,000 to 45,000 as flu season arrives.

UK considering second lockdown

Facing rising hospital admissions and infection rates, the UK is reportedly considering restrictions ahead of another predicted wave of COVID-19 cases. According to Reuters, when Prime Minister Boris Johnson was asked about a second lockdown, he stated “I don’t want to get into a second national lockdown at all.” However, he did not rule out potential new or re-implemented restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Cases in the country have nearly doubled and the UK has reported the fifth-highest number of deaths in the world due to the virus.

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The Current serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in Room 328 of the Don Taft University Center. The Current is NSU’s established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute.

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News & Anchor

Stay up to date with national events.

Winston Groom dies

On Sept. 16, Winston Groom, American novelist and author of “Forrest Gump,” died at the age of 77 in Alabama. According to the Trussville Tribune, “Mayor Karin Wilson of Fairhope, AL, said in a message posted on social media that Groom had died in that south Alabama town. The death was confirmed by a local funeral home, which said arrangements were pending.” Groom was known as an “iconic author” by his family, peers and fans.

Hawaii to reopen to tourists

On Sept. 16, Governor of Hawaii David Ige announced that there will be a new leadership team overseeing the state’s public health responses to COVID-19 and the pre-travel testing program for COVID-19. With that, Hawaii tentatively plans to reopen to tourists on Oct. 15. According to the State of the State press release, “Travelers will have their temperatures checked upon arrival and must fill out a travel and health form. Upon arrival in Hawaii, passengers unable to provide proof of an approved negative test will be required to go into quarantine for 14 days or until they can provide proof of negative test results.”

Alaska dentist sentenced to jail

Seth Lookhart, 35, a former dentist convicted of 46 felony and misdemeanor counts in January -- who was also filmed extracting a patient’s tooth while standing on a hoverboard -- was sentenced to 12 years in jail on Sept. 14. According to CNN, “Anchorage Superior Court Judge Michael Wolverton sentenced Lookhart on Monday to serve 20 years in jail with eight years suspended, the statement said. That means Lookhart will serve 12 years behind bars. He also cannot practice dentistry during his 10 years of probation.”

Opa-Locka repeals ban on sagging pants

During a video conference on Sept. 16, the Opa-Locka City Commission voted 4-1 to repeal the 13-year ordinance against sagging pants after critics argued the law had unfairly targeted African Americans. Since city officials were not able to provide immediate enforcement data, it is not clear how often this ordinance had been enforced. According to Fox News, “I was never in support of it, even as a resident,” Vice Mayor Chris Davis, who sponsored the repeal, told the Herald. “I felt it disproportionately affected a certain segment of our population, which is young African-American men.”

News Briefs

Get the scoop on events happening on campus

The Garden guest artist exhibition

On Sept. 23 from 6-8 p.m., Gallery 217 and the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts will host a virtual opening reception for a guest art exhibition, free of charge. This solo exhibition will feature “The Garden” by New World School of the Arts alumnus Amanda Madrigal, a Miami-based contemporary artist. This mixed media installation will showcase Madrigal’s soft sculptures that explore interpersonal relationships, nature, architecture and the mind-body connection.

Success Workshop Series

As part of the Tutoring and Testing

Center’s Fall 2020 Success Workshop series, on Sept. 23 at 5 p.m., the center will host a Zoom workshop on “Finding Balance in the New Norm” led by Academic Success coaches. For students who cannot attend the Zoom, the workshops will be recorded and saved on their [website](#). [Students interested can visit here to find meeting details.](#)

MEEC continues Webinar Series

NSU’s Marine Environmental Education Center (MEEC) is collaborating with marine scientists to cover environmental topics through a Zoom webinar series every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. On Sept. 24, Matthew J. Scriptor will host “Knowing the World - The History & Importance of Taxonomy” followed

by Mike Mills presenting “Freshwater Turtle Research & the Implications on the Current Illegal Pet Trade” on Sept. 19.

Flu Shots at NSU

The Office of Human Resources along with NSU Pharmacy and ICUBA is providing free seasonal flu shots to all faculty and staff enrolled in the NSU/ICUBA medical plan. The purpose of the flu vaccine is to minimize transmission of the influenza virus and to prevent transmission to other members of the NSU community. According to the CDC, getting a flu shot is more important this year as we learn to live safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Week 6: COVID-19 update at NSU

By: Madelyn Rinka
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Between the new BlendFlex model, classroom capacities, limited gathering sizes and masks covering the faces of every Shark, it’s hard to miss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on NSU.

As we head into our sixth week of classes, NSU continues to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on campus. As of Friday, Sept. 18, NSU has had a total of two “positive” cases within the residential halls on campus -- the second and newest case received an “inconclusive” test result (the first case was

mentioned in our previous [COVID-19 update](#)).

“We treat ‘inconclusive’ as positive. We err on the side of caution, so that would make our second positive case in the residence halls,” explained Beth Welmaker, executive director for environmental health and safety for NSU.

The student does not have any roommates or suitemates, and had completed their isolation this past weekend. Additionally, Welmaker said the university is not aware of anyone who has had to quarantine as a result of exposure to the student.

Another campus resident had notified university officials of an exposure that required quarantine. However, the student decided to return home for this period. As of Sept. 18, there were no NSU students in quarantine on campus, although there are individuals living off campus that have notified the university that they are quarantining.

If a student is having any symptoms, they are advised to reach out to NSU’s Telehealth line at (954) 262-4100, where they will be connected to a physician who will review their symptoms

and, if needed, schedule a COVID-19 test on campus. Additionally, students can email COVIDcase@nova.edu to provide updates on their symptoms and test results, even if the results are still pending, and to get assigned a COVID-19 case manager to oversee the situation and offer assistance, if necessary. Emailing COVIDcase will also immediately provide students with the Telehealth number, as well as links to employee and graduate/professional student report forms, the undergraduate student form and the form to report exposures.

Turn the Tide events grant open for applications

By: Emma Heineman
Features Editor

This semester, the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement is partnering with the Office of Residential Life and Housing to offer multiple grants to undergraduate students and organizations who are interested in hosting events on campus for students. The grants are sponsored by Dean Brad Williams and are a way to keep students engaged and involved on campus despite current COVID-19 restrictions. The application for the Turn the Tide events grant can be found on SharkHub and is open to individual NSU students, social Greek life organizations and registered undergraduate clubs and organizations.

Any student or organization with an event idea that will engage students on campus are encouraged to apply for the grant. Submitted ideas will be reviewed by a committee of staff from the partnering offices and will be approved based on meeting the grant criteria. To be eligible to receive grant money, an event must be held on NSU’s Davie campus during the fall 2020

semester and be open to all NSU students. Gerard Wheeler, the director of campus life and student engagement at NSU explained that grants are a great way to show that fun programming can still be done despite covid.

“If you want to learn how to do programming or have a great, amazing idea that you think students will want to see, but don’t know how to do it or don’t know how to start it, apply for the grant and let our team help you get it accomplished. It’s beautiful to see an idea [come] to fruition, and to say your club, despite COVID-19 and what’s going on, was able to put on an event and it was successful [is pretty cool],” he said.

Students and organizations who received the grant will work alongside the Office of Residential Life and Housing and the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement to organize the event and ensure it meets all required safety protocols. There is no deadline to apply for the Turn the Tide event grant, so students are encouraged to submit

ideas throughout the semester.

“We have students who are here. If you decided to come back to campus and be here, I don’t think that your experience should be compromised... We [want] to make sure that students still [feel] like they are getting that college experience,” said Wheeler.

For more information about the grant, email campuslife@nova.edu.

**BE THE
MOVEMENT**

#TURNTHETIDE

A look at the disparities in healthcare

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

On Oct. 14, the NSU Shepard Broad College of Law will hold the Jay A. Ziskind Inaugural Health Law Lecture Series. This year’s lecture, titled “COVID-19 Has Devastated The Black Community. Here’s Why And What Needs To Change,” features a panel of presenters including Jefferson Shah as the primary speaker. Shah will present and discuss various topics revolving around bias and racism in the medical industry and clinical research.

The topics being presented will be based on [Shah’s article posted on the Huffington Post](#) on June 8. Shah is not only an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, but is also an NIH-trained allergist, immunologist and expert in both health policy and bioethics. The majority of Shah’s work

focuses on health disparities, health policy and ethics influencing the topics being covered during the lecture. The current schedule of topics includes why Black Americans are twice as likely to know someone who has tested positive from COVID-19, ignorance and misconceptions in medicine and clinical research, how new legislation could have an impact on the inclusion of minorities in non-NIH funded research and a Q&A portion.

“I am really going to be talking about health disparities, how healthcare disparity on a system level has led to the outcome that we are seeing today particularly with COVID-19 and people of color... Number two is to show how we can start to address things and hopefully make things better from a policy standpoint,” said Shah.

Shah explained how she sees particular

importance in healthcare policy when it comes to racial injustice within the medical industry.

“There are policy mechanisms and regulatory mechanisms that can be taken to ensure those sort of outcomes that have not been taken yet and Highlight things we can do on the ground from a policy regulation standpoint to make things better for everyone,” she said.

In regards to the audience that should attend this lecture, Shah explained that these topics involve everyone, not just a specific group.

“What I am talking about impacts us all and I think it is easy for a lot of people to say ‘COVID-19 won’t impact me,’ and in fact, it does. In the U.S., we have some of the worst health care outcomes worldwide for developed

countries and part of the reason why is because we have such disparate healthcare,” she said.

The panel will also feature Board of the Governor member, Jay Ziskind, and professor Marilyn Uzdavines of the Shepard Broad College of Law.

[The event will take place from 4-5:30 p.m., in person and over Zoom. The event is free and open to all students, faculty and alumni of NSU. It is asked that attendees RSVP for the event under the Shepard Broad College of Law section of the NSU website.](#) More information on the event can be found on the Shepard Broad College of Law website or questions on the event can be directed to kr550@nova.edu.

My experience with living in a pandemic

By: **Tatiana Illis**
Contributing Writer

Every single person affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has had a unique experience. I experienced first hand how three different governments responded to the pandemic, I learned how to adapt to my sport as a student-athlete and encountered what it was like moving to a different country amidst the chaos.

I'm a dual citizen and I was still living in Florida when the seemingly abstract threat of the virus was slowly growing. I decided to leave the country when my hometown declared that they would soon be closing the airport to outsiders until further notice. I made the decision swiftly, which gave me two days to pack up necessities, such as clothes and textbooks (which I later wouldn't be able to return), and leave the rest of my apartment behind.

I went home to St.Maarten on a plane meant for about 100 people that held a total of six of us. After landing, I was mandated to self-quarantine for at least 14 days and call a COVID-19 hotline in case I showed any symptoms.

While home, my family sectioned off a portion of the house for me to implement my

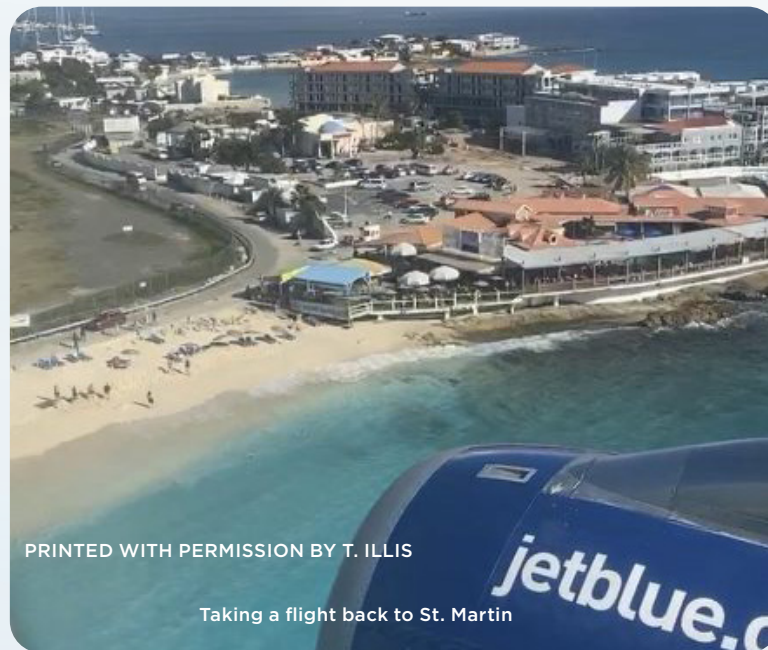
self-quarantine. I was kept busy with catching up on school work and maintaining training. To adjust to the new situation, my club coaches had organized for the swim team to stay fit, exercising together twice a day through Zoom. This was an interesting, temporary alternative that I didn't realize at the time would last six months.

The island's community atmosphere was fairly tense during the beginning phases. My country is the smallest piece of land in the world to be split into two different countries: half Dutch and half French. Although the landmass is just 37 square miles, once you cross the border, it's a whole different culture and way of governing.

On the Dutch side where I live, the military had been called in to enforce a strict curfew during the week of our first case.

Going out was allowed for a window of about six hours for three days in the week. During this time, the population would go shopping and go about getting whatever necessities they needed to remain in their homes for the majority of the week.

Many stop points were set up along the routes of our small island and didn't allow anyone to drive or walk without having written permission from the government for fear of large



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Taking a flight back to St. Martin

finances. The severity of the measures taken seemed justified to me. With a close-knit population of 70,000, a single case in the wrong place would prove disastrous.

The French side of the island had a slightly more relaxed approach. They did establish a curfew, but they didn't shut down every port of

entry and kept some establishments open to the public (with social distancing guidelines).

Ultimately, this pandemic has highlighted some flaws in many of the systems we have in place, but it has also showcased our creativity in adaptation as well as our resolve.

Registering to vote in Florida

By: **Alexander Martinie**
Opinions Editor

With Election Day nearing, it is important to know your voter registration status so that you can do your civic duty and vote this November.

If you have already registered to vote

Check your voter status by going to <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote>. Click on the icon that says "Voter Registration Status" and select the state that you are registered in. This should be the state in which the address that you used to register is in. Once you do that, all you have to do is put in your full name and date of birth, and your voter status will show up. If you have not registered to vote yet, check your state or county's Supervisor of Elections website for

detailed information on the registration process.

Voting in Florida

Residents can register to vote online at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home> or through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' website. Online voter registration is mobile friendly and using either method to register will require a valid state identification card as well as your social security number. If you are unable to provide a valid state identification card, then you must print out the registration form and send a physical copy to your county's Supervisor of Election office. Voter registration in the state of Florida is available in both English and Spanish and is certified for its disability accessibility. The last

day to register to vote for the November general election is Oct. 5, with the last day to request an absentee ballot being Oct. 24.

Research the candidates

Now that you know your voter registration status, you are almost ready for Election Day, but before you vote, remember to research the candidates. Find out what candidates you like, which ones you do not and which ones you are unsure about. Do not just vote on impulse or because a name sounds trustworthy. Do your research. Make sure that you support a candidate's platform and not just a charismatic persona. Voting is not like marriage; it is like a bus. You are not looking for "the one" perfect candidate, you are looking for the candidate

that is going the closest to where you want to go. Every candidate on either side of the political spectrum has their flaws. No politician is infallible. Just find the candidate that best fits your beliefs.

Early voting takes place from Oct. 19 to Nov. 1 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In Davie, there are two early voting locations: NSU, usually held on the first floor of the Carl Desantis Building, and the Davie Cooper City Public Library on Southwest 82 Ave. For more information on polling stations in Broward County, visit the Broward Supervisor of Elections website at www.browardsoe.org.

The fall equinox: what does it mean?

By: **Veronica Richard**
Contributing Writer



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Fall in Maryland

With fall and Halloween decorations in stores for the past month, most believe autumn begins in August; however, the season begins on the fall equinox, which begins this year on Sept. 22.

The scientific explanation of the fall equinox is when the sun is directly above the equator, when day and night are equal in length with approximately 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night. This equinox marks the beginning of fall in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere. At exactly 9:31 a.m. on Sept. 22, the sun will align with the earth's equator, making the fall equinox official. As the year continues, we will begin to see less and less daylight until the winter solstice on Dec. 21, when we will receive only nine hours of daylight.

In the Northern Hemisphere, many celebrations and traditions revolve around the fall equinox. For some, it marks the beginning of a bountiful harvest. Farmers believe vegetables are the ripest during this day of the year. In Greek mythology, the equinox marks the day the goddess Persephone leaves her mother Demeter, the goddess of the harvest, and travels to the Underworld to be with Hades, leaving the world barren and cold until she returns to her mother in the spring. The Mayans even believed a giant "snake of sunlight" would appear every year on

the equinox and slither down their pyramids in Chichen Itza, Mexico.

Some believe the equinox may have an effect on your astrological sign. Depending on your sign, which is based on your birthday, astrologers believe very specific things are in store. For example, Gemini are instructed to reflect on their relationships while Cancer are supposed to relax and keep calm.

Another significant aspect of the fall equinox is the beautiful aurora borealis. NASA scientists believe the aurora borealis is brighter and twice as likely for geomagnetic activities to occur around this time of year. If you thought these colorful lights that fill the night sky were beautiful before, you'll love them even more during the fall equinox.

One might think with all these traditions and meanings behind the fall equinox, it would also bring cooler weather. Not in South Florida. Unlike the rest of the Northern Hemisphere, which will see average temperatures in the mid-sixties, Florida's average temperature during the fall equinox is in the high 80s. So, put your sweaters and boots back in the closet and keep out your t-shirts and shorts because Florida's heat is not going anywhere this fall.

That time I... had a mental breakdown

By: Sofia Gallus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

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The daily regimen. Stop the stigma.



One thing that I've learned is that we shouldn't shy away from talking about mental health. Being open and honest about mental health is especially important right now when so many people are feeling even more isolated and depressed. I've always tried to be as

open and helpful as possible when people are discussing mental health issues, because I've been there. I want to make it clear that I am in no way a mental health professional, and everything I mention throughout this article is my personal experience with mental health issues.

In my second year of high school, I had a mental breakdown. When the words "mental breakdown" are uttered, many people think of it like a quick snap. Maybe an hour of screaming and crying, maybe, or throwing things around the room. Many people think of mental breakdowns as a few moments in our lifetime of uncontrollable and wild emotions. While mental breakdowns can manifest in that form, mine was a slow, quiet drag over the timespan of weeks. There were a number of things which spurred it and not a single quick fix solution. Believe me, I tried many.

The biggest thing about mental health is that it doesn't look the same for everyone. Mine wasn't crazy, loud or wild. I wore the same clothes for days on end and hardly brushed my hair. I physically couldn't eat anything because everything made me feel sick. I was tired and crying all the time. Some days, I just didn't get out of bed. At some of the lowest points, I really thought I was dying. It wasn't until those moments that I really thought what I was going through was a mental health crisis. I thought that having a mental breakdown only looked one certain way.

There wasn't one single thing that caused this break, but rather a culmination of all the stressors in my life at that time. I've always considered myself an anxious person, but it was the first time I was really coming to terms with all of the things going on around me. It just felt too overwhelming.

Just like there wasn't one single problem, there wasn't one single solution either. I saw a

lot of doctors, started going to therapy and saw my high school guidance counselor on a daily basis. I started taking prescribed medication for anxiety and started trying to focus more on things that made me happy instead of sad or stressed. I took a lot of walks, watched a lot of cartoons and found new music that I enjoyed.

Mostly, though, I talked about it. It took a while because while I genuinely wanted to get better -- it's hard to admit when you're feeling so messed up and defeated. When I started talking about it, I was surprised. It wasn't a burden, and even though I was met with some confusion about my problems from some people, others were willing to listen to me and understood what I was going through. The more I talked about how I was feeling, the more I found that there was a whole group of people who cared for and supported me, anxiety and all.

There's a lot going on in the world right now, and sometimes, it feels hard to fight the urge to just stay in bed and ignore it all. There's still a lot of stigma surrounding mental health, but in these unprecedented times, it's especially important to emphasize that your mental health is worthy of your time and attention. If you're feeling overwhelmed, I urge you to reach out to someone, whether that be a friend, family or a mental health professional.

Suicide Prevention Month

By: Bella Ameiorsano
Contributing Writer

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and suicide is a serious matter that individuals should always seek to understand. In addition, Suicide Prevention Month is designated to bring as much awareness to the subject as possible and let those who may be struggling know that there are people who care and can help.

Scott Poland, a licensed psychologist and professor is the director of the NSU Suicide and Violence Prevention Office, was directly impacted by suicide when he was 25 years old and lost his father. He became more familiar with the subject when he worked as a psychologist and learned that there are many myths and misperceptions when it comes to suicide and it is not inherited or

destiny. At one moment, someone may see their life as a blur of never-ending problems, but then later, they may see hope.

Poland said that it is important to understand that, "at the foundation is untreated mental illness" and that's what we need to bring awareness to. Many may be silently suffering from pain and that affects their ability to find hope.

It's important to be aware of certain behaviors that can potentially be warning signs of suicide. These signs may include statements about death, either verbally or written, giving away prized possessions and hopelessness for the future.

"Most [people] don't know the warning signs and are afraid to bring up the subject," said

Poland.

That's when it becomes vital to say something directly. When asking someone about suicidal thoughts, there may be a concern that mentioning the subject may put a negative idea in their head. However, Poland says that we need to be able to talk about it more -- it may be frightening to mention the subject to one who is struggling, but it shows that there is a support system out there.

NSU works year-round to prevent suicide and can lend a helping hand to those that need it. Starting this year, every freshman in the UNIV 1000 course will complete a suicide prevention training module, and there will be training for instructors as well. When it comes to preventing suicide, people need to stay connected.

"Suicide is the second leading cause of death for college students [because] isolation is a significant factor in suicide. It's not always about treatment, but about information," said Poland.

Suicide is one of the major causes of death, not just among college students, but among people all around the world. NSU is doing everything they can to bring awareness this month.

For more information, check out the NSU Student Care Team at nova.edu/studentcare or call (954)-262-7482. Additionally, the NSU Center for Student Counseling and Wellbeing is available at (954)-262-7050. For their 24/7 hotline, call (954)-424-6911.



KEEP WITH WHAT'S CURRENT



@THECURRENTNSU

The fall of movie theaters and the rise of drive-ins

By: Nyla Whyte
Contributing Writer

The ongoing pandemic has forced the people and industries of this country to adapt in many ways. However, not all have been able to keep up. Movie theaters seem to be the most at risk for collapse as a result of the pandemic. Is the average movie theater experience now a thing of the past? The truth is, the modern movie experience just has a new meaning.

What has changed?

With social distancing and quarantine policies in effect all across the country, movie theaters have been forced to shut their doors. Having been closed in many places for more than six months, these theaters are taking major hits to their profits. Though we've seen very little evidence to suggest it is safe to return to normal business operations, some theaters are choosing to reopen.

Some theaters have reduced their ticket prices dramatically in an effort to reel their customers back in. For example, AMC Theaters have reopened in certain locations with ticket prices as low as 15 cents. Will low prices be enough to bring people back? It's not likely. Theaters have promised heightened safety protocols and cleaning procedures, but many people simply don't feel safe being in a space with so many occupants in such close quarters. Traditional theaters will suffer major financial losses as a result. Theaters are built on in-person patronage and they rely heavily on concessions sales in order to stay in business. Assuming they do manage to see an uptick in customers, moviegoers can't exactly take part in

snacking with the mandatory mask rule in place. Essentially, the people may come back, but the profits may not.

Who benefits from this?

Here's the thing, the theaters may be losing money, but the studios aren't seeing the same rapid decline in profits. Many studios are keeping their heads afloat by securing a place for their films on paid streaming sites where these movies are available for on-demand streaming. Throughout quarantine, we've seen the first few entirely at-home movie premiere rollouts. The movie "Trolls World Tour" was one of the first to do so, releasing initially in March just as quarantine policies went into effect. The public was able to tune in and see a new film that they had been anticipating for months from the comfort of their living rooms.

The in-person movie-going experience isn't completely dead. Drive-in movie theaters have made an unexpected comeback that has many wondering why these weren't repopularized sooner. Drive-ins offer a lot of the same amenities that traditional theaters do, like self-served seating (or parking) and a wide array of food choices. They give people a way to view movies on the big screen safely, and they give the audience the atmosphere of watching with a group while still maintaining a safe distance. Drive-in theaters are also more affordable than their traditional counterpart. The Swap Shop drive-in in Fort Lauderdale charges just \$7 for adults, \$2 for kids and children ages 1-4 get in for free. The only downside is there are often less movies to choose from, but for all that it offers in these pressing times, the pros of the drive-in theater most definitely outweigh the cons.



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The Swap Shop Thunderbird Drive-in in Sunrise, FL

Make your own pumpkin spice latte at home

By: Jaden Wilson
Contributing Writer



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A pumpkin spice latte

This year has definitely taken a toll on us all, but at least we can look forward to the fun seasonal activities happening, even if it is during a pandemic. With fall finally here and social distancing protocols still in place, you may be craving an autumnal staple: the pumpkin spice latte. This simple DIY pumpkin spice latte recipe will leave you feeling cozy and can be done in the safety of your own home. Not only does this pumpkin spice latte recipe require simple ingredients that can easily be found in your own kitchen, but it should also only take about five to 10 minutes to prepare. Pumpkin puree is the essential ingredient, but of course, there are other elements to this recipe that produces a taste that will make your fall feel right at home.

Ingredients:

1 cup preferred milk or alternative
1-2 tablespoons pumpkin puree
2-3 tablespoons sugar
½ tablespoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

¼ cup coffee or espresso
Whipped cream (optional)

Directions:

1. Combine milk, pumpkin puree, pumpkin pie spice, sugar and vanilla in a microwave-safe bowl or container.
2. Microwave for 1-2 minutes or until hot. Whisk until the milk mixture is foamy, which should take about 30 seconds.
3. Add the foamed milk mixture to a mug of espresso or coffee.
4. Add whipped cream on top and sprinkle pumpkin pie spice, if desired.

Not only is this recipe great for the fall season, but it allows you to get creative. You can decorate your drink however you'd like and also put as much of each ingredient as you want to make it more to your liking. Enjoy!

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Where to get fall decor on a budget

By: Aliyah Gomez
Contributing Writer

If you think COVID-19 is going to ruin holiday decorating this year, you've got it all wrong.

It's no secret that stores have already stocked their shelves with fall and Halloween themed decorations. As beautiful as the faux scarecrows may be, the high price may steer you away. Being a college student comes with many responsibilities, especially financial ones. Although decorating may be one of your favorite things to do during the holiday season, it might be a struggle to find that balance between what you need and what you want to spend on. With fall right around the corner, here are some ideas on where and how to decorate for the season on a budget.

Social media

Throughout quarantine, we've all found ways to cope with our boredom. Some of these methods may have consisted of watching Tik Toks and online shopping more than we should have. Besides jamming in as much time as I can on Tik Tok, I've been obsessed with Pinterest. Finding ways to decorate my room, transforming old clothes I almost gave away and finding new workout routines have been my go-

to to fight through the boredom. Out of all the things Pinterest offers, my favorite would have to be their ideas for decorating, especially on a budget.

Get it used or on sale

I've found some ideas for fall decorations that you can either pick up at your local dollar store, thrift store or sale section at a craft store. Whether you're decorating your dorm, your room or your house; the possibilities are endless.

If you find yourself in a thrift store, find different vases you can fill with fall-colored plants and leaves. Remember, you can buy cheap paint from the sale section at a craft store and buy fake flowers and leaves from the dollar store.

There are so many ways to put these inexpensive items to use for this fall season. Make that expensive faux scarecrow on your



PHOTO OBTAINED BY F. MIRELES
Real pumpkins make great fall decorations at an affordable price

own. Head to the sale section and find the filling for a scarecrow, buy those affordable buttons and dress up the scarecrow in those old clothes you no longer have use for. All it takes is creativity, imagination and Pinterest.

OFFSHORE CALENDAR

WBHI Virtual Pink Walk
Sept. 20-27 | Varies
[RSVP Online](#)

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens
Sept. 20 - Nov. 25 | Daily Self-Guided Tours
@ 900 N Birch Rd | Ft. Lauderdale, FL
[Visit website to learn more](#)

Fort Lauderdale Scavenger Hunt
Sept. 20 - Dec. 31 | Tours Daily
@ 32 E Las Olas Boulevard | Ft. Lauderdale, FL
[Visit website to learn more](#)

Las Olas Wine & Food Festival
Sept. 25 | 7:30 p.m.
@ Las Olas Boulevard | Ft. Lauderdale, FL
[RSVP Online](#)

FAT Village Artwalk
Sept. 26 | 6 p.m.
@ 521 NW 1st Ave | Fort Lauderdale, FL
[Visit Website to learn more](#)

Fort Lauderdale Beach Yoga & Fitness
Sept. 26-27 | 8 a.m.
@ Ft. Lauderdale Beach LifeGuard Stand #13
[RSVP Online](#)

WAVES OF THE WEEK: FANTASIES OF FALL

"Stand By Me"

Florence + The Machine

"House Of The Rising Sun"

The Animals

"Woodland"

The Paper Kites

"Dirty Paws"

Of Monsters and Men

"Fire and the Flood"

Vance Joy

"Rivers and Roads"

The Head and the Heart

"Hello My Old Heart"

The Oh Hellos

"Wash."

Bon Iver

"Someday"

mimi bay

"It Will Come Back"

Hozier



Fantasy Worlds to sink into

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In honor of International Hobbit Day on Sept. 22, a day to honor and explore the world of "The Lord of The Rings" series, here are some other fantastical worlds to explore in your downtime this semester.

Game of Thrones

Book series, HBO series

If you missed the chance to obsess over "Game of Thrones" while it was on air the past nine years, don't fret. It's never too late to explore the powerful families of Westeros and all the amazing storylines. This world is full of medieval-style lore, intense battles, memorable drama and world-class manipulation and schemes all focused on trying to earn the coveted seat at The Iron Throne. Even if the ending has been spoiled for you, it is worth the read or watch since not everything in this world has been explored just yet.

The Witcher

Book series, video game series, Netflix series

Based on the 1997 novel by Polish writer Andrzej Sapkowski, "The Witcher" series follows Geralt of Rivia, one of the last "witchers" in the medieval world of the Continent. The popularity of "The Witcher" spiked with the video game series, but also with the successful release of the Netflix series last year. From the intense fight scenes, the

gory monsters and complex storylines, each of the main characters shines on the small screen just like they did in the books and gameplay.

Inkheart

Book series, movie

For those who are aware of how much power the written word holds, this is the book series or movie for you. "Inkheart" follows daughter Meggie and father Mo, who soon discover they have the gift of "Silvertongue" — by reading aloud, they can bring characters to life — and an exciting adventure ensues. The film was released in 2008 and followed the plot of the first novel. This original trilogy has recently announced a fourth novel that is expected to release in Fall 2021. As we wait for the arrival of this novel, there is plenty of source material of fantastical adventures that await readers and movie watchers.

The Magicians

Book series, SYFY series

For fans of "Harry Potter" and the idea of urban secrets, the adventures of Fillory are for you. "The Magicians" follows Quentin Coldwater, a young man obsessed with the "Fillory and Further" book series, who, while on his way to an interview for Princeton, gets entranced into Brakebills University, the only magic school in North America. As the story unfolds, you meet compelling characters that follow Coldwater on this life-changing adventure through both the five



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF C. MCLAUGHLIN
Taking a look at "The Witcher" on Netflix

seasons of the show and the books.

His Dark Materials

Book series, HBO Limited Series, movie

If you have a special love for animals, this is the fantasy world for you. Following young Lyra Belacqua and other characters, people in this world have "daemons" or an animal that serves as an extension of their spirit. As Lyra learns

more about the world around her and all the sinister evils that lurk in the shadows, she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, try to save her friends with the help of a special tool known as The Golden Compass. The HBO series premiered last fall, but there are plenty of ways to enjoy all this world has to offer from the book series and movie as well.

THIS WEEK SPORTS IN HISTORY

September 24: Luka Modric wins Ballon D'Or

Real Madrid and Croatian National Team midfielder Luka Modric was awarded the Ballon D'or in 2018. The Ballon D'or is generally known to be the greatest individual award in soccer and is given out to the player who had the best year based on votes from journalists. Other awards he won in 2018 include UEFA Men's Player of the Year, FIFA Best Men's Player Award and the World Cup Golden Ball, the award for best player in the World Cup.

September 26: Serena Williams was born

On Sept. 26, 1981, tennis champion Serena Williams was born. Williams has 73 career titles and a dominant 85%-win percentage in Singles. In Doubles, she has posted 23 career titles and an 84.8%-win percentage. She also has four gold medals in the Olympic Games. At 38 years old, she is ranked ninth in the world in women's tennis.

September 27: Lou Gehrig hits first HR

MLB legend Lou Gehrig hit his first home run in 1923. Gehrig would go on to hit an additional 492 home runs before his career was tragically ended early by Lou Gehrig's Disease or ALS. Gehrig was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939 and he was a 7-time All-Star, 6-time World Series champion and 2-time AL MVP.

September 22: Don Shula's 300 win

Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula recorded his 300 win in 1991, defeating the Green Bay Packers by a score of 16-13. Widely regarded as one of the best coaches of all time, Shula was the second coach to reach 300 wins behind only George Halas. Today, Shula is the highest winning head coach in NFL history with 328 wins and has a career win percentage of 67.7%.

September 23: Drew Brees breaks NFL completion record

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees was able to break the NFL completion record on a 17-yard pass to his wide receiver, Michael Thomas, in 2018. The previous record was held by Brett Favre with a total of 6,300 completions. Drew Brees has been adding onto his own record and now has a total of 6,885 passes completed.

September 25: Carl Lewis wins second Olympic gold

American track and field legend Carl Lewis was able to win his second gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. This medal was for the long jump of 8.72 meters. This was Lewis' sixth gold medal and his second gold from the 1988 Olympic Games.

September 28: Muhammad Ali vs Ken Norton III

The final fight in a heated rivalry, Muhammad Ali and Ken Norton met again for the third time at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, NY in 1976. Norton had won the first meeting and Ali had won the second. The third meeting finished with Ali winning by unanimous decision. Ali later admitted that he didn't believe he deserved the win and that he was happy he didn't have to fight Norton again. Norton, after the fight, mentioned that he was robbed of the win and that he won 9 or 10 rounds.

On The Bench:

Stop playing games, make up your mind

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

On Sept. 8, Electronic Arts or EA, the second-largest gaming company in the Americas, tweeted from their Madden NFL Twitter page that Colin Kaepernick was added as a playable character in the latest update of "Madden NFL 21." This decision by EA is undoubtedly a controversial one not only because of Kaepernick's past in the NFL, but also because of how EA has treated the situation in the past few years.

For those unaware, the "Madden" video games are an annual series that has been a long-standing figure in both video games and sports history. Kaepernick has not appeared in a "Madden" video game since 2016, where at the time, he was playing for the San Francisco 49ers. Kaepernick

had been essentially blacklisted from playing in the NFL after he began kneeling for the national anthem as an act of peaceful protest against police brutality and racial injustice.

The unexpected decision to add Kaepernick to the latest "Madden" installation comes as a surprise due to EA's treatment toward Kaepernick as a player. EA previously edited out references to Kaepernick in two songs on the "Madden 18" and "Madden 19" soundtracks. As such, EA received major backlash from fans of both the series and Kaepernick, eventually leading to an apology from the developers on Twitter in August 2018. In subsequent updates to the two games, the songs were added back into the games unedited. Developers deemed the edit as an unfortunate

mistake, blaming the action of not properly understanding the licensure of Kaepernick's image.

While some may believe that EA made a genuine mistake editing out references of Kaepernick in the two songs, I do not. As a company, EA has made far too many mistakes upsetting their fans in the past to call this action a simple mistake. Additionally, pinning the blame on not understanding licensure feels like a scapegoat given the creation and development of these games are not new concepts. Whether purposefully or not, EA made a stance in 2018 on how they felt toward Kaepernick's protest and the movement. As such, I simply do not believe that EA has good intentions for adding Kaepernick back into the series.

It is interesting to me that, now during

a very turbulent period in U.S. history and critical moments for the BLM movement, EA has made the decision to add Kaepernick back into the game. If EA truthfully stood by what Kaepernick has been protesting these past four years, then he would've been in the game from the get-go instead of as an afterthought in an update.

While overall it is a positive thing that Kaepernick has been added into the game despite some people disagreeing with his form of protesting, it feels like a forced public relations move from EA. In an attached statement on EA's twitter, the company mentioned that it is part of their goal to empower their fans "to express their hopes for the future of football." Yet, it still feels like a

Finding Fitness: Roll out the skates

By: **Chloe Rousseau**
Contributing Writer

Over the summer, without access to the gym, it was hard for many people to work out. So like many others, I took matters into my own hands.

I tried to do at home HIIT classes and go for runs, but it just was not something I was enjoying. I wanted to do a cardio workout daily to stay

and arms from swinging with the strides. When skating, your core, back and glutes are engaged the entire time to maintain balance. The use of inline skates are great for dynamic balance, which is balancing while the body is in motion. Roller skating is also low impact, so it's not hard on the knees, ankles and hips while still increasing agility, muscle mass and bone

“Roller skating is a great aerobic and anaerobic exercise. Aerobic exercises increase heart rate, which strengthens the heart, helping prevent stroke, heart attack, high blood pressure and heart disease. Anaerobic exercise assists in muscle strengthening and toning. Roller skating uses the entire body: legs for strides, core for maintaining balance and arms from swinging with the strides.

in shape, so I broke out my old roller skates and was roller skating for miles upon miles every week. Roller skating has many health benefits and all you need are skates and a road or sidewalk, and contrary to popular belief, skates do not have to be expensive.

Roller skating is a great aerobic and anaerobic exercise. Aerobic exercises increase heart rate, which strengthens the heart, helping prevent stroke, heart attack, high blood pressure and heart disease. Anaerobic exercise assists in muscle strengthening and toning. Roller skating uses the entire body: legs for strides, core for maintaining balance

density. If you are trying to lose weight, skating may be an option for you. You can burn around six calories a minute at an average pace and the faster you skate, the more calories you burn.

I got my first pair of roller skates when I was around 12 years old. I found them at a thrift store and I used them for six years, only having to replace the wheels once and clean the bearings. My new skates are much nicer than the thrifted pair and were still not extremely expensive. They are K2 Kinetic 80 Pro Inline Skates, they were less than \$100 and they came with good bearings, wheels and a light plastic frame.

Even with a busy schedule, it is easy to take time to skate in the day. In just an



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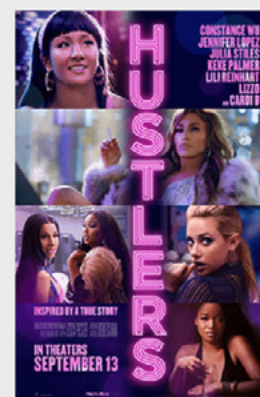
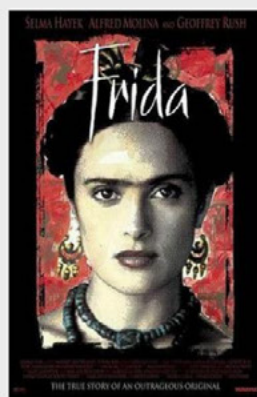
Roller skating is a great way to get some exercise in while having fun

hour, you can skate around 10 miles and burn around 120 calories. Getting the hang of skating is fairly easy, and the better you get, the faster you can skate and even do tricks, which helps with gaining balance

and agility skills. Roller skating is such a fun and easy way to exercise and get in shape when a gym is not available or if you do not enjoy other cardio.

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Starbucks in the UC

water YOUR thoughts

A Starbucks barista's perspective on dining reopening

By: Ana Maria Soto
Contributing Writer

I work at a Starbucks that has just reopened outdoor and indoor seating, maintaining the social distancing standards. I was apprehensive in the decision to open dining because it could only create more loopholes for people to disregard our safety precautions, and so far, I have been proven right.

It's been much harder to enforce the mask policy when people can sit inside and it makes it even harder to make sure everything is sanitized when customers come in through the wrong doors, especially customers who have a habit of not cleaning up after themselves.

With the pandemic, my store hours have been cut, so we have fewer partners working certain shifts. When it gets busy, it becomes harder to maintain order in the store if people are already disregarding the rules we have set in place. I don't like

that we have allowed dining because it gives people the perception that they can bend the rules.

Now, customers come in without facial coverings and say they don't need one because they have the intention of sitting inside. However, that doesn't change the fact that they are interacting with us and other customers without properly following our policies. It is harder to enforce new regulations when they can simply disregard us or ignore us completely. With customers unwilling to cooperate with us, it makes working so much more frustrating because we are working with the risk that we could contract the virus and many people don't see that, it's sad that people can be so selfish in the times we are living in now.

Let it out

By: Briana Ramnauth
Contributing Writer

Mental health is a very popular topic within our society, especially now with the pandemic we are in. For months, we were staying inside and limiting contact with others, which caused a spike in loneliness and sadness. It's important to know that you are not alone. We are all in this together. Talking about mental health can be rather difficult, but extremely beneficial.

It is not healthy to bottle up your emotions, which is why talking to someone, whether it is a friend, a family member or a therapist, can make a big difference. Talking about what is going on can teach us how to

better cope with and communicate our issues. Someone may seem happy on the outside, but we do not know what is going on behind closed doors. Therefore, it is imperative that we are cautious about how we word and say things. We need to think before we speak and act because something that may not mean a lot to one, may mean the world to someone else.

Acknowledging mental health can mean many different things. Saying something kind to someone, doing things that make you happy and being supportive are just a few of the many ways to acknowledge mental health. It is important to remember to take care of

yourself both physically and mentally, even if it is just carving out 10 minutes from your day for some self-care. Go for a walk, to the beach, to a park or get involved in a club or sport in school. Remember to notice the small victories within your day, like making your bed or making yourself a meal. Sometimes, it is the little things that can make the biggest impact.

I have reached out for help in the past and it was one of the best decisions I made. I decided it was time to put my mental health first and it was time to take action. Finding your support system is key to helping mental

health. This is something that we need to work on as a collective. We need to help bring each other up and encourage each other to step outside of our comfort zones. If you see someone dealing with mental health issues, be supportive and encourage them to seek help. Here at NSU, there are resources. So, if you see someone dealing with mental health issues or you are experiencing mental health issues, try and reach out to Student Counseling Services and Well Being. For more information on Student Counseling Services and Well Being, [click here.](#)

Shark Speak



Did the safety precautions put in place at NSU affect your decision to return to campus?

Yes
59%

No
41%



"I would say NSU's constant dedication to [assuring] safety and health conditions has allowed me to [feel] the campus is safe to be on, especially given the continual updates on preventive and proactive programs. #FinsUp," said Alex Akkaoui, junior transfer student and business administration management major. (@alex.akkaoui)



"I appreciate the measures that NSU has put into place to keep everyone safe. I learned best in-person and knew to be successful that I needed to be back on campus, regardless of any implemented safety precautions," said Jennifer D., junior graduate student obtaining a Master of Science in Anesthesia at the NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus. (@etco2_jen)



"I feel like, if we weren't required to wear masks, didn't have hand sanitizer stations everywhere and a limited number of people in the classroom, I wouldn't have picked to stay on campus. I would've just stayed home," said Neida Rangel, junior psychology major. (@adlienrangel)

Choosing not to participate in politics means ignoring those in need

By: Sofia Gallus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As election season comes and goes, you may see the familiar discourse happening around you. Families and friends arguing over social media, canvassers knocking on your door and all of these people promoting the politician they think is best for the job. While it can get annoying and tiresome, at least those

issues. People are dying because they cannot afford the medical treatment they need without going into debt, individuals who belong to minority groups may be facing daily discrimination, young people may need to pay thousands of dollars on education just to get a decent job; all of these issues are happening in real-time and whole groups of people are simply

“If you are not staying up to date and at least doing minor participation in local and nationwide politics, you are not doing your part to fight for those who face injustice.

people are using their voices and power to promote participation in society and politics. With every group of political activists, there is a group of people who become uncomfortable when faced with a political decision, especially seeing as things seem more divided than ever. When asked about their views, they laugh nervously and say something along the lines of, “I don’t like to talk politics.”

While many people who want to avoid political discourse don’t mean any harm, the fact of the matter is, if you’re actively choosing to ignore politics, you are actively choosing to ignore people in need. A society is only as strong as its most vulnerable member; those without healthcare, housing and adequate income to provide for themselves and their families need people to have opinions and vote for officials who hold those same values. As individuals, the only way we can generate change is through voting.

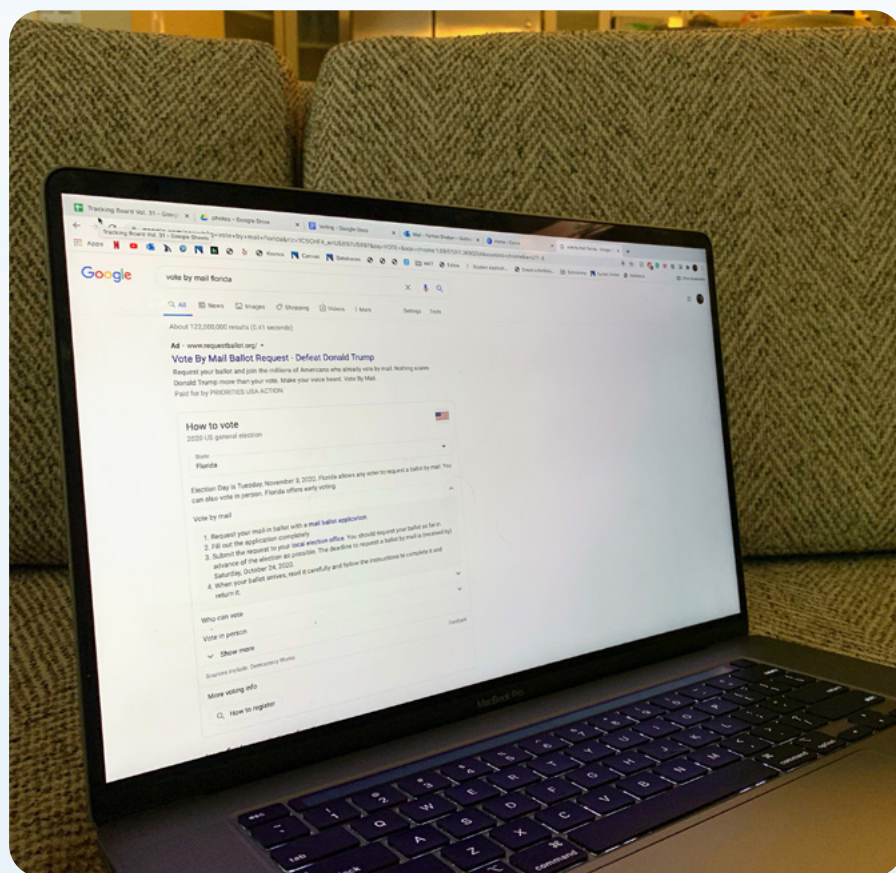
Right now, our country faces many

ignoring them, and in turn, not generating change.

Looking back at history, everyone likes to think that they would have been an agent of change. Everyone likes to think that they would have stood up in the face of injustice. However, when the time actually comes and real social issues emerge, many of those same people simply turn their heads the other way.

People who are able to avoid discussing or even thinking about politics are only able to do so because of the privilege they hold. The problems affecting part of the population, no matter how dire, may not be affecting them. However, just because an issue isn’t affecting you doesn’t mean it isn’t affecting someone you know or someone you care about.

Humans should be looking out for each other and keeping in mind those in our communities who may be struggling. If you are not staying up to date and at least doing minor participation in local and nationwide politics, you are not doing your part to fight for those who face injustice. While it doesn’t mean that



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Senior, Farhan Shaban searching to vote by mail

you should be arguing on every Twitter thread online or sharing obnoxious and false political propaganda on Facebook, the least you can do is educate yourself thoroughly and vote accordingly. It’s true that a single person cannot

always change the world, but if every person who thought that their singular vote actually formed an opinion voted, people could actually make real change.

We should not eliminate controversial books in schools

By: Gabriel J. Stone
Contributing Writer

George Santayana in “The Life of Reason” once said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” This year’s Banned Book Week runs Sept. 27 through Oct. 3 and is an annual awareness campaign that celebrates the freedom to read.

All over the country, there have been instances of schools deciding to ban books from their libraries and class curriculum. Famous pieces of literature of various origins and genres, like “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald, “The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger, “The

“By instilling the idea that, if something is difficult to talk about, we should simply remove it and not talk about it goes against everything this country stands for.

Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck, “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee, and “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker have all been banned and deemed inappropriate from an educational standing.

According to the American Library Association, these classics and many more have been taken out of the school for reasons like “to avoid controversy,” “challenged and vandalized for LGBTQIA+ content and political viewpoints,” “vulgarity and sexual overtones,” “religious viewpoints,” and some even considered just “poorly-written”.

These ironically controversial decisions have led to petitions and even banned book clubs where readers discuss the themes and ideas of those deemed

inappropriate books.

Deciding what should and what should not be taught to the youth of America is no easy task. The lessons taught to students go into shaping what the society of tomorrow will look like and what we will expect from each other. Ultimately, the goal is to prepare the students for the real world; but in our already flawed school systems, this is a step further in the wrong direction.

Many ideas of philosophy and tales of oppression and facing adversity have been passed down through books. Banning literature for being controversial is not how we build a

stronger nation. By instilling the idea that, if something is difficult to talk about, we should simply remove it and not talk about it goes against everything this country stands for.

Instead of removing controversy, we should teach our youth how to ethically confront it because it is a vital skill if we want students to be able to function in the actual world. If you can’t create an opinion and ethically defend it, the world will not be a nice place as school systems always attempt to be.

Some may consider this stance somewhat aggressive and that it makes an uncomfortable environment to learn in, and while we do want a safe environment for students to learn and grow, the adversity that will come in adult life should be taught and exposed through literature. How to deal with uncomfortable



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Harry Potter books have been banned for its mention of witchcraft.

situations with an appropriate curriculum should be based on student grade level. To say that an upperclassman high schooler discussing and

reading controversial topics is inappropriate is a reverse progressive ideology.

*Stay
Safe.*

*Stay
Current.*

