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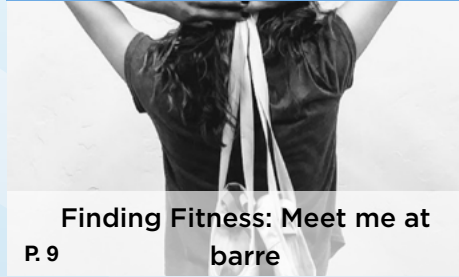
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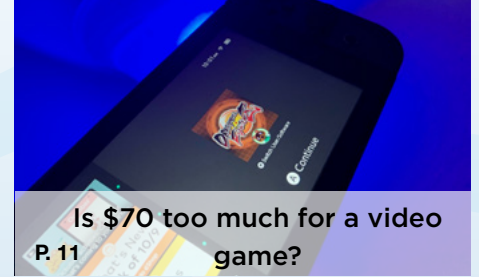
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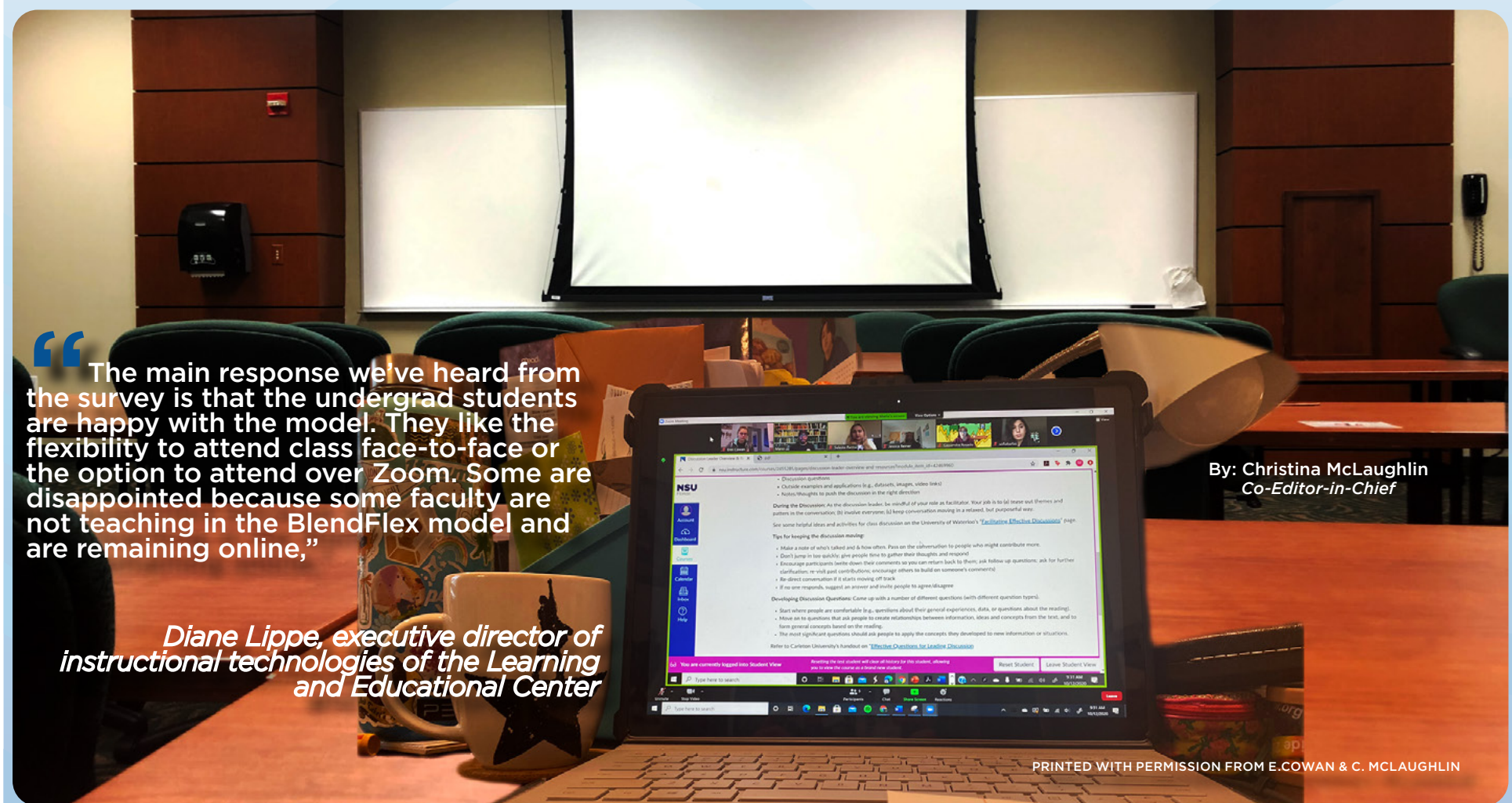
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Adjusting to the BlendFlex model



“The main response we’ve heard from the survey is that the undergrad students are happy with the model. They like the flexibility to attend class face-to-face or the option to attend over Zoom. Some are disappointed because some faculty are not teaching in the BlendFlex model and are remaining online,”

Diane Lippe, executive director of instructional technologies of the Learning and Educational Center

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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On Sept. 25, an early semester student feedback survey was sent to students to gauge how the BlendFlex model was serving the NSU community. With this survey, NSU has been able to discuss student feedback and work on future improvements for the upcoming winter term.

Faculty was trained and introduced to the BlendFlex teaching model in June. For NSU’s purposes, BlendFlex allows for courses to have flexible delivery to students and ensure that the quality of education is still upheld.

“The BlendFlex [model] was implemented for two reasons: safety and pedagogically -- that we were doing something that was of quality. For the safety side, it is flexible and gives the student [the option] to attend the class in-person or picking and choosing when they would come to class... We want to make sure that we are providing a delivery system that works for students, and the faculty are heavily involved in that process,” said Ronald Chenail, university provost and executive vice president of academic affairs and professor of family therapy.

According to Diane Lippe, executive director of instructional technologies of the Learning and Educational Center (LEC), this model requires faculty to be experienced in all three modes of delivery and teach within all three modes simultaneously. The goal of the center is to provide resources to maintain

excellence in teaching. This included 90-minute training sessions over the summer to keep faculty up-to-date with technology and the resources they had available to them.

“The format of the training was to introduce the model and become familiar with the terminology as well as the technology portion. So, while we were training the faculty, all the classrooms were being retrofitted with new technology by the Office of Innovation and Information Technology (OIIT), including touch screen panels and audio arrays so the sound in the classroom could be more sensitive to microphones... All of this was new to most faculty, so all faculty needed to be trained. We trained over 17,000 faculty members over the summer months prior to returning to campus for the fall,” said Lippe.

Since NSU transitioned to the BlendFlex model in response to COVID-19, the university has been working to improve engagement in classrooms and correct issues based on feedback to the new teaching model.

“The main response we’ve heard from the survey is that the undergrad students are happy with the model. They like the flexibility to attend class face-to-face or the option to attend over Zoom. Some are disappointed because some faculty are not teaching in the BlendFlex model and are remaining online, which is a disappointment for students that wanted to have flexibility to attend in-person,” said Lippe.

Chenail explained that, for graduate and professional programs, their plans with

BlendFlex are very idiosyncratic depending on each program and course. However, for undergraduate students, the model was built so that a faculty member, unless there is an underlying health reason or child-care reason, teaches in the classroom to allow the students the flexibility to choose their delivery method at any time.

Additionally, Chenail mentioned that one of the potential shortfalls of this rollout was clarity, in terms of communication and preparation of the students as well as the faculty members.

“We probably could have done a better job in preparing students. I’m surprised that students in the classroom are not using the technology, too. I’m not sure if we are communicating that clearly, but students should be able to take advantage of being in the classroom as well as being on Zoom to see classmates... We heard from students that they have trouble focusing and that works both ways. When you see a student attending class while driving or while still in their bed, it’s got to be a concerted effort that you have moved into the classroom model. It’s new for a lot of folks, but it’s blended and flexible and we need to adjust with it,” said Chenail.

Currently, faculty members who are still having difficulty adjusting have LEC resources, such as training and workshop sessions, to expand upon the knowledge acquired previously. They also have access to Room Sharks, which are students who can help with set up in classrooms, technical difficulties and other related issues.

“The [summer] training was a great

jumpstart for faculty... What we found is that faculty just need more. There is a lot of practice that is still going on, and for those faculty members who may not be as adept with the technology as they would like to be, we have the Room Sharks assisting. We got feedback from the Room Sharks that they needed more training, so then next time that we train, they will receive more hands-on training and we are working on that. I’m hoping that all of us would have gained more experience with the technology as well as the needs of the students and the faculty as well,” said Lippe.

As NSU prepares for next semester, Chenail and Lippe both anticipate more students to return to campus and elect for in-person attendance. Chenail and Lippe also encourage students to continue providing feedback over any concerns they may have with the teaching model or complications related to it.

“Let us know what we can do better, what we are doing well and what some of your personal challenges that we need to accommodate or make better for everyone. These are very difficult times and I think we are all in the mindset of just doing the best we can. That’s our goal: to just be the best we can and have the right resources for faculty as well as the students,” said Lippe.

Students are encouraged to email lec@nova.edu or vppa@nova.edu for any feedback, suggestions or concerns with the BlendFlex model and the student and faculty experience.



Global news,
courtesy of
the current

Germany sees highest rise in COVID-19 cases since April

Germany saw its highest daily rise in COVID-19 cases since April, causing concern among government officials and citizens over whether the restrictions put in place are enough to protect the country from the virus. While Germany has had relatively low daily case numbers compared to other European countries, a new daily count showed that the country has risen to over 4,000 new cases. According to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Germany has recorded a total of 310,144 cases of infection and 9,578 deaths. The German Health Minister, Jens Spahn, is urging citizens to be vigilant of their personal hygiene and abide by safety protocols put into place to help stop the spread of infection.

Explosion of petrol station devastates Lagos

Another deadly explosion occurred in Nigeria on Thursday — this time, in Lagos. The explosion ignited a fire at a petrol station in Ipaja that killed at least eight people. The fire spread to nearby buildings quickly, and according to the State Emergency Management Agency, it burned down at least 25 homes, 16 shops and a primary school. While the explosion occurred early Thursday morning, the cause of the explosion is still undetermined. However, witnesses and local community members have pointed out their concerns over the poorly maintained facilities, which some believe may be the cause of the explosion.

Tasmanian devils reintroduced to Australia

For the first time in 3,000 years, Tasmanian devils are being reintroduced to the Australian mainland. The marsupials have been protected in Australia since the early 1940's, but their populations had rapidly declined after being infected with a contagious disease. The disease is a contagious type of cancer called devil facial tumor disease, which causes growths on their face that prevent them from eating. Conservationists and scientists raised a population of cancer-free Tasmanian devils and began releasing them in increments in September.

David Attenborough and Prince William team up to announce new environmental award

Prince William has teamed up with naturalist and narrator David Attenborough to incentivize action against climate change. The pair has come up with an environmental award called the Earthshot Prize, which aims to reward people for working to help the planet over the span of 10 years. The plan for the award is to prize five people with \$1.3 million dollars each year for the next 10 years in hopes that they will be able to come up with 50 solutions to the world's most dire environmental threats. The first five Earthshot subjects have already been determined, with subjects focusing on protecting nature, cleaner air, restoring oceans, becoming waste-free and working to fight against climate change.

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News & Anchor

Stay up to date with national events.

Nearly 50,000 voters received incorrect ballots in Ohio

According to the Associated Press, elected officials announced that almost 50,000 voters received incorrect absentee ballots last Friday in Franklin County, Columbus, OH. Officials quickly noticed the mistake and announced that correct ballots would be mailed out to citizens within 72 hours. Some of the incorrect ballots had an incorrect congressional race for nominees and others contained correct information, but were sent to voters in a different precinct. Shortly after the mistake was announced, President Trump cited the incident in a tweet claiming "A Rigged Election." However, no such evidence of the claim exists.

Michigan anti-government group plotted to kidnap Governor

Last Thursday, the F.B.I, along with Michigan state officials, announced charges for terrorism, conspiracy and weapons against six men who are a part of an anti-government terrorist group who planned to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. According to The New York Times, Whitmer, a Democrat, was targeted by six members of the group due to anger over COVID-19 control measures. The group not only spied on Whitmer's vacation home throughout August and Sept. but also met numerous times for firearm training, combat drills and practicing building explosives. The six men were charged with conspiracy to commit kidnapping, which can carry a life sentence.

Hurricane Delta hits Louisiana

According to the Associated Press, Hurricane Delta, a Category 2 storm, hit south Louisiana last Friday. Delta hit a top wind speed of 100 mph before growing weaker and downgrading to a Category 1 storm with 85 mph winds. The hurricane still inflicted damage to the town of Creole and other southern Louisiana areas due to the area still recovering from Hurricane Laura only six weeks prior. Delta's damage went as far west as Galveston, TX, 100 miles from where the storm hit land in Louisiana. Wind speed in Texas hit a high of 90 mph. Over 330,000 homes and businesses lost power shortly after Delta came ashore.

Tiger King star charged with wildlife trafficking

Last Friday, Bhagavan Antle, known as Doc on the Netflix documentary "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness" and current owner of Mrytle Beach Safari in South Carolina, was charged with wildlife trafficking, according to The New York Times. The office of the attorney general of Virginia charged Antle with two felony counts related to wildlife trafficking and 13 additional misdemeanors in connection with lion cubs that were moved between Virginia and South Carolina. Antle denies any conduct of animal cruelty. Netflix declined to comment on Antle's charges.

News Briefs

Get the scoop
on events
happening on
campus and
around campus

Pita and Parsha

On Oct. 14, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chabad, a Jewish organization on campus, will host the get-together Pita and Parsha, where students can gather and discuss spiritual questions with the NSU rabbi and rebbetzin. Free kosher food, including pita, falafel, salads and a surprise treat, will be provided. It will take place on the Library Quad by the cabanas.

Feeding South Florida

On Oct. 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Mills Pond Park, there will be a drive-through food distribution. The free event is intended to provide healthy and nutritious food to those who have experienced job loss, income loss or financial incapacitation with the onset of COVID-19. Food will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 1,000 vehicles with a limit of one box of food per vehicle. It will be

located at 2201 NW 9 Avenue. Visit <https://feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19/> for more information and to register to become a volunteer.

Little Free Library restocking

On Oct. 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., you can join the Action For Literacy team leaders as they restock five to 10 of Fort Lauderdale's 94 Little Free Libraries. Each year, volunteers collect and distribute over 100,000 children's books to help ensure that every child learns to read at the end of third grade. The team will meet at the city hall parking garage, 100 N. Andrews Ave, and volunteers are asked to use their personal vehicles to refill five to 10 libraries along a predetermined route. There will be no personal contact to ensure social distancing will be maintained. All volunteers are asked to bring their own masks. For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact Judith Sexton at jasesxon@bellsouth.net or Ray Dettmann at brighterhorizon2000@yahoo.com.

Painting for Hope

On Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Locks for Cause will host a painting event in the Don Taft University Center. All the paintings made will be donated to Joe DiMaggio's Children's hospital.

Stay woke

On Oct. 21 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Oh So Sassy and SophistAKAed Sigma Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will host an open forum on Zoom in the wake of 2020's many traumatic racial events. Many people have expressed their thoughts and feelings regarding the racial injustice through peaceful protests and more, but for those who feel like they have not properly voiced their thoughts, this open Zoom call is for you. It's a safe space welcome to all NSU students, faculty and staff. Those interested can RSVP through [Sharkhub](https://www.facebook.com/sharkhub).

Mark your calendars — Important dates for the 2020-2021 academic year

By: Madelyn Rinka
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In two emails sent to NSU students on Sept. 16 and Oct. 9, the Office of the President detailed updates and reminders pertaining to the university's 2020-2021 academic year schedule. As listed below, here are important dates to save for the fall and winter semesters.

Registration for Winter 2021 semester courses: Monday, Oct. 26; Monday, Nov. 2, 2020 *Registration for honors, online students, veterans, active duty military, marine biology and student athletes opens on Monday, Oct. 26; registration for continuing and new students opens on Monday, Nov. 2.*

Classes transition to remote learning after: Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 *Most classes will be conducted remotely after this date for the rest of the semester. Students may consult with*

an adviser or dean's office if they have questions regarding courses.

Thanksgiving break: Thursday, Nov. 26 - Friday, Nov. 27, 2020

Fall 2020 final exams: Monday, Nov. 30 - Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 *Confirm with professors and course syllabi as to the exact dates of individual exams as they may differ by class, department or college.*

Last day of the Fall 2020 semester: Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020

Winter break: Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 - Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021

Winter closure: 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, 2020 - Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021

The university will have limited operations during this time.

Beginning of the Winter 2021 semester: Monday, Jan. 4, 2021

Upon returning to campus, students who are able to participate in their classes online for 14 days are encouraged to do so in order to help reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

Winter 2021 spring break: Suspended
As per the Office of the President's email sent on Sept. 16, the university has decided to suspend spring break for the Winter 2021 semester.

In lieu of a full spring break, there will be no classes on: Friday, March 5, 2021

Given the suspension of spring break, the Winter 2021 semester will end one week early.

End of the Winter 2021 semester: Sunday, April 25, 2021

As noted on the university's undergraduate academic calendar website, the schedule is subject to change. Students can find dates listed online and in the previous emails from the Office of the President. Confirm with professors and course syllabi as to the exact dates of individual exams as they may differ by class, department or college.

Housing contracts open and self-selection starts

By: Alexander Martinie
Opinions Editor

Housing contracts have been released and self-selection for rooms and roommate assignments begins this month. For students looking to be included in the self-selection process, housing contracts are due by Oct. 22 for early access to room selection. Students that have lived on campus for more than six terms will get first access to rooms and roommate selection on Oct. 26. Self-selection will continue until Oct. 28 at 5 p.m. This is also the last day for late submissions of housing contracts for self-selection.

Students who submit their housing contract after Oct. 22, but before Oct. 28, will be allowed to select from what is left over after the initial self-selection process. Any submissions after this date will be assigned to rooms and roommates from the remaining rooms prior to room assignment by the Office of Residential Life and Housing. Any contracts submitted afterwards will result in manual assignments done by Housing. While there is no official deadline for submitting contracts for students applying for self-selection, students should submit their contracts as soon as possible.

According to Diones Adomo, assistant director of housing assignments at the Office of Residential Life and Housing, "All our selection processes start with our contract. So, the housing contracts have to come out and that's when students have the opportunity to submit a housing

contract and that's the way we know that they want housing for a particular year or semester. Our winter 2021 specific housing contract went live on our website at 9 a.m. [on Oct. 1]."

The housing contracts, which include clauses on cancellations, penalties and other related clauses, is a standard leasing agreement that students wanting to live on campus must complete every semester. This academic year's contract also includes an addendum regarding COVID-19 precautions and procedures.

With the current safety precautions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, on-campus housing has made alterations to the process of room selection and assignments.

According to Adomo, the university will "Continue single occupancy across campus. Some of our rooms are configured to be doubles or triples, but—this semester—because of the pandemic [all rooms] are singles. [Originally this was] for this semester only, but the university has decided to renew this for winter as well."

Students on campus can stop by the Office of Residential Life and Housing in The Commons or speak to their resident assistants or housing front desk staff and area coordinator for any questions they have.

"We are very student centered and we always work with the students and their families if they are unhappy with the space or if they want to move somewhere else. We always have different processes to try our best to make them happy," Adomo said.

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Mako Hall



Adomo suggests that students go over the contract in full with their legal guardian, and if they have any questions or concerns, the Office of Residential Life and Housing can be reached by

phone at 954-262-7052 or by email at housing@nova.edu. To get a housing contract, students can go to www.nova.edu/housing.

Let's get organized

By: **Daniella Rudolph**
Contributing Writer

2020 has introduced a new normal for society with the COVID-19 pandemic, stay-at-home orders and social distancing. College students are experiencing a shift to online learning and quiet classrooms and campuses. With classes being remote, it can be difficult to stay focused and organized. Looking for ways to stay organized and focused? Keep reading for some helpful tips and tricks.

Folders for your courses

A great way to keep organized while being online is to put each class in a different folder. It may be helpful to color coordinate and label the folders as well. In the folder, you can put your syllabus, the textbook and any downloaded assignments for that specific course. Color

coding can be appealing to the eye and also help motivation. Creating folders will make materials easily accessible whenever they are needed.

Time management

Time managing is something that a lot of college students struggle with due to the immense amount of coursework on top of having a personal life. It is imperative to familiarize yourself with the syllabi and class assignments. Creating a virtual and physical calendar is helpful when it comes to organization. Some people prefer keeping notes on their phones while others prefer writing them by hand. Both are great, and it may be useful to have both a digital and hardcopy of a calendar just in case the hard copy is not available at that point in time.

Staying organized

Creating bookmarks when it comes to research can be helpful to avoid hunting down websites whenever they are needed. There are plenty of helpful study websites, but the most common one is Quizlet. Quizlet is a free website that can be used to create flashcards and games that can help with studying. Quizlet also has archives of other people's study materials just in case there is not enough time to create your own. Being online can be a distraction, but there are sites to help monitor and create motivation to stay on track.

Adopting a routine

When a routine is created, there is more of a chance that there will be motivation to stay on top

of tasks and get them done in a timely manner. Once all the syllabi have been read, creating a study schedule may be of good use. There are many platforms where a study schedule can be created such as Google Sheets, Microsoft Excel or you can go old school and use a whiteboard or a planner. Being as detailed as possible with this schedule is imperative to be sure that there is no deviating and the main tasks are completed.

There are many ways to stay organized while being online this year. This is an adjustment period for all of us, but at least there are many resources for us to use and keep us on track with our academics.

From cosmonauts to artists: Cuba's influential figures

By: **Flor Ana Mireles**
Copy Editor

Ninety miles off the coast of Florida is Cuba, the largest single island of the archipelago and one of the more influential states of the Caribbean region, according to Britannica. From Cuba, many influential figures have emerged that have not only inspired other Cubans to follow their dreams, but have also made waves in other countries, such as the United States and even Russia. As we end Hispanic Heritage Month, here are some brilliant Cuban figures to remember.

Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez (1941-Present)

Born in Baracoa, Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez became the first Cuban citizen, the first Latin American, the first person of African heritage and the first individual from a country in the Western Hemisphere other than the U.S. to travel to space. Born in 1941, Méndez spent most of his early years in Cuba, where he joined the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces. Following his dream of being a fighter pilot, from 1961 to 1962, he completed a course in aerial combat in Russia's Soviet Union and became a certified combat pilot at the young age of 19. In 1978, at the age of 38, Méndez was selected to be a part of the Soviet Union's seventh Intercosmos program and had the opportunity to go into space, making history. As a cosmonaut, Méndez also "Helped with experiments involving a brain-stimulating helmet, as well as those designed to measure stress levels, blood circulation,

immune system cell health and cellular of division yeast," according to Business Insider.

José Martí (1853-1895)

Born in Havana in 1853, José Martí was a Cuban poet who played a large role in the movement for Cuba's independence from Spain. A skilled writer from his youth and a revolutionary spirit, Martí's poetry, which included poems about politics and Cuba's independence, was published in local newspapers in the late 1860s. When the Ten Years' War for Cuba's independence began in 1868, Martí was accused of treason and arrested, exiled to Spain. From Spain, he went to New York City in 1881, where he continued writing poetry and worked as a foreign correspondent for a number of newspapers. It is from his time in New York that his poetry collection is considered his best work. Martí spent a lot of his life supporting the Cuban revolution, asking Cuban exiles for support, too. According to Brown University Library's Modern Latin America, "Martí, for his role in the independence movement and for his patriotic writing, became one of the most important figures in the Cuban historical pantheon."

Recommended Read: La Edad De Oro

Celia Cruz (1929-2003)

Known as "The Queen of Salsa," Celia Cruz was born in Havana in 1929 and began singing as a teenager, changing Latin music forever. Cruz rose to fame in Cuba in the 1950s, where she earned herself the nickname "La Guarachera



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José Martí's "La Edad De Oro" is a collection of poetry and short stories for all ages, just like Celia Cruz's rhythmic music.

de Cuba" after the guaracha, musical rhythm she was performing. After the Cuban Revolution, in 1960, Cruz left Cuba and went on tour in Mexico, moving to the U.S. a year later. Once settled in the U.S., the singer-songwriter revolutionized what Latin music meant by introducing Cuban music influenced by African rhythms to the states. According to the National Museum of American History, "Cruz's art and sense of style combined with the power and mystery of her voice to create thunder on stage. Her bigger-than-life presence and individual sense of style and aesthetics made

her very popular and unforgettable." In her lifetime, Cruz went on to win numerous awards, including two Grammy Awards and three Latin Grammy Awards. To this day, her signature catchphrase, "Azucar!" is still recognized worldwide.

Recommended Songs: La vida es un carnaval, Rie y Lloro, Quimbara, La Negra Tiene Tumbao

Gill Out: Untoasted

By: **Bella Ameiorsano**
Contributing Writer

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3121 W Hallandale Beach Blvd Ste 101
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
Open 7 days a week from 8 a.m.-4 a p.m.

Untoasted is a sweet little cafe about 15 minutes from campus. When I first went to Untoasted, my first impression was that the outside appearance of the cafe was quite bland. However, once inside, my feelings about this cafe changed.

Untoasted has a brunch style menu, so I decided to get strawberry and banana french toast. I loved how customizable all the meal options were. For example, the french toast had so many topping options, like fruits, berry compote and chocolate chips, that you could choose from so that everybody's different taste buds are satisfied. I was not disappointed at all by the food because it was so delicious and filling. On top of that, the

service was quick and we received our food pretty fast.

This cafe is also known for having crazy sweet beverages such as the nutella latte that my friend chose to get. They come served in adorable little mason jars, and the sweetness will definitely fill you up.

There are so many other options to choose from. If you aren't interested in a breakfast style meal, they also have plenty of sandwiches and salads that may be of your liking.

The cafe was not busy at all when my friend and I went, even for it being a Friday. When we pulled up to the restaurant, it was again very plain and quiet, but the second we stepped out of the car, a woman who works at Untoasted opened the door and gave us the warmest welcome.

I can definitely say that, on top of the delicious brunch-style food, the staff at Untoasted are some of the kindest restaurant staff I have ever met. Not only is this tiny cafe adorable, but the staff just add



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Untoasted's chicken and waffles benedict is a must-have on the menu.

to the welcoming atmosphere. I noticed they all work together so nicely and are truly customer-oriented. Our waiter was super sweet and was always checking on us to make sure we were 100% satisfied and nothing less. Everybody there had the best attitude, whether it was towards the customers

or towards their fellow employees.

Whether you are looking to pick up some of their delectable food or sit down and enjoy the aura of the cafe, Untoasted is an amazing place to satisfy your taste buds without having to venture too far away from campus.

Celebrating Magic Kingdom's 49th anniversary

By: **Veronica Richard**
Contributing Writer



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A Day in Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom

Oct. 1 marks 49 years since Walt Disney World's main theme park, Magic Kingdom, opened its gates to the public. Opening in 1971 to around 10,000 visitors and 5,500 Cast Members, it became a huge success, with over 30,000 people attempting to visit the theme park in the days following its opening, according to Disney News.

The theme park had 22 attractions on opening day, designed for guests of all ages. Some of these attractions are still operating today, including "It's a Small World," "The Jungle Cruise," "The Haunted Mansion" and "Peter Pan's Flight." These rides have seen little-to-no alterations over the years and remain beloved attractions across generations. Rides such as "Dumbo the Flying Elephant" and "The Tomorrowland Speedway" were also opening day attractions, but have seen considerable overhauls and changes since their debuts, and there are some rides, such as "Snow White's Scary Adventures," that no longer exist. These upgrades allow Imagineers, Disney engineers, to add new attractions and keep the theme park up to date.

One of the greatest changes over the years in Magic Kingdom, and in Disney Parks in general, are the park admission prices. In 1971, guests had to pay \$3.50 for a park ticket. Today, it costs more than \$3.50 for a bottle of water. The average price for a one-day ticket to Magic Kingdom, with no extras such as dining plans or Florida resident discounts, is a whopping \$124 per adult, ages 10 and up. Why

such a big jump over the years? People believe that not only has Disney become more advanced in technology, which costs more, but the parks are now made to cater to the wealthy. The cost of a normal lunch in the parks can range from \$10 to over \$60 per person and a pair of Mickey Ears now averages \$30. The recommended budget to take to the parks for one day is over \$200 per person.

So, why bother? Why venture to what many call "The Most Expensive Place on Earth" as a college student trying to make ends meet? The magic.

People from all around the world have been brought together by a mouse named Mickey, and Walt Disney has become a household name. No matter how much the parks cost, no matter how hot it may be or how long the lines, 58 million individuals visit the parks each year. The feeling of walking down Main Street U.S.A. towards the glistening Cinderella Castle is unmatched. No matter your age or where you come from, Disney is always there to welcome you home.

Stories of all kinds come to life in the Magic Kingdom. For the past 49 years, this Disney park has astounded guests from all around the world. The next time you decide to visit, look back on the years of history this park has endured to become one of the world's most popular tourist attractions, the history is truly magical.

So, it's a date? How to make a match during a pandemic

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

College is a time to make new friends, and in some cases, have relationships and explore your sexuality. However, COVID-19 has put significant restraints on this particular experience. To be clear, this pertains to college students who are consenting adults and can make their own decisions for their health and future well-being. Even though they won't get scolded for going on a date or put in jail after having a consensual one-night stand for disobeying social distancing rules, it's important to understand the risks of dating and have guidance to navigate around our current state. So, if you are looking for someone to keep you company, a long-term relationship or even just someone new to talk to, here is all you should know about dating during COVID-19.

Where to begin

Just like anything else in life, we have to start with the basics. The first question to ask is how will two people meet? In every romantic comedy, it is all about the perfect "meet-cute," but with mask wearing and almost all public spaces having limited interactions, it may be hard to meet organically. This is the time to turn to those already in your contact list or make a dating profile. According to Business Insider, Match Group — which owns over 45 popular dating brands and 60% of the online dating market — found a 15% increase in new subscribers since the COVID-19 shutdown. Dating apps like Bumble, Hinge and Tinder have adjusted to the pandemic by adding video chat and phone call functions, allowing users to connect through virtual dates.

For those who are uninterested in swiping through potential suitors, it may be time to look to people within your circle like an old friend, crush or classmate. If you are interested and feel comfortable, asking to go out for coffee — with respect to CDC

guidance — may be a way to foster a new connection with someone with a little old-fashioned "meet-cute" flair.

If you are the type of person that prefers in-depth research prior to starting a relationship, there is another resource that might help. In June, [the New York City Department of Health released a pdf](#) providing guidance and details that people should know about the relationship between COVID-19 and safe sex practices.

The new "talk"

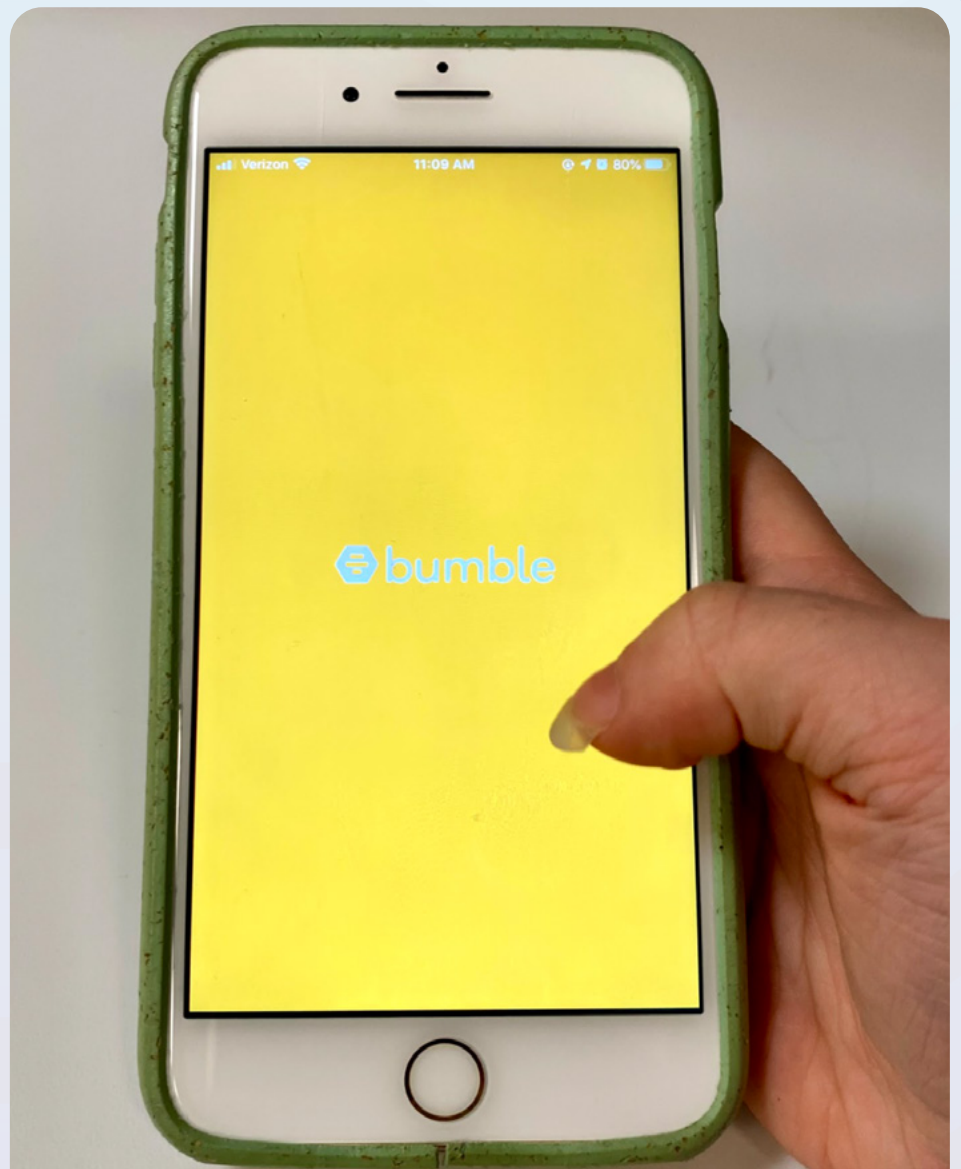
According to NPR, in the same way partners discuss expectations, consent, boundaries and safety in terms of their sexual health, partners should also have a conversation about COVID-19.

Are you willing to socially-distance? Are you or those you interact with considered high-risk for COVID-19? Are you willing to get tested before intimacy? These are just some of the questions that should come up when you talk about other mental and physical health-related topics in terms of your relationship. It should be a top priority for you and your partner to be comfortable with each other's decisions and be aware how — now more than ever — your personal choices can affect your partner and those they care about.

In times of doubt, take it at your pace

If the idea of intimacy makes you anxious, or if you are generally open to connections, but COVID-19 has made you apprehensive, you are not alone. Major publications like The New York Times, NPR, Forbes and more have published articles answering all kinds of questions that readers have on this topic with sex experts, doctors and other public health experts giving their two cents.

It's hard to justify that singles or new couples should remain celibate until they are free to socially connect again. Liana Chaouli, CEO and Founder of Image Therapists, stated



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Bumble, the online dating app

in Forbes that COVID-19 isn't going away. So, individuals can either regress or adapt to the new situation at hand. The bottom line is that as long as you do what you and your partner are comfortable with, within your own boundaries and by following CDC guidelines to the best of your ability, you are doing the

right thing.

If you decide to start a new relationship, restart an old one or even just live the single life and take some time for yourself, be confident that all those decisions are within your control and you have all the tools you need to make the best decision.

I gave Shudder a chance, so you don't have to

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY R. ESNER



One of my favorite activities to enhance the spooky month of October is to watch some horror movies. As a self-proclaimed horror movie aficionado, I gave the streaming service Shudder a try. Released in 2016, Shudder is a fairly new streaming platform that specializes in movies of the horror genre. Within the past couple of months, I have been seeing more and more ads for the service. So, I figured I would determine if Shudder scratches that good old horror movie itch. Spoiler alert: it doesn't.

At a monthly subscription rate of

\$5.99 a month, Shudder does not even come close to providing what it needs to make that price worth it. For comparison, Hulu's basic plan starts at the same price, and while Netflix's basic plan starts at \$8.99 a month, I can safely say that the entirety of Netflix's horror section alone provides the same selection as all of Shudder.

When first opening up Shudder, I was hoping I would be able to watch some classic or popular horror movies that I might not have had access to before. After all, this is a horror focused platform; but man, I was disappointed.

Besides some rare, popular titles appearing, such as "Halloween," "Elvira" and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," the platform is filled with unheard-of C-list horror movies and Shudder originals. How can a platform that prioritizes horror movies have "Ring 0" and "Ring 2," but not the original? Where are the essentials? No "Saw," no "Friday the 13th," not even "Scream."

To be fair in my review of the streaming service, I thought I would give some of the Shudder originals a try. Unsurprisingly, I was disappointed. I decided to start off on

a strong note and watch an original under the zombie sub-genre titled "Last Ones Out" that compared itself in its description to "28 Days Later," which is a personal favorite of mine. I could tell the movie had a significant sum of money poured into it, but the acting and plot were so bad it made the movie pretty unbearable. I finished the movie reluctantly, but I will never get that hour and a half back from my life. The other originals, generally, provided the same experience.

In addition to Shudder's particular movie variety and lackluster content, it was struggling to stream on my phone. I had no problems with streaming on the web version, but when it came to the app, all the content was coming through with low quality. It is worth noting that I have never experienced this issue with any other streaming platforms, making this just another downfall of Shudder.

I will admit that the overall aesthetic of Shudder works very well and does a good job of making the platform feel like the epitome of horror. The live television option is a nice addition that's not very common in the streaming industry and the shivering buttons and helpful collections feature are great touches to what would seem like the perfect horror streaming service. Yet, Shudder as a whole falls short.

A streaming platform is only as good as the content it provides, and Shudder simply does not provide enough. I can securely say that most horror fans would be disappointed by Shudder's streaming service. If you were thinking of giving Shudder a try this Halloween season, don't. It's scary how much you will be woefully let down.

Day of desserts

By: Jaden Wilson
Contributing Writer

Being a college student, especially during these past few months, means some days are bound to be tougher than others. When those days arrive, a big bowl of ice cream is a great way to lift up the mood. Thankfully, we do not have to feel guilty about indulging in sweet treats because National Dessert Day is on Oct. 14. This day is all about indulging and enjoying all of your favorite desserts such as cake, ice cream, donuts and more. This day also allows us to enjoy new desserts that we've never tried. It's a great opportunity to learn about new ways to enjoy our favorite delicacies.

No one really knows who started National Dessert Day. However, we do know that the word "dessert" derives from the French word "desservir," which means to remove what had been served from the table. According to saveur.com, a website dedicated to cooking, baking and all other food related things, "desservir" is something served after everyone eats dinner. Since the dish would be a sugar induced wine, it lead to "desservir" or "dessert" always being something sweet and sugary.

There are a few things that you could do to celebrate National Dessert Day. You could gather your loved ones and simply just go to the grocery store and buy a tub of ice cream or a delicious pre-made cake.

You could also have a bake-off with your friends and family and try everyone's dessert to see which is the best. If you'd rather celebrate your dessert day solo, you could make some treats on your own, too.

Some sweet treat ideas

You could wash some strawberries, melt some chocolate and make some chocolate covered strawberries as a great way to be creative.

Another way to be creative with dessert is to make cake-in-a-jar. First, you bake the desired cake flavor, then use a round cookie cutter to cut out circles of cake and put the round pieces into a mason jar and add your favorite frosting and toppings.

Another easy way to enjoy a sweet treat is to buy some brownie mix, follow the directions on the box and pop them in the oven for a treat that will be ready in less than an hour.

Something that's a bit more time consuming and difficult, but delicious, nonetheless, is making Creme brulee. Creme brulee, also known as burned cream, is a French dessert made with mainly cream, sugar and eggs and is known for its custard base and layer of hardened caramelized sugar.

A few more popular desserts that are always fun to eat are the banana split, apple pie, s'mores and carrot cake.



PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY F. MIRELES

Make some spooky cupcakes this National Dessert Day and celebrate.

On National Dessert Day, go ahead and order your favorite treat and indulge heavily on whatever sweet dishes you want. Enjoy

yourself on this day meant for celebrating our favorite desserts.

SOUNDBITE

Passenger's ode to quarantine

By: **Rey Perez**
Contributing Writer

In early July, singer-songwriter Passenger, known for his 2013 hit "Let Her Go," released his new studio album titled "Patchwork." Although this is his twelfth studio album, there is one major difference that "Patchwork" boasts: it was written and recorded almost entirely during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The album sets the tone from the beginning with "Sword in the Stone," which immediately tells the listener that this is going to be a concept album about the pandemic. Just when you think that you have heard enough about it, the first song brings about the realization that we have survived a major historical event. Passenger sings about the pain and frustration we endured on the rollercoaster that was the early months of the pandemic. For many, this is still a reality. There is a sense of vulnerable honesty when he begins the song by asking how his "darling" is and then sharing the unbearably hard time he has been having.

"Year on Year, Day by Day" gives the listener a shoulder to lean on and the assurance that, in time, everything will be okay. Passenger walks the fine line between nihilism and stoicism near the end of the song, calling life a "comedy show" and how if you live longer than expected, the Queen gives you a medal. In the album's titular track "Patchwork," apart from the cozy melody that gives any lullaby a run for its money, the song is a love letter to the tenacity of humankind and the real-life superhero ability that is being able to move on. "Patchwork" encourages the listener to "look at everything we've built" and to, metaphorically, sew another square onto our quilt.

"Venice Canals" is one of those songs that makes you actually go and learn something. The track speaks to the numerous natural wonders that had returned during the quarantine. The stars of Beijing, the birds of

Times Square and the fish in the Venice Canals. During the lockdown, the waters of the Venice Canals were clear enough to see the fish. Passenger speaks to a beautiful silver lining in the wake of the global chaos that began in March. He sings "don't get me wrong, this ain't no happy song," meaning that the human world is still in ruins, but ironically, the natural world is flourishing when it was previously the other way around.

"Queenstown" is the track on the album most deserving of being a single, meaning it's really good. If one looks deeper, under its comforting chord progressions and warm verses, you can see it's not just about a good time in a town in New Zealand. This indie, playing-guitar-by-candlelight ballad is about the good memories with friends and family before we had to wear masks that hide our smiles, stay six feet apart, do away with hugs and put on hand sanitizer every time we go out. It's the type of nostalgia that brings more sadness than euphoria.

"Swimming Upstream" is a very refreshing upbeat song, providing a little motivation boost for those who need it. This song is for those who feel like no matter how hard they try, life just does not seem to be leading them anywhere. He relates it to "swimming upstream and encourages listeners to keep swimming. "Somebody You Loved" is the only cover on the album, originally

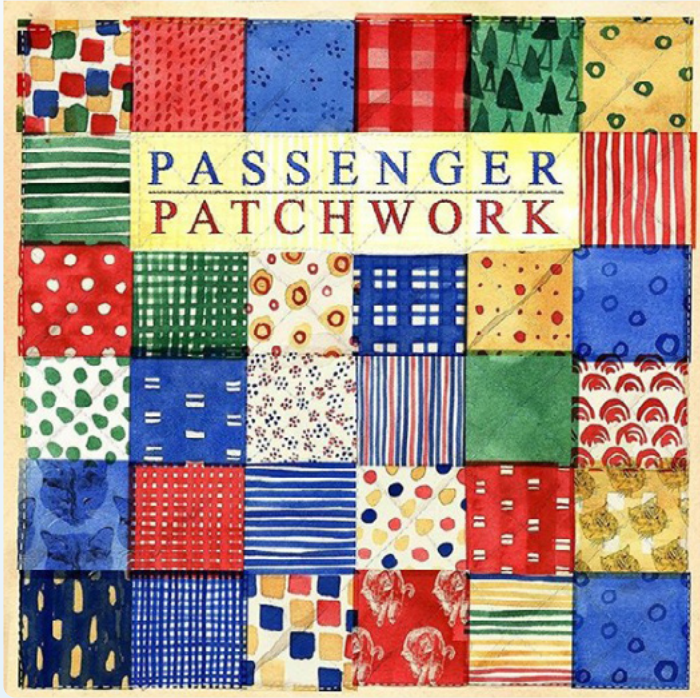


PHOTO PRINTED OBTAINED BY PASSENGERS
Passengers' latest album "Patchwork"

performed by Lewis Capaldi, but Passenger's version does it just like you would expect him to: soft guitar picking, overlapping vocals and an artistic touch of electric guitar here and there.

The album ends with "Summer Rain," which sums up the entire album in one song seemingly reinforcing the idea, in case the listener has not understood it yet. The pandemic was and continues to be horrible. It has caused massive financial suffering, moral debates, serious sickness, and in the worst cases, death. However, comfort can be found in the fact that it happened to everyone. In this divided time, if we can't relate to each other on anything, at least we can share and understand each other's pain.

Freaky features: Vampiric ventures

By: **Sofia Gallus**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Halloween is quickly approaching, and what better way to appreciate the season than by watching movies about one of the most influential movie monsters there are: the vampire. This classical gothic monster has inspired hundreds of movies, books and shows spanning across multiple genres. Whether it be romance, action, adventure or horror, there's a vampire movie sure to fill the gap. Wait for night to come, settle down and bite into these horrific and fantastical vampire movies.

Salem's Lot mini-series (1979)

Based off of the 1975 horror novel by Stephen King, this short series adaptation explores the horrors of small rural towns. It follows a washed up writer revisiting his hometown for inspiration for his next novel. Inspiration isn't the only thing stirring, though; a vicious old vampire moves in and slowly begins infecting the townsfolk. Moving away from home can be hard, but in this town, it's necessary. You can find this two-part series available to stream on Amazon

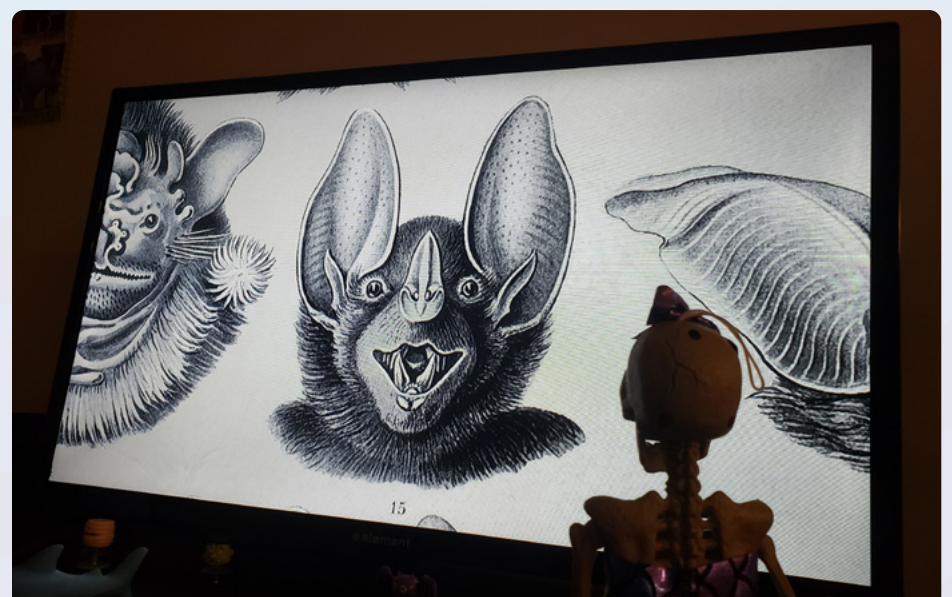
Prime Video.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer series (1997-2003)

If you're not too keen on vampire thrillers, try this series instead. This iconic show brought a new type of hero to the vampire genre. "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" is about a high school girl who also happens to be a skilled vampire hunter. This action-packed series delves into a world of deep original vampire lore the creators curated for viewers, bringing new blood to an age-old subject. The originality of this series is refreshing, and while the story spreads out over a seven season timeline, it's a show that does not disappoint. The whole series can be binged on Hulu or Amazon Prime Video.

Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992)

There have been so many remakes of Bram Stoker's novel, "Dracula," that it can be hard to tell them apart. This movie provides something that the others often lack, and that is the truly magical and twisted world that comes to life -- or should I say death? -- in a colorful way. The visuals of the film are mystical



Vampiric freaky feature kind of night

PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY S. GALLUS

and brimming with color, while other "Dracula" remakes are often flooded with only darkness. The film not only features incredible scenery, but also an A-list cast, with stars such as Winona Ryder and Keanu Reeves. This movie, otherwise known as the only "Dracula" remake that matters, is available to watch on Amazon Prime Video.

What We Do In The Shadows (2014)

Spooky season or not, this movie is genuinely one of my favorite films. This movie has a perfect balance of horror and comedy. The story follows a group of ancient vampires

OFFSHORE CALENDAR

Free Webinar on Resilience Practitioner Training
Oct. 13 | 3 - 4 p.m.
[RSVP Online](#)

Curious George, A Virtual Musical
Oct. 13-14 | 10 a.m.
[Buy tickets online](#)

Halloween Haunt Drive-Thru
Oct. 15-17 | 6 - 7 p.m.
Tree Tops Park 3900 SW 100th Avenue | Davie, FL 33328

Fort Lauderdale Virtual Game Night: Trivia, Charades, and Drawing via Video
Oct. 15-18 | 7 - 10 p.m.
[RSVP Online](#)

Comedy Crossing: The Animal Crossing Standup Comedy Show
Oct. 16 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.
[RSVP online](#)

Downtown Artisan Market at Hollywood Artwalk
Oct. 17 | 5 - 10 p.m.
Downtown Artisan Market at Hollywood Artwalk | Hollywood, FL

33rd Annual Las Olas Art Fair
Oct. 17-18 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
620 E Las Olas Blvd | Fort Lauderdale, FL

Flamingo Gardens Harvest Festival
Oct. 17-18 | 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Flamingo Gardens 3750 S. Flamingo Rd. | Davie, FL 33328

THIS WEEK SPORTS IN HISTORY

October 13: Calvin Murphy and Dave Cowens make their debut

In 1970, two future Basketball Hall of Famers debuted. Guard Calvin Murphy debuted when he played for the San Diego Rockets in what ended up being an 111-96 loss in Chicago. He grew to be regarded as one of the best free-throw shooters in NBA history. Meanwhile, forward Dave Cowens was playing for the Boston Celtics in a 114-107 loss in New York. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame 21 years later.

October 14: Birth of the Baseball Writer Association of America

In 1908, a group of sports reporters who were upset over seating arrangements at the Baseball World Series formed a professional group that would become Baseball Writers Association of America. Today, they work to ensure proper working conditions in press boxes and clubhouses. They also make sure that its members have access to players and others in the game so their members' reporting can be accurate, fair and complete.

October 15: Wayne Gretzky becomes NHL's all time top scorer

In 1989, Wayne Gretzky officially passed Gordie Howe as the National Hockey League's all time top scorer. He is one of the most decorated hockey players in the history of the NHL, setting records in both regular season and postseason play. He currently holds the record for most career regular season goals (894), assists (1,963), points (2,857) and hat-tricks (50).

October 16: Tommie Smith and John Carlos give the Black Power Salute

In 1968, Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos famously gave the Black Power salute during the Mexico City Olympics to protest racism and injustice against African-Americans. During their medal ceremony in the Olympic Stadium, the two African-American athletes each raised a black-gloved fist during the playing of the U.S. national anthem. While on the podium, Smith and Carlos, who had won gold and bronze medals respectively in the 200-meter running event, turned to face the U.S. flag and kept their hands raised until the anthem had finished.

October 17: Irina Press wins gold at the Tokyo Olympics

In 1964, in the first ever Olympic women's pentathlon, Irina Press of the Soviet Union set a world record of 5,246 points to win the gold medal at the Tokyo Games.

October 18: Football legend Forrest Gregg is born

In 1933, Forrest Gregg was born. He went on to be a Pro Football Hall of Fame offensive lineman for 16 seasons in the National Football League. He was also a part of six NFL championships, five of them with the Green Bay Packers before closing out his tenure with the Dallas Cowboys with a win in Super Bowl VI. Gregg was later appointed head coach of three NFL teams (Cleveland Browns, Cincinnati Bengals, and the Packers) as well as two Canadian Football League teams (Toronto Argonauts and Shreveport Pirates).

October 19: Maurice Richard becomes first in NHL to score 500 goals

In 1957, Maurice "Rocket" Richard, part of the Montreal Canadiens, became the first member of the NHL to score 500 goals. He was also the first player in NHL history to score 50 goals in one season. Richard retired in 1960 as the league's all-time leader in goals with 544. He won the Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player in 1947, played in 13 All-Star Games and was named in 14 post-season NHL All-Star Teams. In 2017, Richard was also named one of the 100 Greatest NHL Players in history.

On The Bench:

Naomi Osaka: An athlete, a friend, and a light in the darkness

By: Isabella Gomez
Contributing Writer

Naomi Osaka, a half-Haitian, half-Japanese tennis player, is a rising force in the world of sports today. With her second win of the 2020 US Open, her name has been plastered across recent international news. While fame has showered her with attention for her athletic achievements, we see her using this spotlight primarily for other reasons: to be a source of hope for many in an era of social unrest.

"You just gotta keep going and fighting for everything, and one day, you'll get to where you want," said Osaka in a press conference shortly after her grand victory.

She is an inspiration to girls of all

ages, especially those who have a passion for tennis. At 22, she demonstrates that dreams do come true, even at such a young age, if you work hard enough.

Jenna Jordan, a sophomore psychology major at NSU, has played tennis since she was 6 years old, and ever since then, she has been in love with the game.

"It's inspiring to see a young, black female tennis player, like myself, in such a high position. As an athlete, using her platform to be vocal about things that are directly affecting the communities [is inspirational]," said Jordan.

Osaka played seven matches in the US Open, wearing seven different masks with the names of Black lives that have

been lost and heavily discussed in the recent Black Lives Matter movement, including Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Elijah McClain, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

Osaka openly embraces her biracial culture, using her popularity to stand up and speak out about racial injustices. She is proud of her heritage, and in this strong wave of the Black Lives Matter movement, she fully embraces her Black side. Like tennis players Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Sloane Stephens and James Blake, she will continue to be an inspiration to the world for years to come. Even Michelle Obama, the former first lady,

has acknowledged the young winner, congratulating Osaka in a tweet.

Her bravery has cast a strong light on the world, and the use of her custom masks to raise awareness was an exemplifying statement. Many athletes have not always used their platforms to bring to light these types of problems, but she is one of the select few that are beginning to change that. The message she conveys to the world is that speaking up about social issues without the fear of judgment or lack of support should be normalized -- even for athletes, which is very honorable.

Finding Fitness: Meet me at the barre

By: **Daniella Rudolph**
Contributing Writer

I fell in love with the world of performance arts at a very tender age, and it has stuck with me ever since. Although I had always been focused on being a generally well-rounded performer in all the physical disciplines of musical theater,

up to a whopping 500 calories per session.

Fast forward a few years and barre -- the "pipe" bar that you hold onto whilst doing floor work for stability, balance and focus -- has become a large workout sensation. Some places incorporate yoga and pilates into their

“You do not have to be a dancer to benefit from a barre workout. No matter your gender identity, whether you are an Olympic athlete or never exercised a day in your life, your teacher will tailor the exercises,

one moment in particular really sticks out for me. I was at home one typical Saturday afternoon in the sixth grade flipping through channels when a ballet documentary caught my eye. I decided to watch it because I was a dancer, but I did not know how quickly and deeply I would fall in love. I enrolled in ballet classes immediately.

routines for an even more intense, yet beneficial, workout.

The great thing about barre and ballet is the way in which you move your body. You have to always be physically conscious in "lengthening" your muscles and keeping good form, which gives you long, lean muscles and great posture. Everything is also very open and extended, giving you flexible, conditioned and protected joints while your muscles use their own bodyweight to work hard to support you and keep form during this low-impact, high-intensity workout jam session.

Even though I had a dancing background, when I got there for my first lesson, I was surprised at how hard it was. I also found it to be one of the best workouts I had ever had.

You do not have to be a dancer to benefit from a barre workout. No matter your gender identity, whether you are an Olympic athlete or never exercised a day in your life, your teacher will tailor the exercises, extensions and intensities to suit your level and still give you

Now, I do it, basically, every day. Ballet is the perfect blend of training each muscle in strength, cardio, flexibility, agility and stability whilst allowing you a creative space to flow, express and connect with your body as a whole. You can torch



PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY E.HEINMAN

A pair of ballet shoes

a great workout. Make sure to wear something comfortable, but preferably of a tighter fit as it is essential for your instructor to see where and how you are placing the movements in your body. Do not forget a water bottle -- trust me -- and do not be scared to just go for it and dance because

of how it feels to you, no matter how it looks to others.

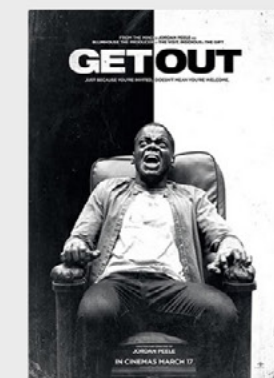
[Click here to view and book from Yelp's list of the top 10 places to get barre classes in Davie](#) or [here](#) for more intense, dance-based ballet classes.

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Distancing an artist from their work

By: Niccy Shaker
Contributing Writer

As a self-proclaimed bookworm, it is no secret that I have fallen in love with books that sometimes have been written by authors who share different beliefs than my own. Recently, many lovers of the Harry Potter franchise are unsettled because of remarks and beliefs J.K. Rowling, the author, has made to the general public in regards to transgenders. The hashtag “#JKRowlingIsATerf,” TERF meaning Trans Exclusive Radical Feminist, was even a top trending topic on Twitter. I am a person who has read and watched the Harry Potter series several times over, time that I would not trade for anything else. With that, the beliefs that one person holds evident should not overshadow something they have created. It is possible to distance an artist from their work; I find it can be easily done.

Just as we have the right to our own opinions, so do those people who are well known. I am not a person to burn my copies of “Harry Potter” because the author thinks differently than I do. Just like Hogwarts is separate from the real world, the author’s thoughts and beliefs can be separate from the art itself. If we decided to pick apart everything we don’t agree with, there would be nothing left for us to discover, everything would be broken. I do not agree with J.K.

Rowling’s beliefs, but I refuse to go back into my childhood and delete the memories of me thinking I could turn my brother into a toad with my wand if I had the proper spell.

“With that, the beliefs that one person holds evident should not overshadow something they have created. It is possible to distance an artist from their work

Cancel culture has become prevalent in the world we are living in now and I find much could be fixed if we, as a whole, came to terms with the fact that not everyone is going to think and believe the same things that we believe. Sure, I can see that many people believe that, if you support the work of someone who has beliefs that you do not believe in, it can be seen like you have the same thoughts as the person you support, but nothing is that black and white. We must learn to see the good in things because, even in the darkest places, there can be light. It is okay to love things by people you don’t necessarily like; a person is not their work. Art should not be discriminated against just because of who the maker is.



Appreciating sunshowers

By: Flor Ana Mireles
Copy Editor

South Florida is known for its unpredictable weather. If it’s raining in the morning, give it a couple of hours, and it’ll be hot, muggy and sunny again. While we sometimes associate the rainy days with gloominess, here in South Florida, we see a meteorological phenomenon that allows us to appreciate the rainy days in a different way.

Sunshowers are a meteorological phenomenon where rain falls while the sun is shining because accompanying rainstorm winds, sometimes miles away, blow airborne raindrops into an area where there are no clouds. While they often occur more in the summer and spring months, given South Florida’s uncertain weather, we’ve been seeing a lot more sun showers -- even in the fall.

Sunshowers are great because they give us a different outlook on rainy days. On regular rainy days, we may find ourselves more inclined to stay home and get less done. Perhaps, we may even find ourselves napping

the day away. Yet, on sunny, rainy days, we can view the rain a bit less disruptive and intimidating and get outside. Perhaps, we may find ourselves dancing in the rain, or at least, running errands and getting stuff done.

Some people don’t like the rain, regardless of their being clouds blocking the sun or not, but in some places, deserts, where there hasn’t been rain in days, a sunshower would most definitely be appreciated and wished for. It’s all a matter of perspective, but let’s not forget to be grateful for what we have, including our spot-in-the-world’s weird weather.

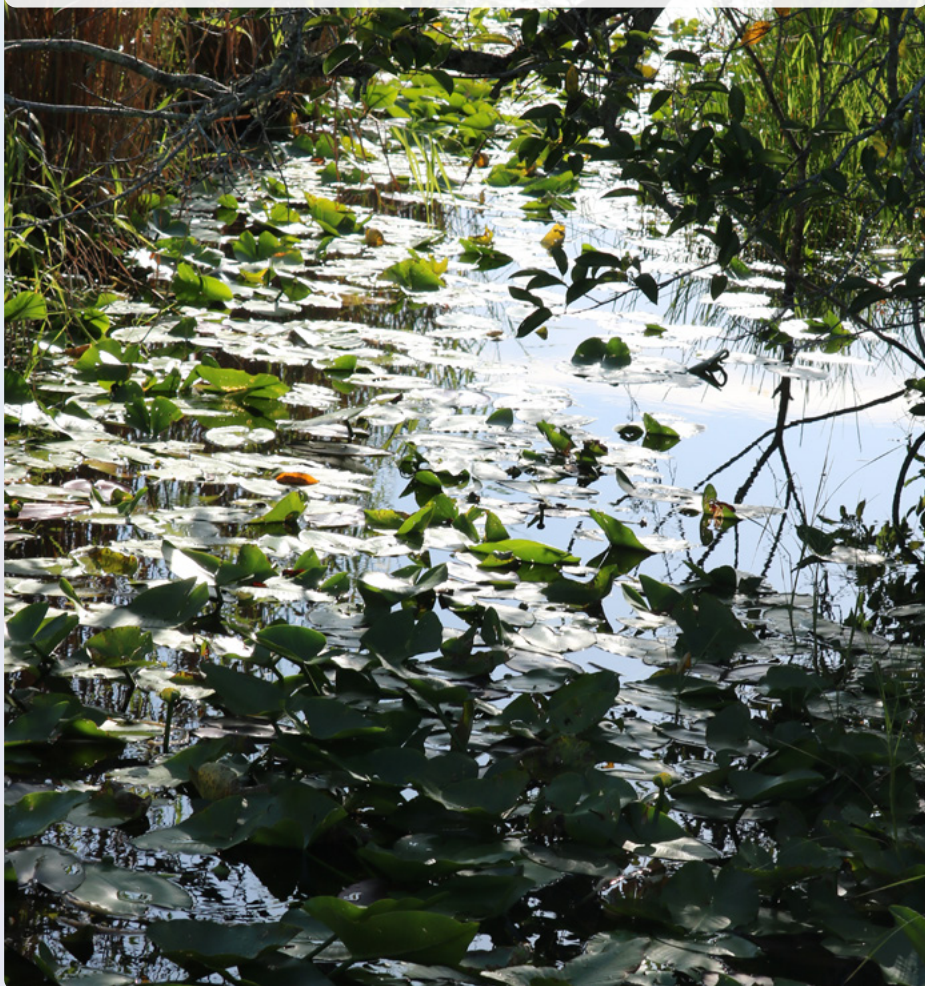
While in different cultures, sunshowers are signs of many different things, like foxes getting married in Asian cultures and monkeys having a wedding in South Africa cultures, to me, sunshowers are a sign to keep your head up and enjoy the day, even if there is a little rain.

Scorched earth

By: Gabriel J. Stone
Contributing Writer

PHOTO OBTAINED BY E. COWAN

Nature trail through the everglades



When I say that this year has been crazy, I’m totally aware that what I’ve said is the understatement of the century.

The western coast is still on fire, the last

white rhino just died, it seems as if there is a hurricane every other week -- sometimes multiple at the same time -- the rainforests are getting destroyed, overfishing is drastically changing the

oceans’ ecosystems and just about a million other things that just scream “we are killing our planet.” We need to do something right now because we do not have as long as we thought we did to fix this.

“It seems like the more you hear about progressive efforts to, for instance, save the rainforest or the coral reefs or the whales, or, at this point, humanity, the more it seems we are going backward instead.

We have been talking about climate change for quite a while now, and despite the attention it gathers in the media, it is still an issue that is not being dealt with properly and realistically.

The U.S. often makes an attempt to be at the forefront of issues like this, with many groups speaking on the subject trying to influence not just American policy, but make a global impact, but it seems like the more you hear about progressive efforts to, for instance, save the rainforest or the coral reefs or the whales, or, at this point, humanity, the more it seems we are going backward instead.

Whilst our current President, Donald Trump, has been in office, our representatives have chosen to incentivize the economy over the environment by withdrawing from efforts to reduce humanity’s carbon footprint, like the Paris Accords. Lowering the carbon tax in order for large corporations to become more profitable by not having to abide by laws that make for reduced environmental impact from mass production is a travesty setting us back from creating a greener earth.

We are noticing an actual change to the world we live right now and it’s scary. Melting polar ice caps, causing sea levels to rise all over the globe, will inevitably destroy some major coastal cities and islands. We already have damaged the

oceans’ ecosystems by overfishing, but I guess trash island (The giant accumulation of plastic called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch containing at least 79,000 tons discarded plastic, covering an area of about 617,800

square miles) can replace our beaches as the new popular tropical getaway.

High tide is not the only major result caused by human pollution. After years upon years of rising carbon emissions, the ozone layer of the atmosphere is depleting. Combine that with historic high temperatures and dry air and that results in, you guessed it, over four million acres of California burned, resulting in 26 deaths in 2020 so far, according to NPR.

It may seem like the end is already here, but no. This is a wake-up call. New technology is emerging every day that is more efficient than the last and can help us make sure the next generation of humanity has a planet to call home because I don’t think most of us can afford a trip on Space X’s rocket to Mars. Let’s take the time to do the little things that can help our planet like reducing waste, stepping away from non-biodegradables and making sure our government keeps their word when they say they are going to do something about it. Let’s try to save this world before it’s too late.

Music is a healer: Take advantage of it and listen to something new

By: Niccy Shaker
Contributing Writer

Whenever I ask someone what music they listen to and they respond with “whatever’s on the radio,” my heart breaks a little. Even though whatever’s on the radio is there for a reason — it’s good enough to be played — I cannot stress the importance of finding your own, unique music preferences

found that, when I felt blue, sad music helped me feel less isolated, and happy music helped me forget about my sadness. In a happy mood, songs I like sound better, and, just how good they sound, gets me excited. Music never fails to make my surroundings better and improve my mood.

The only reason this has always held true

music’s power. Music is a healer, as its existence proves that you’re not the only person going through it; it’s an audible testament to the shared human condition.

Whatever triggers your first musical awakening is just the beginning. In my sophomore year of high school, I heard the song “Doomed” by Bring Me The Horizon, and I was shocked at myself for loving it so much. It’s a dark, electronic rock song by a band that started out as deathcore. As someone who had only ever listened to alternative and mellow pop-rock, this was the heaviest song I had ever heard. I then listened to the album it was on, the rest of the band’s discography, and then, moved on to similar artists. Today, I can proudly say I’m a huge metal fan. Who would have thought?

I have yet to have a third major musical awakening, but since then, I have had a million small ones. My instant, and quite shocking, obsession with Bring Me The Horizon showed me just how limited my taste was. So now, every day, I listen to a new artist or genre. I have a constantly

expanding playlist of music I need to eventually listen to. I’m always recommending songs and making playlists for whoever asks because I’ve discovered that music is one of the greatest, most personal gifts someone can give. The feeling of finding a new artist and the euphoria that comes with being so obsessed with that artist that you listen to everything they’ve made and everything similar artists have made is beautiful.

Give yourself that feeling and start really discovering what you like — not what your friends play when they’re on the aux, not what your parents played in your childhood and not whatever’s on the radio. Check out artists you’ve never dreamed of liking, and trust me, you’ll end up surprising yourself in the best way possible.

Music is a free, spiritual healer that not enough people take full advantage of. If you’re not one of them, I promise you, it’s never too late to get into the groove. You’ll thank me later when you realize that you actually hate whatever’s playing on the radio.

“It may seem trivial or superfluous, but making a conscious effort to expand your music taste and find songs that truly pluck at your heartstrings will change your life

and creating your own playlists to listen to.

It may seem trivial or superfluous, but making a conscious effort to expand your music taste and find songs that truly pluck at your heartstrings will change your life. It was in middle school when I first listened to “Wonderwall” by Oasis and discovered just how good music can be. Since then, I made music a central part of my life. I started listening to it whenever I felt a strong emotion, whether negative or positive. I

found that, when I felt blue, sad music helped me feel less isolated, and happy music helped me forget about my sadness. In a happy mood, songs I like sound better, and, just how good they sound, gets me excited. Music never fails to make my surroundings better and improve my mood. The only reason this has always held true for me is because, after “Wonderwall,” I realized the beauty that music could possess and took advantage of it. I made an active effort to look into artists similar to Oasis. I found bands like The Verve, Arctic Monkeys and Blur. My playlists just kept getting better and better. When you find an artist you really like, whose songs give you feelings of ecstasy, the sensation is one-of-a-kind. When you play that artist at different points in your life when you’re going through different experiences, you can take full advantage of



Fins FaceOff

Is \$70 too much or a video game?

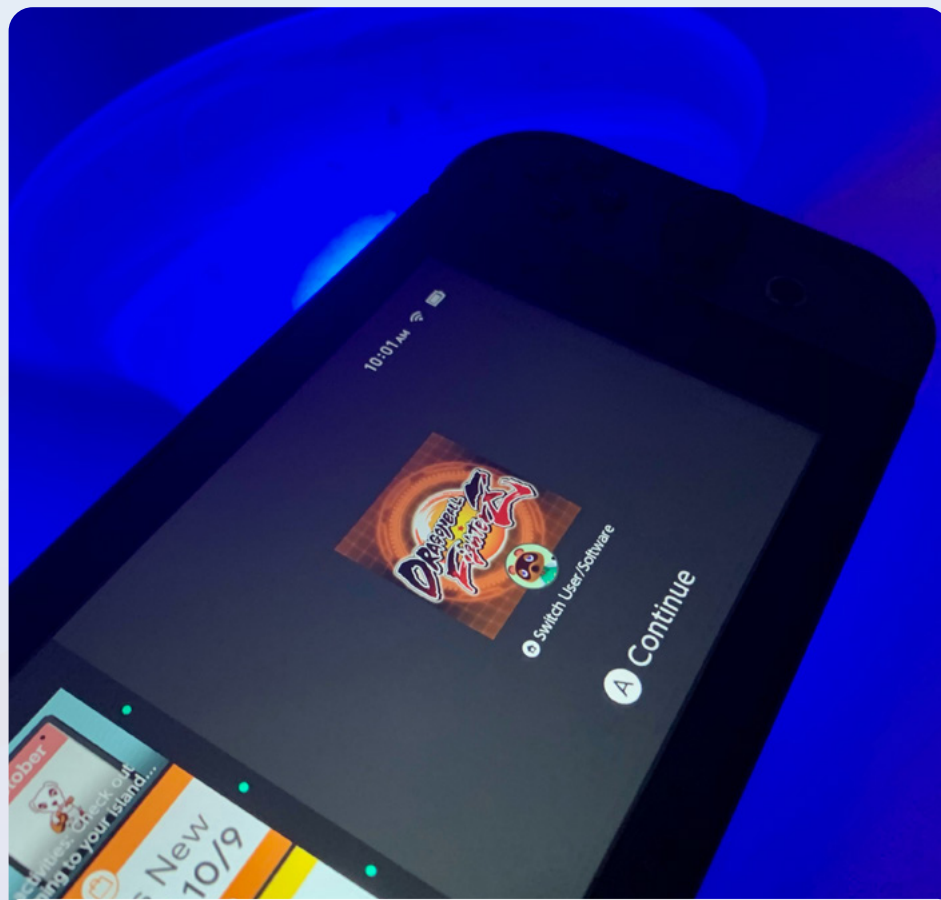
\$70 is too much for a video game

Recently, the world of gaming has
By: Jaden Wilson
Contributing Writer

been seeing an unfortunate new trend. Video games are getting more and more expensive, and the average player can't keep up with these inflating prices.

We're seeing more video games releasing at prices upwards of \$70. Even though fans are calling out these major price jumps, many have resigned to either saving up or taking their money elsewhere. Others simply choose to wait for a price drop that usually occurs months after the game's release. In doing this, they miss out on the original hype, but ultimately, they're saving long-term. Is it acceptable to let developers get away with these prices? No. It's unreasonable and unfair to expect consumers to have to spend so much to enjoy a game.

Another issue gamers have with this inflation is that they pay this high price and still might not get the full experience. Almost every video game on the market nowadays offers additional DLCs, or downloadable content, that can be purchased and added to a game to upgrade its features. You have the option to purchase limited-edition weapons or character customizations for an additional cost, totally the choice of the consumer, right? Not always. Some DLCs expand gameplay so dramatically, that you'd be playing an entirely different game without them. As more new content is introduced,



Playing Dragon Ball Z fighters on the switch

PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY F. SHABAN

standard gameplay will no longer be on par with the boosted gameplay allowed by DLCs, and the average player will be left dissatisfied with a game they paid top dollar for.

\$70 is not too expensive for video games

By: Chloe Rousseau
Contributing Writer

For as long as I can remember, video games for both the PlayStation and Xbox have been \$60 and I am surprised that the price did not go up earlier when the last Xbox and PlayStation were released in 2013. Realistically, Sony bringing prices of PlayStation games up to \$70 should not come as a shock to anyone who plays games. If you have already spent the \$400-\$500 on the console, the price of the game is minuscule in comparison. If you look at the quality of games, they have vastly improved since 2013 when the last consoles were released. The games are becoming better and better and have become very realistic in cutscenes. The cost of making games this detailed is a long and expensive process, and the game designers and coders really should be paid more for it. These games for the PlayStation 5 are going to be available in both a digital and physical version. The console will also be backward compatible, so it makes the \$10 price rise for new games not as bad because old games can still be played on the PlayStation 5.

*Stay
Safe.*

*Stay
Current.*

