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Nova Southeastern University

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# The Current

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## NSU Alert test highlights future goals and improves functionality

On Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 2 p.m., NSU Public Safety tested the NSU Alert Emergency Notification System (ENS) throughout all university campuses. This test is conducted at least once a year to ensure that all ENS equipment is functioning properly and to improve the alert system. The test was a collaboration between Public Safety, the Office of Innovation and Information Technology (OIIT) and University Relations to activate additional messaging to the street corner signs and banner messages on NSU websites.

“For this test, we had 45 Public Safety personnel that were deployed throughout campus as observers, stationed at different locations, to let us know how well the message was received from that location. We had Public Safety broadcasters test their vehicle public address systems. We also used administration at all the regional campuses and other campus collaborators for feedback on the success of the test. It was a group effort, and collectively, well over 50 people provided feedback to this test which was reported as highly satisfactory,” said James

Lambe, associate director of communications and technology.

This test was particularly challenging for Public Safety due to the logistics of performing this emergency alert test with COVID-19 procedures in place and weather and noise pollution. This required a debriefing to be presented in an auditorium prior to the test, and said protocols were used while checking out locations on campus.

“We have to test in real-world conditions. We can’t stop the planes flying over campus or stop the grounds crew from working. We would prefer that all operations continue as normal so that we could test the system with the normally expected noise pollution in the area. The testing is meant to see if you can still hear the system despite these interferences. There were some outdoor systems that were identified as not performing at 100% and all the others were performing as expected,” said Kevin Ligouri, acting emergency manager of campus.

To read the full version of NSU alert test highlights future goals and improves functionality, visit [www.nsucurrent.nova.edu](http://www.nsucurrent.nova.edu).

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Stormy night approaching the emergency blue light



By: Christina McLaughlin  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

## Homecoming is still on, and here's what you can look out for

By: Rick Esner  
News Editor

Despite many events canceled or rescheduled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Homecoming Week at NSU is still on, albeit with a couple of new events and changes to keep the community safe. This year, Homecoming Week, Nov. 2-8, will feature a combination of online events and in-person celebrations, which will allow members of the NSU community to participate despite their location.

The following are the events scheduled for Homecoming Week, with in-person events following COVID-19 safety precautions and social distancing guidelines. While some events have not announced a date or time yet, more information can be found on the Office of Campus Life's Instagram, @nsucampuslife.

### Nov. 2

On Monday, Homecoming Week launches with a breakfast kickoff to wake the Sharks up by handing out free individually wrapped breakfast meals for students walking through the University Center, starting at 7:30 a.m. Afterward, there will be giveaways in the U.C. spine from noon to 1 p.m. where attendees can win NSU swag, homecoming t-shirts and other goodies.

To finish off the first night of Homecoming Week, there will be the Bleed Shark Blue prep rally in Rick Case Arena, featuring a DJ battle, an introduction of Homecoming royalty and the reveal of the newest design of NSU's mascot, Razor.

### Nov. 3

To show support in the upcoming election and encourage students to vote, the day will start off with the Office of Residential Life and Housing shuttling residential students to the voting site. Then, at night, in collaboration with the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Student Government Association, an election event in the Flight Deck backyard will be held from 5-7 p.m. The event will include free food from Shark Cage businesses, radio giveaways and a drawing for numerous prizes including a 32-inch television and an Amazon Echo.

### Nov. 4

Hosted by the Veterans Resource Center, members of the NSU community can drop by Flight Deck for the NSU for Veterans event, where students can meet NSU veterans and fill out a letter to be sent to troops serving our country. Additionally, this event will be held in a virtual format as well, where anyone interested in writing

a letter can go to the website [tinyurl.com/NSUforVeterans](http://tinyurl.com/NSUforVeterans) and fill out a card to be sent. At night, there will also be open mic night in collaboration with Shark Talent, where students can win \$300.

### Nov. 5

To showcase some greek life pride, the Miss Phi Beta Sigma Pageant will take place both in-person and online. The crowning of the winner will take place in person, but anyone interested in watching the pageant can join one of the two viewing parties in either Mako Hall or Flight Deck.

### Nov. 6

The day will start off with a special Homecoming edition of Shark Pride Friday in the U.C. spine from 12-1 p.m., where students have a chance to win a variety of giveaways. Then, at night, the Homecoming Bash will be held, featuring food trucks and other activities. The Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement is looking to make that event as safe as possible by holding the event in the library quad with more details to come.

### Nov. 7

A brand new event for Homecoming, the Office of Residential Life and Housing will hold a drive-in movie night, featuring

the film “Shark Tale” in one of the residential lots.

### Nov. 8

To finish off the week, Razor's Reef and Shark Dining will hold a cooking class for students to make a special brunch to cap off their week.

Additionally, Homecoming Week will feature a variety of events for NSU alumni. Another change for this year is that the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement is collaborating with NSU's Alumni Association to include Alumni Week as a part of Homecoming. The Alumni Association will host events, such as the Virtual Trivia and Scavenger Night on Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. and other exclusive invite-only events to recognize distinguished alumni.

Gerard Wheeler, the director of campus life and student engagement, says that, due to recent events with COVID-19 and the ever-changing nature of the virus, the current schedule is not entirely finalized and is subject to change. Anyone who wants to stay updated with all the events happening throughout Homecoming Week is encouraged to follow the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement on Instagram @nsucampuslife.



## Global news, courtesy of the current

### Ikea buys back used furniture

On Thursday, Ikea announced they will offer customers up to 50% store credit for used furniture, but not in the U.S. This initiative was announced as a part of the company's effort to work against climate change, introducing the buy-back program. According to The New York Times, the Swedish retailer will offer the selling customer a store gift card devoid of an expiration date in return for their used furniture. The state of the second-hand items will determine its value, with brand-new and barely used furniture being valued at 50% of the original price. By November, the buyback program will be available in 27 countries.

### Dutch music venues capped at 30 visitors

The Netherlands' government announced last Wednesday that music venues in the country will allow a maximum of 30 visitors as a response to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases. Discos and nightclubs, which were scheduled to reopen in September, will remain closed until a vaccine for the virus is available. In the meantime, music venues may remain open as long as they abide by safety guidelines. According to Live Music IQ News, occupants must remain six feet apart and may attend in social groups of no more than four people. It was reported that these restrictions came into effect following the rise of COVID-19 cases and are set to be in place for at least two weeks. There is also a ban on outdoor events and alcohol consumption after 8 p.m.

### Israeli protesters call for re-investigation of Netanyahu

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been facing weekly protests over the last three months for his handling of COVID-19, accusations of his involvement in a grafting scandal and currently having to stand trial in three corruption cases. Yahoo News reported that his most recent indictment is in connection with German conglomerate ThyssenKrupp. Protestors are calling for an investigation into the scandal surrounding a \$2 billion submarine deal with Germany. Protesters demonstrated outside the Israeli supreme court building in cars that carried makeshift submarines on top of their vehicles.

### Fires rage on Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro

On Wednesday, Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak, blazed as firefighters worked to keep the flames under control. According to Tanzania's minister of natural resources and tourism, dry conditions and strong winds are hampering efforts to control the wildfire. Initial reports indicate the fire may have been caused by porters heating food for climbers on the prior Sunday. The Citizen Newspaper reports that the government will deploy helicopters to bolster efforts to fight the wildfires.

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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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Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributing writers must be meaningful and of interest to the NSU community. The Current reserves the right to edit, publish or deny submitted works as it sees fit. The Current shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

## News Anchor

Stay up to date with national events.

### Alabama courthouse removes Confederate statue

The suicide rate in 2019 was lower than the year before, showing the first decline in suicide rates within the last decade. The decrease in the suicide rate was relatively small, but dropped to a statistically significant 13.9% in the U.S. In addition, suicide rates were shown to have a steady increase since 2005, with 2018 having had the highest suicide rate since 1941 with 14.2 suicides for every 100,000 deaths. Also in 2019, heart disease and cancer related deaths decreased while drug overdoses increased. Firearm related deaths saw no change.

### "Murder hornet" nest found in Washington state

The first wild nest of Asian giant hornets, also called "murder hornets," were found in Washington state near the Canadian border on Friday. The nest is to be destroyed as a precaution against the hornets, which are killing the native honey bee population. Entomologists caught two hornets and placed trackers on them to locate their nest, but the Department of Agriculture is unaware of how these hornets got to North America. Currently, they have only been found in Washington state and British Columbia. Asian giant hornets pose more of a threat to the honey bee population than to humans, causing 62 human deaths on average per year. As of Friday, 20 hornets have been caught in Whatcom County.

### Suicide rates fall after raising for a decade

The suicide rate in 2019 was found to be lower than the year before, showing the first decline in suicide rates within the last decade. The decrease in the suicide rate was relatively small, but dropped to a statistically significant 13.9% in the U.S. In the states, suicide rates were shown to have a steady increase since 2005, with 2018 having had the highest suicide rate since 1941 with 14.2 suicides for every 100,000 deaths. Aside from suicide rates, also in 2019, drug overdoses rose and heart disease and cancer related deaths decreased. Firearm related deaths saw no change.

### Charge changed against former officer involved in Floyd's death

Last Thursday, Perter Cahill, a Hennepin County District Judge, released his ruling to dismiss the third-degree murder charge against Derek Chauvin, the former police officer who killed George Floyd. Cahill increased the charge to unintentional second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Cahill also moved forward with the aiding and abetting counts for the three others involved. Following this ruling, Minnesota governor, Tim Walz, called for the National Guard to expect protests.

## News Briefs

### Get the scoop on events happening on campus and around campus

#### Annual 'Trick to The Treat' internship experience goes virtual

The Center for Academic and Professional Success and the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences will hold their ninth annual "Trick to the Treat of an Internship or Research Experience" via Zoom on Oct. 28 at

11 a.m. NSU students from any college are welcome to join and hear their peers discuss previous biology and medicine internships they have accomplished, as well as how to apply to these internships and research opportunities. To register, students can visit Handshake, contact the Center for Academic and Professional Success at (954) 262-7201 or contact Emily Schmitt at (954) 262-8349.

#### "The Garden" exhibition closing

On Nov. 13, "The Garden," a solo exhibition in the Department of Communication, Media and the Arts' Gallery 217 by New World School of the Arts alumnus Amanda Madrigal will close. The exhibit, which is 100% virtual due to COVID-19, includes a variety of artwork, all constructed by repurposed materials found in thrift stores. To virtually visit this free exhibition before it closes, visit the live gallery via Zoom at <https://nova.zoom.us/j/93136964038>.

#### Do good for your community and receive ExEL credit

The Student Site Leader Team is hosting a virtual and in-person session on "A Further Look Into DIS(ABILITIES)" on Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and Nov. 15 at 10 a.m. Students can delve into this riveting topic with three sessions and two service projects that will help the NSU community. Participants will also receive one ExEL unit in Community Engagement. To find out more information, contact Concetta D'Alessio at [sharksandservice@nova.edu](mailto:sharksandservice@nova.edu).

#### Join an open roundtable discussion this month

The Multicultural Affairs Committee and the Office of Professional Development and Education are holding a roundtable meeting on diversity on Nov. 2 at 12:10 PM via Zoom. This month's discussion is "Respect and Religion" and students are welcome to join and listen, reassess their perspectives and interact with their fellow peers in a judgment-free environment. Next month's meeting, on Dec. 7, is on "Counseling the Culturally Diverse: Theory and Practice." To join, use the Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/99902841352>.

#### Take part in the Irish Film

#### Festival

From Nov. 5 -15, NSU and professor David Kilroy on the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences will virtually host the 2020 Irish Film Festival. Students are welcome to join at any time, watch the films at their own pace and join special guests via Zoom to discuss each film. For more information and to reserve your spot, visit the Alvin Sherman Library website or <https://nova.libcal.com/event/7141930>.

#### Watch your peers in Dance Works

On Nov. 3-4, the department of performing and visual arts will hold a socially distanced in-person performance featuring the dance and choreography of NSU students at the Don Taft University Center at 6 p.m. See students perform a variety of dance styles including contemporary, lyrical and modern. Tickets are \$7 for students and staff with a valid NSU ID and \$12 for the general public. For more information, call (954) 262-7620 or visit <http://cahss.nova.edu/departments/pva/perf-exhib.html>.

## COVID-19 Update: New cases on campus

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 of Oct. 22, there were three residential students with active COVID-19 cases at NSU. The cases were reported in Mako Hall, according to an email sent to students living in the building. The students also confirmed that they have been taking their classes online.

There was one associated suitemate who decided to leave campus to quarantine, but otherwise, as of this time, there are no other students quarantining as a result of exposure to these active cases. The email also stated that the Florida Department of Health is working with these students on contact tracing.

Beth Welmaker, the executive director of environmental health and safety for NSU, encourages students to remain vigilant and continue to stick to the guidelines set forth by the university and public health officials. Welmaker also stated that, among most individuals and cases shared with her, those who are now reporting positive cases tend to know who they were around that exposed them — getting into a situation wherein individuals are in close proximity to each other can put everyone at risk.

"It's clear at this point that we know what needs to happen to prevent the spread of this virus — it's keeping distance and wearing a face cover. That seems to be working phenomenally well. People that are around others that have [tested] positive, if they kept their distance and were wearing a face covering, they're not [testing] positive. Individuals that were in close proximity to

somebody [with COVID-19] — they often [test] positive," said Welmaker.

Additionally, students who have confirmed or suspected cases are urged to reach out to university officials, not only for tracking purposes, but also to take advantage of the support that can be provided to them. There are resources to help impacted students get extensions on academic deadlines, ensure they get food while isolating or connect them to counselors if isolation is proving to be challenging.

"I think it's really important to let the university know, not only because it's the right thing to do and it helps contain the spread, but we have established some wonderful resources that support our students when they're isolating... I just want them to take advantage of the support and resources there for them," said Welmaker.

*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](mailto: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.*

## Give back in October through Socktober

By: Rick Esner  
News Editor

This month, NSU has taken part in the Socktober campaign with the help of NSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. The Socktober campaign targets one of the most requested items in homeless shelters across the nation — socks.

Through the Socktober campaign, NSU has pledged that, for every \$5 donated by members of the NSU community, the university will donate a pair of socks to a local homeless shelter near one of the university's nine campuses throughout the state of Florida and Puerto Rico. Additionally, all proceeds made through the campaign will go toward the NSU Cares fund, which assists NSU students, alumni, faculty and staff who have been victims of natural disasters.

According to Gabriela Alvarado, the assistant director of annual giving of the division of university advancements at NSU, "It's a win-win from every angle, to be completely honest. For every \$5 donation, we give a pair of socks to the homeless, which were provided to [us through Geico and the] partnership we have

with them. The proceeds will go to the NSU Cares fund, which goes back to our NSU community when we need it most."

The Alumni Association set up a link for the Socktober campaign on the Give campus website to make donating as easy and straightforward as possible. The Give campus platform is not only the official crowdfunding site for NSU, but also does not charge any percentages from donors like other popular crowdfunding sites because all upfront costs are fronted by the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving.

When we all together contribute to Socktober, we become a part of something really big that is not only making an impact on our NSU Cares fund, which is important, but also our local shelters around Florida and Puerto Rico. Community and service are values that are a part of NSU and if we can inflict that is positive way in our communities outside of NSU, it is also a great opportunity. So, I think Socktober allows us to do both at the same time," said Alvarado.

The campaign has a goal of \$25,000 that, as of yet, has not been reached — as the

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Rocking out with a pair of  
Thriller



campaign comes to an end, Socktober has only reached 10% of its goal. While Alvarado mentioned that the goal may have been an overestimate, there will still be over 500 pairs of socks donated to the homeless shelters. Additionally, anyone who donates a minimum of \$25 will receive a complementary NSU

Cares lapel pin.

Those who are interested in donating to the Socktober campaign or checking out more information can find it online at [tinyurl.com/NSUsocktober](http://tinyurl.com/NSUsocktober). Donations can also be made by texting NSUGIFT to 41444.



## Gill Out: Change Doughnuts



By: Briana Ramnauth  
Contributing Writer

Miniature doughnuts, enough said. Change Doughnuts is a local food truck that makes miniature cake doughnuts fresh with each order. They have countless combinations of toppings and frostings that range from simple powdered sugar to apple pie topped. My favorite doughnuts are the Boston cream, which are plain doughnuts topped with chocolate frosting and crème and the apple explosion, which are doughnuts topped with apple pie filling and a vanilla drizzle.

Not only does Change Doughnuts have doughnuts, they also have amazing homemade Italian sodas and delicious ice cream sundaes that, of course, incorporate their signature miniature cake doughnut. While many people prefer yeast doughnuts to cake doughnuts, the doughnuts here are fresh, hot and just melt in your mouth.

You can find Change doughnuts in the Home Depot parking lot of University in the Tower Shoppes Plaza on Saturdays, so long as the weather holds up. I discovered

them while at the plaza looking for things for my apartment, and I go far too often now. You can hire them to cater an event, simply order a big box of 40 doughnuts for only \$32 or even just six doughnuts for \$6.75. I usually go for a big box to take home and share with my roommates, and as an added bonus, the owners of the truck are both NSU graduates.

When you pull up to the green and white food truck, you are greeted with the smell of fresh doughnuts and a friendly person wearing a mask and social distancing, ready to take your order. Do not worry. They have a sign that has their menu on it or you can just say "Surprise me" and you will not be disappointed in the selection. Of all the doughnuts that I have tried, not a single one has been bad; they are all so tasty and the Italian sodas are the perfect drink to wash it all down.

Overall, Change Doughnuts is an amazing food truck and they are definitely worth paying a visit to. From doughnuts to ice cream and soda, you will not be disappointed.



40 doughnuts for \$32

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## My experience coming back to campus amidst a pandemic

By: Siena Berardi  
Sports Editor

Let me preface by stating that I have been a commuter student for my whole college career. Regardless, I found myself spending full days on campus even after classes. Whether it be attending a Greek life event or in the Blackbox managing props for a play, I became very comfortable here. As an active student pre-pandemic, my time on campus would often total up to 12 hours a day. Each semester, I would wake up early for classes that started before 10 a.m. and I'd arrive home just before 10 p.m. on the days I had night classes. That being said, there have been numerous changes to not only my routines on campus, but changes in the overall ways I now prepare for my days during a global pandemic.

Back in March, it was hard to envision what this fall semester would look like. I spent around six months in a strict quarantine with my parents, one of which is immunocompromised, and my brother. I missed my daily commute. I missed looking for a parking spot in peak hours of the afternoon after leaving campus for Chipotle. Now, parking on campus is much easier. Usually, if I arrived on campus around 11 a.m., I would

have to trek through aisles of cars to reach the UC. Now, I can expect prime parking at all hours of the day.

Currently, I spend around five hours a day on campus either working or attending class. A few things have remained the same. Walking through the UC, I can still hear the metal weights of the Recplex, the chatter of students from the pit and the occasional UC Spine event and life seems to be back to normal. Of course, wearing a mask, I will make my way up the levels of the PVA wing, where I can find students studying in masks and signs of encouragement in Shark blue. Every hour, I can spot staff members keeping surfaces clean.

America is still in the midst of a pandemic. We cannot forget this. We must all do our part to keep ourselves and the community safe. It is easy to wear a mask in public and frequently wash your hands. These are small prices to pay for the slow down of a deadly disease. Overall, it has been nice to find sanity in old routines. Regardless of new safety protocols, campus has remained one of my happy places during times of absolute mayhem.



Lonely benches, empty hangout spots and barren hallways are just a few side effects of going to college in a pandemic

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### KEEP WITH WHAT'S CURRENT



@THECURRENTNSU

## Virtual internships: Gain the NSU edge

By: Emma Heineman  
Features Editor

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the future of internship opportunities was suddenly uncertain. Not sure how to adapt full-time job positions, let alone internships, to fit CDC standards, many companies and organizations canceled or postponed their spring and summer internships. However, moving forward, more and more companies and organizations are becoming equipped to accommodate both in-person and virtual internships. If the pandemic has made one thing clear, it is that companies still have needs that need to be met. Although internship opportunities may look different for the foreseeable future, luckily for students there are still plenty of options to choose from that can give you the NSU edge.

Internships are an important part of entering any field. Emilio Lorenzo, the director of employer relations at NSU, explained that internships are one of many ways students can gain the experience that employers are looking for.

“Gaining experience in your field is so critical. After you graduate, you’ll notice that even entry-level positions require one to two years of experience. [Employers] expect that, as you learn the academic and theoretical in the classroom, you are also applying practical experiences through internships,” said Lorenzo.

Nimah Butler, the assistant director of employer relations at NSU, added that internships can be a great way for students to get a feel for the industry they are interested in going into before making an official choice.

“Internships are a ‘try it before you buy it.’ Try it out now before you graduate... If you do an

internship and decide [that] it is something you don’t enjoy, then you don’t have to do it,” said Butler.

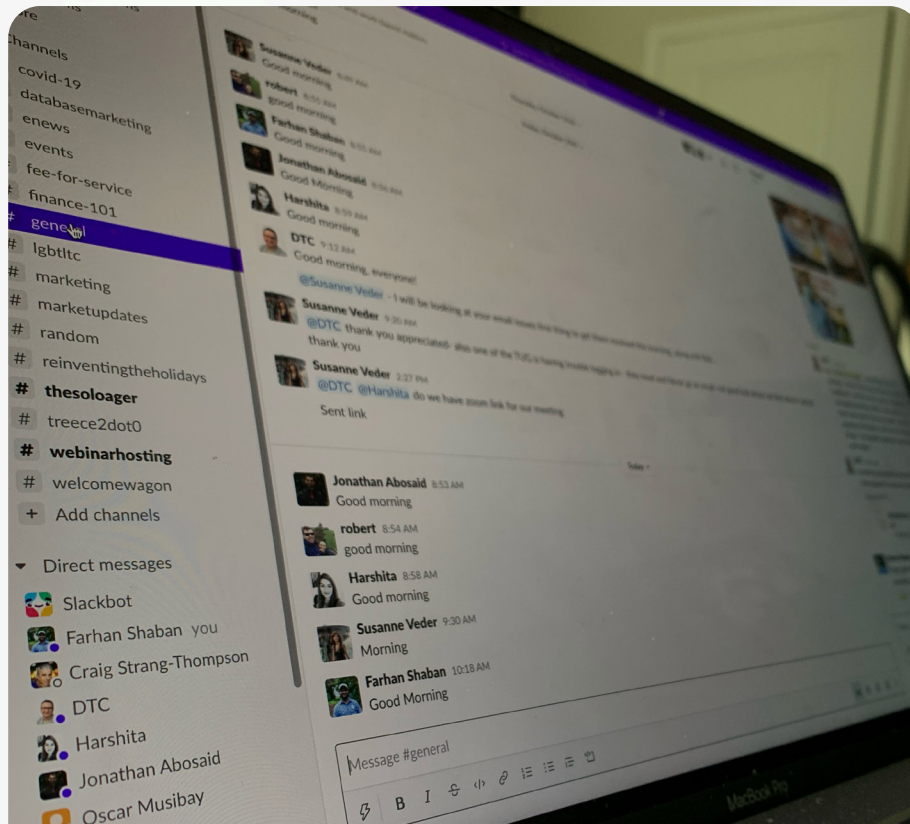
This not only gives students a way to decide whether or not they enjoy a particular field, but may also spark interest in something new. Platforms, such as Parker Dewey, make trying something new and gaining real-world experience an easy and flexible process. Parker Dewey offers short project-based opportunities ranging from short projects to semester-long experiences.

Lorenzo reminds students that they still need to take the steps they would have taken pre-COVID to make them successful. One aspect of this is taking advantage of the many opportunities and networking events offered through the Center for Academic & Professional Success (CAPS) at NSU. Lorenzo explained that attending virtual career fairs and information sessions is a vital element in finding internships.

“If you aren’t going to career fairs, if you aren’t putting yourself out there through virtual networking events, then you are not doing as much as the rest of the pool of applicants is,” said Lorenzo.

Attending virtual careers fairs, info sessions, participating in case competitions and more will make sure you are equipped with the best tools to handle your internship search. Another resource to take advantage of is NSU career advisors. From tweaking your resume to fit your industry of interest to helping make sure you take all the necessary steps to get your internship approved for credit, NSU career advisors are there to help you at every step of the process.

“What better way to take advantage [of NSU’s



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Working remotely and using communication app like Slack

resources] than to come to our office where a career advisor is going to coach you so you aren’t on this internship search alone,” said Lorenzo.

For more information about available

internship options, read the CAPS monthly newsletter, log in to Handshake and make an appointment with your career advisor today.

## Information or misinformation: Evaluating sources in the digital age

By: Alexander Martinie  
Opinions Editor

In the digital age, knowing where the information we consume comes from and if it is factual is key to a functioning society. Politicians constantly talk about misinformation and fake news, but what do they mean when they say that? What can you, as a reader, do to avoid misinformation?

Janine Morris, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Media and the Arts at NSU and the faculty coordinator at the Writing and Communication Center, explained that, in her work, the definition of fake news comes from research conducted by Hunt Allcott and Matthew Gentzkow.

According to them, fake news is “News articles that are intentionally and verifiably false and could mislead readers.”

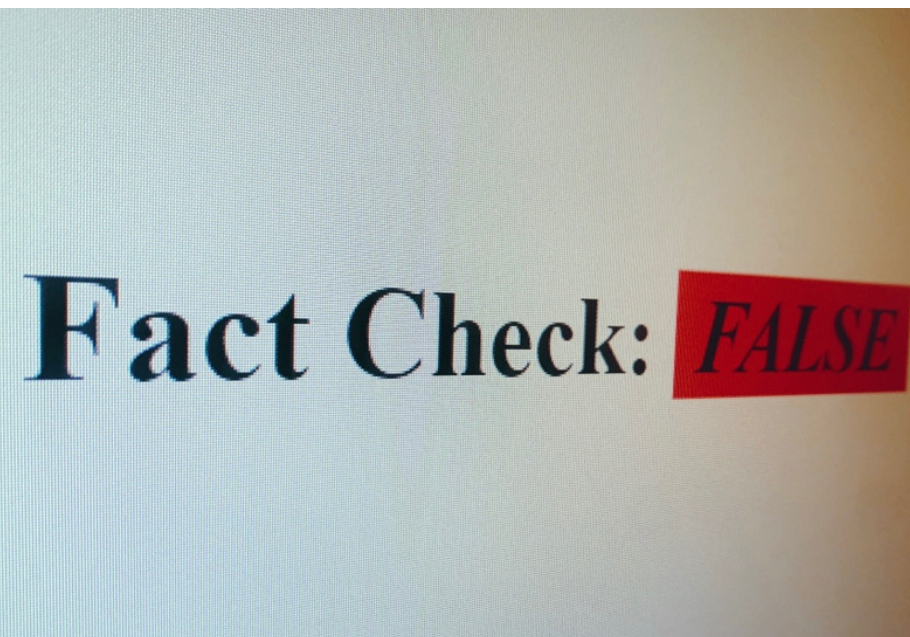
Morris emphasizes the importance of knowing the intention behind a piece. For a piece to be considered fake news, the author must know that what they are writing is false and still continue writing with the intention to convince readers into believing information that is either misconstrued or blatantly made up.

“If you are misusing information to try to mislead people, that would fall under my definition of fake news. I think that one of the really big challenges we face as a media literate society is the idea that people feel authorized to share their opinions as though they are facts. We

are entitled to our opinions, but we are not entitled to our [own] facts. It is really problematic when people misrepresent or lie about factual information to serve their needs... One of the things that is very important is [to think] about who is making the different claims and what their position is,” said Morris.

When evaluating a source, it is crucial that you, as a reader, know who the author is and what their stance is. The personal beliefs of the author can drastically change the way that information is portrayed and framed within the piece. The style of the piece also contributes to how it frames the information. A news article is very different from an opinions piece in both style and context. News should only focus on factual information, and while a well-written opinion should be based in fact, the majority of opinion pieces are written with a reliance on feelings and emotion rather than pure facts. Understanding the style of a piece is just as important as understanding where the author is coming from. If you want facts, then a news source would be a better option than an OP-ED.

The Alvin Sherman Library has many resources and tips for evaluating sources and charts that show where media outlets’ biases lie. Today, we have to do everything we can to make sure the information we consume is correct and knowing how to spot false information is key to that.



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Double check all of your sources to steer clear of fake news

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## Seven nights of Tim Burton films

By: Flor Ana Mireles  
Copy Editor

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Here comes halloween! Everybody scream!



In September, when asked about the lack of diversity in his films, Tim Burton made a statement saying “Things either call for things or they don’t.” While Burton’s lack of diversity in films is a controversial topic, I still wanted to include this piece because I believe his older films should not be canceled because many of them are considered holiday classics, despite their lack of including minority cultures. As a minority, his films still hold a place in my heart. I never looked at them for their lack of diversity, but rather the personalities of the characters and scenes he created with his imagination, regardless of race, ethnicity and culture.

When you think of Halloween, you may think of Tim Burton and his gothic fantasy and horror films. We often hear about, see merchandise from and watch

films like “Beetlejuice,” “The Nightmare Before Christmas” and even “Edward Scissorhands,” but Tim Burton films aren’t just suited for the spooky season. You can easily segue into the winter holiday season with them, too. Here are seven nights of Tim Burton films to help you celebrate the spooky season and get ready for the winter holidays.

### Tuesday, Oct. 27: Sleepy Hollow (1999)

Start your week of Halloween celebrations with a classic. “Sleepy Hollow,” based on the classic tale “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” brings alive the story of Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman. This film mixes horror with fantasy and romance and is the perfect start to your Tim Burton movie marathon.

Stream “Sleepy Hollow” on Netflix.

### Wednesday, Oct. 28: Edward Scissorhands (1990)

Celebrate the middle of your week with another classic: “Edward Scissorhands.” When a scientist builds Edward, a gentle, animated human being, but dies before finishing, Edward takes matters into his own hands and makes himself hands out of scissors. Despite his kindness and topiary talent, Edward is viewed as an outcast by those in the suburban town he was brought to by Peg’s mother, the girl he falls for.

Stream “Edward Scissorhands” on Hulu and Disney+.

### Thursday, Oct. 29: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (2007)

One of Tim Burton’s lesser-known films, “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,” known simply as “Sweeney Todd,” tells the story of a barber who gets sent to Australia for a crime he did not commit. When he returns home 15 years later calling himself Sweeney Todd, he vows revenge, killing unlucky customers until he kills the man who sent him to Australia. This film is musical gore and very appropriate for the spooky season.

Stream “Sweeney Todd” on CBS and Amazon.

### Friday, Oct. 30: Frankenweenie (1984-2012)

To get yourself ready for Halloween, start celebrating the night before with “Frankenweenie.” Whether you watch the short created in 1984 or the full-length film made in 2012, you’re in for a treat. “Frankenweenie” pays homage to Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” and tells the tale of a boy named Victor who, saddened by the loss of his dog Sparky, decides to experiment with bringing him back to life. With Sparky back from the dead, Victor runs into the problems when his classmates steal his secret and try to resurrect other dead animals.

Stream “Frankenweenie” on Disney+

and Amazon.

### Saturday, Oct. 31: Beetlejuice (1988)

Celebrate Halloween with “Beetlejuice,” a film about a rambunctious spirit named Beetlejuice who quickly becomes more harm than help when a deceased couple unsuccessfully tries to haunt their new homeowners and their teenage daughter. It’s got whimsy, humor and a bit of gore to get you celebrating the spooky season -- and it’s a Halloween classic.

Stream “Beetlejuice” on Hulu.

### Sunday, Nov. 1: Corpse Bride (2005)

Even if Halloween is now yesterday’s news, you still may be in the spooky season mood. Continue celebrating with “Corpse Bride,” a film about a man named Victor (who may or not be the same Victor from “Frankenweenie”) who, nervous for his wedding, recites his vows in the forest, putting the ring on a tree branch and getting dragged to the lively land of the dead. Here, Victor meets Emily, the corpse bride who wants to marry him after he accidentally said his vows to her. However, Victor wants to return to the land of the living to marry his true love, Victoria, before she is forced to marry the villainous Barkis.

Stream “Corpse Bride” on Freeform and Amazon.

### Monday, Nov. 2: The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

The best way to end the Tim Burton movie marathon is with one of the best films of all time: “The Nightmare Before Christmas.” In this truly classic holiday film, you can join Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, as he makes Christmas his own with the help of his Halloween loving constituents. This film will satisfy all your spooky needs and get you ready for the winter holiday season with good songs and storytelling.

Stream “The Nightmare Before Christmas” on Disney+ and Amazon.

## SOUNDBITE

### “After School” by Melanie Martinez

By: Ana Maria Soto  
Contributing Writer

If thinking outside of the box was an artist, it would be Melanie Martinez. She can’t write a bad song, and I think you’ll come to agree with me after you take a listen to this seven song EP. I have always been in awe of how she is able to create images within her music. The symbolism used in her songs is top notch and there is something relatable for everyone..

On Sept. 25, the EP “After School” was released. The title is perfect for the EP as it summarizes each of the tracks, titled “Notebook,” “Test Me,” “Brain & Heart,” “Numbers,” “Glued,” “Field Trip” and “The Bakery.”

“Notebook” is a song about an ending relationship that hasn’t been working out for a while, but before she officially breaks up with her boyfriend, she offers him advice for his future relationships. College is a time where everyone is finding themselves and going through relationships and breakups, so this was a perfect song, relatable to college students.

“Test Me” is a song about the tests the universe provides and finding that just living life

can offer you better knowledge about life than classes themselves. She sings that you learn more through life experiences than sticking your nose in between the pages of a book.

“Brain & Heart” is one of the slower paced songs from the EP and talks about trusting both your heart and your brain without invalidating one over the other. We have always been told to follow our hearts, but to take our brains with us. In this song, Martinez speaks about using both your brain and heart with equal measure. The lyrics “When did humans start to separate brain and heart as if they could stay alive alone” summarize the purpose of the song.



“Numbers” is a song that criticizes the music industry. Martinez wants to illuminate that money is the motivator and songs and their quality aren’t that important if sales are doing well. You can hear this in her lyrics, “Am I just a number? ‘Cause it seems like that’s your goal. You push us past our

limits just to watch decimals grow.” It makes her feelings of feeling disposable in the music industry clear.

“Glued” speaks about the importance of finding a balance between being too caught up with the many things that may be going on in your life. The song illustrates that, while it is easy to grow

attached to someone, you should not depend on their existence for happiness as they may not always be around.

“Field Trip” is a song about being seen as who you are versus what people expect you to be. This is interpreted by the lyrics “You’re not real, just like me. We were never our bodies.” “The Bakery” is the final song in the EP, and one that I’m sure everyone could relate to. I remember hating the jobs I had in high school, but sticking around because I wanted to save up money for something I really wanted — this is what the song is about, seen in lyrics like “Not my first pick, but I’ll do it. Make that cash right so I can move quick.” On Instagram, Martinez spoke more in depth about working at a bakery in high school to save up money to invest into her artistic passions.

Make your way over to whatever music streaming service you use and listen to “After School.” The EP’s themes relate to things we are all going through or have gone through at one point in our lives.

# Celebrate Hallow's Eve in Animal Crossing

By: Sofia Gallus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The latest installment in the Animal Crossing game series, Animal Crossing: New Horizons, came out earlier this year. It was not only a delight to long-time fans that had been waiting years for a new title, but also for newcomers to the series. The game's popularity accelerated due to COVID-19 lockdowns, allowing friends to gather on each

other's islands and explore together, yet separately.

The game's popularity may have died down in recent months, but the developers are still releasing seasonal updates with new content, and plan to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. The game was given a spooky season update on Sept. 30 that allowed players to grow pumpkins, gather candy and

learn how to craft new spooky decorations to decorate their islands. When Halloween finally arrives on Oct. 31, players can even trick-or-treat with their villagers.

A little known fact about the staff at The Current is that we are enthusiastic about Animal Crossing. We decided that a great way to show what the new update has to offer was to get together and decorate

our islands for Halloween. We decided we would play through the month of October and report back on our findings.

From everyone at The Current, have a safe and happy Halloween!



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ACNH lets you hang out with your friends while staying safely apart this Halloween



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Grow four different types of pumpkin to use when crafting spooky items



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Craft spooky themed items using DIY recipes you can obtain from villagers



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Stay inside your bubble while spending time with friends



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October doesn't have to be scary - many of the Halloween and fall themed decorations are perfect for creating an Autumnal atmosphere



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Get in costumes to get in the spirit

## SPOOKY CALENDAR



**Fort Lauderdale Scavenger Hunt:**  
By The New River  
Oct. 27 | 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
1500 Brickell Dr | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[Buy tickets online](#)

**NSU Art Museum "Do It (Home)" Virtual Event**  
Oct. 28 | All day  
[RSVP Online](#)

**Annual Culture Virtual Forum**  
Oct. 29 | 4 p.m.  
[Register Online](#)

**Not So Spooky's Car-lloween**  
Oct. 30 | 6:30-8 p.m.  
Gulfstream Park  
901 S. Federal Hwy | Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

**Boo-Thru: A Drive-Thru Trunk Or Treat Event**  
Oct. 31 | 5-8 p.m.  
Sunrise Sportsplex  
9101 NW 50th Street | Sunrise, FL

**Jazz in the Park**  
Nov. 1 | 7-9 p.m.  
Gulfstream Park  
901 S Federal Hwy | Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

**Women's Global Leadership Conference**  
Nov. 3 | 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
[Register Online](#)

**Comedy Crossing: The Animal Crossing Standup Comedy Show**  
Nov. 3 | 8 p.m.  
[Register Online](#)



# THIS WEEK SPORTS IN HISTORY

## October 27: Long jump world record set

In 1931, Japanese track and field athlete Chuhei Nambu, set the long jump record at 26' 2 ½. As of 2013, he is the only person to have held world records in the long jump and triple jump.

## October 28: Cavaliers' first home game

In 1970, the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers had their first home game against the San Diego Clippers. They lost with 110-99.

## October 29: Marion Motley sets point record

On Oct. 29, 1950, Cleveland Browns' player Marion Motley set a record for highest average in a game against the Pittsburgh Steelers with 17.1 (10 attempts). The Cleveland Browns won 45-7.

## October 30: NY Giants pay for Jack Bentley

Anxious to compete with the Yankees, the NY Giants paid \$65,000 and traded three players for Jack Bentley in 1922. As a pitcher in 1922, Bentley had a hit record of .349 and was 13-1.

## October 31: International Women's Sports Federation

The International Women's Sports Federation, which was the first women track and field association, was founded in 1921. The federation was founded by Alice Milliat, a pioneer of women's sport in France and around the world.

## November 1: Boston Bruins join the NHL

In 1924, The Boston Bruins officially joined the NHL, becoming the first U.S.-based team to enter the league. The Montreal Maroons also joined the NHL at the time, but only lasted as a team until 1938.

## November 2: First auto race in the U.S.

In 1895, the first organized auto race in the U.S., The Chicago Times-Herald race occurred in Chicago. Given only a few cars showed up, the race was rescheduled for July 10, 1895.

# On The Bench:

## Serena Williams is overlooked and grossly underappreciated

By: Jaden Wilson  
Contributing Writer

The conversation about who holds the title of greatest athlete of all time is neverending. This debate is a fierce one, with countless suggestions as to who is truly deserving of the title. The names you'll hear most often come from the NBA or the NFL, but maybe we've been looking for the answer in the wrong place. Maybe, it's not a man from one of those sports, but a woman in tennis.

Serena Williams has always been a natural when it comes to playing tennis. Since she started playing -- at only 3 years old -- she was often regarded as a prodigy in the sport. At her young age, she trained intensively, competed often and at just 14 years old

she began playing tennis professionally. At 17, she won her very first Grand Slam, which at the time, made her the first Black woman to receive that title since 1958. This marked the start of a long list of remarkable achievements that she would go on to make.

Over the span of her now 25 year career, Williams has made a very distinct name for herself. Currently, she has 23 Grand Slam Championship wins under her belt, giving her the second highest number of Grand Slam wins in the history of tennis across all genders. She is currently only two wins away from securing her record for most championship wins of all time. This September, she made an attempt at

obtaining her twenty fourth win, ending just shy of the final match after a semi-finals round loss.

Williams has a better record than most, yet she is overshadowed by the lesser records of her male counterparts. If you look up 'who has won the most Grand Slams in tennis,' the top results are all for male Grand Slam achievements -- nevermind the fact that the two people with the highest number of Grand Slam wins, including Serena at number two, are both women.

It's not just that she's overlooked either. For years now, Williams has been on the receiving end of harsh criticisms. Too often, she is made the butt of insensitive, and sometimes, racial jokes,

and she hasn't been granted the same grace that her male competitors get in moments of frustration during matches.

Despite all of this, Williams remains a focused, goal-driven, strong player. When you take into account her achievements on the court in spite of the adversity she has faced, you understand that it's time that we all start recognizing Williams for the competitor that she is. While I don't expect the debate over who has the title for greatest of all time to end any time soon, I definitely think Williams's name should come up in that conversation.

# Finding fitness: Running from your fears

By: Sofia Gallus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Want to tune your exercise routine for the Halloween season? Look no further. While going for a peaceful light jog in the cool autumn air sounds nice, as the spookiest day of the year creeps closer, it may be fun to get the blood pumping. Instead of listening to your normal cardio playlist, try searching for zombie sound effects instead. There is nothing like the sound of the undead slowly creeping after you to encourage you to start running. There are many playlists already compiled from studios or individual users on Spotify. All you have to do is choose your favorite one and run for your life.

Want to go for a run with a friend, but are worried that one of you won't be able to keep up? Maybe you or your friend wants to take it a little bit easier that day. You can choose between the two of you; one can be the zombie and the other can be the lone survivor of the zombie apocalypse. Not only will this provide a fun way to workout with friends, but an appropriate spooky workout for those who may have different levels of comfort when it comes to speed.

### Make it out together

Want to run side by side with your workout buddy? Don't worry, you can do that too. You can both pop in one of your earbuds and run from a

**“There is nothing like the sound of the undead slowly creeping after you to encourage you to start running. There are many playlists already compiled from studios or individual users on Spotify. All you have to do is choose your favorite one and run for your life.”**

### Last one alive

Picture this: There's a zombie apocalypse, and you're chosen to go on a mission to search for survivors. You leave your safe zone, turn on the zombie sounds and begin running. I guarantee you, the sounds of the undead looming after you will get your heart pounding and urge you to push yourself to the limit. You search for survivors, but alas, you're the last one alive outside of the safe zone. While the sounds of zombies slowly come to a lull behind you, return to your safe zone and get yourself a drink of water.

### Friend turned into a zombie

large group of zombies together. Maybe you're escaping a doomed city or running to the last safe place you know of. Whatever it may be, be sure to keep the pace, be safe and stay with your buddy.

### Spooky alternatives

Are zombies not your cup of tea? Don't worry, you can still change your workout to feel just as scary. Try looking for soundtracks to old thriller or slasher films or classic Halloween movies. Some great examples would be the soundtrack to "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning" or the soundtrack to "The Shining." Whatever you choose to listen to, just make sure it encourages you to run.



PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY E. COWAN

Running through the haunted woods

# Workout challenge: Horror movie edition

By: Christina McLaughlin  
Co-Editor-in-Chief



PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY F. SHABAN

Take a pick of the Halloween series

If you are like me, watching a horror movie can make you sweat. So on this fine holiday, why don't you squeeze in an extra workout to make the sweat on your brow worth it. In a similar vein to the 30 Day workout challenges you may see on Instagram or Pinterest or party games associated with movies and television shows to make them more interactive, here is The Current's recommended viewing experience for your next horror movie binge.

### Horror Movie Workout Challenge:

Spooky music plays -- 5 push ups

You are on the edge of your seat -- 30 seconds of high knees

"False Alarm" jump scare -- 10 squats

A character has a bad idea -- 30 second wall sit

Creepy Mirror Reflection -- 20 sit-ups

Creepy Child -- 30 mountain climbers  
Death Scene -- Plank for duration

Someone screams -- 15 Jumping Jacks

Bloody or Gross scene -- 10 lunges on each scene

Killer or Monster reveal -- Run in place until next scene

The "Final Showdown" -- 10 burpees

The credits roll -- 5 deep breaths while stretching

### Workout-approved Movies:

- Any movie from Saw franchise
- Halloween
- Get Out
- A Quiet Place
- A Nightmare on Elm Street
- 28 Days Later

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# water YOUR thoughts

## Is 2020 really all bad?

By: Aliyah Gomez  
Contributing Writer

Although 2020 has brought us a series of traumatic events, should we be so quick to call it the worst year yet?

Have you gotten a breaking news notification today about something else that's going on in the world? Yes, I bet you have -- and that's my exact point.

As the new year started, there have been notifications informing us of the disasters as they're happening. This year began with the death of Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant and continues now amidst an ongoing pandemic.

As the series of bad news unfolds, we're glued to our phones reading about each of the stories- giving us the feeling that there's a new one to catch up with right after we are finished. The news leaves us refreshing the page to stay up to date with the latest disasters our world is going through, creating a slight obsession.

We are witnessing how this pandemic continues to kill thousands of people around the world and realize this may not be stopping anytime soon. Protests against police brutality

have occurred around the world to fight for peace and equality. Yet, we still don't see anything positive in our breaking news alerts.

Other than the negativity covered in breaking news headlines, many great things are happening every day. We have seen in the media how mental health has become more talked about since the stay at home orders have been in place. Several people are finding ways every day on how to cope and better their mental health while staying at home. Anti-racist books are now in their prime, and recently, they've been at the top of the bestseller lists. Animal shelters are emptying quickly. It has been now more than ever that animals are getting adopted at a high rate from animal shelters. It seems as if this pandemic has gotten individuals to run to their local animal shelters to pick up a new friend.

Many frightening things are happening this year, but there are also many positive sides to these negatives. Instead of focusing on the bad, I encourage you to look for and see the good that is happening.

## I don't care if you're a Republican, I just care if you're a Trump supporter

By: Sofia Gallus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

It's election season, which means that many people are evaluating their personal morals to cast their vote on politicians to represent them. President Donald Trump is seeking reelection as the Republican party nominee, but some of the more traditional Republicans are beginning to distance themselves from him. Traditional Republican voters share their worries over Donald Trump on the YouTube channel called "Republican Voters Against Trump."

Now more than ever, it seems that the divide between political parties has grown vast and uncrossable. Our nation's current leader is divisive, isolating and defensive, yet he represents one of the two major parties in the U.S. While the values of the Republican party have certainly evolved over time, the core values center around low taxes, free market economy, gun rights, immigration restrictions, increased military spending and often view social issues from a religious standpoint. Donald Trump preaches these values, but preaches a lot of other things too and has overall changed the way that the Republican party is viewed.

The thing is, hatred isn't a partisan issue, or at least, it doesn't have to be. For every right wing value there is, Trump seems to take it a

step further. Trump is not just a Republican. He's not just leaning to the right. He has swung himself far into the alt-right. He's supported by numerous nationalist extremist groups and crazy conspiracy theorists. The fact of the matter is that Trump's views are so full of hate that he is isolating himself from his own party. Just because you've been a registered Republican does not and should not mean that you have to vote for Trump. Any voter, but especially Republicans, should look at their own values and evaluate which nominee will truly support them this election.

Four years ago, we knew a lot about Donald Trump, but four years later, we've learned so much more. We've heard hatred spewed from his mouth, and at this point, it is impossible to ignore. While 'Republican' and 'Trump supporter' used to go hand in hand, there is a whole world of difference now. Many people argue that you shouldn't judge your friends or the people you surround yourself with on their political views, but I find it hard to not do so if someone says they are voting for Trump. Supporting Trump is no longer supporting the Republican party; it's supporting hate.

Supporting Trump means that you support all of the racist, homophobic, sexist and classist things he has ever said and done. Supporting



PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY F. SHABAN

Local Trump supporter sign

Trump means ignoring scientists, denying climate change and women's rights to their own bodies. Supporting Trump means that you're choosing to ignore the hundreds of thousands of people that lost their lives due to COVID-19 because our President was too proud and ignorant to take safety

measures seriously.

I have always emphasized the importance of voting with compassion and Donald Trump is the least compassionate person I can imagine. I don't believe that he represents the Republican party; I believe that Trump represents hatred.

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## There is no such thing as being too old for Halloween

By: **Gabriel J. Stone**  
Contributing Writer

A crisp breeze of an autumn afternoon mixed with the intoxicating aroma of pumpkin spice everything complimented by a pleasing aesthetic of warm shades varying of yellow, orange, red, purple and brown create what we all know and love when we come to think of the fall.

We all have our favorite memories of the season, whether it be running through a pumpkin patch with our families or significant others or getting creative with our costumes. Of all the great memories made during this time of the year, Halloween is specifically a time of great imagination and festivity.

Dressing up and getting to go door to door gathering as much candy and treats as your small child arms could carry make for some of the best childhood memories. Going to Spirit Halloween stores that popped out of nowhere to buy your costume and bag for candy still

holds a place in your heart. You would think everyone would be happy to see the youth celebrating the holiday, but there's a select group of "Halloween scrooges" that might say you're too old to celebrate.

Too old for Halloween, nonsense. The age-old tradition of Halloween is something that people look forward to all year and is my favorite holiday.

I remember one Halloween when I was 13 years old, I was looking after my little sister and brother, who were 11 and 9 years old, and we walked up to this older woman's house. After placing huge handfuls of candy in my siblings' baskets, she looked at me through the holes in my costume's eyes and told me that I was too old to be trick-or-treating. Why would someone do something so heinous and honestly evil?

Whether or not you believe that there should be an age limit on enjoying your life and going out to experience Halloween, it's just plain rude to say that to a little kid.



You're never too old to dress up

PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY F. SHABAN

She didn't even give me any candy, but my siblings shared, so goes to show her.

Eventually, we all decide to hang up the old candy bag in exchange for a different kind of memorable Halloween night and let the

next generation of children get to enjoy the experiences we will cherish for a lifetime, but why rush? We should all encourage each other's enjoyment in life and hold on to that youthful exuberance.

## A cat is a man's best friend

By: **Nicole Shaker**  
Contributing Writer



Enjoying the presence of a black cat

PHOTO PRINTED PERMISSION BY F. SHABAN

I know what you're thinking: "Don't you mean a dog is a man's best friend?" No, I don't. It's not that I have anything against dogs, but I think cats deserve a bit more recognition for the infinite amounts of joy and companionship they give to their owners, too.

Oct. 29 is National Cat Day, and it's time we acknowledge cats as more

than pets for people who don't have the time for a dog. As an extremely happy cat owner for over four years, I'll be using my own experience to argue against a couple of common preconceptions of cats, which contribute to their lack of respect in the pet-owner realm.

People say that cats don't have enough emotional capacity to truly form a loving bond

with their owners. It's true that a dog is more likely to jump on you the second you come home and constantly crave your attention in the form of hugs, petting and playing games, but cats are way more emotionally intelligent and sensitive than most give them credit for.

I'll use myself to push this point. I'm a human, and no one would argue that I don't have feelings or that I'm not capable of developing loving relationships. However, how often I show my emotions is a completely different story. I'm independent, I keep to myself most of the time and I only really consider myself close to a few people. Sound familiar?

Cats are the same. They may seem wholly indifferent to human affairs, but seeming is very different from being. When they're around you enough, they know what you're feeling. When I'm sad, I often sit on my bed in complete stillness. This is very different from my usual hustling and bustling manner everyone around me is used to. My cat, Ella, senses this change and knows how to make me feel just a little bit better within an instant. She cuddles up next to me and caresses her head against my shoulder. She licks my hand and curls up in my lap. She shows me more affection when I'm less motivated to show it to her, disproving the notion that cats are only self-concerned. If you show your cat love, they will recognize that, and you can be fully assured that they're not just sticking around for the food.

Another preconceived notion is that cats just "don't do much." I'll be honest; they don't without a bit of prodding. However, it's just in their nature to keep to themselves and do the

minimum in most circumstances. Don't be fooled, though. Every cat I've ever met has jumped eagerly whenever I wave a string in front of their face. Ella is quite old, but she's still always down to play and chase anything I taunt her with.

In my experience, cats also love going outside to run amongst the tiny animals and scratch the bark of trees. They love being out in nature and even just watching them play around outside from a distance is a complete joy.

Most cats wouldn't run up to you and beg you to do something with them, but when you see how their eyes light up when you want to play, your heart will just burst. Like any respectable pet, they want to be pet. Cats usually only let a couple of people comfortably pet them — they form few tight bonds and value self-preservation — but it's the absolute greatest feeling when you know you're one of those people.

Lastly, there are ultra-friendly cats who act like they're best friends with everyone they meet — I'm telling you, they exist.

It's unfair that cats get a bad reputation and are often overshadowed by dogs just because they're instinctively independent and like to sleep a lot. If you're looking for a pet, give a cat a chance. There are millions with different personalities, and I can guarantee that you'll find one who loves you more than you ever expected, even if she only tells you in the smallest ways.

## A day in the life of a Black woman

By: **Tay Murphy**  
Contributing Writer

If this year has taught us anything, it is to expect the unexpected. When we rang in the New Year, most of us were worrying more about resolutions and future vacations than face masks and social distancing. Yet, here we are, facing a global pandemic that has threatened our way of life. However, for Black people, this isn't the first epidemic we have faced.

Growing up, I was taught more that I descended from sharecroppers and slaves than the royal blood that flowed within my veins. My mother made sure to educate me from

a young age about my future hardships and struggles.

"You'll have to work twice as hard and be twice as smart as everyone else. They're going to treat you differently regardless of what you do. It's up to you to prove them wrong," she said.

Now at 20, I understand what she was referring to. Being a Black woman means that I will be expected to keep a brave face, no matter what. I'm expected to be my strongest when I am really at my lowest point. I'm supposed to preserve no matter what comes my way because I have to. Looking back, I never understood

what we had to prove to them, until this year.

Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Abuery. George Floyd. According to CBS News, there have been 164 confirmed Black lives taken by police in just this year. Yet, no one understands the silent "too" underneath our chants of "Black Lives Matter." In a time where we need more than ever to pull together, we are all silently watching it crumble in the fist of civil injustice and economic downfall.

It was not until I was 12 that I had my first real experience with racism. Before we moved to Florida, my family lived about an hour

outside of Atlanta. My mother was a single mom working full time for UPS. While I did not get to see her much, she made sure that my brother and I had everything we needed. My grandmother lived with us and took care of us while she was at work. Before high school, most of the schools I attended were predominantly White. To read the full version of a day in the life of a Black woman, visit [www.nsucurrent.nova.edu](http://www.nsucurrent.nova.edu).



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