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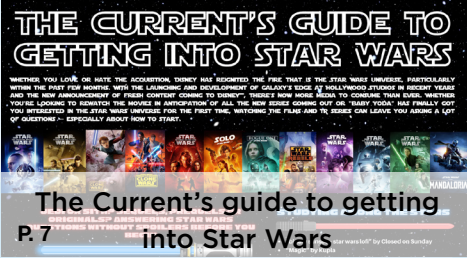
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Nominations for the 2021 Student Life Achievement Awards open until Feb. 15th



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A look at last year's STUEY ceremony as the host entertain the audience with a dance.

The Student Life Achievement Awards, more commonly known as the STUEY's, are a hallmark of the NSU experience. Each year the awards recognize students, staff, student organizations, athletic teams, corporate partners and NSU alumni for their achievements and contributions to the NSU community.

As Christina Rajkumar-Castillo, the associate director of Campus Life & Student Engagement, described, the STUEY's are NSU's version of the Oscars and are a way to acknowledge all of the people that make NSU a great place to be.

"It's a great way to recognize a lot of the hard work and the great accomplishments that many of our staff, our students, our student clubs and organizations and even people that we work within our community have made to the university. This is a great way to recognize

some of those efforts. I think it serves as a great motivation for many others to continue to do the great work that they do and strive to do even better, especially when it comes to fulfilling the mission and goals of NSU," said Rajkumar-Castillo.

Each year, nominees for the awards are selected based on how well they fulfill the core values of NSU: academic excellence, student centered, integrity, innovation, opportunity, scholarship/research, diversity and community. All current students, staff or faculty members can submit nominations for the award. Rajkumar-Castillo encourages individuals to nominate people who embody NSU's core values.

"If anyone wants to submit a nomination, now's the time to do it for someone they really believe deserves to be nominated and recognized for the work that they do," she said.

After nominations close, a nomination committee made up of members representing each award area will review the nominations and move forward a candidate who represents their area. The top five candidates in each category will be announced as the finalists and the winner of the award will be announced during the award ceremony.

Due to COVID-19, like last year's event, the awards ceremony will take place virtually on April 13. Rajkumar-Castillo explained that, like last year, there are plans in the works to promote the event in the preceding weeks as well as on Instagram live, where, before the event, some of the finalists will be interviewed about their nomination.

Aquisha Powell, the president of Freedom Sharks and winner of last year's NSU undergraduate student organization of the year,

explained that winning the award was a great accomplishment for her organization.

"Winning the [STUEY award] was an amazing opportunity for Freedom Sharks. As a small organization, we dive into each opportunity to put ourselves 'out there' on campus. Being awarded Undergraduate Student [Organization] of the Year boosted our camaraderie amongst members," said Powell.

If anyone you know embodies what it means to be an NSU shark, consider nominating them for the Student Life Achievement Awards. Nominations for the awards close on Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. and can be made on the Campus Life and Student Engagement website under the events tab. For more information about the event, [visit the Campus Life and Student Engagement page](#) on NSU's website.



Global news,
courtesy of
the current

Russia suppresses protests of Navalny's incarceration

Protests have been planned all over Russia in response to opposition leader and anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny's incarceration. Navalny was arrested last Sunday upon returning to Russia from Germany after recovering from poisoning that he claims was perpetrated by the Kremlin. Russian universities and colleges are urging students not to attend rallies and are threatening expulsion if they do. According to Dmitry Peskov, a Kremlin spokesperson, "It is only natural that there are warnings ... about the possible consequences related to noncompliance with the law." According to the Associated Press, the Russian government plans on taking "elaborate measures" against the protests. Social media platforms in Russia may be fined if it is found that they encouraged minors to protest.

Presidential challenger claims coup in Uganda

While under house arrest, Ugandan presidential candidate Bobi Wine claims that the incumbent president, Yoweri Museveni, has staged a coup and made "a mockery of democracy." Wine claimed that Uganda is controlled by "a small group of gunmen" under Museveni's presidency. In the recent election, Museveni won with 58% of the vote while Wine claims that the military illegally casted and changed ballots and prevented voters from entering polling stations. Museveni, who has been in power since 1986, claims that Wine is a foreign agent.

Sri Lanka reopens for tourism

After a 10-month closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on Jan. 21 Sri Lanka has reopened tourist attractions to foreign travelers as the two international airports in Sri Lanka began taking commercial flights again. Travelers will be required to stay within what Sri Lanka calls a "travel bubble" for the duration of their trip. According to CNN, this means travelers will have to stay within their resort or semi-quarantine for two weeks, depending on the duration of their trip. All tourists must be tested for COVID-19 72 hours before their flight to Sri Lanka. As of last Thursday, Sri Lanka had over 55,000 COVID-19 cases and 274 fatalities.

Google threatens Australia over proposed tech regulations

On Friday, Google announced that they may restrict access to their servers in Australia if a proposed legislation that would make tech companies pay for news content becomes a law, according to the Associated Press. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, unphased by the company's threats, continues to push against the influence of U.S. tech companies interfering with smaller businesses in Australia. In response to the threat, Morrison said, "Australia makes our rules for things you can do in Australia. That's done in our Parliament. It's done by our government. And that's how things work here in Australia." The proposed legislation would require tech companies to pay for news content from smaller media companies.

TheCurrent

3301 College Avenue
Don Taft University Center, PVA Room 328
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314-7796
nsucurrent.nova.edu

NEWSROOM

Phone: 954-262-8455
nsunews@nova.edu

BUSINESS & ADVERTISING

Phone: 954-262-8461
thecurrentad@nova.edu

Madelyn Rinka

Christina McLaughlin

Flor Ana Mireles

Rick Esner

Emma Heineman

Siena Berardi

Sofia Gallus

Alexander Martinie

Farhan Shaban

Erin Cowan

Rey Perez

Daniella Rudolph

Nyla Wyte

Chole Rousseau

Briana Ramnauth

Ana Maria Soto

Blake Malick

Gabriel J. Stone

Isabella Gomez

Aliyah Gomez

Veronica Richard

Gaby Holmes

Megan Fitzgerald

Jarrold Bailey

Faculty Advisor

Staff Advisor

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Copy Editor

News Editor

Features Editor

Sports Editor

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Opinions Editor

Chief of Visual Design

Visual Design Assistant

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

Contributing Writer

mf821@nova.edu

jbailey1@nova.edu

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

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News Anchor

Stay up to date with national events.

Biden inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States

On Jan. 20, Joe Biden was formally inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States. The inauguration occurred without any issues, despite security concerns. The event had many star performances, including, but not limited to, Lady Gaga, Garth Brooks, Amanda Gorman and Jennifer Lopez.

Trump's second impeachment trial is underway

Donald Trump's second impeachment charge was delivered from the House of Representatives to the Senate on Jan. 18. The House of Representatives charged Trump with inciting violence and a deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol building in early January. If Trump is convicted by the Senate, he would not only lose his pension from his former position as president, but also be barred from running for office again.

United States rejoins the Paris climate accord

On Jan. 21, the U.S. rejoined the Paris climate accord. Former president Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement in 2017, facing national backlash and calls for environmental justice. President Biden is vowing to act definitively and quickly against climate change and his executive order to rejoin the agreement is the first action he took in keeping that pledge.

Amanda Gorman becomes the youngest poet to perform at a presidential inauguration

Amanda Gorman, a 22-year-old American poet and activist, performed an original poem at the presidential inauguration of Joe Biden and vice president Kamala Harris. The poem she wrote and read, titled "The Hill We Climb," called for unity and understanding. Both Gorman and her poem have inspired many young activists and authors across the country.

News Briefs

Get the scoop on events happening on campus and around campus

Inter-Organizational Council to hold winter involvement fair

On Jan. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Shark Fountain, Flight Deck Backyard and the library quad, the Inter-Organizational Council will host the annual winter involvement fair. Students will have the opportunity to meet and talk with the wide variety of NSU's clubs and organizations. The event will also feature food, music and giveaways. For more information, contact ioc@nova.edu.

Feedback for NSU Spaces App

The NSU Spaces team is asking for students to provide feedback by Jan. 29 on the new NSU Spaces app that gives students the ability to find bookable and walk-in spaces on campus to meet, study and collaborate. This will allow them to make system updates to better serve the NSU student body. The survey can be

found on NSU's website and will only take two minutes. For more information about the NSU Spaces app, visit www.nova.edu/nsu-spaces.

eSharks

In place of Sharks on the Scene, which has been suspended this semester due to COVID-19, the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement will host eSharks, free virtual events open to all NSU students. Students can find the full schedule for January events on their website. Upcoming events include a virtual sushi-making workshop, which will be held on Jan. 30 at 12 p.m. and a virtual terrarium workshop, which will be held on Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. Due to limited space, students are required to RSVP by contacting specialprojects@nova.edu.

Peer Leader Program application open until Mar. 5

The Office of Experiential Education is accepting applications for students to

serve as Fall 2021 UNIV 1000 peer leaders. Peer leaders provide incoming freshmen at NSU with a unique and enhanced classroom experience, ensuring the students are prepared for success from their first semester through graduation. Students who are interested can apply on JobX under the title Fall 2021 FYE Peer Leader with the job ID 7001. Applications close on March 5. For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/NSUPeerLeaderProgram>.

Senior Showcase Art Exhibition opening reception

On Feb. 17, the department of communication, media and the arts will host an opening reception for the Senior Showcase Art Exhibition at 5 p.m. The exhibit will continue through April 16. For more information, call (954) 262-7620 or contact gelbmann@nova.edu.

COVID-19 Update: News for 2021

By: Madelyn Rinka
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Between the Zoom calls, 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 Jan. 18, there were two active cases of COVID-19 among undergraduate residential students and five cases for undergraduate, off-campus students. Four undergraduate students were in quarantine, three of which were residents and the other is off-campus. Additionally, in an email sent to NSU students, faculty and staff on Jan. 18, the university has implemented a new dashboard feature on the dedicated [COVID-19 website](https://www.nova.edu/covid19). This dashboard gives users information regarding weekly reported cases by populations, such as undergraduate students, graduate & professional students, University School students and faculty & staff. For the week ending on Jan. 17, there were 32 reported cases among all populations, out of a total NSU population of 26,395 individuals.

Before the semester began, NSU implemented a policy wherein it was recommended that residential students get tested for free on campus. This was meant to provide a "snapshot in time" for current, new and returning residential students as they move back into the NSU residential community," according to a memo sent on behalf of Dr. Brad Williams, vice president for student affairs, last year. Of the 1,250 residential students that were tested, 22 reported positive COVID-19 results.

Beth Welmaker, the executive director of environmental health and safety for NSU, noted the successes NSU had last semester in regard to limiting the spread on campus and encouraged the continuation of safe practices into the new year.

"We did a really phenomenal job last semester. I think our students took it seriously and it's easy to grow tired and weary of... wearing the face covering and maintaining the physical separation — it's hard. We know it's working and we can see the hope that the

vaccine is bringing that we're going to tackle and hopefully terminate this virus, but the need to remain vigilant has never been greater than now," said Welmaker.

As far as offering vaccinations for the NSU community, there is currently not a definitive timeline. However, the university has been working on plans should the vaccines become available.

"There has been an exceptional, high-level focus on making vaccines accessible to faculty, students and staff at NSU. It's been something that we've been working on even before the winter break, and Dr. Hanbury has been putting a lot of time and effort into those conversations with various partners and the governor's office," said Welmaker.

While Welmaker explained that NSU would like to be "part of the solution" in regards to fighting COVID-19 with vaccinations, it's crucial to follow the health and safety procedures in place even after receiving a vaccine.

"There's still a lot we need to better understand about how the vaccine will work

and what it means to daily life after you've been vaccinated," 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 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. Students, staff and faculty can visit NSU's dedicated website, www.nova.edu/coronavirus, for up to date information regarding COVID-19 at the university.

VRC hosts speaker series geared towards student needs

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Continuing with last year's speaker series, NSU's Military Affairs and the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) will host a virtual speaker series on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. over Zoom. In collaboration with a variety of NSU affiliated departments, such as the Center for Academic and Professional Success (CAPS) and NSU's Health Professions Division (HPD), this speaker series hopes to guide all NSU students, with a focus on military-affiliated students, with information and resources on a variety of professional, academic and personal goals.

There are roughly 700 students on NSU's campus that are considered military-affiliated, meaning they are active-duty or currently serving, they are a veteran who served or they are a dependent of someone who has served or is currently serving.

"The thinking behind this speaker series is to educate and inform our military-affiliated and veteran students on what

resources are available to them at NSU and throughout the local community. When you are in the military or a dependent of the military, you have a hub of resources available to you, but once you are out of the military, it's hard to find a centralized location for information. That is why we are bringing it to them via our speaker series," said Kelly Callahan, VRC coordinator.

According to Callahan, the VRC tries to gauge the students' wants and needs, basing the speaker series around those topics. As Callahan explained, a population of military-affiliated students are majoring or looking towards pursuing higher education in the health professions, which is why the VRC focused on an HPD collaboration to help students through that process.

Some highlights of this series include a campus-wide department networking workshop on Jan. 28, a resume writing presentation hosted by NSU CAPS on Feb.

11 and a VA education benefits presentation by Maribeth Munroe, assistant director of NSU's financial aid shared services and the Veterans Benefits Program, on March 11.

As Munroe explained, this series provides an opportunity for students who use their veteran education benefits to meet NSU's School Certifying Officials (SCO) and gain an understanding of the process for reporting enrollment to the department of veteran affairs. The series also provides students the ability to ask questions about the different types of educational benefits that are available to them and learn how to communicate with these employees in the future.

Continuing a staple from last year's speaker series, Albert Williams, chair and associate professor in the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship, will host a Personal Finance 101 presentation focused on meeting the needs of military-

affiliated students in terms of financial understanding.

"We thought the best thing we could do for the veterans on campus was to give them some financial literacy. Based on the financial literacy course FIN 2000, we are giving them a one to two-hour presentation where we go through different topics that they would like more information on or knowledge about in terms of their financial decisions. It's a blend of both teaching them how to manage [their] money now, save for retirement and how to set realistic and specific goals like buying a house within a budget and time frame. These are people who have had jobs and careers in the military and by sharing their life experiences, challenges and successes, we can learn from each other. It's a very key component that makes this series so unique," said Williams.

Students interested in any of these lectures featured in this speaker series are encouraged to [visit this Zoom link](#) to attend.

Impeachment? Again?

By: **Emma Heineman**
Features Editor

Not technically. Donald Trump was already impeached for an unprecedented second time by a vote in the House of Representatives in the final days of his term as president, but there is still the chance for him to be convicted by a trial in the Senate.

Last week, Donald Trump left his seat at the White House as Joe Biden was officially inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States, leaving many to question why an impeachment trial would be necessary, now that he is no longer in office and more importantly whether or not a trial could even take place at all. Continue reading to learn more about the impeachment process and what it could mean for the first few weeks of the new administration.

Impeaching a president after he leaves

office? Can we do that? The answer is unclear. Although there is no doubt that a sitting president can be impeached by the House of Representatives and convicted by a trial in the Senate during his tenure as the president of the United States, there is debate over whether the process can continue after he or she leaves office. While the lack of consensus will inevitably be the center of disputes in the near future, Charles Zelden, a professor of history and political science in the department of humanities and politics, explained that there is some precedent that suggests a trial is possible, even after the individual leaves office.

“There is an open debate whether you can impeach someone who can’t be removed because they’re no longer in office. The wording says ‘removed,’ but there have been cases where

people have resigned and yet the impeachment process continued. So, we’ll see, but likely, we will have a trial,” said Zelden.

Even if the Senate decides to go through with an impeachment trial, the question remains: why bother? Well, according to Zelden, an impeachment conviction has many consequences beyond being removed from office. Trump may have already left office, but there’s much more at stake if he’s convicted.

“Donald Trump could never run for office again, and it would probably result in him being stripped of his pension, his security detail and the million-dollar-a-year travel allowance that ex-presidents have, among a few other matters,” said Zelden.

Barring Donald Trump for running for reelection in 2024 would invariably result

in significant ramifications for the 2024 election cycle.

As Zelden explained, “Many Republican Senators who want to run for president in 2024 would benefit if Donald Trump is barred from running. That opens up the field.”

However, on the flip side, many Republican Senators may risk losing support if they vote in favor of impeaching Trump who still has a significant following among Republican voters.

Whatever happens in the next few weeks, it is clear that another chapter will likely be added to the historical and unprecedented presidential term of Donald Trump.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day and new addition to Holocaust Reflection and Resource Center

By: **Alexander Martinie**
Opinions Editor

Jan. 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a day of reflection and remembrance for those that were persecuted and killed during the Holocaust. For students that wish to reflect on this or learn more about the Holocaust and what people went through during that time period, the Craig and Barbara Weiner Holocaust Reflection and Resource Center, located in the Alvin Sherman Library, features many exhibits and resources that students can learn from.

According to Craig Weiner, president of the Holocaust Learning and Education Fund, “The Holocaust Center is open to all NSU students, as well as the students of the University School, the general community and essentially all schools, whether they be public schools or private schools. The students upon entering the Holocaust Center on campus will be able to use QR codes to get a full explanation of images that reflect the history of the Holocaust, both pre-1939 as well as the time of liberation.”

Over 250 artifacts are a part of the permanent collection, including items from concentration camps and World War II.

“We have an original sign in German that in English translates to, ‘Jews will not be served here.’ We also have a Jewish violin that survived the Holocaust. Students spend a lot of time looking at that. We have family documents, we have [original telegrams] from the Commandant of Auschwitz, that

in English translates to, in one sentence, ‘Your husband died.’ Students see that and I try to ask them, how do you think your mother would have felt to receive this?” said Weiner.

Aside from what is currently available at Holocaust Reflection and Resource Center, students that wish to learn more about this time period should listen to the testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

“Look at survivor testimonies, testimonies of Holocaust survivors. There are thousands and thousands of them on the internet, and if a student looks at them and just listens to that person and starts to think ‘that could have been my mother,’ ‘that could have been my father.’ Because remember -- the Holocaust didn’t happen that long ago. There are many students that think of the Holocaust as happening in ancient history, when in fact, the Holocaust happened 75, 76 years ago. This is a relatively recent history. The victims could have been your grandparents. So, it’s important for students to look at survivor testimonies and listen to what the survivors have to say. Then, they’ll realize how important it is that we all take a stand against hate.”

In March, the Holocaust Reflection and Resource Center will include a new system, the Dimensions and Testimony Educational System, that offers an interactive exhibit with recordings of Holocaust survivors talking about their experiences.

This addition, which comes from the University of Southern California Shoah



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Artifacts and images from NSU’s Craig and Barbara Weiner Holocaust Reflection and Resource Center

Foundation, “allows students to have discussions with Holocaust survivors through this technology in perpetuity,” according to Weiner.

The system includes the responses of between 1,000 and 1,500 questions for multiple

Holocaust survivors. The Holocaust Reflection and Resource Center is the only place in Florida to have a permanent installation of this type of system.

Remembering Eddie Van Halen and his revolutionary guitar-playing

By: **Flor Ana Mireles**
Copy Editor

On Jan. 26, 1955, legendary guitarist, musician and songwriter Edward Lodewijk van Halen, known simply as Eddie Van Halen, was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He was best known for his band, Van Halen, which he co-founded with his brother, drummer Alex Van Halen, bassist Mark Stone and singer David Lee Roth in 1972. After five decades of creating songs and guitar riffs that were one of a kind, Eddie Van Halen died from his long battle with cancer at the age of 65 on Oct. 6, 2020.

According to Rolling Stone magazine, Eddie Van Halen was a “legendary guitar innovator and virtuoso... establishing himself as one of the all-time great players in rock history.” In an interview with the magazine, Van Halen told them he didn’t

know anything about scales or music theory -- he simply played what he felt, something that has inspired a lot of individuals to learn to play guitar.

“He was a major impact on my playing. His style and writing were so alien, it literally was out of this world. He was a true legend from the start,” said Eric Neil, a guitarist who has played with South Florida rock bands Silver Spine and Leather and Lace.

Van Halen was known for his tapping guitar solo technique -- where a string is fretted and set into vibration as part of a single motion -- which allowed him to play rapid arpeggios with both hands on the fretboard.

Van Halen’s guitar-playing inspiration sprouted from guitarists Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin and Eric Clapton.

In an interview with Guitar World, Van Halen said, “I’ve always said Eric Clapton was my main influence, but Jimmy Page was actually more the way I am, in a reckless-abandon kind of way... I think I got the idea of tapping watching Page do his “Heartbreaker” solo back in 1971. He was doing a pull-off to an open string and I thought, ‘Wait a minute, open string ... pull off. I can do that, but what if I use my finger as the nut and move it around?’ I just kind of took it and ran with it.”

With their father being a jazz pianist, clarinetist and saxophonist, Van Halen and his brother took up music at a young age, beginning to play the piano at the age of 6. While his parents wanted the brothers to be classic pianists, they were more interested in rock music, which led to them starting their

first band in elementary school called The Broken Combs.

According to an interview Van Halen did on their YouTube channel in 2012, Eddie Van Halen said that performing with The Broken Combs was what sparked his desire to become a professional musician.

At the 2020 Billboard Music Awards, held eight days after his death, Eddie Van Halen was honored as musicians he had worked with gave speeches to pay tribute to his musical career.

Eddie Van Halen will forever be known as one of the musicians who revolutionized guitar-playing. While he is no longer with us, he lives on through his music, which is still being listened to today.

Do this, not that — planning for your next road trip

By: Madelyn Rinka
Co-Editor-in-Chief



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Take this time to plan for your next road trip when the option to travel for fun is safer and smarter.

The last Tuesday in January marks National Plan For A Vacation Day, and while taking a cross-country trip just for fun might not be an option during a pandemic, there's nothing wrong with planning a road trip now and implementing it later. Whether you're an experienced traveler or you've never taken a trip beyond the county lines, here are some simple dos and don'ts to help get the ball — or wheels — rolling on your next road trip.

Do: Know your car

If you're planning a road trip, there's one element that's inarguably crucial: having a mode of transportation. Whether you have a car, van or camper, getting your vehicle looked at by a mechanic before heading out might help you avoid a middle-of-nowhere call to AAA.

Do: Budget ahead of time

Road trips might be a cost-effective and fun way to reach a destination, but it's easy to end up spending more than anticipated. Write down all of your expected costs for hotels, campsites, site-seeing and gas before you leave to ensure you have the funds ready. Additionally, if you're planning on using a debit or credit card, consider checking in with your bank before you depart to avoid your card getting flagged.

Do: Pack snacks

To continue with the theme of budgeting, food can be expensive if you're trying to buy it all while on the trip. Packing snacks or quick and easy meals like sandwiches, wraps or protein bars can help you avoid spending money on fast food.

Do not: Entirely wing it

While having a spontaneous adventure can be fun, you might be able to avoid some unnecessary stress by planning an outline of your trip ahead of time. Some things, like certain hotels, campsites or attractions, might require advanced registration or reservations. If you have a goal other than just driving and seeing where the road takes you — and there's nothing wrong with that — do a little research ahead of time to limit stress while on the road.

Do not: Go past your limits

Driving is a pretty unavoidable part of a road trip (unless you're strictly a passenger), and while it might be tempting to try to push yourself to get to a destination, try to be realistic. Stay on the safe side and adjust your plans as necessary — it's not worth it to push yourself and risk the dangers of fatigued or distracted driving.

Do not: Drive straight through

This may be a personal suggestion, but part of the fun of a road trip is the sense of adventure and seeing new places. If you're driving along and spot a sign for something you're interested in, if it's realistic to stop, do so. Especially when you're driving long distances, making little pit stops along the way might end up being some of your favorite parts of the trip. Planning is important, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the ride.

That time I... Self-published my first book

By: Flor Ana Mireles
Copy Editor

Flor Ana Mireles is a senior communication major with minors in English and marketing. She is also the copy editor and social media manager for The Current, and now, also an author and published poet.

On Jan. 2, my first book, "Perspective (and other poems)," finally became available for purchase after having worked on it for about two years. I was overjoyed to know that something I had worked so hard on -- even hiring an illustrator -- was finally out in the world for others to enjoy. Given the publishing industry is hard to get into, I decided to self-publish my book via Kindle Direct Publishing by Amazon (KDP).

"Perspective (and other poems)" is a collection of poetry I began writing as I transcended adolescence. The poems focus on finding yourself, connecting with nature and opening your eyes to many different perspectives. It was something I'd given much thought to share with the world and knew it was something I had to do.

When I knew I wanted to publish a book, I looked on Fiverr for an illustrator and virtually met a young woman named Naomi who illustrated many poems in the book. When I hired her for the job, I told her to have complete creative freedom in interpreting the poems however she seemed fit, which is something I believe everyone should take into consideration when working on creative projects. As the finish line drew closer, I reached out to Naomi again to illustrate more poems. Given she lives in Romania, we struggled at times to talk because of the different time zones, but we made it work.

Deciding to self-publish was not my first option, but it was the best choice to make. When I thought I had finished "Perspective (and other poems)" -- little did I know I

still had lots of editing and rewriting to do -- I submitted it to publishing companies, but never heard back.

After a year of waiting and COVID-19 keeping me home with more free time, I decided to self-publish the book instead -- and it's a decision I plan to make again when I finish my second book, which I have begun writing.

When I began the self-publishing process with KDP, I liked that they gave the author a lot of previews before the book was officially published. Given I am an editor, I was the one editing my own book, which made the process more affordable, too. I did have some professors look over some pieces for feedback, which is always a good thing to have, especially when you're not publishing with a team at a publishing company.

Before "Perspective (and other poems)" was officially published, I went through five different proof copies, fixing design elements and editing, removing and adding poems. I loved that KDP gives its authors the option to publish ebooks as well as physical books.

When it came to the book cover and back cover, given my own digital design and Photoshop abilities, I did it myself, too.

With the exception of the illustrations, I did everything for my book, and seeing it now being purchased and read makes me feel blessed and grateful. I know had I not decided to self-publish, my book would not be out right now, and for that, I am grateful for KDP giving up and coming authors a chance to self-publish.

As I work on my second book, I know I will once more turn to self-publishing, even if that means I need to do most of the work myself. In fact, I think I like it better that way -- it gives me the creative freedom to make my books however I want.

"Perspective (and other poems)" is now



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Book orders can be made on Amazon

available on Amazon, and if you enjoy reading poetry, I encourage you to give it a read. It's

available in paperback as well as ebook -- and I thank those in advance who decide to read it.

Indulge in something delicious and gluten-free

By: Flor Ana Mireles
Copy Editor

If you know me, you know that I am a sucker for sweets and have a major sweet tooth. Despite often craving chocolate, gummy bears, cakes and cookies, I try to not indulge because I know all that sugar is not good for you. However, thanks to my sister, who sent me a healthy recipe for gluten-free cranberry almond cookies, I decided to give the recipe my own touch and indulge in cookies without the processed sugars. Follow along below for your own batch of delicious that won't leave you feeling guilty.

Gluten-free white chocolate chip cranberry pistachio almond cookies

Ingredients

2 cups almond flour
½ tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
⅓ cup melted butter
⅓ cup maple syrup
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 large egg
1 cup dried cranberries
1 cup white chocolate chips
1 cup chopped pistachios

This recipe makes 26 small cookies, but I highly recommend you

double the ingredients and make more because these cookies are amazing and you'll want to eat them all.

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Prepare a large baking sheet and line it with parchment paper.
2. In a medium bowl, mix the dry ingredients: almond flour, baking soda and salt.
3. In another medium bowl, whisk the melted butter and maple syrup. Next, whisk in the egg and vanilla extract. These are the wet ingredients.
4. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and whisk together with a wooden spoon or fork until combined. You should get a cookie dough consistency.
5. Chop the pistachios and stir them into the dough, along with the white chocolate chips and dried cranberries. *Note: These are the fillings I decided on for my cookies, but feel free to create your own and add whatever you like! (I.e: chocolate chips, dried mango chunks, pecans, etc.)*
6. Scoop a tablespoon of dough and place it gently on the baking



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Take a bite of some delicious almond cookies.

sheet. *Optional: Flatten your cookies with a spoon to give them a more cookie shape (I didn't do this).*

7. Bake until the edges are slightly golden brown for about 10-12 minutes. It is important that you do not overbake as, when you take the cookies out of the oven,

they will continue baking on the inside until completely cooled.

8. Once baked, let them cool on the baking sheet for five minutes, then remove.
9. Enjoy by itself, with a glass of milk or a cup of ice cream.

21 songs that are turning 21 in 2021

By: Sofia Gallus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

2021 marks the start of many new things: a new decade, a new appreciation of life following the onset of a pandemic, a new U.S. presidential administration, new music, the list goes on and on. 2021 also marks the year where many songs from our childhood become just as old as we are. Check out these 21 songs that are turning 21 in 2021.

1. "Bye Bye Bye" by the Backstreet Boys (Jan. 17, 2000)
2. "Beautiful Day" by U2 (Oct. 9, 2000)
3. "Who Let the Dogs Out?" by The Baha Men (July 25, 2000)
4. "Doesn't Really Matter" by Janet Jackson (May 23, 2000)
5. "Simple Kind of Life" by No Doubt (June 13, 2000)
6. "Macy's Day Parade" by Green Day (Oct. 3, 2000)
7. "Oops! ... I Did It Again" by Britney Spears (March 27, 2000)
8. "Californication" by The Red Hot Chili Peppers (March 20, 2000)
9. "It's Gonna Be Me" by NSYNC (June 12, 2000)
10. "Music" by Madonna (Sept. 18, 2000)
11. "Adam's Song" by Blink-182 (March 14, 2000)
12. "Jumpin', Jumpin'" by Destiny's Child (July 18, 2000)
13. "Kryptonite" by 3 Doors Down (Jan. 11, 2000)
14. "Teenage Dirtbag" by Wheatus (Aug. 1, 2000)
15. "Lucky" by Britney Spears (Aug. 8, 2000)
16. "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)" by Nine Days (April 15, 2000)
17. "It's My Life" by Bon Jovi (May 23, 2000)
18. "Can't Fight The Moonlight" by LeAnn Rimes (Aug. 22, 2000)
19. "Optimistic" by Radiohead (Oct. 2, 2000)
20. "Bent" by Matchbox Twenty (July 4, 2000)
21. "There You Go" by P!nk (Feb. 20, 2000)



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OFFSHORE CALENDAR

Witch Hunting Old & New -- Zoom lecture by Ron Hutton
Jan. 26 | 3 p.m.
RSVP

Monthly Wellness Wednesday: An Hour for You & Your Wellbeing
Jan. 27 | 12 p.m.
RSVP

FreeMind Emotional Intelligence Masterclass
Jan. 28 | 2:30 p.m.
RSVP

Serious Illness Care, Racism and Health Disparities in the era of COVID-19
Jan. 29 | 12 p.m.
RSVP

Louvre Museum Live Interactive Virtual Tour
Jan. 30 | 11 a.m.
RSVP

Wendy Williams Movie Zoom Watch Party Online Event
Jan. 30 | 7:30 p.m.
RSVP

Valentine's Chocolate Strawberries - Free Workshop
Jan. 31 | 2 p.m.
RSVP

SocietyX: Making A Home For Houseplants
Feb. 1 | 11:30 a.m.
RSVP

Dr. Tom Seeley, "The bee colony as a honey factory"
Feb. 1 | 7 p.m.
RSVP

By: Alexander Martinie & Madelyn Rinka

THE CURRENT'S GUIDE TO GETTING INTO STAR WARS

WHETHER YOU LOVE OR HATE THE ACQUISITION, DISNEY HAS REIGNITED THE FIRE THAT IS THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. WITH THE LAUNCHING AND DEVELOPMENT OF GALAXY'S EDGE AT HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS IN RECENT YEARS AND THE NEW ANNOUNCEMENT OF FRESH CONTENT COMING TO DISNEY, THERE'S NOW MORE MEDIA TO CONSUME THAN EVER. WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING TO REWATCH THE MOVIES IN ANTICIPATION OF ALL THE NEW SERIES COMING OUT OR "BABY YODA" HAS FINALLY GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, WATCHING THE FILMS AND TV SERIES CAN LEAVE YOU ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS — ESPECIALLY ABOUT HOW TO START.



JEDI OR SITH? SEQUELS, PREQUELS OR ORIGINALS? ANSWERING STAR WARS QUESTIONS WITHOUT SPOILERS BEFORE YOU BEGIN



When people start watching Star Wars, they usually have a lot of questions. Like, who is Anakin's father? Why is it all confusing? Why does Luke have a green lightsaber? Was Luke the "Chosen One"? Talk like this Yoda does why? Should I skip The Phantom Menace? What about all the sideshows and movies? Where do I even start?

I will try to answer all those questions to the best of my ability. Let's go: rapid-fire Q&A time.

- Anakin does not have a father. He was born of the Force. Is it confusing? I don't know. The prequels can help explain this to some extent, but it is only explicitly talked about in one scene in The Phantom Menace. It is also alluded to in Revenge of the Sith with the tragedy of Darth Plagueis the Wise and in The Rise of Skywalker. The side books go more into it, however, most of those are no longer considered canon with the Disney acquisition.
- Luke's lightsaber is green because he is a Jedi consular. It means he focuses on using the Force instead of a lightsaber — it is a Jedi Order philosophy thing and got expanded on Inside books.
- Yoda's old. Like, really old. He is so old that in his life span the rules of grammar changed drastically. He talks like that because he uses the grammatical structure from when he was born.
- You could skip "The Phantom Menace" — it is up to you. I actually kind of like it, so I do not skip over it. The main villain in it is pretty cool and you see him more in other media outside of the main movies.

Now those last two questions are much more complicated. The short answer is that it depends on how you want to watch it. There are many popular methods and orders for watching movies and shows. Here are just a few of them.

The Rinster Order

The Rinster order is one of the simpler ways of getting into Star Wars, but by doing this, you miss out on the background and further development of the spinoffs. You start out by watching "A New Hope" and "Empire Strikes Back." Then, before finishing the original trilogy, you watch the prequel trilogy so you understand Darth Vader's background. If you skip "The Phantom Menace," then this becomes the machete method. Once you finish "Revenge of the Sith," circle back to "Return of the Jedi."

Chronological Order

There are two ways of watching Star Wars in chronological order. The first being based on the theatrical release. Start with the original trilogy, then the prequel trilogy. Of the newer movies, you start with "The Force Awakens," then you have the spinoff film "Rogue One," back to the sequel trilogy with "The Last Jedi," "back to a spinoff with "Solo," then finishing it off you have "The Rise of Skywalker."

Finally, my preferred method is the order that follows the in-universe timeline, meaning chronological order of the storyline, but not the order in which they premiered in real life, including all of the movies and shows. Beyond the ones listed below, be sure to check out the newly announced series, like "Ahsoka," "Obi Wan Kenobi," "Rangers of the New Republic" and more when they premiere on Disney+.

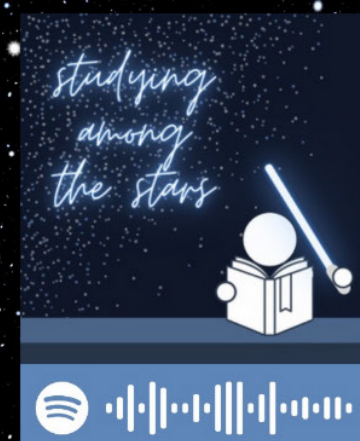
STUDYING AMONG THE STARS



Trying to get into Star Wars, but have to take some breaks for schoolwork? Lofi music channels are a popular option for ambient background music that fills the silence but isn't too distracting. The Star Wars soundtracks have plenty of iconic pieces — with numerous awards and accolades that recognize the famous film scores. Tune in to some of these Star Wars classic songs-turned-lofi beats and other chill tracks that will have you feeling like you're studying among the stars.

Check out The Current's Spotify or the QR code below for an expanded version of this playlist to fill some extra space.

- "binary sunset ~ star wars lofi" by Closed on Sunday
- "Magic" by Kupla
- "cantina band ~ star wars lofi" by Closed on Sunday
- "Droid Army March - Star Wars Lofi" by Mik, Samuel Kim
- "Star Wars (Main Theme)" by Less Gravity
- "Distant Lands" by Kupla
- "across the stars ~ star wars lofi" by Closed on Sunday
- "March of the Resistance - Star Wars Lofi" by Mik, Samuel Kim
- "Last Alive" by drkmnd
- "Interplanetary Detour" by Ibrahim



*For the full version of the Star Wars Timeline, visit nsuthecurrent.nova.edu

THIS WEEK SPORTS IN HISTORY

Jan. 26: First Winter Olympics

On Jan. 26, 1924, the Winter Olympics were inaugurated in Chamonix, France. Appropriately named the First Winter Olympic Games, the games were attended by over 10,000 people who paid to be there.

Jan. 27: Serena Williams wins her third Australian Open Singles title

On Jan. 27, 2007, Serena Williams won her third Australian Open Singles title. This marked an important point in the prominent athlete's career as it was her eighth Grand Slam win and what many considered her most unlikely match to win.

Jan. 28: J E Clair withdraws Green Bay from the NFL

On Jan. 28, 1922, J E Clair, as well as the Green Bay management team, withdrew Green Bay from the American Pro Football Association, or what would later be known as the National Football League. The team was withdrawn after it was discovered they had used two players who were still enrolled in university and had not graduated. Curly Lambeau, the future owner of the team, vowed that he would buy back the Green Bay team and rejoin the NFL. While Lambeau actually went broke trying to buy the team back and restore them to a proud NFL team, a local nonprofit raised money for them and was appointed the management of the team, setting Lambeau as the coach and head manager.

Jan. 29: The first members in the NFL Hall of Fame were named

On Jan. 29, 1963, the first players to be granted spaces in the National Football League Hall of Fame were announced. There were 17 people named and the group consisted of 11 former football players, five members of different management teams and one founder.

Jan. 30: The new owners of the Boston Braves ask newspapers to pick a new nickname

After acquiring the baseball team the Boston Braves in 1935, the new owners requested that a local newspaperman pick a new name for the team based on fan requests and responses. The newspaper received hundreds of entries and they finally landed on the "Boston Bees." However, the name never really got the traction that the owners hoped it would and it was eventually changed back to the Boston Braves; however, in the future they would come to be known as the Atlanta Braves.

Jan. 31: The Dallas Cowboys win the Super Bowl XXVII

On Jan. 31, 1993, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowl XXVII. This set a record in the NFL for the Buffalo Bills as it was their third loss in a title game.

Feb. 1: Stockton passes Magic for most career assists in NBA history

On Feb. 1, 1995, Utah Jazz player John Stockton completed 16 career assists in one game, passing former record holder Magic Johnson, who had a record of 11 career assists. Stockton's record remains the record for the National Basketball Association.



The world needs unity,
but not like this

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Olympics. Whether you are an avid sports fan or only stay for the snacks, there is no denying that the Olympics — both summer and winter — are a truly treasured international pastime every four years. Young athletes gaze at their TV screens in awe as they discover a new dream and we all cheer on our favorite athletes, teams, and in some cases, countries, when the competition is underway.

I understand the symbol of unity the Olympics holds far outweighs the struggles of the past and present. I get that we could all benefit from that symbol right now. It would mean that we banded together as not only a country, but throughout the world to face this virus. However, our work to fight this virus and keep everyone safe is not done yet.

Just like everything else this past year, it needs to be acknowledged that we might just have to skip it. The upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, taking place this summer after being postponed from last year, is expected to continue as planned with strict COVID-19 protocols for athletes, but as the recent quarantine experience for the Australian

Open has proved, this may be a lot more difficult than what was once thought.

Bottom line: going through with the games this summer is a risk that no one should be willing to make.

Take the Australian Open debacle. Athletes are voicing concerns that the 14-day quarantine leading into the competition will detriment their performance as they need high-intensity conditioning in addition to their allotted daily five hours of practice.

As of Jan. 18, the state government of Victoria, where the athletes are quarantining in Australia, reported four new COVID-19 cases, with three of the cases related to the Open. There were seven individuals who tested positive who were linked to the competition, and with more tennis players arriving by plane leading up to their matches, the cases in Australia could rise due to these international visitors.

However, Australia is in a somewhat privileged position as their government was able to call for successful lockdowns and COVID-19 procedures to keep case numbers down. Yet, the same can't be said for Japan. With a total

number of 86,742 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tokyo, a state of emergency has been put into place until Feb. 7, and since Jan. 13, the country has banned foreign nationals from entry. Although the Olympic games are set for this summer from July 23 to Aug. 8, with the Paralympic Games to follow from Aug. 24 to Sept. 5, it's not a good sign that the city is suffering shortages of hospital beds due to the virus.

Even though Japan plans to test athletes at least once every four days and conduct thorough contract tracing -- similar to what we are seeing out of Australia -- there is an aspect we are failing to consider. All of the workers, media teams, officials and non-athlete participants will be needed at the games. We are talking about 11,000+ athletes competing in a competition that will require security, medical personnel, coaches and staff, team representatives, janitorial and maintenance staff and housing staff as well. I'm probably missing a whole host of categories that maintain and control the logistics of holding an Olympic-level sports competition, but you get the point.

It's going to be nearly impossible for any country to accept an influx of that many

individuals without some of those individuals spreading or contracting COVID-19 and it potentially seeping out into the overall population of citizens, let alone Japan who is facing challenges with spikes in case numbers currently.

I understand that the world has had a tough year managing the coronavirus in their respective countries and keeping citizens safe. I would like nothing better than to watch the Tokyo Olympics 2020 on the couch with my family this summer, discussing our favorite sports, sharing snacks and cheering at the TV when my favorite athlete gets the gold. Heck, maybe even plan a trip to Japan in the near future to explore all the beautiful locales I see on my screen, but, unfortunately, this will most likely not be the reality. For the safety of the athletes, the citizens, and in a way, all the citizens of the world, I think it's better we just wait until all nations can safely compete and we can celebrate all nations' accomplishments properly.

Incline walking take two: Discovering what works best for you

By: **Siena Berardi**
Sports Editor

It is almost a month into 2021 and I have been successful in sticking to my workout routines. Notice how I said routines -- plural. I was not able to stick to the first incline walking routine I wrote for Finding Fitness a few issues back, but with that being said, exercising is all about finding exactly what works for you. We should always be updating our regimens to better ourselves, and, of course, I have included songs that help me push through the 30-minute walk.

A case study done by California State University, reported that participants who had gotten in more steps by the end of the day were in better moods.

According to the study, walking more each day is related to a wide variety of mood and personality variables. The more people walk each day, the more energetic they feel and the better their mood. Although intuitively it would seem that walking more reduces energy, the opposite is true. More walking is associated with more energy. In addition

to more energy and better mood, self-esteem and happiness increase when people walk more.

To make myself happy, I have discovered a routine which mimics the activity of climbing a hill and it has become more enjoyable than walking at a 12% incline for 30 straight minutes. My hand-me-down treadmill has recently become one of my most prized possessions. Learning new ways to effectively workout has been made easier with this hunk of machinery. When the treadmill's high voltage isn't tripping up my power grid (thank you surge protector), I get to work.

First, I allow myself time to stretch before stepping onto the belt. Then, I walk at a speed of three miles per hour with the incline set to zero. After I feel warmed up -- this usually takes three to five minutes -- I continue walking, increasing the incline by one percent after each minute. By the fifteenth minute, I have reached 12% incline and I am at "the peak" of the hill.

TREADMILL TRACKS

1

Move Your Body (feat. hermixalot) - LP Giobbi

2

Would You Ever - Skrillex & Poo Bear

3

Young Boy - senny

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- 11:00 a.m. What Publishers Want: How to Prepare a Compelling Business or Social Science Book Proposal
- 12:00 p.m. From Student to Scholar: Publishing Your Thesis or Dissertation
- 1:00 p.m. Publishing Your Research with IEEE
- 2:00 p.m. Understanding the Full Potential of Open Access: Transformative Models, Ethical Practices, and Research Discoverability
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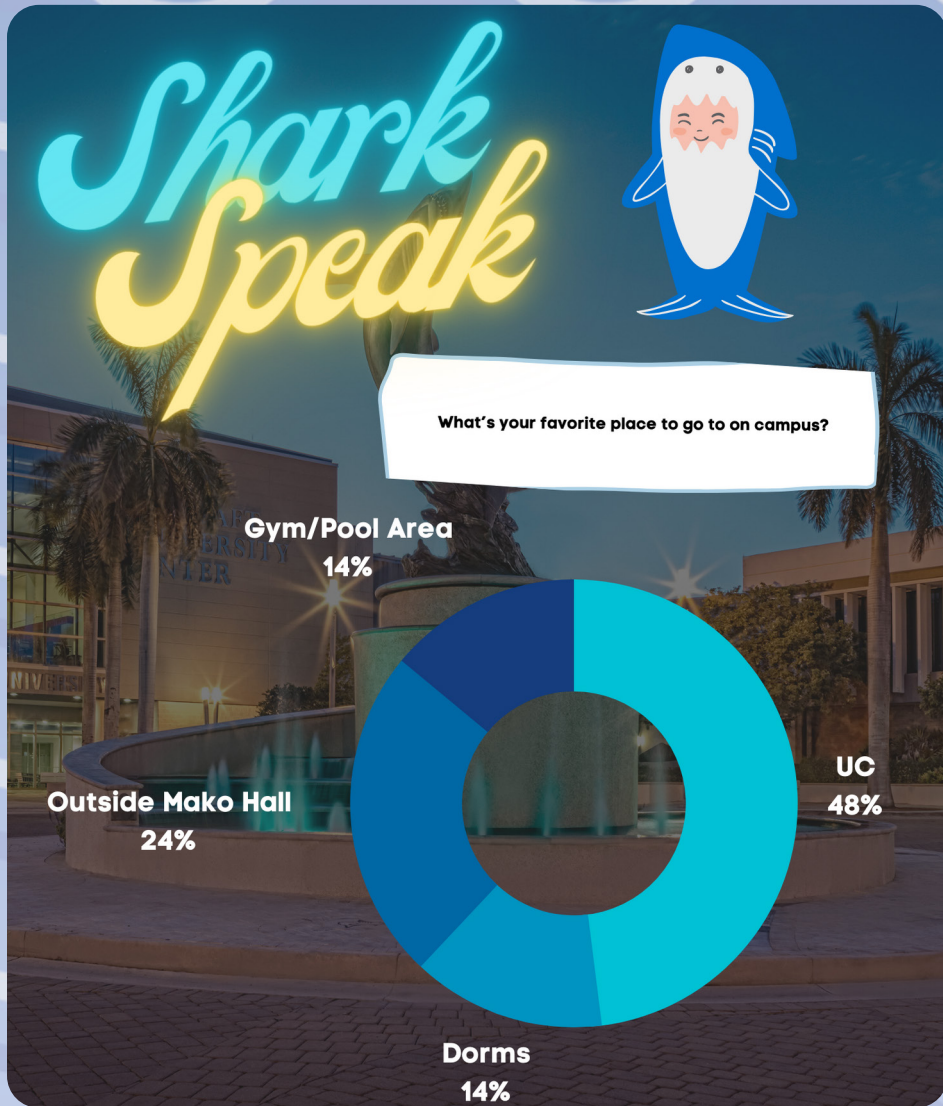
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I'm worried about our future

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

With the COVID-19 pandemic came a plethora of things to worry about regarding the short-term and long-term effects of this virus. However, there is one topic that has been on my mind as a semi-overachieving college student: grad school.

Listen, I knew before the pandemic hit that grad school would be hard to get into no matter what, but with this pandemic lasting as long as it has, I am seriously worried not only about my future, but the future of many of my peers who are also attempting to further their education.

Browsing through the grad cafe website, among my own personal research, one core similarity among those who got accepted into institutions is having some sort of shadowing, internship or observation listed on their resume.

Normally, I would be on top of the game

trying to pick which opportunity I want to take advantage of in order to bump up my resume, but that avenue has dried up worse than the Sahara.

In general, companies and organizations are not offering these positions anymore, and rightfully so. Why would a group risk having more people involved than precisely necessary?

All I am saying is that, if I do not find some opportunity to give a little sparkle to my resume, then I am going to be extremely worried about my chances of getting into grad school, and I know a handful of my peers feel the same way.

Even when this pandemic seems like a thing of the past, it will still be just time wasted instead of excelling in my career. If any grad schools' admissions boards are reading this, please go easy on us.

Is 2021 better?

By: Sofia Gallus
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The year 2020 was a doozy, for sure, and many people were glad to be rid of it. We're only 26 days into 2021 and many people are already comparing it to its predecessor. Is 2021 already competing with 2020 in terms of crudiness?

In the U.S., for sure, it's already been a year. On Jan. 6, right-wing extremists stormed the U.S. Capitol building in an attempted coup. The COVID-19 vaccine has been rolling out very slowly. After four years, former president Donald Trump was banned from Twitter as well as almost all social media platforms you can think of. Americans are overwhelmed, and rightfully

so; but will 2021 be as bad as 2020? I don't think so, I have hope.

2021 still has a lot of potential, and even though in the U.S. there has already been some bad, there has been some good. The vaccine is here; something we've waited for for over a year. If vaccine rollout is effective, we may even get to stop wearing masks all the time, see our friends and family and even attend concerts or large events that we've been holding onto our tickets for. I have hope that, as the new administration moves in, the vaccine rollout will become even more efficient and the various versions of the vaccine will become more widely available to more of the

population.

We have a new presidential administration. A new president was sworn in, even after nationalists tried to overthrow our democracy. A historical vice president was also sworn in; the first African American, the first Asian American and the first female vice president. After nationwide debates and conversations are happening around serious topics such as racial violence, climate change and many others, I have hope that this administration can make change that is progressive and not regressive.

Some of the long-awaited films and shows that were delayed in 2020 have received

2021 release dates. I have a few myself that I am anxiously awaiting to see. HBO Max is offering a wide variety of new movies on their platform in 2021, and some nostalgic shows such as "Friends" are making a comeback. I've been holding onto various concert tickets and I'm optimistically sure that I'll be able to attend them by the end of this year. I have hope that 2021 has a lot to offer entertainment-wise.

2020 beat me down, just like a lot of other people, but I can't help remembering the good moments along with the bad. I have hope for 2021. I have hope for more good moments to come.

Turning on your Zoom camera is common courtesy

By: Siena Berardi
Sports Editor

Unmuting your Zoom camera during class should be common courtesy

Siena Berardi

I am a final semester senior taking five courses over Zoom. Whether it be for my 9:30 a.m. graphic design course or my 6 p.m. video editing class, my camera is turned on and I'm ready to learn.

The way in which we learn has changed over the course of this last year. With a pandemic that has killed nearly 400,000 Americans, it is obvious that the switch to a virtual platform was pertinent for safety. It is still not safe for classes to meet in mass and without facial coverings. Conducting classes over Zoom continues to solve all of these problems.

While learning and adapting to a college routine online, I also began to form a few pet peeves. A pet peeve in specific is that of the muted Zoom camera. On the first day, professors typically ask for students to keep cameras on, unless they have been explicitly told a reason as to why it needs to remain off. When a professor is lecturing and trying to engage in a conversation and all they hear is dead silence and there's only gray rectangles with names they have yet to see in person, it

feels wrong. Professors are putting in the work and we should be too.

Connection is so important during this time and we have had to find ways to do so safely. Not just internet connection, but the human connection.

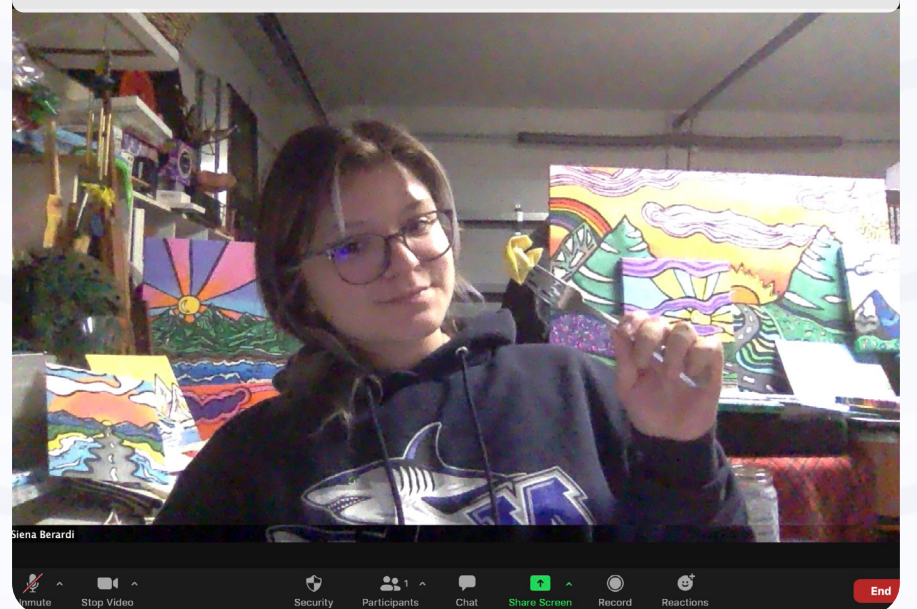
The way I see it, classes are giving us a reason to brush our hair, put on a clean shirt and socialize with other human beings. Even if this socialization is just awkwardly smiling and saying "Yes I can hear your audio professor." Don't let your professors teach to the void.

Socialization in a pandemic, wherever we can get it, is good for the soul. Being in contact with others reduces stress levels and proves to us that we're all in this boat together.

It may seem stressful to keep your camera on at all times, to look picture perfect at all times, but I promise you, no one is staring at you. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. I keep my camera on and eat tortellini. With two evening classes in a row and prolonged camera use, I feel I have earned the right to politely chew my pasta while my professor analyzes "Citizen Kane." It doesn't matter if you're chewing or cooking, keep the camera on and let your professor know that they aren't teaching to sleeping students.

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Have some respect. Turn on your camera.

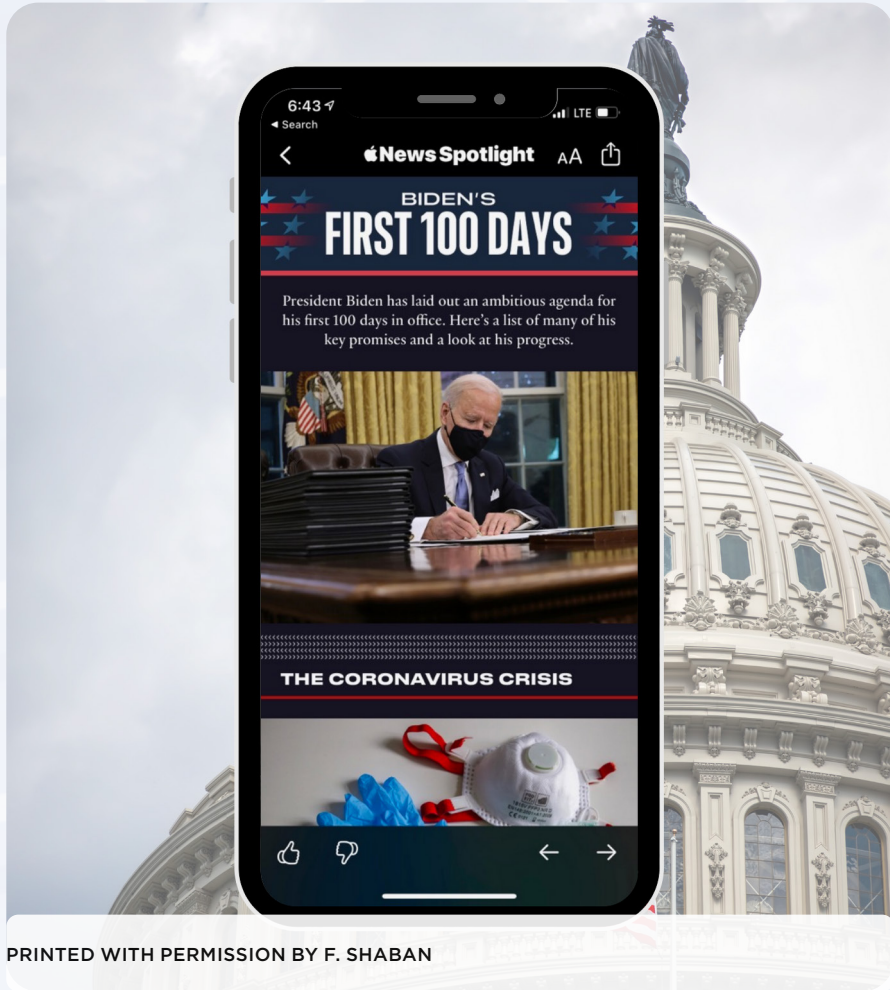


Overall, I just feel that, when it's possible, turn on your video camera. Let us see that messy bed -- you can even show us how you make it. It is so important that we remain light-hearted and kind to each other especially during

these perilous times. Zoom classes won't last forever, but in a few years when I look back on the days when I learned from my bedroom, I want to remember smiling (or rolling my eyes) right back at a screen full of peers.

Finally! A competent leader

By: Alexander Martinie
Opinions Editor



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We finally have a competent leader. A leader who is not fascist. A leader with actual political experience that respects minority groups. We now have a leader that does not make America the laughingstock of the global community.

This is a step in the right direction, but this is not a time for complacency. Biden may have started his presidency with action by overturning many of Trump’s decisions, but that does not mean that we can just sit back and watch. We must urge him and other elected officials to push for the progressive policies that this country needs. Just because he is a Democrat does not mean that we will go along with whatever he wants without question. We voted a fascist out of the office of president to escape that fate. Unlike Trump’s Republicans, we have no problem questioning our elected officials.

Biden simply starting his presidency does not make all of the nation’s problems magically disappear, but it is a step in the right direction. Once again, we have a leader that believes in science. One that does not think that COVID-19 is a “Chinese hoax” and one that has an actual plan to work to get out of this pandemic. We have a leader that wants to work with other countries to solve the world’s problems instead of spreading isolationary nationalism from a

bunker. Yes, I am never going to let go of the fact that Trump hid in a bunker in fear of peaceful protestors while he sat and watched live coverage of his supporters committing domestic terrorism in the Capitol Building.

Trump has been impeached twice, endorsed by the KKK and Taliban, stoked flames of insurgency and treason, but people still think that he made America “great.” What he did was destroy our international relations and any respect that people still had for him and the Republican party. Biden has a lot of work ahead of him if he is to fix the mistakes of his predecessors.

Republicans, take note of how I said predecessors. I have no problem with criticizing other Democrats. When Trump put children in cages, Republicans asked “What about when Obama did it?” Okay? Your point? It was never okay. It was not something that should have been done. All politicians have flaws, yet the GOP loves to idolize their politicians, like how they idolize Regan as a pure and godly man instead of a war criminal or how they treat Trump like a messiah figure against their conspiracy theories.

Biden is far from perfect. Biden has many things to work on, but he is a lot better than Trump.

I think less of you if you barely wear a mask

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Yes, feel free to re-read the title. It’s not a misprint. I think less of you as a human being if you barely wear your mask in public or around others.

Just because the mask is borderline over your chin, covering just your nose or mouth, it doesn’t mean you are doing your part to protect others, yourself or even just prove to me that you have basic manners and can be a contributing member of modern society.

I get it. Masks can be annoying. If you have glasses, they fog up. If you have breathing issues or are working out, it can feel restricting. If you have sensitive skin, it can aggravate it. I understand and I deal with each of those issues every day, as does everyone else, but I still am one of the strictest mask wearers you will meet and I expect everyone I interact with to do the same.

I’m not trying to get political here, but I believe public health shouldn’t be a partisan issue as it seems to have become through the implementation of mask mandates throughout this country. Really, a layered 6x5 in. piece of fabric destroys the “fabric” of our society and our values? I refuse to believe that.

People are literally dying and if you believe that people don’t actually die from this and that it’s all a hoax, I don’t see the point in arguing with you. However, let’s at least come to the agreement that no one likes to get

sick, no matter the level of illness and the havoc it wreaks on our body. When you don’t wear a mask properly or only wear it when it’s convenient to you, what you are telling me is that you don’t care about anyone but yourself. Actually, not even yourself because, don’t forget, the mask actually protects you as much as it protects others.

So, why would anyone want to risk getting sick? At least, that is what it seems like. There must be this facet of our society that likes to be sick and to get all the non-benefits of sickness. Huh, who would have thought?

I think the worst offenders I’ve seen are those who sit inside or outside in public places that feel that a few feet away from others is enough to just take the mask off. This also includes our very own campus. You thought I was just talking to the Karens and Kens of the world? Nope. NSU students are just as guilty of this — even though we all had to take a mandatory course saying we will stay in compliance with NSU’s new regulations. It’s ridiculous when this happens literally a foot away or less from a sign that says to keep masks on at all times. You can’t avoid the emails or look down a hallway or a footpath without seeing all those blue mask signs. You’d have to be purposefully blocking out each constant daily reminder to “forget” to wear your mask.

I understand if you are actively eating or drinking that you can’t do that with a mask on, but



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THIS is the proper way to wear a mask

don’t try and pretend that you are eating a snack or drinking your coffee for the entire five hours you study in the UC. You’re just inconsiderate and I lose all respect for you. That tells me that you cut corners in every aspect of your life. That you don’t commit or stick by your convictions. The school is supposed to be cracking down

on these mask violators, and even though I haven’t heard a case of that yet nor do I expect students to “tattle-tale” on each other to the administration, it just proves that just because something is expected of you, it doesn’t mean that everyone will have the decency to do the right thing.

*Stay
Safe.*

*Stay
Current.*

