
The Current

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Inciting incident causes student concerns over safety on campus

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-In-Chief

NSU students have expressed both their support for the victim of a sexual assault that took place on campus and concerns for their own safety. A timely alert was sent out on Feb. 8 to NSU students and staff reporting the incident had occurred “during the early morning hours, Monday, February 7, 2022.” Little information was released in the timely alert, other than the incident occurred in a parking garage on campus and was perpetrated by a male suspect in a parked vehicle. Any person who may have had information about the incident was encouraged to contact the Town of Davie Police Department.

Students immediately took to social media to voice their concerns, both showing support for the victim and criticizing the lack of information sent out in the alert as well as NSU’s handling of sexual assaults on campus. Over a dozen anonymous posts regarding the situation and others like it were notably shared on the self-proclaimed NSU anonymous confession and entertainment Instagram account, @acguy_, which has amassed hundreds of followers and received over 3,000 submissions to date.

Katerina Sawickij, a senior marine biology major at NSU, said that she feels that while there are current safety measures in place, NSU has a lot of room for improvement, especially when it comes to the timely alert system.

“I think the timely alert system is unreliable. I always get the e-mail several hours after everyone else,” said Sawickij.

Larry Massey, the director of Public Safety, shared that the timely alert sent out was in accordance with the NSU Campus Safety Handbook, which states that, “If a Clery Act crime or other serious situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of the NSU Public Safety director, constitutes a serious and/or continuing threat, a campus-wide timely

warning will be issued.”

While there is no actual definition for what amount of time “timely” refers to, Massey explained that a timely alert may be delayed if sending it out would put the victim or the investigation at risk. He added that “timely” may sometimes be within an hour, but other times could be a week. Additionally, if the perpetrator of the crime is arrested immediately and there is no longer an ongoing threat to the university, a timely warning may not be issued at all.

The NSU Campus Safety Handbook outlines services that public safety provides, including information about how timely alerts are sent out and what scenarios constitute a timely alert. If students have any questions or feel unsafe on campus but aren’t sure what to do, Massey encouraged students to call public safety.

Massey reiterated that the many safety resources NSU has makes it a remarkably safe campus, with such resources including the hundreds of blue light system posts that will record audio and video footage if pressed and the late-night escort system, in which public safety officers will provide a walking escort to anyone in the NSU community upon request.

However, Sawickij said that she felt as though safety guidelines could use some reinforcement.

“When I lived on campus, I did not feel safe. I have odd hours at work and am often out late or early. Part of the reason I moved off campus was because public safety was at the front desk of the dorm and didn’t do anything when a man in a white van was trying to get me to come with him at 5a.m.,” Sawickij said.

She added that she thought a great way for safety on campus to improve would be for officers to be more alert and active rather than reactive.

“I think they can improve by paying attention when on duty and being on the lookout for suspicious activity. I also heard that not all of the blue light systems on campus work, and I think improving that would help as well,” Sawickij said.

Justin Abonce, a sophomore marine science major, explained that while he himself feels safe on campus, he shared sentiments that he believed campus safety would be greatly improved with more outreach to students.

“Aspects I would say public safety can improve would definitely be having their contact information a lot more visible to students, as well as being posted in high density areas. I really emphasize that last part because we have seen a bunch of issues happening recently, and I feel like they could have been handled way better and a lot faster,” said Abonce.

Massey explained that, at the time of interview, there would not be additional training or extra safety measures taken by officers following the incident. However, he added that they would be open to providing that training if they felt as though those measures were needed. He also noted that there were other great resources for students concerned about safety on campus specifically related to sexual assault, including the Title IX office and the new R.A.D Systems program.

For students interested in learning more about campus safety, the NSU Campus Safety Handbook can be found here, in addition to resources for students on Title IX’s website at <https://www.nova.edu/title-ix/>. Students should also download the SaferWatch app or call (954) 262-8999 with any safety concerns.



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One of the over 200 blue light systems located on NSU’s campus.

NSU dives into Black History Month

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

February is notable for being Black History Month, where celebrations take place to recognize black excellence around the world. Nova Southeastern University held an array of events and celebrations in honor of Black History Month.

Jessica Goldson--behavioral neuroscience major, Black Student Union Vice President and senior at NSU--discussed some of the events that the Black Student Union planned for February.

They kicked off the month with a spirit week, each day members would participate in different activities according to the theme. We are having a black history month tabling [event] as well.

“There is going to be food and free giveaways to get people excited about Black

History Month, it’s time to be black, be proud,” Goldson said.

She also talked about NSU’s annual Black Excellence Showcase that has taken place at NSU the last four years.

“The last week of February we have our annual Black Excellence Showcase, where we invite students not only at NSU but around the surrounding universities as well, to come and showcase what black excellence means to them. We have poetry, we have painters come, we have musicians, dance teams and modeling, which is my favorite part. Every year we get a new type of talent to showcase at the Black Excellence Showcase,” said Goldson.

Goldson said that they always ask performers “what does black excellence mean to you,” as regardless of the talent that’s what

matters.

The BSU is not the only organization putting on events for Black History Month at NSU. Adler Marchland, coordinator of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Office, discussed their plans for Black History Month.

“We as a diversity office wanted to make sure we kicked off the black history celebration, so we did the ZuZu acrobats from Kenya. We also collaborated with our Pressure Dancers, and they came to open the show. We collaborated with many of our Black Organizations to do a Melanin Mashup. It was family reunion cookout vibes, giving you that black culture with a DJ, food, and entertainment,” said Marchland.

The office put on several other events

during the month in celebration of Black History including a drive-in showing of “Hidden Figures.”

“There are a lot of Black History events happening on this campus a lot of the times people just don’t know about, or they are not well marketed especially to our students so with this diversity office that is something I wanted to make sure we focus on, on how do we reach our student demographic and letting them know,” said Marchland.

For more information on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Belonging Office student council follow their Instagram @nsu_dsc.



State of emergency declared for Ottawa trucker protest

The mayor of Ottawa declared a state of emergency after a convoy of truckers shut down the city center on Feb. 6. The convoy, called the “Freedom Convoy” by protesters, is in response to a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for truckers in Canada, according to NBC News. The protest has become about more than just the virus, however. Now flags and banners with messages that are critical of Justin Trudeau’s government and even U.S. President Joe Biden. The protests had effectively shut down the city and the Ottawa police service said that since Feb. 6, 60 criminal investigations have been opened for participants of the protest. The investigations are for alleged hate crimes, thefts and property damage. Trudeau has condemned the protests as coming from a “small fringe minority.”

Australia plans to open borders to vaccinated travelers

Australia will open its borders to travelers this month who have received the full dosage of a vaccine. The decision will be the first time that the country has opened its borders to the general vaccinated public since March 2020, according to NBC News. Australia made headlines during the COVID-19 pandemic for having strict mask mandates and travel restrictions. Most notably, Australia deported tennis star Novak Djokovic who was unvaccinated on Jan. 14. Australia relaxed travel restrictions for New Zealand, a country in close proximity to Australia. The recent decision will include every country in the world and

International tidings

global news

is considered a full-scale reopening of the country for vaccinated people and the Australian tourism industry, which has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

15-year-old Olympic Russian skater test positive for prohibited drug

Kamila Valieva, a Russian Olympic Committee team figure skater, made history at the free skate event on Feb. 7. The 15-year-old skater is the first woman to land a quadruple jump—a jump known for its difficulty—at an Olympic event. This victory was short-lived, after her victory it was discovered that Valieva was doping on command of her coach. The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics marked her debut on the stage, one that brought high expectations for the young skater, according to NBC News. On her third attempt, Valieva tripped and fell, marking the first time she had fallen all season. Regardless of the trip, Valieva finished in first place, earning the ROC gold. The U.S. earned silver and Japan earned bronze. The gold for the ROC comes from Valieva’s first place contribution and men’s team skater Mark Kondratuik, who placed second in the previous free skate event. According to the New York Times, “The skater, Kamila Valieva, was cleared to continue competing in the Games by a panel of arbitrators even though a drug found in her system, trimetazidine, is on the list of drugs banned by global antidoping officials.” An investigation is still pending into whether the positive test was a mistake and what measures will be taken moving forward.



News anchor

national news

January 6 rioter arrested by the FBI

Jan. 6 rioter, Mathew Jason Beddingfield, was arrested by the FBI after rioting at the Capitol while on bail for attempted first-degree murder. NBC News wrote, “When he stormed the Capitol, Beddingfield was on bail on a first-degree attempted murder charge in connection with the December 2019 shooting of a 17-year-old in a Walmart parking lot, when Beddingfield was 19.” Back in March, Beddingfield was identified using facial recognition. He and his father were avid Trump supporters who had attended a rally in support of Trump overturning the 2020 presidential election. According to NBC News, he “faces felony charges of assaulting officers, impeding officers during a civil disorder and carrying a deadly or dangerous weapon on restricted Capitol grounds, as well as several misdemeanors, according to court records.”

Hyundai and Kia notify owners of fire risk in vehicles

Hyundai and Kia are notifying the owners of 485,000 vehicles in the U.S. to park their cars outside because they are at risk for catching on fire even if the engines are not running. According to NBC News, “The recalls from the two Korean automakers are another in a long string of fire and engine failure problems that have dogged the companies for the past six years. This time the problem is contamination in the antilock brake control module that can cause an electrical shortage. This increases the risk of fire while the vehicles are being driven or are parked.” In early February, the automakers had reports for 11 fires.

TikTok bans anti-LGBTQ+ hate

Social media giant, TikTok, has updated their community guidelines and banned specific anti-LGBTQ+ content and speech, including deadnaming which is using a transgender person’s pre-transition name, misgendering and using incorrect pronouns. According to NBC News, “Research suggests that deadnaming and misgendering, in particular, can negatively affect trans youths’ mental health. One 2018 study of a small group of trans people ages 15 to 21 published in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that transgender youths who were allowed to use their chosen name at work, school and at home had a lower risk of depression and suicide.”

Andrew Yang faces backlash after controversial tweet

Former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang faced heavy backlash after tweeting, “I don’t think Joe Rogan is a racist — the man interacts with and works with black people literally all of the time,” earlier this month. He has since deleted the tweet and has been working to backtrack his statement that came only one day after Joe Rogan made an apology for his past use of racist slurs. NBC News wrote, “Yang deleted his original tweets and shared a new thread saying, ‘I think we should have the capacity to forgive people — whether a podcaster or a mayor — if they mess up. Maybe it’s because I mess up too.’”

The Current

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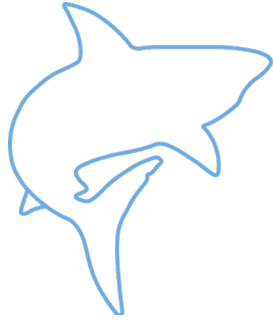
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News briefs

campus news



NSU speech-language pathology professors publish book

Multiple NSU professors from the Department of Speech-Language Pathology published a book called “A Caregiver’s Guide to Communication Problems from Brain Injury or Disease” on Feb. 22. An associate professor in the speech-language pathology program at NSU, Barbara O’Connor Wells co-authored and co-edited the book along with a professor from Florida Atlantic University. Along with Wells, NSU staff Marissa Barrera, Frederick DiCarlo, Lea Kaploun and Elizabeth Roberts collaborated on portions of the book. The book was published by Johns Hopkins University Press and can be purchased on Amazon or Barnes and Noble’s website.

NSU further updates mask mandate

After releasing an update to the mask mandates on campus that required masks to be always worn inside or outside, another rule has been lifted. In an email from President Hanbury sent to all NSU students, faculty and staff, the statement read “effective immediately, masks are now optional when inside most NSU buildings.” Masks are still mandatory in classroom settings.

Festival and 5K to help kids fight cancer comes to NSU

On March 5, the I Care I Cure festival will be making its way to NSU. The festival starts at 9 a.m. and goes on until noon. The I Care I Cure festival has live music and a VIP tent. There will be a concert performed

by The Livesays, a five-piece rock band. The VIP tent includes free food and alcohol under the shade. For just the concert and festival, the price is \$25. The all-in-one pass costs \$45 and gives attendees access to the run, color run, concert and festival. The \$95 VIP ticket gives all the same access that the all-in-one does but gives tent access as well. Visit icareicure5k.org to register. Prices will increase the day of registration.

Emotional Wellness Wednesday in the UC

For the entire month of February, NSU is hosting an emotional wellness monthly series at the Don Taft University Center Spine from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. The event aims to help students with handling the everyday challenges of life. The focus is on being the best version of yourself and improving as a person. The improvement ranges from the ability to manage stress to the ability to express emotions effectively. You can follow @nsurecwell on Instagram for more information.

NSU hosts Broward Heart Walk

On March 13, NSU will host the American Heart Association’s 2022 Broward Heart Walk. The walk is three miles around campus, with the intent of bringing awareness to heart health. Check-in for the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9 a.m. Donations are also welcomed to help save and improve lives. You can register at browardheartwalk.org.

Good news

that’s it



Iceland to ban whaling by 2024

Iceland will soon join the rest of the global community in the banning of whaling by 2024 once current quotas expire, due to a steady decrease in demand and increase in controversy. On Feb. 4 the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Svandís Svavarsdóttir, made a statement in the Morgunblaðið newspaper declaring that whaling had not economically served Iceland in recent years, as reported by CNN. Japan had once been the country’s largest buyer of whale products. However, as of 2019 Japan resumed its practice of commercial whaling in its waters, leading to a decrease in interest in Icelandic whale meat. Activist efforts by groups such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which launched a campaign in 2011 called Meet Us, Don’t Eat Us, also contributed heavily to the push to get Iceland to end whaling. By 2024 only Norway and Japan will have legalized whaling practices.

American ice skater Nathan Chen wins first gold in 2022 Winter Olympics

After coming in last place in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, there was nowhere for Nathan Chen to go but up, and go up he did. Chen, now 22, became the first American gold medalist of Chinese descent to climb upon the podium, according to NBC News Olympics coverage. During the men’s singles competition the figure skater wowed

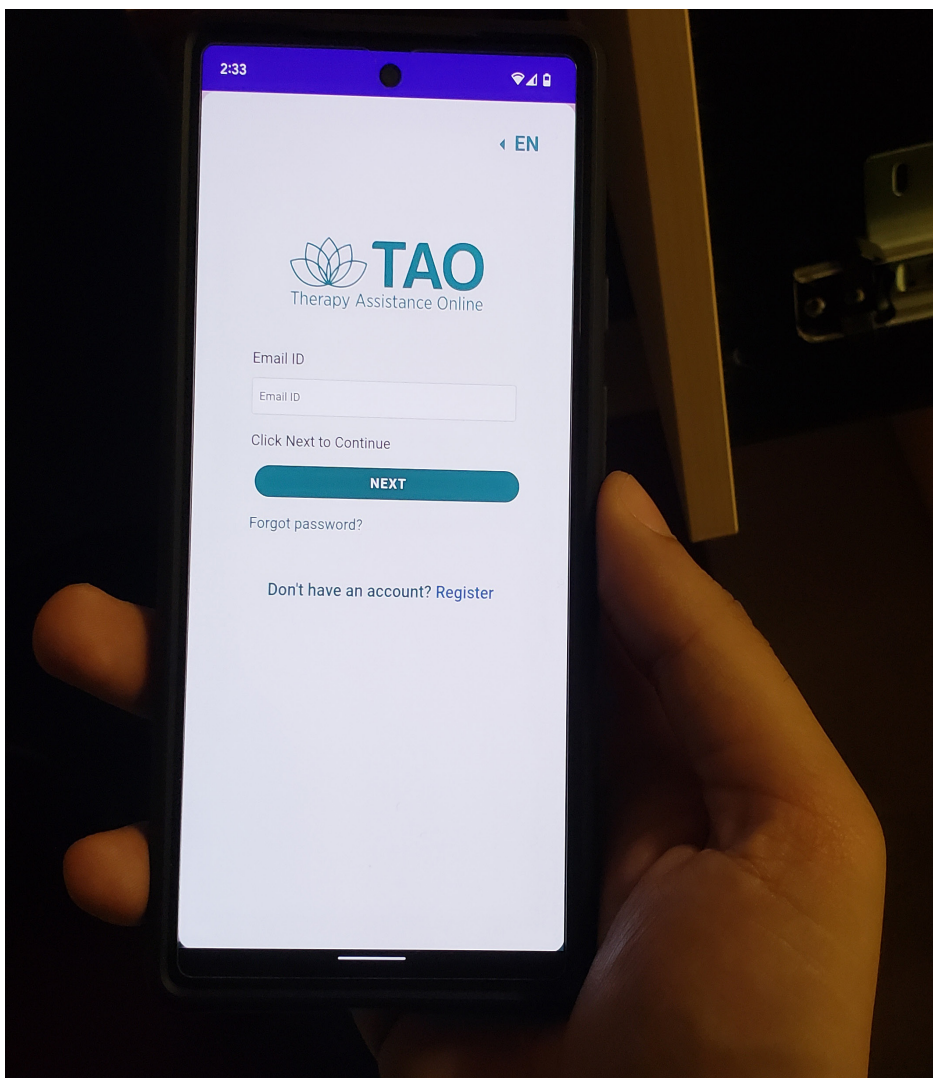
the audience and the world with a stunning performance to some of Elton John’s hits. The extraordinary performance follows Chen’s world record breaking short-program performance at the beginning of the games, where he scored 113.97 points.

Revolutionary technology helps paralyzed patients walk again

In 2017, Italian Michel Roccati suffered a spinal cord injury in a motorcycle accident that paralyzed him from the waist down. It was not until a revolutionary spinal implant, engineered by Swiss neuroscientist Grégoire Courtine and neurosurgeon Jocelyne Bloch, that Roccati was able to begin taking steps to move once more. The device uses flexible electrodes that are placed on top of the spine and is controlled by a tablet which sends electrical pulses to the various parts of the spine and back that allow movement to occur. With the aid of a walker, Roccati and nine other patients have been able to use the new treatment to walk in physical therapy sessions, as reported by the BBC. It has even given David M’zee, one of the first people to use the new technology, the ability to recover enough to have a child. While the technology used is still relatively too new to be manufactured on a large scale, Courtine notes in an interview with the BBC that it is still a major step forward in the field.

Henderson Student Counseling partners with TAO Connect

By: Alexander Martinie
Copy Editor



Students can sign up for TAO Connect online or on the app

NSU and Henderson Student Counseling have partnered with TAO Connect, an online hub for supplemental therapeutic resources.

According to Suzelle Guinart, director of Henderson Student Counseling Services at NSU, TAO Connect “is a digital platform that is used to provide psychoeducation and hands-on coping tools, as well as self-guided help, in addition to the treatment that’s being already provided.”

TAO Connect offers resources related to stress, depression, sleep, health concerns, communication, conflict and much more. The resources hosted by TAO Connect are available through their website and mobile app, both of which were designed in similar layouts to streaming services for ease of use. Additionally, TAO connect has a page for students experiencing crisis or emergencies, which lists the suicide prevention resources and Henderson Behavioral Health’s on-call emergency counselor information. These resources are available 24/7 to all students.

“There’s actually four ways to use it. So, the primary way in which we’re intending to use it is an addition to the counseling services we’re providing. So similar to how a therapist would assign content based on what the student would be presenting and based on their need, and they are also monitoring [the student’s] progress,” said Guinart. “Just [like] how therapists would assign home practice or tools

to utilize in between sessions, this just provides an additional base of support.”

TAO Connect also provides a progress report and well-being index where students can view their use of the app over time.

“Not every student may be connected or interested in traditional therapy. So, it provides an additional source of support for those who may not be connected to the center. So, and then the other mode is to maybe it’s someone who may not have mental health concerns, but they’re wanting to focus on professional development or personal development. TAO also caters to that group. Anything from improving communication skills to test anxiety, performance, anything related academically as well,” said Guinart.

Students can register at <https://us.taoconnect.org/register> or on the mobile app using their NSU login information. To register, all students need is their NSU email address. Registration only takes a few minutes.

If students have any questions, Guinart urges them to reach out to Henderson Student Counseling Services at 954-424-6911 or at NSU extension 29102. If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health concerns, try reaching out to the Henderson Student Counseling Center. Henderson has many certified mental health counselors well equipped to help any student.

That time I: Went on a cruise during the pandemic

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor



Sailing the seas on the Celebrity Edge cruise.

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Travelling has always been something I have appreciated. To be able to explore the world and experience new things is a gift I cherish. However, during the pandemic, my love for traveling sadly was halted due to understanding the circumstances the world was facing. I comprehended this and so did my family, because our health and well-being were more important than vacationing like many others. Ironically enough, right before the pandemic started my mom booked a cruise that was swiftly postponed.

However, time passed, and things soon began to get “back to normal,” which meant that regulations for travel were getting lighter. This was good news for me and my family, because the long-awaited cruise was finally becoming a reality.

Over winter break, we finally set sail on one of the prettiest ships I have ever seen. The cruise is a part of the Celebrity Cruise line and their requirements definitely helped me feel comfortable on my journey. All crew members and passengers had to be fully vaccinated and provided proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Some people say this might have been extreme, but the safety precautions made me feel safe knowing I was in a COVID-19-free bubble for the next week.

The cruise was going to a couple of islands and Puerto Rico. Onboard my family and I were excited to experience live entertainment, amazing cuisine and memorable views.

One thing I was surprised to find out was the fact I was allowed to play in the casino at age 19. Astonishing enough, I was lucky on a few

slot machines and ended up winning \$200.

The casino was not the only thing that was entertaining, the boat hosted nightly shows that consisted of a comedy act, musical performance and a comedic magician.

Being the overly obsessed planner of my family, I attended all three of these events whether my family wanted to accompany me or not. My mother and I went to the comedy show where the comedian had a weird sense of humor. He made fun of the fact the ship was surrounded by elderly people, but that was not what made me remember him. Being one of a few younger people there he pointed me out and asked me a couple questions. I told him I was in college and was a communication major. I have never seen a crowd react as poorly as they did in seconds, because of my choice in major. This man confidently explained to me how I needed to change my major right away. However, as I pretended to think he was funny for teasing me he later stated he was a communication major as well and look where he ended up.

I still to this day do not know if I should be angry for his teasing or just awfully mortified.

Witnessing his jokes certainly was one of the most shocking parts of my trip, but something I also witnessed was the beauty of music. I went to this musical where the main topic was about bringing color into a man’s world. It was not only inspiring but incredibly breathtaking.

The cruise was a unique experience that I truly will never forget, especially that comedian who made me question every college student’s worst nightmare, their choice in major.

Newest Superman comic series targeted by right-wing bigots

By: Alexander Martinie
Copy Editor

Earlier this month, headlines circulated in comic book fan circles that claimed fans were rejecting the newest edition of the classic superhero, Superman, and that DC comics sales were plummeting. This could not be farther from the truth. In fact, the sales for Tom Taylor’s “Superman: Son of Kal-El” is reported to be “doing well in terms of sales, at least digitally,” according to Screen Rant writer Justin Epps.

While comic book fandoms are becoming increasingly more welcoming and inclusive, there are still online comic book communities that are not so welcoming. Several of the more unwelcoming communities have been attacking Taylor and his take on Superman. While Taylor’s “Superman: Son of Kal-El” has

received overwhelmingly positive reviews from both fans and critics, several alt-right groups have effectively called this series the death of DC comics.

Several comic book sites have repeated these claims about DC comics’ falling sales, including Cosmic Book News and Bounding Into Comics, both of which have a history of bigotry and spreading misinformation and rumors. These sites, and those that agree with their beliefs, have targeted Taylor’s series.

According to CBR, a fan favorite news site for all things nerd culture, “writer Tom Taylor addressed the rumor that Jon Kent’s sexuality hurt the series’ sales. Taylor posted screenshots of multiple articles and videos claiming

that, though “Superman: Son of Kal-El” #5 experienced a sales spike over the announcement of Jon’s sexuality, the series tanked in December and didn’t appear on any charts. Taylor waived off these takes by offering a simple explanation -- there was no issue of “Superman: Son of Kal-El” in December.”

The right-wing groups targeting Taylor’s Superman really missed the mark by claiming this series ruined sales for DC comics before the comic was even published. Even in early February, nearly a month after the initial publication of Taylor’s “Superman: Son of Kal-El,” sales numbers have not even been released.

Comics, especially DC and Marvel comics, have historically been adamantly opposed

to bigotry. Whether it be Captain America punching Nazis in his first appearance, or LGBTQ+ representations or the X-Men being a metaphor for racism and civil rights movements, comics have never shyed away from calling out bigots. Yes, although sometimes comics can be a little tone deaf—I’m looking at you, pink kryptonite—there has always been that attempt to address bigotry.

These critiques have not stopped Taylor, who has continued to publish and promote inclusivity and awareness in his comics, and based on the reviews, his comics are doing pretty well, much to the dismay of his opponents.

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The Current:

We print weekly issues of our newspaper every Wednesday! Pick up a copy of our paper in any of our news stands around campus! Give feedback and consider writing for us!

Radio X:

We host morning shows every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with 2 segments! Tune into our evening shows everyday from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. and listen to our DJs on 88.5 FM!

SUTV:

We release weekly segments of SUTV Now, our television series featuring news, entertainment and sports! Watch our show every Friday through Youtube on Nova Shark United TV!

Athletes may be competing, but U.S. diplomats won't be there: Countries boycotting the Winter Olympics

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-In-Chief

There has been an abundance of good and bad news surrounding the U.S. government's presence – or lack thereof – in the 2022 Winter Olympics. Athletes are still competing, some even breaking world records, like American figure skater Nathan Chen, who now holds the world record score for the short program, free skate and combined score after he shattered the previous record with a score of 113.97. Others are not doing so well, as American alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin slid off the course in her first outing of the games and was not able to finish her race, shocking fans across the nation but receiving an outpouring of love and support online.

Even though athletes are still competing and have been given words of support from fans and government officials alike, there has been a

dark underlying tension surrounding any news about the 2022 Winter Olympics, as earlier this month the U.S. announced that there would be a diplomatic boycott of the games.

The U.S. is protesting China's human rights violations, specifically regarding the Uyghurs population in the northwestern Xinjiang province of the country, the suppression of ongoing democratic protests in Hong Kong and the military assaults against Taiwan.

While a boycott may sound severe, U.S. athletes are still participating in the games. A diplomatic boycott is different from a total boycott in the way that while athletes are still competing, no U.S. government representatives will be attending to observe. Usually, each country sends high-ranking officials to watch the games and interact with other nation's

leaders. While this is hardly the first diplomatic boycott of the Olympic games, it may be the most effective, as news stations worldwide are providing round-the-clock coverage of the rising tensions between nations. The last diplomatic boycott the U.S. participated in was the 1980 boycott of the Summer Olympics in Moscow.

China has received international backlash for their treatment of the Uyghur population. Reports have surfaced in human rights groups that show evidence of the Chinese government detaining more than one million Uyghur individuals and forcing them into "re-education camps," in addition to sentencing hundreds of thousands of other individuals to long prison sentences. Other reports show instances of forced human labor or even forced sterilization, and former camp detainees have even spoken

about being tortured and assaulted.

While China adamantly refuses these allegations, this ongoing situation in addition to the violent crackdown of the Hong Kong protests and the military occupation of Taiwan have led several countries to diplomatically boycott the Winter Olympics, which were held in Beijing. The U.S. White House press secretary Jen Psaki has cited "genocide and crimes against humanity" as the reason for the boycott.

Florida rehashes "Don't Ask Don't Tell"

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor

In late January, the Florida House of Representatives passed the Parental Rights in Education bill, which has been dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill by opponents. The bill is the most recent development in a string of legislation utilized by conservative politicians to issue de-facto bans on learning material associated with minority groups. The bill uses the sue-your-school method the STOP W.O.K.E. Act used before it, modeled after the Texas abortion ban. The bill was introduced by Florida Rep. Joe Harding, who described it as being "about defending the most awesome responsibility a person can have: being a parent." Although Harding did not explicitly state what he intended to defend this responsibility from with the bill, others have been vocal about the damage it can cause.

Chasten Buttigieg, the husband of the Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, took to Twitter saying, "This will kill kids, you are purposefully making your state a harder place for LGBTQ kids to survive in."

The bill received thinly veiled support from Gov. Ron DeSantis who said in early February, "I haven't looked at any particulars of anything but I do think you've seen instances in which kids are encouraged to be doing stuff with, like, a gender ideology and I think parents really do need to be involved in that."

But what have Florida teachers been doing, exactly, regarding LGBTQ+ students?

Dana Mills, associate dean of research and strategic planning at NSU, who has years of experience educating future educators said: Not much.

"We would never work with, nor would it be protocol for a teacher to say, 'Hey kids today we're going to talk about gender identity and sexual orientation,'" said Mills.

Mills went on to add, regarding any psychological distress a student may be experiencing, related to LGBTQ+ issues or not, "There's nowhere in teacher preparation programs where we speak specifically on how to deal with an individual that's experiencing

any psychological distress or concerns about anything in their life. Anything where we thought that that wasn't something that an educator should deal with, we would refer that that kid out to counseling."

Mills stated that LGBTQ+ topics would only come up where historically accurate and appropriate but despite this, speculated to be in most part due to students' open-mindedness, schools have become a safe haven for many LGBTQ+ individuals. According to the Trevor Projects National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health in 2021: for both transgender and LGBTQ+ youth, after online spaces, schools were the second top space where they can explore their identities safely.

During a podcast in mid-February, conservative pundit Ben Shapiro quipped that Florida schools should not teach that "heterosexual marriage is in every way morally equivalent to homosexual marriage," and that teachers should "constantly be feeling like I am looking over their shoulder."

To Mills, this recent bill is the latest in the attack on educators for teaching politically inconvenient history and facts, perceived or real.

"While it's not written in the legislation, the obvious reason for this is that there is this feeling that you can 'turn a kid gay' and that you could create these confusions and the psychological distress," said Mills.

President Joe Biden has already disavowed the bill in a statement issued early February but if the bill moves on, the greatest harm it will do is not to educators but to the children they must teach.

"This bill will do nothing but really breed a new generation of ignorance. It just frankly goes against everything that that they'll encounter later on in life," said Mills.

Anti-CRT rhetoric raises concerns for the future of Florida public education

By: Adithya Daniel Mathews
Contributing Writer

Michael Butler, a history professor at Flagler College in St. Augustine, has made local and national headlines following the cancellation of a presentation he was supposed to give to K-8 teachers in Osceola County. The seminar was canceled only three days before the intended date, with the school district citing concerns over discussing Critical Race Theory.

Butler stated that his lecture was simply "evidence-based historical fact" covering the civil rights movement using dates and pictures of events and did not include Critical Race Theory.

Critical Race Theory is an intricate interdisciplinary framework that suggests that racial prejudice inherently exists in our legal institutions. It is a concept currently taught in graduate school or law school.

Dana Mills, an associate dean of strategic planning and research in the Department of Education at NSU, has studied Critical Race Theory at the doctoral level and stated that he

has never seen Critical Race Theory taught in public schools.

According to multiple reports, Critical Race Theory is not taught in K-12 schools in the U.S. However, over the past year, Governor Ron DeSantis has led a campaign in the state for the removal of Critical Race Theory from Florida schools, asserting that racially sensitive topics may cause discomfort for parents and students.

Butler had recently contended that state-level campaigns and legislation to censor curriculum may have influenced the events in Osceola County. Although, Governor DeSantis' Secretary of Press claimed that the governor had nothing to do with the controversy, the Osceola County School District itself cites "the current conversations across our state and in our community about critical race theory" as the reason for the cancellation of the seminar. Furthermore, the school district has installed a committee specifically to review training

programs for the presence of Critical Race Theory.

Both Butler and Mills expressed their concerns over censorship based on legislation that lacks clearly defined boundaries and the repercussions this may have on education and the livelihood of educators.

"Teachers were telling me that they are afraid," said Butler, who said that the effects on teacher recruitment and retention will be experienced long after the current political powers move on.

Mills questioned whether formerly benign topics will now be construed to warrant censorship, asking if a third-grade teacher may lose their job in the future for teaching their class about Rosa Parks.

"If one topic can be banned in one state for primarily political purposes, then any topic in any state can be banned," said Butler.

This possibility does not seem distant from

reality considering that the Central York School District in Pennsylvania banned the children's book "I am Rosa Parks" in 2020, claiming that it was related to Critical Race Theory.

"Climate change, is that next? If I'm doing a biology lesson and I want to talk about how the body fights off a virus, is that maybe something I need to be careful about?" said Mills.

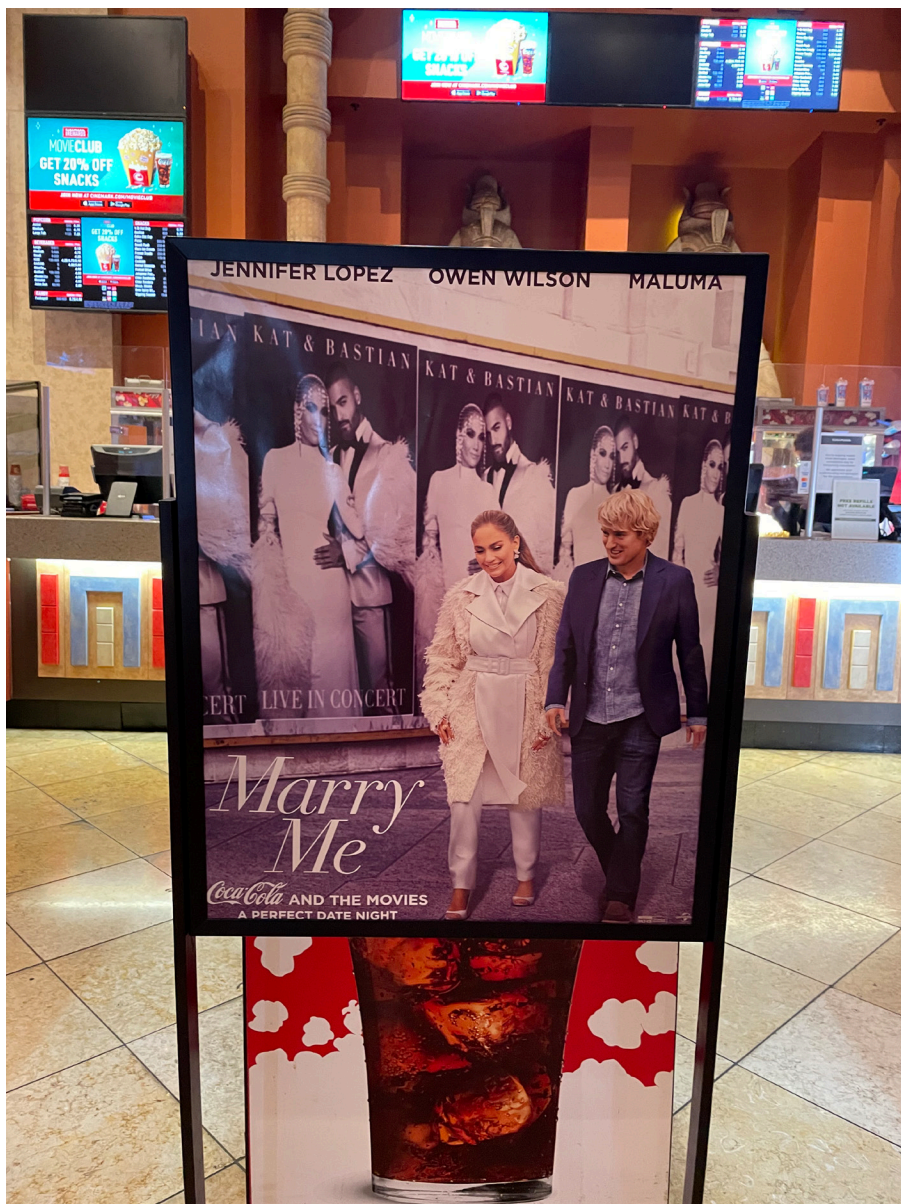
Mills added, "Teachers are paralyzed by this fear. They could potentially lose their jobs over a misunderstanding."

The long-term effects this issue may have on teachers and students in the future make it larger than this single incident.

"This is not a story about a professor versus a politician. This is a story about the long-term damage we could be doing to our public education system," said Butler.

“Marry Me” will make you want to avoid marriage

By: Gerianne Salamanca Gamez
Chief of Visual Design



Advertisements for the movie “Marry Me” within the theater.

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Every romantic comedy is usually easy to digest. The tropes are familiar and although the movies may be a bit bad, it comes with comedic relief. That wasn't the case with “Marry Me.”

From the start, the promotion for this film gave the audience an understanding of how terrible it was going to be. Having celebrity singer-songwriters as actors was the first mistake; Jennifer Lopez and Juan Luis Londoño Arias, professionally known as Maluma, were not cut out to be actors. Every attempt towards emotion was a joke, as these singers couldn't properly display any emotions. It felt like they were reading the script for the first time. This movie made Lopez look terrible in so many different ways, especially since it felt like the audience had to constantly compare her to Maluma. Her Spanish isn't the best because it isn't her first language. Putting her next to Maluma, who speaks perfect Spanish, felt like an unfair set up. Her musical talents were also put into question as a result of having Maluma in the movie. Most of the songs in the soundtrack are sung by her and a majority of them are terrible. They don't follow her musical style at all. Maluma has barely two songs in the soundtrack and both of them match his musical style as an actual artist. For a majority of the movie, Maluma is acting as basically another version of himself so he doesn't seem that awkward. However, the same can't be said for Lopez. It feels like she's being forced to be something she's not, which is odd since she plays a superstar and that's exactly what she is.

I wish I could give Lopez the benefit of the doubt, but it just continues to get worse as the movie progresses. The opening number for the movie is blasphemous. She sexualizes religion

through her performance of the song “Church.” Backup dancers are dressed in provocative nun outfits while Jennifer Lopez is dressed in a bedazzled cross that barely covers her body. The performance backdrop is even on the inside of a church. There was no real reason for this performance, it added nothing to the plot and honestly just set the disturbing tone for the rest of the movie.

Jennifer Lopez constantly made the stupidest decisions ever. To summarize one of them, she was given the options of choosing between going to Puerto Rico with a rich superstar or going to a middle school semi-formal with a stranger she met a couple months ago and she chose the latter.

Owen Wilson isn't off the hook either. There is no world in which Jennifer Lopez would ever have a relationship with him. It doesn't make sense for him to be casted. His awkward flare makes the movie even worse. It felt like watching a middle school couple interact whenever they were on screen. It gets even worse than just the awkward tension and terrible kissing, as there were multiple scenes that insinuated intimate moments between the two of them. I couldn't describe the spine chilling disgust that came from seeing that.

“Marry Me” is a terrible movie. There is nothing that could ever fix the irreversible damage that this movie has done. Being traumatized by all of the outlandish elements was just part of the experience. With that being said, everyone should watch this movie to experience how truly horrendous it is for themselves.

Soundbite: “30” by Adele

By: Noah Wellington
Contributing Writer

The renowned singer-songwriter Adele Laurie Blue Adkins has returned and released her latest album, “30,” after a six-year hiatus. Adele is a British songwriter who has been singing since just four years old. Adele's music career slowly started to take off in her early teens. Her first hit song was “Chasing Pavements,” which was part of her album “19.” However, this was only the beginning. Adele has won countless awards for her music, including 15 Grammy's, that has brought fans to tears time and time again. Adele is undoubtedly one of the greatest musicians of our generation and has amassed well over 120 million record sales in her lifetime.

The album was released following a series of her previous albums “19,” “21,” and “25.” “30” will be Adele's fourth album in the series incorporating elements of pop, soul and jazz. The numbers in Adele's album reflects her age at the time of her writing the songs for each album, with the songs in “30” being her latest. Adele's hardships in life inspired a great deal of her music, including many songs in this album. Adele has a remarkable talent for transforming hardship and heartbreak into incredibly touching pieces of music. Adele expressed that the album “was written in the most turbulent period of my life” as she has filed for a divorce from her husband of two years. Adele shared “30” as an attempt to explain her divorce from her husband Simon Konecki to her nine-year old son. She referred to “30” as her most personal and emotional album, an unbelievable feat considering her second album touched the hearts of many. Within the first three days of release Adele sold well over half a million copies and was crowned best-selling album of the year.

The album begins with “Strangers by

Nature,” which sets the general mood beautifully for the other songs to come. Adele seems to test the waters with a different style compared to her previous records. The song opens with a piano playing a twinkling disney like melody which is then accompanied by Adele's angelic voice and plaintive lyrics. The whole song seems to be her mourning her previous relationships as highlighted by the lyrics, “I'll be taking flowers to the cemetery of my heart.”

“Easy on Me” offers a similar sound to all of her previous works, featuring a melodic piano while being accompanied by Adele's soaring vocals. The song presents very deep and meaningful vocals and lyrics, “I know there is hope in these waters, But I can't bring myself to swim” gives the song a feeling of hopefulness while also adventuring through hardships that she had to face.

“My Little Love” also offers a similar sound to most of her previous work. However, it is set apart in the aspect that it depicts a few things that happened with Adele and her son after divorcing her husband. It portrays Adele's grating journey as their marriage was coming to a close.

“Cry Your Heart Out” as well as “Oh My God” and “Can I Get It” offsets the album slightly by having a more light-hearted pop music aspect to it based on the melody and her choice in vocals. Adele's typical style picks back up on the fifth song “I Drink Wine,” where she returns to a more slow and emotional flow.

Listening through this album it is apparent that there is a greater meaning behind each song and their lyrics. The listener can hear the raw emotion in her voice, as she sings her message to her son.



OFFSHORE CALENDAR

Education Pathway Marketplace
Feb. 23 | noon - 2 p.m.
Broward College

Black History Meets Reggae Icon Awards
Feb. 24 | 6 - 10 p.m.
Miramar Cultural Center

TDVAM Wellness Fair & Movie Night
Feb. 25 | 5 - 8 p.m.
Roosevelt Gardens Park

Fort Lauderdale Artwalk
Feb. 26 | 6 - 11 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale's Mass District

Hollywood Mardi Gras
Feb. 27 | 1 - 7 p.m.
Downtown Hollywood

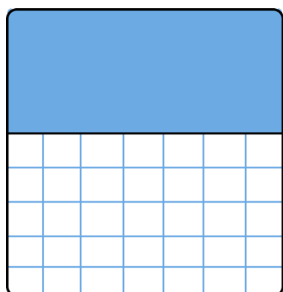
Dom's Brickell Comedy Night
Mar. 1 | 9 p.m.
1010 Brickell Ave #200A, Miami

Karaoke Thursday's at Marina84
Mar. 3 | 8 p.m.
2440 W State Rd 84, Fort Lauderdale

Xtreme Comedy Show
Mar. 4 | 8 p.m.
5442 W Atlantic Blvd, Margate

Yoga Sesh at the Marketplace
Mar. 5 | 9 a.m.
Sistrunk Marketplace

Island Space Caribbean Museum
Mar. 6 | 11 a.m.
8000 W Broward Blvd, Fort Lauderdale



NSU Art Museum enlightens community with upcoming exhibitions

By: Isabella Pinel
Contributing Writer



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The NSU Art Museum is free for all students and faculty to visit.

In upcoming exhibitions “Lux Et Veritas” and “Keith Haring and Alechinsky,” the NSU Art Museum will display artwork from artists who have influenced the trajectory of the art industry on an exponential level.

Bonnie Clearwater, director and chief curator at the NSU Art Museum, said that it is a unique privilege that Florida will have the opportunity to see artwork from artists such as these from both upcoming exhibits.

“This opportunity has brought artworks Florida wouldn’t normally get to see and that is a part of what we do at this museum,” Clearwater said.

On Feb. 27, the “Keith Haring and Alechinsky” exhibition will be displayed presenting the works of Keith Haring, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. In addition, the exhibition will demonstrate the many artistic influences Haring had in his life with Pierre Alechinsky being his greatest artistic inspiration within the CoBrA movement. CoBrA, an acronym for Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam, signifies the cities its members originated from. The avant-garde movement is known for their post-war works distinguished by bold uses of color, primitive expression and graffiti.

“[The NSU Art Museum] contains the largest collection of avant-garde European post-war movement known as CoBrA in the United States and we are constantly using our collection for new research and presentation,” Clearwater added.

The exhibition will also implement some of the recurring themes Haring devoted himself and his work to during his lifetime. These issues include those of consumerism, environmental activism, human rights and AIDS advocacy.

Further, the NSU Art Museum will welcome the “Lux Et Veritas” exhibition on display April 3. This exhibition will highlight the transformative period of contemporary art exemplified by the generation of artists who attended Yale School of Art graduate program from the years 2000 through 2010.

The title “Lux Et Veritas” gets its name from Yale’s motto, the Latin translation for “light and truth.” This phrase describes the desire to be enlightened through knowledge and the process of education. This mantra is the quintessential embodiment of what these artists worked to accomplish during this time period.

Throughout this movement, they altered the course of contemporary art, while also manufacturing a supportive space for like-

minded artists from similar backgrounds that did not exist before. Their unity and success catapulted an open dialogue about the ongoing lack of representation within the university’s art program and the art industry altogether.

Among these artists is Kehinde Wiley, who can be recognized for painting former President Barack Obama’s portrait and Titus Kaphar who was featured on the Times Magazine cover for a portrait based on the protests surrounding George Floyd’s death.

NSU students have the convenience of taking the downtown shuttle express to the museum every Saturday and Sunday.

“We want all students and faculty to know they are members of our museum,” Clearwater said.

The museum’s user-friendly website gives students and faculty the option to activate a free membership that includes various benefits the museum has to offer. Clearwater also made sure to mention that students interested in working in the art industry or in the museum in general can apply to available positions on their website.

The NSU Art Museum is located at 1 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

“Pokémon Legends: Arceus” might be the best game for longtime fans yet

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief

“Pokémon Legends: Arceus” is the latest installment in the Pokémon franchise, and the first to take an open-world approach to the series. The game was released on Jan. 28 and while the game was initially met with lots of skepticism when it was announced, fans took to the internet to express their enjoyment in the days following the game’s release.

The game takes place in a familiar but long-gone land called Hisui, a forgotten era of the well-known Sinnoh region. It takes place in a time where Pokémon were not yet domesticated or widely studied, and when you begin the games many of the NPC’s you talk to regard Pokémon as wild dangerous creatures who only intend to harm humans.

Before the launch of the game, the biggest concern among fans seemed to be the game’s

graphics. When the game was announced, fans were taken aback by the graphics shown in the short clips of gameplay. Loosely resembling Nintendo’s “Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild,” many fans noticed that although the overall landscaping was beautiful, there was lots of graphic clipping and some of the closer vegetation, like grass and trees, also seemed to be pretty low-quality. After playing this game, while some of the graphics do seem lower quality, it doesn’t really feel out of place and the other elements of the game definitely make up for its shortcomings.

As a longtime Pokémon fan, there were so many quality-of-life changes that I didn’t expect to like, but ended up really enjoying. The game just felt so much more interactive without feeling more tedious. For one thing, there are no longer

any Pokémon Centers where players can heal their Pokémon, access their Pokémon storage boxes or buy items. Instead, players must craft items like Pokeballs and potions by collecting materials in the wilderness of Hisui and using a reusable crafting kit, which can be stored in their bag. In addition to this, players can access their Pokémon storage boxes by speaking to any guard at the town gates or field camps, change their Pokémon’s names and moves without the assistance of an NPC, work to gather a more comprehensive Pokedex and can choose whether or not to evolve Pokémon.

The choice in evolution really is a significant change to me, because it really feels like the decisions you make as a trainer matter and you can experience your game and story the way you want to. This is truly the best part about

the game, and I think what makes it memorable and significant for longtime fans, is that it feels like for one of the first times we’re in charge of our own journey and truly have an effect on the fictional world. As the game goes along, you make choices and complete quests that have effects on the world and your gameplay. You help the people who were once terrified of Pokémon accept them and become curious about them and the research you are doing.

There are so many great things about this game, but the story combined with the new freedoms of a new gameplay style really make this game one of my top favorites throughout the long video game series.

Keeping the pressure: Meet the new dance team at NSU

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor

Nova Southeastern University might not be the first name that comes to mind when thinking of stellar dance teams, but that might change.

A new dance team has been stepping up on campus and has gotten people talking, so who is this new group?

Meet the Pressure Dance Team, who specialize in Dancehall and Soca dancing and have committed themselves to bringing Caribbean dance to NSU.

Pressure started during the pandemic, while most students at NSU were taking classes remotely and not on campus, making starting up harder. The university was not as full as it is now, one year after the first meeting of the dance team.

The group was started by sophomore finance major Lori-Ann Hall, when she noticed a lack of student-run dance teams on campus and felt a need to give students of color a space to express themselves through dance. Pressure, as the team came to be known, had humble beginnings with just four members.

“At that time, it didn’t really faze me because, being a dancer, I figured that’s enough people for a team. I started with girls who weren’t as experienced as others, so they were new to dance, and I needed to train them. So, I did that, and those four girls are still on the team.

They started from the very bottom and now they’ve improved so much,” said Hall.

Team Captain Charlotte Carter, a sophomore art and design and education major, said that although the first couple of months were slow, they soon had over 30 students auditioning for the team.

“We got so many girls coming to auditions because of the performance that we did at Sharkapalooza,” said Carter.

Carter was voted in as captain along with a co-captain, positions that Hall said were necessary.

“I had to choreograph. I had to think of formations and think of music. So, it was really a full-time job. So, I have been able to split up my responsibilities, I now have a manager of the team and I have two captains on the team as well,” said Hall.

All of this work came with one goal, expressing Caribbean culture through dance, a sentiment both Hall and Carter repeated.

The best part of Pressure’s rapid growth has been the family bonds the group has shared through the academic year and the pay-off of performing live.

“The first performance we had with the new dancers just kind of showed how much effort Lori had put into the team. I realized that



Pressure Dance team shows its heritage

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I had such a big community now and the girls are all so great and talented and it’s been so beautiful to see them break out of their shells,” said Carter.

Pressure member and sophomore Carrie Alcinord joined last semester, and has enjoyed the exposure she has gotten as a part of the team.

“I feel like I’ve learned a lot and I can

actually understand the music and the dances and that’s thanks to the team and it’s my captain for sure,” said Alcinord.

Pressure Dance team can be followed on Instagram @_pressuredancers.

Whether Soca or Reggaeton, one thing is for certain: Pressure Dance team’s presence at NSU has only just begun.

After 22 seasons, Tom Brady hangs up his cleats

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

On Feb. 1, quarterback Tom Brady officially retired from football. The 44-year-old rides into the sunset as a three-time NFL MVP, seven-time Super Bowl champion, three-time All-Pro and 15-time Pro Bowler. He ends his career as the most decorated player in NFL history.

Brady is walking away with some records that may never be broken. His 84,520 passing yards, 7,263 completions and 624 passing touchdowns are NFL records, with nobody close in sight. Additionally, Brady’s seven Super Bowl rings are the most by any quarterback and are more than any other team in NFL history.

Coming out of college, Brady wasn’t a highly touted recruit, but the California kid ended up at the University of Michigan. In his

first two seasons as a Wolverine, Brady played in just six games, but it changed for him during his junior season. Brady started all 12 games for the team, throwing 14 touchdowns. He ended his college career with 33 total touchdowns.

Going into the NFL Draft, there wasn’t much buzz around the 23-year-old quarterback. Despite that, the New England Patriots drafted Brady with pick No. 199 in the sixth round of the 2000 NFL Draft. A decision that would change the world. Brady was able to show his worth when starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe left the game due to injury. From that point forward, Brady never looked back. He led the Patriots to six Super Bowl titles, nine AFC Championships and 219 regular season wins.

After 20 years as a Patriot, Brady made his way down to Tampa Bay to join the Buccaneers. In his first season as a Buc, he won his seventh Super Bowl, while also having his best season since 2015. His two-year career as a Buccaneer is probably his most impressive feat, as he had back-to-back 40 touchdown seasons, nearly 10,000 passing yards and a Super Bowl victory.

Why would Brady retire at the top of his game? One word: family. As a 44-year-old man that gave his life to football, Brady will spend retirement with his wife and three kids, all aged 14 or younger. During the 2021 season, Brady was asked about his family life, and he said he wished there was more with them. He also said he could play until he is in his 50’s, but he won’t

be doing that due to his family.

“I have loved my NFL career, and now it is time to focus my time and energy on other things that require my attention,” said Brady in his retirement post. “I know for sure I want to spend a lot of time giving to others and trying to enrich other people’s lives, just as so many have done for me.”

Brady gave everything he had to the sport and will go down as the greatest of all time to ever play the sport. The once sixth-round draft pick has given hope to everyone that wasn’t a first-round pick or a five-star prospect. Thank you for all you have given to the game. Enjoy your retirement.

Brian Flores makes a statement by suing the NFL and Miami Dolphins

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor

The Miami Dolphins have history and a complicated relationship when it comes to Brian Flores’s presence in the NFL world. Flores was only with the Miami Dolphins as their head coach for three seasons. However, the impact of being fired is one of the most crucial parts of his NFL career that he has left behind.

Brian Flores not only has a rough relationship with the Miami Dolphins, but has taken action against the NFL, Broncos and Giants by suing them. The reasoning behind the lawsuit consists of racial discrimination and illegal incentives to lose games.

The lawsuit is a 58-page file that has reached federal court and will seek class-action

status.

Flores has made remarkable claims against the Dolphins, but specifically against Stephen Ross, owner of the Miami Dolphins. Flores alleges that Ross persuaded him to lose games after he was hired in 2019, resulting in Ross promising Flores \$100,000 for every loss in that season. This was allegedly because Ross wanted better draft picks and the on-field winnings the Dolphins were having would postpone that goal.

Michael Masinter, professor of law and specialty in employment discrimination, addressed the details of how his case layout.

“His claim is, of course, the race discrimination claim, and he either has to

establish through direct evidence statements of an employer or candidate employer that the employer acts as a racial motive,” said Masinter.

He continued to explain evidence regarding Flores’s case.

“The complaint sketches out as the most compelling circumstantial evidence that he has misdirected tech from the coach of the New England Patriots, Bill Belichick who sent a text to Brian congratulating him, on his having heard that Brian was about to be offered the job,” said Masinter.

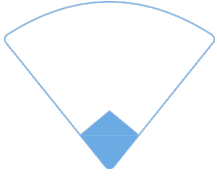
This correlates to one of the main allegations that Flores was not only being mistreated but was humiliated among peers

within the application process. Brian Flores is a part of what seems a controversial and yet timely effort to take a stand against how he was treated.

Flores’ perfect outcome, which was initially explained by professor Masinter, would consist of a jury siding with his claims and the entire world believing that he was wronged by not only the Miami Dolphins, but the entirety of the NFL.

Overall, Brian Flores’ course of action hopes to bring him justice and allow for the conversation of employment discrimination to be taken seriously.

ON DECK



Baseball

v Embry-Riddle
Feb. 25 | 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

v Embry-Riddle
Feb. 26 | 1 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

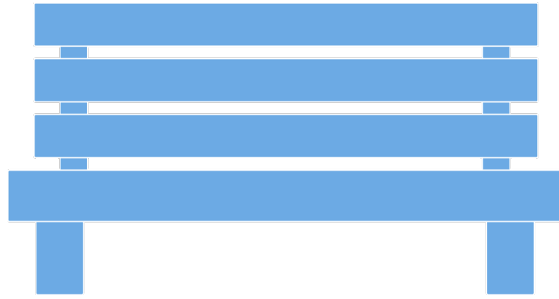
v Embry-Riddle
Feb. 26 | 4 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

v Davenport
Mar. 3 | 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

v Davenport
Mar. 4 | 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

v Davenport
Mar. 5 | noon
NSU Baseball Complex

v American International
Mar. 8 | 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex



On the bench: Mike McDaniel will get most out of the Fins, Tua

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

After the firing of former coach Brian Flores, the Miami Dolphins are taking a different approach with leadership, and I think it's the best move they've made in my lifetime. On Feb. 7, the Dolphins hired San Francisco 49ers offensive coordinator Mike McDaniel to be the team's next head coach.

I can't say a lot of things with certainty, but one thing I know for a fact is that McDaniel will get the most out of a team whose offensive incapability has held them back from the NFL Playoffs on multiple occasions. A pre-historic offensive scheme matched with one of the best defenses, talent-wise, that the NFL has seen in a long time was a horrible match, and a waste of a generational defense.

In terms of total offense, the Dolphins haven't finished the season as a top ten offense since 1995. In the three years of Flores' tenure, Miami hired three different offensive coordinators, all of which had no reason to be in that position, and the results speak for themselves. In those three years, the Dolphins finished no better than No. 22 in total offense. In 2021, McDaniel's 49ers finished the season No.7 in total offense.

What McDaniel does so well is getting his talented players the football in space. 49ers wide receiver and running back Deebo Samuel is a great example of that. Samuel, a dynamic player that can score any time he touches the ball, would get the ball from designed plays that would have him lineup in the backfield, in the slot or out wide. As I mentioned before, it's about creativity. I don't know if McDaniel will use their dynamic players in Lynn Bowden or Jaylen Waddle in the Deebo Samuel role, but I do know that Tua will see his game progress on the field, and mentally as well.

Tua Tagovailoa's career with the Dolphins has been filled with disrespect towards him. In his rookie year, he would start games just to be pulled out for Ryan Fitzpatrick when the team needed a touchdown. Safe to say that doesn't bode well for confidence. Then, in his second year, trade rumors from Week 1 to Week 9 didn't do well for him, either. It got to the point where Tagovailoa was asked about how he was feeling, and his answer was just sad.

"I don't feel not wanted," said Tagovailoa with an awkward laugh.

McDaniel will be the person that takes

Tua's game to the next level for one reason: the run game. In Tagovailoa's two years as a Dolphin, the team hasn't rushed for more than 1,700 yards, finishing in the bottom three in 2021 and bottom ten in 2020. You can't expect a quarterback with a lack of weapons to succeed when his team can't run the ball. In 2021, McDaniel's 49ers rushed for 2,166 yards, good for No.7 in the NFL.

McDaniel did something no other coach has done for Tua. Instill confidence in him.

"We're going to have an extensive professional relationship my man. One thing I know about you is that you have the ambition to be great. My job is to coach you to get all that greatness out of you," said McDaniel to Tagovailoa.

Now, that quote is something I firmly believe. McDaniel's offensive scheme made it to two NFC Championships and a Super Bowl with inferior quarterback play from Jimmy Garoppolo. The Dolphins have a lot to look forward to, and as a fan, I'm "fired up" as McDaniel says.

Finding fitness: Olympics for non-athletes

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



The Olympic games are a time for those who participate in sports and those who simply like to watch to come together and marvel at the spectacle that only happens every few years.

Although the winter games are happening now, we can still appreciate the summer games, mostly because the winter games do not have their own licensed video game yet.

"Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games" has been a staple in sports-for-people-who-don't-play-sports ever since it hit the scene in 2008 for the Beijing summer Olympics. Since then, Nintendo has released multiple installments of the series. They all have one thing in common, they have highly stylized and cartoonish versions of sports that make them fun for people of all ages. You're not here for that "rated E for everyone" stuff, you want to break a sweat and have fun doing it. That's where "Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020" comes in.

The addition of motion controls to the Switch grants it a lot of potential to become your at-home workout routine. "Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020" does not offer motion controls on all of its events, but here are a few that can be used in a workout session together to maximize cardio.

To warm up, playing any of the difficulties in the swimming event can help prepare your body for the wild flailing you will be doing all day. Depending on the character you choose, you will move your arms in one of the many swimming motions that the game has prepared for you as your character glides past the other

contenders.

Up next is table tennis. Although this sounds like one of the less exciting of the events, that notion will soon be disproved as soon as you make your first serve. With the difficulty bumped up a bit, expect a wild table tennis match where it seems like the moment you swing your controller to return, you're immediately swinging in the opposite direction.

The 100m might be one of the harder events to play on motion controls, despite how quick of an event it is. The premise is simple: swing your arms in the motion shown on-screen when prompted to and win the race. This gets difficult when you play the event multiple times and start to get tired with each blow of the whistle.

If the 100m is not your thing, you can peak your work out with some boxing. The motion controls on the boxing event are also very straightforward. You move your arms a certain way to punch and that's what your character does. Surprisingly, this is actually one of the more accurate cartoon boxing games that is on the market. Despite the lack of a stamina bar – boxers can just keep punching forever – there is a technique that needs to be applied to the game. Bigger fighters like Bowser have a harder time of getting up but punch harder, and smaller fighters like Amy hit light but often.

Any one of the other events can be used as a cool down, such as the javelin throw, gymnastics or canoeing. Now, of course you can just go and play these sports in real life, but there's something so special about seeing Bowser knock out Sonic in the first round.

The poison in capitalizing on Black History Month

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

Companies always seem to come out from hibernation in the month of February and show their “support” for black history month.

However, their support doesn’t necessarily include things that actually help the black community like donations to support black causes or equality movements. Companies like Target, Abercrombie, and Hollister profit off these memorial moments by creating merchandise following the theme of the month.

Some people see this as supporting the month. However, I view it as negative capitalism because when these large companies create this merchandise strictly during the month of February, the target audience is the black

community. With t-shirts that say things like “I overcame the struggle” or “black lives matter” these companies are profiting off of the struggles and oppression of black people.

February is also a time where small black businesses work to create merchandise and it is nearly impossible for them to compete with these big brands and their large manufacturing scale and low prices. I personally do not feel like we should be applauding this behavior especially because it is so seasonal.

Maybe it would be a different conversation if these big brands were consistent about wanting to support throughout the entire year, but they are not. We see this same trend during

the LGBTQ+ pride month in which these same companies profit off of the oppression and struggle of a group of people by creating merch, not to support causes, but to make a quick profit.

Though an ongoing issue, not all retail companies follow this trend. Some companies do things that I view as real support, like a percentage of sales going towards black causes or partnering with black-owned companies in creating merchandise in which both companies profit, and the small business gets the exposure.

I do find it interesting that these companies are selective with their oppression profit. For example, I never see t-shirts for Native American struggles during their days of remembrance, or

even for Hispanic Heritage Month I never see shirts representing these minority groups.

I try to be conscious of these initiatives when I see them because companies like Abercrombie have so many customers, they do not need my business to stay afloat so by purchasing a Black Lives Matter t-shirt from them I would be doing myself and the black community a disservice by contributing to the mass capitalization of the black struggle. Instead, I make an effort to find merchandise from small minority-owned businesses that are better for the environment, economy and community.

I took every precaution and I still got sick: NSU should have started online

By: Sofia Gallus
News Editor

I have avoided getting sick throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic. I have taken every single precaution advised by the CDC and the university, even abiding by some university policies that have since been lifted. I wear masks everywhere, wash my hands before taking off my mask, clean my masks on a regular basis, carry hand sanitizer, don’t go to overpopulated events, have gotten vaccinated and even received my booster shot.

Yet, I still caught COVID-19. After two years of avoiding it, of feeling like we were finally in the clear, of feeling like maybe I could have a chance at a normal college experience again, the omicron variant showed up. Hospital beds were filled, testing sites were experiencing such long lines that hadn’t been seen since the beginning of the pandemic and events were getting cancelled again.

I began feeling sick the second week of school, when NSU recorded over 500 people testing positive. Several of my friends had tested positive or received notification that they had been exposed as well. Testing was hard to find; I wasn’t able to schedule a test until nearly a week after I began feeling sick, both on and off campus.

Even worse, according to the new CDC guidelines, I was safe to return to normal after five days so long as I continued wearing a mask around others. NSU’s automated COVID-19 response system began sending me emails and text messages saying I was eligible to return to classes, and only when I double checked with my case worker and confirmed I was still experiencing symptoms that I was told to wait for my test results to come back. Even after this, I received several more texts and emails saying

that I was eligible to return to campus unless I had symptoms, even though I had confirmed with several people several times that I was in fact experiencing symptoms. It was confusing, especially since things were sent over various emails and text messages instead of just one single thread. Although I know there were hundreds of students being managed at the time, it felt like productivity was being favored over wellness.

Let me be clear: you do not want to catch COVID-19. I’m fully vaccinated, and even when I am sick, I am the type of person who likes to get things done. COVID-19 rendered me useless. I ran a fever for two days. I was too exhausted to leave my bed. My throat was so sore that I couldn’t swallow anything but liquids and when I got up to make myself soup, I found I had to sit on the floor for a few minutes

in between my walk from my bedroom to the kitchen. Although I started feeling better after about three days, it was three days that I felt totally defeated and alone.

I understand many students don’t work well over BlendFlex. I’m a marine biology major, and I feel that many of the experiences I could have had were robbed because of the pandemic. That being said, NSU put many of its students in danger by choosing to only mandate masks—a mandate that was poorly reinforced—over the first few weeks of this semester, and many of us suffered the consequences. While 558 people may not be a huge percentage of NSU’s population, it was a number that NSU had not seen through the entirety of the pandemic, and seemingly chose to ignore.

Seriously Kidding: NSU’s newest traditions

By: Alexander Martinie
Copy Editor



The following is a satirical piece, meaning that this piece is full of humor, exaggeration, irony and other techniques to create a ridiculous story. This piece is purely entertaining and not meant to be taken seriously under any circumstances. This piece does not reflect the views of the writer, Nova Southeastern University or The Current as a whole. With this in mind, please enjoy.

With the university going online for two years, many of the annual NSU traditions were put on pause. Now that we are back in person, so are our favorite traditions. For those of you who do not remember the traditions or have never experienced them, here are some of the most popular traditions.

Well, it Floats: Inflatable Fashion Show

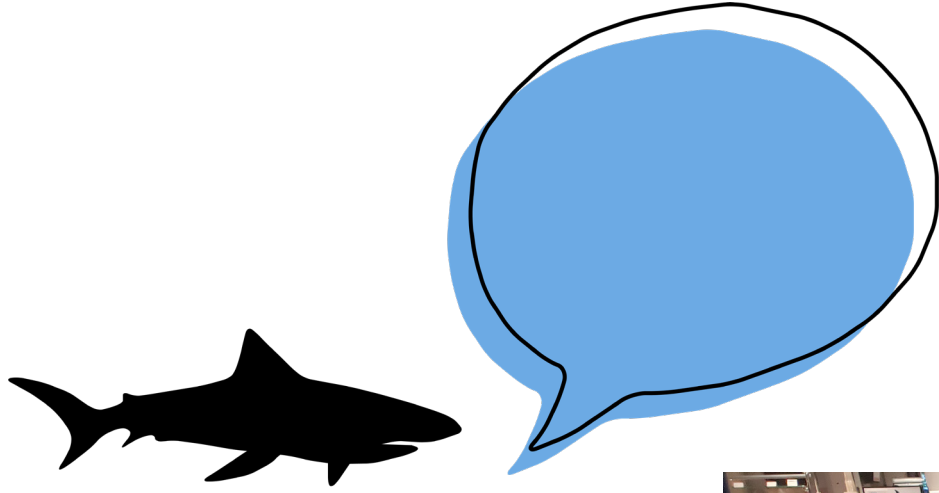
NSU may not be known for their presence in the fashion industry, but no one said that sharks don’t have style and the Well, it Floats: Inflatable Fashion Show proves it. Sharks come in their most fashionable pool floats and strut their stuff across the Gold Circle Lake runway while serving life preserver realness. Students can enter just by showing up and the student with the best outfit wins an inflatable whale named Jennifer.

CommunityFest After Dark

By now everyone on campus has seen the announcements for CommunityFest, a premier tradition here at NSU, be the real fun happens after the sun goes down. Taking place right after the normal CommunityFest, CommunityFest After Dark showcases the underground and indie scenes here at NSU. With a special live performance from Razor and The Current’s Glee Club, come see Razor sing some of the greatest hits of shark songs. CommunityFest After Dark is not an event to miss.

Hide and seek with Razor

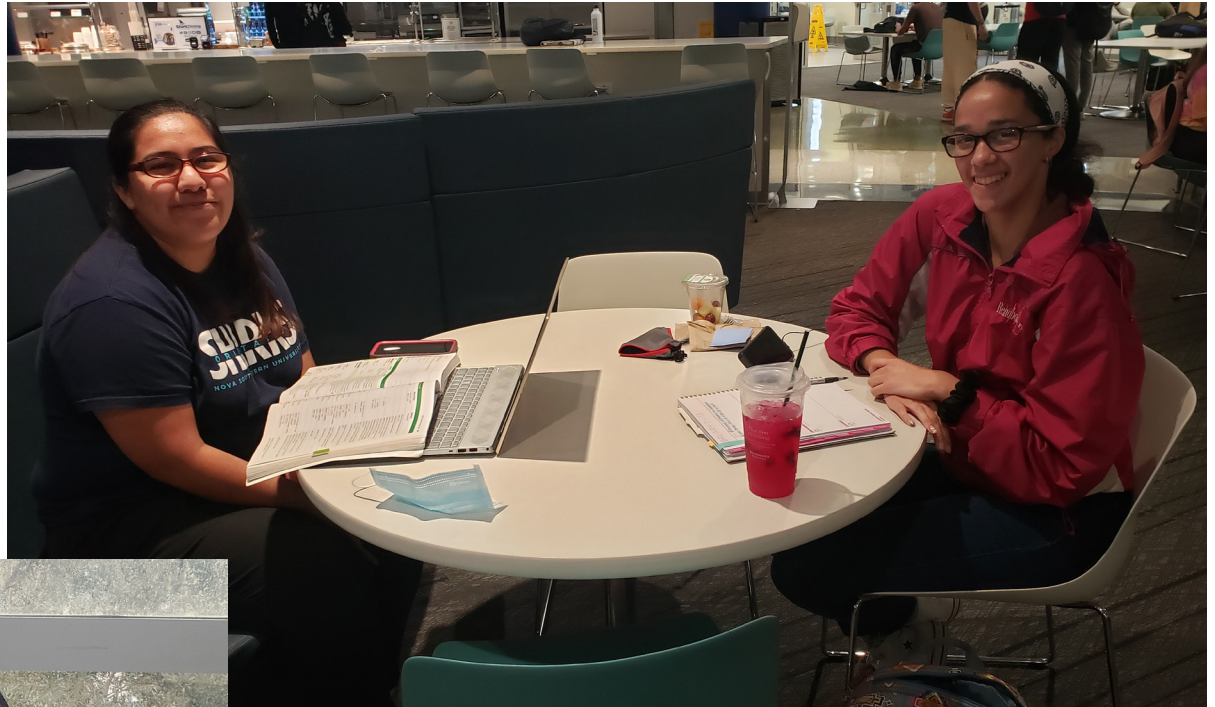
We all know that midterms can be stressful so we have to do what we can to relax, and Razor knows just how to do that. When midterms come along, keep your eyes peeled for Razor as he plays a campus-wide game of hide and seek. You never know where he might be hiding. Last year, Razor hid out in one of The Current’s newsstands for three days. First person to find Razor gets a free pass on all their midterms, but only if you can catch him. Razor has been known to be a runner, so wear shows you can run in. Will you find Razor before he finds you?



Shark speak

“February is a month full of love, so how do you celebrate self-love?”

Pictured are Olivia and Anna



Pictured are Leona and Sidney



“I like to get my nails done, and I’ll put on a hair mask and things like that. I’ll hang out with friends,” said Olivia Jones, sophomore political science major.

“I just like to spend time on my own. I like to do skincare, like face masks, and stuff like that,” said Anna Johnson, freshman psychology major.

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“I’d probably just say watching a movie, making myself dinner if I was spending [Valentine’s Day] by myself, and maybe getting my nails done,” said Leona Ewan, second year medical student.

“For me personally, I definitely go and work out and just get everything out that way. I also like hanging out with friends and just laughing and having a good time. That brings me joy, or I just take time by myself and listen to music,” said Sidney Milena, second year medical student.

“Treasure Planet”: Disney’s best box office failure

By: Sophia Cortes
Arts & Entertainment Editor

It’s been nearly 20 years since Ron Clements and John Musker’s passionate, sci-fi reimagining of the classic novella “Treasure Island” set its sails for the silver screen to become the biggest box office flop the company had seen since “The Black Cauldron.” “Treasure Island” was the two Disney veterans’ expensive passion project, one that lost the company \$74 million due to its high production value and low turnout at the box office, according to ScreenRant. Was the film’s failure and slow fade into the background of Disney history deserved? Not by a long shot.

The film was a stunning marvel and success in (almost) every aspect. It was one of Disney’s last hurrahs at 2-D animation while also expertly blending new technologies like Deep Canvas and 3-D. Deep Canvas is software that was created by Disney in order to create dynamic model backgrounds that had the same

features as 3-D animation. The bonus was that the program allowed animators to not only work quicker but also provide shots that were akin to live action steady cameras, giving any scene using Deep Canvas a depth and complexity that was often hard to replicate with traditional 2-D animation. While this software was used before in “Tarzan,” “Treasure Planet” was the first film to use it in majority of its scenes, given that the breathtaking ship Jim Hawkins spends his journey on was comprised entirely using Deep Canvas. 3-D animation was used in the complexities of Silver’s cybernetic parts of his body and is what brought the robot B.E.N to life. While this proved to be incredibly expensive, all three forms of animation used in conjunction with the interstellar art design which gave the film so much beautiful texture and dimension that it created was incredibly breathtaking.

As “Treasure Planet” was a reimagining of

the novel which was set in the mid 18th century, Clements and Musker decided to take the term “space pirates” and make it as literal as possible. The spaceship Jim boards is a literal ship adorned with rigging and solar sails and rocket thrusters. In replacement of a peg leg and an eyepatch Silver is a swashbuckling cyborg. Space itself gained the “Etherium” which is a layer of space that consists of breathable air in which life such as giant space whales float like stars amongst the various ships that frequent its solar waves. The score was a beautiful combination of orchestra, shanty-like music and two fantastic alternative songs by The Goo Goo Doll’s John Rzeznik and BBMak.

The film doesn’t stop its perfect mixture of old and new just there. Beyond the obvious notion that the story itself is a retelling of an old pirate tale, it’s not an exact one-to-one comparison. “Treasure Planet” turns Jim

Hawkins’ coming of age story into one that is also about redemption and finding where you belong. Its characters are so complex, besides B.E.N who is simply overused comedic relief, and earnest they are the emotional heartbeat of the film. This passionate and attentive blending of traditional with futuristic in every aspect of the film is what continues to set it apart most modern sci-fi epics, and frankly something that is missing from the current genre as a whole.

“Treasure Planet” is the essence of love, adventure and stardust. It needs to be remembered not as a mere modernization of a time old classic nor a forgotten box office flop, but as a cosmically grand tale that will hopefully continue to rattle the stars for many years to come.

THE CURRENT'S CORNER

WORD SEARCH

O	C	U	I	O	A	L	M	D	G	L	N	J	S	S
C	L	W	X	D	Y	E	F	U	A	Z	L	R	T	N
Q	B	Y	E	M	W	I	U	C	E	N	Q	V	R	O
W	E	L	M	R	Y	N	D	M	K	S	C	Z	E	I
Q	E	L	R	P	H	A	M	A	U	K	U	E	L	T
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ADELE
CRUISE
MARRIAGE
OLYMPICS
SUPERMAN

ALERTS
DANCE
MCDANIEL
POKEMON
TAO

BRADY
DOLPHINS
MUSEUM
PRESSURE
TRADITIONS

STAY CURRENT & STAY SAFE

