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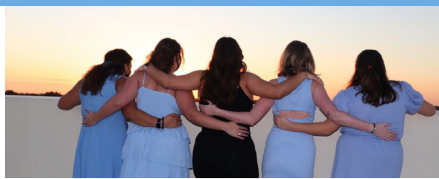
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"Job not finished" SSC Champions compete in NCAA tournament

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor



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Rodgers' game-winning shot called for a celebration at center court.

After winning their first Sunshine State Conference Tournament in program history, the focus for the NSU men's basketball program shifts to the NCAA tournament to accomplish the ultimate goal: winning an NCAA Championship. Statistically and ideologically, the Sharks are a difficult team to beat.

Coach Jim Crutchfield's bunch scores with the best of them, scoring 98.2 points per game, second in Division-II, and allowing just 77.1 points per game. Their 21-point scoring margin leads Division-II. Despite having the second highest scoring offense, the team is No. 97 in three-point shots made per game. The Sharks get a good portion of their production inside the three-point line.

"This team is a lot more inside oriented, and we score a lot more at the rim than previous teams I've coached," said Crutchfield. "We've always talked about scoring any way we can, and I think we've adapted to our personnel."

The Sharks are led in the scoring department by two dominant bigs in junior wing Sekou Sylla (6'5") and sophomore forward RJ Sunahara (6'8"). Sylla averages 22.6 points on 58% from the field. The lefty is efficient under the rim. Sunahara puts up 19.7 points per game on 61% shooting. Despite that, the duo has hit just 19 three-pointers combined, with Sunahara contributing 18. What do the two have to say to those that think the three-ball is the only way to succeed?

"Sticked to what's working," said Sylla. "If it's not broken, don't fix it. I just live by that."

"If you can score inside, you might as well," said Sunahara. "There's no point in switching it up if you're scoring."

The shooting ability of the two senior guards in Nick Smith and Eddie Puisis allows the inside oriented Sylla and Sunahara to play their game at the best potential. The efficient, lethal Puisis averages 15.1 points and shoots

50.6% from the field and 47.2% from deep. Smith shoots about 35% from behind the arc, spacing the court for Sunahara and Sylla.

"We work off each other," said Sylla. "We're only able to score because they're such great shooters."

Smith and Puisis were members of the Shark team that made the Final Four in 2020 and lead by example. Smith is the verbal leader that keeps the team in check and confident.

"Being there for the young guys, not being mad at them and just letting them know that they need to keep shooting or make the next play," said Smith. "When I was a young guy, that gave me the confidence to make the next play."

This isn't Crutchfield's first rodeo. He owns a 26-9 record in the NCAA tournament. Keeping his young team calm and ready is the main goal, but he isn't too concerned about the difficulty of that task.

Rodgers' Shot Keeps Sharks Dreams Alive

Blake Malick

This issue was sent to print on Monday, March 14 ahead of Tuesday's game against Embry Riddle.

After demolishing Savannah State in the Round of 64 by 51 points, the Sharks found themselves in a close game against No. 4 seeded Union (TN) in the Round of 32. The game started off slow for NSU, and at one point, the Sharks saw themselves losing by 17 points. The deficit was trimmed to just ten points going into the half.

RJ Sunahara took matters into his own hands after halftime, going on a 7-0 run himself, trimming the deficit to just three points. Before anyone knew it, the Sharks took the lead.

Nick Smith controlled the game and found consistently clean looks. Sekou Sylla was all over the place in the clutch, grabbing rebounds and steals. Eddie Puisis always seemed to be in the right spot, getting easy layups and good shots off.

Whenever the game seemed to be out of reach for the visitors, Union's Tyree Boykin would hit a shot to bring the team back. Yet, when he stepped to the free throw line with 21 seconds remaining and an 80-79 lead, he missed the free throw and the Sharks rebounded.

With three seconds left, Crutchfield drew up a play that had Smith inbound the ball under the basket to true freshman Kobe Rodgers at the free throw line. Rodgers caught it, faded away and hit the shot over two defenders to give the Sharks an 81-80 win.

The Sharks take on fellow SSC foe Embry Riddle in the Sweet Sixteen on March 15 at 7 p.m. at Rick Case Arena.

Congratulations to both the men's basketball and baseball teams for holding the No. 1 spot in their rankings. For more information, go to page 9.

"We approach every game like it's a big game, so this isn't that much different," said Crutchfield. "Even though we're a very young team, we're fairly mature about how we approach the game."

During the 2021-2022 season, the Sharks cleaned out the awards in the SSC. Sylla was named as a member of First Team All-SSC and the SSC's Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year. Sunahara was also named to First Team All-SSC and received the SSC's Defensive Player of the Year honors. Smith made the All-SSC Second Team. In addition, Crutchfield was named as the Coach of the Year in the SSC.

With the NCAA Tournament on the horizon, as Smith and Puisis say, the "job is not finished."



International tidings

global news

Russia invades Ukraine

On Feb. 24, Russia officially invaded Ukraine in an effort to take over the country. More than a million Ukrainian citizens have fled the country in the weeks following the invasion, but Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy has remained in the country and taken up arms against Russian troops. The United Nations committee has condemned Russia's actions, specifically the careless manner in which they took over the radioactive site of Chernobyl, which could have had severe effects on the surrounding countries. While Russia has taken measures to silence those speaking out against them in the country and to distort the news of their attacks, such as blocking Facebook and taking down dissenting social media posts, heavy fighting has been reported in the Ukraine capital city of Kyiv and international news outlets are able to verify information through photos and videos.

NATO refuses to police no-fly zone over Ukraine

NATO has rejected a request to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine, which could possibly protect the country from aerial strikes by Russia during the ongoing invasion. Under Article 5 of NATO's founding treaty, the nations involved in the treaty must come to an ally's defense if they are under

attack. However, NATO's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg explained that while Russia's actions have been disavowed by NATO and the Ukrainian people have their support, the only way to police a no-fly zone would be to shoot down Russian planes in the area, which has the potential to cause a full-fledged war across Europe.

Germany proposes "crisis discount" for gas as oil prices skyrocket

Germany has proposed a "crisis discount" as gasoline prices rise after Russia had essentially been blacklisted from the global market. The discount, proposed by Finance Minister Christian Lindner, would have gas prices lowered 0.2 euros per liter, equating to about eight cents per gallon. The nation's Green party has also proposed a way to limit fuel usage by implementing a speed limit on highways, which would both reduce the amount of fuel used and better protect the environment. While neither measure has been passed by the three-party government coalition in Germany, Lindner has announced that he hopes to have his crisis discount measure passed this week so that citizens and businesses will not fall victim to the rising fuel prices, but refused to comment on the Green party's proposal.



News anchor

national news

Biden delivers State of the Union address amidst war, inflation

President Biden delivered the annual State of the Union address on March 1, which had been recently revised to reflect the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. In his speech, Biden started by addressing the ongoing pandemic briefly and expressed gratitude for being able to gather in person for the address this year. He continued by speaking about the Russia-Ukraine war, condemning Putin's actions of invasion and pledging to support Ukraine's fight for freedom through America's place in the NATO alliance, announcing in addition that for the time being the United States would not be sending troops to Ukraine to assist in combat. Following this, he acknowledged the rising U.S. gas, housing and grocery prices and urged the passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to invest in America's economy and future. He also touched on his administration's successes as well as their goals: to continue creating new jobs, tackling the climate crisis and lowering the cost of life-saving medication such as insulin.

U.S. Senate fails to codify Roe v. Wade

The U.S. Senate failed to codify Roe vs. Wade after the Women's Health Protection Act did not garner the 60 votes it needed to overcome the ongoing filibuster and had seemingly failed to get the 50 votes

needed to continue the passage of the bill into law after Senator Joe Manchin joined Republicans in opposition of the bill. Codifying Roe vs. Wade and passing the Women's Health Protection Act would have ensured safe abortions remained accessible in all 50 states even if the Supreme Court decided to overturn or roll back Roe v. Wade, which has been a prominent topic of discussion since the Court announced they would hear a number of cases on abortion laws.

Florida students protest against 'Don't Say Gay' bill

Students across Florida have organized in protest against the Parents Education Rights bill, dubbed the 'Don't Say Gay' bill, which would make discussing gender identity and sexual orientation illegal in K-12 schools. High school students in cities throughout Florida walked out of their classrooms on March 3 holding signs and chanting "we say gay" in support of LGBTQ+ students' rights to privacy and safety. While many have taken to social media to express support for the students, one student at Flagler Palm Coast High School said that he had been suspended "indefinitely" for organizing his school's protest and handing out 200 pride flags during the walkout.

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News briefs

campus news



Masks become optional across NSU campuses

In an email sent to all students, faculty and staff on March 1, NSU president Hanbury announced that masks would become optional at all NSU campuses, including the NSU University School and in classrooms. This comes after a previous email in February stating that there would be no more changes to NSU’s mask policy during this academic year. Exceptions remain in place during clinical operations when treating patients who may be positive for COVID-19 and at the Puerto Rico campus, where the Commonwealth’s Executive Order that mandates masks is still in place. In addition to these exemptions, faculty and staff with vaccination exemptions must continue to wear a well-fitting face mask indoors. President Hanbury noted that those who feel more comfortable wearing a mask are free to continue to do so.

Students better community with All Fins In event

The offices of Campus Life & Student Engagement and Student Leadership & Civic Engagement have joined together with over ten community partners in Broward County to gather students and help address several different social issues in the Davie and greater Broward County community. In an email sent out to students on March 2, the event was

described as the “ultimate service project.” The event, called All Fins In, will gather students together to participate in assigned service projects with the community partners in various fields. The social issues students will be tackling include homelessness, youth literacy, education, hunger and environmental issues. Participating students will be provided with free breakfast, t-shirts and transportation to their community partner if needed, in addition to receiving 10 Fins Points for their organization on campus and completing the service requirement for Fall Funding Eligibility.

NSU revives annual “Pi Day” celebration

NSU’s Department of Mathematics celebrated “Pi Day” on March 14 to celebrate the mathematical constant, a tradition that NSU has been hosting for several years up until the COVID-19 pandemic made in-person gatherings, especially in instances where face masks would not be feasible due to eating, more of a risk. Now that face masks have become optional at NSU campuses both indoors and outside, NSU invited both students and staff to gather in front of the Parker building from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to feast on both triple-berry pie and pizza pie, play Pi-themed trivia games and learn about the history of the number, as well as new research developments involving it.

Good news

that’s it



New York City man rescued not once, but twice during hiking excursion in Arizona

A 28-year-old man from Brooklyn urged other hikers to beware of Arizona’s winter weather if they plan on hiking the state’s mountain range over the next week. According to The Associated Press, the man had to be rescued twice over two days while he attempted to hike through the mountain range’s northern region. The trail attempted was a five-and-a-half-mile hike through rocky terrain, which during clear conditions should have been a breeze for a hiker with experience. While the man is unnamed, the Arizona Sun Daily described him as an experienced hiker who was aware of the winter weather but underestimated the intensity of the conditions. The man initially believed that if he began his trek in the early morning, he would have plenty of time to avoid any weather advisories that may have arisen in the afternoon or evening. He was first driven off the mountain by vehicles from the nearby ski resort, but declined medical attention. The next day, however, he was injured by a fall on his first attempt at the trail and a rescue helicopter was sent to retrieve him.

Ruby the rescue dog rescues teenage boy

Ruby, an Australian shepherd and border collie mix, is a working K-9 for the Rhode Island Police Department. Before she was eight months old, she was returned to

the shelter by five different families because of persistent energy and behavior problems. According to The Associated Press, shelter volunteer Patricia Inman worked hard on training her in 2011 and vouched for her when state police officer Daniel O’Neil came in looking for a search-and-rescue dog. Six years after her final adoption, Ruby worked a case regarding a missing teenage boy, and found the boy – unconscious and in grave condition, but alive -- 36 hours after he had gotten lost during a hike. The missing teenage boy turned out to be Inman’s son. Thanks to her heroic rescue and her incredible background story, Ruby will be getting her own Netflix movie called “Rescued by Ruby,” which will premiere on March 17.

Real bat tries to view new “Batman” film

Film attendees scheduled to see the new “Batman” movie, starring Robert Pattinson as the nighttime hero, waited patiently as animal control employees tried desperately to capture a bat that was flying around in the theater in Austin, Texas, according to The Associated Press. The theater company, Moviehouse & Eatery by Cinépolis, stated that the bat was likely released into the theater as a prank. After trying and failing to remove the bat from the theater, moviegoers were offered their money back and a free reschedule, but one audience member told The Associated Press that many of them opted to stay and watch the film anyways, “bat and all.”

Shark Preview weekends return in person

By: Alexander Martinie
Copy Editor



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Shark Preview staff poses while preparing for the first in-person weekend.

Shark Preview weekends have returned to in-person events following spring break. The first in-person Shark Preview weekend since March 2020 was held the week beginning on Mar. 10, from Thursday to Sunday. In the last academic year, Shark Preview was held entirely online.

This semester, the first seven Shark Preview weekends were held virtually, but after spring break, Shark Preview weekends will be held fully in-person on campus.

“The attendees are very excited to come to campus. So, they just feel like coming to campus will allow them to get a better feel for what NSU and our community is all about,

and I would tend to agree. We try to duplicate that as possible in our virtual program,” said Ashley McCafferty, director of orientation and commuter engagement in the Office of Orientation.

Housing will be limited to off campus for the in-person Shark Preview weekends. Prospective students will no longer be housed in the residence halls for the weekend. Shark Preview attendees will be required to wear masks at all times on campus, while the current rule for students is that masks are not required. All attendees are required to show a copy of their vaccination card, or a negative PCR test taken within the last 72 hours of the start of

their attendance. All vaccination records will be handled through a third-party program, Crowdcast.

“If you’re a Shark Preview attendee and you’re traveling with your parents, you must stay with your parents. For students that are travelling alone, we have contacted housing for them elsewhere, so they won’t be hosted by any current students this year,” said McCafferty.

With the past year of Shark Preview being held virtually the Office of Orientation is prepared to return to virtual Shark Preview weekends, if necessary. However, the Office of Orientation believes that the attendees will not get the most out of a virtual experience as being

immersed in campus life at NSU. McCafferty likened the virtual Shark Preview to online shopping, stating that you do not know if it will truly be the right fit for you.

“[In-person Shark Preview] just gives you kind of a little better of an assessment on if NSU is the right place for you, and then as far as students that are like working Preview, they’re, again, really excited about it going to in person because it’s a super rewarding process with all the activities. There’s more of that social aspect of it. So, they get to know the attendees and all around a lot more fun involved instead of just all business,” said McCafferty.

The importance of International Women's Day

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor



Sigma Delta Tau, representing International Women's Day by celebrating one another



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International Women's Day celebrates not only achievements of overcoming obstacles women have faced, but this day allows women to be recognized for their uniqueness and well-rounded qualities.

The celebration took place on March 8 and is known all over the world as a day to celebrate women. This year's theme, implemented by the organization International Women's Day, consists of the key concept of #BreakTheBasis. This is about understanding the obstacles between gender equality, equity and inclusion. To learn more about this theme, there are multiple resources you can look into from the International Women's Day organization to further understand the organization's capabilities.

One event held in honor of International

Women's Day at NSU was sponsored by the Student and Activities Board. "She Did That." It was an event celebrating all women during Women's History Month. The event handed out goodies which consisted of heartfelt and motivating notes, small plushies and tote bags.

The festivity served as a reminder on campus that women empowerment is all around us, and it is important to recognize within our communities. There are many outlets all around us that help push the movement for women empowerment.

The International Women's Day organization website quotes Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist once explained, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts

of all who care about human rights."

To capture the spirit of Steinem's message there are many ways different countries celebrate this day.

For example, in India a series of marches are held, meetings with female farmers, groups of forest management committees gather, and university conferences are held which help to produce real change contracted by women. In the United States, this day is renowned amongst schools across the country to embrace this week as a means of gratifying equality in the classroom, something that was founded by the National Women's History Alliance.

This day commemorates women in valuable ways, which showcase authentic women in a powerful light.

International Women's Day and Women's

History month uphold strong ideals. With that being said, always remember to tell the most important women in your life that they are strong. Support female-owned business and donate to organizations that exemplify female empowerment. All of these acts uphold this day to its main purpose of supporting women.

Michelle Obama once said, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."

International Women's Day symbolizes change and the hope for women empowerment to always be evolving.

Gill out: Tijuana Taxi Co.

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

In one of the most surprising events in my recent memory, I saw that Tijuana Taxi Co. had not been a part of our Gill Out series yet. As a result, I knew that I had to make a trip there.

For those who don't know, Tijuana Taxi Co. describes itself as a "Mexican Cuisine and Cantina [that] serves fresh Mexican & Tex-Mex food and Legendary Margaritas," on their website. The Mexican restaurant has three locations, all in Broward County, including Coral Springs, Davie and Deerfield Beach. I, of course, visited the Davie location. Located just two miles from campus on University Drive, it's

a spot that anyone can make their way to. In fact, the Davie location is the original location that the owners opened in 2004.

I made my trip to Tijuana Taxi Co. with my girlfriend. The inside has a great ambiance, with walls covered in LED signs and logos of companies. I love it when restaurants have walls that are covered with signs, memorabilia and decorations. I have no complaints about the service, in fact, it was great. When we walked in, we were seated immediately and had constant service from the waiter.

Despite being a restaurant that serves

predominantly Mexican food, there is something for everyone on the menu, especially the picky ones like myself. The menu consists of a plethora of Mexican originals, but also cheeseburgers, chicken tenders and french fries.

Now, before I tell you what I ordered, don't knock me. It can only be described as elite. I ordered the chicken tenders tossed in their honey sweet sauce. Now, as a bit of a wings and boneless wings enthusiast, I tend to order meals similar to them wherever I go. I cannot express how well it worked out for me here, as Tijuana Taxi Co.'s honey sweet sauce is in my

top three for any "boneless" wings I've had in recent memory.

I enjoy Mexican food, but my girlfriend definitely prefers it more than I do. She ordered three carne asada tacos. As she is somewhat of a street taco connoisseur, she said that she very much enjoyed the tacos and that she would love to return.

For anyone that's tired of the everyday options around campus like Chick-Fil-A, Chipotle and others, make your way over to Tijuana Taxi Co. to enjoy a nice, different meal.

Governor DeSantis' new policy threatens shelters for immigrant children

By: Danna Bertel
Contributing Writer

Immigration over the past few years has become a debatable topic, many unable to agree on how to address or fix immigration challenges. Governor Ron DeSantis has become another political figure for drastic immigration policies, in this case unaccompanied migrant children. These children enter the U.S. without their parents or legal guardians but are temporarily housed until they are united with relatives or sponsors.

In mid-December Governor DeSantis, directed Florida childcare regulators to halt issuing and renewing the licenses of facilities that work with the federal government to care for immigrant children. Governor DeSantis, through a letter, informed the federal government that Florida will no longer take part in housing

immigrant children that arrive through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, referring to the program as "highly flawed."

Charles Zelden is a professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics at Nova Southeastern University. He teaches courses in history, government and legal studies, and throughout his career he has been a commentator on politics and current events for media outlets such as CNN and the Miami Herald. Zelden disagrees with the Office of Refugee resettlement to be a "highly flawed" program.

"The job of the program is to resettle refugees; they do a good job at it. The problem is if you don't want the refugees to come to your particular state, then that's a flawed program because they are doing what you don't want,"

said Zelden.

Governor DeSantis' was also condemned for his comments regarding immigrant children. As reported by The Tampa Bay Times, on Jan. 7, at Miami's American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora, DeSantis mentioned that past immigrants were fleeing a communist dictatorship and comparing them to the unaccompanied children arriving now is "disgusting." A campaign consisting of business leaders has started to run a Spanish-language radio ad referring to the Governor's speech.

"They are people fleeing a bad situation. It's just the politics of domestic politics. Republicans generally are hard on communism, therefore fleeing communism is a good thing. Fleeing economic disaster is a bad thing. In both

cases they are fleeing unlivable conditions and the governor should know the difference. But it's politics and what he can sell to his constituency. There are people that believe that there are limited justifications for getting special treatment as refugees. The thing he doesn't understand is that refugees are not getting special treatment. They're getting treatment as outlined by the law," said Zelden.

The Department of Children and Families, following DeSantis policy, will no longer issue or renew the licenses of shelters in Florida that care for unaccompanied migrant children unless there is an agreement between the State and Federal government. Leaving shelters unable to complete the necessary paperwork, and unable to care for the children.

Spotlight: The man behind the counter at Starbucks

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



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Grayson Beckley at his post.

Tucked into the corner of the Don Taft University Center is a little Starbucks café that hosts a variety of faces that have become easily recognizable among patrons. Among those is Starbucks worker Grayson Beckley, a full time Chartwells employee, who sees the crowds come and go all day. Long lines have become a staple of the café, synonymous with the name Starbucks.

As transgender rights have taken center-stage in U.S. politics, people around the country have noticed more trans people in the workforce. The NSU Starbucks is no different.

Grayson Beckley stands behind the counter wearing a “trans pride” pin along with his pronouns. Known for his amicable nature and rainbow mask, Beckley has become a central figure in the evening shift at Starbucks, where he rushes out coffee and sandwiches to all the tired and burnt-out members of the NSU community.

Beckley appreciates the unspoken, but

well-known, importance of his position.

“I like being able to come up with new drinks that people love and, honestly, I like to make people’s day and I do that every day,” said Beckley.

Beckley has enjoyed his two years at the NSU Starbucks and has been accepted with open arms by his coworkers.

“I came out socially last year and I’ve had nothing but support. My coworkers are really good about never misgendering [me] and always making sure that if somebody’s talking about me that they’re correcting them,” said Beckley.

After identifying as non-binary, Beckley finally made the first steps into transition last year, a change that has been welcomed by his wife.

“I knew that I was trans my whole life, but I was always afraid to come out. I dated people that didn’t want me as a man and that’s fair and

that’s completely valid but that kept me in the closet,” said Beckley.

“I felt like I could come out as trans and so I told her last year and she’s been so helpful,” he added.

There have been difficulties, but Beckley’s favorite part of transition has been being perceived as his true gender.

“My favorite part has, honestly, been the voice drop and people seeing me as more masculine than ever,” said Beckley.

His transition has helped those around him see him for who he really is and has made his own mission of daily joy, easier. Once he hands you your coffee, be sure to be courteous and kind to him, he always does the same back.

“I hope for everybody to be the positivity they want to see in the world. Like, you have to make your own positive experience in the world and the more positive people there are, the more positive interactions there will be,” said Beckley.

Families of Sandy Hook victims reach \$72 million settlement

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

Nine families who were victims of the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012 have reached a \$73 million settlement on Feb. 22 against Remington Arms, the company who was the maker of the gun that was used to kill 20 elementary students and six educators.

“The civil court case in Connecticut focused on how the firearm used by the Newtown shooter — a Bushmaster XM15-E2S rifle — was marketed, alleging it targeted younger, at-risk males in advertising and product placement in violent video games. In one of Remington’s ads, it features the rifle against a plain backdrop and the phrase: ‘Consider Your Man Card Reissued,’ according to The Associated Press.

Jasmine Saldana, sophomore criminal justice major, said, “Civilians don’t need to have access to such advanced weapons that can lead to mass shooting and deaths, This settlement shouldn’t have taken this long, it’s been 10 years and gun right laws are consistently changing as

these shootings have continued.”

Sandy Hook marked a dramatic change in the view of gun control in the U.S. schools around the country began increasing security protocols like never seen before. In elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, metal detectors were built, extra sets of walls before entering the buildings were added and a general fear in places of education lingered.

According to The Associated Press, “The families and a survivor of the shooting sued Remington in 2015, saying the company should have never sold such a dangerous weapon to the public. They said their focus was on preventing future mass shootings by forcing gun companies to be more responsible with their products and how they market them.”

President Joe Biden commented on the case, “While this settlement does not erase the pain of that tragic day, it does begin the necessary work of holding gun manufacturers

accountable for manufacturing weapons of war and irresponsibly marketing these firearms.” This case was important to both gun control advocates, gun rights supporters and manufacturers because it sets a precedent for victims’ abilities to sue firearm makers.

Saldana said, “NSU and other schools should provide more security and training on how to act when these threats happen. In high school we had code red drills but in college we should have similar practices, so students know what to do.”

The Associated Press also stated, “Remington, one of the nation’s oldest gun makers founded in 1816, filed for bankruptcy for a second time in 2020 and its assets were later sold off to several companies. The manufacturer was weighed down by lawsuits and retail sales restrictions following the school shooting.”

Remington Arms had attempted to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court after the

Connecticut Supreme Court ruled the company could be sued over how they marketed the rifle, however they declined to hear it.

“Today is about what is right and what is wrong,” said Francine Wheeler, whose 6-year-old son, Ben, was killed in the shooting. “Our legal system has given us some justice today. But ...David and I will never have true justice. True justice would be our 15-year-old healthy and standing next to us right now. But Benny will never be 15. He will be 6 forever because he is gone forever.”

Though this shooting took place at an elementary school, the threat is at all places of education. Saldana commented saying, “In regard to the threat itself, we need to have more resource officers available for a faster response to safety. Having a requirement of only two resource officers is not enough. Though public safety is helpful, we need to have armed officers available to act on situations.”

Race, gender and sexual identity are becoming taboo in school libraries

By: Adithya Daniel Mathews
Contributing Writer

Since September 2021, groups of Texas parents and politicians have pushed for the ban of hundreds of books from school libraries. The majority of such titles are those that deal with race, gender and sexual orientation.

Last October, Texas State Representative Matt Krause urged Texas School Districts to investigate a list of 850 books with 97 of the first 100 titles being written by “women, people of color or LGBTQ authors,” according to The Dallas Morning News.

At the local scale, parents in Eanes Independent School District, Austin, requested four books discussing racism to be replaced with copies of the Bible.

Similarly, novels that depict coming-of-age stories of queer youth, including “Jack of Hearts” and “All Boys Aren’t Blue,” have been removed from Katy Independent School District in Texas, following pressure from parents and politicians who claim that these books are pornographic.

Zachary Scalzo, adjunct professor in

the Department of Humanities and Politics at NSU said, “There is a trend to conflate depictions of non-straight sexual orientations as pornographic.”

Unlike pornography, sexual content in these books serve the purpose of character development or addressing topics such as abuse.

Regardless of this distinction, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has called for criminal charges against school staff members who provide children with young adult novels that may be accused of being pornographic. Fear of prosecution has led many school librarians to remove books from shelves even before complaints are made.

Gabriela Mendez, an associate professor in the Fischler College of Education and Criminal Justice at NSU suggested that this issue is part of a larger problem across the nation, citing Texas’ ‘Critical Race Theory Law and Florida’s Don’t Say Gay Bill.

“It’s not an isolated event, these books

being forbidden. It’s in the context of political division in which some groups want to silence others,” said Mendez.

The national scale of this issue is displayed in how, late last year, Oklahoma’s state senate introduced a bill to prohibit books on sexual or gender identity from school libraries, and in January 2021, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Holocaust novel “Maus” was removed from schools in McMinn County, Tennessee.

A consequence of gatekeeping the literature available to students is that it may harm children’s ability to be inclusive of people from different backgrounds or to even feel safe in their own identity.

“Banning these books... to minimize the representation and discussion of non-heterosexual sexual orientation and diverse gender identities, or non-white constructions of race, means that the information that is left is severely limited and is passed off as representative,” said Scalzo.

Mendez questioned whether it was justified to exclude certain groups of people from the literature provided to students.

“We have students who have two moms, or two dads and they never see themselves in books. Or we have kids who are transitioning. How many books do we have about that? If we don’t have those books, who is excluded? What makes us think that some people are better than others and that we can exclude?” said Mendez.

Scalzo contended that this censorship will harm the ability of these youth to become effective and compassionate voters and members of society.

Censoring school libraries could pilfer the ability of children in marginalized communities to be included and develop their sense of self.

“We need to have books that are like mirrors that allow us to see ourselves... Forbidding these books is a way of making sure that many kids do not have the opportunity to see themselves,” said Mendez.

Identity in fashion: Expressing yourself one fabric at a time

By: Gerianne Salamanca Gamez
Chief of Visual Design

Life is a game and every single one of us are the main characters in our own reality. We are constantly customizing and upgrading our characters, forming a more complex identity. One of the easiest ways we can customize ourselves is through our fashion choices. Our personal style choices are a form of nonverbal communication that represent our identities.

Our identities are immensely complex and are always developing as we go through life. Fashion has proven to be the medium that can successfully portray the layers of complexity that come with individual identity. Whether it be cultural or ethnic identity, gender identity or even secondary identifiers, like personal interests, they can all be put on display through our fashion choices.

Secondary identifiers are the most commonly displayed through clothing, most people do it without thinking. Wearing t-shirts from your favorite artists or shows are just a few simple examples. It doesn't even have to be as direct as graphic t-shirts, either. Your style of clothing can express subgenres you may be into. For example, dressing in accordance to certain aesthetics like punk, y2k, streetwear, avant-garde and so on displays your interests so you can express your current favorite things publicly.

Cultural and ethnic identity take a little more intention to be expressed through fashion. Wearing clothing that is specific to your culture demonstrates pride and comfort in ethnic identity. Having a diverse and accepting surrounding makes cultural expression much easier. The

modernization of traditional cultural clothing has also become increasingly popular. However, this is a hit or miss, as it can easily become cultural appropriation instead of cultural appreciation. When done properly, cultural clothing can be a successful medium for portraying heritage and ethnic identity.

Gender identity is subconsciously a part of everyone's fashion choices. Whether it's intentional or not, gender identity plays a large role in how we choose to dress every day. For a majority of fashion history, clothing was targeted towards specific sexes with no ambiguity. Clothing would cater to cisgendered men and women with an unspoken rule of no mixing and matching. Fashion has steadily evolved to the point where clothing and gender identity are

now more freely ambiguous and fluid. Clothing allows people, regardless of gender identity, to dress comfortably. Transgender people are now given the opportunity to dress in accordance to their gender identity, allowing them to establish comfort and confidence through clothing. Androgyny is now possible through clothing with no unspoken gender rules.

Fashion is a part of everyone's lives. Having the ability to express different aspects of your identity is possible because of fashion. Clothing builds comfort and confidence, everyone should have the opportunity to openly present themselves as they choose. Fashion is freedom so take that opportunity one fabric at a time.

Seeing alt-J & Portugal. The Man on tour was "The Dream"

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief



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FROM M. LYNN & A. DEROSS

Portugal. The Man and alt-J perform at Hard Rock Live.

On Feb. 11, alternative rock band alt-J released their new album, "The Dream." Less than a month after the album's release, alt-J and Portugal. The Man headlined at Hard Rock Live on March 5. While the accompanying guest band, Sir Chloe, could not attend due to an injury, fans both new and old flocked to Hard Rock Live to hear the two alternative rock staples play.

When many people think of alt-J and Portugal. The Man, they may only think of a handful of hit tracks from each band. Respectively, Portugal. The Man's "Feel It Still" won a GRAMMY award in 2017 and alt-J's song "Breezblocks" reached top ten in hit music charts both in the UK and the U.S. in 2012. While these songs were both played live, the rest of each of their sets were so amazing that their hit singles just felt like another great song in the setlist.

Portugal. The Man opened the show by blowing my initial expectations of the show out of the water. There was a video camera hooked up to the giant screen behind the stage and a staff member walking around during the performance capturing live footage of the musicians playing with a vintage video filter superimposed over the feed. At one point during the show, the cameraperson walked in front and got footage of the fans closest to the stage, which really made the performance feel special. When the camera wasn't running a live feed, Portugal. The Man had some of the most eye-catching graphics playing on a loop behind them.

While I admit that I only knew Portugal. The Man's hit song "Feel It Still," they impressed me so much that I've been shuffling their other songs repeatedly ever since. Their recently released single "What, Me Worry?" has wiggled its way into my brain and has not

left. Their cover of Nirvana's song "In Bloom" left me yearning for them to officially record it so I can stop only hearing it in my dreams. I also thought the blending of songs together as transitions was so clever, as their performance felt like a whole collection of art and expression rather than just playing one song, stopping and then playing another.

After Portugal. The Man finished their set, there was a short intermission before alt-J's performance. The curtains were closed, but the audience could hear the faint noise of construction happening on stage. As the curtains were drawn open again, a giant platform had been set up with three positions for the band members to stand on. As they marched up onto the stage, a giant LED-light box came down around them. Their set was as much of a visual art piece as it was a musical performance.

alt-J started their performance with their

new track "Bane," which was an incredibly magical experience. Images of candles lighting up and flickering one by one played on the LED-light box around the band. Each song in the setlist had accompanying visual effects, but their song "Taro" was my favorite to watch. Branches sprouted around the band and grew cherry blossom leaves, slowly growing over the course of the song and then slowly letting the blossoms fall away by the end.

By the time alt-J's performance was finished, most people in the audience were on their feet and dancing. Even after the band had left the stage, the crowd chanted on until they returned. Their light box lit up with the colors of the Ukrainian flag and the band dedicated their encore performance, which included "Breezblocks," to the country's struggle for freedom.

OFFSHORE CALENDAR

The English Beat
March 18 | 7:30 p.m.
Culture Room

Coral Springs Festival of the Arts
March 19 | 10 a.m.
The Walk at University

Yoga and Yolks
March 19 | 8 p.m.
Shooters Waterfront

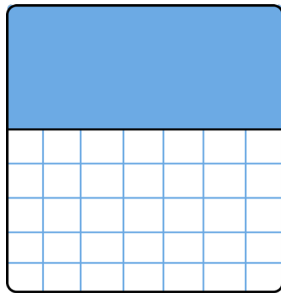
Seal
March 20 | 7 p.m.
Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Parkwhiz
March 23 | 7 p.m.
Revolution Live

Penny Lane Pro Bluegrass Jam
March 23 | 7 p.m.
Penny Lane Music Emporium

Riverwalk International Food Festival
March 26 | 12 p.m.
Esplanade Park

Matilda
March 27 | 1 p.m.
Broward Center for the Performing Arts



Spamilton: An American Parody comes to Miniaci Center

By: Alexander Martinie
Copy Editor

Gerard Alessandrini’s off-Broadway musical “Spamilton: An American Parody” will run for two showings at NSU’s Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on March 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. This 2016 musical parody of the Broadway production of “Hamilton” follows a director and actor as they try “to save Broadway from mediocrity and oblivion,” according to the production’s own description. Featuring songs such as “Lin-Manuel as Hamilton,” “Straight Guy’s Winter’s Prom,” “Lin-Manuel & J-Lo, Beyonce & Gloria Estefan,” “Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Cries” and many more, that are originals written by Alessandrini and are reminiscent of the songs from the original Hamilton.

“[Hamilton] is a loaded show, with so much plot, history, and significance. It also has so much behind it, how [the creative team] turned Broadway on its ear, utilized rap and hip-hop, and created a cultural colossus,” said Alessandrini in an interview with NBC News in

2017. According to Alessandrini, “Spamilton” features the most diverse cast of all of his productions.

Ben Brantley, co-chief theater critic for The New York Times, wrote that “Spamilton” is “smart, silly and convulsively funny,” and Barbara Hoffman, former arts editor at The New York Post, wrote “[Spamilton is] the next best thing to seeing Hamilton!” Additionally, Hamilton creator and performer, Lin-Manuel Miranda tweeting “I laughed my brains out” after seeing “Spamilton’s” original cast perform in 2016 and posing with Dan Rosales, his “Spamilton” counterpart.

“It was actually fun to be imitating him being a whiny guy, and seeing him laugh at himself while the audience laughed, too. There was a little bit of hesitation in the very beginning of the show, but [Miranda] ended up loving it and hanging out with us backstage,” said Rosales to NBC News on playing Miranda with Miranda in the audience.

In 2017, “Spamilton” was nominated for six awards and won the Off-Broadway Alliance Awards’ Best Unique Theatrical Experience award.

Marilyn Stasio praised the writer and director of Spamilton, writing for Variety, “Hip-hop, Broadway showtunes, Viennese waltzes — is there anything this guy can’t write? No, not ‘Hamilton’ creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, but Gerard Alessandrini, whose ingenious parody ‘Spamilton’ simultaneously salutes and sends up Miranda and his signature musical. Much is owed to the agile five-member cast of actor-singer-spoofers, but the big kudos go to ‘Forbidden Broadway’ creator Alessandrini, who applies his formidable chops to this affectionate cartoon of all things Hamiltonian.”

Tickets are available at <https://www.ticketmaster.com/artist/2350408?venueId=107339&brand=miniicipac&webview=1>. Tickets prices range from \$35 for balcony seating to \$45 to \$55 for orchestra seating.

Waves of the week: “Euphoria” POV

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief

HBO Max’s hit series “Euphoria” has only just begun airing their second season, but it seems that the show has had its viewers in a chokehold since it first premiered in 2019. From fashion to music, the show has brought viewers new meaning to artistic expression with a soundtrack being the anthem to angsty young adults worldwide. With so many genres incorporated in the show, this playlist is a curated “Euphoria”-esque selection that features songs from the most recent season.



South Miami Rotary Art Festival

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor

Art festivals are a chance for creatives to design and develop their skills for the whole world to see. The South Miami Rotary Festival has art from all walks of life and possesses unique culture and individuality.

South Miami is known for its creative and diverse flare of anything and everything, but especially artwork. The South Miami Rotary Art Festival held a special place for Miami natives to come and witness greatness. This year was the thirty-seventh annual festival that showcases an array of art and different dynamics of what artists have created.

The festival rose to stardom in 1984, when a selection of Red Sunset Merchant Association members decided to bring in more people by holding an arts and crafts festival. The show started with a small number of booths, with just

25 groups showcasing their work.

The event took place Feb. 26 through Feb. 27 in the downtown area of South Miami on Sunset Drive. The respected area is home to many special shops, historically known buildings and restaurants galore. The festival now housed 129 artists, an enormous array of food courts, a beer garden and entertainment including live jazz. Also, something special the festival did was having the funds from the event go towards college scholarships for South Miami scholars, in addition to local and national projects which allows for exponential opportunities for many aspiring students. Admission for the event was free, and parking was provided nearby.

Zolani Henry, freshman music major, explained how there are a wide range of opportunities for artists when it comes to art

festivals.

“I feel like the festival is a great way of marketing yourself, getting your name out there and getting to meet new people, especially new artists [who are] like-minded people. You are able to showcase your art as well and tell a story,” Henry said.

Artists came from all over the U.S. and even Canada to display their talents and unique pieces. The festival was solely produced by committed individuals who are part of the Rotary Club. The creation of the festival not only allows artists to join in and submit their work, but musicians to step out and display their pieces as well.

Henry elaborates on the first-hand experience she has with festivals.

“I specialize in music, but my aunt is an artist and she used to make clothing. She used

to design clothes and she creates these really great portraits; she did one of Bob Marley. She had like a really nice business, she would go to festivals and I would go with her, and I would get to see all these people see her art and buy her art,” said Henry.

The South Miami Rotary Art Festival provided a unique experience for everyone to enjoy. There are many things to witness when exploring different forms of art, such as jewelry designs, glass showings, photography showcases, dynamic paintings, complex sculptures and mixed media. The diverse choices in different ways of art helped further the festival’s growth.

Support Student Media

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!

Shark spotlight “Success for Miles”: Lia Smerina

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor



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Lia Smerina athletic picture day photo

Lia Smerina is a sophomore public health major in the Dual DO program. She is also in the Razors Edge Leadership program as well as the Honors College.

Smerina is a track and cross-country runner on Nova Southeastern University’s competitive team and has been running since she was in the sixth grade.

“In sixth grade, it was really casual. It was just a way to get middle schoolers active, it was not very competitive at all. We would just have practice a couple days a week and just have fun,” said Smerina.

After getting her introduction to running in middle school, Smerina began her high school career where she made varsity as a freshman.

“High school was my favorite time that I ran because I made so many friends, we were really like a family, and one of the best in the city. I became the captain my junior year and it was a lot of fun,” Smerina said,

Last year, Smerina was redshirted because of COVID-19 and heatstroke during the track season, so this year is one of her first real years as a college runner.

“I really wasn’t sure whether I wanted to run in college or not because I knew it would be a big commitment, but I knew it would be an opportunity for cool experiences like the ones I had in high school,” said Smerina.

Smerina discussed that the transition from high to college competition running was a dramatic change and walked through a standard day for her as a student athlete.

“Wake up [at] 5:15 a.m. and be at practice at 5:45 a.m. until 8 a.m. Then we have 15 to 20 minutes and sometimes grab Starbucks as a team. Then we go to lift from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., [and] grab a protein shake. Then I will walk back to my room to shower and eat, and then it’s off to class by 11:00 a.m. After that I usually cross train since I’m missing a practice

time and then have some dinner, study, then go to sleep and do it again in the morning,” Smerina said.

With such a busy practice schedule, Smerina manages school, her premier scholarship programs, all while still making time for friends.

“I’m here as a pre-med student, my intentions are to go to medical school and to use what I learn on my team to work with people and to apply that as a physician,” Smerina said.

Smerina also took the time to shout out her team and all the work they have put in.

“I think that the cross country and track team do not get a lot of spotlight in the shark athletics community and that we deserve to get some recognition, because me and my teammates work really hard and we have been killing it,” Smerina said.

On the bench: The Dolphins should fire Chris Grier

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

As a Dolphins fan, January and February are always freed up on my schedule. Why is that? The Dolphins are never in the playoffs, and I blame the organization from the top down for this. Trading away star players for draft picks, refusing to address certain positions of need and the complete inability to draft all points back to one person: General Manager Chris Grier.

Before I go in on him, I must give Grier his props. His 2021 draft picks look very promising in Jaylen Waddle, Jaelan Phillips and Jevon Holland, and they will be building blocks for the future. Though he has somewhat redeemed himself, the mistakes from 2016 to 2019 are horrible. The Dolphins made 29 draft picks during that time frame. Of those 29 players, only ten of them are still on the roster in 2022.

The 2017 draft may be the worst in Dolphins’ history. It was known that the team

was going to pick an edge rusher, and they ended up selecting Charles Harris who spent three seasons with the team, playing 41 games and recording a disappointing 3.5 sacks. Guess who the next edge selected was? Three-time First Team All-Pro, four-time Pro Bowler and the NFL’s single-season sack leader T.J. Watt. That type of mistake is just inexcusable. Hindsight isn’t even an issue with this situation because I remember feeling the exact same way as the pick was announced. In 2021, no players from the Dolphins 2017 draft class are members of the team.

Cornerback Noah Igbinoghene was the worst pick of the first round in 2020. Not because of talent, but because of the situation. After re-signing cornerback Xavien Howard to a five-year, \$75 million deal and signing free agent cornerback Byron Jones to a five-year, \$82.5

million contract, what does Grier do? He drafts a cornerback round one, instead of addressing the glaring holes within the team. After two full seasons in the NFL, Igbinoghene has started just three games. Just a mind-boggling decision.

When was the last time the Dolphins invested in a running back? Maybe Grier is scarred by what happened to Jay Ajayi, but the past few years have been filled with nothing at the running back position. Since Grier has taken over, except for Ajayi in 2016, no running back has rushed for more than 750 yards in a season as a Dolphin. Grier keeps using late-round picks and refusing to invest in the position, resulting in the team having a bottom ten rushing offense in four out of the last five years. With a good running back, maybe the team will see more success. Offensive line is also a large part of the issue

If Grier hasn’t noticed yet, he can’t draft linemen. He always seems to pick the wrong one. How can Grier solve this issue? He can sign proven offensive linemen in free agency. Your franchise quarterback in Tua Tagovailoa has an extensive injury history, and how does Grier choose to protect him? He drafts three rookie linemen in Austin Jackson, Robert Hunt and Solomon Kindley and puts two washed up veterans out there to finish out the line. The line Grier built finished the 2021 season as the worst in the league according to Pro Football Focus’ rankings. They allowed the most quarterback pressures in the league with 235 and had just two players in Robert Hunt and Michael Deiter with over a 60 PFF grade.

Fire Chris Grier. Until that happens, I have zero confidence in the Dolphins competing for the Super Bowl.

What is March Madness? A guide to the biggest college basketball event of the year

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief

With the beginning of March coming and going, you may have heard the term “March Madness” floating around. If you’re not a huge basketball fan, you may have seen a poster for it, or filled out a tournament card blindly with schools you’ve never heard of. Still, none of these offer an explanation as to what March Madness really is. Luckily, we’ve got an article for that.

According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or NCAA, March Madness describes the NCAA Division I men’s basketball tournament that happens throughout the month of March. There are numerous events that happen throughout the tournament for both fans

and athletes to participate in.

March Madness kicks off with Selection Sunday, which is happening on March 13. Selection Sunday refers to the day before the official tournament starts, when all 68 teams are ranked numerically from best to worst based on their season and team strength. After the tournament begins, four of the 68 teams are eliminated in a process known as the First Four games, leaving the tournament with 64 teams to compete.

After the teams have been narrowed down to 64, the remaining teams are then broken up into four regions each with 16 teams who are also ranked numerically. This differs slightly from

Division II March Madness, where the teams are broken into eight different regions. Fans can start filling out challenge brackets betting on which teams will win out in the competitions against each other.

The event, while called “March Madness,” technically runs into the first few days of April. As the event goes on, teams compete against each other for the No. 1 seed placement until there are only four teams left.

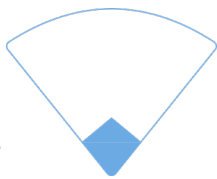
These four teams compete in a tournament nicknamed the Final Four, taking place on April 2 and April 4 in New Orleans. Fans gather for these events to see how closely their betting brackets followed the actual results of March

Madness and to cheer on the teams remaining.

The biggest part of March Madness is the betting brackets that fans participate in. Fans can participate in both official NCAA brackets and fan-made competitions. They can compete against friends, run tournaments and planning meetings in schools in universities, and compare cards with other sports fans. This is what makes March Madness truly unique, and why many refer to it as “madness,” because fans are scrambling to compare statistics and have their bracket be as accurate as possible.

There has never been a perfect bracket. Nobody has ever guessed all 64 games correctly. Could this year be the year? Only time will tell.

ON DECK



Softball
v Kutztown
March 16 | 5 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Kutztown
March 16 | 7 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Florida Tech
March 18 | 6 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Florida Tech
March 19 | 1 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Florida Tech
March 19 | 3 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

Finding fitness: Trampolining

By: Francesca Abarca
Contributing Writer

In times where all you want to do is sit on the couch or on your bed and eat chips, finding fun ways to work out is exactly what everyone needs in order to stay in shape while also doing all the things you love. It might just be something as simple as walking your dog or jumping on your trampoline. According to vulvyplay.com, jumping on your trampoline for just 20 minutes will give you a complete full body workout that burns the same number of calories as running for 20 minutes at six miles per hour. Something you can also do is work out and watch Netflix from the comfort of your living room, so why wouldn't you do both? You're killing two birds with one stone.

According to a study done in October 2016 by the American Council on Exercise, there are multiple health benefits to jumping

on a trampoline, including better core strength and improved bone strength. Trampolining is a vigorous aerobic workout, which means that it increases the rate at which your heart pumps blood, and therefore oxygen, around your body. This strengthens the muscles of your cardiovascular system, and the boost in oxygen levels will make you feel more alert.

There are a few different exercises that can be done on a trampoline in order to maximize core strength as well as target different muscle groups in your body. The first exercise you can do would be jumping jacks, and while you can do these on the ground, doing jumping jacks on a trampoline engages your core more and helps target leg muscle groups quicker, according to healthline.com. Another exercise you can do

is jogging in place which is a great source of cardio and can boost the oxygen levels in your body

If jumping isn't really your thing, there are other workouts that you can do on the trampoline that are equally good for you and your health. Some of these workouts include squats, sumo squats, leg curls and elevated push-ups. One of the craziest workouts that you can do on a mini trampoline is ab crutches. To do this, you would lie on your back with your back in the middle of the trampoline and the rest of your body at a 90-degree angle with the floor. Then, you would do crunches like one normally would.

This is a great way to burn fat and get a fun work out in, so be sure to try it out next time you're on a trampoline and remember that 60 minutes a day keeps you healthy.

Men's Basketball and Baseball reach No. 1

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

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FROM NSU ATHLETICS

Sharks celebrate winning
SSC title.



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Star catcher Alex Hernandez
jogs back to the dugout.



For the first time in program history, Nova Southeastern University's men's baseball and basketball teams have reached the top spot in their national rankings at the same time. Both programs are as hot as ever with the national championship in their sights.

Dominant Sharks cap perfect regular season with No. 1 ranking

After 28 straight wins and an unbeaten start, the Nova Southeastern University Sharks are officially the No. 1 ranked team in all of Division-II. The most dominant team in the country is finally given the respect that it deserves.

Coach Jim Crutchfield's bunch scores with the best of them, scoring 98.2 points per game, second in Division-II, and allowing just 77.1 points per game. Their 21-point scoring margin leads Division-II. Despite having the second

highest scoring offense, the team is No. 97 in three-point shots made per game. The Sharks get their production inside the three-point line. Its top two scorers have just 16 three-pointers made combined.

Crutchfield's defensive ideology and playstyle is what has led the Sharks to take their game to the next level. The high-intensity full-court press generates the most forced turnovers per game with 24.23 total. The turnovers lead to easy points and force the team in front of them to play fast. The Sharks ideology is unpopular, so not every team has the experience of playing against the difficult press and trap. When teams come into Rick Case Arena, they're bound to give the ball away a plethora of times.

Individually speaking, the Sharks have four players that average double figures. Junior wing Sekou Sylla, sophomore forward RJ Sunahara, senior guard Eddie Pouis and senior guard Nick Smith score the ball with ease.

Going into the NCAA tournament, the Sharks check in at No. 1 in the South Region. The No.1 seed gets the privilege of hosting the first three rounds, essentially giving the Sharks homecourt advantage in their most important games of the season.

18-0 start secures top spot for Sharks' baseball

After an 18-0 start, the Sharks own the top spot in the Division-II baseball rankings. The 2016 National Champions have finally made their way back to their top spot. The well-rounded team is one of the best in the nation.

The Sharks get it done with their bats with the best of them. Their 188 runs, 11.1 per game, are good for seventh best in Division-II. They also own the tenth best batting average in the nation, hitting .342 as a team, which is the best in the Sunshine State Conference.

High-powered, redshirt sophomore, second

baseman Duncan Pastore has started the season off with 30 runs batted in, good for No. 5 in Division-II. Junior infielder/outfielder Adam Frank and redshirt junior outfielder Michael Avendano have been some of the hottest hitters in the SSC. Of players that have at least 45 at bats, Frank's .435 batting average is the second best in the SSC. Avendano's .419 average ranks No. 8 in the conference.

The Sharks have a three-headed monster of starting pitchers that they deploy on the mound. Senior Jeremy Cook, graduate student Daniel Rivero and sophomore Matt Kavanaugh have each started five games, 15 of 17 possible games, and pitched at least 24 innings for the Sharks. Cook and Rivero both took their talents to Davie as transfers from the University of Miami. Cook owns a 2.45 earned run average and has struck out a team-best 31 batters. Rivero's 13 allowed hits ranks No. 31 in the country. Kavanaugh's opposing batters hit just .207 against him.

The name game at NSU: Deadnames and SharkCards

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor

Nova Southeastern University has made considerable progress when it comes to trans people. The university has employed trans people on its staff and, most notably, created a gender-neutral bathroom in the Don Taft University Center.

This is progress considering that there are plenty of schools where trans people can't be protected or represented due to discriminatory legislation or policies.

Despite this, NSU is a private institution and is not affected by most anti-trans laws. So what's holding them back from doing more? More importantly, where would they start?

One of the top issues that transgender students on campus could be facing is the most essential tool they have for navigating campus: their SharkCards.

For a transgender person, identification cards such as a SharkCard that uses a name that

does not align with their gender can make life much harder for them. As Johnny Cash has said, "Life ain't easy for a boy named Sue."

Even though Cash did not have trans people in mind, the same can be said for a woman named John or any other trans person who has to hand over their SharkCard to buy food or scan it to enter their residence hall only to have their deadname and, in the worst cases, a picture of them before their transition.

For those who aren't trans, please imagine if—for almost every function on campus – you had to show the most embarrassing picture of yourself and the worst nickname you've ever been called. I'm sure that picture of you drooling in your sleep and being introduced as "Crybaby" would make you want to change it right away.

That's the solution, right? Just change it.

Well, yes, a name change is the inevitable road all trans people who did not transition

before puberty will have to go down. This does not mean it is easy. It can take months to get a court date and a name change—despite being one of the simpler civil complaints to address—is still very costly for the average person, especially the average college student. These name changes vary by state and can be anywhere from \$500 to \$700.

During this time, the student will have to continue on with the deadname on all official records, even at NSU, where they should be most protected.

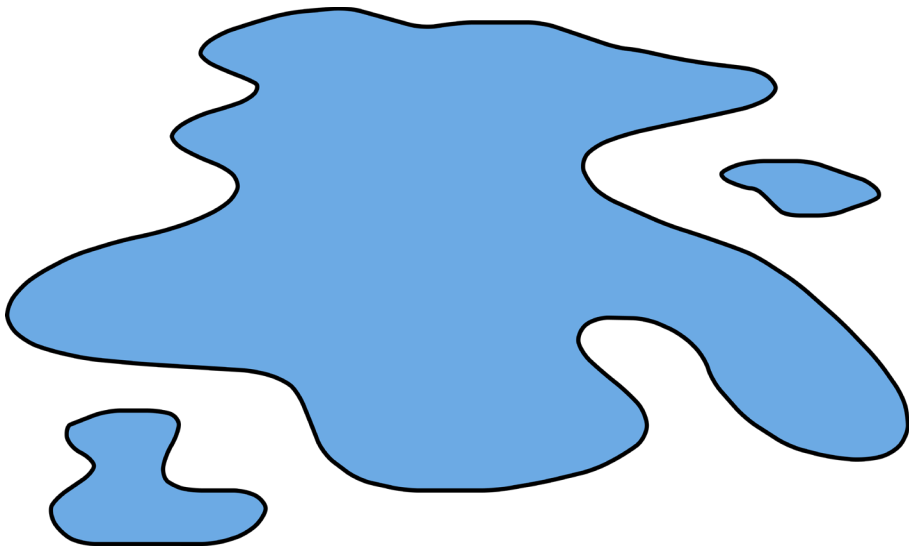
Currently NSU only offers a name change on records or a SharkCard—a data change, as it's called—if the student has already legally changed their name and can provide a new social security card or passport. See the problem? How can a university, which holds diversity as a core value, undermine one of its most vulnerable student groups by allowing, by policy, misgendering?

For legal reasons, it makes sense. If the name on all I.D. associated with the person is John, why will Jane get a degree then? The answer is because John was always Jane. If the individual plans to get a legal name change, especially if they have already received a court date, NSU administration should allow immediate public documents such as the SharkCard, diploma and outlook name, which currently can't be changed, to reflect the transition the student is undertaking.

This comes at no cost to the university and can mitigate psychological damage to any trans students who have chosen NSU as their home. As long as the student has expressed a committed desire to change their legal name, and there are records to identify the student—even if by their deadname—in case of an emergency, NSU is simply dragging its feet on this important issue. Misgendering by policy is still misgendering.

Water your thoughts: Give new animated kids shows a chance

By: Sophia Cortes
Arts & Entertainment Editor



Children's animation in today's day and age is a mixed bag of fool's gold and genuine gems. Since the early 2010s, children's animation has taken a turn to favor brighter colors and heavily cartoonish, kid-friendly art styles with matching humor and plot lines to boot. Many who grew up with the darker, often stranger animated shows like "Courage the Cowardly Dog," "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack," "Teen Titans" and "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" saw this growing trend as the animation industry watering down and desecrating its name.

If "Teen Titans: Go!" with its highlighter color pallet and children's toilet humor comes to mind, then you too may be entitled to financial compensation.

Despite this, it's not fair to say that this new era of children's animation deserves backlash. "Steven Universe," "Phineas and Ferb," "Craig of the Creek," "Adventure Time," "The Amazing World of Gumball" and "Star vs the

Forces of Evil" are all incredibly solid pieces of art that told their own unique stories at varying levels of maturity. Their animation styles, while bright and bubbly, are far from the carbon copy Illumination style that overruns the box office.

It's not to say this era is devoid of telling darker stories either. "Gravity Falls," "Scooby Doo: Mystery Incorporated" and "Over the Garden Wall" are all stunning examples of animation that did not shy away from more serious or downright creepy topics. More recent series like "The Dragon Prince," "She-Ra and the Princess of Power" and "Infinity Train" all follow their footsteps.

So, the next time your little sibling is having their Saturday morning cartoon ritual, don't criticize. Get off your high horse, grab a bowl of cereal and join them.

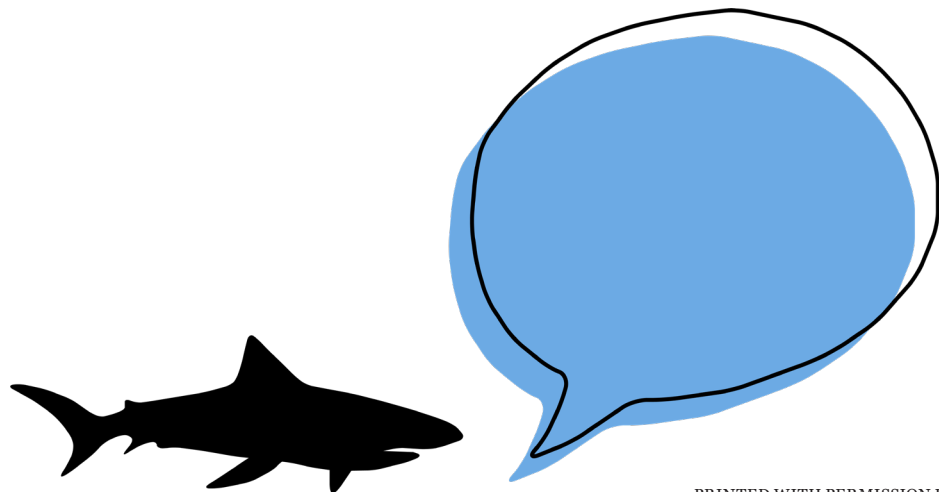
M E D I A W E E K

HOW TO ENTER THE SCAVENGER HUNT:

1. Find the four colorful shapes hidden in the paper.
2. Scan the QR code and fill out your answers.
3. Submit!

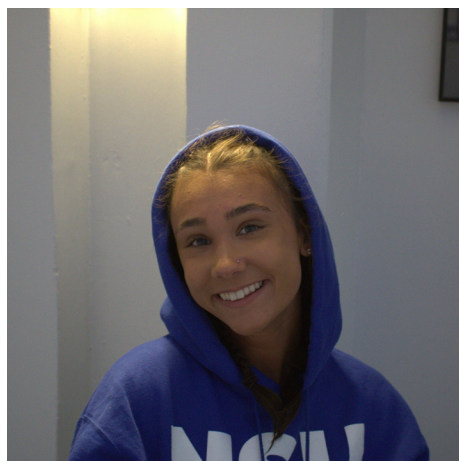


Shark speak



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With the recent sexual assault on campus what are your thoughts on campus security? Do you feel safe on campus? What are your thoughts on public safety?



“Personally, I have never had any issues with public safety, and I do feel safe on campus. In regards to the sexual assault, I do think it’s very unfortunate, but I think public safety is trying to do their best to keep us safe and I believe NSU is a safe place,” said Morgan Gesty, freshman criminal justice major.

“I feel like the fact that public safety sends us emails about things like sexual assault is really good because we should all know what’s going on, on campus, especially for women. If these things are happening where we live then we should be careful and we shouldn’t be like, ‘Ok nothing’s going to happen here because I’m inside campus,’ because things can still happen everywhere. The fact that they tell us what’s happening keeps us safe in a way because we are more aware of keeping ourselves safe. I feel like we should never be alone on campus at night, because it’s still dangerous. Anyone can come in and do something like this, I hate it and I hate that it’s like this, but it is what it is,” said Abril Chao, freshman pre-med biology major.



“I’m a big dude so I feel pretty safe on campus, but in terms of public safety doing their job, I feel they’re kind of shoddy. Sometimes they don’t really do their job. I’ve definitely seen them write tickets for things that don’t make sense. I just feel like they’re focused on the wrong things. They definitely need some redirection and focus on actual issues, like they need to be tighter about who they let on campus. I’m not saying guard gates, but more so more check points; you have to scan in to get into certain buildings, parking lots, pretty much what we have now but tighter. For example, my Shark ID still works for the dorms, and I haven’t lived here for two years, so security stuff like that is important,” said Robert Minott, junior accounting major.

Superbowl ads lied to you: Crypto isn’t the future

By: Sofia Gallus
News Editor

While the Superbowl brings football fans together from far and wide, it has the rare opportunity of attracting attention from people who know nothing or could care less about football. Between the new and exciting movie trailers, the ads companies pay millions of dollars to feature during the game and the star-studded half time show, every Super Bowl is sure to attract hundreds of thousands of viewers at the least. The 2022 Super Bowl was no different, with a halftime show featuring Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Mary J. Blige and Eminem, and plenty of new movie trailers that attracted filmgoers. The game was also filled with ads that starred a variety of celebrities, everywhere from

Doja Cat to Paul Rudd.

However, the game was also littered with ads for cryptocurrency. Not one but four ads aired during the Super Bowl for crypto currency, with the most prominent being a simple QR code that drifted over the screen with soothing background music. If viewers scanned the code, they were led to a promotional deal that offered them \$15 in Bitcoin if they signed up for the cryptocurrency site Coinbase.

The site got so much traffic in such a short amount of time that it promptly crashed. While the memes were great, the feeling the ad and others like it left was not. Cryptocurrency may be the trend, but ultimately, it’s unsustainable

and a volatile investment.

Not only does cryptocurrency mining take an immense amount of power to process, but the fluctuation of the marketable value of cryptocurrency makes investing in it a gamble many cannot afford. The energy it takes to run the computers to mine cryptocurrency is astronomical, wasting valuable resources to gather something that isn’t even tangible.

Cryptocurrency is often described as an investment, not an exchange, which in my opinion makes it even sketchier and classist. The market value of cryptocurrency fluctuates frequently and is only a safe investment for those who can afford to gamble their money. For

example, Dogecoin shot up 15000% last summer but fell all the way back down within weeks. Disadvantaged communities or individuals often don’t have the luxury to risk putting their money into something so unpredictable, especially when priorities like food, rent or other essentials are involved.

If the service is only accessible to a minute community instead of the many fans gathered to watch the game, there’s no point in airing four ads about how great cryptocurrency is. Cryptocurrency isn’t the future, especially since it puts our environmental and financial future at risk.

THE CURRENT'S CORNER

WORD SEARCH

B	F	V	R	M	O	D	Z	C	R	M	Y	L	N	Z
S	N	A	I	D	Q	T	H	A	E	V	T	R	X	F
Q	M	A	S	Q	V	A	P	M	B	U	E	I	D	P
Y	M	A	I	H	M	L	P	Y	T	I	F	L	O	P
I	C	A	R	P	I	W	L	Q	R	X	A	T	L	N
H	E	Q	I	I	O	O	L	A	K	C	S	V	P	S
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BASEBALL
CRYPTO
EUPHORIA
SAFETY
STARBUCKS

BASKETBALL
DEADNAMES
FASHION
SMERINA
TRAMPOLINING

CHAMPIONS
DOLPHINS
MIAMI
SPAMILTON
WOMEN

STAY CURRENT & STAY SAFE

