
The Current

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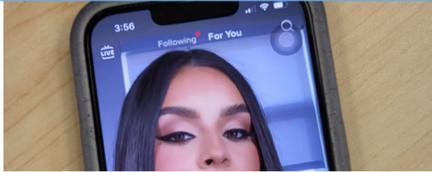
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Lijo Andrews and Tassnime Sebai: New USGA leaders discuss future

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



The candidates took various questions from the moderator and the audience.



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A modest crowd filled the Miniaci Performance Theater on March 23 but the topic at hand was no small matter: USGA Internal Affairs Director Lijo Andrews and Chief Financial Officer Tassnime Sebai answered questions from a moderator and the crowd regarding their plans for next year and why they should be voted for in the upcoming election. The Undergraduate Student Government Association presidential debate, moderated by current USGA President Emily Kolankiewicz, covered a broad range of topics pertaining to the two open positions: president and executive vice president, for which Andrews and Sebai respectively run unopposed.

Lijo Andrews, junior dual behavioral neuroscience and biology major and member of Phi Delta Theta, running with the NSU 4 You party said, "I want my legacy to be that I was able to change campus in a way that benefitted students in multiple ways. I want us to leave NSU better than we found it."

Andrews is no stranger to the USGA. He has served as a cabinet member and a court justice officer. This year he has served as the Internal Affairs Director, a position that is responsible for notetaking and assisting scheduling senate meetings and ensuring legislation gets passed through the system. Andrews' recent legislative efforts include charging stations in the U.C. and library, a printer in Mako Hall and new equipment in the Recplex.

Tassnime Sebai, junior biology major, also enjoys a three-year tenure at USGA, serving in the senate, the cabinet and as a court justice officer. Sebai's influence on campus, like Andrews, is felt by many even if they are not aware it's her. Most notably, she has helped write legislation allowing senior priority registration.

"We really do care about those that are really underrepresented at our school. I think that there's a lot of work that needs to be done in terms of making it a better place for those

that don't feel as represented," said Sebai.

This sentiment was echoed by Andrews during his speaking time when he stated that he intends to add more flags to the University Center and add preferred names to sharkcards.

"While I was doing research on different initiatives that other schools have, I came across the topic of preferred name changes on IDs and other platforms. Many schools have started implementing it but many are hesitant to do so because of public safety issues. There's lots of legal aspects that come into that but being in the position that I hopefully will be in next year... I want to figure out those issues for students so that the process for them will be as soon as possible," said Andrews.

Andrews said that he looks forward to working with administration and public safety to resolve the issue next year.

In addition to this, Andrews hopes to expand the accommodations students receive from the Office of Disability Services under the

Americans with Disabilities act. This includes having all signage on campus have braille, something only some signs have as of now.

"I want to things that students need and what they want to see around campus specifically pertaining to this and bring it to our campus," said Andrews.

Despite being nervous before the debate, both Andrews and Sebai stated that they were confident in their answers and hopeful for what the future holds.

"I'm feeling enthusiastic for the candidates and their goals. Both have been dependable member for years and have guided SGA," said Senator Breanna Brady in the lobby.

S.E.A. board hosts annual Fins Fest

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

From March 28 to April 2, Nova Southeastern University's Students' Events and Activities Board, otherwise known as S.E.A. Board, will host its annual Fins Fest week on campus.

S.E.A. Board is comprised of seven members. Tiffany Goncalves, the special events chair for S.E.A. Board, had a lot to do with putting Fins Fest Week together.

"Fins Fest is a weeklong event filled with activities [that S.E.A. Board hosts]," said Goncalves. "There are different organizations and clubs that will have events and activities throughout the week to promote spirit and festivities for the students, staff and faculty here at NSU."

Fins Fest week kicked off with a large breakfast luau on Monday that was hosted by S.E.A. Board.

"It was a big kickoff event with novelties, Playa Bowls and crepes," said Goncalves. "T-shirts were given out and there were also giveaways."

On Tuesday, the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging as well as the Diversity Student Council hosted Shark Bites International. The event was a food festival that showcased foods from around the world.

On Wednesday, the Supporting Our Sharks event will be at the Don Taft University Center at 11:45 a.m. The event is centered around improving the mental health of students, even giving away free items.

"There will be essential oils, perhaps a yoga instructor as well," said Goncalves. "This event will take place in the UC Spine."

The same night, NSU's Got Talent show will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Shark Fountain. The annual talent show, started in 2008, gives students a chance to make money from their unique abilities. According to Goncalves, the sum of money will be relatively large.

"Students will have a chance to compete for \$1,000," said Goncalves. "So that's very exciting."

On Thursday, Fraternity and Sorority Life is hosting the Battle of the Greeks at 7 p.m. at the Shark Fountain. The competition puts sororities and fraternities against each other for prizes and bragging rights.

Finally, the long-awaited Fins Festival carnival hosted by the Undergraduate Student Government Association will be held in the temporary residential lot from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday. The carnival is making its return to NSU since its last appearance in 2019.

To wrap up the week, Sharks at the Big Screen featuring the new film "Uncharted" is showing on Saturday. To reserve your spot, be at the University Center at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday.

For more information on Fins Fest week and its activities, visit sharkfins.nova.edu.

Post self-selection there is a push for more housing on campus amongst students

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

For the first time in the past three years sophomores were granted priority in the self-selection housing process, leaving seniors to select last. In addition to this change in selection order, the selection options for each class also changed from how they were in previous years.

One of the most notable changes is that Mako Hall, a new apartment style dorm built in 2019, which was previously reserved for juniors and seniors with the exception of Razors Edge sophomores, is now dominated by rising sophomores taking up six out of the seven floors of the building.

With this change, junior and senior selection was limited to the seventh floor of Mako, located on the main campus, Rolling Hills, a housing site on campus located about a quarter of a mile from University Center, and University Pointe, an off-campus apartment complex.

Victoria Myer, director of university housing operations at the Department of Housing said, "We require students with zero to 48 credits to live on campus we kind of flipped the order so the students that are required to live on campus selected first."

Because of this change, when juniors and seniors went to select from the one floor available in Mako, the rooms were filled in a matter of seconds, leaving those who did not get a room in Mako to select a room in Rolling Hills.

Myer discussed some of the reasons this change in selection happened.

"Housing contracts have now gone up to 87 percent. Previously in 2017, it was only 75 percent and

then in 2018 and then again in 2019 it was 80 percent, so this year we have 87% of our students who aren't required [to live on campus] that did a contract, so we went up significantly in that regard," she said.

She also discussed that there was a significant increase in disability accommodations that could only be met in Mako hall, noting over 100 different cases.

Jade Quiles, junior elementary education major said, "Unfortunately I feel like the changes made with self-selection are unfair. It feels like juniors and seniors are being kicked out."

Quiles, who currently lives in Rolling Hills but was hoping to get a room in Mako as a junior, also mentioned that although Rolling Hills is considered to be on campus, it is quite the walk from the main parts of the university.

"There is a shuttle service available for students at Rolling Hills, but I don't feel like it comes as frequent as it should, especially on weekends," said Quiles

Students are still adjusting, and the university is aware that many are unhappy with these new changes. It is untold whether this self-selection process will remain the same for the future.

Myer did mention that executives have been having serious talks about building a new dorm on the campus, however it is unclear when this will be pursued.

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‘Don’t Say Gay’ inspires backlash and debate across Florida

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



A soaked trans flag lifted off the ground by protesters.

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The rain did not quell the crowd during the “Don’t Say Gay” bill protest in Ft. Lauderdale on March 7. Esplanade Park held around 50 people who were there to show support for the LGBTQ+ community and protest the Parental Rights in Education bill, also known as “Don’t Say Gay,” a bill that critics say is expected to harm LGBTQ+ minors. “Don’t Say Gay” prohibits any talk of sexuality and gender in schools up to grade three but also prohibits any subject matter that is deemed “age inappropriate.” The bill has passed in both the Florida House of Representatives and the Senate and has been signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The protest, which was advertised on the Instagram page of Florida’s Trans Inclusive Group, was held by Safe Schools South Florida along with The AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Although the event was advertised on short notice, it managed to gather local speakers and

concerned citizens in South Florida. Students from Nova Southeastern University also attended.

Tony Lima, CEO of SunServe, a local LGBTQ+ activist group, spoke to the crowd along with other members of the community.

“While it’s dark right now, and it looks dark ahead, our unity will help us push past this legislation,” said Lima to the Sun Sentinel.

Near the end of the demonstration, as rain poured on participants, multiple members of the crowd helped hoist up a giant trans pride flag. While the soaked flag was lifted off the grass, miles away in Tallahassee, Florida Democrats tried to mitigate the damage.

Democrats proposed various amendments to the bill to mitigate its damage. Even one Republican, Jeff Brandes of St. Petersburg, suggested the wording be changed to “human sexuality or sexual activity” rather than the vague language already used in the bill,

according to The Boston Globe and The Miami Herald. However, these attempts were struck down and the bill was passed.

On Feb. 26 in Orlando, the Conservative Political Action Conference – one of the most prominent right-wing events of the year – hosted speakers and pundits who expressed transphobic sentiments. Among them was a panel of right-wing figures: “Silly Doctor! Sex Changes Aren’t for Kids” according to The Miami Herald.

The Biden administration is expected to fight against the legality of the bill after it issued a strong statement when it was introduced in January. Recently, the administration has announced that the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office for Civil Rights would protect transgender children and their families who have been investigated by Child Protective Services in Texas due to Gov. Greg Abbott’s law banning gender-affirming care

for minors. In a similar statement, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona has announced that any school district that passes bills similar to Don’t Say Gay will risk losing federal funding.

“The (HHS) stands with transgender and gender nonconforming youth and their families – and the significant majority of expert medical associations in unequivocally stating that gender affirming care for minors, when medically appropriate and necessary, improves their physical and mental health,” read the March 2 notice.

Activists have vowed to continue the fight over the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, even though Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the bill.

“The bill prohibits classroom instruction about sexuality or things like ‘transgender’ in K through three classrooms. In Florida, we don’t just think parents should be involved. We insist that they should,” said DeSantis.

NSU food pantry opens doors for all students

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor



Greek life helps support the canned food drive by coming together and collecting cans.

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Nova Southeastern University strives to implement new and innovative ways to help spread awareness and provide resources for all students. When it comes to students dealing with possible food insecurity, NSU wanted there to be a space for students to retrieve food donations and make students feel comfortable in their nutritional needs while earning their degree. This is why the NSU Pantry was established this semester.

The pantry was created from a collaboration between the Undergraduate Student Government Association, USDA and the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The pantry operates from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is located in the Don Taft University Center on the second floor, south side concession stand. The purpose of the pantry is to help aid students who do not have the resources and to create a welcoming environment.

The food pantry is available for all students to use and consists of donations from the student body. Many donations have come from canned food drives. The latest canned food drive was hosted by Greek life during the month of January. All greek organizations worked together for their Greek week and donated over 2400 cans.

Emily Kolankiewicz, president of USGA, said the majority of our student body have longed for a pantry to be founded for a while now.

“So, it’s an idea that students have had for a really long time. We had the initial idea a couple years ago. Senators drafted up legislation and then from there we worked together to find a space and they’ve been working to staff it and make sure everything is good on that end,” said Kolankiewicz.

The planning process allowed student leaders to speak for the general public and help establish the pantry entirely.

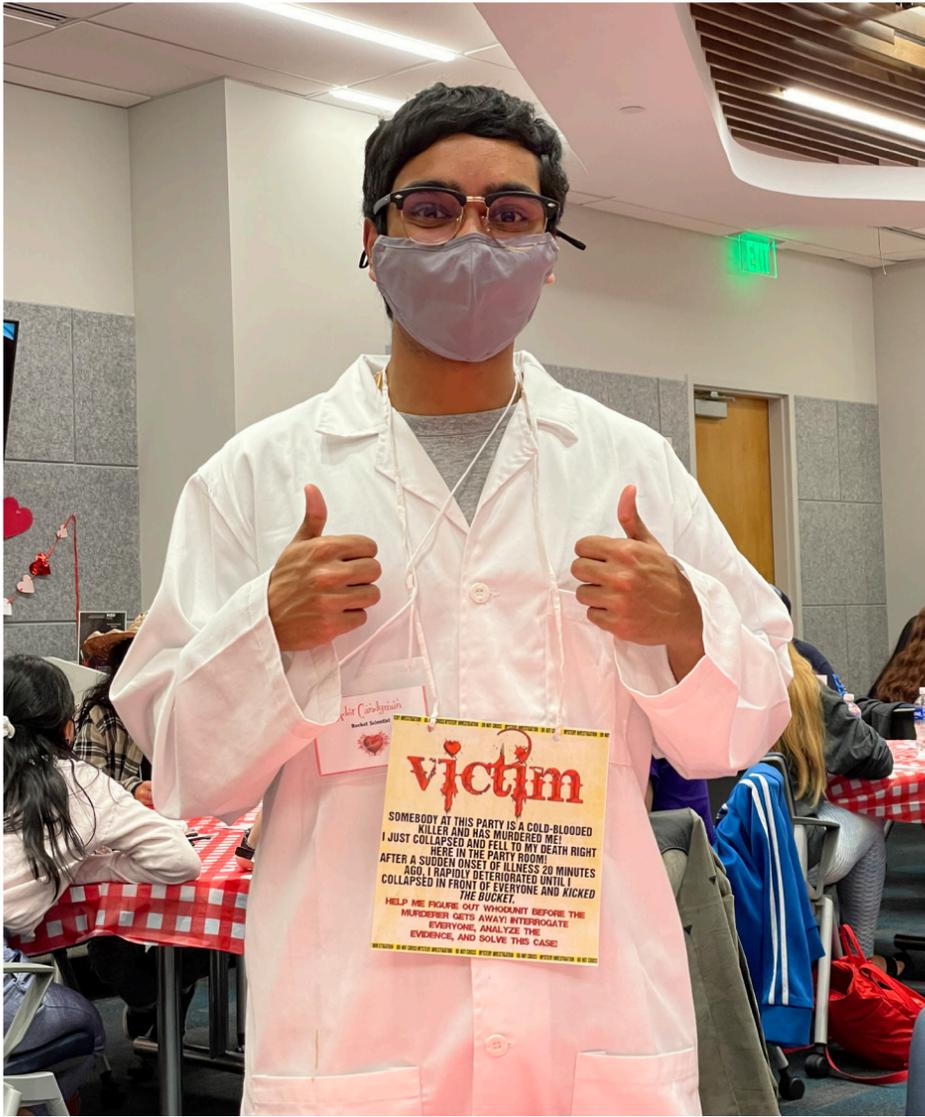
“Students identified that there were some students on campus that were experiencing food insecurity and maybe didn’t have the resources to go to some community resources or shelters. We wanted to make sure that there were resources available for students to utilize so not only food products, but also, we’re hoping to make sure that there are things like hygienic products, toiletries, things of that nature as well,” said Kolankiewicz.

This has been a long-planned goal that has finally come to fruition, and now all students have a place to access daily necessities without judgement. It is a place for all students to attain daily necessities that may be unreachable for some. Together as a student-body there has been initiated action and the creation of a place full of advancement and inclusivity.

The pantry works to help all students and the only requirement is students must present their SharkCard. There is also a contact email foodpantry@nova.edu for any questions or for any collaboration opportunities.

That time I... went to a murder mystery dinner

By: Gerianne Salamanca Gamez
Chief of Visual Design



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Colin Pulickathadam playing Ador Candyman.

The Farquhar Honors College hosted its annual “Murder Mystery Dinner Party.” I heard so many mixed reviews about this event - the good and the bad - so I had to experience it for myself. I immediately RSVP’d in hopes that there would be a spot left for me. Usually, events for the Honors College fill up fast so I was desperately waiting for an email back regarding my status. I hadn’t heard back in a few days and the date for the event was coming up; the anticipation was killing me but since I didn’t receive an update, I assumed I didn’t have a spot at the event.

It was the day of the event and I was feeling disappointed about not getting a response. I decided to wear comfortable clothes since I didn’t have anything important planned for that day. I walked out of the house wearing biker shorts, an oversized t-shirt and my crocs. Yes, crocs. If you ain’t croc’n, you ain’t rock’n. As soon as I parked at school, I checked my phone and saw an email. I got an invite to the murder mystery dinner. Immediately, I called my mom to tell her the news and the first thing she told me was, “You’re going to come back and change right?” I drove back home and my mom helped me pick an outfit. A black bell-sleeved shirt, bell bottom jeans and small black heels.

My excitement was overflowing as I waited for the event. I arrived at the event slightly early, signed in and was told to sit at any table. I sat at the empty table number eight. Soon after, a couple joined my table and we became a team. Honors faculty were randomly assigned to each

table and then the event began.

There were three rounds to the murder mystery dinner; a skit, individual questions and the investigation. The honors advocates were the actors for our murder mystery plot. Each of them dressed up and took on a role. You could tell some of them were more into it than others. They performed a skit to give us some background information but, honestly, the skit only confused my team. We moved onto the individual questions and used this round as an opportunity to get our story straight. We asked the first character all the basic questions in order to understand the plot. Every other character got direct questions to help us unwrap what we really came there for: the murder. As we asked questions, we made sure to take a note of anything possibly important. Finally, we got to the investigation round and this was quick for my team. Since we had been constantly discussing motives and possible suspects, my team came to a unanimous decision on the murderer.

The event was coming to an end and it was time to find out who the murderer was and which teams won. My team was already content with the fact that we had such a great time throughout the night. However, we still had some hope that at least our choice was the right one. We won first place. I can’t describe how happy I was. It was shocking and satisfying. The prize, which was a crossbody bag, wasn’t the best, but I don’t even care. I will definitely be attending more creatively driven Honors College events in the future.

Ukraine and Russia: A tale of two countries

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor

In late February, when Russian artillery was rolled into eastern Ukraine, people around the world reacted with shock at the invasion and heartache for the Ukrainian people. The question on many of the world’s mind: why Ukraine and why now?

As noted by National Geographic, the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, was once a prominent city in Kyivan Rus. This was the first Slavic state in history and would then become, over 1,000 years later, Russia and Ukraine. This interconnected history is part of the reason why Vladimir Putin has insisted that Russians and Ukrainians are one in the same, despite inhabiting two separate states. The other part of the reason, as chair of the department of humanities and politics at NSU David Kilroy stated, is just a “cynical ploy.”

Ukraine spent most of the major historical events of the twentieth century under Soviet rule. Finally in 1991, after a previously failed attempt at independence, Ukraine declared its independence from Russia. Right afterward, the Soviet Union collapsed.

What came next was a tumultuous period of the Ukrainian government attempting to appeal to both the Russian loyalists in the country and trying to align itself with the rest of Europe.

“Ukraine has been sort of stop and start and kind of unstable but largely they have been transformative and seeking to engage more with the larger European community,” said Kilroy.

These efforts finally came to a head when in 2010, Viktor Yanukovich was elected president and established closer relations with Russia. After backing out of talks to establish

Ukraine as a member of the EU, Yanukovich was overthrown in the Maidan revolution.

“Putin sees the Ukrainian government since 2014 as essentially being puppets of the west but in reality, what’s happened is the Ukrainian people pushed to be closer to the west,” said Kilroy.

In the time after the revolution, Russia has become increasingly antagonistic to Ukraine, illegally annexing Crimea and trying to cut off Ukraine’s allies at every turn. What is more troubling about Russia’s aggression towards Ukraine is how Russia has framed it.

“Putin claimed in advance that he does not recognize Ukraine as a sovereign state and that he doesn’t see Ukrainians as a separate people,” said Kilroy, adding that, “He said that what’s at stake in Ukraine is Russia’s historical future.”

It has become clear to the world that Putin is not just in this fight to gain land. It is about Russia’s reputation and how it has defined itself after the fall of the Soviet Union. It raises questions on how other nationalistic countries will act in the future.

Kilroy stated that the most worrying part of Putin’s performance is how “the limits on his willingness to act on his rhetoric are much less narrow than what was originally anticipated.”

Ultimately, Russia’s actions have been forecasted for years before the recent invasion, it gives diplomats around the world pause for what else can happen.

“We should all think twice about political rhetoric and the kind of extremism that has come to pass for politics,” said Kilroy.

How to donate to the NSU food pantry

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief

Nova Southeastern University is “taking a bite out of hunger” with their food pantry. The pantry is available to all students and located on the second floor of the University Center; all students have to do to get in is present their SharkCard.

Angelica Zadak is the assistant director for the Office of Accreditation and Assessment for Academic Affairs, as well as the College of Computing and Engineering. She explained that while the resources available at the food pantry are free for students, the items available there are all donations the pantry has received. Items can be donated to the pantry individually or by group fundraising by holding events, but if students are looking for a way to give back

and help their peers in need, they must look no further. Described below is a comprehensive list of all of the current ways to donate to the NSU food pantry.

Use your leftover declining balance

As the end of the semester draws near, many students are looking for a way to use up their remaining mandatory declining balance. The leftover funds only carry over from semester to semester and not year to year. While some students buy meals for friends or purchase mug after mug at Starbucks - which are doomed to be shoved in the back of a dorm room cupboard or broken in the moving out process - Zadak suggested that students opt to use their declining

meal balance to donate to the food pantry.

“It’s nice to celebrate the end of a semester [with your friends], but you can also help other students that you might not be in contact with by feeding them and giving them some kind of sustenance to end their semester with,” Zadak said.

Give back as an alumni

Whether graduating seniors are rushing to use up the last of their mandatory meal balance or are looking for a way to give back to the university after receiving their degree, an excellent option to pay it forward and make student life a little easier for those coming after them would be choosing to donate to the NSU

food pantry.

“For students who are graduating, while they’re depleting their balance, it can connect and act as their first donation as an alumni,” Zadak said.

Donate through the GET app

Students can also donate the monetary value of a meal to the NSU food pantry through the GET app, an on-campus food delivery service introduced in 2021. To donate through the GET app, students must first install the app on their phone and log in with their NSU credentials. Students can then scroll down, select “Donate a Meal,” input the amount they wish to donate and submit their donation.

Trans students find gender-affirming housing at NSU

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor

Every fall, Nova Southeastern University fills its halls with students returning from their summer vacations or entering its classrooms for the first time. Although this time is already stressful for many students who are moving in, the process is even more nerve-wracking for transgender students. These students have an extra hurdle to the awkward first week of meeting roommates: explaining that they are a different gender than what their documents might suggest. The Department of Housing has approached this issue with student's best interest in mind.

Director of Housing Operations at the Department of Housing, Victoria Myer has adopted an approach that protects trans students.

"I am of the opinion and direct my staff to never question what a student tells us what their gender identity is. I don't want to inadvertently cause trauma to the student by saying 'Well that's not what the system says,' or 'That's not what we have.' We just say, 'Oh well, sorry for the error,' and fix it. So that's always been our stance," said Myer.

Myer has held her position since September

2021 and stated that in her time there she has received many requests for gender-affirming room assignments from trans students and has never had any problems from trans students abusing the policy or cis students expressing an unwillingness to room with a trans student.

Myer stated that adding any time requirements for a transition would be "harmful and dangerous" to students who need to switch dorms.

Trans students who are assigned to correct dorms are given the option whether or not to alert family to the decision while suitemates are called to be debriefed on the situation and are asked if they have any problems or concerns. According to Myer the answer has always been "no."

In contrast to this, the NSU housing webpage says very little on the matter. Only displaying a small tab at the very bottom of the FAQ page that says that the department deals with transgender and non-binary students on a case-by-case basis.

"Students will not be automatically placed in a gender inclusive suite/apartment and these

requests are handled on a case-by-case basis," according to the website.

This lack of any solid information has caused concern to trans students on campus who worry that they can't be put into the proper room assignment.

One such student, James Geier, a non-binary transmasculine sophomore biology major, sent out a request last year but was told that they could not room with their cisgendered male friend. Geier identified as non-binary at the time and has since started their transition, but the denial caused them to move in together off campus.

"Other schools do this thing where they have co-ed floors," said Geier, offering a potential solution to the problem. Geier expressed that rooming only with cis people might not be a solution for all non-binary people, but they knew for sure that they did not want to room with cis women.

"That's not the most comfortable situation for everybody," said Geier.

This is a sentiment that junior biology major, Savanna Duda, repeated. A resident on

campus, Duda says that her questioning of her gender identity has led to realizations about limited options.

"This year as I've been questioning and feeling like I don't think that I fit into that kind of box. I realized I would be limited still on who I could room with based on my sex assigned at birth and I don't think that's fair," said Duda.

Adrian Ditore, junior marine biology major, still had his deadname on records when he arrived at NSU in 2019. Because of that, his quad quickly filled up with female students.

"I emailed the girls and said that I'm a guy and they might not be comfortable rooming with a guy and I'm not comfortable rooming with them," said Ditore.

Housing quickly assigned him to an all-male suite.

Ditore's housing accommodations started before that. During Shark Preview he was paired with a cisgender male student, a decision that Ditore expressed helped him pick NSU.

"It shows the university confirming that they truly believe that trans people are the gender that they say they are," said Ditore.

COVID-19 affects the entertainment industry

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor



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NSU's The Tempest showcases theater, with the barriers of COVID-19.

The scene is set, the lights are ready and the entire world is watching. The cast and crew of many performing arts productions prepare for this moment to be worthwhile and spectacular. However, life as normal for the industry was halted and that included all shows and productions that were either in the works or were ready for their curtain call.

As artists and creators in the industry, the pandemic has caused not only obstacles but heartache for performers, whose lives consist of entertaining people.

Kimmi Johnson, Director of Shark Gold for the Razors Edge Shark Talent program, at NSU states how her work in regional theater was greatly affected.

"The most beautiful thing about live theater is that it is a shared experience and it involves groups of people both on stage and then a group of people watching the show. So, it's a big gathering and it is special cause it's so unique

every night, no performance is exactly the same. There could be a new line or a new person added into the show, but because of COVID-19 things had to shut down," said Johnson.

During this time period, NSU implemented safety measures like wearing masks, and specified amounts of people backstage and on stage. Currently, performers wear masks depending on the performance and directors.

"It put everything in the theater industry on pause, a lot of theater companies pivoted and did a lot of virtual theater. We did a lot of Zoom play readings, monologue festivals with proceeds that helped any actor or technician or designer in need. There were even Zoom musicals. I mean, we did everything we could to kind of keep it afloat, but we weren't really able to do what we do," said Johnson.

The theater world is a diverse place for artists to express themselves through art and the limitations the pandemic created stopped

the in-person contact all together. Even with virtual shows and performances, the emotions you receive from in-person performances are irreplaceable.

From an economic standpoint this is crucial because of the decline in sales and loss of jobs.

According to online publication The Hustle, "It was evident the pandemic has made a risky and complicated business even riskier and more complicated. Despite drawing 14m+ people a year — higher attendance than all NYC-area sporting teams combined — Broadway shows rarely have happy endings in the financial sense. On Broadway, ~80% of producers and investors struggle to recoup their investments, a number that has stayed consistent since at least the 1960s."

The economic resources are difficult to navigate. However, grants and virtual fundraisers are what kept many companies afloat. It's a harsh reality many had to face during this time,

yet the will to continue to fight for the industry is exceptionally motivating and uplifting.

Today theater and the entertainment industry have come back to life. There are precautions being taken when it comes to the virus. According to Johnson the shows in the South Miami area where she worked made all cast and crew members take covid tests three times a week and are encouraged to be vaccinated. However, the precautions depend on the production company you work for or are affiliated with.

The entertainment industry showcases incredible individuals whose passion and love for the arts is represented through performances. COVID-19 may have affected the industry but bouncing back and coming together as a whole is what keeps the industry going.

Staff Picks: What are you currently hitting repeat on and why?

By: The Current

“‘Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1’ by Kanye West. I recently watched the Kanye trilogy ‘jeen-yuhs’ which gave me a new-found appreciation for Kanye as not only an artist but a human being. ‘Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1’ is a song off of Kanye’s album ‘The Life Of Pablo.’ This album was one of his many turning points, it develops another one of the complex layers that make up Kanye. ‘jeen-yuhs’ humanized Kanye. The trilogy emphasized that regardless of the issues Kanye has faced or caused, he continues to be an influence on the rap community. Despite his struggles, Kanye has had many phases of inspiration, motivation and faith. ‘Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1’ reminds me that there is always something greater to look forward to. There is power within me to push away the unwanted and make it to the next day for another beautiful morning,” said Gerianne Salamanca Gamez, chief of visual design.

“I’ve currently been on an 80’s fantasy and sci-fi synth kick, and anything that sounds remotely similar. There’s something in the way artists use synth in their music that really makes it have a different texture all together, one that elevates the listener and truly sends them to another plane of existence, or at least it does for me. It can be magical and ethereal, or spacey and intense, it can be used in pop punk and indie or in purely musical soundtracks. The possibilities are endless as they are fantastic. I’ve curated a playlist called “brain go brrr” that has lyrical music such as ‘See You In The Future’ by Waterparks, ‘Terrible Lie’ by Nine Inch Nails and ‘Washing Machine Heart’ by Mitski, as well as soundtracks like ‘Thirteen O’Clock’ by Trevor Jones, ‘Healing Crystals’ by David Hewson and ‘Sailing Through the Tempest of Battle’ by Ur Pale,” said Sophia Cortes, arts and entertainment editor.

“Right now, I’ve been reconnecting with a lot of old music that I love, as well as discovering a lot of new stuff. Since I watched ‘The Batman,’ I made a playlist based off of the movie and I’ve been enjoying a lot of that stuff that I listened to a lot more when I was younger. That playlist ranges from The Cure to Nirvana, and it even has a little bit of The Pixies and Radiohead. At the same time, I’ve been listening to a lot of female artists like Mitski, Sidney Gish, Fiona Apple and Florence + The Machine. I’ve specifically had Florence + The Machine’s new release ‘King,’ on repeat for the last month or so,” said Sofia Gallus, editor-in-chief.

“It’s not a surprise to anyone that has read the waves of the week pieces that I have written or listened to my show on RadioX -- shameless plug, DJ Noctua Sundays 6-9 p.m. only on RadioX -- that I have some weird tastes in music. Surprisingly, the current song I’m listening to on repeat is actually in English instead of some random dead or dying language. Right now, if I’m listening to music I am probably just listening to ‘The Golden One’ from the second season of ‘The Witcher,’ which, much like all of Jaskier’s songs, is truly a masterpiece,” said Alexander Martinie, copy editor.

“Recently, what I have been listening to repeatedly is Chase Atlantic and a couple of his songs titled ‘Swim,’ ‘Friends,’ and ‘Into It.’ When I’m driving at night they add to the vibe or mood I want to be in. Where the music is upbeat and ties into lyrics that are catchy and have depth. Also, it helps me connect more to how I am feeling and guides me to my location faster,” said Brielle Aguayo, opinions editor.

“Recently, I have been listening to El Alfa as well as Morgan Wallen or really any country artist, repeatedly. When I listen to country music, I am typically in the shower belting the lyrics. In the car is when I listen to El Alfa, specifically ‘Mera Woo,’ because the base and the beat hits harder in the car for some reason. Growing up as a dancer has made me find the love for different genres of music,” said Hailey Wilcox, business manager.

“In the past couple of weeks I’ve been listening to a lot old-school. I don’t even know why, I’m not old school. Daddy Yankee, Farruko, Sean Paul; these are all artists who I’ve had on repeat. Early MC Doom and J Balvin are also going really hard for me right now. There’s just something about how the early 2000’s really abused the bass that I love. As long as you can hear it with all the car windows rolled up I’m good with it. More bass, more life,” Rei Perez, features editor.

“Lately I’ve been listening to the song ‘Good Morning, Gorgeous’ by Mary J Blige. It came on a random playlist from my Alexa and ever since then, it’s been on repeat in the mornings when I walk to class. It’s just a positive song about self-love and I’ve just been super drawn to it lately. Whenever I’m walking or after I finish a workout, I put it on and it always puts me in a better mood,” said Jamila Hughes, news editor.

“Lately, I’ve been hitting repeat on ‘Do Better’ by Gunna. I love a good melody and chorus and that song has it. ABoogie, Roddy and Lil Skies are my go-to’s for that mood. Otherwise, Juice WRLD, Travis Scott, Lil Uzi Vert, Youngboy, Lil Tjay and throwback Kodak Black have been in my playlist recently,” said Blake Malick, sports editor.

The evolution of TikTok

By: Danna Bertel
Contributing Writer

TikTok has gained an incredible number of users who have been creating and watching 30-second clips over the last couple of years. The app started off as Musical.ly, but since its rebranding has become influential towards social activism, pop culture and music. Through the variety of trends flowing through the app, it has managed to bring popularity to a new generation of celebrities and content creators able to entertain their audience in under a minute.

Going back to its roots, TikTok had content consisting of dance clips and lip syncing to songs. Later creating a viral challenge with people sharing their rendition of “Renegade,”

which gave popularity content creators who are now considered celebrities, such as Charli D’amelio and Addison Rae. Many different users have been able to gain a massive number of followers to the point of creating content houses or opening doors to a career in acting or singing.

Since many TikToks are accompanied by a song in the background, many previously unknown artists such as Megan Thee Stallion and Doja Cat have gotten recognition due to this feature. TikTok is becoming a promotional tool for artists and record labels, encouraging them to write songs that can fit a trend with the idea

that it might gain popularity, and thus be the next song featured on the app that can chart in the Billboard 100.

TikTok has grown to have a massive impact on society today with it also being a platform used for social and political activism alongside dance trends. The younger generation has taken TikTok as their outlet to express political opinions and have create open discussions on social and racial injustices. The hashtag Black Lives Matter went viral as way for many users to raise awareness and find ways to support the movement. Another example being users of the app collectively reserving seats for a Donald

Trump rally only to not show up as a form of protest. Political figures have also taken the time to create their own Tik Tok accounts as a way to appeal to the younger voters.

TikTok has been downloaded over 2.6 billion times worldwide, becoming one of the most used social media platforms. Its diversity in content can be one of the reasons for its massive popularity, all one has to do is scroll away for new entertaining videos ranging from comedy skits, makeup tips and never-ending new trends.

A taste of the latest in pop culture you may have missed

By: Isabella Pinel
Contributing Writer

Today, modern technology has allowed millions access to all the multimedia the world has to offer at the touch of our fingertips. However, it may at times seem impossible to escape the same familiar faces within the mainstream media that we are exposed to everyday. From movies to literature, here are our latest recommendations for those who are due for some spring cleaning within the arts.

“Sundown” directed by Michael Franco

This indie film is the epitome of eerie slow burn. The film follows a wealthy family vacationing in Acapulco, Mexico, until a family emergency cuts their luxurious vacation short. Actor Tim Roth is exceptional at depicting the character Neil Bennet, a cryptic brother whose actions consistently lead to more questions. The thriller plays on melancholic themes and

ambiguity that leaves the viewer yearning for explanations that may never come.

Bakar

Since the start of his career, singer and songwriter Bakar has taken the indie rock scene by storm. Within the last four years he has released various indie singles that have revealed his gritty upbringing in London as a first-generation immigrant. His thought-provoking music has evolved quickly and he has collaborated with artists such as Dominic Fike, BENEE and many more. His debut album, ‘Nobody’s Home’, is set to release Feb. 25, and it will be sure to cause another wave of praise for the London artist.

Tega Akinola

It is no surprise that designers have been

shifting their designs towards a broader, more sustainable way of producing garments. The zero-waste fashion movement has caused artists like Tega Akinola to distinguish themselves as designers whose motives are to “upcycle” instead of those mass-producing fast fashion textiles. Her work forces her to design innovatively while honoring every recycled item she comes across. Using objects such as USB cables and vintage jackets, Akinola has set a high standard for designers who promote this environmentally friendly method of producing fashion.

Damsel Elysium

At the age of 21, this London-based experimental visual and sound artist is transforming the way we consume the world around us. Damsel Elysium has been known to use the environment around them to inspire their

artwork. By channeling the “whispers” of trees to convert into sounds produced by their double bass and violin their innovative range is nothing short of immersive.

“Ring Shout” by P.Djeli Clark

Set in 1915, this fantasy horror novel defies the meaning society has for the Klu Klux Klan. While using references that can be traced back to African folklore, Clark creates a new narrative for the terrorist and hate group that takes demonic turn. The novel follows a trio of fierce black women that fight together in efforts to prevent a potential apocalyptic catastrophe. It is up to the “Ring Shout” group to combat the forces of evil and hatred in order to ensure the safety of America and you cannot anticipate what happens next.

OFFSHORE CALENDAR

Food Truck Thursdays at Highland Oaks Park
March 31 | 5 – 10 p.m.
Highland Oaks Park, Miami

Pottery Wheel for Beginners
April 1 | 2 – 4 p.m.
Mingo Pottery Studio, Fort Lauderdale

Yoga & Yolks
April 2 | 8 – 9 a.m.
Shooters Waterfront, Fort Lauderdale

110th Oreo Birthday Open House Celebration
April 2 | 11 a.m. - noon
Publix Aprons Cooking School at Plantation

The Badger and Brandon Comedy Showcase
April 3 | 7 – 9 p.m.
Dania Improv, Dania Beach

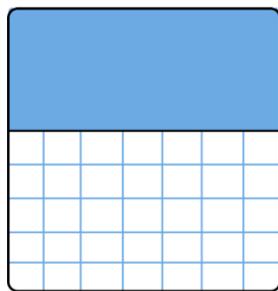
Full Moon Meditation & Sound Healing
April 5 | 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Le Sound Temple, Fort Lauderdale

Broward College Presents Jazz on the Patio
April 7 | 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Broward College A. Hugh Adams Central Campus

Fort Lauderdale Career Fair
April 8 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Westin Fort Lauderdale

First Time Homebuyers Workshop
April 9 | 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
The Urban League of Broward County

FTL Beach Cleanup
April 9 | 8:30 – 10 a.m.
B Ocean Resort Fort Lauderdale



SUBMITTED BY ANDRE ORNELAS

Soundbite: “There and Back Again” by Eric Nam

By: Danna Bertel
Contributing Writer

Korean American singer Eric Nam is back with his new album. He has started a new era with seven tracks that display the bittersweet and melancholy aftermath of a relationship with a pop ballad sound.

The first song on the album, “Lost On Me,” begins with a soft and upbeat tune. Lyrically the song reflects on a past relationship and holding onto silver linings instead of painful memories. Eric Nam’s soulful voice carries the chorus to beautifully written lyrics about acceptance.

“I Don’t Know You Anymore” is an upbeat pop song with a catchy guitar tune that contributes to Eric’s soft voice. This song takes a sour turn, now featuring a relationship gone awry and reflecting on how a person you love is drifting away. It has groovy and catchy tune and a theme of heartbreak, showcased with the lyrics, “Now you gaslight me with thunder and lightning and I don’t know how I should feel.”

“Any Other Way” starts off with a melodic whistle combined with an acoustic guitar that stays toward the chorus and outro. The song

lyrically captures the feeling of light and a newfound love after a period of loneliness, shown with the lyrics, “I’ve always been a cynical, but you came in like a miracle cause you made feel again breath again my hear is finally making sense.” Eric’s dreamy voice and beautifully rhymed lyrics make this song extremely catchy.

“Wildfire” brings us back to heartbreak and lamenting on a past relationship. The heavy and simple instrumentals showcase Eric’s vocal range. The song stands unique from other tracks by the sudden silence mid chorus which draws the listeners back with its lyrics. The outro of the track finishes with heavier instrumentals and vocal layers repeating “I lost.”

“What If” kicks off as a pop ballad reflecting on the feelings of guilt and unanswered questions after a breakup. Eric sings in a rapid tone to encapsulate the feeling of racing thoughts, shown in the lyrics “I can’t help but wonder where your head and heart is maybe that’s the reason why I’m scared of calling oh did you find

someone new? Or do you still miss it too?”

“Admit It” follows a softer and more mellow sound that blends through a guitar. The song is charming for its simplicity and rhythmic lyrics that are trying to convey what lingers after a relationship and dealing with the emptiness that is left.

The album’s finale “One Way Lover” sticks with the theme of heartbreak, this time delving into a one-way lover that takes but never gives. This track also offers a simple sound and lyrics but carries a lot of emotion.

Eric Nam’s “There and Back Again” consist of beautifully created and written tracks involving a sour relationship, betrayal, accepting mistakes and having a positive outlook. Eric Nam was able to pull off an album that depicts emotions and composes songs that listeners can relate to either past relationships, or the emotions and thoughts that come with heartbreak.

What is Disney Genie+ and why does everyone hate it?

By: Isabella Pinel
Contributing Writer

Late last year, Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort released a new digital service by name of Disney Genie+ and it soon became Disney’s biggest object of controversy. According to Disney, the purpose of this service is to help park guests navigate their trips through personalized features within their Disney Genie app. Itinerary features, foodie experiences and information on general attractions can all be found on the app in efforts to enhance the Disney experience.

“Our complimentary Disney Genie service creates your best Disney day inspired by your top interests,” according to the Disneyland Resort website.

Many park guests have had issues surrounding the Disney Genie features, including those that require additional costs for access. Guests have also expressed their difficulty to schedule and book reservations for various attractions due to software glitches and

other technological discrepancies within the app itself.

The app has been released with the accompaniment of Disney Genie+, the paid service that guests can purchase for a list of benefits that you would not otherwise have access to.

Prior to the creation of Disney Genie+, the park had the MaxPass system in place, which was used for the same purpose, easier park navigation. However, the FastPass feature that allowed guests multiple opportunities for shorter wait times with the cost of \$20 per day, has now been replaced by the Lightning Lane feature with the new system.

Although both systems are equal in price to obtain, there are some features within the newer service that have been removed. Instead of the original 22 rides available with the MaxPass, Genie+ is only applicable to approximately 15.

Rides with larger popularity, such as “Rise

of Resistance” and “Radiator Springs Racers,” are now individually priced with the purchase of Lightning Lanes per attraction and date. Amongst this, guests have also noticed that the cost of this service differs depending on the date of reservation and various other factors.

It is almost guaranteed that Disney will continue to change their park’s premium services over time. For avid park-goers, it is not necessarily clear whether this new system is much more affordable than the original. Amongst these concerns, Genie+ excludes a substantial portion of the park’s consumers who are not as comfortable using the app’s technology.

Only time will tell how Disney chooses to handle these issues, but until then, park guests will have to become well-versed in the new system known as Disney Genie+ to enjoy the park how Disney has now designed it to be consumed.

Media Week: Sketch Contest Winners



SUBMITTED BY ANDRE ORNELAS



SUBMITTED BY SAM SNELL

NSU women's swim team achieves national championship

By: Sophia Cortez

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Nova Southeastern University's swim team is no stranger to making headlines, surpassing expectations and living up to NSU's mantra to dominate the waters. Summer 2021 brought two NSU athletes, Celina Marquez and Steven Aimable, to the Tokyo Olympics. Now, the recent NCAA Women's Division II Swimming and Diving championships brought Marquez and her fellow NSU Sharks, seniors Savanna Best, Aleksandra "Sasha" Maslova and graduate student Cassie Wright back to the podium for NSU's second go at being national champions in the women's 400-yard medley relay with a record time of 3:36.23.

For those who may be unfamiliar, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II is an organization that allows competitions between the various athletic teams offered in universities on a nationwide level. The NCAA Women's Division II Swimming

and Diving Championships is an event hosted annually by the organization featuring a range of competitions in various swimming and diving categories.

For senior marketing major Maslova, this year's NCAA Women's Division II Swimming Championships held a larger importance than those she participated in four years prior.

"For the past four years I've been going to the nationals and competing, but this year was special for me and my teammate Cassie specifically because it's our last nationals," said Aleksandra.

She further went on to explain why this season in particular had been the best so far.

"We're done with swimming and we're graduating soon. It's been different from the past couple of years, this season has defiantly been the best for me. I felt so much stronger and more sure of myself because I had gained all that

experience. I knew everyone was preparing to be the fastest and preparing to fight against us, but the big difference was that I wasn't trying to put myself in a tough mental position because of the competition, I was just enjoying the meet. I was doing it for fun, for the team and for myself. I just wanted to love every second of it, and I did!"

It was with this mindset that Maslova went into the water with, and eventually up onto the podium with.

"It felt amazing. It's like finally, I've been trying to win the national title for the past four years and I've finally made it in my last year. It's like a happy ending," Maslova said, recalling the moment she and her teammates won. ""

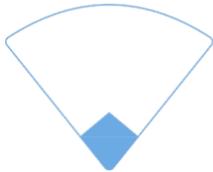
While Maslova won't be continuing the sport professionally, choosing to instead pursue her career in marketing, she has advice for new students coming into NSU's swim team.

"Enjoy the ride. It's a really great four years

of experience of college sports and swimming. It's fun and it's challenging. And always be supportive of your teammates because it's a big team, and everyone needs support. Being there for each other always helps a lot, it's really one of the most important things. That and working hard. So, if you're doing the smart thing, if you're doing this right, you'll love it, and you'll remember those four years for the rest of your lives."

Congratulations to Celina Marquez and Head Coach, Ben Hewitt, for being named Swimmer of the Year and Coach of the Year by the Sunshine State Conference!

ON DECK



Baseball

v St. Thomas
April 12 | 6 p.m.
NSU Baseball Complex

Softball

v Saint Leo
April 1 | 6 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Saint Leo
April 2 | 1 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Saint Leo
April 2 | 3 p.m.
AD Griffin Sports Complex

Women's tennis

v Tampa
April 3 | 10 a.m.
NSU Tennis Complex

v Keiser
April 6 | 2 p.m.
NSU Tennis Complex

Russian athletes and their removal from sports

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

In light of the recent events between Ukraine and Russia, the sports industry and competition world has been affected, with several governing bodies around the world making the decision to bar Russia from international competitions and sports. FIFA made their support of Ukraine clear in a statement made, "Football is fully united here and in full solidarity with all the people affected in Ukraine."

In addition to this, the UEFA Champions League Final, originally scheduled to take place in St. Petersburg, Russia has now been relocated to Saint-Denis, France. According to USA Today, there has also been request for athletes from Belarus to be banned from competing as the country has allowed Russian troops to station there and launch attacks from their territory.

Not only are Russians being removed from sports, but other countries are refusing to play them. The Associated Press reported, "Another future opponent, Albania, also said Sunday [February 27] it would not play against Russia in any sports. Russia and Albania are scheduled to meet twice in June in the UEFA Nations

League soccer tournament.

However, these decisions do not come without backlash from Russian officials. Russian Olympic Committee president Stanislav Pozdnyakov made clear that Russians "strongly object" to these measures and see them as discriminatory. "There is only one comment to make -- we categorically disagree," said Pozdnyakov.

Russian athletes have not stayed silent in response to these changes and how the war is affecting them. ABC News said, "Alex Ovechkin, one of the highest-profile Russians in sports, who has been a supporter of Russian President Vladimir Putin and whose family is located in Russia, has been facing calls from hockey fans to address the violence as he leads the Washington Capitals." Ovechkin, in a press conference made a statement asking for the war to end.

Andrey Rublev, a Russian tennis player also voiced his opinion after winning a semifinal match at the Dubai Championships, when he wrote "No War Please" in marker on a TV camera, which is a new tradition for tennis

match winners.

Russian athletes are not the only ones who have been affected by this war. Ukrainian athletes have also spoken out about their feelings on the war.

According to ABC News, "Sacramento Kings center Alex Len and Toronto Raptors forward Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk, the only two Ukrainians in the NBA, released a joint statement Thursday, writing in part, "A great tragedy befell our dear homeland Ukraine. We categorically condemn the war. Ukraine is a peaceful sovereign state inhabited by people who want to decide their own destiny." Meanwhile, Pavlo Dziuba, a Ukrainian college basketball player at Maryland, wrote "NO WAR PEACE" and "PRAY FOR UKRAINE" on his shoes."

The international sports world has taken a clear side on the war between Russia and Ukraine and continue to take measures in which they believe best fit the situation at hand.

On the bench: Athlete activism is good, actually

By: Rei Perez

Features Editor

The 2022 Super Bowl made headlines, not because the LA Rams pulled off a clutch victory in the last moments of the game, but because the halftime show displayed political messages. Nothing new here: the NFL has developed a reputation for protests that have attracted harsh criticism.

When Colin Kaepernick started to kneel for the national anthem, it inspired many players to do the same, and caused many on the right to respond in anger. Kaepernick had made his intentions clear from the start: the player wanted to protest many of the inequalities that people of color still face in the U.S. and the response to the kneels justified them in many ways, showing

that if a black man does not stand and salute for the national anthem, there will be consequences for him.

Apart from a Nike ad and some good press, there were consequences for Kaepernick, whose promising NFL career was cut short due to the controversy. If there was ever a clear-cut sign that athletes can and should use their large platforms for activism, it was this.

Activism without an audience is not activism. What good is a message if there is no one to hear it, in other words: if a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound? Yes, but no one will know. The NFL has a distinct advantage over it that other media forms do not. The NFL offers

a window into the living rooms of those who may or may not be supportive of trans and gay rights, feminism and Black Lives Matter. If these demonstrations don't persuade fans to change their views, in part because their favorite players are expressing opinions different than theirs, it can at least show the need for these protests.

For the crowd who claims that there is no white privilege or that black people don't face discrimination still, it is extremely hypocritical to call for the firing of successful black men that are speaking out against that same discrimination. More arrogant still, many of these critics are supporters of former president Trump. For years, Trump supporters have claimed that millionaire

athletes don't speak for the average person while defending a life-long billionaire.

Why was the Super Bowl halftime show important? Trump is no longer in office, Kaepernick has been out of the news cycle and Black Lives Matter protests have not had the same popularity they had when George Floyd was murdered. When Eminem kneeled and Dr. Dre and Kendrick Lamar refused to change their lyrics, which were critical of police, despite pleas from the NFL, it showed the U.S. that the athletes and those who stand alongside them have not forgotten about these issue and they are still important to them.

Sharks fall in Elite Eight: Taking a look at 2022-2023

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

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The Sharks finished the season 31-1 with a hard fought defeat ending their championship hopes.

In heartbreaking fashion, the NSU men's basketball team lost in the national quarterfinal of the NCAA Division-II Tournament to Black Hills State, losing 67-77. The Sharks put up a valiant effort, but in the end, they fell short.

Despite the game being tied at halftime, a cold second half sealed any hopes of a Sharks win. The team shot 26% (11-42) from the floor in the final 20 minutes. At one point, an NSU possession consisted of four offensive rebounds and five missed shots. Some days, the basket just feels like it has a cover on it.

The clear edge that Black Hills State had was in the free throw department. The Yellow Jackets shot 95% (21-22) from the line, with the Sharks shooting 56% (9-16). Black Hills State forward Joel Scott scored a game-high of 25 points, with 11 of those coming from the

free throw line. Guard Adam Moussa scored 11 points on 1-10 from the field, though he hit all 8 of his free throw attempts. The game was decided at the stripe.

In the loss, junior forward Sekou Sylla scored 17 points. Senior guard Nick Smith put up 16 points on 44% from deep. Sophomore forward RJ Sunahara had a great game, racking up 14 points, eight rebounds and three blocks. Senior guard Eddie Puisis contributed eight points and six rebounds in 36 minutes. Freshmen Kobe Rodgers and Jonathan Pierre split time, though neither of them performed to their capabilities.

Smith and Puisis played their final games as Sharks. The two were instrumental to both tournament runs. Smith will go down as one of the best point guards to ever play for the Sharks,

scoring the seventh most points in program history with 1,361 points. He averaged 11.6 points, 3.9 assists and 1.9 steals per game in his 117 career games. Puisis is one of the best shooters in NSU's history, hitting the second most three pointers in NSU's history with 224. He put up 10.2 points per game and holds the fourth and fifth best individual three-point shooting seasons in Shark history. Congrats to a great career to you both!

Next year, the Sharks will return their two leading scorers in Sylla and Sunahara. Sophomore guard Jake Maranville started 18 games as a freshman in 2019 but suffered a knee injury in 2021 that kept him out for the entire season. If healthy, he could slot back in as a starter going forward. Freshmen guard Rodgers and forward Pierre will surely have bigger roles

in the absence of the two senior guards.

The Sharks will be returning a good portion of veterans as well. Sophomore guard Mike Moore could slide into the starting lineup, but his role as the sixth man is solid. Junior forward Lukas Speidel and sophomore forward Shane Hunter will contribute off the bench. Additionally, redshirt freshman forward Tommy Sala, freshman forward Alex Mangold and freshman guard Dallas Graziani could see their roles increase.

Finding fitness: Pokémon Go exploring

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor

Pokémon Go captivated gamers and adventure seekers from all over the world during 2016 and remains to be an app that is interactive and caters to investigating. The gameplay allows players to explore and experience a world range of activities in real-time. When it comes to traveling to PokéStops, locating gyms to take over or even exploring places to catch Pokémon.

All of these activities take effort and time and require going the literal distance to achieve goals and higher ranking. The best way to plan out how to accomplish things in the game is by performing actions that will increase your skill

in order to excel.

Such as using the map to see where the exact distance and location is of PokéStops, gyms and Pokémon. This caters to my everyday life well because I am always on campus, where locations like this are all around.

For example, within the vicinity of the University Center, there are two gyms located at Starbucks and the Shark Fountain. It takes time to get to these places depending on where you are. The gyms are very useful because you can battle other Pokémon and leave them to level up.

Depending on where you start, there are

other gyms even further than that which require more walking, such as the gym at the Medicinal Garden. There are even PokéStops to receive incentives along the way like poke balls, potions and stickers. Not to mention, while walking and going on your journey to these spots around campus, there is always Pokémon around to capture..

One thing I found helpful is using the health app on my phone to track my daily steps to keep me accountable and motivate. Playing the game has allowed me to progress my exercise goals while keeping track of my heart rate, and other

aspects of gaining further movement.

I have had adventures that took a sweat out of me just to beat Pokémon or place them in a gym to receive coins. One encounter that I managed to find myself in was going from the residential side of campus to DeSantis with one of my friends in the evening just to play Pokémon GO.

In retrospect it is a large distance to travel when walking and even at times running around campus. Yet, it gave me a supplementary workout and allowed me to do what I love; catch cute Pokémon and get defeated by NPCs.

Heat sit No. 1 in east after 60 games

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

After 60 games, the Miami Heat are the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference with a 46-24 record. The 2021-2022 Heat have already surpassed its win total from 2020-2021, where they won just 40 games. The team allows the fourth least points per game, giving up an average of 104.7 points per game. The Heat also hold an NBA-leading .374% rate from behind the arc.

The Heat's Big 3 in Jimmy Butler, Bam Adebayo and Kyle Lowry have elevated the team to a true contender. Butler averages 21.1 points, 6 rebounds, 5.6 assists and 1.8 steals per game. Adebayo is a Defensive Player of the Year contender, and he averages 19 points, 10.3 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game even though

he had a torn ligament in his thumb. Lowry, the Heat's prized free agent signing, is putting up 12.6 points, 7.8 assists and 4.7 rebounds with 1.1 steals per game.

Guard Tyler Herro has been on another level in the absence of Butler, Adebayo and Lowry. Herro averages a near-team leading 21 points per game. The third-year guard is basically a lock for the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year award. His efficient splits of 44.4% from the field, 39.3% from three and 86.7% from the stripe have people impressed.

The addition of former All-Star, All-Defensive and All-NBA guard Victor Oladipo has the potential to make the Heat the best (defensive) team in the NBA. Oladipo returned

for the first time since January of 2021 when he opted to have surgery on a ruptured quadriceps tendon. In just four games, Oladipo has been on a minutes restriction, but in Per 36 minutes stats, he is averaging 12.2 points, 6.1 assists and 2.8 rebounds on 45% from the field. Oladipo's return can take the Heat over the top, and help it compete with the elite competition in the East.

The Heat are even getting production from their lower-level guys. Forward Caleb Martin has carved out a real role for himself as the backup to Butler, scoring 22, 26 and 28 points in different games this season. Backup guard and forward Max Strus has at least seven games of more than 20 points, including a 32-point explosion. Though PJ Tucker is a very elite

defender and not necessarily elite on the other side of the court, he has contributed nine games with at least 15 points.

Backup bigs Dewayne Dedmon and Omer Yurtseven have each had impressive runs, with Dedmon scoring 12.8 points and 8.4 rebounds over a five-game span, and Yurtseven racking up 13.6 points and 13.9 rebounds in a ten-game span.

The complete, star-studded but deep Heat have a chance to be champions in 2022. Only time will tell, but as the Heat gets healthier, the rest of the NBA will be sure to keep their eye on the Miami Heat.

Hearing about this year's housing selection makes me glad that I'm graduating

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief

This is my last semester at NSU, and I've lived on campus all four years. I've been pretty lucky with housing selection, as I lived in The Commons my freshman year, managed to snag a single in the Cultural Living Center my sophomore year and have lived in Mako Hall for the last two years. While I've encountered issues in all of the dorms I've lived in, for someone like me who doesn't have any local family and doesn't have my own mode of transportation, living on campus is really the only way I'm able to attend classes and go to work. Even though I've been relatively lucky, the housing selection process has been an anxiety-inducing process

every year.

This year, the housing selection process quietly changed to favor incoming freshmen and returning sophomores over juniors and seniors, giving younger students earlier selection times and leaving upperclassmen with fewer available spaces. Students who will be seniors during the next academic year were all but booted off campus, with the only housing options given being Rolling Hills A or Rolling Hills C or living at University Pointe. Before anyone tries to argue with me, Rolling Hills A and Rolling Hills C are not "on campus housing" if you need to cross a giant intersection and go past a golf course to

reach them. Even Razor's Edge seniors, who have received longstanding seniority when it comes to the housing selection process, only got access to one floor of Mako Hall. From what I heard the available rooms were filled in minutes.

I've had some amazing experiences at this university, but at this point I just feel bad for any of my friends who will be here in the coming years, especially those who will be graduating seniors next year. None of them were able to find housing on campus, and now some are resorting to the stress of maybe balancing the cost of off-campus housing or dealing with increased gas prices to get to classes on campus next year.

It really seems like NSU only seems to care about new students, especially when it comes to student housing. Once you've been here a few years and given hundreds of thousands of dollars to the university, they conveniently seem to stop caring. NSU brags about being "home" for students but kicks the students who have stuck around the longest off campus into a sketchy apartment building or a hardly renovated old hotel. No wonder their retention rates decrease every year.

Xbox versus PlayStation

By: Noah Wellington
Contributing Writer

It has been a little over a year since Microsoft and Sony released the Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5, yet the debate between which console is superior still rages on. The constant feud between the two consoles has actually been going on for decades, dating back to when the Xbox was released in 2001 and the PS2 in 2000. Previously, there has never been a clear-cut winner because both companies' releases have always had their fair share of disadvantages.

Looking back at previous releases, the original Xbox offers better hardware, while the PS2 offers a larger catalog of games. The Xbox 360 has better exclusive games and backwards compatibility, while the PS3 has better hardware and free online gameplay. The Xbox One and the PS4 have very similar hardware, however, the Xbox One has backwards compatibility while the PS4 does not. To this day fans can

easily argue in favor of either console. Unlike the previous generation consoles, the Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 are tricky to compare since both consoles offer very similar features on the surface, and subtle differences that can set the two apart.

Console features

The Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 consoles have practically the same hardware. The enhanced processors have the potential to use advanced lighting and ray tracing, technology which had been too demanding for the previous generation consoles. Both the Xbox Series X and PS5 achieved a significant increase in performance and graphics, both being capable of outputting 8k at 30 frames per second and 4k at 120 frames per second. One thing that greatly sets the two systems apart is

their respective exclusive games. PlayStation offers a spectacular list of exclusive games that demonstrates what's possible with new generation consoles. These exclusives are not available on Xbox or PC. Xbox also offers a vast list of exclusive games, however, they do not truly feel exclusive as they are available to be played on older Xbox consoles and Windows as well. Although the Xbox clearly lacks in game exclusives, the Xbox has PlayStation beat when it comes to backwards compatibility. Backwards compatibility allows the user to play older games that are available on previous generation consoles on newer consoles. Both consoles have this feature, however, the PS5 is only compatible with PS4 games while the Xbox Series X supports classic games that are available on the Xbox 360 and Xbox One.

The superior console

It is honestly still a toss-up between the two consoles since both provide similar quality and performance. However, the PlayStation 5 seems to be slightly better solely because of its exclusive games. The PS5 exclusives add a level of importance, which can be more alluring to buyers, especially since most of what the Xbox Series X has to offer is available on Windows as well. In my opinion, having the ability to play Xbox titles on PC takes away that must-have feeling from the Xbox Series X in a way, nonetheless the Xbox is a great option for those who want to play a variety of games at the low cost of \$10 per month. The PlayStation is a great option for those who don't want to miss out on major exclusive releases.

Seriously kidding: A second attempt at reading your horoscope, but I still don't know a thing about astrology

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.

Aries

It's Aries season and y'all are already a bit too full of yourselves. Take it down a notch before you hurt yourself. No, like, calm down bro.

Taurus

Your FBI agent is seriously worried about you. What are you doing? It is legitimately concerning.

Gemini

With the new Batman movie out, they

might be looking for someone to play Two-Face. It's the perfect role for you.

Cancer

You look stressed. Is everything alright? Here, have a nice cup of tea and relax. Things will get better soon enough.

Leo

We regret to inform you that the Leo horoscope has been moved to The Current's Platinum Plan. To gain access to your horoscope and other perks of The Current's Platinum Plan, please subscribe by leaving your name and payment—three easy installments of \$4 million or the right kidney of an elder god—under the stairs in the Don Taft University Center. Disclaimer: The Current is not liable for any repercussions of the acquirement of elder god organs.

Virgo

When was the last time you washed your

hair? Really? No, that's unacceptable. Go get cleaned up. We have guests in five minutes.

Libra

Time to pick up a new hobby. Any interest in juggling flaming chainsaws?

Scorpio

Stop blaming your problems on your astrological sign. Everyone around you isn't mad at you because you are a Scorpio, they're mad at you because you're really annoying.

Sagittarius

You haven't reached enlightenment. You're just a sleep deprived college student with a severe caffeine addiction. Drink some water and get some sleep. It'll be good for you, and I don't want to hear any arguments about it.

Capricorn

I'm not going to bother giving you a horoscope, it's not like you read this far anyway.

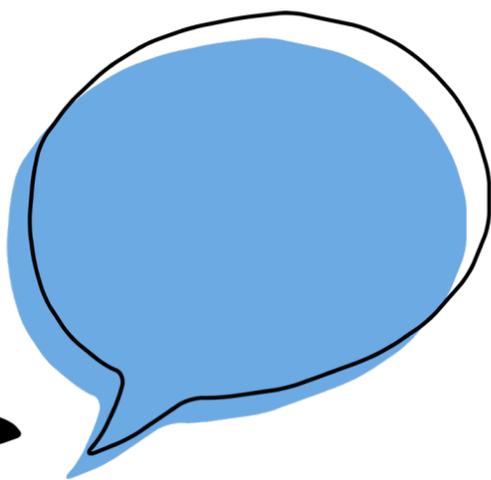
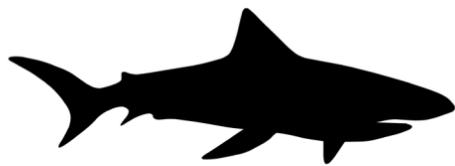
Aquarius

We get it, you know big words. But that doesn't mean you know what they mean. Stop saying you are very photosynthesis.

Pisces

A rather cryptic message was left for you at The Current. The message said, "The FitnessGram Pacer Test... The FitnessGram Pacer Test... is a multistage aerobic capacity test... The FitnessGram Pacer Test is a multistage aerobic capacity test that progressively gets more difficult as it continues. The 20-meter pacer test will begin in 30 seconds... In 30 seconds... In 30 seconds... Remember to run in a straight line... straight line... line... li... li... line and run as long as possible. The second time you fail... you fail... you fail... you fail to complete a lap before the sound, your test is over. The test will begin..." Does that mean anything to you?

Shark speak



“How do you feel about Shark Preview being in person?”

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“To be honest, I feel jealous because I had it on Zoom, but I’m happy that it’s back. Nova has done a good job at getting people excited about it,” said Sofia Calderon, freshman pre-nursing major.

“I think it’s very different especially because of [COVID-19] but I think all of the incoming freshmen will have a better feel of campus and how Nova truly is before coming into school,” said Sarav Patel, sophomore psychology major.

“I like it because I have to do interviews, and we get a better feel of the candidates and how they are like. There’s good organization going on around campus, so it makes things run smoothly,” said Ester Ferreira, freshman communication major.

“Honestly, it’s better than it being online. It’s a good thing that [COVID-19] is starting to go down. We communicate better and it’s more exciting than someone being in person rather than online,” said Nicholas Machado, freshman exercise and sports science major.

Apple customers left behind as updates ruin their iPhone experience

By: Isabella Pinel
Contributing Writer

The functionality of the iPhone is changing yet again and Apple customers are struggling to adapt to the new features that are added to each iOS. It was almost two years ago that Apple added new features that have allowed iPhone consumers to personalize their phones.

However, with each update, customers have asked which features they should learn and which they should just ignore. The newly introduced Apple Library has given users the option to declutter their home screens by storing their apps in one consolidated place. Now, new

features such as interactive widgets are being introduced to iPhones this upcoming summer.

In the WWDC22 conference set this June, Apple will introduce the iOS 16 system update of the iPhone that upgrades the functions and displays of some of users favorite widgets. These functional aspects will create opportunities to participate interactively and enhance the user experience.

As each iOS update downloads onto our phones overnight, older generations find it hard to adjust to the new technology.

Younger generations have proven to be some of the world’s largest consumers which means it is the best interest of tech companies like Apple to cater to this market. However, the inevitable reality of these advancements will eventually be that customers like Calix will no longer understand the product she once knew.

Additionally, Apple consumers have begun to question whether the tech company will make it so those with older models of the iPhone cannot use their phones with the new system update. This development is very reminiscent of

complaints customers have had when receiving previous updates on older versions of the iPhone.

Unfortunately, Apple has not provided those with older iPhones with an alternative option other than purchasing a new phone that is compatible with its new updates. For some customers, their only option is to purchase a new iPhone or switch to a new phone altogether. As loyal customers to the company for decades, it is hard to see whether Apple is providing the same loyalty.

Electronic notes are superior to basic paper notes

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor

Growing up, pen and paper were our only option for notetaking. I remember in middle school how I was obsessed with colored pens, highlighters and markers to captivate my legible handywork. However, as I have gotten older and the world has gotten more technologically advanced, things have become more progressive. Note-taking is much easier and more efficient on electronic devices.

I remember begging my parents for an iPad because it would help me with school and with the transition from high school to college. Although the real reason was because it would make it easier for me to watch Netflix, note-

taking was a solid plus to receiving the iPad. There are many attributes for using an electronic device.

For example, the Apple pen is a useful tool and product that allows for accurate not-taking and designing. I use the app good notes which even though it was a paid application, helps me organize my notes and important documents fairly well. There are select folders, electronic notebooks and additional pads to put away all of the information I need digitally.

Last semester was when I started utilizing my iPad more on an everyday basis. For my public speaking class, it was especially helpful

when writing out key points and separating information into graphs. Also, it is nice to have online features to take into account when taking notes digitally. I can color code with any color I want that has a specific hex code, which is useful when dividing my work into categories to help remember information.

Also, I can import any image from Google or my camera roll to help me add physical images to tie into my notes. It’s exceptionally more efficient and aesthetically appealing to use these features to make not-taking more fun and useful.

However, I tried using a digital planner and

it just doesn’t feel the same as using a physical notebook. I have a small agenda that I use to write my to-do list, class assignments and work duties. I highlight events that I complete and use markers to bold-in important things I have coming up or must complete by a certain day.

Even though it is a psychological fact that paper notes help you remember and retain information easier, electronic notes have more ability to go beyond just basic notetaking. Electronic notes fit into the new generation of transferring information, which is essential when having more dynamic features that add flare to notes.

THE CURRENT'S CORNER

WORD SEARCH

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

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