Patriotism Prevails
The Knight Newspaper
ATTACK ON AMERICA

A message from the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development

It is common during this time of tragedy to look to our campus community for answers. It is all too easy to look for scapegoats, but it is essential that we avoid this. We should look to our peers not with retribution, but with empathy and respect. Our university is one of great diversity; we have always celebrated this. Now is not the time to feed into stereotypes and acts of bigotry, but a time to come together for the good of the United States of America.

President Bush spoke of our "national character" on Friday, September 14, 2001, during the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks. It is imperative that we seek to display this character in our daily activities, and conduct ourselves in a manner that will best serve our university and our country's mission.

Here are some excerpts from his speech: "We are here in the middle hour of our grief. On Tuesday, our country was attacked with deliberate and massive cruelty... To the children and parents and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the nation... And I assure you, you are not alone... Our purpose as a nation is firm... Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed, and lead us to pray... In many of our prayers this week, there is a searching, and an honesty... And there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own... Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time... Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end... It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves... This is true of a nation as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous and kind, resourceful and brave... Today, we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity... This is a unity of every faith, and every background. It has joined together political parties in both houses of Congress... It is evident in services of prayer and candlelight vigils, and American flags, which are displayed in pride, and wave in defiance... Our unity is a kinship of grief, and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies... And this unity against terror is now extending across the world... America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for... But we are not spared from suffering..."

Please remember to keep an open mind, and an open heart, as you begin each day here at Nova Southeastern University.

We Want to Know
In what way has the tragedy affected students at Nova?

Ralph Gideon - Senior
"A lot of my friends are very worried, I've watched them cry, I've held their hands and told them everything is ok."

Kelley Giordano - Freshman
"The tragedy has made our students think about how much they care for their friends and family."

Teresa - Junior
"There is definite animosity towards students at NSU. Students are being racially profiled... we're all Americans here."

Yan Bekhtyar - Freshman
"We are not unbreakable or indestructible, and for many students it hits close to home."

Lauren Levith
"Students at Nova have definitely become more patriotic. I see people wearing flags and red, white and blue."

Andrew
"The tragedy has brought us together as well as separate us from certain groups of people."

In what way has the tragedy affected students at Nova?
We Are Not Immune

By: Lin Gabay
Contributing Writer

It seems like war has a way of following me around. My first year in Israel was the year of the Gulf War. I was 15, new to Israel, and living in a small, farm-like boarding school with an American group. This was my first encounter with war. Back then, the sirens, gas masks, and running into bomb shelters seemed pretty scary. The first siren we heard was the scariest, especially since the threat of scud missiles and nerve gas was a relatively new concept to a group of teenaged Americans. We came from America, where these things just don’t happen. In fact, many of the parents of the kids in my group extracted their kids right away after hearing the first CNN reports that somewhat exaggerated the dangers of being in Israel.

Those of us Americans that stayed, after a while, became somewhat desensitized after a while, to the screaming of the sirens, and our sprints to the bomb shelters soon became light jogs.

Eventually, we made fun of the whole war situation. We were immune. We even made a play to poke fun at the absurdity of it all. With the gas masks on, we all looked like a cross between a fly and an exterminato. (If you’ve ever worn a gas mask, you’ll know that it isn’t the most pleasant feeling; it’s like having your face pumped with a toilet plunger.)

A few years later, at the age of eighteen, I joined the Israeli Defense Forces, and sure enough, terror reared its ugly head again; it was one of the worse years in terrorism that Israel had seen in a while.

There had been several suicide bombers in buses in Jerusalem, and two more five minutes from my military base in Tel Aviv. A bus that ironically, I later boarded, only to arrive at my destination to find the ashes of smoke and debris of body parts scattered throughout the street. It was one of the most frightful sights I’ve ever seen. You never get over the disbelief that this could have happened to you, or someone that you know and love.

Finally, last year, during all the political unrest in Israel, I decided to move back to the U.S., not because of the terrorism, but it didn’t hurt to get away from it. I wanted to make a fresh start and get an education in a good school. Peace and quiet are also conducive to learning: a nice change from the constant threat of war, bomb scares, and nation that loses soldiers to terror on a regular basis.

No terror, however, could have prepared me for the horror that violated us in the past week. Although I’ve seen it up close several times, I have never seen anything of this magnitude.

Interestingly, it was precisely like the terror tactics in Israel, multiplied by a thousand. The way they attacked seemed very familiar too: as a team, organized in groups, early in the morning while people are at work.

UNITY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

In the name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful. The members of IMAN, along with the entire American Muslim community, are deeply saddened by the massive loss of life resulting from the tragic events of September 11th. American Muslims unequivocally condemn these vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends and loved ones of those who have been killed or injured.

We also extend our gratitude to all the heroic firefighters, police officers and emergency medical workers who continue to risk their lives in the ongoing rescue and relief efforts. We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators of these crimes. May we all stand together through these difficult times to promote peace and love over violence and hate.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, International Muslim Association at Nova, and Hillel (Jewish Student Org) united in our respective faiths during this national tragedy, and recognize that the persons responsible for this attack on the U.S. do not represent the true principles of Islam.

The Knight expresses its condolences to the family and friends of those lost. We thank all those who helped in the rescuing process. You are all heroes.

Photo By: Thomas E. Franklin, Staff Photographer, The Record
NSU Speaks on Radio X: Terrorism, Prejudice, and the Prospect of War

By: Dr. Kate Waites
Undergraduate Professor
Radio X Faculty Advisor

In response to the terrorist attacks that occurred on 11 September 2001, Radio X offered a special edition of its Information Exchange Program on Thursday and Friday (13 and 14 September). The programs, “In the Aftermath of Terror,” featured a dialogue between university professors and NSU students. In the first program, host and Radio X Advisor Dr. Kate Waites interviewed Tim Dixon, Professor of Legal Studies in the Farquhar Center; Noorani Sattar, President of the NSU Muslim Association; and Stephen Rickhards, President of SASA (Social Action Social Awareness). The discussion focused on the tendency of some Americans to condemn and/or harass innocent Muslims based on the actions of the extremist Muslim groups. It also focused on the implications of the attacks, specifically questions and concerns being expressed by students in and out of classes. Professor Dixon provided some helpful historical and political background information, and the students had an opportunity to talk about the coming together and solidarity of NSU organizations, including the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, the International Muslim Association, and Hillel.

The second program examined the prospect and implications of U.S. military action and the possible effects these may have on civil liberties and the lives of young adults. Hosted by Dr. Kate Waites, Dr. Gary Gershman, Professor of Legal Studies in the Farquhar Center, joined Ian Witen (freshman), Danielle Wright (sophomore), and Haydee Pabon (sophomore) in probing the anti-American sentiment and the turbulent political landscape that led to the attacks. Dr. Gershman provided helpful historical information on U.S. relations with Afghanistan, which is harboring the Muslim extremists who allegedly engineered the attacks, and the problems with undertaking a sustained war against terrorists on difficult and unfamiliar terrain. The students offered the unique perspective of American college students who, prior to the events of 11 September, had no experience of a “national” tragedy.

Radio X’s Information Exchange provides a forum for members of the NSU community to air their views and become engaged in informed dialogue.
When I received a phone call Tuesday morning from my friend, also Israeli, who was describing to me what was happening, I scoffed at it: "Oh, you must mean hundreds of people, not thousands." The thought that this type of terrorism could have found its way to the heart of the U.S. was unfathomable.

All day, I was in complete shock, haunted by the feeling that no matter where I go, no one is safe from terror. How could this be happening here in this country? This is the world's largest superpower! We are immune, no team of hate groups could do this to us!

Tuesday, I woke up several times during the night, hoping that this monstrosity was just a nightmare. Whatever the higher purpose of this incident was, we may never know.

But I do know that we all have our limited time on this earth, and nothing has sent that message more clearly than Tuesday's event. We are not immune. It sure makes you appreciate the little things though, doesn't it? Your loved ones, the ability to live a sheltered life, freedom, the very air that we breathe.

I honestly believe that what goes around comes around. And I accept that there are certain things that I cannot change. The one thing I refuse to do: give in. Give in to the terror. Give in to their propaganda of fear. That's exactly what they sought to do, and did so successfully for so many of the victims, and for all of America.

I once saw in a newscast in Israel, after a bombing... a reporter asked a civilian: "How do you combat terrorism?" and you know what he said?

"I go out, and I buy flowers, and I love life, and I appreciate every single day with my family... that's the only way to fight it." Although it seems simplified, and in no way am I implying that we should not mourn this massive tragedy. I do know that this statement did say something to me.

I will appreciate life, and I will not allow the feelings that do not serve me to penetrate my soul and make me believe that this world is not a beautiful place. I won't allow the cancer of anger and hate and fear to consume me.

Wednesday, I saw a young, 24 yr. old woman on the news, crying because her fiancee was in one of the Trade Tower buildings, and she hadn't heard from him all night. She was convinced that he would come back to her: "I'll find him, I know he'll come back to me." Images of this heartbreak, wives looking for husbands, brothers looking for sisters, mothers looking for sons, sons and daughters looking for father, are enough to make you want to cry for a month straight. But we don't have that luxury.

Everyone can relate to these people.

Tragedy has hit us all deeply and it is terrifyingly real. It makes you cherish the gifts that we all take for granted, waken us from our state of thinking that our mundane problems are the most serious. Life has to go on. If anything, this tragedy has served to make us appreciate being alive, and wake up to the fact that death is part of life. And although we, as a country are not immune to death or terror, we still have a responsibility to make the most out of our lives. We owe it to the victims of terror.

A Message from NSU
President Ray Fererro, Jr.,

The Nova Southeastern University community is deeply saddened by the loss of potentially thousands of Americans in the tragic attack of our country this past Tuesday. Our sympathy is extended to all those affected by the evil acts of terror in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Our deepest sympathies are with those individuals who have lost friends and loved ones. Our hopes and prayers are that those who are still missing are found.

Ours is a campus of great diversity, with more than 18,000 students calling NSU home. Now is the time for all Americans of all walks of life to come together and condemn, as one large family, the terrorism, loss of life, and destruction that has attacked our nation.

NSU offers its help with blood drives, interfaith services, crisis training, and clinics. We ask that you join our family committed to the preservation of our freedom and to help heal the wounds caused by this unprecedented attack. God bless America.
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NSUSGA SLB Retreat

By: Francesca Russo
Public Relations
Director of NSUSGA

On September 14, 2001, NSU's Student Government Association loaded up two Nova vans and took off for their first SLB (Senate Leadership Builder) retreat. The event took place in West Palm Beach for 3 days. The Executive-Board kidnapped their senators for a weekend of hard work, courage, fun, and dedication. Not only did we drill them with leadership skills, but also we created a bond of friendship and a sense of closeness that we will always remember and rely on.

The weekend kicked off on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. with a speaker, Brad Williams, who challenged us in a game of “The Prisoner's Dilemma.” This game not only opened up our eyes on how to be leaders, but it also taught us how to work as a team and proved that teamwork was the key foundation to success in any organization. It prepared us for the adventurous weekend we were about to embark on. We arrived at our designation, the Comfort Inn, at about 10:30 p.m. That same night, the senators were presented some "improv" skits from their Executive Board on "what not to do as a senator." This brought loads of laughter, but not as many as our ice breakers and special events did. The next morning we got a "rise and shine" wake up call and settled in the conference room for our day. The Executive Board and our advisor, Terry Weech, hosted this day. Several workshops were put on to strengthen the leadership skills of our new senators. We wanted to make them feel that they were ready to serve the students of NSU with any concerns that they may possibly have. In between every workshop, an ice breaker or team-builder was held to loosen things up a bit. Wacky prizes, tickets to Uncle Funny's, and Nova Bucks were given out to our best competitors to commend their hard work and success. We ended our day with a nice dinner at Fridays that was also followed by a Survivor game put on by Terry Weech, Casey Zagaria, and Collette Omeally on behalf of Student Activities. What a challenging game that was. It had it all from sucking jello with a straw to a human wheelbarrow contest to deep questions that were timed in 10-second intervals. We have to give it up for Brandon Gardner as our survivor for that game. To add to our thrilling night, the Executive Board and our advisor, Terry, decided to play a prank on the Senate. We all snuck into their rooms and sneakily stole one shoe from each senate member. When they woke up the next morning, they attended the workshops confused about their missing shoes and were barefoot. After several comments that their feet were freezing, Terry returned their shoes. We closed off our big weekend with a closing ceremony that touched our hearts and made us feel as if we could take any challenges this year. As we arrived, we all said goodbye and felt as if we shared something special that weekend.

The retreat was an extraordinary success with a special thanks to Stephen Rickards, executive secretary, who coordinated the retreat. The senators entered the vans on the first night with questions about their positions and the names of the people sitting next to each other; however, we all arrived home with fulfillment, knowledge and not only names for each person next to us: we knew what type of person each was. This event will be spoken of for a long time and we look forward to the next retreat in the winter.
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"THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS" PRE-GAME FESTIVITIES

MarkParisi@aol.com

MarkParisi@aol.com
Car Chat

See... Look... Focus.

By: Jonathan Valladares
Distribution Manager

The first American compact to bridge the gap between the Europeans and the Japanese. It's that good.

The first of the "Foci" rolled off the production line in 1999 and since its inception has been a hit with younger buyers as well as image-conscious adults. The good thing about the Focus is that it's kinda like a great date: it can be whatever you like at a moment's notice. It can be a smart family car with the sedan, a grocery-getter in wagon trim, or a little hot rod in ZX3 form. The Focus comes in 5, yes 5 different trim levels. The LX has a 2.0 SPI I-4 110 bhp and 125 LB/ft of torque, 5-speed manual or an optional automatic tranny. The SE gets all of the LX gear as well as 15" wheels, CD, power windows, and locks. The SE Sport adds the 2.0 ZETEC engine with 130 bhp and 135 LB/ft of torque, rear spoiler, fog lamps, tachometer, and leather steering wheel. The ZTS is the top-of-the-line sedan; it comes with everything the SE Sport has including 16" wheels, ABS, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, and traction control, leather are both optional. The ZX3 has everything the ZTS carries but in hatchback form.

On my test drive, I drove the SE Sport with automatic transmission. The FORD guys told me they couldn't get a hold of a manual in time for my test drive. I'll forgive 'em this time. The comfort level you feel in this car is astounding; I felt as if I was test-driving a car double the price. The gauges are clean, precise and easy to read even in direct sunlight. I found all instruments to be within easy reach, which could have been because of good engineering or just the fact that I'm 6'2". As you look in the rearview mirror, there's tons of space. I even took a seat back there and was pretty amazed. I was actually comfortable; with my size, that was hard to believe.

However I'd save up for a ZTS or a ZX3. They both carry the 2.0 ZETEC engine and a little extra oomph never hurt anybody. Right?

Oh, but for the guys and girls that like lots of tire-screching power, coming in November, FORD will start selling a S.V.T. variant with 170bhp @ 7000 rpms and 145 LB/ft or torque @ 5500.

If you have a hot car that is worthy of a spotlight in the newspaper, email carchat9@hotmail.com.

Ask Sara

Dear Sara,

I have been in a relationship for just over a year now and I am beginning to think it is a one-sided deal. I do everything for my man. We don't live together but I clean for him, buy him food, do his laundry and give him money for his bills. Any time I want to go somewhere with friends, he nags me and gives me a real hard time. He always tells me I need to be wiser with my money. In the beginning it wasn't like this and I don't want to be rude towards him but even the sex has gone way downhill. It is not even worth bothering because it is usually over before it begins. What is going on and what should I do? I care about him but I am so miserable and every time I try to talk to him I am always the one with the problem. This is the first time I have ever dated a Cuban man (I am an Irish girl). Do you think this matters? Please help me.

Thanks

Broke and bored

Dear Broke and Bored,

What you should be "beginning to think" is about how the hell to get away from this guy. Is he your boyfriend or your master? You must have very little self respect at this point. I could see maybe doing some of these things for a boyfriend, but wake up. You said yourself that the sex is no good. You are paying for crappy sex!!!

You are paying for crappy sex!!! he does. He has it made. Chances are he probably screws around on you too, which is why he is such a control freak about where you go and who you go with. First of all, stop giving him money and stop doing all of his chores. He doesn't do anything for you but drive you nuts. Think about yourself first and forget about that loser.

Good Luck!!!

Sara

Need answers?
Ask Sara!
Who needs Dear Abby or Dr. Ruth?
Let Sara advise you in all matters.

Email Sara at askssara@hotmail.com or mail questions to:
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If you have any comments about Sara's advice, let us know. Email The Knight Newspaper at nwnews@nova.edu
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The Greek Process
By: Andrew Shalian
You might be wondering, "why in the world would I want
to join a fraternity or sorority?" I wondered the same exact thing
until I went to the rush meeting in the first week of school. From
the meeting I gained some knowledge as well as a massive amount
of respect for what it means to be Greek. I learned the philanthropic
deeds that the many organizations help support and
the benefits they give members.

Being Greek means a different thing to each fraternity and
sorority. Some fraternities and sororities are known for being
studies while others are known athletically and others are known
for being involved with their major. There were choices I had to
make on which I was going to choose. Would I be a Beta? Maybe
I could become a Theta? Or could I see myself as a Sammy?

I chose to become a Sammy and am now going through the
process of pledging. I chose the Sammies because I heard they
were a very diverse group of guys (if you have met me then you
know there is nobody else like me!). Another reason I chose this
fraternity was that some of the guys I became friends with during
my orientation were making the decision to join them. I was also
influenced by hearing the fraternity was started by nine Jewish guys
and that a lot of the guys in the fraternity are Jewish. I thought we
could have something in common, such as our upbringing and the
same ideals/morals.

But the thing that attracted me the most was that they were
considered the smartest bunch of guys on campus because they
had the highest overall GPA of all of the fraternities. This was a
big concern because I sometimes tend to slack off and want to
play. I knew they would give me a good boot and tell me to quit
fooling around if I did become a slacker.

Now, don't think I am praising them. I had second thoughts
about the Sammies. I saw the Betas as being cool guys and
the Thetas just the same. At first I thought I wasn't going to be
able to hang out with them because I was going to be in a different
fraternity. I had this impression that they would despise me and
hate my guts. That must've been the worst idea I had yet
about going Greek. I consider some of the Betas good friends
(Enis, Joel, Matt, Josh and Orlando). What makes it worse is my
cousin is a Theta (Phil) and I have friends that are pledging them
(Andy, Yan, and Matt). These people as well as my brothers will
be life-long friends. That is what college is all about.
Want to be a DJ?

Become a part of the award winning NSU's Radio X 88.5 FM. Play the type of music you like. Get exposed to cutting-edge new music. Learn on professional equipment. Be fully trained by experienced staff. Get free CDs and concert tickets.

These are just a few reasons you should be a DJ at NSU's on-campus radio station! NSU's Radio X is located on the first floor of the Rosenthal Student Center. For more information, stop by, call us at (954) 262-8457 or log onto www.nsuradio.com.

Broadcast Your Ideas

By: Shawn Leiba
Production Engineer
Local Show Host
NSU Radio X 88.5 FM

In October 2000 NSU Radio X introduced a new program called Information Exchange as a way to reach the community with informational programming designed for young adults. The Info Exchange features segments including The Knight Newspaper, The University School, Community Organizations, NSU Clubs and Organizations, and discussions and interviews that bring together students and professors on a range of issues from why students should vote to the ethical issues in stem cell research. Info Exchange is set to kick off the new academic year and Radio X is seeking new ideas.

Information Exchange offers students an opportunity to express their views on a number of social issues. In addition to NSU events, Info Exchange will also feature students discussing practical ways to deal with issues, such as: how do you deal with a roommate that you don’t get along with? In 2001-2002 Info Exchange plans to be more student interactive and feature discussion groups.

If you have a topic or idea that you would like to hear discussed on Info Exchange or if you would like to participate in one, feel free to contact the radio station by phone at 262-8457. You are also welcome to stop by as we are located on the first floor of the Rosenthal Student center.

Saves The Day – “Stay What You Are”

By: Ian Witlen
Public Relations Director
NSU Radio X 88.5 FM

Is this the same Saves the Day we all know and love? Yes, it definitely is. As a band that has been together for many years, they have grown and matured with each other as well as their musical capabilities and sound. Maybe this album isn’t quite at the same level as Can’t Slow Down or Through Being Cool for that matter, but I feel as though it is another branch of their abilities as a band. Sure, there’s a chance you don’t like the sound and feel as though this album is a cheesy, washed down Brit pop wanna be, but I know plenty of people that are highly regarding this album as one of the top indie albums of the year. I wouldn’t put it at number one on my list, but it’s definitely up there.

The fact that Saves The Day’s new release, Stay What You Are, is pulling in large numbers at record stores makes me wonder, is everyone wrong? It must not be that bad if that many people are buying it. I first heard this album about two months ago, and it has been in and out of my stereo ever since. It’s definitely not another Lifetime rip-off; it’s the sound of pure emotion being belted out of Chris Connelly’s mouth.

I’ve witnessed Saves The Day perform live quite a few times, and I can honestly say this is one of their best releases. In the end, this album will either make or break these guys, but no matter what happens they put out an album that no one expected to hear. They have guts for doing what they’ve done so far in their careers; most of the members gave up going to college to pursue a life in the grueling music industry.

If you have heard the first track off of the album, then you might like this little tidbit of information: I have heard rumors that they are making a video. So far, that’s been the only sketchy thing I’ve noticed from the release of this album. If you haven’t heard of the band, then I suggest tracking down a copy of “Stay What You Are.”
Dashboard Confessional -

“The Places You Have Come To Fear The Most”

By: Ian Witlen
Public Relations Director
NSU Radio X 88.5 FM

Being that I am on the Drive Thru Records street team, I received Dashboard Confessional’s debut album quite a while ago, and just as I was with Chris Carrabba’s live performances, I was completely blown away. The debut full length, The Swiss Army Romance, was simply amazing. Displaying only Carrabba and a few backing vocalists, it had a great raw feel to it. The Places You Have Come To Fear The Most has redone versions of “Screaming Infidelities” and “Again I Go Unnoticed,” now including drums. When I first heard that there were drums, I didn’t know what to think. I was somewhat afraid they would take away from the great new sound of a solo acoustic guitar, but my fears instantly dissolved as I turned to my favorite track, “Screaming Infidelities,” and found the drums to add a great effect to the guitar. Not all of the tracks have drums, which is quite interesting, so we can still experience the sound displayed so well in Swiss Army Romance. “The Best Deceptions” is probably also the best track on the album. No drums, just a great melody and amazing emotion.

If you haven’t heard DC yet, you may want to listen to this album. Carrabba’s vocals are astonishing. I feel sorry for Further Seems Forever; they lost an excellent vocalist. And, yet another fantastic thing about this CD is the fact that you can tell Carrabba is into it. His voice cracks after some vocal lines, and on “This Bitter Pill” he actually screams and nearly cries near the end. Sheer emotion, and that’s what I love; he is obviously into what he is doing and that is the only reason he does it. Also, the backing vocals, which are less than Swiss Army Romance, are again well done. Once again the back-up vocals are none other than the soothing voice of Jolie Lindholm from Rocking Horse Winner.

I could sit for hours and tell you how wonderful this album is, but I’ll let you judge that one for yourself. It’s a very mellow album; how crazy can you get with an acoustic, anyway? Dashboard Confessional is one of the most original, well-orchestrated, and talented bands in the industry today.

The Sophomore Effort

By: Shawn Leiba

As the rock revolution continues to take place, the music industry has begun to see a resurgence of rock topping the charts. The new flavor that has got all the kids spending their hard-earned lawn mowing and babysitting money at the local music store is hard rock. With forerunners like Korn and Limp Bizkit ushering in a new genre of music to the MTV generation, new hard rock bands are born every day. Their single gets recognition on commercial radio and Carson Daly can be seen interviewing bands who were virtually unknown 3 months ago. Even South Florida has been on the front line with bands such as Nonpoint, Darwin’s Waiting Room, and The Groovenics all signing major record label deals. But where do these bands go when the popularity of the first album begins to fade? Which direction should the sophomore effort take?

To examine this question we will focus on two bands that have gained rapid popularity in the past few months: Godsmack and Staind. Both Godsmack and Staind hail from Boston and left their mark in 1999 by releasing their debut albums, Godsmack and Dysfunction, respectively. Singles such as “Whatever”, and “Keep Away” established Godsmack as a hardcore, pure adrenaline hard rock band. While Staind received recognition for the emotional, yet ear shredding singles “Mudshovel” and “Home”. After the singles began to fade on commercial radio, both bands headed back into the studio to crank out the dreaded sophomore effort.

In October 2000 Godsmack released Awake featuring the title track as the new single on commercial radio. In May 2001 Staind released Break The Cycle, which had been preceded by the unexpected acoustic duet “Outside” with Fred Durst and Aaron Lewis. Listening to both of these new albums straight though I noticed something about the musical styles. While Godsmack seemed to zero in on one sound for the new album, Staind seemed to branch out in different directions. Awake seems to recapture the hard-hitting sound that gained them notoriety in 1999, while Break The Cycle takes a more melodic approach. But which style is better?

First, let’s look at Godsmack. Their first album seemed to feature a wider variety of music styles from deep and mysterious to powerful and aggressive. The new album seems to recapture only the powerful side of the band. While this sound won’t win over any new fans it will keep their previous fans happy by providing them with more of what they loved so much in 1999. The downside to this is the band does not grow and evolve and may forever be trapped in one particular style.

Staind on the other hand, has created a new sound that has reached a new audience. People who did not know or did not care about them in 1999 were out in droves purchasing Break The Cycle after their new single “Its Been A While” was featured on Top 40 radio stations. While this allows the band to grow and evolve, it also serves to capture a new audience. The problem arises when their previous fans feel as though they are not staying true to their roots.

Both directions come with considerable risk. If a band’s previous fans are not happy with the new sound they could become lost in the world of the forgotten bands. On the other hand, if a band never changes its style fans may become bored with their music. That’s why I believe the sophomore effort is the most treacherous album that a band can make. I personally enjoyed all four of the albums mentioned in this article and I would strongly recommend them to anyone. The next question is: where will they go from here? For that I think we may have to wait a couple years.
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<td>Macho Burrito</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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