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This Year’s “NSU CommunityFest” to Reflect New Mascot

By Greg Kyriakakis
Current Affairs Editor

One of the newer campus traditions, “NSU CommunityFest” is returning this year as a “bigger and better” event that will foster school spirit and community pride, according to event coordinators. The third annual festival, to be held on Feb. 18 from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Gold Circle Lake, will feature food, activities, and entertainment.

Keeping with the university’s new mascot, Terry Morrow, Assistant Director of Student Activities & Leadership Development said that “with the unveiling of the Shark as the university mascot, [the festival] will be sharkified.”

The Fest will have shark-themed activities in addition to the traditional laser tag dome and rock climbing wall. Terrell Reid, CommunityFest Chair, said that those themed attractions will include “a shark bounce house” and shark slide.

The Fest will continue to feature live acts. “The Valarie Tyson band, which is the same band from Got Wood, is scheduled to perform. Our cheerleaders will also be performing as well as our step team, Chicks on Point,” said Reid.

Participation from NSU organizations totals 33 booths, five more than were present last year. Past booths have featured caricature drawings, face painting, and water balloon toss games.

In addition to campus groups, numerous local businesses will contribute to the event, including Pizza Loft, Davie Subs, and Sonny’s BBQ.

Phillip Bunyi, a junior at NSU, enjoyed last year’s Fest and will be returning this year to take part in the festivities as well as to work at the APO booth. Bunyi said that of the attractions, he especially enjoyed laser tag. He added that “I also got a free T-shirt, which was a plus.”

Planning for the Fest has been going on since early October when recruitment for Chair positions began, said Morrow. Planning such a large event is not an easy task as, according to Reid, “there are so many little nicks and crannies that need to be addressed and ironed out.”

Five committees comprised of NSU administration, graduate assistants, and students were enlisted to help out. Morrow applauded the committee’s work, saying that “due to their efforts and commitment we have had very little real issues.”

The festival is being sponsored by The Student Union Board, the Business School, and Undergraduate SGA, and the HPD SGA. The Office of Human Resources will sponsor their annual Chili Cook-Off at the Fest.

Reid is excited about having the entire NSU community together to celebrate once again and expects from 2,500 to 3,000 attendees. “CommunityFests 2003 and 2004 brought us all together and we all enjoyed ourselves and this year will definitely be no different,” she said. “We'll be able to relax and have fun as one big happy family.”

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God Can't Vote

"God" has registered to vote in Reading, Pa., according to the Associated Press. Registered Republican Paul S. Sewell signed his voter registration card as "God," prompting County Solicitor Alan S. Miller to demand an explanation in order for the potential deity to cast his ballot. Sewell explained that in his job as a bail enforcement official, "Whenever I go to arrest somebody, they say, 'Oh, God, give me another chance. Oh, God, let me go.'" Thus he feels justified in signing that name, and has already done so on his driver's license and credit card.

Police Standoff with the Invisible

Police in Zurich engaged in a seven hour standoff after a gunman robbed a bank. The only problem was, he had fled the scene minutes after taking his loot. About 100 police officers were stationed at the Credit Suisse bank, according to Reuters, trying to establish contact with thief. Once lunch time rolled around, police became hungry and decided to enter the bank and end the showdown, but upon entering found that the robber had vanished. It was thought that the assailant was holding two bank employees hostage, but it was later revealed that they were merely hiding safely in locked rooms.

22 Year-Old Beef Unsafe to Eat

Probably on its way to a local fast food restaurant, a shipment of beef that has been frozen since 1984 was halted by Bulgarian customs officials. IOL News reported that the 75-ton delivery of meat was tested after Kuklar border officials noticed it had a "bluish" tinge and health certificate from 22 years ago. Despite the meat's odd color and advanced age, experts were still called in to see if it was safe for consumption. They determined it was not.

Fake Braces Popular, Illegal

Confused Thai teens who wear fake orthodontic braces as a fashion statement may soon have nowhere to buy their dental accessories. According to an Associated Press report, Rasamee Visavath of the Consumer Protection Board is replacing braces with rubber. According to the AP, "all but one of the Senate's majority Republicans voted for confirmation, while all but four of the Democrats voted against Alito." Democratic Senator John Kerry said "senators refused to stand silent while President Bush packed the Supreme Court with far-right ideologues." A week prior to the confirmation, Senator Kerry and Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy attempted to block Alito with a filibuster. Alito was sworn in by Supreme Justice John Roberts, President Bush's first nominee.

South America

Columbian militants give up weapons

Government officials told BBC News reporters that "more than 20,000 paramilitaries have now laid down their arms in Colombia following the latest disarmament drive under the peace process." More than 2,500 militants of the Central Bolivar Bloc "surrendered their weapons at a ceremony in the town of Santa Rosa," located north of the country's capital of Bogota. The peace agreement guarantees shorter prison terms for those who voluntarily disarm. Many of the paramilitaries may also be pardoned and "can be eligible for job-training programs and a monthly government stipend for two years." Several human rights groups, however, are worried that guilty militants will go free. During the ceremony, witnessed by Columbian government officials and international authorities, militants handed over "900 rifles, 90 pistols, 40 revolvers and eight trucks." Arrest warrants were also issued for members of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, whose leaders are wanted for drug trafficking and murder.

Europe

Cold kills nearly 600 in Ukraine

The Associated Press reported on Feb. 1 that "some 589 people died from the cold in Ukraine over a 15-day period of record-breaking low temperatures last month." In a statement released by the Ukrainian Health Ministry, the deaths "occurred between Jan. 16 and Jan. 31. The temperatures in the eastern city of Kharkiv dropped to -13 F as nearly 7,000 people asked for medical help. The Health Ministry also said "the victims were mostly homeless and intoxicated people." Pars of Ukraine had also been experiencing heating outages since Jan. 22, leaving 60,000 people in freezing conditions. Taking action, President Victor Yushchenko ordered officials to end the outages by Feb. 11 and to hold heating workers responsible for the "breakdown." The heating outage was caused when, "one of the main pipes pumping hot water from a central boiler into apartment houses, schools and other municipal buildings froze and broke down."

Middle East

Controversial cartoons anger Muslims; editor fired

According to MSNBC News Services and the Associated Press, the Paris newspaper France Soir fired its managing editor after it "printed caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that have sparked rising protests and boycotts in the Muslim world." German and Spanish dailies that ran the questionable cartoons have also been criticized. The caricatures, which originally ran in the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten, depict the Prophet Muhammad wearing a "turban shaped as a bomb with a burning fuse." Palestinian gunmen stormed the European Union office in Gaza City on Feb. 2 and demanded an apology. The EU office was also briefly taken over by masked gunmen on Jan. 30. Muslims have been angered because "Islamic tradition bars any depiction of the prophet to prevent idolatry." Boycotts were prompted on Danish goods and bomb threats were made against Danish facilities. France Soir defended publication of the drawings by running a headline last Wednesday that read "Yes, We Have the Right to Caricature God."

Caribbean

Haiti closes schools to increase security during elections

Interim government authorities in Haiti told Reuters that campaigning has stopped and schools and government buildings have closed in preparation for presidential elections. Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said Haitian media would be barred from publishing any "official" results from the ballot offices. These orders came "amid fears of violence surrounding the Feb. 7 vote, Haiti's first since former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted by a rebellion in February 2004." Schools closed on Friday, Feb. 3 and will not open until the following Friday, three days after the election. Officials ensured Haitian voters that police and "9,000 U.N. peacekeepers were ready to protect them." Latortue also expressed worries that "many Haitians might remember an election-day massacre in 1987, when voter were cut down at a school in the capital."

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Chemical in dairy products may help in fight against HIV

By Sara Molinaro
Brown Daily Herald (Brown U.)

(U-WIRE) PROVIDENCE, R.I. - By genetically modifying a bacteria commonly found in yogurt and cheese, a team of researchers led by an assistant professor of medicine may have discovered a way to block the transmission of HIV.

The scientists, led by Bharat Ramratnam, found they could genetically modify the foreign DNA sequence of a bacteria typically found in food fermentation. Once modified, the bacteria can secrete an anti-viral protein which, if applied to or inserted into the vagina or the anus, can prevent the transmission of HIV during sex.

Scientists are familiar with the idea that lactic acid bacteria can accept foreign DNA and use it to release a new protein, Ramratnam explained. The new technique developed by his team was inspired by the relatively new discovery that a protein called cynovirin can attach itself to HIV and prevent the virus from entering mucous membrane cells.

Ramratnam's technique involves introducing cynovirin DNA into lactic acid bacteria - the same bacteria that ferments milk into yogurt. The bacteria then produces the protein cynovirin, which can deactivate HIV before it enters the mucous membrane of the cervical tract.

Though a key discovery, Ramratnam emphasized that this technique is currently experimental and exists only "in the Petri dish," and that while the research so far has been successful, there is much testing still to be done.

There's no way of predicting what the implications (of the research) will be until we finish testing on animal models," Ramratnam said. "We give the bacteria to monkeys and challenge them with HIV." The future of this research and the consequences it will have for the 40 million people infected with HIV around the world depends largely upon the fate of these monkeys.

Patricia Wissar, president of the Brown chapter of Students for AIDS Awareness, was enthusiastic about the possibilities of this technique but pointed out that it is lacking in "cyberpage.

By Christine Brown
Vanderbilt Hustler (Vanderbilt)
02/03/2006

(U-WIRE) NASHVILLE, Tenn. - College students around the nation have decided to kick their coke habit -- Coca-Cola that is. The Coca-Cola corporation has come under scrutiny because of alleged human rights violations in its South American bottling plants -- first from organized labor unions and human rights organizations, then from a public relations campaign called "Stop Killer Coke," and most recently, a number of universities and colleges have moved to sever their contracts with the global company.

Some of the universities that have removed Coca-Cola products from their campuses include University College Dublin (the largest university in Ireland), University of Michigan, New York University, Rutgers University and DePaul University.

At Carnegie Mellon University, students sponsored a "Coke dump," spilling the product in the street to highlight the issue. Even at Emory University, a school with a $4.4 billion endowment from Coca-Cola, the 11th largest in the country, the student newspaper ran an article speaking out about the issue.

The recent boycotts show the many college students are outraged at the alleged human rights violations that have come against Coca-Cola.

One of the most serious allegations includes the murder of a Coca-Cola plant worker in a factory in Colombia. Activists remain concerned that Coke has refused a third-party investigation and has only allowed a self-funded investigation, which cleared the company of all wrongdoing.

Coca-Cola recently issued a statement to the University of Michigan Board of Regents addressing many of the charges made against the company, emphasizing Coke's commitment to addressing specific situations and to taking a leadership positions in worker rights. The statement was published on cokesfacts.org.

Boycotts can be harmful in terms of public image to any company. However, a boycott is unlikely to affect this global company financially since all of Coke's North American profits account for only 25 percent of its total profits -- a small portion of its $18 billion in annual revenue.

Coke products are widespread and include Coke, Sprite, Dasani water, Crush, Dr. Pepper, Nestea, Fanta, Minute Maid, Hi C, Powerade and Odwalla.
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Men’s Basketball Team Drops Last 3 Games

By Tranell Mesa
Staff Writer

After an impressive 5 game winning streak, the men’s basketball team has dropped their last 3 games. (11-7, 5-3 SSC) To many NSU fan's disappointment, two of these losses occurred in critical conference play.

While on the road facing Florida Southern, the Sharks fell 63-58 despite freshman center Dave Naylor’s game high 16 point contribution. The men hit the road again on Jan. 28 to play Rollins College, where they were defeated 71-68. In spite of this upsetting loss for NSU, sophomore guard Oresti Nitsios played with outstanding authority on the court as he put up a career high of 26 points. Naylor dazzled us once again, grabbing 11 points and 9 rebounds of his own.

Despite the NSU lead of 30-24 going into the half while taking on West Florida, the Sharks did not manage to pull out with the win. The Argonauts began their rally at the opening of the second half and went on a 33-11 run in the first 11 minutes of the period to open up a 16-point lead. The Argonauts dominated the second half, at one point leading by 23. UWF had three players score in double figures, led by guard Kashif Russell’s 16 points, to hand the Sharks their third straight loss with a final score of 74-56. Sophomore guard Jason Del Calvo never gave up as he displayed intense energy up to the very last second he was on the court.

The Sharks are now tied at fourth place in the conference with Tampa.

NSU Women’s Basketball Team Falls to Rollins 47-23

By Tranell Mesa
Staff Writer

The NSU women’s basketball team is currently tied at fourth with Lynn University in the conference rankings.

The Lady Sharks had a key victory while taking on Florida Southern University, 66-58. Senior point guard Missy Guadagnino played marvelously as she contributed a game high of 30 points. By making 22 consecutive free throws, Guadagnino broke 2 Division II NCAA records and her career high. Senior forward Katie Cloud contributed to the teams success as well, putting up 15 points of her own and grabbing 8 rebounds.

Not allowing Rollins’ perfect record (8-0 SSC) to intimidate them, the Lady Sharks went into the game with confidence. Despite their poise, NSU failed to take home the win vs. the Tars, 47-23.

Rollins forward Larissa McDonough led all scorers with 15 points and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds to help the Tars remain perfect on the season.

Rollins led from the outset, as they limited the Sharks to just nine field goals in the game and a 16.4% field goal percentage. NSU set new program single game records for fewest points, field goals (9), assists (1) and free throws attempted (4).

2006 Olympic Winter Games to Begin

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

This year, the Winter Olympic games will be in Torino, and the games are set to begin on Feb. 9. The Games are expected to bring in more watchers than any other Olympics in the past, the main reason for this being all our new technologies with televisions, phones, and the Internet. Also, there will be increased free air coverage in many places this year, with 200 countries being able to watch this year- up from 160 countries in the years past.

The 2006 Winter Games have set to see over 3.2 billion people having access to coverage, so an obvious increase of watchers will be followed.

For the first time this year, people will be able to use their telephones to watch coverage of the games. There will be 20 countries that will be able to watch live or delayed coverage of the games. For the television viewers, the games will be filmed entirely in High Definition Television, and in Torino they will have about 400 cameras used to cover these games.

With NBC covering the Winter Games there will be 416 hours of broadcasting in the United States, which includes live coverage.

A number of countries will be competing in the 15 sports over a period of 17 days.
## Men’s Basketball
### SSF STANDINGS

<table>
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<th>W L PCT</th>
<th>W L PCT</th>
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### FREE THROW PERCENTAGES

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## Women’s Basketball
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### 3-POINT FIELD GOAL PCT DEFENSE

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### ASSIST/TURNOVER RATIO

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Men's and Women's Golf Teams Gear Up for Spring

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

Coach Kevin Marsh has high hopes for the women in their spring season and has a lot to say about where the team came from and where they are today.

Marsh knows there is a lot of work to be done since hurricanes cancelled 2 of the tournaments for the team. He commented, “Because of this, in off-season we really tried to focus on the small things that other programs either find uncomfortable or take too much discipline to do. We focused on a challenging strength training program, putting and short game. I really feel this will help us make the move from a good team to a great team.”

On the women’s team this year there are no seniors, three juniors, four sophomores, and two freshmen, keeping the team from losing any players next year and allowing them to keep building on the current team. “Our goals this spring are the same as last year: win the Sunshine State Conference Championship, qualify for Regionals and qualify for the NCAA National Championship. The men’s team has something the women don’t: a Conference Championship ring. I believe this year we have a little more depth and each player on the team has improved their weaknesses… That depth will help us achieve many of our goals this spring.”

The men’s golf team will begin their spring season on February 13 as they travel to Lakeland, FL to play in the Marlock Collegiate Classic. Last year they were the Sunshine State Conference Champions.

The team has added two freshmen that Marsh hopes will have a big impact on the team. Two sophomores, two juniors, and one senior, Michael Wanginess, have also been added. “The fall season was a season of change, adjustments and bad luck. During the off-season we made some roster changes and are a better team for it. Nick Pateman joined the golf team in January and I expect Nick to make an immediate impact.

Captain Michael Wangness took a big step forward in the fall from a leadership and playing standpoint,” said Marsh.

In the spring the men’s team has six tournaments they will compete in this spring with the possibility of playing in the Regionals later on. Coach Marsh also has the standards set high for the men. “The goals for the spring are to repeat as Conference Champions and be as good as we can each tournament in the way we prepare and perform. Tournament preparation is so important for tournament success. Our guys believe that and have set a higher standard for themselves and the Men’s golf program.”

Look forward to seeing the men’s and women’s teams all over Florida and the east coast.
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Going to Prison for the Kids

By Judith Francois
Staff Writer

Unsuspecting students and faculty on the NSU campus were arrested and placed in jail, but for a good cause. Delta Phi Epsilon and Lambda Theta Phi hosted their annual co-sponsored event, “Prison 4 Kids” on Jan. 27, which raised over $200 for the Boys and Girls Club of Broward.

During the week before the event, anyone could issue an arrest warrant for a friend or professor. The officers of DPE and LTP, who acted as police, arrested those with outstanding warrants and held them in a screened jail outside of the Parker Building.

The issuer of the warrant chose how long to keep the “victim” locked in jail; each minute cost them $1. If the prisoner wanted to leave jail before the sentence expired, a bail fee of $5 had to be paid.

“It’s been a pleasure collaborating this event with DPE, and we hope to do more events with them,” said Diego Giraldo, events coordinator of Lambda Theta Phi.

All proceeds were donated to the Boys and Girls Club.

Lyrical Battle, Literal Fun

By Michael Bergbauer
Staff Writer

Phi Alpha Delta allowed potential rappers to test their wits in the first 8 Mile Freestyle held on Jan. 27 in the Flight Deck. The event featured food, music, and freestyle lyrical showdowns.

The contest was held as “something for people to look forward to and take a break from studying,” said Daphnee Sainvil, Secretary and Fundraising Chair for Phi Alpha Delta. “Phi Alpha Delta is holding the 8 Mile Freestyle because it has not been done at Nova before. We know there are people who are interested (but shy) to come out and test their skills.”

The lyrical battles consisted of students going head to head free styling whatever came to their mind as long as it rhymed. The winner of each round was determined by the audience. In between battles, students were welcome to eat food and groove to music.

Over 20 attendees watched the five acts perform, including Thrilla, who did his single called ‘Chill with U,’ it’s playing on POWER96, 99 Jamz, and other stations when requested,” explained Sainvil. Tha King Subcrazi, an artist who attends NSU, was said by Sainvil to have “rocked the house.”

Because “everyone was great,” no single act was declared the winner. “Every performer did well and really made the crowd stand up and cheer,” noted Sainvil.

Another showdown is being planned and Sainvil hopes to invite popular artists to perform, including Pitbull and Trick Daddy.

Event participant Terrell Reid said that she hoped the event would be held again, adding that it “gave students a chance to bond. Any social events on campus are good.”

The event’s name is inspired by the film 8 Mile, which starred rapper Eminem and featured a number of inpromptu lyrical battles.
Young Musicians Presented by Ars Flores at Miniaci Center

By Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief

Playing with an intensity usually expected in an older musician, 16-year-old Linnea Harrison put bow to string at the forefront of the Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra.

Harrison was only the first of six young musicians who played solos in the Miniaci Center on Jan. 28, including Kevin Pearl, Alice Kaplun, Amanda Albert, Brendan Lai-Tong and Gregory Durzel after winning the Fifth Annual Ars Flores Young Artists Concerto Competition.

With soloists accompanying the powerful and moving orchestration, the opening violin concerto was followed by Pearl on the oboe and Kaplun on the flute. The end of intermission brought a stirring piano solo from Albert and a surprisingly somber offering from Lai-Tong on the trombone. "I was quite ecstatic," Lai-Tong said of discovering he had won the competition. "It's not often that a trombonist wins a concerto competition, so I was really surprised."

A second violinist, Durzel, finished the program.

Right: Linnea Harrison presents the opening concerto on her violin. Photo courtesy Ars Flores

Oscar Nominations Mostly Predictable

Small Films with Big Themes Top Nomination List

By Marines Alvarez
AcE Editor

If this year's Oscar nominations could be summed up in a word, that word, unfortunately, would have to be predictable. With most of the recognition going to movies like Brokeback Mountain and Crash, and George Clooney garnering the most personal nominations, it seems like this year, the Oscar glint seems like this year, the Oscar glint is pretty ridiculous. There is always some interest, but it's says a lot about moviegoers when films like Be Cool and Jarhead managed to make more money than the presumably best pictures of the year.

As a usual trend, the Best Picture nominations usually include one movie that made over $100 million, whether the film is deserving or not. Can we blame people tuned into the Oscars is to see if the film they saw wins anything. This year, it seems most people will be wondering where King Kong, The Chronicles of Narnia and Harry Potter went. Those are the movies people saw and people know.

Don't get me wrong, though these nominations are predictable and boring, that doesn't mean these
movies are not deserving, for they all are. It's just that this situation is pretty unparalleled. The last time no Best Picture nominees made more than $100 million was in 1985, and that year only 3 movies made it over that mark.

In all honesty, I thought Walk the Line would be the moneymaker in the group. In what can be considered the biggest surprise in the whole process, the film was overlooked, but not necessarily snubbed. Both Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon got nods for their performances.

Basically, the Academy gets a big pat on the back this year for picking all the right films. Now we have to wait and see if come Oscar night anyone will really care. Sure, there are some people that will tune in to see the fashion, or to see Brokeback Mountain win, but it's the in-between time that has me worried; Will the lure of celebrities, Jon Stewart as host and Terrance Howard performing a song that includes the word "pimp" be enough? This is what you movie aficionados call ponder, since there is nothing left to discuss concerning nominations. I guess I'll see you (or not) on Oscar night...

---

Brokeback Mountain's eight or so has decided to take on a homosexual role, according to ITN. Witnessed the Oscar glint from Breakback Mountain's eight or so awards, people are jumping on the gay bandwagon nowadays—dogs, Happy Feet, and Brad Pitt? That's right folks, the actor branded for his god-given acting skills and thinning good looks will be forgotten thanks to his gay performance. I beg to differ, Mr. Pitt. Wouldn't it be funny if playing a gay role, he found out he was really gay? And Angelina would suddenly drop the campaign for world hunger. And then Angelina's third world children. Aww, little Zaharra Jolie-Pitt is on the streets.

Lindsay Lohan needs to rent some space. After being admitted following an "asthma attack," the My Luck Star has found herself hospitalized again after staying at friend Bryan Adams' house. Star magazine reports that, "Lindsay was going up the stairs, carrying a ceramic teacup. She had just come in so she was still wet and had some lotion on, and she completely attracted. The teacup went flying, it was shattered and one of the shards went flying. This is worse than the time someone roasted her doing The Drama Queen would be a good idea. Or the time when her Jena, and then returned with a few key pages missing (still waiting published). Or the time she recorded an album. You know what? Lindsay should really do herself a favor and... not move. Ever.

Little Dog Too

Laeticia Hallyday is a wanted woman. Not in a key hospitals across the world. After being admitted following an "asthma attack" on Jan. 27, although this seems like a class all her own. Lyonne is in a warrant for her arrest has been issued after she failed to date, scheduled for Friday, Jan. 27. According to ITN.com, First he dupe Jennifer, then he knocks up Angelina, and now he decides his sub-par acting skills and thinning good looks will be forgotten thanks to a fascinating gay performance. I beg to differ. Mr. Pitt. Wouldn't it be funny if Brad, after playing a gay role, found out he was really gay? And Angelina would be so hurt she would suddenly drop the campaign for world hunger. And then Jennifer Aniston would be there to comfort her and they would fall in love and end up raising all 13 of Angelina's third world children. Aw, little Zaharra Jolie-Pitt-Aniston, Cute.

A House Full of What?!

In 1995, when the painfully sweet show "Full House" ended, we still thought we knew what the house was full of: a cute uncle, an annoying uncle, a neat freak dad, and some seriously horrible wardrobe choices (I don't care if it was the '80's). More than ten years later, we now know the truth: anorexic multimillionaire twins, a pernicious uncle, and a (still) really annoying guy. We all thought it was so innocent. To further bust out bubble, Jodie Sweeten, who played Stephanie, confessed to having been addicted to crystal meth. At some point, she recorded an album. You know what? Lindsay should really do herself a favor and... not move. Ever.

When All Else Fails, Go Gay

Seems like everyone is jumping on the gay bandwagon nowadays—dogs, Happy Meals, coaches, and Brad Pitt! That's right folks, the actor branded for his god-given acting skills and thinning good looks will be forgotten thanks to a fascinating gay performance. I beg to differ. Mr. Pitt. Wouldn't it be funny if Brad, after playing a gay role, found out he was really gay? And Angelina would be so hurt she would suddenly drop the campaign for world hunger. And then Jennifer Aniston would be there to comfort her and they would fall in love and end up raising all 13 of Angelina's third world children. Aw, little Zaharra Jolie-Pitt-Aniston, Cute.

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Opinions

A Fly On the Wall:
Witch Hunt

By Paul Saneaux
Staff Writer

Practically everyone and their mothers know that there is an unnecessary excess amount of hostility and tension on this campus lately. Well, everyone involved with SGA and the IOC at least. The problem with this friction is that it is not going anywhere productively. And as any normal person knows, when two tectonic plates, or two entities like constituents and the SGA, mash together with nothing holding them together, pressure builds and is later released in a cataclysm. I'm referring to students who resort to putting offers of ridiculous e-mails through the IOC listserv instead of taking real action and the SGA regulation inaction.

What have we here is an old fashioned witch hunt. I think it is amusing that some students on the listserv think that sending emails to each other is going to solve anything. Wake up, people! That's going to do nothing but increase the level of boring e-mails and spam that the listserv is plagued with. Those people were voicing their opinions, but it would be great if they actually had facts to support their claims. Hearsay is all these people can base their opinions on. I can usually count the attendance of students at Senate meetings on one hand. A freak bear trap accident resulting in the loss of two fingers would still leave me with enough fingers. The Facebook is also useful in matching a face with a name, and I can't recall seeing any of the online complainers at the meetings. I would respect the opinions of these people if they actually showed their faces at meetings and saw how the SGA functioned; otherwise, only then would their criticism hold any weight. Everyone who put in an e-mail concerning "SGA Issues" pointed accusing fingers but had no facts and no exact instances where their opinions stand strong. I can only feel sorry for the people who decided to hide behind false identities in stating their so-called opinions. Deciding to remain faceless does not lend strength to a belief. What is the purpose of being anonymous? To avoid retaliation? That is one sad excuse. What is the SGA going to do if you voice your opinion? Send the thought police after you? Is a black helicopter going to steal you away during the night? Anonymity is only a sign of spinelessness. As Vice President of Judicial Affairs Davia McDonald said, "If a person has a strong opinion there is no reason why they can't make their identity known." I'm glad the SGA is then seeking to eliminate the use of anonymous e-mail addresses on the listserv. I can see it now: people are going to see this as SGAs attempts to silence students. Well, there is no reason to be anonymous in this case, so I agree with the SGA. A faceless opinion is not worth hearing.

Please See HUNT

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Letter to a Reader

In response to "Letter from a Reader" printed in the 1/30 Issue of The Current

By Paul Saneaux
Staff Writer

I'll make this quick for clarification. The SGA and the senators do educate the student organizations, frequently and regularly, every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Goodwin classroom or the DeSantis building. I know what I know about the functions, affairs, and bylaws of the SGA because I attend these meetings religiously. I didn't insert a chip loaded with the SGA's protocols into the slot of the side of my head. That slot is reserved for the chip containing the meaning of life. I'll give this analogy: if you don't go to class to listen to the professor's lecture, you won't know the material. Senators have specifically said, several times at several meetings, that "not all is lost" when a budget or bill is turned down. If a budget is denied, tough luck, but the funding requested can be requested again in the form of bills. And bills can always be resubmitted when they are denied. Resolutions do not fix that problem; resolutions are used by senators to gauge student interest on certain issues or problems and to come to a (hint, hint) resolution. A denied bill or budget means that the organizations, not the senators, need to deal with the discrepancies that arise. And no, the constitution is not displayed publicly, but it is also the responsibility of the students to get a copy, if one is required, from their respective senators. I have a copy because I asked for one. The budget guidelines have been handed out at IOC meetings, and that document can be obtained from senators as well. And if multiple senators are "not meeting the needs of the students" then why do the petitioners targeted only two of the most capable senators, Commutes Senator Alaina Siminovsky and IOC Senator Jessica Boyd? Why not bring the entire SGA into question? Lastly, no, I do not need the other side of the story to publish an article that is subjective; objective articles require presentation of both sides. My opinion: this fiasco is based on what I see every Wednesday . . . at 4 p.m. . . . in the Goodwin classroom.
The Horror, the Horror

By Marines Alvarez
A&E Editor

When it comes to TV, I tend to make my opinions well known. Though I try to express those opinions on a variety of topics, I'm sure if you've ever read this column before, you've noticed a few things. I obviously have pledged allegiance to shows like "Lost," "Prison Break," "The Closer," and, well, you get the picture. I'm obviously delusional and think that Wentworth Miller, Matthew Fox, Josh Holloway, etc. will all fall in love with me eventually. Also obvious! I hate "American Idol."

Usually when I start to expound on my hatred for all things "Idol," people shoot me looks like I'm the crazy one. I realize I'm the minority in this situation and there are a lot of people out there that like "Idol" as is evidenced by its fifth season return (about four and half seasons too many if you ask me). In all honesty, I just don't get it and everyone else seems to. So, as the journalist that I am, I decided to watch an episode, something I hadn't done since Justin's curly mop was being featured on the show. What I found was entirely distressing.

This episode of "American Idol" found the three judges and a boatload of contestants in Austin. I'm not sure if I have horrible luck or if every other episode has been equally as bad, but Austin? Sucked.

Out of all the sad people that came to try out in Austin, twelve people made it through. Out of those twelve, 8 deserved to go, and they were they 8 we didn't see perform. It's pretty sad when the best of the night included Jason the Embalmer, a sixteen-year-old who looks like Fred Savage's long lost child, a "fit" model who made it through because she could sing with her mouth closed but not so much with it open, and RJ. I really don't like RJ. He might be the tooliest tool that has ever tooled on "Idol" and that's saying something.

The rest of the night focused on the entire reason they show the auditions: the horrors. Let's start with Tessie. She lost before she ever sang a note, because she was wearing hot pink pants that were about 3 sizes too small and about a foot above her belly button. Simon Cowell said it best when he compared her to a sack of potatoes with one too many potatoes stuffed inside. I didn't feel bad while I laughed at her because she was really bad but was convinced she wasn't. She even threw a Maury Pavich style tantrum when she was rejected.

Then there was Allison. She tried to get a sympathy vote with a story about almost dying on the way to the audition, something about a plane malfunctioning. She recommends that everyone go through it once. Well, sorry Allison, but I try to stay away from malfunctioning planes and situations where I might die. She couldn't sing either. She said it was nerves and the judges actually gave her a second chance. Yeah, well, she was worse the second time around.

After that point, it was all a blur of missed notes, Paula Abdul grating my nerves, and general horridness. I was not amused at all and I still don't get it. Don't people get tired of watching these contestants fail miserably? Do these contestants not have ears? Do they really, really think they can sing? Where do they buy their clothes? I'm sorry "American Idol," but if I want unanswered questions and mind-boggling mysteries, I'll tune into "Lost."

So the question remains: Under what circumstances will I ever watch an "Idol" episode again? No circumstances. Or, well, it will have to involve mobsters and extreme torture. In that case, I'll tell them whatever they need to know.

As I end this column, I'm actually feeling a little sad. I will never get that hour of my life back.
Here's my final advice for people who have a gripe with the SGA: stop having an online bitch-fest; get together and find facts and actual instances that support your opinions and then bring your evidence to the SGA. Take my advice; otherwise, the endless vortex of worthless accusations will only continue.

As for you, Cowardly Student #874, I echo my editor when I say that the fictitious garbage you "published" is defamation. You lack tact. I do not, however; since you don't have a face or a name, my saying that you are an idiot is not libel.

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NSU On The Scene:
“How equal do you feel in today’s society?”

Candice Elkis
Occupational Therapy
Junior
“In this society we still often go through race issues, but in 2006 and every year after this we as a society are still working on being one. Right now I feel pretty equal and that’s a good feeling”

Scott Saner
South Dakota
Conflict Resolution and Analysis
Freshman
“I think there’s been a lot done but we have a long way to go.”

Dinanga Mulumba
New York
Law
Sophomore
“while not always respected in general society, I personally feel that I and should be treated as an equal with all human beings.”

Derrick Turner
Chicago, IL
Business administration
Sophomore
“I think there’s a lot of opportunities in society but it’s limited because of social classes. So, as a black man if you don’t fit in a class it’s harder for you to succeed.”

Isabelle Phillippe-Auguste
Long Island, N.Y.
Biology
Freshman
“I feel it’s better, people are now able to learn from each other more, so I feel pretty equal”

Gary Foulk
Idaho
Pre-pharmacy
Senior
“I’d say, I feel pretty equal”

Yesenia Guedes
Miami, FL
Biology
Freshman
“I generally feel pretty equal with the exception that people get in their own groups and you’re excluded”

Micheal Rattiff
Key Largo, FL
Biology
Sophomore
“I think generally speaking I feel pretty equal, with nova’s diversity everybody’s pretty equal.”
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