3-6-2006

The Current Volume 16 : Issue 22

Nova Southeastern University

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Interest Rates on Student Loans Expected to Take Effect

By Staff Writer

The Deficit Reduction Act of the U.S. Congress has recently passed, which aims to decrease government spending by up to $39 billion over time. Although student loans currently account for only one percent of federal spending, student aid cuts will represent "almost 32 percent of the reconciliation cuts," according to information provided by Student Aid Action, a higher education project of the State Public Interest Group.

New Federal Bill Means More Student Costs

Interest Rates on Student Loans Expected to Take Effect July 1

By Paul Saneaux

Many students already dig to the bottom of their pockets to pay off college expenses, and Federal loans are often the option for those who do not have enough funds. Even so, students may have to strain or break their budgets and dig deeper; the U.S. Congress has recently passed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, a reconciliation bill between the Senate and the House of Representatives which will increase interest rates and fees on loans for students and parents.

The Deficit Reduction Act, passed by Congress in February, aims to decrease government spending by up to $39 billion over time. Although student loans currently account for only one percent of federal spending, student aid cuts will represent "almost 32 percent of the reconciliation cuts," according to information provided by Student Aid Action, a higher education project of the State Public Interest Group.

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Life 101 Gets Personal with Vanessa Williams

Overcoming life, scandals and racism

By Kristine Belizaire

Acclaimed singer and actress Vanessa Williams spoke to the NSU community about life, scandals, and racism during the twelfth installment of the Life 101 series.

The informal interview, hosted by professor Mark Cavanaugh, was held at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center for on Feb. 28 and allowed Williams to reveal her stories of hope and perseverance. A pivotal moment in the talk came as the former Miss America spoke about her family life, stating that her children are her first priority. "Balancing a career and a family is a myth. When consumed with a career, you neglect your role as a parent. It is about adaptation and compromise."

Williams, born on March 18, 1963, spoke about her musically inclined upbringing. Since both of her parents were music teachers, "music was a requirement" in her household. She drew laughs from the crowd when she talked about running away at the age of eight because she refused to practice her instruments. Her solo journey into the woods did not last very long.

She attended high school at a local public in her home of Millwood, New York, where she became prepared for the career in the arts. Williams then attended Syracuse University, where she received a performing arts scholarship. Her film career started with the hit thriller zurner, co-starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, and followed with Soul Food, which won her the NAACP award for Outstanding Actress. Her singing career also evolved, with hit albums including The Sweetest Days and the Comfort Zone.

To end the night, Williams sang a verse from the song "To Higher Ground" and was given a standing ovation.

Of those in attendance, Tiffany Mack described Williams and the event as "absolutely wonderful." Natishe Cross said that Williams is a "breathtaking and inspiring woman."

Life 101 is a continuing series at NSU which allows successful individuals to share their inspirational stories with the university community.
While aiming to decrease government spending by up to $39 billion, the Deficit Reduction Act will also mean increase interest rates on student and parent loans

The government's goal is to save approximately $12.7 billion in student aid in several fashions. The bill generates nearly $13 billion from excess subsidy payments that student and parent borrowers make to lenders. As indicated by the bill, this money is designated to pay for future tax cuts for the wealthy instead of returning to the students in the form of more need-based grant aid.

"Interest rates will be going up starting July 1," said Etta Fleischer, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services and Registration. "The rate for the [Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students] is scheduled to rise from 7.9 percent to a fixed 8.5 percent and the rates for the Stafford Student Loans will also increase to a fixed 6.8 percent."

Savings of $2.2 billion will also be derived from the cutting of mandatory loan delivery funds used to implement the federal loan programs. Also, $1.4 billion is expected to be collected from guarantee agencies due to a one percent insurance fee on all loans. Opponents of the bill claim that lenders could possibly pass the fee on to student borrowers.

Despite the negative effects the major cuts in student aid will cause, some students may benefit from the Deficit Reduction Act. According to Student Aid Action, "the bill spends $3.7 billion on grants for students majoring in math, science and foreign languages."

Additionally, the bill will gradually lower origination fees for some students over the next five years. A 6.8 percent ceiling will also be maintained on interest rates for Stafford Student Loans, protecting students from continuously rising rates.

"I'm against the whole thing but I do like the idea of the 6.8 percent cap because students usually don't have good credit and need a cosigner," said sophomore and business major Ryan Farinacci. "At the same time though, the government is encouraging students to go further into debt."

"Education is what's going to get this country through the bad economy," commented Alecia Salus, a sophomore on the Pre-Medical track. "An increase in fees will only make it more difficult for students who can't afford college to attend."

"This will just prevent students from going to college," asserted junior and marine biology major VJ Maisonet. He responded to tax cuts for wealthier tax payers by claiming the bill "will only make the rich richer and the dumb more dumb."

A new PLUS loan program for graduate and professional students is being developed by lenders and the Department of Education. However, the government has left universities in the dark as of yet.

"At this time, no specific information on how it will work has been released," said Fleischer. "The Department of Education is working to create a new promissory note."

We are awaiting the Department of Education and lenders to clarify the initiatives of the loan," she explained. "Once the university has received more information, it will be passed on to the students."

Fleischer emphasized that new information will be made available at www.nova.edu/cwisl and that the time is now to apply for 2006-2007 financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Additional reporting by Laura Ory of the University of Arizona's Daily Wildcat and Iza Wojciechowska of Duke University's Chronicle.
**Bizarre Briefs**

Compiled by Greg Kyriakakis

**Shipping Drugs Not a Smart Move**

Apparently under the influence of the substance he was shipping, Steven Coburn of Mill Valley, Calif., shipped a half-pound of marijuana—but forgot to affix an address label. An Associated Press article cited that the Corte Madera shipping company opened the package as part of company procedure to see if the label had accidentally been placed inside. Once authorities were notified, Coburn's home, which is conveniently located behind a high school, was searched and $10,000 worth of marijuana was found.

**Body Parts Harvested, Replaced with PVC Pipe**

Taking a cue from Dr. Franklinstein, four Rochester, N.Y., people are facing criminal charges for harvesting human tissue and organs. Several funeral homes and hospitals are tied to the investigation, which alleges that Bio-Medical Tissue Services has illegally taken body parts from 1,077 deceased over a four year span, according to WROC-TV.com. X-rays of deceased found that stolen bones were replaced with PVC pipe. Officials expressed concern about the safety of transplanting untested anatomy, saying that "the most disturbing" part is "that no medical precautions were taken to ensure that the tissue transplants were free from disease or defect."

**Hungry Man Eats Girlfriend's Nose**

A confused Tulsa, Okla., man wound up eating his girlfriend's nose instead of his meal during a family dinner. The Associated Press reported that Greg Hill bit off Jody Bennett's nose and swallowed it. Doctors contemplated pumping the man's stomach in hopes of finding the nose, but emergency room personnel decided that stomach acids would have quickly dissolved the body part. Bennett denied eating the nose but was booked on numerous charges, including destroying evidence.

**DNA Clears Man of Robbery, Convicts of Murder**

Willie Herman of Carton City, Nev., thought it would be a good idea to provide a DNA sample to absolve him from a 1999 robbery. Unfortunately, that same sample was used to convict him of the 1997 murder of Leslie Carter at a Reno park, which landed him life in prison. The Las Vegas Review-Journal said that although Herman argued "DNA evidence obtained at his robbery trial was inadmissible at his murder trial," the court decided that the prosecution's argument was correct since the man voluntarily provided the sample.

**News from Around the World**

Compiled by Paul Saneaux

**North America**

Tape shows Bush warned before Katrina

Controversy over the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina has been revived by a recently published video by the Associated Press. The AP said in a report on March 1 that the newly released video shows President Bush "and other top officials being warned about the storm's potential devastation." Transcripts also released by the AP indicate that Bush did not ask questions during the briefing on Aug. 28, one day before Katrina made landfall, but that he declared "we are fully prepared." Michael Brown, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has said on the videotape expressing concerns about the Superdome, in which many people later took refuge, saying the shelter is "about 12 feet below sea level." Referring to Katrina and the flooding that would ensue, Brown also said he worried about New Orleans' "ability to respond to a catastrophe within a catastrophe." Although the White House did not comment as of press time, Newsweek magazine claimed on March 1 to have received "a missing Katrina transcript" that shows Bush was "very engaged" in monitoring the situation after the hurricane made landfall.

For more information visit www.news.yahoo.com.

**Europe**

Da Vinci Code author faces lawsuit

Best-selling author of The Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown, is being sued by Richard Leigh and Michael Baigent for stealing "the whole architecture" of the research that went into their book, The Holy Blood, and the Holy Grail. According to Reuters, Brown puts forth the theory that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and bore a child, the same theory presented in Leigh's and Baigent's book. Jonathan James, Leigh's and Baigent's attorney, told the British High Court that the publication of The Da Vinci Code "is in infringement of the copyright" of his clients in Great Britain. Last year, Brown won a court ruling against Lewis Perdue, who claimed Brown stole elements from two of his books. Perdue sued Brown for $150 million in damages.

For more information www.marble.com.

**Caribbean**

Puerto Rican protesters slam FBI

Over 1,000 demonstrators in the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan marched on Feb. 26 and chanted anti-FBI messages. According to Associated Press reporters, "many of the marchers favor independence for the island and accuse the FBI of persecuting the movement." There are also accusations that the FBI lies Fiblerto Ojeda Rios, "the fugitive leader of a pro-independence militant group," die after he was shot in an FBI raid last September. The FBI said that Rao fired upon Federal agents first, and a conflicting report by Rios' widow said that the agents began the firefight. During the march on Sunday, protesters "accused an onlooker of being a Federal agent" and confronted the man, shouting "murderer, murderer." The man "fled in an automobile and protested banged on the car windows, cracking the glass," witnesses said. Demonstrators also gathered around an apartment building that the FBI said was possibly connected to a "domestic terrorist attack" planned by independence militants.

For more information visit www.news.yahoo.com.

**Middle East**

Key evidence presented during Hussein trial

According to the Reuters, "prosecutors at Saddam Hussein's trial presented a document Tuesday they said was signed by the former leader approving the executions of more than 1,600 Shiites in southern Iraq." Chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Mouawwi presented evidence "concerning the killings of Shiites from the town of DJuklin in 1982" after an assassination attempt on Hussein in 1980. A document was also presented by al-Mouawwi showing Hussein approved the sentencing of 148 Shiites to death by hanging. He also said Saddam issued the sentences after an "imaginary trial" in which "none of the defendants were brought to court." Saddam and his co-defenders, including Awad al-Bandar, who was head of the court under Saddam, could face death by hanging if convicted.

For more information visit www.reuters.com.

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**Men's Basketball Team Takes Down Rollins 79-57, Women Lose 52-47**

By Tranell Mesa

Now that the men and women's regular basketball season has come to an end, the Fin-antics can sit back as both teams prepare to head into the post season playoffs. Both teams showed tremendous finesse while on the court this season, giving NSU fans something to look forward to on Saturday nights when the Sharks played at home.

After an exceptional performance from the men's basketball team on Feb. 25, the Sharks tacked another win onto their record as they crushed Rollins College 79-57. The Sharks finished with a regular season record of (17-10, 11-5 SSC) placing them second overall in conference play.

"We have a great group of guys and we worked extremely hard during the season, so I'm not surprised with our success this far season. We are doing our best to bring home the conference championship," said sophomore center Kevin Chester.

The women (15-12, 8-8 SSC) came up short while facing Rollins College for their senior night game, 52-47. Nonetheless the Lady Sharks still placed well at fourth in the conference for the season.

"I had a great time watching both teams this season," states senior Katie Veltri. "I'm looking forward to next season when they have their own gym. I think it will help build up school spirit."

The Sharks head to St. Leo University for the conference tournament March 6 through to March 9. Here the men will face off with Barry, while the women take on St. Leo in a single elimination tournament.

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**NSU Men's Golf Team Finishes 6th at AASU/ Southbridge Pirate Invitational**

By Alicia Winslett

Feb. 26 and 27, the men's golf team competed in the AASU/ Southbridge Pirate Invitational in Savannah, Ga. This was a 36-hole event hosted by Armstrong Atlantic University at Southbridge Golf Club, which was par-72, 6,922 yards. NSU moved up one position from day one in the final round and finished in sixth place.

The men's team shot 304-296=600, the second round team total being the third lowest score of Tuesday's final round. Armstrong Atlantic State won their home event with a team total of 587. Two strokes behind them were Barry University with a team total of 589.

"At this level all 5 players have to compete for low individual score for the team to be successful," said Coach Kevin Marsh. "Our main goal is to improve and learn from each tournament and prepare to defend our Conference Title.

Barry's Victor Billskoog won the individual title with a 2-under par total.

NSU's Michael Wangness led the men's team, finishing in sixth place individually with a two-day total of 147 (74-73). This was the highest finish of his career. Martin Styf and Nick Pateman finished tied for 12th with a pair of 148's.

"I was happy with the way I played in the later rounds," said Martin Styf. "The golf course wasn't that great though."

The next tournament for the Sharks will be in Miami, Fla. to play in the Buccaneer Invitational hosted by Barry University at Westview Country Club March 6 and 7.

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**Torino Olympic Winter Games Come to an End**

By Alicia Winslett

On Feb. 27, the XX Winter Games in Turin came to an end. If anyone watched the games, they know that it was an exciting and fun Games to watch.

Once again, Germany came in first place with an medal count of 29, 11 of those being gold. The United States came in second place with 25 twenty-five medals overall, nine of them being gold. Canada improved their medal count from 17 in 2002 to 24 in Turin. Cindy Klassen of Canada acquired a game-high of five medals. Austria swept in the men's slalom, on Saturday.

Other countries that had a great showing were Sweden with 14 medals, and China and South Korea with 11 each.

This year Slovakia won its first ever winter medal in the new sport, snowboardcross, where Radoslav Zidek took the silver.

In the snowboard halfpipe, American Shaun White took home the gold. Speedskater Joey Cheek won two medals and donated his $40,000 reward to a charity for children who are trapped in war zones. Chad Hedrick and Shani Davis did nothing but argue about how bad the other teammate was. It seemed very childish, but brought a lot of viewers to watch them race.

Unfortunately, the ratings for the Olympics weren't as high as usual for NBC, being consistently outdrawn by "Grey's Anatomy" and "American Idol."

Regardless, the games were exciting to watch for lots of people.
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Unity Extends More Than Just a Week

By Greg Kyriakakis

Current Affairs Editor

Though NSU Unity Week is a distant memory, its impact still resonates in groups and students all over campus. Many NSU organizations are involved in volunteer efforts that show their commitment to helping the community. Inspired by the Hunger Banquet held during Unity Week, Andrew Ibrahim, joined by two fellow Lambda Theta Phi members and a PAKSA representative, recently volunteered at the South Florida Coalition for the Homeless in Hollywood.

Through serving food to the hungry, Ibrahim gained a greater sense of the struggles of the less-fortunate. "We learned that not everyone is as fortunate as us. It made us appreciate what we have," he said. Ibrahim was able to spend time speaking to some homeless individuals about their situation in between helping to prepare chickens, washing dishes, and cleaning the kitchen.

Other groups, such as the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, have participated in volunteer events. Ashley Richie, DPE President, said that "our members actively perform community service, whether individually or as a whole." Recent projects include clothing drives for Goodwill, the collection of used cell phones for a domestic violence center, and aiding at a food pantry.

The sorority also spent time helping to clean up last year's hurricane damage. "We also helped a family friend of one of our sisters clean up her house after it was destroyed during Hurricane Wilma," Richie said.

Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity, will be donating time to help "both the young and elderly" through upcoming events, according to Service Vice President Ann Hoang. The organization will be making flower pots to donate to local nursing homes, as well as constructing blankets for children in shelters as part of Project Linus.

"Volunteering is fun and you get to help those in need," said Hoang. "I get happy when other people are happy, plus I get to meet new people and make new friends."

Becoming involved in volunteer projects is simple, according to Ibrahim; he contacted the coalition and "asked when we could help out."

He then invited other campus groups to join in, and in that way recruited a PAKSA member.

Building upon the theme of unity, Ibrahim hopes to lead other organizations to help out in the future. "I'd like to do this definitely once more before the semester's over," he explained. For the next aid project, he said that a "greater effort" will be made to get other organizations involved.

Take a Bite Out of This...

Current Events Calendar

March 6-10
Undergrad Spring Break

March 13
You Got Served
7:30 p.m. Goodwin Lobby
Sponsored by Campus Recreation

March 14
Faculty Lecture Series:
“The Problem of Evil”
12 - 1 p.m. Parker 201
Sponsored by Farquhar College

March 15
APO Spring Flowers
Parker Front 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

March 16
Film: “Between Us”
6 p.m. Mailman Auditorium
Sponsored by Farquhar College

Good and Evil Film Series
“Born into Brothels”
7 p.m. Flight Deck
Sponsored by Farquhar College

March 17
ICE St. Pat’s Day
12 - 2 p.m.

Submission deadline for Humanities Festival and Student Research Symposium
5 p.m.

*Compiled from the Student Affairs calendar & NSU Shark Bytes.
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Q: No one in my program understands me. I have very strong beliefs in Wicca, past lives, and tarot. It is the root of who we are and our connection to the Earth. But every time I respond to something in class, the professor looks at me like I'm nuts, and my fellow students have been extremely disrespectful. Why can't people open their minds just a little and think outside of their brainwashed upbringing?

A: Nothing works as effectively as colliding belief systems for heating up a classroom or cooling a friendship. Pit one certain person against another, and each will view the other as "other"—a fool who just doesn't see the truth.

If you embrace and give voice to beliefs that run counter to those held by your teachers and peers, chances are that your comments will be heard as a throwing down of a gauntlet—the equivalent of leaping onto your chair and yelling, "engarde!" The logical response to such an enticing challenge is, of course, to pull out a sword and do battle. I'm sure no one (including you) is in danger of falling asleep in the midst of these exchanges. What a gift you're giving to the professors! After all, controversy is the spice of academia. But however exciting this is for everyone, it sounds like the exchanges leave you feeling misunderstood and alienated—not a comfortable place to hang out.

Any chance of your finding a way to enjoy these duels you're inviting? If not, what are the possibilities of your response to such an enticing throwdown of a gauntlet—the equivalent of leaping onto your chair and yelling, "engarde!"? The logical response to such an enticing challenge is, of course, to pull out a sword and do battle. I'm sure no one (including you) is in danger of falling asleep in the midst of these exchanges. What a gift you're giving to the professors! After all, controversy is the spice of academia. But however exciting this is for everyone, it sounds like the exchanges leave you feeling misunderstood and alienated—not a comfortable place to hang out.

Need to talk this over with someone? You're welcome to make an appointment with one of our counselors (954-262-7050). We're in the business of listening, not judging, so you can feel free to speak you mind and discuss your experience without having to justify or defend yourself.

Have a question you'd like answered in this space? Fire away! Call us (954-262-7050), send us an email (studentcounseling@nsu.nova.edu), or drop by our office (Suite 150, Parker).

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NSU On The Scene:

What do you think about the big events that have been happening on campus so far?

Akshat Bharagava
India
International Senator
Finance
Sophomore

"I think it's really good. It bring the international community together, and they get to mingle with other students and learn more about the university."

Traavis Chandler
Starke, Fl
Sports Mgmt.
Communications Minor
Senior

"I think they're really great, it gives the student body a chance to interact with each other, and makes the university come together more as a community."

Breana Guerard
Orlando, FL
Nursing
Freshman

"It's nice because people are involved. It's great because it gets students and faculty to interact and gets them outside the community involved."

Christopher Tann
Long Island, N.Y.
Biology
Junior

"It's a good way to get students involved on campus, and be able to put out information about organizations that they are representing on campus."

Robin Furmanski
Pembroke Pines, FL
Business and
marketing
Sophomore

"It bring the community together and it's a great way to meet new people on campus and get free stuff."

Michelle Manley
South Florida
Conflict Analyst and
Resolution
2nd year master

"I think it makes the campus more alive."

Lisa Angelbello
Fort Lauderdale
Masters in Business
Administration

"It's good for Nova for doing something for the community, it's not just about what you can do for them."

Besty Jacobs
Davie, Fl
Biology
Sophomore

"It's a good way to reach out to the community and get involved."

"Personally, I think campus life BITES."

-NSU Shark
Nickel and Dimed: Worth Every Penny

By Greg Kyrriakakis
Current Affairs Editor
Paul Sancex
Staff Writer

The NSU Theatre presented Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America from Feb. 24-26 at the Mailman Auditorium. This is the second production by the program, which began in November, 2005 with Seamus Heaney's Burial at Thebes. The satirical plot follows Barbara, an undercover reporter, as she undertakes various minimum-wage jobs to experience how the poor in America make a living. She soon finds out that working long hours, multiple jobs, and unsafe conditions are necessary just to survive as a member of the lower-class.

Greg:
Though the entire cast gave strong performances overall, Samantha Dolling stood out in the lead role of Barbara. Obviously an educated woman, Barbara makes a number of sarcastic remarks that could easily have fallen flat if not for Dolling's flawless delivery. Roberts Coward, who took on a number of male roles including the slow-witted George, and Kate J. Wates, an NSU professor in her first performance, complimented the lead perfectly in her comedic roles as Gail and Marge. Wates' acting methods were so natural and unforced, there were no problems in believing her characters.

Paul:
I agree. I've seen other productions where cast members play multiple characters and they were usually more confusing and boring than entertaining. Nickel and Dimed, however, was mostly confusion-free. And fortunately, the actors made their separate characters distinct.

Dolling gave an unbelievably realistic performance coupled with a near-perfect delivery of her lines. Her character's demeanor appeared to be relaxed in the beginning, unchained by 18-hour work days and terrible working conditions. Dolling's appearance changed gradually and significantly during her experiences, eventually showing ridiculous signs of exhaustion and hard work; the transformation was amazing to say the least.

Coward, cast as five characters, managed to keep each one unique. It was easy to see that Ted was the pompous cleaning company "pimp" and George was the eager-to-learn immigrant from the Czech Republic. Although the transgressions were not excusable, one Jessica Alba is very upset about it. The Into the Blue actress is threatening to sue Hefner and Co. for featuring her picture on the cover of a recent issue of Playboy. She says that it makes it seem that she appears "nude or semi-nude" within the magazine. Which she does not. "The Smoking Gun" is reporting that in a legal threat letter, Alba requests that Playboy stop distributing the magazine and (of course) provide her with a "monetary settlement." So in all, Jessica is going to make out with her picture on the front cover of magazine, tons of free press and some money on the side. Life really isn't fair.

What Does Jail Do to You?

That's a fair question, isn't it? Now, I wouldn't want to actually find out first hand, so that God for Lil' Kim. The New York Daily News is reporting that the currently incarcerated rapper is undergoing some...technical difficulties. That's right; when you go to jail, your fake boobs might start leaking. I really, really, really don't want to know what kinds of jail activities might spur on that leakage. Really. I'm sure somewhere, though, in the back of her head Kim had dreams of busting out. Well, now she can say that she really did, in one sense of the word. She was able to jump on the marriage and baby bandwagon, it was only a matter of time before Britney found herself on the crazy bus. "The Sun" is reporting that Britney flipped out when she saw photos of K-Fed with a Britney lookalike in his arms. She had a divorce-sized hissy fit, complete with kicking, screaming, cursing and threats to end her relationship with Kevin. Of course, this isn't the first time we have heard this tune. But then again, we have also heard parts of K-Fed's new album. If that isn't enough to scare you away, I don't know what is, Britney.

Tedious Lyrics Burden Atrocious Sophomore Release

By Joshua Alston
Daily Orange (Syracuse)
02/28/2006

(U-WIRE) SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Doctors take the Hippocratic Oath, which binds them to clearly delineated ethical standards. But for music critics, there is no such oath. Critics can basically write whatever they want without consequence, but most of us typically come up with our own set of ethical and creative guidelines that we allow to inform our work.

One of my personal ethical rules is that I try at all costs to avoid snarkiness in my use of titles of songs, albums or band names, because I think it's unfair, uncreative and simply beneath me. For example, if the band Garbage released a bad record, as they seem so fond of doing, I wouldn't say something like "the new album from Garbage lives up to the band's title," because it's corny and cheap.

That's why it causes me such discomfort to write a review of If Only You Were Lonely, the sophomore release from Ohio's favorite emo bleeding hearts, Hawthorne Heights. I'd love to stick to my guns at all costs, refusing to abandon my principles no matter what. But when a band as expertly awful as Hawthorne Heights gives its songs titles like "We Are So Last Year," "Cross Me Off Your List" and best of all, "Where Can I Stab Myself in the Ears," I mean... come on, I am but human. I must give in.

I'll get it out of the way. With songs like "Where Can I Stab Myself in the Ears," the album makes the listener pray for an answer to that question. Lonely is a putrid goulash of contrived ideas executed with hilariously earnestness. It's enough to garner pity for the quintet, which seems so eager to actually find out first hand, so that God for Lil' Kim. The New York Daily News is reporting that the currently incarcerated rapper is undergoing some...technical difficulties. That's right; when you go to jail, your fake boobs might start leaking. I really, really, really don't want to know what kinds of jail activities might spur on that leakage. Really. I'm sure somewhere, though, in the back of her head Kim had dreams of busting out. Well, now she can say that she really did, in one sense of the word.

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Page 12

Please See LYRICS
Page 12

Showbiz Bits

By Marines Alvarez
A&E Editor

Public Diarrhea is Not Sexy

I'm looking at you, Jenny McCarthy. Though I would not normally bother with a third rate celebrity, who frankly, scares me a bit, when "The Sun Online" reported McCarthy's poop in public incident, I had to share. "I once had really bad diarrhea at a Playboy autograph signing," Jenny says, and already it's too much information. "I just kept having my picture taken with the fans. But then I was like: 'Oh no, the demon is about to be unleashed.' And it was unleashed for about 20 guys to witness." Twenty very, very unlucky guys who I'm betting did not buy your book or look at your naked pictures any longer. Of course, that is just a guess.

Playboy is a Tease

Okay, so we all kind of know that, but this time around one Jessica Alba is very upset about it. The Into the Blue actress is threatening to sue Hefner and Co. for featuring her picture on the cover of a recent issue of Playboy. She says that it makes it seem that she appears "nude or semi-nude" within the magazine. Which she does not. "The Smoking Gun" is reporting that in a legal threat letter, Alba requests that Playboy stop distributing the magazine and (of course) provide her with a "monetary settlement." So in all, Jessica is going to make out with her picture on the front cover of magazine, tons of free press and some money on the side. Life really isn't fair.

Brinute Spears Jumps On the Crazy Bus

After riding on the ugly train, taking the fat subway and jumping on the marriage and baby bandwagon, it was only a matter of time before Britney found herself on the crazy bus. "The Sun" is reporting that Britney flipped out when she saw photos of K-Fed with a Britney lookalike in his arms. She had a divorce-sized hissy fit, complete with kicking, screaming, cursing and threats to end her relationship with Kevin. Of course, this isn't the first time we have heard this tune. But then again, we have also heard parts of K-Fed's new album. If that isn't enough to scare you away, I don't know what is, Britney.

Who Knew?

When Jessica split from Nick Lachey, admit it: you thought Nick would disappear into obscurity and depression and stuff like that. Well, it hasn't happened (yet) and surprisingly enough, Jessica is the one who has been getting all the sorry and sad headlines. In a recent interview, Lachey tells Tree People, "Don't feel sorry for me, I have a great life." Well, many men would agree with you, Nick, seeing as how you are prepped to get tons of money from Jess and you've been crying on the shoulder of a certain busty former Miss Kentucky. Conversely, Jessica's most recent headline? "Sad Jess gains 15kg." That's a whopping 33 pounds, my friends. When you are Jessica Simpson, you have to maintain a level of cuteness because you can't fail. Once you lose that cuteness and gain 33 pounds and lose money to your ex-husband, well... Is there anything else worth living for?
**This Week in Arts & Entertainment**

**Movie Openings**

**March 10**

**The Hills Have Eyes**
*Starring:* Aaron Stanford, Ted Levine
*Director:* Alexandre Aja
*Genre:* Drama, Horror, Thriller
*MPAA Rating:* PG-13
*A family road trip goes terrifyingly awry when the O'Grady family become stranded in a government scientific zone. Miles from nowhere, the O'Grady's realize the seemingly uninhabited wasteland is actually the breeding ground of a blood-thirsty mutant family.*

**Failure to Launch**
*Starring:* Matthew McConaughey, Sarah Jessica Parker
*Director:* Tom Day
*Genre:* Comedy, Romance
*MPAA Rating:* PG-13
*A thirty-something man who still lives with his parents falls in love with the woman of his dreams and begins to suspect she has been hired by his parents as a way to get him out of the house.*

**The Libertine**
*Starring:* Johnny Depp, Samantha Morton
*Director:* Laurence Dunmore
*Available March 7*
*Rating:* R
*A portrait of the Earl of Rochester—a Restoration-era philosopher and poet, an anti-monarchist Royalist and an atheist who converted to Christianity. The story is about how the Earl's eccentricity is thrown for a loop when he falls in love with a struggling young actress.*

**Book Releases**

**March 7**

**The Tenth Circle** by Jodi Picoult
*Trixie Stone is fourteen years old and in love for the first time. She's also the light of her father's life—a straight-A student; a freshman in high school who is pretty and popular; a girl who's always looked up to Daniel Stone as a hero. Until, that is, his world is turned upside down with a single act of violence, and suddenly everything Trixie has believed about her family—and herself—seems to be a lie.*

**Labyrinth by Kate Mosse**
*While volunteering at a dig in the Pyrenees, Alice discovers two skeletons, several artifacts, and the drawing of a labyrinth. They lead her back to a woman named Alaz, whose father entrusted her with the secret of the Grail at the time of the Arthurian era. In this extraordinary thriller, rich in the atmosphere of medieval and contemporary France, the lives of two women born centuries apart are linked by a common destiny.*

**Entertainment**

**March 7**

**Hairspray at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach**

**March 8**

**The Full Monty at the Actors Play House in Coral Gables**

**March 10**

**Ray Romano at the Jackie Gleason Theater in Miami Beach**

**DVD Releases**

**Available March 7**

**Daniel Radcliffe in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**
*Jake Gyllenhaal in Jarhead*
**Uma Thurman in Prime**
**Houa Hsiung's Caillu**

**LYRICS**

**Continued from page 11**

to separate itself from the rest of the mainstream pack, yet ends up with a result that is derivative at its best and embarrassing at its worst.

“We Are So Last Year” falls into the former category, with its tension-and-release riffing and layered whines and screams. It's tolerable musically, but then come the lyrics, which would only win honorable mention in an eighth-grade poetry contest: “I just wanted you to know, that I think about you every night / When I fall asleep, you are in my dreams.” Is Diane Warren ghostwriting rock records now?

At least “Last Year” finds Hawthorne Heights on their own territory. On the ballad “December” (which closes the album in a cliché fashion), the band forgoes the guitars for a piano and lumps drum programming and winds up with a Savage Garden B-side. Again, the cloying, Lisa Frank-diary lyrics: “You don't have to speak because I can hear your heartbeat / Fluttering like butterflies searching for a drink.”

“Lonely” is almost unlistenable from beginning to end (except maybe for “Breathing in Sequence,” which at least starts off compelling), and despite my desire to avoid reading into the song titles, I'd like to think the band knows it. What they lack in musicianship they make up for in manners, as evidenced by track five, “Saying Sorry,” I forgive you, Hawthorne Heights.

**NICKEL**

**Continued from page 11**

characters are vastly different and seemingly impossible to confuse, it is relatively easy for inexperienced actors to let their characters be dull and indistinguishable. Coward, who also gave an excellent performance in *Burial at Thebes*, avoided this trap completely.

Despite the limited set design given the size of the Mailman Auditorium, the play didn't suffer as the actors made good use of what they had. The restaurant scene, which begins the play and is again revisited later, is one of the most dynamic even though there are few set pieces. Some drab costumes, such as all black maid uniforms, detract from the overall aesthetics of the set, however.

**P**

I dabbled in stage design and managing back in high school, so I was earnestly impressed with how this production handled their set design and space usage. The set was sparse, consisting of black cubes arranged as benches and beds, the usual tables and chairs, and crafted pieces like a small kitchen and some signs. Even with a simple set, all sections of the stage was proficiently utilized; most of the set took up the center stage upstage and downstream portions, creating a pleasing and balanced visual quality. Only some scenes had the focus of the audience off the center of the stage, which is fortunate given the small space available to the actors. The left and right wings had signs displaying the measly pay the characters slaved to earn at various jobs. Despite being simple, the set was very effective and did not steal attention from the excellent actors.

**G**

The fast-paced scene changes and storytelling infusing biting wit with the struggles of the working class provided many laughs, but also good cause for reflection of society. Exemplifying the creative narrative are the inner monologues of Nita (Benita Williams) and Barbara, which show a humorous contrast in their opinions of each other; yet in the end they can sit down to watch a soap opera. Maybe class struggles wouldn't be so pervasive if we can find a common ground to build upon.

**P**

The short scenes and frequent set changes took a while to get used to, but the flow of the play hardly suffered in the end. The message got across and the humor was unaffected. The subject of the play appeals to anyone who has worked a minimum wage job; I was especially amused by the Mall-Mart scenes because I worked at Target for two years and knew the frustration of retail and dealing with idiotic people. They nailed that reality of the working class perfectly.

**G**

**Nickel and Dimed** makes the oft-forgotten struggles of the poor seem more real and may cause the wealthy to rethink just how they got there, and who suffers because of class imbalances.

**P**

The humor in *Nickel and Dimed* was subtle at times and outrageous at other moments, but the laughs always kept coming. With an excellent cast and a crew that used some hilarious audio clips and smart set designs, I was easily impressed. Excessive cursing and all, I embraced it; this was a small, but tremendously successful production.
A Fly On the Wall:
Revelations

By Paul Saneaux
Staff Writer

A while back, during all the fuss and ruckus over impeachments, internal struggles in the SGA, student petitioners with no direction, and a short-lived bitch-fest on the IOC listserv, I threw out a prediction and made some evocative inquiries. I asked one question after SGA Advisor Terry Morrow and Vice President of Judicial Affairs Davia McDonald mentioned—previously that there were rumors of members of the SGA trying to impeach one another: "Could someone in the SGA be in cohorts with the petitioners?"

I figured it was odd that a rumor such as that arose so close to the time some students badly wanted to remove (now resigned) Commissar Senator Alaina Siminovsky and IOC Senator Jessica Boyd from the Senate. Well, guess what, boys and girls? I have some news. At last week's meeting, VPJ McDonald announced that "SGA President Jason Peebles hasn't been attending Pan-SGA meetings, executive board meetings, campus events, Senate meetings, and faculty advisory meetings, so the position is now available." What? Let me rewind. That and translate. Peebles has clearly not been fulfilling his duty, so, by way of the Constitution an impeachment is not required and the remaining Executive Board has voted him out. Sort of like on "Survivor," Sort of, I said. I thought Peebles missed numerous Senate meetings because he had a legitimate excuse, but his quick ousting by the Executive Board has me believing otherwise. That's not the most interesting part, however. McDonald continued by giving the ambiguous statement that he "was involved in the impeachment of Boyd and Siminovksy."

Bingo! I'll tell you what this means to me since you asked so nicely. Now, this is completely my opinion based on my observations and digging around for clues (since the OSB has not confirmed nor denied this), but here it is: I believe Peebles influenced Sean Burque and/or other petitioners in writing that infamous student concern letter "seeking the impeachment" of Boyd and Siminovksy. Although I don't know what kind of motives would be behind this action, my journalistic intuition points me to this belief. Don't take my word on it however (nor my lean). I may be wrong. I'll bring the updates here when they are made available by the OSB and McDonald. Peebles may also be given the chance to explain himself at another meeting.

On a lighter note, last week's meeting ran under the new Vice President of Legislative Affairs, former OSB member Randi Samuels. The meeting ran as it usually does: with bickering over certain issues and irregular smoothness.

The first bump in the road was the Florida African American Student Association Conference for PASA. The commotion was about whether or not this conference was the same as one PASA requested funds for earlier in the year and whether or not the same executive board members were going to attend the event. Some senators had specific concerns: Senator Boyd said she thought it would be "ridiculous to send the same people to practically the same event." The organization representative said this group would only differ by four people and that the events were nearly identical. SGA Treasurer Diane Klein also advised the club to send their new e-board after elections, but the representative said that the elections already took place. To end the discussion with the bills approval, Freshman Senator Andrew Ibrahim made the point that "this club has done everything we asked them to by going through the Leadership Development Committee, and that (the group) should keep that in mind."

An interesting side note: while the Senate was grilling the representative with the usual bureaucratic questions, a student in the audience became annoyed and colloquially referred to the Senate as a certain part of the anatomy of the human rear end known as the anus. Is this what the students think of the SGA? A bunch of anuses? First of all, discussion and questioning is necessary in Senate. Secondly, Mister Uneducated Potty Mouth,

Please See THE FLY

Letter from a Reader

Page 14

Yes, sometimes drama does occur, but in the long run being a leader is a great honor and one should take the responsibility if they feel up to the challenge.

From being involved I can proudly say that I have had two educations: one from the classroom and one from being involved in campus life. Life is growing on this campus, and it is a great feeling to be involved in it. I encourage those who have thought about running for a position to do so.

Understand that there are two types of students, ones that make a difference and ones that don't. Which one are you? I hope those who read this get involved and start changing the future on this campus. Those who cannot hold a position should also get involved in their own way. Let your future SGA know what you want and what they can do for you. We all have a voice, so use it. It is your duty as students to let your leaders know this information. In short, where we all eventually graduate we want to have memories that last a lifetime; so get involved and start making some!

Thank you
Diane Klein
SGA Treasurer 2005-2006

Dear Readers of The Current:

I have been involved in many organizations in my four years at NSU. Being involved had made a difference for others and me. Reading all the articles lately about SGA and IOC might have scared some of you from stepping up and running for a position on a E-board or SGA. In this letter, I want to explain that being involved is not all about drama.
Like A Daytime Soap Opera... On Ice

By Marines Alvarez

THE CURRENT

On the whole, I have nothing against the Olympics. Representativeness, I don’t have anything bad to say about that. That is, unless we are talking about the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. In that case, I have a couple of bones to pick.

From the beginning, the PR hogs at NBC were assuring us that the 2006 United States team would be the best ever. There must have been some fine print I missed that explained that when they said “best” they meant “Medalists at best.” In fact, though all like Olympics there were high points and low points in Turin, the event as a whole lacked the cheesy magic that is the Winter Olympics. Italy delivered but did not satisfy. The US Team showed up and won...sometimes.

With a second place finish, the US matched their position from the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. Tellingly, though, they won 32 medals in 2002 and 25 in 2006. Not the showing you expected, huh, NBC? Well, lucky for the ratings hogs, there were plenty of soap opera-like moments to draw viewers hospital; the brave Kildrow came back from the Olympics are about? Well, Lindsay Jacobellis to you is the death of your grandma in 48 hours later to try her hand didn’t get the hogs at NBC were assuring drama, NBC should’ve considered it may sound, that’s pretty awesome. to do down in history. ’Second place, 2006. US team, he got off to a strong start, splitting in the 1500m race. Unlike the rest of the US team, he managed to get back up and win bronze in the 1000m and 500m. I like him because he seems like such a dork. Who still wears bandanna? No, seriously? And under the yellow bike helmet they require are to wear? It’s so bad it’s good. Other good showings included Shari White, who won gold in the men’s half pipe, and Seth Wescott, who won gold in Snowboard Cross. Okay, so the Americans basically dominate anything have to do with snowboarding, but hey, someone’s got to.

The Heroes: Anyone who wears a plastic tiara on the medal stand is okay with me. Alpine skier Julie Mancuso silenced her biggest critics with gold in the giant slalom, the first US women’s alpine medal in six years. How about that Lindsay Kildrow! After crashing during a practice run and being lifted to a Turin hospital, the brave Kildrow came back less than 48 hours later to try her hand at the downhill. As cheesy and trite as it may sound, that’s pretty awesome. If you just crashed, burned holes into your spandex suit and your left butt cheek hurts, ski and poles should be the last thing on your mind. Not for Lindsay Kildrow.

The Villains: Who cares if Lindsay Jacobellis won silver? She could have won gold. She was leading the pack, kicking their butts and all that other good stuff and then she decided she would show off. Don’t they teach lessons about sportsmanship and showboating and crap like that? Aren’t we supposed to believe that that’s what the Olympics are about? Well, I didn’t get the memo and she fell and slipped into second place. What a way to do down in history. Second place is the first loser, especially if you are Lindsay.

You know what else? Who cares if you are Michelle Kwan, Michelle Kwan? I don’t care if your great and the face of figure skating, or whatever. The minute you start limping, it might be time to step away gracefully. You didn’t earn your place on the team, despite your past accolades, and you made it worse for yourself by having to step away after petitioning for that spot. Bye, Kwan. You’re famous, you’re rich and it was nice while it lasted.

The Current

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THE CURRENT

March 6, 2006

THE FL!Y

Continued from page 13

learn to be civil and appreciate the constituents.” Bwargava’s reasoning was that “not all students can contact their senators during their office hours.” The idea was simple, but for some reason the senators began to “bitch” and moan, according to SGA Advisor Gary Gershtman, over who would be responsible with the task of issuing cards. This was not an issue to argue over; the resolution was designed to improve the SGA, not hinder it in any way, and it would cost practically nothing. Eventually the point was made clear and the resolution was passed.

Additional Notes

Official Fly on the Wall Body count (with all due respect): VPL: Liz Harbaugh, resigned; Commuter Senator Alina Sliminovskiy, resigned; SGA President Jason Peebles, exiled; and Campus Entertainment Director Jocelyn McGlothlen, resigned. (No more, please.)

Treasurer Diane Klein reported that there is $23,492.12 left in the Senate Reserve Fund and that “[the SGA] is doing very well with the organizational accounts and the clubs are spending their money.”

A bill entitled Student Action Committee Sr. Patrick’s Day Bash was approved for $901.

A bill entitled Caribbean Student Association Conference was approved for $650.

Freshman Senator Steven Reddy announced that a third sweep date on concert events in the University Center when it opens, giving students a chance to buy tickets at reduced prices.

A bill entitled Student Government Association Limited Honors was approved for $333.14.

The Current, formerly known as The Knight, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in room 105 of the Athletics and Student Activities (ASA) Building. The Current is NSU’s established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are entitled to editorialize on anything they desire to The Current.

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The Current reserves the right to edit.
Prepare Yourself
for a future in podiatric medicine

If you're planning a career in medicine, consider the field of podiatry. You could manage your own podiatric practice, work in a hospital or clinic, or attend an athletic team. As a podiatric physician, you diagnose, treat, and help patients prevent disorders and injuries to the foot and ankle.

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