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Oktoberfest Brings German Culture to NSU

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

On Sept. 26, over 200 members of the NSU community gathered in the University Center Flight Deck to celebrate the German holiday of Oktoberfest, hosted by the Student Union Board and coordinated by Program Assistants, Seniors Rob Keever and Crystal Conway.

Oktoberfest is a two-week beer festival held each year in Munich and Bavaria, Germany during late September and early October. It is one of the most famous events in the country and the world’s largest fair, with some six million people attending.

"SUB wanted to create a great way to get students out in the middle of the week," said Marisa Mirgas, Program Coordinator for NSU Flight Deck.

Left: Students have their picks at the German dish. Photo by Mike Palozzola

Sex Talk Panel Discusses Sexuality and Personal Identity

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

On Oct. 5, NSU Students gathered in room 123 of the Parker Building for the first in a series of panel discussions about sex and sexual identity.

Sex Talk explores the issue of different types of sexual identities like heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality. Because NSU’s theme this year is Identity, the series will focus on sexual identity and what it means to be a sexual person. The program will also explore the issues of biology and culture. According to Professor Kate Waites, the purpose of the series is "to raise awareness about sexuality as a component of personal identity and to explore that conceptually and intellectually."

Dr. Allison Brimmer, journalism professor at NSU, introduced the panel, which included NSU students, faculty and community members, who addressed different questions from the audience and spoke about their own personal experiences with their sexual identities.

When asked about how they came to understand their sexuality and the experiences they had when they were aware of their sexual identity, one of the panel members spoke about growing up through a time of "gay bashing." She spoke about getting married to a man, but later realized that she was attracted to women. Other panel members spoke about being raised in a family with strict religious and moral values and living in a very strict society where any type of "gay" activity was not allowed, while others had very supportive parents.

A topic of discussion was whether or not biological factors are associated with homosexuality. The panel was asked if they believed that they were born that way or chose to be gay. To answer the question, the panel simply asked if it even mattered if it is biological or physical. Some of the panel members said that they knew that they were gay from a young age. One of the panel members also added, that "sexuality is something that you do not suddenly realize, it is something that you gradually come to understand."

The panel also spoke about the

Left Behind: Eternal Forces Preview

Has entertainment gone too far?

By Paul Saneaux
Managing Editor

Violence in video games, music, movies, media, and just about anything else is a notion that everyone (especially teenagers) should be used to by now. It is practically a known and established fact that violence sells all sorts of entertainment. So, what would happen if the touchy topic of religion was introduced to classic video game violence? The result would be the awkward comedy game, Left Behind: Eternal Forces, based on the best selling book series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins.

The series and game's plot revolves around the survival of people left behind after the rapture, a biblical event that is supposed to involve the taking up of all Christians by God. Naturally, I figured this game would be shrouded in controversy.

In the game, the player takes charge of the Tribulation Forces, made up of the moral people who believe they have experienced the rapture and are unfortunately abandoned on Earth because they are not true believers. The unfortunate-ness has two parts: these people are left behind simply because they do not believe in God and they must defend themselves from the deadly Global Community of Peacekeepers, the Antichrist's army. See where the controversy begins? It may just be my sensitive atheist self, but the game crosses a few lines.

The troubles in this game are so awkward that they border hilarious. I don't understand how the Antichrist's army could be called the Global Community of Peacekeepers. The GCP sounds like a harmless activist group. When I played the demo I found out how apparent the tronis are.

LB:EF plays no differently than any other real-time strategy game, like Age of Empires or Command and Conquer; the player must control an army, the Tribulation Forces in this case, and micromanage all of the resources needed to expand and grow. The player
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Election 2006 Spotlight: Virginia Senate Race

By Tanya Barnes
Staff Writer

The Virginia Senate race has been one of the most talked about races lately as Republican incumbent Sen. George Allen is running against Democratic hopeful Jim Webb for a seat in the upcoming November election. Allen has been a controversial figure since he used the word "macaca" in reference to a campaign volunteer of Indian descent. According to the Associated Press, some cultures consider that word to be an ethnic slur, but Allen contends that he did not know the meaning of the word and rather made it up when speaking to his campaign worker. He later personally apologized.

It was later revealed that Allen is of Jewish descent, a secret the senator said he was sworn by his mother to protect. Allen was then attacked a former college teammate, Dr. Ken Shelton, who claimed that the senator had racist tendencies. Shelton claimed that he and Allen once took a deer's head and stuffed it into the mailbox of a black family that lived near their college town in Virginia. He also said that Allen used racial slurs back in the 1970's when he was around his white friends.

Allen's other teammates rushed to his defense and said that they had never heard about that incident or seen any type of racist behavior from Allen during his college years.

Webb has also been accused of using racist terminology in the past. "I don't think that there's anyone that can look at me and say that I'm not the person who has the word pass through their lips at one time or another in their life," Webb told the Associated Press. Webb was questioned about his political views because racial slurs against African Americans were used several times in the novel that he had published.

Disgraced Congressman’s Resignation Raises Questions

Did Republican leaders withhold information for political gain?

By Greg Kyriakakis
Nation & World Editor

Following the resignation of Congressman Mark Foley, a Republican from Florida, new questions have arisen as to how much Republican leaders knew of the inappropriate behavior and why nothing was done before.

Last week, ABC News revealed the details of e-mail and instant message exchanges between Foley and a teenaged male page who worked in his office. The released communications, as described by the Windy City Times, were "sexually suggestive" though they did not suggest that any physical contact had been made.

Though some originally believed that the originally released e-mail was simply "love friendly," Bay Buchanan, president of American Cause, said in a Detroit Free Press report that they "had predator stamped all over it."

A poll by Pew Research Center found that the scandal may have no effect on upcoming elections. In a press release by the center, results showed that the percentage of those voting for either party remained unchanged, while the scandal's impact on opinions of GOP congressional leaders and the Republican Party's image for honest and ethical governance has been fairly limited. "I think that the conservative religious core of the Republican Party will be those most offended by the conduct," said Timothy Dixon, professor of history and legal studies at NSU, "I think the polls need to be more focused." The scandal's impact, if any, might come from religious republicans who simply choose not to vote out of disgust.

According to The Age, many have questioned whether House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who reportedly knew about Foley's inappropriate messages a year ago should resign for failing to act. Hastert contends that he was unaware of Foley's actions and believes the scandal to be a ploy by Democrats as midterm elections near.

"I have done nothing wrong and for me to resign would just play into the hands of our opponents," the speaker told radio host Rush Limbaugh. "If they get to me it looks like they could affect our election as well."

"It is interesting that many asking him to resign are Republicans," said Dixon. He explained that the matter has become a political issue and

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Saddam Goes Out of Court for the Third Time at Genocide Trial

Shenita Ann McLean
Staff Writer

Saddam Hussein's trial for genocide against the Kurdish people continued after Hussein was thrown out of court because he could not remain quiet during proceedings on Sept. 26. Hussein and a co-defendant were thrown out during the trial by the newly selected chief judge Mohammad al-Ureib - a judge who threw Hussein out of two previous hearings.

Hussein was allegedly passionate about his words and told the judge what was really on his mind. "Is this the justice that you rule people with? Let this kind of justice be damned," the former ruler declared.

According to The Hindu News Update Service, the outburst started when Hussein refused to be quiet after repeated requests from the judge. While clutching his Quran, Hussein made a speech interrupting the prosecution's questioning of a witness.

Al-Ureib was apparently furious and told Hussein to "shut up" before he decided to eject the defendant from the courtroom. According to Daily News and Analysis, Hussein left smiling. His six co-defendants tried to follow them but the judge demanded that they return to their seats.

Hussein's co-defendants shouted in uproar and pointed fingers at al-Ureib. According to Daily News and Analysis, "The courtroom went silent" as the judge left on for television broadcasts.

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From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

EARTH TALK

Dear EarthTalk: What environmental impacts should our community expect if we allow Wal-Mart to open up a store nearby?

-- Jon Jones, Dayton, IA

With more than 6,000 stores spread out across the globe, Wal-Mart is the world's biggest retailer, hands down, and also a magnet for criticism for its low wages, inadequate health coverage and effect on struggling downtowns. Wal-Mart has also had its share of environmental problems.

Environmentalists complain that the company's stores—often on the outskirts of rural communities—are up open space, replacing farms and forests with concrete and pavement. And the company has been fined repeatedly in recent years by various agencies for environmental negligence. For example, in 2005, Wal-Mart paid $1.5 million in fines to the state of Connecticut for improper storage of pesticides and other toxins that polluted streams near its stores there, according to the website WakeUpWalMart.com.

A year earlier, Florida fined the company $765,000 for violating petroleum storage tank laws at its auto service center. The company admits that it failed to register, its fuel tanks and to install devices that prevent overflow, and that it did not perform monthly monitoring, and that it blocked state inspections. That same year, Georgia fined Wal-Mart $150,000 for contaminating water outside of Atlanta.

And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency penalized the company $3 million in 2004 for violating the Clean Water Act in nine states. The company was also forced to change its building practices to prevent future water contamination. This came on the heels of a $1 million fine for Clean Water Act violations at 17 locations in four other states. Wal-Mart also agreed to establish a $4.5 million environmental management plan to improve its compliance with environmental laws at construction sites.

Wal-Mart says that change is afoot within the company. CEO Lee Scott has said that sustainability in all its forms is a key concern moving forward. "As one of the largest companies in the world, with an expanding global presence, environmental problems are our problems," Scott told company employees last October.

Scott's green vision includes powering facilities and fleet with renewable energy, cutting back on waste, and selling green products. Wal-Mart reportedly crafted their...
Compiled by Greg Kyriakakis

China's Animal Olympics Outrage World

Bears, monkeys, elephants, and other lovable creatures took part in China's biannual Animal Olympic Games at the Shanghai Wildlife Park. The Daily Mail reported that as part of the competition, champs were forced to play basketball and apparently lift huge weights, while a docile brown bear is dressed in a tutu while navigating a makeshift obstacle course. The events, attended by thousands of spectators, also included sea lions battling for the high jump record, elephant tug of war, and kangaroo versus human boxing matches. Critics, such as the Born Free foundation, contend that the games are "degrading for the animals, insulting to our intelligence and a disaster for any possible chance of increasing respect for the wild animals we share the world with."

Breast Implants Save Woman from Death, Deflate

A Bulgarian woman is alive after her breast implants acted as an airbag during a car accident. According to AFP, the 24-year-old was driving her car in Ruse when she ran a red light and collided with another vehicle. A local paper claimed that "the two cars were crumpled past recognition in the crash but the woman's silicone breasts acted as airbags and saved her life." Tragically, the implants did not survive the wreck.

Police Lose 6,000 "Little Paragraphs" after Computer Crash

St. Louis, MO, police have a slight problem after a week's worth of crime reports were lost when a computer system crashed. Apparently not the type to back up potentially important data, the Associated Press reported that a three-year-old server died, just as new hardware literally stood in the same room waiting for installation. Officers may have to recreate narrative portions, or "little paragraphs," as the director of planning and technology Barbara Wright calls them, of up to 6,000 files. Though there was suspicion that a disgruntled employee may have deleted the data, Wright said that the man "had no ability to do that." Nevertheless, an investigation by the police fraud unit is underway.

Mom Declares Marijuana Aesthetically Pleasing, Allows Son to Grow

A Hillsborough County woman was charged with allowing her son to grow marijuana in the yard. Esther Soto did not mind that her underage child was growing the drug because "it was a nice looking plant," reported the Associated Press. Seventy-three grams of marijuana were found in the home as Soto was charged with felony possession and a misdemeanor of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Her green-thumbed son also faces charges.

Screaming Phone Hopes to Deter Thieves

A new cell phone service introduced in London causes stolen phones to emit an "ear-piercing scream" when stolen. The screaming will not stop until the battery is removed, and the phone will not operate even with a new SIM card, stated the Associated Press. For $18 a month, Remote XT will store customer information in a centralized location so that in the event of a theft, all personal data can be restored. The managing director of the company feels that the nightmarish feature will cause "the market for stolen handsets [to be] stamped out once and for all."

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News from Around the World

Compiled by Paul Saneaux

Africa
U.N. to move Sudanese refugees in Chad

In a press conference on Oct. 6, a spokesman of the U.N. refugee agency announced that it would be moving several thousand Sudanese refugees in Chad away from the border to avoid an increase risk of violence in the Darfur region and from local rebels. The agency, UNHCR, is reportedly going to assist about 213,000 Sudanese in eastern Chad who have long migrated from the western Sudan to escape "ethnic and political violence" that has killed "tens of thousands of people and displaced more than two million since 2003." Spokesman of UNHCR in Chad, Matthew Conway, told reporters that the agency has asked the refugees seeking shelter in Chad to be moved further into Chad's borders "because of the deteriorating situation in Darfur, where Sudan's government refuses to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force." Peace has also not been guaranteed in eastern Chad, where rebels fighting to overthrow President Idiiss Deby have been in conflict with government troops. Conway commented, saying "there are fears that the situation is deteriorating further in Darfur, with refugees risking being caught between two fires, Darfur and the Chadian rebellion."

For more information, visit www.reuters.com.

North America
U.S. Navy medic testify in Iraqi civilian death case

According to a report by MSNBC News Services, "a Navy corporan testified Friday, Oct. 6 that Marines in his patrol seized an Iraqi civilian from his home, thereDecorating the two-year old, drilled at least 10 bullets in his head after growing frustrated in their search for an insurgent." Petty Officer Third Class Melson J. Bacos, a medic in his patrol, was charged in addition to seven other Marines for the murder of Hisham Ibrahim. Award last spring. However, Bacos, 21, escaped prosecution when "he "struck a deal" with prosecutors to plead guilty to kidnapping and conspiracy and testify against fellow corporals. "I knew what we were doing was wrong," Bacos said in his testimony. "I knew we were doing something wrong and I tried to say something." Although Bacos was the first of the group to be court-martialed, the seven Marines could face life in prison. During the trial, prosecutors argued that the servicemen killed Award out of frustration and then planted an AK-47 assault rifle and a show by the body to make it look as if he had been caught digging a hole for a roadside bomb." Bacos explained that squad leader Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins was "just mad" that their task involved capturing an insurgent that was captured on three separate occasions and released each occasion.

For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.

Middle East
Iraqi police forces suffered 4,000 casualties in past two years

The U.S. commander in charge of police training in Iraq has told the Associated Press that over the last two years more than 4,000 Iraqi police have been killed in duty and that more than 8,000 have been injured. Despite the discouraging figure, he added that "the forces have regained some professionalism and officials are working to weed out militiamen" that have been inflicting the casualties. Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, a main goal has been "beefing up Iraq's security forces...to stop the violence that has torn the country." The increase in police forces has also been matched by increasing targeting of police by Sunni insurgents. The Sunni claim that the police, led by Shiite officials, has instigated sectarian violence that has killed thousands this year alone. They also claim the police have formed death squads of Shiite militants that kidnap and kill Sunnis. U.S. military officials have investigated the claims but Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson said "it is hard to tell how many militia members have infiltrated the police forces."

For more information, visit www.cnbc.com.

South America
Miners defend mine with dopamine

The Associated Press reported that the Bolivian government deployed 700 additional police to quell a deadly clash that flared anew as rival bands of miners hurled dynamite at one another in a battle over one of South America's richest tin mines. Officials told reporters that at least 11 people have been killed and more than 50 have been injured during the fighting that began the week of Oct. 2. The independent miners' cooperative aliied with President Evo Morales against miners employed by the Bolivian state mining company. The tin mine, located on the slopes of the Potosi Mountain, is surrounded by ridges that the miners have used to fight one another. Reporters saw miners carrying dynamite and home-made explosives in backpacks and on their belts while others threw explosives at rival miners who were less than 50 feet away. Bolivia's National Police Commander Isaac Pimental told the press that he is sure the additional police will calm the violence but said he was not sure when a truce would be made.

For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.
Election continued from page 3

Teammates deny allegations of any type of racist behavior from Republican candidate George Allen during his college years

A former ROTC member, Dan Cragg, who knew Webb from his college years at the University of Southern California in the 1960’s, has also criticized the challenger. Cragg said that he and Webb, along with other ROTC members, used to drive around black neighborhoods yelling racial slurs and pointing fake guns at African Americans.

He has also been criticized by several female Naval Academy graduates who said that they had a very difficult time in the Academy because of the article that Webb published against women in combat.

Both candidates have fallen under criticism for their actions during college. Many Republicans have argued that the Democrats cannot use the race card against their candidate because Webb seems to be mixed up with several racist acts of his own. According to the Associated Press, this political race is going to come down to the real political issues of today.

Saddam continued from page 3

allowing all Iraqis to watch and listen during several minutes of courtroom pandemonium. Al-Uberi also ejected Hussein’s co-defendant, former defense minister Sultan Hashim, forcing the recess.

“They cannot come back into today’s session,” one of the officials said. When the hearing had finally recommenced it was the first time that the genocide trial had proceeded without the defendants present.

Hussein and his six co-defendants were responsible for the deaths of an estimated 180,000 Kurdish villagers in 1988, including thousands killed by poison gas. The trial has consisted of poignant testimonies from villagers.

Hussein and his cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, are both facing genocide charges while the remaining five co-defendants face charges for mass murder and crimes against humanity.

A verdict was expected to be announced on Oct. 16, but the Associated Press reported that it was “delayed until at least the end of the month while judges take extra time to review the evidence and make sure their case is airtight.”

Some fear that the verdict may spark further violence; if Hussein is sentenced to death, Sunnis may become enraged, yet a lesser sentence could upset the Shiites who were oppressed by the dictator.

Disgraced continued from page 3

Though some ... Bay Buchanan, president of American Cause, said in a Detroit Free Press report that they “had predator stamped all over it.”

by resigning, Hastert would only “magically the scope of the problem,” making the scandal more prominent.

House majority whip Roy Blunt said that he would have handled the situation differently. “You have to be curious, you have to ask all the questions you can think of,” Blunt told the Associated Press. “You absolutely can’t decide not to look into activities because one individual’s parents don’t want you to.”

Speaking at a school in California, President Bush said that he “was disgusted by the revelations and disappointed that he would violate the trust of the citizens that placed him in office.” AFP reported that the president did not call for Webb’s resignation and remained confident that the speaker “will provide whatever leadership he can to law enforcement” during a probe into Foley’s conduct.

Since leaving office, Foley has entered an alcoholism rehabilitation clinic. His attorney David Bach also revealed that the former congressman had been sexually abused by a clergyman “between the ages of 13 and 15.” Suspicions about Foley’s homosexuality were also confirmed.

AHH reported that Joe Negron will replace Foley in the upcoming election. “You are not voting for Mark Foley, you are voting for the Republican nominee, and I’m not Mark Foley,” Negron reassured disgruntled voters.

Earth continued from page 2

Walmart is working toward a vision that will include high-powered facilities with renewable energy and less waste

greening plan with the help of Ron McCormick, an executive in the company’s produce division, and other “Our whole focus is: How can we move forward. Walmart is already buying a wide variety of produce based on what’s available in each region, instead of shipping produce across the country. “Our whole focus is: How can we reduce food-miles?” he says.

The green attitude also extends to other products, with the company increasing offerings of sustainably harvested fish and organic cotton clothing and bedding. Critics say that Wal-Mart is so focused on profit that such efforts will never stick. Only time will tell if Scott’s vision for a greener Wal-Mart becomes reality.

CONTACTS:

Got an Environmental Question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/; or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

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By Kristine Belzaire
Distribution Manager

On Oct. 14, CSA at NSU will hold their first party of the fall semester, which will be an all-white party where attendees have the option of following the all white theme by dressing up in white clothes.

A CSA tradition since 2000, the event is intended to promote the Caribbean culture and will feature Caribbean-style food and music, including reggae music and Soca music, which is a mix of Trinidad's calypso and Indian music and rhythms.

"Students should attend the all-white party because it is a good college experience, especially for people who like the Caribbean culture. It is also an opportunity to have a good time and socialize with other people," said Noelia Contreras, Vice President of CSA.

Sophomore and Biology major Tocarra Cunningham, who attended the event last year, said "It was great, I met a lot of new people and I look forward to the next one."

This event is free to all NSU students with their NSU ID. The party is also open to the public for a fee of $5. The event will be held in the old flight deck in the Rosenthal Building from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

FEST continued from page 1

Food and fun abound during German festival

The Student Union, of the significance of hosting the German celebration at NSU. At the event, students mingled and listened to German music while enjoying traditional German food which included sausage, bratwurst, weinerschnitzel, potato salad, roasted potatoes and cranberry sauce served by the members of SUB. Students were also given free beer steins, which are traditional German beer mugs. Attendees that were 21 years old and over could purchase German beer at the bar for $1.

Students appeared to be having a good time at the event. "I have never seen this many people in the flight deck," remarked freshman biology major Danielle Padgett. Senior business major Natalie Cadavid agreed, saying, "I think that it was a successful event that brought a lot of people out."
The Center for Psychological Studies at NSU needs volunteers ages 21-65 with diagnosed type-2 diabetes to participate in a study examining predictors of healthy outcomes. The study will take 60-75 minutes and involves measuring blood sugar, height and weight, and surveys about emotions and healthy behaviors. Participants receive a $10 Target gift certificate and a package of diabetes care materials, including an Abbott Freestyle blood sugar monitor and an exercise video. Volunteers are not eligible if diagnosed with type-1 diabetes, heart disease, atherosclerosis, kidney disease, or vision problems. For more information or to register for the study, please leave a voicemail with name and phone number at 954-262-5706. A member of the study will return the call.

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**Movie Review:**

The Science of Great Filmmaking

The Science of Sleep is sure to leave you speechless

Stephanie Rubino  
A & E Editor

It seems that filmmaker Michel Gondry is obsessed with the human mind, and its workings as he brings us his newest creation, The Science of Sleep. Much like his first full-length feature film, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, The Science of Sleep examines a specific function of the human mind, its ability to create. Stephane, who takes his mother's name and makes him miserable. Bernal serves as the most perfect Stephane and Stephanie because the chemistry between them makes the viewer feel the tension, anger, and joy that they share together as if it were real. Due to Gondry's incredible filmmaking, he does a great job of really pulling the viewer into the story, making the situations very realistic, even in Stephanie's dreams.

It's truly amazing how Gondry can capture raw emotion and, more specifically, heartbreak, the way that he does. He takes scenes that could be utterly emotionless to most theater patrons and turns them into something that grabs a hold of emotions. He did it well in Eternal Sunshine, but now he seems to have perfected it; the flexibility of Bernal's acting doesn't hurt either.

The only thing that the typical American movie-goer might find a little "hokey" is Gondry's use of claymation instead of typical computer generated images and graphics. However, it's not hokey at all. Bernal and Gainsbourg serve as the most perfect Stephane and Stephanie. It's truly amazing how Gondry can capture raw emotion and, more specifically, heartbreak, the way that he does. He takes scenes that could be utterly emotionless to most theater patrons and turns them into something that grabs a hold of emotions. He did it well in Eternal Sunshine, but now he seems to have perfected it; the flexibility of Bernal's acting doesn't hurt either.

The film's real downfall is that there is more than an emphasis put on claymation, the soundtrack, and scenery than there was on dialogue and scene transitions. It would be easy for anybody not familiar with Gondry's style to get lost or not understand the story correctly. As far as the film goes, I'm pretty sure that most people seeing it are Gondry fans. When my friends and I walked out of the theater, we were speechless and did not do our usual critique of the film. We just didn't know what to say. The film was stunning and sure to inspire some "oohs" and "ahs". Despite a few little kinks in the story and production, the imagery is incredible, the characters are intense and easy to love, and the film is all-in-all an incredible success.

**CD Review:**

A New Label Can't Cramp their Style

Stephanie Rubino  
A & E Editor

If there's something the Decemberists hate that other bands don't, it's their ability to tell creative and vibrant stories with their lyrics. They use vivid language and perfect rhyming to illustrate a view of the world that is sometimes beautiful and sometimes very dreary. After an unexpected move to Capitol Records, the Decemberists put their skills to good use to bring us their fourth album, The Crane Wife.

After their jump to a major label, the Decemberists may prove to be one of the most important albums to come from the Decemberists. It seems they must have a great contract, because instead of changing their sound (as most bands do after the jump) they've simply perfected it. The Crane Wife has some of the best material I've ever heard from them and I won't be surprised if their next album off of Capitol is just as excellent.

As always, it's lead singer Colin Meloy's incredibly literate story telling that makes most of their albums so great, but on The Crane Wife they've done something a bit different. They use heavy instrumental parts to help tell their stories and the instruments are right there along with Meloy's wunderfully nasal voice; not to mention the fact that they make an electric guitar sound just as stunning as a classical piano.

They're also incredibly skilled at taking a story that is completely gloomy and depressing and using the music to make it seem cheery and easy to sing along with. On "O, Valencia," they do just that. With lyrics about a forbidden love affair ending in a very dramatic and surprising death, it would seem like there was no way to turn this song into something that people could sing along to, but after one listen, I was whistling it all day long.

The truly wonderful thing about this record is its diversity. The songs go from a very instrumental and very progressive 10-minute interlude to a pretty eerily lullaby-style type song to an accordion-filled ballad that seems to compare war to the big ocean blue. Also, the album seems to have a lot of different themes, one being love of course (like any well constructed indie album) and was, but they're not so quick to reveal that; it's hidden beneath the surface.

My personal favorite on this album is "Summersong", which is slightly romantic and completely opposite of any song about summer you'll ever here. Meloy sings about a summer as if it is a beautiful girl that he's sitting with on the beach. The horn section of this song aids in the depression of Meloy as he watches summer "get swallowed by a wave."

All-in-all, The Crane Wife will be a great surprise for all those skeptics of major labels and what they do to great bands. Meloy and crew have managed to create another beautiful album that will fit well in anybody's collection. I can't wait to hear more from them in the future.
behind
continued from page 1

has an overhead view of the area of play and can click on people and buildings to access menus of various actions.

At the start, I had to build chapels and develop housing for my holy army (an atheist running a holy army, ha!). Chapels, similar to barracks in other games, are used to train musicians and disciples. Now, here is where it gets strange: musicians roam around and play music (duh!), but their music influences non-believers to join the Tribulations Forces. This introduces the Spirit feature; each human has a Spirit rating. The higher the spirit, the higher chance they will join the TF, the lower the spirit, the more likely they will join the nasty GCP or a number of unruly street gangs looking to rough up the goodly people. The disciples basically wander the streets (unarmed, I should mention) and stop non-believers to convince them to join.

In Command in Conquer, the player is armed with brutal weaponry, in LB:EF, the player is armed only with faith. As far as I could tell from the demo, the TF have no weapons. Spirit is defense and Spirit is a weapon. I understand that the TF should be a peaceful group, why do they not have any physical forms of protection? In my first encounter with the GCP (who are armed with assault rifles and wear SWAT gear, mind you), the only option I was given was to have my small army gather in a group and pray to raise their Spirit. Let's just say the GCP squads surrounded my band of praying people and sprayed them with gunfire. Is the controversy obvious now?

I researched the game online and looked at videos to see if there was some way to defend members of the TF but only found the same scenario. Even in the official trailer released by Left Behind Games, the groups of TF members simply gets slaughtered by the GCP. I am assuming the Spirit feature further develops later in the game to somehow allow the player to defend and actually attack, but that is yet to be seen.

As for gameplay, there is nothing new with this game that hasn't been done in other RTS games. Graphically, LB:EF is aesthetically pleasing; at various points in the game there are large numbers of people on the screen and there is plenty action going on.

CD Review:

An Album Apart

Bande A Part will definitely be a surprise to all

Stephanie Rubino
A & E Editor

Two years ago, Nouvelle Vague shocked the world, or at least the independent label scene, with their debut packed with cheeky bossa nova covers of various post-punk, early punk, and new wave acts (including Joy Division, Depeche Mode, the Clash, and others). Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, they released Bande A Part, which brings back that early-80's rebellion of songs by the Buzzcocks, New Order, and Blondie, and turns them into cheerful bossa nova compositions.

The album is filled with familiar '80's hits that have been turned into something that is almost completely opposite of their originals. Songs that could be considered somewhat depressing or intense or even too "heavy" for some have been transformed into detailed and charismatically crafted music that can be listened to even when having a cocktail on the beach. Don't be mistaken; I love the originals, but what Nouvelle Vague has done is turn these songs into more "user friendly" versions, even friendly enough for a young child who would love the bounce and rhythms of these covers.

Even though I'm a huge fan of New Order, I don't know which version of "Blue Monday" is better, the original or Nouvelle Vague's take on it. The percussion on the cover is certainly notable and even more so, the woman singing turns this song about a pretty miserable love affair into something completely magic and almost fun. Not to mention the playful piano that picks up the voice and carries it throughout the song. You'll definitely be able to tap your foot to the cover, which can't really be said for the original.

Most people would be the most familiar with Nouvelle Vague's covers of "Heart of Glass" (Blondie) and "Dancing with Myself" (Billy Idol). The Blondie cover is almost completely unlike the original; it is stripped down from its electronic instruments to acoustic guitars, various percussion instruments, and even an accordion. The major difference is, of course, the undeniable cheerfulness that Nouvelle Vague seems to stick into every one of their songs and the fact that a man sings this version, which actually makes the song quite interesting to listen to.

Now, "Dancing with Myself" has to be the most outgoing song on the whole album. Billy Idol's original version sounds almost completely depressed, but Nouvelle Vague's version sounds like something that would come out of West Side Story, with snapping, horns, and even what sounds like a sort of tap dancing in the background. The song is so upbeat, you almost wouldn't know how sad and lonely the song really is.

One of the more obscure covers on the album is the Buzzcocks' "Ever Fallen in Love." Nouvelle Vague's creativity really shows on this track: they've made one of post-punk's best songs sound almost Latin and completely danceable. Surprising as this may be, this track shows that Nouvelle Vague can truly handle anything; they could take even the most angry and heavy of songs and turn them into head-bobbing sing-alongs. This track is one of the tracks I play the most from this album, and the original definitely doesn't put me in high spirits like Nouvelle Vague's version does.

Personally, I'm impressed with Nouvelle Vague's abilities. They've made post-punk and new wave very easily accessible and hopefully will encourage young listeners to check out the music that made their grandparents scratch their heads 25 years ago. Bande A Part has to be one of the best cover albums (besides their debut and the Ramones' Acidrcites) I have heard in my very short life. Hopefully, more bands interested in doing a cover album will take a few lessons from these guys.


Do the Tribulations Forces really have a chance? It doesn't look like it so far.

This game, despite striking a couple nerves, has me thoroughly confused. I have no idea what the finished product will be like when it is released in November, but I know for sure that it will insult at least a few atheists and Christians alike.
Men's Cross Country Team Wins FLRunners.com Invitational

Eskender Abdalla Finishes 2nd Overall and Earns SSC Runner of the Week Honors

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

On Sept. 29, the men's and women's cross country teams competed in the FLRunners.com Cross Country Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

The men's team took home the title as Eskender Abdalla finished second overall. He finished the 5k run in 16:23.07, about 10 seconds behind winner Jeremy DaVall. For the week of Oct. 2, Abdalla was also honored with SSC runner of the week for the second time in 2006. On Sept. 5, he earned male runner of the week after assisting NSU to a third place finish in the Sharks Invitational. Behind Abdalla was sophomore Robert Maughan, who finished in fifth place with a time of 17:25.46. Chad Turnipseed finished in 21st place with a time of 18:06.58. Overall, the Sharks totaled 31 points, finishing 24 points ahead of Division I Florida Atlantic, who had 55 points. Bethune-Cookman finished in 3rd place with 98 points.

NSU's women's cross country team finished in second place as a team with 99 points. Florida Atlantic University finished in first place with only 36 points. Coming in third place was the University of Central Florida with 107 points as a team. Leading the Sharks was sophomore Bethany Benkus who finished in seventh place with a time of 19:55.58 in the 5k race. Stef Cevallos finished in 13th place with a time of 20:18.35. Freshman Tara Haddock finished in 16th place with a time of 20:32.80. Courtney Clearwaters finished with a time of 21:25.47. Jaynie Brooks finished with a time of 21:48.45. Alice Henley finished with a time of 22:22.27, and Daylouse Ojeva finished with a time of 22:46.17.

NSU Men’s Soccer Team Defeats Barry University 4-2

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

NSU's men's soccer team (6-3-1; 2-0-1 SSC) hosted their first SAAC night on Sept. 20 while taking on Barry University, who they defeated 4-2.

NSU's men jumped on the Buccaneers in the first two minutes of the game. Anton Siedtixx, a freshman who has contributed greatly to the Sharks success thus far, made the first goal of the game after receiving a key assist from freshman Michael Collins.

Unfortunately for the men's soccer team, their SAAC night was a wet one. Once NSU registered a couple more goals from Collins, as well as freshman Michael Kammermeyer, the Sharks battled heavy rain and the game was put on delay.

Once returning from the postponement, the Buccaneers pulled it together to score twice, adding pressure for NSU as the score shot up, 3-2. Upon facing a bit of struggle in the last few minutes of the game where it seemed Barry was about to tie the game up, senior Lorcan Cronin sealed the deal by making a goal off a break from left to right: Robert Maughan, Chad Turnipseed, Eskender Abdalla, and Brandon Petersen race against other schools. Photos by NSU Sports Information

NSU Takes Down Barry, but Loses to St. Leo

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

NSU women's soccer team (8-1-0; 2-1 SSC) ended their first loss of the 2006 season while battling out conference rivals, St. Leo University, 1-0.

However, prior to the Sharks’ loss to the Lions, NSU put an end to an on-going losing streak they were battling out with Barry University. The Sharks overwhelmed the Buccaneers, dominating the field and never letting up, ending it with a

NSU Volleyball Team Defeated by Lynn University

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

NSU’s women's volleyball team (6-14-0; 0-6 SSC) were defeated by conference rivals of Lynn University while on their home court on the University center in a 4-game match as well as losing to Barry University in a total of 5-games while on the road.

On Sept. 30 the Sharks made their way down to Miami Shore where they battled it out with the Buccaneers, taking them to a fifth game where the deciding factor was made by a service ace by one of Barry's key players. Despite the loss, NSU senior libero Itza Miranda maintained her strong defense by putting up 15 digs. Alongside Miranda's success was fellow teammate, senior Megan Johansen who had 55 set assists; as well as 12 digs of her own.

"Despite the numbers
## Men's Cross Country

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## Women's Cross Country

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## Men's Soccer

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## Women's Soccer

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## Men's and Women's Cross Country

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<tr>
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## Men's and Women's Golf

**Men's Golf**

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<td>Valdosta St. U.</td>
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<td>Barry University</td>
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**Women's Golf**

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## Men's Soccer

**SSC Men's Soccer Standings**

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## Women's and Men's Golf

**Men's Golf**

| Oct 13-14 | Stetson Hatter Invitational at the Sportcomplex in DeLand, FL at 4 p.m. |

**Women's Golf**

| Oct 10-11 | Home game against Lynn University at 7 p.m. |
| Oct 14-15 | Game against Florida Southern College - Lakeland, FL at 2 p.m. |
OCTOBER

One Shark fan believes it is just a matter of time before the NSU Volleyball team takes it home

the team's record puts up I think our team is awesome," NSU Shark fan and sophomore cheerleader, Stefanie DiMichele said. "I try to go to as many games as I get the opportunity to and they seem confident, determined and hard working, it's just a matter of time before it all comes together for the girls."

Following the two important conference games, the Sharks faced Florida Gulf Coast once again. The nationally ranked Eagles triumphed over NSU in 3 short games.

"I think our girls are confident, determined and excited; it was the nail in the coffin," Senior Lorcan Cronin said in reference to the argument. "Lorcan's goal was great; it was the nail in the coffin," added Kegan. He is credited for the assist in NSU's third goal of the game.

NSU's bench, instigated by a Barry assist in the dying minutes of the game, began to jump up. To one another. Their next victory:"

Hayley Oligane does her best to keep the ball away from the defender.

BARRY

continued from page 11

Women's Soccer endure their first loss of the 2006 season

Hayley Oligane does her best to keep the ball away from the defender.

Shark Bites

By Alicia Winslett

Men's Golf

Oct. 1 and 2, the men's golf team competed in the Alico/Cougar Invitational in Columbus, Ga., and played at the Green Island Country Club. The course was 6,445 yards, par 71. Host Columbus State University won team titles with a total of 566. The Sharks finished in sixth place with a team total of 577. Freshman Eric Cole led the Sharks, finishing the two-day tournament even par 142. Cole finished tied for 11th place out of 96 golfers. Taking home the individual title was Johan Cronwall of Georgia College and State University with a two-day total of 138, four under par. Behind Cole was senior Michael Davenport who finished tied for 17th with a two-day total of 143.

Women's Tennis

On Sept. 30, the women's tennis team competed in the ITA Regional Tournament. Alex Korokievich won her round of 16 match against Florida Gulf Coast's Maria Braniecka 7-5, 6-4. Korokievich won her quarterfinals match against Senka Sofic of Florida Southern 6-2, 6-1. However, Korokievich lost her semifinals match to Alex Shunk of Lynn, 6-1, 7-5. Stark newsgazer Edita Kalichova lost her round of 16 match to Senka Sofic 6-1, 6-4. Korokievich and Tripp Waterman also played in doubles action. Together, they lost their quarterfinal match against Marnie Mahler and Tasi Purcell of Rollins, 9-8.

Women's Volleyball

On Oct. 3, Florida Gulf Coast took down NSU in three games by the scores of 30-13, 30-15, and 30-17. The Eagles now have fourteen consecutive wins. The Sharks are now 6-14 in the polls. Melinda Gorman led NSU with seven kills. Karla Ortiz had six kills, and Iraza Miranda recorded nine digs in the games.

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Dear NSU Community,

What’s new is occasionally confusing, as many undergraduates have noticed this past week.

Reading week seems to be a new thing here, and it’s apparent that some people don’t really understand what’s going on. This may be because some professors aren’t really acknowledging the days off, which has their students wondering what kind of effect that it’s going to have on their exam schedule. A few people have even been sufficiently confused to ask me what’s up, and to tell the truth, the best I’ve been able to do is shake my head and tell them that I don’t know any better than they do.

Hopefully, things will be a little clearer by the time anyone reads this, but since I’m writing it on Wednesday, everyone is on a different page.

In any event, we’re a few days away from the semester break, and run to class just don’t have one.

Sincerely,

Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief

---

A Fly on the Wall:

By Paul Saneaux
Managing Editor

It is easy to tell there is something amiss when I leave the Goodwin classroom after the senate meeting with a hefty three page document of single-spaced notes on what just happened in that room in the last hour and 45 minutes. That means there was a lot of discussion and miscommunication that accompanied the legislation on the table. And my job is to summarize 1,800 words of notes into less than 900 words that won’t bore the reader to a horrible death. How else is the student body supposed to find out what happened when the SGA meeting is as popular as a DMV office on a Saturday?

In the previous installment I mentioned how the SGA tends to discuss certain issues with a degree of unnecessary detail at times, but that is usually the result of some proportional degree of confusion, be it the fault of the SGA or a class (or both). Well, the start of the meeting saw a couple pieces of legislation pass and fly by so fast my poor typing fingers short circuited and froze. I don’t know how much what I say holds sway exactly, but I did not imply that the SGA should rush. Discussion is necessary and important, but only when it is in the proper amount. Everything in moderation, right? Nevertheless, the SGA did a better job this time around in avoiding trivial questions with some issues.

A bill that flew was IMAN’S Fast-A-Thon bill that returned from the previous week. The bill was read and revealed that IMAN was asking for $3,700 in funding, more than when the bill was first presented. Residential Senator Eta Mills asked why the bill was asking for so much and the IMAN representative answered, saying that IMAN was co-sponsoring with OASIS and thus included more people, food, and seating in the bill. Nearly no discussion and the bill was passed with a vote of 4-2-0.

The issues and trends this bill brings up were overlooked. The bill asked for $3,700 and the club representative mentioned previously that this event raised nearly two grand for charity last year. While I am sure that this is a great event and that the money is going to a great charity, why is the requested amount far more than the money the event is able to raise? This is the case for most clubs’ philanthropic events. In addition, most clubs’ contribution is usually next to nothing. I’ve heard one half-joking question escape the lips of many people: would it not just be easier to cut a check to the charity? Of course it would, but the SGA’s...

---

The Big Questions

As college students, we are used to the class/study/test cycle: We take a course, study the information, demonstrate our knowledge by giving the correct answers on an exam, and (hopefully) earn a good grade. This pattern of gauging how well we are doing by how well we respond to questions is so much a part of our lives as students that it becomes normal to think success is all about having the right answers.

But is it possible that success can be just as much tied to having the right questions as the right answers? Maybe even having questions for which we have no answers? Confused yet? I’m not talking about academic success now but about leading a meaningful, fulfilling life. Asking the “big” questions in life may not directly lead to an A on a test, but it could make you a happier person.

So what are the big questions? These are the questions that make us stop and ponder what life is all about, what matters most, what kind of people we want to be. The Multicultural and Spiritual Affairs program here at NSU sponsors a yearly contest called the Life Questions contest. Last year, 64 questions were submitted. Each one asking a “big” question to promote deep thought within the NSU community.

Some of the questions touch on identity, such as “How do you define yourself?” Some of them have to do with how we treat other people, such as “How can I choose love over judgment?” Other questions address our purpose in life, such as “What will you do with today?” and “What is your life passion?” Another subject those submitting questions confronted was the issue of meaning. One submission was “What is the meaning of your life?” Another was simply, “What matters?”

The questions were all great because they make us think about the important stuff in life. The Life Questions Contest Committee has made their selection of the five winning questions. Look for an announcement of the winners in next week’s paper. And start considering what question you might want to submit for this year’s contest!

Yes, it’s great to have answers, especially when we’re taking a test. But remember to value questions themselves. Ask yourself (and your friends) the big questions. It may be the start of a really cool conversation. We don’t have to have the answers at this point. Just the fact that we are thinking about these deep issues will add meaning to our lives.

Robin Cooper
G.A. for Multicultural and Spiritual Affairs
rubicooper@nsu.nova.edu
954-362-7253
FLY

continued from page 14

guidelines say that they cannot
directly donate to a charity.

Public

Relations Director Sean
Burque previously asked lMAN's
representatives

"why

aren't you

being self-sufficient, why are you
relying completely on the

SGA?"

Good question, very good, indeed.

I know it is difficult to fundraise as
a club, but most clubs have little
interaction with the

SGA that go

past the pocketbook. Clubs ask for
money then run off like muggers,
never to be seen until the next time
they are in need of some greenbacks.

SGA has become synonymous with
ATM. The SGA serves the students,
yet they, we, rarely show any sign
of appreciation past a mere
"thank

you" that may not even be sincere.

Moving on, another bill that
saw plenty of discussion was the
NSUSGA Networking Reception
Bill. Once again, this bill had a
simple goal which was to hold a
reception that would allow the

SGA to network with administrators in a
closed environment.

Here is the script. The first
question asked by the senators
was whether or not this event was
open to the students. President
Andrew Ibrahim summed it up
nicely: "Technically, no." Though
any event has to be open to the
students, the idea behind this bill,
as Ibrahim explained, is to have the

SGA network first and this way the

SGA will become better educated
and can better answer the questions
of students. Evan Fish, who was
later confirmed as the fraternity
senator, interjected and said that
the idea was a good one, but that
it was unfair because students
were not invited. The sororities
and fraternities would also like to
attend the reception, he assured.

Boyd then explained that the LDC
was planning a larger
reception for student leaders in December.

Confusion naturally arose as SGA
Advisor Terry Morrow pointed out
that Fish's point was missed.

"SGA Advisor Gary Gershman clarified
that this reception and the one planned by the

LDC had two different goals: the networking reception was for
the SGA and the administration only and the one planned by the
LDC was for networking among student leaders. Fish meant that
student leaders would like to meet

"the administrators. VPI Laxmi
LaBwan made it crystal clear the
purpose was to have the SGA meet the
administration in a closed
environment that would be more vis-

à-vis instead of having the students
overwhelm the administrators. The
bill was tabled unanimously anyway.
Apparently for revision. Exit stage left.

While the meaning of the bill
was lost in translation somehow,
I seriously doubt that the number
of students lining up to RSVP for
this event would take precedence
over what the SGA was trying to
accomplish. Let the SGA have
their one-on-one so they can better
serve the ungrateful students. The presence of students will minimize the
effectiveness of the networking
receptions. It is not like another
reception, if it is so desperately
desired, is not possible.

Additional (Quick) Notes

A bunch of people were
appointed to senate positions.

A resolution is in the works to
find storage space for clubs.

Ibrahim is close to securing a
student representative in the
board of trustees.

Correction

In the Oct. 3 Issue of The Current, the headline for the
Men's Soccer story on page 11 read: "NSU Men's Soccer Team
Downed by Eckerd
College, 2-1. However, the
Men's Soccer team was
defeated by St. Edwars
University, not Eckerd
College.
INAUGURAL NSU SHARKS
MIDNIGHT MADNESS
OCTOBER 14, 2006
10:00 P.M. AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER ARENA

IT’S TIME!

ARE YOU READY?

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
THREE-POINT SHOOTING CONTEST
SLAM-DUNK CONTEST
PERFORMANCE BY 2006-07 NSU CHEERLEADERS
UNVEILING OF 2006-07 NSU MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAMS

ADMISSION IS FREE AND FANS
WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE PART
IN CONTESTS TO WIN PRIZES: DELL COMPUTER PRODUCTS
A $2,500 HOUSING CREDIT AND FREE BOOKS FROM
THE NSU BOOKSTORE