Anxious Gamers Line Up for New Systems

By Greg Kyriakakis
Nation & World Editor

The next-generation console wars have arrived as Sony and Nintendo join Microsoft, which launched its Xbox 360 last year, in the cutting-edge era of high definition gaming. But for those looking to score a Playstation 3 or Wii, long lines and questionable preorder lists may squash dreams of owning the new systems on day one.

"I've been waiting since 11 a.m. yesterday," said Philip DiPatrizio, who, along with about eight others, formed a line at the Plantation Target on the Wednesday before the PS3's November 17 release. An employee said that the store expected eight units. The group sought shelter from a powerful lightning storm in their cars on Wednesday night and had to fend off rats and passersby questioning their sanity. Plantation police did stop by, but for the most part they were on their own.

Max Levental drove seven hours from Tallahassee to wait in the line at Target. He said that he was willing to camp out for a system, but he decided that Davie would be the best choice.

"It's really cold up there," Max said about his hometown. While many initially thought that they would keep their consoles, nearly all of those in line at Target are considering selling the PS3 on eBay after learning of the high asking prices.

"I heard they're going for about $3,000 to $5,000," said DiPatrizio. A search on the auction site shows a number of systems selling for about $2,500. The leading sale as of press time had 51 bids.

Those turning to eBay will likely be disappointed campers who were snubbed by Sony's initial shipment of only 400,000 PS3s. Retailers have been accepting preorders for both systems, but some like GameStop have had to deliver disappointing news to buyers and cancel some orders because of Sony's reduced shipment expectations.

Gavin Gordon, Junior Manager of the Tower Shops GameStop and a life-long Playstation fan was angry over the reduced shipment.

"Sony decided we only get eight. What happened to the 17 we were supposed to get?"

Those looking to score a Wii may have better luck; Lazard Capital Market analyst Colin Sebastian is banking on Nintendo releasing 1.2 million units and having 4 million shipped worldwide by the year's end. Analyst firm Merrill Lynch anticipates the Xbox 360 to dominate the next generation console wars in North America. "The winner... is likely to be the Xbox 360, which is the leader in North America, the world's biggest market," said analyst Yoshiyuki Kinoshita.

The firm, however, believes that Sony will retain its lead in Japan, where the American Xbox brand has typically not been well received. The PS3 is available in two configurations, retailing for $500 and $600 depending on features, and is arguably the most powerful of the next generation systems. The system also supports high definition Blu-ray discs (the Xbox 360 now supports competitor HD-DVD through a $200 add-on). Though its graphical power is marginally better than Nintendo's last console, the Gamecube, the Wii's main draw is its unique motion-sensing controller that allows for more interactive gameplay.
SAVE $10 OFF
your next purchase of $50 or more

Reward good on next purchase from November 13th through December 13th, 2006. Reward valid on regular, sale and clearance merchandise. Purchase total is before tax and excludes lottery tickets, taxes, carryout, warranties, licenses, concessions, co-pay on prescriptions, gasoline, tobacco, alcohol, Western Union, prior layaway payments, layaway payments, Kenmore gift card sales, postage, layaway payments, Sears Auto Center, Clean Mail, Carryout, Hearing Aids Center and all fees. All purchases must be within a single transaction. Only one (1) reward per transaction. Void if copied, transferred and where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. In the event of a return, reward savings may be deducted from your refund. Cash value 1/20¢. Reward may not be applied to payment in layaway and any Kmart or Sears Card® account, nor will it be replaced if lost or stolen. Reward void at the 1901 SOUTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE Kmart location only.
Electronic Voting Stirs Trouble in Florida

By Tanya Parres
Staff Writer

Florida's voting machines have come into question again this election season in the 13th Congressional District. According to the Associated Press, roughly 18,382 voters in Sarasota County skipped the House race despite the fact that they did cast their votes for the other races. The margin of error in that county alone was much higher than the remaining four counties in the district.

Republican candidate Vern Buchanan won by less than 0.2 percent over his Democratic challenger Christine Jennings with a difference of approximately 373 votes. According to the report, Florida law requires a machine recount if the difference between the candidates is less than half a percent and a manual recount if the difference is less than a quarter percent.

In order to perform the manual recount, officials must have the images on the electronic ballots that were cast. According to the state rules however, if a spot is empty then they have to assume that the voter meant to leave it blank. According to the report, Florida law requires a machine recount if the difference between the candidates is less than half a percent and a manual recount if the difference is less than a quarter percent.

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Sarasota County Elections Supervisor Kathy Dent said that the first recount has already been completed but has not shown a significant difference in the votes. Buchanan gained four votes but in governments still remained at 0.2 percent. Dent said that the first recount proved that the machines were working correctly, placing blame on the absentee ballot scanning machine and worker error. Lawyers for both candidates called an emergency hearing demanding their own experts be allowed to participate with the audit team sent to Sarasota by Florida Secretary of State.

Sarasota County Circuit Judge Deno Economou said that they would be allowed to bring in their own experts and delayed the state audit until they had a chance to gather their teams together.

Some students and faculty at NSU who voted in the election had different encounters with electronic machines and absentee ballots. "I thought it was much more organized than in previous years," said Sammy Garcia, a sophomore who voted by absentee ballot and hopes that the state continue the same voting measures in the future.

Diane Klein, a first year graduate student, found voting to be simple, but understood the problems they might pose for others. "I thought it was relatively easy, but I think it's a little bit complicated for people that are not so computer savvy," she said.

"It would be nice if they would have a paper copy just to make sure that everything you voted for came out correctly," said Rico Herman, a sophomore. "He found the machines easy but was not certain about the accuracy of their results."

Dane Gickowski, Director of Student Disability Services, was content with electronic voting. "I like them. I think that it makes the process more efficient," she said. Gickowski has used the machines several times in the past and never encountered problems. "I believe that they're reliable from what I've seen."

This election has been one of many that have aroused suspicion during this election cycle and one lawmaker has called to do something about it. Representative Rush Holt of New Jersey has sponsored a bill called "Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act," which will require a paper trail for all electronic voting. It would also ban the use of undocumented software as well as wireless and concealed communication devices in the voting machines. He has the support of 221 bipartisan members of the new Congress.

Study Abroad Choices of U.S. Students Change

By Shenita Ann McLean
Staff Writer

In the past, Britain was the study abroad "hot spot" for U.S. students, but this has changed as universities look elsewhere and Britain loses its stronghold. Students from the U.S. have been looking into countries such as Italy, France, and Spain to satisfy their educational needs.

As a regular part of their Open Doors Study, The Institute of International Education found that more than 32,000 Americans had enrolled in U.S. universities in 2006. Even though Britain remained the top choice for U.S. students, their enrollments were down by 0.5 percent, while institutions in Italy and Spain had gains of 13.4 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.

NSU Professor Steven Levitt believes that students' interest in Eastern Europe had to do with the changes there. "As Eastern Europe opens up and communism, falls, U.S. students have a wider variety of places to go like the Czech Republic or Poland. They have more of a choice than students in the 90s."

According to EducationGuardian. co.uk, the study also found that for the first time since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, enrollments by foreign students at U.S. institutions have stabilized.

"The U.S. is experiencing the same drops that are taking a toll in Britain. The number of foreign students enrolling at U.S. colleges has dropped for the first time since the 1970s."

Vice President of PIE Peggy Blumenthal is not seeing the numbers as a bad sign, but as encouragement. "I think everyone is relieved to see that the declines of the past few years have leveled out, and we're still seeing a bump in new students."

Blumenthal encourages students to leave their country and escape their culture to have an even more powerful learning experience.
Compiled by Greg Kyriakakis

**During Safety Demonstration, Child Fires Officer’s Gun**

A school gun safety demonstration in an Anderson, S.C., middle school apparently showed students how to be safe by ensuring they don’t recreate the deputy’s actions. The Associated Press reported that the deputy explained to children that it is very difficult to remove an officer’s gun from its holster. A youngster took that as a challenge and grabbed for the officer’s gun. As the bullet pierced the floor, deadly shards of debris filled the room, scratching two students. “The officer there today had a major lapse in judgment,” said the sheriff. “He was just trying to be nice to the kids... it was an accident.” The deputy has been placed on leave pending an investigation.

**KFC First Logo Visible from Space**

Known for their delectable poultry dishes, Kentucky Fried Chicken has accomplished a feat greater than their recent announcement of cooking healthier food. The fast food eatery’s first brand visible from space, according to Reuters. Constructed in the desert of Rachel, Nevada, KFC hopes that the Colonel’s welcoming visage encourages aliens to eat fast. “If there are extraterrestrials in outer space, KFC wants to become their restaurant of choice,” said KFC President Gregg Dedrick. He added that if astronauts or Martians see the logo and become hungry, he will “send up some Original Recipe Chicken.”

**Endangered Crocodiles Carried on Plane**

It may be a bad idea to tell airport security that you’re carrying live fish in your baggage. Yet, when the truth is there are three 1.5 foot long crocodiles in the bag, fish suddenly sounds much more reasonable. The Associated Press reported that Enrique Yu Castillo was caught in Manila after authorities were alerted that the man might try to sneak the endangered creatures into the Philippines from Phnom Penh. Castillo tried to legally import the crocodiles with a permit but was denied. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources plans to charge Castillo for attempting to smuggle the beasts.

**Thieves Caught by GPS-Equipped Rental Car**

Vehicular GPS devices are handy for navigating unfamiliar roads, but can, tragically, cause trouble for car thieves. After robbing a Richmond, V.A., Pizza Hut, four men drove off in their GPS-equipped rental car. The Times Dispatch reported that the rental car, which was obtained a few hours before the robbery, was tracked by the agency to its precise location.

To make matters worse for the would-be thieves, the rental agency owner was apparently showed students how to be safe by ensuring they don’t recreate the deputy’s actions. The Associated Press reported that the deputy explained to children that it is very difficult to remove an officer’s gun from its holster. A youngster took that as a challenge and grabbed for the officer’s gun. As the bullet pierced the floor, deadly shards of debris filled the room, scratching two students. “The officer there today had a major lapse in judgment,” said the sheriff. “He was just trying to be nice to the kids... it was an accident.” The deputy has been placed on leave pending an investigation.

for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC). The coalition urges cosmetics and household products manufacturers to sign on to a “Corporate Standard of Compassion for Animals” policy and agree to not conduct or commission animal tests or use any ingredient or formulation that is tested on animals. Companies portray the coalition’s “leaping bunny” logo on products as proof of their commitment. CCIC publishes a pocket-sized “cruelty free” shopping guide which can also be downloaded from its website.

**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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**News from Around the World**

**Middle East**

Israel to develop terrorist-fighting nanotechnology

According to a Reuters report and Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonoth, “Israel is using nanotechnology to try to create a robot no bigger than a hornet that would be able to chase, photograph and kill its targets.” While the details regarding the micro terrorist-killer are not known, the flying robot, dubbed the “bionic hornet,” is reportedly able to “navigate its way down narrow alleyways to target otherwise unreachable enemies such as rocket launchers.” The notion behind the use of nanotechnology is to find “creative solutions to problems the army has been unable to address,” said Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres. He reasoned that it is “illogical to send a plane worth $100 million against a suicidal terrorist” and so Israel is “building futuristic weapons.” Other weapons said to be in development by Israeli scientists include “super gloves that would give the user the strength of a ‘bionic man’” and a set of miniature sensors that “detect suicide bombers.” Nanotechnology is still a relatively new but Peres said that prototypes for the futuristic weapons are expected to be completed within the next three years.

For more information, visit www.reuters.com.

**South America**

Chavez loses influence worldwide, remains popular in Venezuela

A senior U.S. official said on Nov. 15 that Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez is “losing influence worldwide and his ‘rhetorical bombs’ against President Bush have back-fired.” A Reuters report said that Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns “pointed to Venezuela’s failure to win a seat on the U.N. Security Council as a sign of the firebrand Venezuelan leader’s waning importance.” Burns said that the Venezuelan people are starting to realize that Chavez “seeks to test people down” and relays his “rhetorical bombs” to gain power. U.S. officials also point to Chavez’s speech in which he called Bush the devil as the reason for the leaders’ loss of a seat in the U.N. Security Council in Panama. Though U.S. officials see Chavez’s power diminishing worldwide, Venezuelan election polls see his power remaining its hold. A poll of 2,964 people conducted between Oct. 26 and Nov. 1 showed that support for Chavez is at 57.8 percent while his rival, Manuel Rosales, holds 26.9 percent. The error margin was 2.4 percent. Other surveys also showed Chavez with an 18 to 35 point lead over Rosales. Chavez has reportedly “maintained his popularity by spending his country’s oil income on schools and clinics for the country’s long-neglected poor.”

For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.

**Africa**

Floods force thousands to flee

U.N. aid bodies told the Associated Press on Nov. 17 that heavy rains and flash floods have affected over 1.8 million people in the Horn of Africa, have forced “tens of thousands from their homes” and threatened to cause epidemics. The UNHCR refugee agency reported that flood waters in northeast Kenya has “uprooted more than 78,000 people” and has blocked access to three refugee camps at Kenya’s border with Somalia. Roads and bridges have been completely destroyed or washed away, according to the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. spokeswoman for OCHA Elizabeth Byrs said in a new briefing in Geneva that “life in the region was currently one of ‘urgently’ needed to reach isolated villages under water in Somalia, where relief operations are hampered by conflict.” Supplies are also in need, said Byrs. Cholera, malnutrition and dysentery are severe and affected with “polluted, stagnant water.” thousands of refugees are unable to move, their water treatment products and mosquito nets are acquired and distributed. At least 100 people have died in Kenya and Somalia alone from rising waters and disease. The UNHCR said it would continue to schedule flights to Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea to deliver food and water while the roads and bridges are repaired.

For more information, visit www.cnn.com.

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Lunch and Learn: Internships and Co-ops

By Michael Berghauer
Current Affairs Editor

On Nov. 14, Career Services held the final installment for this semester of its Lunch and Learn Series. Internships and Co-ops, which took place in room 1047 of the Carl DeSantis building. Along with a free lunch, attendees were treated to a presentation from Brian J. Mora, Field Vice President of Ameriprise Financial, Plantation, Fla. branch.

Mora started his presentation discussing the importance of getting internships while in college. "Internships are not just good for job experience. The most important thing they allow you to do is confirm what you want to do with your education." According to Mora, because internships provide a first hand view of the pacing and environment of future careers, students can decide if it is what they really want to do, or whether they should pursue an alternative. Internships are also vital for setting up networks with professionals to get employment later on.

But just any internship or co-op will not be the best choice. Mora recommended going for certain goals when looking for internships, such as getting paid internship and going with a company or position that will present a variety of activities. Additionally, Mora recommended trying to get two internships during college – one related to the career path of choice and one not. This will provide variety on a resume that employers look for and will also expand skill sets.

For actually landing an internship, Mora went over a list of things that should be highlighted on a resume: being a team player, good communication skills, work ethic and previous experience. Mora recommended following up a job application with phone calls or e-mails to ensure your resume is read. He also advised students to take advantage of upperclassmen who have already started their internship search.

Mora also went over a list of how to get involved with internships while in college. To ensure they have the best experience, Mora said they should have a study abroad experience before graduating. Doan said, "It's a life changing experience...I know." Professor Doan studied abroad in England and Wales, which led him to understand the major impacts a different culture and society can have on a student and their development.

With his Masters in Folklore Mythology and Folklore and Celtic PhD, Doan expresses his passion for culture, history and language to his students. Furthermore, he wholeheartedly encourages all students to take up on the international experience. "So far, all students have supported me on this decision," he said.

Students are excited to get more opportunities to study abroad.

Please See ENDOWMENT
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<td>Monday Night Football</td>
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<td>12 p.m. @ Parker Bldg. Room 146</td>
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**NSU Seeks Memories for Time Capsule**

By Kristine Belizaire

Distribution Manager

The Time Capsule committee at NSU has decided to put together a video called "A Day in the Life of an NSU Student," where four different types of students (a resident, a commuter, an athlete and a graduate student) will be followed around campus with a camera as they go through their daily activities as student.

The thought behind this idea is to create lasting memories for the NSU time capsule, which will be put in the wall of the north entrance of the University Center in 2007 and will be opened in the year 2057. Along with the time capsule will be a chronometer and a historical timeline with different pictures depicting NSU’s past and present while also leaving room for the future. With this capsule, students attending NSU in 2057 will have an idea about what NSU was like in the past.

"The video will give students the opportunity to leave a legacy here at NSU," said Diane Klein, Graduate Assistant for Community and Student relations at NSU. "Fifty years from now you can come back with your grandchildren and great grandchildren and take a look back at how things were in 2007."

This video is not the only one that the time capsule committee will be putting in the capsule. They are also looking to have student testimonials, which will give all students the opportunity to talk about their lives at NSU.

"I think the video is pretty cool because it engages the NSU students in something historical that they can come back and see," said sophomore Sammy Garcia.

"I think [A Day in the Life of an NSU Student] is a good idea, but I think that they should not pick only one student from each category because it would not represent what a general person goes through... it might just be specific to that one person," added sophomore Vanessa Moody. "It would be great if they could incorporate the entire NSU community or even simply those that wish to be included to show the diversity of NSU to future generations."

For more information or a chance to participate in the project, email Diane Klein at kdiane@nova.edu.
Karim Foster
Biology
Senior
West Oak Ridge, JA

Emily Carle
Business
Sophomore
Missouri City, TX

Christina Chubb
Sports Management
Sophomore
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Tim Coenrad
Sports Management
Sophomore
Brisbane, Australia

My individuality and the freedom to express it the way I have chosen.
Since I play volleyball I can't go see my family for about 4 months during the season, so I am thankful that I get to see them.
Mom's home-cooked meals!
The time off from school, and the food!!

Eli Kornstein
Communications
Freshman
Brooklyn, NY

Jackie Burlison
Business Admin.
Freshman
Colleyville, TX

Monica Tobin
Business
Freshman
Cumming, GA

Xander Flores
Theater
Freshman
Lake Mary, FL

I'm thankful for every moment that has led to this, for every trial and tribulation as well as everyone who has been there for me.
I am thankful for my friends and family.
My friends and family.
To get out of my mom's house and to be in college.

ENDOWMENT
continued from page 5

Scholarships give more students chance to study abroad

"It's a great opportunity because many students want to experience studying in other countries," said Freshman Sabah Raja. "I've wanted to do this since middle school, so I really appreciate his support." With the extra financial aid, students are willing to give it a try. The lack of finances is the reason most students are discouraged in the first place. "I will definitely apply for this scholarship" said an anonymous student.

Named after his grandparents Helen and Joe Stolzenberg, as well as his mother Marilyn Doan, Professor James Doan honors his own history and the significant role his family has had on him with this endowment. "From a very early age my grandparents exposed me to my passion for history and other international cultures," said Doan. "My grandfather studied Bulgarian and gave me books relating to it, as well as my grandmother of Finnish decent."

Because of the early on exposure provided by his family, Doan strives to get students exposed to different cultures and languages through his Stolzenberg-Doan Family Endowment. "The scholarships are to make up the difference for students...since they have to cover tuition, among extras; students could use the extra support," said Doan. Doan divides his endowment into scholarship and support for the Annual Lecture, but most importantly is on a mission to develop international studies at NSU. "We're really getting things together with the new language courses here... both French and Spanish," he said.

The application deadline for the Scholarship is March 1. For more information about Study Abroad or the upcoming Study Abroad Workshop, contact Juliette Dwyer at 954-262-8160. For questions regarding the Stolzenberg-Doan Family Endowment contact Kirk Berner at 954-262-7918.

Sharks Lose To Alabama Huntsville
Chargers, 79-60

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

NSU men's basketball team (0-1) boarded a plane this past week to embark on their journey to Alabama to take on regional rival, Alabama Huntsville. In this first game of the regular season, the Sharks unfortunately came home with a loss to the Chargers, 79-60.

The first half was a struggle for the Sharks as they committed 13 turnovers while junior Kevin Chester and sophomore Tim Coenrad were already in foul trouble with three-a piece. Both teams went into their locker room at the half with a score of 42-26 in favor of the Chargers.

Although the Sharks were having difficulty finding their game on the court, the boys picked it up in the remaining half. Senior, Diego Aguiar finished with 14 points while junior Jason Del Calvo had 11 of his own. The Sharks will be back in action on Nov. 24 for their first regular season appearance in the University Center. Here, they will play the University of North Alabama for the first game in their annual Thanksgiving Classic.
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POMPANO BEACH | MARGATE | FT. LAUDERDALE | MIAMI | PALM BEACH
I know it's going to sound crazy, but Will Ferrell (Old School, Anchorman) is a really great actor. Before you start scratching your head and wondering how the new king of big-screen comedy could possibly be any good at being dramatic, go see his new film 'Stranger Than Fiction. From the beginning it seemed like a good story, but after hearing that Will Ferrell was going to be in it, I couldn't understand why they chose him. Now I know why.

With a story as complex as this could have been, Ferrell brings a delightful personality to the whole thing. Ferrell plays Harold Crick, an uninteresting, stereotypical FBI agent who lives a lonely life filled with nothing but routine. Everything Harold does is accounted for, planned on, and even expected. Soon though, Harold's life begins to take an unexpected turn as he notices that there is a voice narrating his life and talking about him "accurately and with a better vocabulary."

This sends Harold on a quest, a quest through love and relationships, friendship, and a personal journey through himself, figuring out who he is and wants to be. Sounds a little bit dramatic for an actor like Will Ferrell? Well, don't be fooled. Ferrell is amazing in the film. Honestly, I was so shocked I couldn't stop talking about it. He was witty and humorous, but he was so emotional and depressed at the same time. His acting in this film is comparable to that of John Cusack's (in all his films), how he is so funny but he is just so miserable.

The other, less surprising but still amazing, performance came from Emma Thompson (Wit). Thompson plays Kay Eiffel, the author of the book about Harold, who seems to be the stereotypical writer as she is a recluse and very eccentric person. As we know from 'Wit,' Thompson is capable of playing characters on the edge that still have an extremely good sense of humor. Even though she was technically just a supporting actress in the film, her performance was flawless and she conveyed Zach Helm's idea of the character better than anyone could have.

I guess I can't forget to mention Dustin Hoffman (Meet the Parents, I Heart Huckabees). As a long time fan of Hoffman, I was not surprised that he did so well in his role. Much like Thompson, he was a supporting actor but his performance was definitely memorable. As he gets older, he seems to take much more eccentric and satirical parts on. In the film, he plays Professor Hilbert, a professor of literary theory and Harold's sarcastic adviser. Hoffmarts wit and seriousness are combined perfectly in the role and he was a great addition to the film.

Technically, the film is considered a dark comedy but what's truly amazing about it is that it was directed by someone other than Spike Jonze (Being John Malkovich, Adaptation). However, Jonze did a fantastic job with the film and, obviously, Jonze is not the only one with that kind of talent.

With surprising performances, a perfect plot, and an overall great story, 'Stranger Than Fiction' is a great film for really anybody. It's too dark, it's not slapstick, it's not witty and with that, could please almost anyone. If anything, it will definitely get you thinking. I mean, what if somebody was narrating your every move?

By Stefani Rubino

Four Different Stories, One Perfect Movie

It's no surprise that Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's (21 Grams, Amores Perros) new film, Babel, would be as great as it is. Inarritu is a master storyteller and in Babel, he not only tells one story extremely well, but four. I guess I can't really say that Babel is four separate stories, it's more like one story, but told different ways. It not only shows how one incident can affect peoples' lives from all over the globe but how people can be so connected in one instance and how people fail to listen or understand each other.

In typical Inarritu style, the film begins very straight and to the point. There was no bouncing around the subject or "sugar coating." I think that's what made the film seem so real because life is not "sugar coated," it's emotional and heart wrenching and that's just how the film is. There are so many different incidences in the film that I'm sure everybody can relate to no matter where they come from.

The film's star (although he's no more of a star than any of the other actors), Brad Pitt (Troy, Ocean's Twelve) plays Richard (there are no last names in the film), a struggling husband and caring father who takes his wife Susan, played by Cate Blanchett (The Aviator, The Life Aquatic), away on a Moroccan vacation to try to put the pieces of their marriage back together. Everything is going semi-well until tragedy strikes, literally, when Susan is hit by a bullet aimed for the tour bus they were riding in. From this one incident, three other different
Gears of War
Gear up for Intensity

By Paul Saneaux
Managing Editor

Though many games (like Medal of Honor, Call of Duty, and Brothers in Arms) dealing with warfare of some kind have successfully captured the frantic action of war, few have done it with such fervor and intensity as Epic's Gears of War. As a veteran fan of first-person shooters and war games, I have had my fair share of experiences with games that have join under the Coalition of Honor, but Go W was the first one to truly get me sweating in just a manner different from others. How does Go W take place on the planet of Sera, which is much like our Earth. Before the game's storyline begins, Sera undergoes a destructive world war over a new fuel source called imulsion. The humans nearly destroy themselves during the war, until a new threat, the Locust Horde (humanoid creatures that live in the crust of the planet) pop out of the ground to strike the humans in their time of weakness. The humans join under the Coalition of Ordered Governments to eliminate the new threat.

It is a great story, but the only problem is that the actual game does not really deal with it. Go W assumes the player knows the background of the conflict, which is only revealed in the instruction manual. The game itself deals with actual war 14 years after Emergence Day (when the Locust popped their ugly heads out of the ground) and even keeps much of the details revolving the main character, Marcus Fenix, in the dark.

But hey, it's a war game right? Who needs a story?

GoW does an excellent job of introducing the world of Sera and the soldiers involved in the fight for survival. I would have to say that GoW is presently the best looking game out right now. On any system. Ever. The environment is absolutely fantastic to look at. GoW features war-torn architecture that is influenced by Mediterranean and Gothic styles. Players will see crumbling spires, toppled arches, ravaged fountains, and damaged statues—all in high definition. The game also looks amazing on a standard definition television. None of the textures are repeated to the point of notice and every location is rich in detail and history. It is no wonder that one of the themes of Go W is repeatedly emphasized. At times I stopped playing just to look around at the beautiful scenery. An interesting question is how much of the damage was caused by the human war and the one against the Locust Horde?

Regarding gameplay, GoW features Please See WARS Page 11

Album Review

Beirut's The Gulag Orkestar is the Most Flawless Album of the Year

By Stefani Rubino
Arts Editor

If I told you that a 19 year-old from Albuquerque, N.M. is leading a 12-piece Balkan orchestra (or orkestar), playing most of the instruments, and is incredibly successful at doing so, you probably wouldn't believe me. But one listen to Zach Condon's Balkan orkestar project, Beirut, will have you thinking differently. The Gulag Orkestar is Beirut's very first release and already people are comparing them to that of (some of my personal favorites) Neutral Milk Hotel, Man Man, and DeVotchKa. According to Condon, he was inspired to do the album after traveling through Europe at age 16, when he was exposed to the Balkan folk and gypsy music that makes up most of this album.

The most amazing thing about this album is its incredible emotion. Condon evokes the spirit of pain and suffering better than any artist this year. I know what you're thinking, "what does a kid know about pain and suffering?" Well, if I had to judge by this album alone, he seems to know a lot or at least gives off the illusion that he does. If you took Elliot Smith and threw him in a blender with Jeff Mangum (of Neutral Milk Hotel) and Colin Meloy (of the Decemberists) you would get Zach Condom. Yes, all of that wonderful, beautiful talent in one young package. I'm not saying he's better than them, just that he has just as much musical power as each of them.

This is where I mention the instruments and, well, there's not much to say except the music is absolutely unbelievable. It's so hard to understand how Condon played every instrument on this album except for the drums, bass and cello. So that's the accordion, keyboards, saxophone, clarinet, mandolin, ukulele, horns, glockenspiel, and percussion all played by one guy, Condon. Everything is put together so well that you can't tell BABEL continued from page 9

families are affected: Amelia, the nanny who watches Richard and Susan's children, in San Diego and Mexico, the family of the boys in Morocco who accidentally shot the bus; and a deaf-mute girl's father in Japan who gave the rifle used to shoot the bus to a hunting guide he hired years ago in Morocco.

It sounds weird, how so many lives can come together so quickly with one residing theme, but it's actually a very intriguing idea. There are nine or ten main characters, so it's really hard to talk about them separately but just because I can't talk about all of them doesn't mean they didn't blow me away (because they really did). I have to say everybody in the film did a phenomenal job and gave perfectly emotional and truly incredible performances, even the children in the film.

Also, the film was shot on location wherever each scene was taking place. It was pretty incredible to be transported from Japan to Morocco to Mexico in a matter of 15 minutes. It helped bring that feeling of being there to life. The shots of the Moroccan desert were beautiful, the shots in Mexico showed the bright and vibrant colors of the country, and the shots of Japan were magnificent. I really enjoyed this aspect of the film a lot, and it helped us keep it even more interesting than it already was.

As dramatic and heartbreaking as the film is, I think people should take a chance on it. It's so well put together and it truly is wonderful to watch. It's filled with upsetting moments and joyous moments, all put together like a puzzle to make a perfectly constructed ending. And don't worry, with the darkness of the movie theater, nobody will see that tear in your eye.

"Richard (Brad Pitt) makes an emotional phone call home."

Platform: Xbox 360
Rated: M 17+
Original Release Date: Nov. 8

Please See BEIRUT Page 11
whether you're listening to a "little indie band" from New Mexico or a full-fledged orchestra from somewhere in the Mediterranean. If for nothing else, people should hear this album just for the instruments, even though Condon's voice is incredible too.

My favorite tracks on the album are "Postcards from Italy," "Scenic World," and "After the Curtain." I think these are where Condon really shows off his talent as a musician, song-writer, and frontman. "Postcards from Italy" has the most horns out of all the tracks on the album and has probably the most beautiful beat of all the tracks. It's lyrics are equally beautiful. "And I will love to see that day/That day is mine/When she will marry me outside with the willow trees." Come on, nobody could resist songs with lyrics like that.

"Scenic World" has a very Magnetic Fields (apparently Condon's biggest inspiration) feel to it, but it's not copying their style. It's amazing how this two minute and eight seconds song can get stuck in your head. There are only about five lines of lyrics, but they're memorable nonetheless. "When I feel alive/ I try to imagine a careless life/ A scenic world where the sunsets are all/ Breath-taking". It's amazing how he can fit all that beauty into one sentence and how he writes his lyrics more like poetry.

"After the Curtain" is probably the most stunning track on the album. It has one line of lyrics but is over two and a half minutes long. Here is where Condon shows off his musical abilities, as most of the song is purely instrumental and just has Condon "awe-ing" over fantastic and harmonious synth-playing. Also, this song concludes the album and makes you go "What can you do/When the curtain falls/What will you do/When the curtain falls".

It's amazing what one person can do with beautiful lyrics, a beautiful and desperate voice, and over ten different instruments. Honestly, I'm just impressed with Condon's skills and his wonderful music. Bands everywhere should be aware: who knows what else this kid from New Mexico might have up his sleeves next.
Sports

Basketball Player
Diego Aguiar Gets
Added to Men's
Basketball Team

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

The NSU men's Basketball team has made a couple of changes this year by adding a few new players to its roster with the intention of generating another winning season. The Sharks are proud to announce one of their new additions as 23-year-old senior forward Diego Aguiar. He comes all the way from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"Diego brings a great dynamic to the team with his athleticism and tremendous senior leadership," claimed fellow sophomore teammate Tim Coenraad. "He gives us versatility out on the court."

Diego came to the U.S. as a 15-year-old freshman, residing in Long Island, N.Y. with his aunt where he attended Bryant High School for three years. Aguiar said it was the prestige of basketball and the English language that drew him to America. As a senior, Aguiar transferred to Shores Christian Academy in Ocala, Fla. Averaging 15 points and 15 rebounds per game, Aguiar was able to make his name public. Diego signed with Campbell University straight out of high school, remaining there for the next three years.

While playing Division I basketball in North Carolina as a freshman, sophomore and junior, Aguiar was dedicated to the game and worked hard to develop himself into the best player he could be.

"I like to live my life by the motto 'I can'," said Aguiar.

Diego has come to NSU as a senior where he will

Please See BASKETBALL
Page 13

Tiger Has Been Tamed...

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

Tiger Woods has had an impressive season so far this year with six wins. Unfortunately, on Sunday, Nov. 12 he was cut short and lost against Korea's Yang Yang-eun in the HSBC Champions. Yong is a regular on the Japanese tour, but hasn't played much outside of Asia. He finished the tournament on Sunday with a three-under 69 for an impressive 14-under 274 for the tournament. He beat Woods by two strokes, and won a prize of $833,000.

Woods came into the final round five strokes behind and never caught up to Yong. Woods came in and birdied the 14th, 16th, and 18th holes to finish his last round at 73. This tournament was the richest tournament on Asia's grounds. Woods said that he tried his hardest in this tournament but he was not "quite good enough."

Retief Goosen actually went into the final round, leading the tournament, but he had a horrible back nine, and finished tied for third with New Zealand's Michael Campbell.

Yang, the tournament winner, started the day one shot behind Goosen, but took a three-shot lead with seven holes to play. Yang has won four times on the Japanese tour. In addition, he won his first Asian Tour event earlier in the year in a Korean Open field that also featured Goosen as a participant.

Next week, Yang will play in the Dunlop Phoenix in Japan. Woods won this tournament in 2005, and he will attempt to defend his title.

Steve Wilcosky Promoted to Head Coach of Volleyball Team

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

NSU Director of Athletics Michael Mominey announced on Nov. 10 that Interim coach Steve Wilcosky was promoted to head volleyball coach.

The volleyball season just ended, and after a successful season, Mominey decided that Wilcosky would be a great fit for the Sharks volleyball team. Under Wilcosky, the Sharks had 11 victories, which was better than the last two seasons combined. The team also had a four-match sweep in early September on the road in the C.W. Post Tournament.

When Wilcosky came to NSU, he had come from being a coach at Division I High Point University. Prior to that, he spent five years as an assistant coach at Greensboro College. While there, the volleyball team captured a pair of USA South Conference Players of the Year, three Freshmen of the Year, and 20 All-Conference performers and an honorable mention All-American.

Also, Wilcosky served as the associate head coach with North Carolina High Performance squad. This is a pipeline for the USA Volleyball program at the regional level and features many of the top prep volleyball players in North Carolina. Wilcosky spent nine years as the head coach for junior teams of the Piedmont Volleyball Club in the Junior Olympic Volleyball program. Last season, he was the associate head coach of the Piedmont 16's who finished 27th at the National Tournament.

Wilcosky started his volleyball career as a two-time All-County performer at Miami Palmerton High School. He graduated at Guilford College with a bachelor's degree in sports medicine and he was also a four-year letterwinner on the football team. He was team captain for Guilford in 1999 and helped lead the team to a conference championship in '97.
By Kim Mueller, M.S., R.D.
For Active.com

The celebration of the New Year is the oldest of all holidays, and represents a fresh new start where resolutions are made to improve various aspects of our lives.

According to a University of Washington online survey, 37 percent of subjects, mostly female, listed increasing the amount of daily exercise as their primary resolution. Two months later, a follow-up survey indicated that the majority of these same subjects were still following a consistent exercise program, which is good news considering the health benefits associated with being fit.

If improving your fitness is your number one resolution for the New Year, cheers to you!

Here are five reasons why your fitness resolution will help improve your overall health.

1. You'll lower your risk for the nation's top three killers: heart disease, cancer and stroke.

The good news is that deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke all dropped by approximately two to five percent in the past few years. Currently, the life expectancy for women is 80.1 years. Those best off are those who avoid obesity, which is a known risk factor for the three top killers, by engaging in a regular fitness program.

In fact, an hour a day of brisk walking has been shown to cut the risk of obesity by 24 percent, stroke by 25 percent, colon cancer by 30 to 40 percent, and heart disease by 50 percent. In addition, walking will significantly reduce the susceptibility to metabolic syndrome (combination of hypertension, high blood cholesterol, elevated blood lipids, atherosclerosis and insulin resistant diabetes).

2. You'll smile more

Research has shown active women to be less likely to develop depression. In fact, in a study of nearly 2,000 residents of Alameda County, Calif., there was a 20 percent decline in the diagnosis of depression over a five-year time span when activity levels were kept high.

Regular activity also seems to help those who already suffer from depression. Some researchers believe that a mere 30 minutes of daily activity yields the same results as anti-depressant drugs or cognitive behavioral therapy. Now that’s something to smile about!

3. You’ll get sick less often

There’s a direct relationship between muscle mass and immune function. Resistance training, specifically 40 to 60 minutes, three times a week, will help build your muscle mass and will ultimately enhance your ability to fight infection by increasing the reservoir of proteins the immune system uses to fight infection.

Studies on the influence of moderate exercise training on immune function have shown that daily brisk walking compared with inactivity reduced the number of sick days by half over a 12- to 15-week period. Be careful not to over train though, especially with vigorous cardiovascular exercise, since the protein used to help boost immune system is used for muscle recuperation and repair, making you more vulnerable to upper respiratory infection.

4. You’ll notice a marked improvement in sexual performance and overall pleasure.

There’s strong evidence showing that physical endurance, muscle tone and body composition improve with a consistent exercise program, resulting in enhanced sexual functioning.

Furthermore, exercise frequency and physical fitness are correlated with improved body confidence and increased energy levels, both of which make women feel more attractive. In fact, a University of Arkansas study found that physical activity significantly improves desirability and is associated with a higher reported frequency of sexual behavior.

5. You’ll be mentally sharp

Cardiovascular exercise helps nourish the brain by increasing blood and oxygen flow to the brain cells. As a result, physically active woman tend to have more nerves, more connections between nerves, fewer clogged arteries, more oxygen flow, and better ability to utilize glucose compared to their non-active counterparts. In fact, there’s solid evidence that women who are physically active are at lower risk for cognitive decline and dementia, which means a better quality of life as we age.

Dive In!
NSU RecPlex now offers trial swim clinics

By Elise Milnes
Assistant Director for Marketing & Membership

Starting on Monday, Nov. 27, Campus Recreation will offer its first swim clinic in its newly resurfaced swimming pool. The clinics are a chance for the NSU community to get a sneak peak of next spring’s swim classes. The clinic is a 30 minute session which will include 15 minutes of a QXA session and a 15 minute swim instruction. The clinics will start at 3:30 and run at the beginning and half of each hour up until 6:30 p.m. Participation is open to members and non-members for only $5, just bring a suit.

If unable to attend the first session, no need to worry; the next clinic will be held Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006. The complete schedule of clinics can be found online at www.rec.nova.edu. For more information, call (954) 262-7306.

Top Five Reasons Why Exercise Enhances Health

A group of individuals working out on the beach. Photo from www.beachster.org/images/workoutb.jpg

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A Fly on the Wall:
Through the Wall

By Paul Saneaux
Managing Editor

Do you sometimes find it hard to get going and do the things you're supposed to do? Maybe you just don't feel like reading that homework assignment. Or cleaning the kitchen. Or maybe you know that paper you have to write is going to be difficult, so you can't bring yourself to even get started.

If you're like me, it's right about this point in the school year that the accumulation of busy days, term paper assignments, and seasonal cold symptoms can start to wear me down. But when I'm feeling overwhelmed by too much to do, I sometimes find myself looking for a form of gratitude to help me through it. I'm not sure how many others feel this way, but I find that practicing gratitude can make even the most daunting tasks more manageable.

I imagine you're no different from me. You may have a busy schedule, a demanding workload, and a long list of tasks that need to be completed. But if you take a moment to reflect on all the things you have to be grateful for, you may find that you're able to approach your work with a new sense of purpose and enthusiasm.

That's why I'm sharing this with you today. I hope that you'll take a few minutes to think about all the things you're thankful for, and that you'll be able to use that gratitude to help you through the challenges of the day.

Sincerely,

Alisha VanHooser
"A goal, correct me if I am horribly mistaken, is something that a person or group wants to achieve in the future..."

but it was lame nonetheless. So, the students had no idea of the goals. They were not even released so the students could glance at them. BS, I say.

Later on, the seven goals were presented. Here they are: hold four Student Action Committee days (two are done); work on Project Serve; hold two commencement forums (one is done); get the Pan SGA to support the idea of a student representative on the Board of Trustees (done); hold a tailgate during an athletic event; hold two SAC Bills and the Sharkapalooza Bill, all of the other ones had to be amended on the floor. In fact, a large and ugly majority of club and organization bills have to amended on the floor because they are riddled with mistakes. To that, I pose a question: why can't anyone write a damn bill that is correct so it doesn't have to be amended on the damn floor and waste more damn time? It is annoying beyond comparison, and I am sure many in the SGA are dead sick of it also. Clubs and organizations should also write their decrepit bills with enough time to take it back if there is a mistake and make it clearer for the senators. I am not even going to discuss the specifics of the bills because I am that sick of the mistakes.

Oh yes, Amrish Ramnarine was appointed as the International Senator after we was removed from the SGA earlier in the year for failing to attend 13-1-0. Only Keever voted against the the mandatory senator's retreat in the bill. Only Keever voted the right way. Other bills were presented: Pre-Pharmacy's Banquet Bill, CSA's Flag Party and Island Hype Bill, two bills by the Scholastic Award Committee for scholarships for freshmen and student leaders, and the Sharkapalooza Bill. Besides the SAC Bills and the Sharkapalooza Bill, all of the other ones had to be amended on the floor. In fact, a large and ugly majority of club and organization bills have to amended on the floor because they are riddled with mistakes. To that, I pose a question: why can't anyone write a damn bill that is correct so it doesn't have to be amended on the damn floor and waste more damn time? It is annoying beyond comparison, and I am sure many in the SGA are dead sick of it also. Clubs and organizations should also write their decrepit bills with enough time to take it back if there is a mistake and make it clearer for the senators. I am not even going to discuss the specifics of the bills because I am that sick of the mistakes.

The Alvin Sherman Library
The Alvin Sherman Library hours have been extended for your convenience as you prepare for your finals.

7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Fri., Oct. 6th to Mon., Oct. 16th
Mon., Nov. 27th to Mon., Dec. 18th

Extended Cramming Hours.

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