Anna Lynn Schooley Delivers Last Lecture

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

NSU students, faculty and staff gathered in the Alvin Sherman Library gallery for the second installment of this year’s Spiritual Life Council sponsored Last Lecture series, which began in the spring of 2006. The goal of the series is to bring the NSU community together to talk about where we find meaning and what is important in our lives.

The speaker for the event was Anna Lynn Schooley, professor for the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She was introduced as a generous woman who challenges her students with kind actions and words.

Schooley centered her lecture on aphorisms, which are sayings that make a point or express the opinion of the speaker by illustrating the bottom line or the essence of a particular idea. Some of her favorites included “all behavior makes sense in context” and “no problems happen all of the time.” She said that if we combine these phrases, we can look at our lives and the lives of others and make sense of them.

She looked back on her career as a social worker, and spoke about a case where she had promised a teen to have a social worker, and spoke about a case that the teen had run away. This taught her valuable lesson on life, which was to always privilege the client.

Schooley also told a heartfelt story about her partner, who was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Her partner did not believe in chemotherapy and this angered Schooley. In the end, however, she realized that she had to let her partner decide to die with cancer because it was her right. Her partner did decide to go through with the chemo, and is still alive even through doctors said she should have died years ago.

“What are the aphorisms that guide your life?” was the question Schooley left the audience with. She said that she hoped that we have a chance to think about the phrases that form our life. Schooley was then rewarded with a gift to remind her of the moving lecture that she gave.

“I thought that she was very informative in terms of getting you to think about your own life and how to deal with situations in my life,” said senior and international business major Marsha Cross.

“Before coming to the lecture, I did not know anything about the speaker, but I felt that she put herself out there, and it is refreshing to have a reminder of the aphorisms that she spoke about,” said sophomore and psychology major Christi O’Neill.

Wii-Tastic

Nintendo’s new console promises fun innovation ... and delivers

Part 1

By Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief

I’ve been waiting several months for the Wii to come out, since way back when it was still called the Revolution (I still have yet to figure out the name change), and in the past few of those months, I’ve been afraid that the system wouldn’t live up to the hype, or at least my expectations. But I can fear no more, for two weeks of play have told me that the Wii deserved every plug it got.

The thing that had most people both excited and concerned was the Wii remote (which I generally refer to as the Wiimote because it’s cute and has less syllables). While it has its shaky moments, especially if you try to use it too far from the reader bar, the Wiimote is generally easy to use and much easier, in my opinion, than a GameCube or PS2 controller. There are a lot less buttons, and everyone that frequently uses a computer can appreciate the ease of the mouse-like point-and-click action. The games themselves often tell you what button to press, and the more in-depth games, like Twilight Princess, lose that shakiness I mentioned altogether.

Since the Wii also plays GameCube games, there is a place on the console to plug in

Please See WII

Page 7

NSU Student Killed in Hit and Run

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

Twenty-one year old Senior and Psychology major James Pezzimenti (r.), a wheelchair bound NSU student, was killed by a hit and run on Striling Road.

According to Sun-sentinel.com, James Pezzimenti was riding his motorized wheelchair after 3 a.m. in the passing lane of the 7400 block of Sterling Road when a vehicle struck him from behind and never even stopped to see what had happened to Pezzimenti.

After a passerby saw what happened and called 911, Pezzimenti was taken to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, where he had surgery to ease his injuries, which included bleeding of the brain, a broken femur and liver damage. He was in a coma until declared dead on Sunday, Nov. 19. A memorial service was held for him on Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. at a Hospice located in Fort Lauderdale.

Altonette McCrea, cashier for the Rosenthal Cafeteria, remembers Pezzimenti as a very sweet person. “I knew his brother Joseph and his family,” said McCrea. “James would come in to the cafeteria and he would always be smiling. He was always very courteous.”

“I did not know him very well, but most of the times that I saw him was in the cafeteria and he would come in and we would have small talk,” said senior and pre-med major Karim Foster, who works as a part time cashier at the Rosenthal Cafeteria.

“His arms did not work well, and sometimes I would help him carry his tray and return it for him after he ate.” Dr. George-Wallace Barnhill, professor at NSU, was impressed with Pezzimenti’s attitude. Barnhill remembers him as always positive, very likeable, intelligent, sociable and funny. In some ways, said Barnhill, Pezzimenti was an inspiration and showed that he was someone to be reckoned with as a student and a person. Pezzimenti, as a psychology major, took several classes with Barnhill, who said that he never used his health problems as an excuse or asked for special treatment because of his physical condition. “It is a tragic loss to me and the university, and James will never be forgotten. I will miss him,” said Barnhill.

In memory of Pezzimenti, NSU students have started a group on Facebook.com called “R.I.P James Pezzimenti (March 22, 1985 – Nov 19, 2006).” Over 200 students from NSU and other institutions have joined this memorial group.

Davie Police are still looking for leads on the crime and believe that the car that hit Pezzimenti was a Ford. If anyone has any information about what happened, contact Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.
**Take a Bite Out of This...**

**MONDAY**
3
Psychology Club Toy Drive
12pm-1pm @ Parker Bldg.

Distinguished Lecture Series-Huizenga School
10:30am – 12pm @ Knight Lecture Hall

The Laramie Project Auditions
6pm-9pm @ Mailman-Hollywood 2nd Floor Auditorium

Monday Night Football
8:30 pm @ Flight Deck

**TUESDAY**
4
Psychology Club Toy Drive
12pm-1pm @ Parker Bldg.

FREEZER PLEASER WEEK: One-Ton Sundaes
11:30-1pm @ University Center

**WEDNESDAY**
5
Psychology Club Toy Drive
12pm-1pm @ Parker Bldg.

**THURSDAY**
6
Psychology Club Toy Drive, 12pm-1pm @ Parker Bldg.

Quad Thursday: Winterfest 2006, 11:30am-1pm @ Library Quad

Care Package 11:30am-1pm @ Parker Bldg.

**FRIDAY**
7
Psychology Club Toy Drive
12pm-1pm @ Parker Bldg.

FREEZER PLEASER WEEK: Snowcones
11am-2pm @ University Center

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY**
8/9
NFL Sunday Ticket
1p.m. @ Flight Deck

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- 7300 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines
- 16835 Sheridan Street, Pembroke Pines
- 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr., Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale

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*Reduced Fare College Bus Pass pilot program ends December 31, 2006
By Greg Kyriakakis
Natio & World Editor

Continuing the yearly tradition, hordes of eager deal seekers lined up early across the country at retailers on Black Friday hoping to find bargains. Those that chose not to venture into the confusion of crowded stores sought deals online after the weekend, on what many are calling Cyber Monday.

“It was absolute craziness,” said Lindsey Gaines, an NSU junior who went shopping for clothes and shoes. Though she did not begin shopping until the afternoon, Gaines said stores were still chaotic. “The people were nuts. We really had to dig to find the best deals.”

Black Friday marked another successful start to the holiday season for retailers. The National Retail Federation reported that the average shopper spent $360.15, an increase of 18.9 percent over last year’s average of $302.81.

According to research firm comScore Networks, internet sales on Black Friday were up 42 percent from last year, totaling over $430 million. Those like senior Arhma Birja, who does not enjoy dealing with crowds, will turn to online shopping. “I didn’t want to get in a fight with anyone at a store. I will shop online,” he said. “I also did last year.”

The allure of online sales and the prospect of avoiding crowds did not seem to bother Cyber Monday sales. Sales numbers fell short of Black Friday’s online purchases, reported TG Daily.

A Deloitte and Touche study found that 20 percent of shoppers bought online on Black Friday, compared to 19 percent on Cyber Monday. Further, an Amazon.com spokesman told CNET News that “we didn’t see any unusual (traffic) on the site” on Cyber Monday.

With Cyber Monday not being a tremendous shopping day, Scott Krugman, a spokesman for the National Retail Federation, which developed the moniker last year, said that branding that particular Monday is “not a gimmick.”

“We never said that Cyber Monday was the busiest day of the year. The press picked that up and wrote what they wanted,” Krugman told CNET News. The term, he said, was simply created to describe a trend among online retailers.

Retail analyst Heather Dougherty told the E-Commerce Times that the most popular items for online shoppers were the recently released Nintendo Wii and Sony Playstation 3, as well as flat screen televisions.

Coming the day following the Thanksgiving holiday, Black Friday earned its name since it marks large profits for retailers, effectively putting their earnings into the black.

“The people were nuts. We really had to dig to find the best deals.”

NSU Participates in World AIDS Day
Shenita Ann McLean
Staff Writer

Dec. 1 was World AIDS Day – a day set aside to focus on educating people about HIV, ending prejudice associated with the disease and to help inform the world about the pandemic that the human race is facing. According to worldaidsday.org, around forty million people throughout the world are living with HIV.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for the world to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The spread of HIV can be stopped and it will take a united world to do so, according to worldaidsday.org. HIV is generally spread via unprotected sexual relations with an infected individual, the blood to blood route (usually through sharing drug needles) and through mother to child transmission (MCT).

Through education assistance and with

Please See AIDS Page 5

Dear EarthTalk: Where can I find green-friendly gifts for friends and family this holiday season? -- A.L. Burger, via e-mail

Reconciling one’s green values with the urge to shop has never been easy. Most environmental groups today decry Western consumer habits as wasteful and a major cause of ecological degradation in a shrinking world. And many people, environmental issues aside, believe that the rampant commercialism we’ve all come to expect at holiday times cheapens what should be a reflective or sacred time of year.

Our buying habits are not easy on the wallet, either. According to the Center for a New American Dream (CNAD), 60 million American families carry an average credit card debt of over $7,000 and pay more than $1,000 a year in interest and fees. Further, says CNAD, “A record 1.6 million Americans declared personal bankruptcy last year.”

For those who ply an ethic of moderation (for whatever reason) but still have to show up at a half-dozen holiday parties with something for under the tree, there are now more green-friendly (and affordable) options than ever before. Steer your web browser to any number of online merchants offering items from clothes, bed-and-bath and organic baby products to food, the latest books and “gifts that give back,” such as tree-planting kits and “fair trade” crafts that support economically disadvantaged communities in developing countries.

A few popular sites include the Green Home Environmental Store, Global Exchange’s Fair Trade Online Store, The Eco-Store, Abundant Earth, and Gaiam, among others. A visit to Co-Op America’s National Green Pages Online is one quick path to a treasure trove of such options.

While these stores all specialize in decidedly “green” items, many environmentally concerned consumers simply want to buy from mainstream retailers but want to feel confident their money is going to companies that are “good corporate citizens.” If you better fit that category of consumer, pay a visit to AlonoVo.com, which provides information on companies’ social and environmental records alongside thousands of products for sale in partnership with Amazon.com.

The website can also simply be used as a research tool to get the lowdown on companies before heading out to downtown or the mall. AlonoVo rates companies in five different areas: social responsibility, workplace fairness, environmental issues, customer relations and overall business ethics. If you do buy from the site, the company shares from 20 to 40 percent of its profits with environmental and other nonprofits that you as a customer can choose.

Some other options include Consumer Reports’ Greenerchoices.org, which rates mainstream products from cars to electronics based on environmental criteria, and Co-op America’s Responsible Shopper, which features detailed reports on various companies that market “green” consumer products. Of course, you need not buy anything if you have a little more time (and items to re-use and recycle) on your hands than money. Sherri Osborn, the family crafts guide at About.com, offers up a healthy listing of “101 Great Gifts to Make” for any season, complete with links to instructions and materials needed.

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Where can I find green-friendly gifts for friends and family this holiday season?

-- A.L. Burger, via e-mail

EARTH TALK

CONTACTS:
National Green Pages Online, coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages;
AlonoVo, www.alonoVo.com;
Greener Choices, www.greenerchoices.org
Responsible Shopper, www.coopamerica.org/program/rs;
About.com’s 101 Great Gifts to Make, familycrafts.about.com/cs/giftgiving/a/120400a.htm

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.
McDonalds Applies for Sandwich Patent

McDonalds, not content with just making people obese, wants to patent the mechanism used to transport fat into customers. Apparently called a “sandwich,” the fast food chain has applied in the U.S. and Europe to patent the “method and apparatus for making a sandwich.” Fox News reported that Ronald and friends want the rights for creating what they call “hamburgers” and other “Toasted Deli-Style Sandwiches.” The instructions include the correct order of assembling the “sandwich” and how to apply a process called “heating” to make the food warm. A UK patent office official said that “McDonald’s or anyone else can’t get retroactive exclusive rights to making a sandwich… It could be quite easy for someone to make a sandwich in a similar way without infringing their claims.”

Honk If You’re Guilty

Having just pulled off a successful armed robbery, two teens from Debaratur, Ill., were so jubilant that they decided to share a celebratory horn honk with the police interviewing the victim. According to the Herald & Review, Malcolm McDaniel had been walking home when a black Nissan drove up behind him and one of the teens asked for a cigarette. The suspect then pulled a gun, ordered McDaniel into the back seat, robbed him and ordered the man out of the car. On their way home, however, the teens honked at police at the scene, who promptly stopped the car and found the items that had been taken from McDaniel. The teens face charges of armed robbery, aggravated kidnapping and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

On the Run, Man Stops for Crack Break

After stealing a car and credit card, Perry Quinton of Stratford, Conn., attempted to evade police on foot. Quinton took great pains to escape authorities, even scaling a fence. But addiction got the better of him, reported the Connecticut Post, and once over the fence, Quinton took a breather and “smoked crack cocaine before he ran through the seaport and stood on a boat.” Instead of searching for another route, Quinton just hung out and “smoked more crack.” Police arrived at the boat and arrested the man, who faces charges of second-degree larceny and credit card theft, among others.

Brothers Fined for Raising Tubby Doggy

Rusty is a nine-year old Labrador with a passion for delicious foods and all 161 pounds of him proves it. Now his owners, two brothers of Cambridgeshire, Britain, have been charged with animal cruelty for allowing the animal to balloon to such a weight. Reported the Times Online. Because of his weight and arthritis affliction, Rusty could not even walk to a van meant to transport him to a vet. “He did literally look like a walrus. There were times when he couldn’t get up from his back legs at all,” said a vet who had treated the dog. Despite the bulibob evidence, the brothers contend that they merely fed Rusty a diet of dried dog food and the occasional bone treat.

Southeast Asia

Typhoon Durian batteres the Philippines, kills 146

The head of the Red Cross in the Philippines, Richard Gordon, told Reuters on Dec. 1 that “initial reports showed a total of 146 were killed in three areas buried by mudslides” and that “75 people were still unaccounted for after the storm in the Albay province. The massive landslides were caused by heavy rains and strong winds of 140 mph that loosened debris around Mount Mayon, ‘one of the Philippines’ most active volcanoes.” Mayon had been erupting lava and boulders in the several months prior to Durian’s landfall. Gordon added that late reports from other provinces in the Bicol region “where power and communication blackouts as well as impassable roads were hampering rescue efforts” likely meant a rise in casualties. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called on the military to provide transport for rescue teams and to deliver medical supplies, water, and body bags. The destruction left behind by Durian as widely affected the region’s economy. At least 22,000 people have been affected by floods and winds and shipping, air travel, agriculture, and mining have been temporarily halted for damage assessment.

For more information, visit www.reuters.com.

Middle East

Pope visits Blue Mosque

According to Reuters, Pope Benedict made a short visit to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul as “the second Roman Catholic Pontiff to take such a step, in what was seen as another dramatic gesture of reconciliation to the Muslim world.” Reporters said “the pope appeared to pray alongside an Islamic cleric during the visit.” The visit came after the Pontiff made comments that infuriated Muslims during a speech “taken as indicating he thought Islam was violent and irrational.” Although the visit lasted 20 minutes, the Pontiff met with Grand Mufti Mustafa Cagrici to discuss the history of the Blue Mosque and pray. The two religious leaders exchanged gifts before the Pope left and Reuters’ reporters heard him tell the Mufti “Thank you for this moment of prayer.” Vatican spokesman Father Federico said “certainly, this was a moment of personal mediation in a relationship with God.” He added “you can even call this personal intimate prayer but there were no external manifestations or characteristics of the Christian faith.” The first visit to the region was made by Pope John Paul II in 2001. Earlier, Benedict met with Patriarch Bartholomew, leader of Orthodox Christians, to pray and reject “the concept of killing in God’s name.”

For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.

North America

Bush plans peace talks with Shiites, Sunnis

In light of the continuing violence in Iraq President Bush will meet with one of Iraq’s most powerful Shiite politicians on Monday, Dec. 4 in a continued bid to find a new approach to ending sectarian violence that is pulling at the seams of the nation.” According to an Associated Press report, an anonymous administration official confirmed Bush will also meet with the Sunni vice president Tariq al-Hashimi sometime in January. During the Monday meeting with Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, leader of the United Iraqi Alliance—“the largest bloc in the Iraqi parliament” —Bush will discuss views, and security and other issues of importance. The meeting with al-Hashimi will deal with a different agenda said the anonymous administration official. The Sunni Vice President “had said that he wants to see al-Maliki’s government dissolved and replaced with a new coalition with guarantees that ensure collective decision-making.”

For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.
NSU Orlando Welcomes the Sharkateers

By Jonette Baker
Contributing Writer Orlando

The first meeting to establish Nova Southeastern University’s Orlando Student Educational Center volunteer organization was held on Saturday, November 4. The organization will be called the Sharkateers and conduct volunteer work in the Orlando area. The Sharkateers will be the second recognized organization at the Orlando Student Educational Center.

Chip Turner, Coordinator of Student Affairs, assisted with the first meeting along with Advisor for the organization, Public Safety/Coordinator Jonette Baker. The officers for the organization were formally adopted and a constitution and duties drawn up. Arlene Rodriguez was elected as the President, Aileen Hodgon was elected the Vice President of Planning, Tyrone Shaw was elected as the Vice President of Treasury, and Eunice Garbutt was elected as the Vice-President of Communications.

A motion statement, “to extend goodwill to the Orlando community by volunteering for those in need,” was agreed upon by all parties. The organization will post events and invite in the NSU Orlando community to assist. As the types of volunteering are many there will be something for everyone to feel comfortable joining in. One of the first events being considered is adopting a family and seeing to their needs for the holiday season.

The Orlando SEC is happy to have the Sharkateers and looks forward to being involved in some worthwhile events as well as having some good times by all those who participate. Anyone can offer suggestions to the Sharkateers for events. Suggestions can be emailed to the advisor, Jonette Baker, at jonette@nova.edu, or Chip Turner of Student Affairs at saorlando@nova.edu. All suggestions will be passed along to the organization and considered. Look for the first event soon.

Inside the Office of Student Disability Services

By Tanya Parnes
Staff Writer

Arlene Giczkowski, the Director for the Office of Student Disability Services, is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator for NSU who oversees all of the zoning, parking, building and housing issues related to students with disabilities.

“As the university grows, and the demands of the students grow; we have to grow to accommodate them,” Giczkowski said. She has made sure that every building on campus is equipped with the proper doors and ramps. She has also worked with the Office of Residential Life and Housing as well as with the Facilities Management to make sure that the parking lots and the dorms are easily accessible to students with disabilities. “If there is a safety concern, faculty or building administrators will point that out,” she said.

Giczkowski has had many years of experience in dealing with students with disabilities. She has a Masters of Education, specializing in special education, and has taught in elementary schools for over ten years. She moved to Florida in 1998, and worked for a psychologist to help students with severe disabilities in testing and specialized remediation. In 2005 she joined NSU’s faculty as the Assistant Director of Academic Services and the Disability Representative for the Faqar College of Arts and Sciences, who handled all of the undergraduate students who needed accommodations. She then became the Director for Student Disability Services in May 2006 and is now working on a safety plan for the university. “I never considered working in higher education,” she said, “now I’m here and I can’t imagine going back.”

NSU, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, has several different resources for students with disabilities. The students can visit the Office of Student Disability Services located in the Athletics and Student Affairs building, where they can request special accommodations, support services, auxiliary aides and anything else that they might require while attending their classes. These services include note taking assistance, sign language interpreters, accessible furniture, extended test time, isolated test settings, and materials in an alternative form, such as audio tapes. The university will determine what kind of assistance that individual student will receive on a case-to-case basis.

The university will provide assistance to students who fall into a range of categories including Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders, learning disabilities, psychological disorders, visual impairments, hearing impairments, mobility impairments, and chronic health disorders. The student will need to provide some form of documented evidence of his disability from a physician, psychologist, or some other licensed professional who has the authority to diagnose him with that condition. Giczkowski has developed a policy procedure for the standards that every building on campus must meet in order to accommodate students who have these disabilities.

Giczkowski is hoping to plan a Disability Awareness Week sometime in the future. Please See DISABILITY Page 7

Christmas Toys in the Sun Run

By Tanya Parnes
Staff Writer

NSU participated in the 19th annual South Florida President’s Council Christmas Toys in the Sun Run event that is being presented by Rick Case Honda. “This is a huge event that happens every year,” said Stan Kantha, a graduate student at the university. The objective of this event is to collect tons of unwrapped gifts and toys that will be given to the children at Joe DiMaggio’s Children’s Hospital in Hollywood. The Office of Volunteerism & Community Service collected these items between Nov. 27 and Dec. 1 in the Rosenthal Center Room 100 and on the deck patio until 5 p.m. Dec. 1.

Once the university has collected these toys, it will be participating in the Sun Run event which takes place on Dec. 10. Bass Pro Shops in Dania has donated a boat that will pull all of these gifts. JM Lexus has also supplied a car that will pull the boat that is filled with all of the presents to the children at the hospital. There is a large motorcycle parade that begins at the Pompano Harness Track in Pompano Beach and ends in Markham Park in Sunrise. Over 30,000 motorcyclists participate in the parade each year. They drive alongside the boat until they reach the park. There are different events that will be going on at the park, including face painting for the children, live music, and dozens of vendors selling food and drinks and much more. Everyone has to pay a ten dollar entrance fee and bring one wrapped toy in order to attend the event that begins at 11 a.m.

The event has raised over six million dollars in the past that has been donated to the hospital to help pay for cancer treatments, special needs for the kids and to help feed families during the holidays. There are over 22 police departments and 230 officers participating in the day’s event. For more information or questions please contact the Office of Public Affairs or email bowman@nova.edu.

SUB Brings Winter to NSU

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

To bring an end to the fall term, the NSU’s Student Union Board has organized Freezer Pleasers Week, a series of events to relieve the stress of students before final exams.

“We just wanted to give students treats toward the end of the fall term,” said Marisa Minus, Program Coordinator for the Student Union Board. SUB decided to bring a winter theme to sunny South Florida. Events planned for the next following weeks include free “one ton” ice-cream sundae and snow cones at the flight deck, a free breakfast called the Crunch Brunch at 10 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11 in the Rosenthal Cafeteria. During Crunch Brunch, students will have a chance to study for exams while also enjoying music, free food and games. SUB will also be hosting Winterfest 2006 during Quad Thursday, a fun filled event complete with a snow machine so that students can engage in snowball fights.

For more information, contact SUB at union@nova.edu or 954-262-7288.
Flight Deck Follies
“Male Beauty Pageant with a Twist”

On November 16, students arrived at the Flight Deck for the Student Union Board’s annual male beauty pageant. The contestants of the evening included Lesly-Loudmar Mathurin, Matt Mercil, Jim Sinkevich, Mikele Mentz, and Alex Mitrani. Each contestant had the opportunity to model his/her best formal and casual wear, hidden talents and participate in a 1-question interview with co-host, Steve Reddy. However, only one would walk away with the crowned jewels.

And the 2006 Flight Deck Follie is...

ABOVE: Godiva, better known as Lesly-Loudmar, waves out to his/her adoring fans in the crowd.

ABOVE: Alex Mitrani has gets one final chance to sway the results.

ABOVE: Jim Sinkevich unveils his/her hidden talent.

ABOVE: Jim Sinkevich and Matt Mercil eagerly await the results from the judges.

LEFT: Jim Sinkevich (Runner Up) and Mikele Mentz (Honorable Mention) strike a pose.

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GameCube controllers. So don’t fret, you won’t have to figure out how to play Super Smash Bros. Melee with the WiiMote. The system also has a secondary controller, the Nunchuk, which plugs into the Wiimote. The thing has two buttons, a joystick, and an internal motion sensor, so it doesn’t take a genius to use. The last bit of controller action is the Classic controller, which is for the virtual console games.

Aside from the Wiimote, the Wii Channels are probably the biggest draw for the system. These are like little programs and currently include the game channel, which is pretty much where you go to play whatever game you have in at the moment, the Mii channel, where you can create characters for your Wii (and which I’ll go into more depth in a moment), the news and weather channels, both of which can be seen now and should launch within the next month or so, and an Opera browser, to launch sometime in 2007, but we’ll see how that actually pans out. The news and weather channels, as well as the Opera browser, were supposed to be available at the console’s launch, and I’ve already mentioned that that’s not the case. Still, I’m personally excited about the VC’s potential (I would be all over the original Legend of Zelda, but I’ve got it for the GameCube).

Nintendo says they plan to launch 30 new games by the end of the year, and should eventually offer the entire repertoire of NES, Super NES, Sega Genesis and others, and therefore has the potential to be the retro-gamer’s dream come true. However, the current lineup on the VC is pretty pathetic (I would be all over the original Legend of Zelda, but I’ve got it for the GameCube). The virtual console is a little programs and currently include the game channel, which is pretty much where you go to play whatever game you have in at the moment, the Mii channel, where you can create characters for your Wii (and which I’ll go into more depth in a moment), the news and weather channels, both of which can be seen now and should launch within the next month or so, and an Opera browser, to launch sometime in 2007, but we’ll see how that actually pans out. The news and weather channels, as well as the Opera browser, were supposed to be available at the console’s launch, and I’ve already mentioned that that’s not the case. Still, I’m personally excited about the VC’s potential (I can’t wait to play Star Troptics again). The photo channel deserves brief mention, as it’s fun to doodle with but doesn’t offer a lot of variety. There are a few stamps, like hearts and kiss marks that you can stick onto your pictures, and someone who is easily amused could probably spend hours drawing moustaches on people with the doodle tool, but other than that and a few nifty gadgets, there’s not much to say. What I really wanted to see was speech bubbles, but I was disappointed there. The only real cool thing is being able to knock your picture into several pieces and spend a few entertaining minutes putting the puzzle together. Pictures actually get onto your Wii via SD card, which is also good for music. This comes in particularly handy in select games (like Excite Truck), where the soundtrack is atrocious, yet replaceable.

I’ve mentioned Miis a few times now, but as that’s one of my favorite features, I’ve saved it for last. If anyone’s ever played The Sims or messed with one of those doll makers online, they know how it can be making characters. For all its simplicity, the Mii channel can actually get decently accurate likenesses of yourself and others in a cartoon-y sort of way. One of my roommates made a Mii that looks so much like him it’s scary. You can change the little guys’ eyes, hat, nose, mouth, and accessories (like beauty marks, facial hair, make-up, wrinkles, and glasses). The sizes and positions of most of these can be altered, as can the color of hair, skin, and shirt. The characters don’t just sit around, either. While their Mii Plaza interactions aren’t particularly interesting, you can send them to friends, store them in your Wiimote to take them to another console, and import them into some games (like the bundled Wii Sports). All in all, it’s highly addicting.

Between the channels, the controllers, and the game lineup, the Wii is an accessible console even for gamers who aren’t totally hardcore. If you don’t require the graphics to be so fabulous you can see the pixels, the characters’ faces, the Wii is the system to get. With a price tag of only $249, it’s also easier on the pocketbook than its “next-gen” brethren.

Next Week: Game Reviews and Top Picks

AIDS continued from page 3

the proper medications, the drastic spread of HIV can be reduced. World AIDS Day is part of putting that plan into action.

NSU was taking part in the third annual unification when the Sharks united in front of the Alvin Sherman Library on Dec. 1 to show immense support. Keynote speakers Maxine Fredricks and Gay Holiday, PhD and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, came to share their stories and help spread awareness.

Holiday experienced the loss of a good friend and colleague from AIDS, “I lost a close friend in 1988 to AIDS,” said Holiday. “It was a time when we still didn’t know much about AIDS. At the time people who got AIDS were treated as lepers.”

During the 80’s, AIDS was seen as the “Gay Man’s disease” and there was insufficient information about how it was contracted. Many people were scared to even touch someone who was HIV positive.

Maxine Fredricks has worked with children and orphans with HIV and AIDS in Guyana since 2004.

We see children left behind after their parents die and some are used as house slaves.”

Fredricks made note of the President Bush Program in Guyana that helps the orphans and adults with free HIV and AIDS medications. Fredricks asked people to get involved and volunteer by just giving old clothing or donating five dollars.

The AIDS quilt was then unveiled by Holly Carbone, who began her work in 1986. The quilt held the memories of loved ones who were lost in the battle against AIDS. Corinne Lockamy, the event organizer, was also affected by AIDS through the loss of a loved one. “I had a cousin in New York who I lost when I was just a kid,” said Lockamy. “I had never met him, but we talked on the telephone. When he died he had been living with AIDS for five years.”

Quilts and other displays remained in the library for the rest of the day. Lockamy said that they planned to continue gathering with millions of others around the globe in support of World AIDS Day.

“Disability continued from page 5

in March of 2007, where she will host a variety of speakers including one Marcus Engel, who has first hand experience with a disability himself.

She wants to encourage students to stop by the office on the first floor of ASA if they have any questions or concerns, or they can visit the website at http://www.nova.edu/disabilityservices.
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NSU On The Scene:
“What final are you dreading the most?”

Jim Sinkevich
Finance
Freshman
Pittsburgh, PA

None, I only have one… and it’s a take home!

Tammi Feacher
Marketing
Junior
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Corporate Finance, a lot of math is involved as well as concepts to comprehend.

Varun Sharma
Pharmacy
Sophomore
Queens, NY

Organic Chemistry and Biology

Joann Liria
Legal Studies
Freshman
Sunrise, FL

Comp because it’s two parts and it requires more thinking than most.

Michelle Littke
Finance
Sophomore
Boston, MA

Alvin Alex
Pharmacy
Freshman
Weston, FL

Ashley Bailey
Chemistry
Senior
Eva, Ala

Matthew Gunter
Sports and Wellness Mgmt.
Sophomore
Lakeland, FL

Sociology because of all the essays.

The math final because the teacher can’t teach.

I would say Intro to Psych because it’s taught mainly online

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The Current is looking for talented, enthusiastic individuals to be part of a growing news team.

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**Movie Review**

**The Fountain**

Living Forever Isn’t All
It’s Cracked Up to Be

By Stefani Rubinio

A&E Editor

As a movie about the Fountain of Youth and the Tree of Life, The Fountain hits a lot closer to home than I expected. However, that’s probably because it’s not only about those two things but about one man’s journey through life, death, and his rebirth. It shows how this man struggles with all of these things as people all around him change, grow old, and eventually die.

The film takes us from the fictional narrative of a Spanish conquistador, Tómas, searching for the Tree of Life so that he may save Spain from an evil dictator to his life in present-day as an oncologist searching for a way to cure cancer. Tómas’ desperate queen, Elizabeth, as most of the segments take place in present-day as Tommy (Hugh Jackman) is trying to save his wife from a malignant brain tumor. Jackman (The Prestige, X-Men trilogy) is brilliant as all three of these characters. He plays a man desperate to understand the meaning of life and desperate to keep the woman he loves alive. Unlike The Prestige, Jackman plays extremely caring and gentle characters, emotional men just trying to live in love. His roles in The Fountain truly show just how flexible he really is, as he’s goes from depressed to overjoyed in a matter of minutes. If I had ever doubted Jackman’s talent, this movie was like a kick in the face and his probably one of the best actors in Hollywood today.

One of my favorite actresses right now, Rachel Weisz (The Constant Gardener, The Mummy) plays Tommy’s dying wife, Izzi, and Tómas’ desperate queen, Elizabeth. As most of the segments take place in present-day, you see most of her as Izzi, a woman who is deeply in love but knows she has to die and feels comfortable with it. Much like Jackman’s characters, Weisz’s are incredibly complex but in a weird way they’re more uplifting than anything else. She’s truly a good example of how people should feel about death, even when they’re leaving somebody extremely important to them behind. Although she did a phenomenal job, after watching The Constant Gardener, I am not surprised at how good Weisz did in her roles. She is sweet and emotional and does an amazing job portraying a woman who just wants her husband to accept her death as she has. As the queen, she is beautiful and powerful but, honestly, I would have rather saw her share a tender moment and Izzy (Rachel Weisz) be the queen, she is beautiful and powerful but, honestly, I would have rather saw her share a tender moment

**Game Review:**

**Tom Clancy’s Rainbow Six: Vegas**

By Paul Saneaux

Managing Editor

Tom, Tom, Tom... when will you stop making great games that are so addictive they consume every fiber of our very lives. Never, I hope. I just finished giving Splinter Cell: Double Agent a rest and now I have Rainbow Six: Vegas in my hands, a game that is by far (if that is even possible) a better game. Some gamers may think me crazy, but Ubisoft’s RS:V is actually a smidgen better than Epic’s Gears of War. Gasp! No, I am not a GoW fanatic, Vegas is really that good. Behold and believe.

Most importantly, RS:V, like a majority of Tom Clancy games, is story-driven. The plot is suspenseful, mirrors the best-of-the-best in action films, and thick. The premise is that Irena Morales, a Mexican terrorist leader, is smuggling terrorists across the border to attack Sin City and the rest unfolds later. Every mission has a purpose and every action has an intention that progresses the plot further.

Although Gears of War is an outstanding game, at times the player has to stop and think “Hey, why am I doing this again?” The transitions in GoW also lacked... well, didn’t exist at all. Not in RS:V. Many missions have the player’s team of elite counter-terrorism sitting in a chopper as they head for a landing zone. During that time, the player can look around at the scenery of Mexico or Las Vegas or turn the attention toward the interior where the intelligence specialist gives team leader Logan Keller the mission specs. It is a very nice and fluid way of introducing the missions.

Vegas’ presentation is top-notch. The menus are stylized and user friendly and contain a slew of options for tweaking game options. Graphically, RS:V is a great looking game. It’s not as aesthetically pleasing as GoW (because nothing will be for a while) but the settings are detailed and the player will see many of the sights of the gambling capital of the world. During several missions, I stopped to look outside the chopper or building windows and said “Wow, there’s the Bellagio Fountains and Caesar’s Palace.”

Although none of the missions take place in those actual locations because of legal troubles, the development team did an excellent job of creating fictional casinos and locations. My favorite was Dante’s Casino, modeled after the Inferno. The casino has a gothic theme and even features a huge gothic amphitheater that bellows some dark, operatic organ music all while the player battles terrorists behind cover. The atmosphere is extremely deep and the locations feel incredibly real.

The sounds of RS:V also seal the deal. The Ubisoft team definitely did their research when it came to offering the chance to fire the virtual counterparts of the real firearms. The deafening and thundering crack of the sniper and assault rifles are awe-inspiring. Another great feature is the banter between terrorists. During firefightes, the bad guys will yell commands at each other, frequently curse when being shot at, and figure out ways to outsmart the player. Here is my favorite bit of quips: terrorist one says “I’m reloading! S**t! I’m out of ammo! What am I going to do?”

**Please See VEGAS**
Casino Royale is a Great Gamble
By Jany Cabezaz
Staff Writer

“Bond, James Bond” is back with a big bang and boom. Not only referring to the gun power, but Casino Royale step away from the classic in a good way. The intentionally sappy expectations of traditional Bond movies takes a turn (and thankfully in the right direction) with several original points, making this movie a definite must see.

Risk. Everything is risky in Bond movies. But the “Casino” atmosphere brought a different kind of risk into play. This allows Bond to strategize his every move, not only through atypical physical violence, but with his mind. Bond’s brain becomes his ultimate weapon and that is highly creative.

Another kudos-worthy point was the realism feel in this Bond movie. Don’t worry, Bond is still unstoppable. However, the realism makes him less godlike in this film. Yes, he’s mortal. Yes, he can die. Go see how close he gets to doing so. Actually, that is probably one of the best and most vivid scenes in the movie—creating a thrill that not just any film can capture. This rush is both meaningful and perfectly illustrates how flawed (and weak) the human body is.

The scenery of Casino Royale is equally as good. It brings forth a vivid picture filled with colors from the very beginning with a very psychedelic introduction (guns blazing, playing cards) that can keep any mind amused by attaching the real to the surreal. Afterwards, of course, the exotic locations of the film keep you entertained and your eyes content.

The only drawback in this film is the extension of several scenes that should’ve been cut back. The beginning was a bit weak because it was too slow in getting the action going and it does not get the audience involved or “sucked in.” It wasn’t extreme enough to make the movie bad, but it could’ve been a little more captivating. Also, the sappy love scene (though essential for character development) wasn’t lacking, but at one point became annoying. Without these extended and overly emphasized scenes, like the vacation scenes, for example, the movie would be more unified and complete.

But that’s not the point. It really isn’t. The positives greatly outweigh the negatives. The point is: go see Bond and his sudden death experiences for your own. Yes, I’m practically advertising this one and that is because it’s really that good.

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more as Izzi.

The least surprising thing about the film is that Darren Aronofsky (Requiem for a Dream, Pi) directed and produced the film. It has his name written all over it. Much like his other films, Aronofsky has the amazing ability to communicate emotion more through actions than words, kind of like real life. I think that’s what makes him the best candidate for this film; he makes these characters look and feel like real people we would experience in our daily lives.

On the other hand, the film does move a little bit slow, especially in the beginning. It can also become a little confusing at times if you’re not paying attention. I think they could have sped up the film and fit more information in to make the film less confusing for the common movie-goer.

Besides that, the film is beautiful and I certainly enjoyed watching it. There were points when I was just completely astounded. It’s a beautiful love story and although you may not come out of it crying, you will definitely feel a little mushy inside.

Jerry Bruckheimer mixes sci-fi elements with FBI drama for riveting results

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

Jerry Bruckheimer has once again brought a hit movie to the big screen with his exiting and suspenseful thriller Déjà Vu. Déjà Vu begins with an explosion in a New Orleans ferry, killing many U.S navy sailors and their families. Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) an Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agent is sent to the scene to solve the case. Carlin believes that it was a terrorist attack and gets emotionally involved in the case when he discovers the body of a young woman who appeared to be killed before the explosion. The movie then takes a science-fiction turn when FBI agents bring out a video time-machine that can show what happened four days in the past. Carlin then decides to go back in time to solve the crime.

While the plot is a little fishy, it actually turns out to be a very interesting movie. The acting was good, especially from Val Kilmer, who plays an FBI agent, and Washington, who was very convincing as a determined agent willing to stop at nothing to get the job done. I like how the movie had a romantic feel to it, as Carlin is in love with a woman he has never met and tries hard to save her life.

The film is shot very nicely, and the technology was also very impressive. My only problem with the movie was the use of the scientific terms, many of which I did not understand and made me feel like I was missing a very important part of the movie. Déjà Vu really makes Bruckheimer shine, as this movie is well put together. The movie is at the least very intriguing, and as long as you’re willing to throw what you know about the world out the window, this movie will definitely be worth your while.

VEGAS
continued from page 10

“I’m reloading! S***t! I’m out of ammo...”

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Sharks Not Able to Overcome Florida Tech

By Nelly Mesa

NSU women's basketball team (0-2) hosted the Marriott Tip Off Classic this past weekend along with the Blazers of Valdosta State and SSC rival, the Florida Tech Panthers. The Sharks kicked off the season against Valdosta State on Nov. 17 and played a second game on Sunday, Nov. 19 against the Panthers for non-conference play.

With an end score of 58-54, the Sharks were not able to overcome the Lady Blazars as the game ended in defeat for NSU. Despite the loss, senior Jen Havens had an outstanding game with a total of 15 points and nine rebounds while fellow senior teammate Mechelle Jones, recorded 17 points of her own. Sophomore Eliza Allen displayed an aggressive attitude on the court as she stole a total of 12 rebounds.

NSU kicked game three of the tournament games against the Panthers with a 38-35 lead going into the second half. Although the momentum of the game was in the Sharks favor, the girls weren't able to keep it up as the game ended in defeat for the Sharks, 77-70.

Points guard Rhys Martin, SSC Player of the Week, takes on a defender. Photo by Ryals Lee

Women's Basketball Team Adds Player for 07-08 Season

By Alicia Winslett

On Nov. 28, the women's head basketball coach Marilyn Rule announced that the team will be signing another player for the 2007-08 season, point guard Abbie Tepe.

Tepe signed a National Letter of Intent during the NCAA's early NLI signing period. Tepe is 5 feet 6 inches tall and is from Cincinnati, Ohio. She is also a two-sport athlete at her high school. Tepe played four years on the varsity girls' soccer team, and also was a four-year member and two-year captain of the girls' basketball team.

Rule believes that Tepe will be a great asset to the women's basketball program and that she will help take the team to the next level.

Tepe backs up her talent with numerous awards she received in high school. She received First Team All-Conference, All-City, and Cincinnati Enquirer First Team in her junior year.

Her AAU team qualified for nationals six times and both first and second in the Ohio State AAU tournament. Tepe also led her conference in assists with 5.8 per game. She was second in the conference in steals with 3.3 a game and made 39 percent from the 3-point line.

Intramural Sports are Back in Action

Intramural Sports will be starting up the winter term with eight different sports in two new facilities. The semester will begin with a six-week 5-on-5 Basketball League in the RecPlex. This will be followed by February Flag Football in the Goodwin Residence Hall fields to replace the season that was cancelled in the fall. This new recreational facility will also host the 7-on-7 Soccer League in March and April. The semester will conclude with an April Sunday Softball League.

Saturday Tournaments, including Racquetball, Wiffleball, Wallball, and Kickball are offered throughout each month in the upcoming semester.

As always, each league and tournament offers men's, women's, and CoRec opportunities for all skill levels. The entire NSU community is invited to participate in these fun, recreational opportunities. Updated information will continue to be posted around campus and on the Recreation and Wellness website at www.rec.nova.edu.

SPORTS EDITOR

By Alicia Winslett

The NSU men's basketball team hosted the University of North Alabama, their conference rivals Barry University, Valdosta State on their home court in the University Center Nov. 25 and 26 in their first annual Courtyard Marriott Thanksgiving Classic.

The Sharks had plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving Holiday as they came together to grab two regional wins, making them the only undefeated team in the tournament.

The NSU Sharks took on the Lions of North Alabama in game two of the Classic, where both teams displayed a battle to the final few seconds of the game. Despite the Lions' large lead at the start of the game, the Sharks answered the call with a 15-4 run kicked off by junior Kevin Chester.

Sophomore Dave Naylor dominated in the second half, working to give the Sharks their biggest lead of the game, 73-63. Chester finished the match with 11 points while Naylor managed to tally up 16 of his own.

Senior Deigo Aguiar played with energy and aggression resulting in 17 points, as sophomore Tim Coenraad scored 16. With the help of these key players, along with star sophomore point guard Rhys Martin's contribution of 22 points and 10 assists, the Sharks managed to dominate in the second half, working to keep it up as the game ended in defeat for the Sharks, 77-70.

The Sharks put away Valdosta State's Blazers 96-82 in the final game of the Thanksgiving Classic. NSU has proven that this 2006 season is going to be a high scoring one as six Sharks finished the game in double figures. Among these were Aguiar with 18, Naylor with 15, Coenraad with 14, freshman Tomas Potuondo with 13, and Martin and senior Donovan Redden finished with 12 points total.

The future for men's basketball is looking bright as Martin was recently named the Sunshine State Conference Player of the Week for Nov. 19-25. Martin averaged 17 points, 8.5 assists and 4 rebounds per game that week, proving himself as an asset to the Sharks' ongoing success.

The Sharks had plenty be thankful for the 19 against the Panthers for non-conference play.

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NSU’s Sports Stats of the Week

**Men’s Basketball**

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Women’s Soccer Players Pick Up Two More Honors

By Alicia Winslett

Sports Editor

On Nov. 29, the NSU women’s soccer team received more honors after their tremendous fall season. Midfielder Stephanie Quinones and forward Shurell Burton were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America’s All-South Region First Team. Coaches at the NCAA Division II South Region institutions participated in the vote.

Both of these women were selected to the All-Sunshine State Conference First Team and DAKTRONICS All-South Region Second Team. Quinones and Burton are the first soccer players at NSU to receive honors from the NSCAA, making this an important honor for these women.

Quinones was the co-captain of the Sharks this year. She helped lead the team in their first-ever NCAA appearance. She was a central midfielder, and scored four goals, three assists and 11 points in the season. Quinones averaged three goals a game in her sophomore year at NSU.

This year Burton had a considerable impact on the team. She was also a unanimous selection to the All-Sunshine State Conference First Team. Over the season, Burton led the Sharks with 15 goals and 34 points and four assists. She finished the season second in the SSC with 2.27 points per game, even though she missed most of the postseason due to an injury. Burton was also named SSC Co-offensive Player of the week for Sept. 10 and led the SSC in regular season game-winning goals at six. Lastly, she set the NSU women’s soccer team NCAA record for most goals, game-winning goals and points in a season.

Rhys Martin: SSC Basketball Player of the Week, Nov. 19

By Alicia Winslett

Sports Editor

NSU sophomore point guard, Rhys Martin from Brisbane, Australia, was named the Sunshine State Conference player of the week on Nov. 27. Over the week of Nov. 19-25 he led the Sharks to a pair of south region victories. The team as a whole averaged 102 points per game and Martin attained 22 points, 10 assists and five rebounds in the win over North Alabama. In the game against Valdosta State, Martin had 12 points, 7 assists, and four rebounds in a 96-82 win.

In that week, he averaged 17 points, 8.5 assists, and 4.0 rebounds per game. He was 3-for-3 from the three-point line, and shot 71 percent or 12-for-17 from the field and 70 percent or 7-for-10 from the free-throw line.

In the exciting game against North Alabama, Martin set a new career high of 10 assists. In the season, Rhys is averaging 15 points, four rebounds, and seven assists per game. Last year, Martin was a unanimous selection on the SSC All-Freshman team and is expected to have a huge impact on the Sharks team this year.

Upcoming Games

**Women’s Basketball**

- Saturday December 8 at 2 p.m. home game against St. Augustine College
- Sunday December 10 at 2 p.m. away game against Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, FL

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- Saturday December 9 at 4 p.m. away game against Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, FL

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Parking Violations Violating Rights?

By Janny Cabezas
Staff Writer

You must be asking yourself how a parking violation can violate your rights. The right to be a patient, I mean! One way or another, you can't ever win with Public Safety. Unfortunately, Yossarian isn't the only one stuck with a Catch-22.

Apparently, Public Safety has decided that if you are an NSU student and hold an NSU decal on the back of your car, you cannot be an NSU patient. Although decals are suppose to prevent parking violations on campus, you become a victim if you park in shark territory. Ironic, isn't it? Shark territory is the HPD Building, the Sports Clinic or in the patient parking for the dental school—where students are not allowed to park. It's a "Patient Only" area. It's a "violation" to have a decal in these places, just as it is a "violation" to not have a decal in student parking.

As a student you only have one identity. Just that: student. Don't you dare for a second think that you need dental treatment of any kind. Don't even consider visiting the Sports Clinic or HPD. You must maintain perfect health and perfect teeth while on campus. At least, if you drive. So much for NSU's Identity theme.

Many students seem to run into this problem. A parking ticket isn't exactly the most comforting thing to see after say… a root canal. Or how about an injured leg? Something must be done. This has been happening for years (as even my NSU dentist that was an undergrad at NSU informed me) and what's worse is that the student/patient hasn't done anything wrong.

And since you haven't done anything wrong, you have to pay the price; either (usually) 30 dollars or a hearing in the law school. I'm sure the exposure to parking violations is inspirational and valuable learning experience to all lawyers-to-be. Yup, a real eye-opener. Who wouldn't appreciate the same problem appearing in this hearing, over and over again? Especially since this shouldn't be a problem if no one did anything wrong.

There must be a better system to avoid this situation. Public Safety should have other means of finding if a student really is violating the rules or not. They cannot just assume. Assuming has never been an efficient way of working through things. How is Public Safety any exception? These violations only result in a waste of time; a waste of time for the giver of the violation, and a waste of time for the receiver of the violation, and a waste of time for the law school.

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A Fly on the Wall:

Miscommunicate This

By Paul Saneaux
Managing Editor

So, yeah… many of you know that I was pretty annoyed by the happenings in the last SGA meeting. It just seemed like everything was being run backward and wrong. Not right at all. In the slightest bit. And again I was forced to ponder and search the darkest recesses of my mind for a reason why this has happened. My conclusion is this: miscommunication is as rampant as the Black Death was so many centuries ago. But it is not just any ol' simple miscommunication; it is mass miscommunication on so many levels. The problem is that hardly anyone is on the same page when it comes to how legislation should be written, or how the rules and guidelines apply to any given situation, or what is adequate notification, or whose constituents are whose, or when a precedent should be upheld, or when the campus is closed during holidays… and pretty much everything else.

While it is probably way too early to pin down the origin of this stifling lack of mutual understanding, I have a Badging idea. The NSUSGA Constitution and practically every stipulation and guideline described under it is way too vague. Like our U.S. Constitution wasn't ambiguous enough already, we have to suffer the same federal misery at the local level. Since the constitution is ambiguous, it can't be guaranteed that any two members of the SGA have the same interpretation of the same rule or stipulation. One senator can see one rule one way and be sure that he/she has the right interpretation and be sorely disappointed to find out it's wrong later when the bill is presented. But who is to say who's right when the stipulation in question may be too vague to settle on one final interpretation.

Anyway, two of the three bills presented didn't pass the table at the last meeting, and why? Because of miscommunication. The first bill was for t-shirts for Kappa Sigma. That one was clear and concise, and so it passed. There was no discussion needed.

The second bill was entitled Movers and Shakers Holiday Mixer by the SGA's own Leader Development Committee. I thought that this one would have easily flown considering it's the LDC's bill, but, boy, I couldn't have been more wrong. The bill was requesting $666.29 for a sort of festive student/ leader meet and greet. The event did not fall outside of the 10 days stipulated by the 10-day business day rule, so therein laid the problem. And therein began the controversy.

Treasure Alex Miriani clarified right away that the 10-day rule did not apply to this bill because all the monies would be handled by interdepartmental budget transfers that require little processing time as opposed to cutting a check. Bam! Cue the confused faces and pandemonium. Residential Senator Era Mills commented that she thought the rule was just to have standards that always applied. Maybe, maybe not. Miriani and Executive Secretary Jessica Boyd said the rule referred to the time needed to cut a check. Well… that argument went on for a while. Before the vote on a motion to suspend the rule took place President Andrew Ibrahim tried to remind the SGA of the precedent they set of not suspending the rule but then VPL Rico's hammer of vengeance came down. Apparently Ibrahim spoke out of turn. What he was trying to say however was important. Nevertheless, the senators voted 7-6-0 in favor of suspending the rule. Commuter Senator Earl Tinsley said since the event benefited the SGA and the students that there

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Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief

Dear NSU Community,

Finals are creeping up on us and I can't help thinking how fast this semester has gone. It seems like just yesterday I was writing my "welcome to the school year" column, and only about a dozen instances of "oh god, what should I write about this week?" later, here I am. Okay, maybe a few less than that, considering there were a few weeks during which I had something in mind, but not many.

But whether I could think of something to write in the column or not, I've certainly been busy, as, I'm sure, have all of you.

First, it's the first full year of us being the Sharks. New organizations and events have certainly made sure we know what our mascot is, lest we forget and have to take another school spirit survey.

Not just new events, but things that happen every year have been keeping us busy too. Oh yeah, and classes. Can't forget those. We don't exactly attend college just so we can show up to whatever barbeque or something is happening each week.

However busy we've been this semester, though, we cannot compare that to what the Winter semester will bring.

First, Homecoming will be upon us, having moved from its October date to its original home in late January. Then NSU CommunityFest shows up on Feb. 17 for a fun-filled Saturday. Unity Week is later in the semester, and always includes lots of fun events. With all of this big stuff on top of the clubs and organizations doing their events, we're certainly going to have our schedules full.

So in that light, study up for finals and take a good rest during the break. You're going to need the energy next term.

Sincerely,

Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief
should be some leeway. SGA Advisor Terry Morrow replied to that, saying that the SGA was no different and that everyone should be open and some students did have class. However, SGA Advisor Gary Gershman said all that was "screwed up? The SGA. "Individually and collectively," as Gershman said. This bill then also violated the 10-day business rule, but now the majority of the senators wanted to stick by it. This meant they were not going to own up to their own damn mistake and were going to penalize Catholic Life for doing the right thing. The motion to deny the rule died in a vote of 5-8-0. I have no clue whatsoever why that happened. It was clearly and undeniably the SGA's fault and yet they chose to punish the club instead because they wanted to stick by some precedent that didn't even exist since it was just broken 20 minutes earlier. Precedent, my ass. I say drop the precedents and find some common sense.

Moving on. The next bill entitled Catholic Life Christmas Party was just a useless tug-of-war over whether or not the SGA should own up to it's own damn mistake. This is what happened: practically everyone assumed something. Assume here, assume there, assume everywhere. Some assumed that since there was no class there would be no meeting and also that the campus would be closed. Some also assumed that everyone would know that and so nearly everyone assumed that no notice of the lack of a meeting was required. In fact the campus was open and some students did have class. However, SGA Advisor Gary Gershman said all that was "superfluous non-issues" and it was ridiculous that the SGA was arguing over nothing. He said what mattered was that almost everyone knew there was not going to be a meeting and no one bothered to let the students have adequate notice. Damn right. Catholic Life turned in their bill on time, but was not notified that there was not going to be a meeting. They did everything by the book. And who screwed up? The SGA. "Individually and collectively," as Gershman said. This bill then also violated the 10-day business rule, but now the majority of the senators wanted to stick by it. This meant they were not going to own up to their own damn mistake and were going to penalize Catholic Life for doing the right thing. The motion to deny the rule died in a vote of 5-8-0. I have no clue whatsoever why that happened. It was clearly and undeniably the SGA's fault and yet they chose to punish the club instead because they wanted to stick by some precedent that didn't even exist since it was just broken 20 minutes earlier. Precedent, my ass. I say drop the precedents and find some common sense.

International Senator Akshat Bhargava approached me later and said that although he respected the senators' decision, he was disappointed because he felt that the SGA failed to accept the responsibility for their action. I agree. However, I don't respect the decision.

Additional Notes:
THE LAST MEETING AND DAY OF BUSINESS FOR THE SGA IS ON DEC. 6.
In the last installment I said that one of the SGA's goals was to hold a tailgate at an athletic event. In fact, the goal is to plan the two athletic tailgates for the winter semester. My wording was wrong.
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