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NSU Community Takes Back the Night

By Kristine Belizaire
Distribution Manager

Members of the NSU community gathered in the back yard of the Leo Goodwin Residence Halls for the Fifth annual Take Back the Night, an event to bring awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence. This tradition began in 1877 when women in England protested against the fear and violence that they felt when walking in the streets at night. In 1978, protestors from California used the phrase after an anti-pornography conference where people affected by pornography could speak out about it.

Purple ribbons were given to the attendees at the event to acknowledge domestic violence awareness and they were also given the opportunity to sign a pledge to never raise their hands in violence. In addition, graphic t-shirts were hung on clotheslines. Known as the Clotheline Project, the shirts allow women to tell their stories of violence. By hanging the shirts, awareness can be increased, and the women's voices can be heard. White shirts represented deaths, purple represented violence, black symbolized violence in politics, blue and green meant incest and yellow and red symbolized stories of survivors.

Written on the shirts were sexual assault statistics and powerful messages such as "He made me a victim, but I made myself a survivor" and "I ultimately won this fight!" Additionally, there was a written message on the shirts that read, "What's attractive about Nova is that it's very professional in its appearance and very responsive to the changes in the workplace" by Larry A. Calderon, Ed.D.

Larry A. Calderon
NSU's new President

Calderon has worked in higher level administrative positions for over thirty years. His work with six different universities in several states has led the new NSU administrator to develop four main goals for the university.

His first plan for the university is to help further develop the Ph.D. programs in the Fischer School of Education and Human Services, which are directly related to upper level management in higher education. Having many years of experience with senior executive positions at several different universities, Calderon plans to utilize his experience to help specialize those programs and fully prepare the students for their future.

His second goal is to increase the awareness of NSU as an undergraduate institution throughout the country. He feels that students across the nation are simply unaware of the programs and amenities that NSU offers.

"What's attractive about Nova is that it's very professional in its appearance and very responsive to the changes in the workplace," said Steve Ferrero and executive administrators, who will decide on a course of action. From there, steps toward implementation will be taken.

Possible alterations to the policy include phasing out smoking by creating smoking-designated zones over the course of an academic year followed by a full ban the next year. Permanent smoking zones or an immediate ban may also be considered.

Calderon feels it is relatively unknown for its undergraduate level education.

"The majority of students that come here come to participate in the graduate programs," he said. "He plans to increase the spread of information to out-of­state students and show them the benefits of attending NSU, including the quality of education, the facilities, the price of tuition, and its ability to deliver quality programs."

"At this university, it realizes that its ability to be successful is directly correlated to its ability to deliver quality programs." NSU Health Committee Considers Updating Smoking Policy

By Greg Kyriakakis
NSU News Editor

At the beginning of the winter semester, the NSU community was presented a brief online survey questioning the university's current smoking policy, including the possibility of a campus-wide ban. Feedback from the survey will be used to gain an understanding of the university community's feelings toward the current policy and guide potential changes to the regulations.

America Minc, Wellness Committee co-chair and Assistant Director of Campus Recreation for Fitness and Wellness, had the initial idea to reevaluate the guidelines in an effort to promote healthy habits across the university.

"I was thinking of ways NSU needs to improve in terms of lowering negative, high-risk health behaviors, and furthering our commitment to cultivate a proactive approach towards health, wellness, and positive lifestyle choices," explained Minc.

Based on the NSU community's responses, the committee will present recommendations to President Ray Ferrero and executive administrators, who will decide on a course of action. From there, steps toward implementation will be taken.

Possible alterations to the policy include phasing out smoking by creating smoking-designated zones over the course of an academic year followed by a full ban the next year. Permanent smoking zones or an immediate ban may also be considered.

Minc believes that, as a teaching school preparing students for careers in disciplines such as medicine and business, an effort should be made to "teach students and faculty how to make positive health choices."
a shoe project where donated footwear represented the statewide statistics that are associated with assault, domestic violence and rape. The shoes will be passed on to a local charity.

The event began with MC Marcie Washington who described the event as empowering because it gives people the chance to speak and voice their concerns on the very serious issues before them. Washington took time to acknowledge the offices and student groups who participated in putting on this event, such as Office of Residential Life and Housing, Office of Volunteerism, Student Engagement, Student Activities and Leadership Development, NSU’s Social Action Social Awareness group (SASA), and the tennis, rowing, and golf teams.

After the acknowledgments, Dr. Gay Holiday, the Associate Dean of Students Affairs, spoke briefly about dealing with several sexual assault and violence cases, saying that they do occur on campus and in our community. Holiday said that peer pressure, fear, shame, guilt and embarrassment are the reasons that these crimes go unreported. She encouraged students to talk to her or someone in the Student counseling office if they have been assaulted. She concluded by pressing the audience to “take action and take back the night.”

Shay Alexander, counselor-in-residence, welcomed the keynote speaker, a doctoral student at NSU, and described her as someone who is inviting and embodies the meaning of tonight’s event. After coming onstage, the student thanked God and thanked NSU for putting on such an important event. She then began her story.

She told her message “It takes a village to save a life” because after traveling to different parts of the world, she realized that the one thing we all have in common is that we belong to a village. She described a village as a place with families, neighbors, doctors, places of worship, and both the good and the evil. As a victim of domestic violence, she was chocked, demeaned and belittled. Embarrassed about what her husband was doing to her, she became isolated and just hoped that everything would get better. Although she lived in a big house and had luxuries, she felt like she was dying inside. When she decided to seek help, she went to a doctor and counseling therapist. But because she was not sure that she was being abused, she was often misdiagnosed and medicated. She said she was “brainwashed into thinking that it was nothing.”

When the doctors and therapists did not help, she turned to her faith and joined a wife’s support group in order to learn how she could turn her situation around. One evening after Bible study, the pastor, who noticed her “szombite-like state,” asked her what was wrong. She finally told him her story. That was the day she decided to leave her husband. She went home, called her parents, and planned to pack at night while her husband was at work. That night, she left and never came back.

While her physical scars have healed, she says that she now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, and experiences stomach cramps and nightmares. She once again thanked everyone for coming and letting her speak out.

Dr. Douglas Flemons, Director of Student Counseling, took the stage and spoke about safety, saying that it goes beyond physical safety. Flemons told the audience there is no way to feel safe enough to leave. "If it is not safe to leave, then it is not safe to stay," said Flemons. He also added that the event was personal to him, since he had recently lost a friend to AIDS after he was raped.

Jessica Aaron, president of SASA, began the open mike forum, so that audience members could come up and tell their tales of abuse. Aaron encouraged those attendees to break their silence.

One by one, they rose and shared their tales with the crowd. Some of them were victims of domestic violence. Others were victims of child molestation or attempted rape. They all remembered feeling helpless and scared, but they also remembered that they are survivors.

Nichola Seegbin, an NSU optometry student who was brutally murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2005, was not forgotten in this year’s Take Back the Night. Seegbin’s aunt and family were present at the event, which took place on what would have been her 27th birthday. Her aunt addressed the audience, urging them to share anything dangerous with someone and to protect them at all times.

The night ended with a candle light vigil held to remember all the victims, and a march lead by the NSU’s established vehicle Back the Night to make students more aware. Although she lived in a big house and had luxuries, she felt like she was dying inside. When she decided to seek help, she went to a doctor and counseling therapist. But because she was not sure that she was being abused, she was often misdiagnosed and medicated. She said she was “brainwashed into thinking that it was nothing.”

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Quad Thursday

Students and staff gathered outside the UC Patio on January 18 to enjoy an array of cultural dishes, desserts, live entertainment, and flag football. There were also various informational tables, where students could register for the 2nd Annual Diversity Summit, sign up to roast NSUSGA President Andrew Ibrahim for the Inaugural Student Roast on Monday, January 22, and submit nominations for 2007 Homecoming Court.

Photos by MIKE PALOZZOLA/The Current
Homecoming Week: Bringing Out the Fun of NSU Spirit

By Jany Cabezas
Staff Writer

During the week of Jan. 22, many activities and events will take place throughout NSU's campus; from dressing up as superheroes to racing tricycles, homecoming week promises plenty of fun and surprises. All day Monday, Jan. 22, students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superheroes. Later in the evening, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., an Inaugural Annual Faculty Roast, featuring roastee and SGA president Andrew Ibrahim, will take place in the Flight Deck.

On Tuesday, another theme will take over the campus; that day students are encouraged to wear their pajamas to school for the Pajama Dress Theme. Wednesday, students will attempt their best to resemble a celebrity for the Celebrity Look-Alike Dress Theme. At 8 p.m., a homecoming party will take place until 11:55 p.m. for celebrity look-a-likes at the Flight Deck. The best dressed look-a-like will win a prize.

NSU will be "Sharkified" on Thursday for the Dress Theme of NSU Gear and school spirit. Starting at 11:30 p.m., the usual Quad Thursday will have more "sharky" atmosphere with a Shark Rally to warn things up for The Annual Tricycle and "Anything Thrus" Raft Races around the Gold Circle Lake. These races will start at 2:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m.

On Friday, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., a club and organization fair will open shop in the North Lobby of the UC to display various clubs on campus. To conclude the day, the Student Union Board's "Shark Shot Out" will present comedians Al Jackson and Jen Kober to bring laughs to the Flight Deck at 8 p.m.

Saturday will see the main events take place. During the day, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., family and friends are invited to take a tour of the NSU campus as well as witness the University Center's Ribbon Cutting and the official unveiling of Guy Harvey's mural. Following the unveiling will be the "Homecoming Tailgate" for the Homecoming basketball games between NSU and The University of Tampa. This includes the Women's game at 5:30 p.m. and the men's game at 7:30 p.m.

The "Red Carpet Affair" Homecoming Dance will begin at 9 p.m. and end at 12 a.m. at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood. For more information about these events, contact Katie Blanco at 954-262-7283. Any questions regarding Homecoming tickets should be directed to Earl Timley at earl@nova.edu.

Ars Flores to Perform at Miniaci with Young Artists Concerto Competition Winners

The Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, NSU's orchestra in residence, will be performing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 28 in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

This performance will feature winners of the Young Artists Concerto Competition, who will each perform parts of a concerto with the Orchestra.

The program will include concertos for the piano, violin, cello, flute and clarinet.

Preceding the performance will be a pre-concert lecture by humanities professor Dr. Christine Jackson at 3 p.m., and a free Music for Munchkins performance geared towards children and their families at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $30 for preferred seating, $20 for general admission, and $15 for students and seniors. NSU students are able to purchase a pair of tickets for $5 each with the code word "ARTIST." For more information, visit www.arsflores.com, call Ars Flores at (954) 764-4555, or the Miniaci ticket office at (954) 462-0222.

SMOKING
continued from page 1

"an effort should be made to 'teach students and faculty how to make positive health choices.'"

RALPH TORRES/Contributing Photographer
This ash tray, placed outside of the Administration Building, is one of the common stopping grounds for smokers.

NSU Tradition "Quad Thursdays" Undergoes Changes

By Michael Bergbauer
Current Affairs Editor

Students may have noticed something peculiar at the last few Quad Thursdays—they are no longer on the Library Quad. A change among possible others in the goal of making the weekly event better than ever.

The change was decided last month during Quad Thursday's "Winter Wonderland" theme when the large pile of snow for the Quad Thursday was under the tent. Currently, students may have noticed that event, I asked a lot of people," said student Shurell Burton. "I liked it better before because..."

The change was made to provide more places to sit, according to Realbuto. Some signs have been posted around campus publicizing the move. "So what if it's not on the quad?"

As with any event, there are efforts behind it to push it to become bigger and better. "We want to experiment with the types of food, music and entertainment," said Realbuto. "I always try to speak to students at the events to get their feedback and I'm always open to suggestions. Quad Thursday is an event for students to have a free meal, relax and enjoy themselves before or after class. I want to continue to have that be the goal of the event."

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Wall of Hate: “Breaking Down the Barriers”

The Wall of Hate stands waiting for its demise. The Writing on the Wall Project is an annual event where a wall covered in hateful words is symbolically destroyed.

NSU students, staff, and faculty ready themselves to pull on the ropes to knock down the Wall of Hate, and in doing so knock down those barriers of hate between people.

The Wall of Hate begins to topple as the attached ropes are pulled.

CALDERON continued from page 1

“I’m of an age in my career when I probably have one last achievement.”

and, of course, the sunny weather.

Calderon’s third goal for the university is to increase the current level of external funding. He is examining several different sources of funding including state, federal and private funds.

He proposed to apply for federal funding because NSU qualifies as a Hispanic-serving institution, having twenty-five percent of the students on campus declared as Hispanic.

Increasing the student and community awareness of the undergraduate life at NSU is Calderon’s fourth goal. “This campus is exemplary in its appearance, and is improving every day,” he said. “I was brought in to help and make it better.”

He wants students to feel free to come to him with their ideas about holding different events on campus. Calderon believes that these kinds of activities will ultimately create more unity throughout the university.

Calderon knows that it is going to be hard work and that it will take time to achieve his goals for university improvement. “By the end of my first year, I will have developed my game plan,” he said. “There is a whole lot of thinking and adjustment that needs to be done along the way.”

One of the challenges is finding the ways and means to incorporate these new changes into the current administrative system at NSU. “The implementation of any significant change will come at the end of my second year and towards the beginning of my third,” he said.

As former President of BCC, Calderon sat on a coordinating council with other top administrators from different universities, including Ferrero, whose purpose was to address the key issues that were affecting the students on their college campuses. When Ferrero approached Calderon with his new plan for NSU, Calderon accepted.

Calderon’s 4 Main Goals

1. To help further develop the Ph.D. programs in the Fischler School of Education and Human Services.
2. To increase the awareness of NSU as an undergraduate institution throughout the country.
3. To increase the current level of external funding.
4. To increase student and community awareness of NSU undergraduate life.
We could have gone anywhere. We chose Florida International University.

Miguel Alonso, Jr.
Miami Electrical Engineering

Douglas Houghton
New York Nursing

Megan Bottegal
North Carolina Forensic Chemistry

Charlie Emerson
Connecticut Post Professional Athletic Training/Sports Medicine

Saira Babu John
India International MBA

FIU's University Graduate School offers more than 120 degree programs at the master's and doctoral levels ranging from creative writing, business and education to the sciences, engineering and health professions. FIU ranks among the top 20 best values in public higher education in the country, according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazines 2006 survey.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching ranks FIU as a Research University in the High Research Activity category in their prestigious classification system. FIU is among the youngest universities ever to be awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most distinguished academic honor society.

Visit gradschool.fiu.edu to see what some of our students say about FIU's graduate programs.
By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

The NSU women's basketball team (4-11, 3-2 SSC) was able to pick up two much-needed conference wins while playing the Tritons of Eckerd College, 67-55, and Lynn University's Fighting Knights, 62-58.

While taking on the Tritons, junior Amber Bishko led the team with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Sophomore Elisa Allen was also key to the Sharks victory. In addition to her outstanding defensive performance, which including three steals and three blocks, Allen would throw the game's only three-pointer which sunk a crucial three-pointer which tied the game up at 51 points apiece. Sadly, NSU was not able to capitalize as the match ended in defeat for the Sharks.

The men's team (8-6, 3-2 SSC) were not so fortunate. While in Saint Petersburg they were defeated by the Tritons, 76-61, and by Lynn while at home, 61-56, to end their 12 home conference game winning streak.

NSU men's Sharks got off to a shaky start due to early foul trouble for a number of the Sharks' starting players, unfortunately limiting the Sharks while on the court. Despite the loss, sophomore Josh Wood did his best to carry the team on the offensive end of the game as he led the Sharks with 17 points.

The Sharks, as well as Fighting Knights, struggled offensively while battling it out with both teams shooting below 50 percent. True to Shark character, the boys never gave up regardless of the score. Their hard work and passion began to pay off in the second half as they made a marvelous comeback, tying the game up at 51 points apiece.

Men's & Women's Basketball Recap

Player Profile

"Do What You Love, Love What You Do"

Tsippy Waterman

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

The NSU women's tennis team is proud to welcome back the much-anticipated return of 21-year-old junior Tsippy Waterman, for the upcoming 2007 season. She traveled across the world from Israel with the hopes of building her tennis career to what was once unimaginable heights.

Waterman has demonstrated electrifying intensity on the court over the years. As a freshman she was named to the Sunshine State's All-Conference Team in addition to earning the honor of becoming the ITA Southeast Regional Player to Watch. As a sophomore, Waterman made herself known on a national level, receiving a national ranking of 44, concluding the 2006 season with a 15-7 over-all singles record, along with a 15-8 doubles.

Although Waterman is just 5 feet 3 inches tall, she has set her goals at tremendous heights. "My dream has always been to become a professional tennis player and top ten in the [Women Tennis Association]," said communication major Waterman. "In addition to my tennis dream, I would also like to be a sports broadcaster on television."

Tsippy was born in Amsterdam, Holland, where she remained for several years before relocating to Israel at the age of 12. At age 18, she moved to Israel to attend school and watch her father, who is a professional tennis instructor.

Although Tsippy does miss home, she finds comfort through her coach and teammates, whom have become one big family. "My parents are my everything," she said. "If it wasn't for their love and support I would never have been able to get as far as I have gotten. I have amazing friends that are very motivating and I could not ask for anything better."

Tsippy got involved with tennis at an extremely young age, seeing as her father is a prestigious tennis instructor.

"My dad used to bring me to the courts when I was really little," recalled Waterman. "The first time I picked up a racket it was love at first hit."

Tsippy has brought passion and motivation to NSU's untouchable tennis team.

"I love to compete: the feeling that you get before a match is a pure rush. Nothing is better than that moment when you walk on the court and all eyes are on you," said Waterman. "Do what you love, love what you do."

3 Quick Facts

* Tsippy Waterman was born in Amsterdam, Holland.
* She has traveled across the world to bring her tennis career to a new level.
* Tsippy has been named to Sunshine State's All-Conference Team and ITA Southeast Regional Player to watch.
## NSU's Sports Stats of the Week

### Women's Basketball SSC Standings

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### Men's Basketball SSC Standings

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### Upcoming Games

**Wednesday - January 24, 2007**

- **WOMEN's BASKETBALL**
  7:30 p.m.  Palm Beach Atlantic - Home
- **MEN's BASKETBALL**
  7:30 p.m.  Florida Gulf Coast - Fort Myers, FL

**Saturday - January 27, 2007**

- **WOMEN's BASKETBALL**
  5:30 p.m.  University of Tampa - Home
- **MEN's BASKETBALL**
  7:30 p.m.  University of Tampa - Home

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Movie Review
Pan's Labyrinth: More Thrilling than Fanciful
By Stefani Rubin
Variety Editor

The tagline for Pan’s Labyrinth reads “Innocence has a power evil cannot imagine” and with that, Guillermo Del Toro (Hellboy, Blade II) has woven a tale that sets innocence against evil in all aspects of the film.

The film tells the story of Ofelia (Ivana Baquero), a young girl growing up during the Spanish Civil War. After her mother, Carmen (Ariadna Gil), desperately marries Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez), a decorated “war hero” commanding part of Franco’s fascist regime, for protection, Ofelia and Carmen are transported to rural Spain where Vidal lives and works. There, Ofelia is visited by a fairy and waiting for her return.

It sounds kind of like a children’s story and it has all the elements: sweet, little child and long parent, evilest stepmother, displacement, and mystical figures (like the fairies and the faun). However, it’s anything but a children’s story. If anything, this is a story for adults, or at least people who have matured a bit, as

Please See Labyrinth
Page 11

Game Review
Latest Castlevania Installment “Ruins” Boredom
By Michael Bergbauer
Current Affairs Editor

Castlevania games need little introduction, and the latest addition to Konami’s popular series, Portrait of Ruin for the Nintendo DS, continues the Castlevania legacy of greatness with a few new additions to its classic gameplay, including a new sub-weapon and spell system, dual character control and of course, a whole lot of evil monsters.

Castlevania: Portrait of Ruin features an interesting story that, fortunately, is not as convoluted as some of the last few entries in the series. The year is 1944 and the anger and sadness of the thousands of souls lost to World War II has summoned Dracula’s castle to our mortal plane once again to push humankind over the brink into destruction. Naturally, the Morris clan must step in to once more protect the world from Dracula. However, Dracula doesn’t appear to be home. A vengeful vampire by the name of Brauner has taken control of the castle’s power to do what Dracula has failed to do for the last several centuries—destroy humankind.

The player takes control of Jonathan Morris and his magically gifted friend, Charlotte Aulin. Gameplay follows the usual Castlevania 2D side-scrolling conventions, but the player can tag-team between using one character or the other, or both characters at once (one is controlled by the computer). The computer handles its character reasonably well, as it sticks close to you and attacks nearby enemies. If it gets hit, your magic will be drained instead of your health, and if your

Please See CASTLEVANIA
Page 11

Album Review
Anti-Folk is Alive...and Kicking
By Stefani Rubin
Variety Editor

For the most part, anti-folk seems to exist only around the Lower East Side of New York City. And it is there that the great Jeffrey Lewis resides. To get a full understanding of his music, you have to look at his history. According to the biography on his website, Jeffrey Lewis was born and raised on the Lower East Side by loving parents, and at an early age he became a comic book fanatic, even before he was able to read. Eventually he started drawing and writing his own comic books and found that he also loved to make music. Inspired by folk legend Donavon and the great "beatnik" culture, he began to make cassette tapes of his songs which he sold with his comics books. And then as other artists like the Moldy Peaches and Lach took off, so did Jeffrey Lewis, who brings us to his latest release with his brother, Jack Lewis, City & Eastern Songs.

Much like all other anti-folk music, the album is extremely simplistic, almost childish, and usually tells stories instead of just conveying a message or emotion, but that's the genius behind it and that's what makes Jeffrey Lewis so great. His songs are not only simple and innocent, but there's always a part somewhere in the song where the song goes from most innocent content to more adult. On City & Eastern Songs, Jeff and Jack Lewis do this over and over again, and they do it extremely well.

My personal favorite on this album is a song called "Williamsburg Will Oldham Horror," which pays tribute to an up-and-coming folk act and personal favorite of mine Will Oldham (a.k.a. Bonnie Prince Billy, Palace Music, Palace Brothers, and Palace Songs). In the song, Jeff and Jack describe a sighting of the notoriously reclusive Will on the Subway in NYC. The song is fast and sometimes it's a little hard to understand the lyrics but when you do, they're actually pretty interesting. Like a lot of his songs, there is only guitar on this track and he does a good job of using it to push the story of the song even further along.

The other two truly great tracks on the album are "Posters," which describes a midnight wheat pasting (gluing posters to walls) party, and "Anxiety Attack," which, as its title implies, describes how Jeff is feeling before, during, and after an anxiety attack and how much he dislikes them. "Posters" has a fun rhythm and the lyrics mostly rhyme, which makes the song a lot of fun to listen to and sing along with. "Anxiety Attack" is a little more erratic, much like what he’s describing in the song, and will kind of keep you on your seat the whole time you’re listening, but it’s melodic and by the end of the song I was laughing.

City & Eastern Songs is a fun collection to anybody's iTunes. I would recommend it to people who like anti-folk and even those who don't. The songs are funny and simple, and even interesting. As my headline says, thanks to Jeffrey Lewis and a few other incredibly talented artists, anti-folk is alive and will hopefully be around for a very long time.
most of the subject matter is very adult oriented and there is also a lot of violence and even some bad language. With that being said, it's shocking how mature Ivana Baquero's (Ofelia) performance can turn her emotions on and off one. Baquero is the best Spanish-speaking child actress, than the co-universe. Beautiful architecture of the buildings and the setting is that it gives off the illusion of being a thriller than anything else. It

C:PoR has not reinvented what Castlevania has been doing over the years, but quickly executed his master plan of leaving the area, spotting a naked human being, who looked like a jungle person. Authorities will compare DNA samples to confirm that the woman is indeed the child who went missing years ago.

Whoops
Sylvia Browne, a psychic who frequents Montel Williams' fine television talk program, told the family of Shawn Hornbeck three years ago that their missing son was dead and that his body was in some Missouri woods. Specifically, next to two large boulders. Alas, the boy was found, alive and well, just recently. The Daily News reported that the boy's family claimed Browne wanted $700 at the time to help locate Hornbeck, but the family did not have the funds. Strengths with a lengthy, challenging quest, remarkable design, and a plethora of enemies, items and secrets. This is a title Castlevania veterans or anyone looking for a solid action adventure title should check out.
News from Around the World
Compiled by Paul Saneaux

Europe
Strong storms kill at least 39
In what was considered an unusual storm featuring winds up to 120 mph, at least 21 people have been killed from England to the Czech Republic, and transportation systems have been halted. According to Reuters, German and Dutch railways were halted, flights from Frankfurt were grounded, and rescue helicopters had to assist 26 sailors after their freight ship encountered trouble in the English Channel. "Things have ground to a halt—this is unprecedented," said Harmut Mehdorn, director of Eurostar international trains. "Five motorists died, two people were killed in the northern town of Manchester, Britain, and a boy died when a wall collapsed in London." Several German and Dutch schools closed early due to the severe weather and falling trees and debris in the Netherlands have claimed at least 3 lives. Strong winds and torrential rain damaged buildings, including the arched roof of Amsterdam's Central Station. Two odd cases included a barn door that was ripped off its hinges and killed a 73-year-old man, and a loose house door that killed an 18-month-old child. "What's unusual about this storm is that it will affect the whole country and not just certain areas," said spokesman for Germany's meteorological service, Christoph Hartmann.

For more information, visit www.reuters.com.

North America
DNA evidence clears 12 prisoners in Texas
On Jan. 19, James Waller became the 12th person to be exonerated from a crime that he did not commit in Texas. Associated Press reports said that the large number of exonerations due to conflicting DNA evidence in Dallas, Texas is that it will affect the whole country and not just certain areas, said spokesman for Germany's meteorological service, Christoph Hartmann. For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.

Middle East
Outspoken Turkish editor gunned down
According to the Associated Press “a journalist who faced constant threats and protest as one of the most prominent voices of Turkey’s shrinking Armenian community was shot to death” on Jan. 19. Hrant Dink, a 53-year-old Turkish man of Armenian descent, was put on trial “numerous times for speaking out” about crimes carried out against Armenians. Dink has received numerous threats from nationalists, “who viewed him as a traitor.” During an interview with AP in 2006, Dink cried at the mention of his countrymen’s hatred for him. He said “he could not stay in a country where he was unwanted.” “I’m living together with Turks in this country,” Dink said in the interview. “I don’t think I could live with an identity of having insulted them in this country… if I am unable to come up with a positive result, it will be honorable for me to leave this country.” Police reports indicated that Dink was killed by two bullets to the head at the entrance to his newspaper’s offices.

For more information, visit www.msnbc.com.

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Dolphin Stadium
Getting Ready for Super Bowl XLI
By Alicia Winslett
Sport Editor

The Dolphin stadium is going through some major changes to get ready for whatever teams go head-to-head at Super Bowl XLI. Dolphin Stadium President Bruce Schulze was interviewed about changes in the field.

"There's a lot of noise going on, a lot of activity, a lot of fun," he said. "And even now with only twenty days to go, you still won't recognize it, it just changes that much." Schulze was referring to the outside and inside of the arena. The most significant changes will be on the interior, with the addition of special turf and large high-definition televisions.

This special grass is two years in the making and was grown in a special farm in central Georgia. The turf arrived at Dolphin on January 11 and it took three to four days to lay down. The process of laying this grass is time consuming and repetitive. The grass must be unloaded from trucks, rolled out, positioned, flattened, and then tightened.

"We're setting the stage for the game," said Ed Mangan of the NFL. "It is the stage, and if this isn't a good surface, then the players' talents can't be utilized to their maximal potential."

About 80,000 square feet of grass has been placed in the stadium. That is approximately two and a half acres of grass grown and taken out of the ground in Georgia. The reason this grass is considered to be so special is because of a unique sod called Princess 77. This sod was grown on a special Super Bowl field farm and is extremely expensive.

The estimated cost of this specialized turf is $230,000 dollars.

Be sure to keep watching the games to see which NFL teams get to perform on this "special grass" in Super Bowl XLI on Feb. 4.

David Beckham Signs with LA Galaxies for 250 million
By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

David Beckham, the 31-year-old midfielder from the Real Madrid team, has decided to come to America to play soccer. He has agreed to a five-year, $250 million deal with the Los Angeles Galaxy. However, he said it is not about the money. In an interview he said "I'm going out there to hopefully build a club and a team that's got a lot of potential."

It is evident that soccer is struggling for fans in America, but Beckham hopes to change that with his decision to play in the States. "Soccer is huge all around the world, apart from America, so that's where I want to make a difference," said Beckham.

Beckham's wife, Victoria, also known as Posh Spice from the Spice Girls, was also seen house hunting in L.A., which fueled the flame of rumors of his move. The Galaxy team has tried to get Beckham over to the United States for almost a year, and now they have him. Some fans say that it will help L.A., and the soccer world, but it is yet to be seen what Beckham has in store for the sport in the next five years.

Beckham will be making close to a million dollars a week. Many hope Beckham will have a positive influence on the sport and Beckham's younger fans in the U.S. will have a soccer icon to look up to.
Dear NSU Community,

Welcome back all, and hello to those of you who are spending your first semester at NSU. After a truly sobering trip out west, I’m back in the Editor’s seat and gearing up to implement all those changes that Paul mentioned last week.

I’m personally excited about a number of these changes, even if they will take some time to get used to. Hopefully, our new direction will make things not only smoother for the staff, but more enjoyable and informative for you, the newspaper viewing public.

Some of these changes Paul discussed last week, such as the change in scope and placement of our various sections. Other improvements we hope to have in place soon include a large increase in news from commuter students. Those members of the community have, not as a general rule, been given a great deal of coverage in the past. Part of this is because we’ve had limited success soliciting input, and part of it is because our staff is generally comprised of undergraduate students on the main campus. At one point, it was entirely comprised of undergraduate commuter students.

Further improvements in coverage will be a hike in investigative reporting. We currently cover primarily events rather than the placement of our various sections.

On a different note, I’m delighted to have received some feedback from my Editor’s Note in our Dec. 11 issue, particularly in response to what I thought was a rhetorical question. You can see the responses to the right. Thanks to those who wrote in, and I hope to see further participation by the NSU Community.

The opinion section is another part of the paper I’d like to see some growth in. Participation by the paper I’d like to see some growth in. Participation by the staff, but those of the university, especially the student body, as a whole.

I mentioned in another Editor’s Note many moons ago that my favorite newspaper back home didn’t have particularly good news coverage (in fact, it was practically a joke), but had an incredibly active opinion section. Readers would write in about articles they saw or community issues, and other readers would write responses to those initial letters. It was all highly entertaining.

While I don’t intend the reporting in The Current to ever be as comical as it was in the paper back home (which shall remain nameless), I would love to see that kind of dialogue exist in our final section.

NSU is a diverse campus with many ideas, and here is a good way to express those ideas.

Sincerely,

Alisha VanHouse

Editor-in-Chief

Dear Editors,

I am writing in response to the editorial that Alisha VanHouse wrote in the December 11 edition of The Current. I am a student employee for the Office of New Student Programs, and it was a little disheartening to read the article and see the somewhat negative questions posed about the orientation program. I feel that to raise those questions without providing answers might leave a bad impression on what is a great program for new students.

By Paul Saneux
Managing Editor

It’s already the third week of the semester and the inconsistencies in the way the SGA functions are already apparent. Really. It’s actually quite fascinating. I am starting to believe that there is a curse hanging over the SGA much like the one that haunted the early Boston Red Sox. Also, I know resignations in governmental organizations are common, but last year’s and this year’s SGAs have suffered some bad epidemics of senators and board members dropping their contractual responsibilities.

Is it the stress, the workload, an increasing hatred for the position, other obligations, the lack of compensation, or something else that I am missing? Whatever it is, whatever the reason for the empty seats, resignations do not go far to help the organizations. The SGA under President Jason Peebles (who resigned) suffered and this one will too. However, President Andrew Ibrahim is a strong leader and I think he will prevent this SGA from completely falling apart.

For those of you who have not heard the loose talk floating around, there was a rash of resignations a week ago. VPL Herman Rico, PR Director Sean Burque, Treasurer Alex Mittran, Fraternal Senator Evan Fish, Athletic Senator Jones, and Senate Secretary Jillian Maffucci all resigned. Freshman Senator Diana Aziz was removed because of unexcused absences. I think I am forgetting someone, but that’s all of them I could recall right now. Everyone did not resign at once; Rico, Burque, and Mitran were the most recent.

Not only does this cause a problem because the SGA is unstaffed, it also makes this bad for the constituents. The athletics, the fraternities, and the non-traditional students do not have representation at the meetings. No representation means no votes in their interests. The fact that the SGA had troubles filling seats after school began mean they will have trouble once again. Last week’s meeting almost didn’t happen because it seemed quorum was not even going to be met.

Even with the lack of man/woman power, the remaining SGA members have done a good job of banding together to cover the bases. PR is difficult with the PR Director missing and Campus Entertainment Director Brooks is being assisted by the senators to organize Homecoming. Maybe the resignations have had the positive effect of uniting the remaining members.

The inconsistencies I mentioned earlier are in regards to two clubs’ conference bills that were presented. The first one was by the Pre-Pharmacy Society. They sought $3,066 to pay for air travel, hotel stay, registration fees, and... admission to the Georgia Aquarium. I don’t know why that last bit was included, but that doesn’t matter. The main point is that Pre-Pharm was put under investigation for forged signatures in their budget and President Nandita Koodie (who was not involved) was not informed. VPJ Laxmi Lahwani said that the investigation may result in the club not getting the money even if it was approved and there. The SGA argued over the rationale behind punishing the entire club over a few individuals and why the investigation was not carried out back when the budget hearing took place. Nevertheless, the bill was amended for $2,100 - for what reason I have no clue - and was passed to be conditional on the OSB investigation.

Now here’s the kicker. The Pre-Medical Society also presented a

Please See FLY

Page 14

Letter from a Reader

Dear Editors,

I am writing in response to the editorial that Alisha VanHouse wrote in the December 11 edition of The Current. I am a student employee for the Office of New Student Programs, and it was a little disheartening to read the article and see the somewhat negative questions posed about the orientation program. I feel that to raise those questions without providing answers might leave a bad impression on what is a great program for new students.

To set the record straight, the tours going on in the middle of the year are high schoolers that are getting a tour through the admissions office, not going through orientation.

Working in the orientation office, I know all the grunt work that gets put into the planning, and implementing of the orientation program. Winter orientation may not be as intense as summer orientation as far as scheduling goes, but all students coming in get all of the same information, including an Orientation Edition of The Current that is published in the summer. The Office of New Student Programs is a small department of only five people, including myself, and we have spent the past several months getting ready for our winter orientations. In fact, just this past Friday, December 8, was our first winter orientation. All of the Orientation Leaders were happy to be there, and did an awesome job helping the students with everything that they needed.

So, although you may not hear anything about orientation in the winter, don’t be fooled! We are still there planning, putting together, and running a great orientation program for new students coming onto campus in January.

Sincerely,

Angela Moya
Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority
Commuter Student Organization
Student Employee for Office of New Student Programs
Dear Editor,

I am writing this in response to the editorial that Alisha VanHoose wrote, apparently regarding students at orientation, in the December 11, 2006 edition. The reason I say “apparently” is that most of the young groups walking around campus are usually either part of a community program or they are touring our campus with admissions, as a potential student. In fact, the majority of orientations at NSU are behind-the-scenes because we cater to the needs and schedules of our incoming students. This means that the future Sharks, along with the numerous NSU staff and faculty that are involved, are running around campus while the rest of our student body is out for a break.

Countless studies prove that a strong college orientation program equates to student success, both academically and personally. For this reason, NSU has the Office of New Student Programs, designed specifically to help all incoming undergraduates adjust and connect to the University. The office consists of professionals, with educational and professional experience, that are devoted to helping students adjust to their new surroundings. The most visible activity that the Office of New Student Programs hosts is orientation, offered in the winter and summer.

NSU’s orientation program is different from most others around the country because incoming students are able to meet face-to-face with their Dean, Academic Director, and Academic Advisor before they begin classes. They are also prepared and informed about all of the NSU services offered, ranging from Academic Services to the Division of Student Affairs. Sessions also include NovAlert, Financial Services, a technology workshop, a campus tour, and getting a student ID and parking decal. The student to faculty/staff ratio at these sessions is the same as it is in the classroom, which ensures that all incoming students’ wants and needs are met.

There are different types of orientations offered for incoming Freshman, Transfers, and Career Development students. Combine that the many undergraduate academic divisions that NSU has to offer, with different curriculums and structures, and it becomes apparent that the orientation program is both unique and detailed. One of the strongest aspects of the program is that it is in the classroom, which ensures that all incoming students’ wants and needs are met.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a 2007 Orientation Leader, please pick up an application at Parker 131. You can also contact the Office of New Student Programs in Parker 131 or at (954) 262-8050.

Thank you.

Joel Nemes, M.S.
Director of Student Development and Retention
Office of New Student Programs and Orientation
Nova Southeastern University
Tel. (954) 262-8093

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**FLY continued from page 13**

conference bill for $4,183.60 for hotel stay, fees and all that (not the aquarium visit), but their bill was passed with much less fuss. First the SGA bustled over the number of people going; they said 16 people were too much when there were no guidelines that prescribe a number. Then it was suggested that the club use the member’s deposits to reduce the cost of the bill. (Pre-Pharm also collected deposits and no one suggested that idea to them). SGA Advisor Gary Gershman spoke up and said it was unfair that the same questions were not being asked of the two organizations. It did seem that the SGA did give Pre-Pharm a much harsher grilling. Forgery investigation or not, both of the clubs should have been treated equally, and yet they were not. This bill’s funding was not cut and it was far less scrutinized though they were asking for more. The bill was passed for the full amount.

I know I have mentioned it before, but the SGA needs to be aware of how they treat each club. Equally, that is. The rules and guidelines are not cohesive and are much more difficult to follow when they are not followed consistently.

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"What do you think about the possible ban on smoking on campus?"

William Humphreys
Marine Biology
Sophomore
Pembroke Pines, FL

As being a non-smoker I see it as just trying to psychologically change people, when a good portion of people smoke on campus.

Jillian Maffucci
Marine Biology
Junior
Toms River, NJ

I believe that completely banning smoking on campus will affect the amount of campus life in a negative way. I think certain smoking areas would be a wiser choice!

Alex Mitran
Sports Management
Junior
Cooper City, FL

I think it's a very stupid idea and that's all I have to say about that.

Melissa Austria
Nursing
Junior
Miami Beach, FL

I'm not a smoker but I don't think it's a good idea. If something has to be done about smoking, I think certain places should be designated for smoking. It doesn't bother me.

Matthew Gunter
Sports Management
Junior
Lakeland, FL

Humbug, second hand smoke kills only 2.5 out of 1,000,000 people more than first hand smoke.

Michele Compton
Biology
Senior
New Haven, MI

I think it's a good idea. I hate it when a crowd of smokers are in front of the building entrances and everyone has to pass through there, especially since I am allergic to smoke. It really bothers me.

Tammi Feacher
Marketing
Junior
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

I think it would be good because it will promote a more healthy environment overall here at NSU.

Conrad Winiarski
Biology
Senior
Miami, FL

It would be great. Especially since I wouldn't have to walk through a wall of smoke before I go into a building.
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