Options are Aplenty for Students During Tax Season

By Tanya Parnes
Staff Writer

With the month of April quickly approaching, it is time to gather up all of those W2’s and other documents and take a stab at taxes.

Filing taxes can be a daunting task, but for students it can also be a very rewarding one. Many students receive a significant amount of money from the federal government in the form of education-related deductions available.

Some easy deductions include money spent on books or student loan interest paid during the year. Students who have paid student loan interest may receive a form from the institution disbursing their loan that details interest paid, and those who have not can take a look at their student loan statements for January or February to find that information.

Amy Corcoran, a second year graduate student at NSU, has been filing taxes for several years and finds the process very simple. "The first time I did it, I stopped and started over a few times," said Corcoran. "Once I did it the first time though, it was fine." Corcoran always files online at a free website, taxaet.com. She finds using the online system to file her taxes more convenient.

"I would never do it on paper because online is so much easier," says Corcoran. "If you put down the wrong number or make a mistake the program fixes it all for you."

There are several online programs and options available to students. Some of them are free, while others charge a minimal fee for access to their services. There is even a link at irs.gov that directs those who qualify to a selection of free and inexpensive tax preparation websites.

Students also have the option of visiting tax specialists such as those at H&R Block who will help them prepare and file their income taxes.

Willie Wood, a junior at NSU, filed his taxes through a program called TurboTax. "I was in a class in high school called diversity skills training and they taught you how to balance your check books and keep track of your finances," said Wood. "I started learning how to file my taxes back during my senior year of high school."

Wood downloaded a form from this program, filled out all of the Please See TAXES Page 2

Low Graduation Rates Affect South Florida, Including NSU

By Greg Kyriakakis
NSU News Editor

A recent Sun-Sentinel article reported that graduation rates at South Florida universities, including NSU, are behind national averages. Data indicated that recent four-year graduation rates for NSU were 29 percent, with six-year graduation rates slightly higher at 30 percent. Despite the low numbers, university administration is confident that students are being properly supported.

Contributing to the low rates are the non-traditional students who have been out of school for years and attend classes but must leave due to personal conflicts and family issues. "It's all relative," said Don Rosenblum, Dean of the Farquhar College. "I'm hopeful as a university we can increase those figures."

Rosenblum contended that the university tries to support non-traditional students by keeping class sizes small and offering access to full-time faculty. Since many of these students may work during the day and care for families, by the time they arrive for class at night they may be tired.

"We need to find ways to make the class active," Rosenblum said. "We need to reinforce that they've made a good decision to return to college. We should provide mechanisms for those who want to succeed."

Suranne Ferriss, professor in the Division of Humanities, said that the university encourages student participation, including those in four-hour night classes, by "involving them on a number of different levels from individual writing assignments to group activities."

"When appropriate, I incorporate visual materials, such as excerpts from film or television, or images of paintings derived from the texts we are studying," she said. Ferriss added that outside stresses interfering with coursework is not a problem exclusive to the non-traditional population, as many traditional students face similar work and family issues.

Please See GRADUATION Page 4
**Current Affairs**

*Week in Preview...*

**Monday:**
Disability Awareness Speaker: Marcus Engel. Marcus Engel is a professional speaker and author. After a drunk driver left him blind, Marcus overcame unimaginable obstacles to return to college and reclaim his life. This event is open to all NSU students and will be held in Knight Auditorium – SSE 1124 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
For more information, please contact Arlene Giczewski at 954-262-7189 or giczewski@nova.edu

**Tuesday:**
"Sign For Your Sundaes" - Disability Awareness Event: An interactive workshop and introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) followed by an Ice Cream Social in the University Center Pit from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information contact Arlene Giczewski at 954-262-7189 or giczewski@nova.edu

Celebration Lunch: To celebrate the re-accreditation of NSU, a University-wide free lunch buffet will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the University Center Arena.

**Spring Equinox Drum Circle:** Come celebrate the day when light and dark are balanced—a day of special significance to many traditional tribal communities. Attendees will gather in the Spiritual Life Lounge from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in a circle, and use drums and shakers to make some sacred noise. Open to all. For more information, contact Robin Cooper at robcoop@nova.edu

**Wednesday:**
South Florida Career Fair & Exposition Job Fair: The Office of Career Services will host this Career Fair on Wednesday, March 21, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the University Center on NSU’s main campus. This professional networking event is free and open to the public. Applicants should dress professionally and bring resumes. This year participating organizations include the FBI, American Express, Luxottica, Tenet Health Care, Academica/Florida Consortium Charter Schools, Strayer Latin America, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and more. For more information, contact Career Services at (954) 262-7201 or career@nova.edu

Additive Technology Expo: Disability Awareness Event: In Alvin Sherman Library.
Room 406 from 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. come participate in a demonstration of adaptive equipment and assistive software commonly used today, including voice recognition and screen reading software. For more information contact Arlene Giczewski at 954-262-7189 or giczewski@nova.edu

**Friday:**
Library Feast 2007 - Night of Literary Feasts: The Night of Literary Feasts begins with a gala cocktail reception at the Alvin Sherman Library from 6 to 8 p.m. Some 600 guests can purchase the authors’ books and have them signed while enjoying a literary-themed silent auction. Participating authors include Barbara Taylor Bradford, Andrew Carroll, Sujata Massey and NSU’s own Professor Kate Waites.
For more information, visit the Alvin Sherman Library website: http://www.nova.edu/library/about/events/

The Promethean Theatre Presents: "A Number" - The Promethean Theatre, NSU’s theatre in residence, will perform the acclaimed play, A Number, March 16-18 at 8 p.m. and March 20 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the second-floor theatre of the Mailman-Hollywood Building on NSU’s main campus. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays. There will be a special Saturday matinee on March 31 at 3 p.m. Tickets for the play are $25 for adults, $15 for seniors, and $10 for students with valid ID. For tickets or information, call (786) 317-7850 or email theprometheanthreatre@yahoo.com.

**Saturday/Sunday:**
Library Feast 2007 - LitLIVE: Twenty-five authors, including Adriana Trigiani, Jennifer Crusie, Parahl Gray, and New York Times sports columnist William Rhoden, appearing with NFL great Doug Williams, will speak at Library Feast’s LitLIVE! Saturday, March 24 at the Alvin Sherman Library from 8:30 a.m. and the Black Box Theater in the NSU University Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Alvin Sherman Library website: http://www.nova.edu/library/about/events/

DDB SuperNova Tournament: AVACS will hold a Dance Dance Revolution: SuperNova tournament in the University Center Flight Deck on Saturday from 2:30 p.m. onward. Free pizza and soda will be available. For rules and registration, visit http://www.nova.edu/avacs or contact Alexandra Panoukale at panoukale@nova.edu.

**TAXES**
continued from page 1

"I would never do it on paper because online is so much easier." information and sent it in by mail. Wood's advice is to stay away from tax preparers. "Read everything before you cough a tax form," said Wood, "If you don't have a W2, contact your employer because you need to have that. Ask your parents for help if you have questions."

Students and others are required to file their taxes by April 17, 2007. More information can be found at the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov.

**Education Deductions You Can Use**

**Hope Credit**
You can only take this for two separate years, but it can give you a deduction up to $1000.

**Lifetime Learning Credit**
This can net you up to $2000 in deductions, but you can't stack it with the Hope Credit.

**Student Loan Interest**
Your student loan provider should give you this figure.

**Tuition**
Any school you are attending sends out a letter at tax time that gives you your figures. You can't take both tuition and an education credit, but online programs generally maximize your returns by giving you the larger of whatever deductions you qualify for.

**Books and Supplies**
This may have to be estimated, but be prepared to back yourself up with receipts in case of an audit.

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**Nova Southeastern University**
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314-7796
(954) 262-8455
nsunews@nova.edu
http://www.nsuncurrent.com

**Political Affairs**

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**Taxes**
continued from page 1

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Art Exhibit Presents Various Concepts of Identity

More detailed review of the art exhibit will appear in next issue...
Photos by MIKE BERGBAUER/The Current

The Worst Day Since Yesterday JETT BAILEY

Left to right: I Dream Awake, D/ Anger, Gone are the Buffalo Days, Empty Distance, and Your Frame Cannot Contain Me. EILEEN SMITH-CARROS

Identity KEVIN DVORAK

De Lemon, De Lime, Delight JETT BAILEY

Squidz! JETT BAILEY

New Masters in Writing Program at NSU

By Cortney Palmacci, Shima Carter, and Lyndsay Dllstan
Contributing Writers

The start of the 2006-2007 school year was the inaugural semester of the Master of Arts in Writing degree, the first graduate program run through the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Unlike writing programs at other universities, the program does not force students to choose one area of writing in which to specialize. The curriculum is diverse, with courses offered in poetry, teaching writing, and travel writing, to only name a few.

The program's beginnings have been modest. There were only three students enrolled to start the program; a full-time student and NSU employee, a stay-at-home mother, and a Canadian transplant. Each of us has brought a unique background to the program and a distinct point of view. One of us dealt with the challenges of balancing a full-time job with a full class load. Another juggled family obligations to her husband and young son while returning to school after leaving to start a family. The final student dealt with relocating to a foreign country for school and overcoming the trials of being an "alien." The pressure and competitive nature of many writing programs can sometimes create an unfriendly and cutthroat relationship between students. Yet we have formed a strong bond and created a support system for one another. We meet weekly outside of class to discuss homework and assignments, as well as socially, going to Dolphins' games and watching movies.

Although the tiny class size could prove awkward, leaving only two students with the professor to attempt to conduct a class if someone were sick, the one-on-one attention and open discussion in the small group intimate setting has offered a unique and invaluable experience for us. Small class sizes were not the only unfamiliar elements of the program. The first two classes were designed to help mold our academic writing skills. The end of the first semester has brought twenty-page papers, published articles, and a broadened vocabulary.

Big words and long papers are not the only thing we are taking away from our first semester. Students have been introduced to new theories and ideas about writing we were not familiar with before. Writing is more than proper grammar and appropriate use of commas; figuring out syntax is only part of the total writing experience. Our studies focused on voice, power and privilege in the writing classroom, connection between ideas, and philosophical concepts related to composition and rhetoric.

The background each of us has brought to the program may be different, but one common thread is obvious. Each of us is dedicated to improving our writing skills and loyal to the program and each other. It is our love of writing that brought us to NSU to study, and the opportunities the program has created have been extremely valuable. Our varied educational backgrounds and life experiences have diversified the program even more than the curriculum originally intended. Each topic is looked at through three unique sets of eyes, and we look forward to meeting some new classmates next year. Our differing interests in fiction, the teaching of writing, travel writing, and film have helped us to consider and enrich our post-graduation goals.

All in all, the semester has
Kenneth Kies Analyzes America’s Tax & Budget Policy

By Michael Bergbauer
Current Affairs Editor


Kies currently helps provide sophisticated strategic and technical tax advice on tax policy matters before the Congress, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. He previously served as the Chief of Staff of the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation from January 1995 until January 1998 and was also one of four private sector participants to co-moderate President Clinton’s White House Conference on Social Security in 1998. Regularly appearing on radio, television and print media for his expertise, his presentation held a particular gravity with attending students.

“He’s a prominent figure who works at a Fortune 500 company,” said student David Schweitzer. “So I’m excited to hear what he says.”

During his presentation, Kies discussed the history of the federal budget and income tax, as well as key budgetary and political issues facing the country today and beyond. Among issues presented were rates and levels of revenue, Medicare, social security and income tax, as well as effects analysis of various tax reforms and cuts, including 1976 tax reform, ’81 tax cut, and the ’97 Balanced Budget Act. Also key to the presentation was political analysis, in how it affects taxation, particularly the occurrences in the Clinton administration, such as the tax increase of ’93 and the relative success the Bush administration has had with tax agenda. Kies’ presentation closed with a question and answer session to address the questions from the audience.

The Distinguished Lecture Series was established to inspire students by giving them a glimpse into the minds of successful and outstanding entrepreneurs and business leaders and to benefit them with discussions ranging from business ethics to the practical application of academic theory. For more information about the Distinguished Lecture Series, contact the Office of Development at (954) 262-5865.

Low rates have been linked to non-traditional students who must leave due to personal conflicts and students who transfer to another university to complete their degree.

“Their financial aid package was not adequate to meet their needs,” said student Roseblum, whose financial aid package was not adequate to meet her needs. “So I decided to leave NSU after one year. “I loved the campus. It was the most beautiful, gorgeous campus and the people were awesome,” she said. Despite these factors, Gel M. was unhappy with the performance of some professors, ultimately causing her to transfer to the University of Central Florida. She is planning to apply to NSU for graduate school, which she “highly respects.”

Another factor, according to Ferriss, may be that students underestimate the time that college-level study requires, mistakenly thinking that attendance at class is the extent of their obligation.”

“As a result, many students sign up for too many courses, which may lead to their sense of being overwhelmed when they discover the significant time needed to prepare for class and complete assignments.”

The Sun-Sentinel report indicated that low admissions standards can contribute to unprepared students attending college. Rosenblum said that the discussion about standards is ongoing, but warned that “there’s a risk” to making them overly rigorous.

“There’s no science to individual student performance and motivation. Some good students fail, and some bad students make the dean’s list,” he said, citing that high school performance and SAT scores are not always indicative of a student’s potential for success in college. “I’m not convinced [raising standards] is the solution.”

Top performing students have opportunities such as honors classes and dual-admissions programs, Rosenblum said.

Though the numbers may appear low, the dean is not worried about competing with other universities and believes focusing on NSU students is key. “You don’t improve by saying ‘we’re better’. We have to find that right level of challenge.”

Rosenblum is hopeful that these figures will increase as more traditional students decide to live on-campus when new housing opens in the fall.

Photo by MIKE BERGBAER/The Current

The Distinguished Lecture Series, America’s Tax & Budget Policy, March 16, 2007

COURTNEY COX

“Dirt”

TUESDAYS 10

“A wickedly entertaining show”

Photo by TONY THOMAS/The Archespace Post

Feb Thinks/Thomson

COURTENAY COX

TUESDAYS 10

“Dirt”

“Dirt”

THE CURRENT

MARCH 19, 2007
Baseball Team Takes Down Lions in 2 out of 3 Games

By Nelly Mesa
Staff Writer

NSU's baseball team (18-4; 2-1 SSC) completed their first conference series against St. Leo University, defeating the Lions in two of the three games, ending in a NSU SSC series win.

In the opening conference game on Friday, March 9, the Sharks won their 12th consecutive game against the Lions, taking the initial key win to the series in a close game, 5-4. Contributing to the Sharks' success were junior Miles Mikblas, improving to a .357 batting average, and senior Bryan Cook and senior Shawn Langlois, each hitting a monstrous homerun. The win went to freshman Garcia-Austt, granting the win for the Sharks.

On Saturday's doubleheader, the Sharks won their 12th consecutive game, defeating the Lions 7-2. However, the Sharks answered the call, taking the split for the day, 5-2. Senior starting pitcher Ruddy Leo took the win 1-2-1 against the Lions, improving to a 3-0 record.

In addition to the Sharks weekend of success, senior Shark closer and shortstop Shawn Langlois was named the SSC player of the week. With an overall week record of 4-1, along with a .398 batting average, one homerun, and 19-20 in stolen bases, Langlois contributed to the Ships' weekend of success.

Maria Garcia-Austt Takes 2nd Consecutive Win in Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

On March 12 and 13, the NSU women's golf team competed in the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational in Winter Springs, Fla. The team played at Tuscawilla Country Club which was a par 72 course of 6,089 yards. This was the 32nd annual tournament hosted by Rollins College.

Rollins College took the team title with scores of 298, 310, and 302 for a total of 910. Methodist University came in second place, 13 strokes behind Rollins with a total score of 923. The Sharks came in tied for sixth with scores of 308, 319, and 316 for a total of 943.

NSU freshman Maria Garcia-Austt finished in first place in a field of 75 individuals. This is her second consecutive tournament win with scores of 68, 74, and 73 for a total of 215. Austt is ranked second among all Division II freshman golfers. The second place finisher was six strokes behind her.

The Sharks Take 3rd Place in Panther Invitational

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

In Winter Park for the Rollins Invitational Race on Lake Maitland, the Shark's Varsity 8+ crew took three important victories. The Sharks defeated two Division one schools including the University of Central Florida and Villanova University and triumphed over conference rivals of Rollins College.

The Sharks Varsity 4+ "A" boat downed the three opposing schools as well, along with the Varsity 4+ "B."

"We are a dedicated team. Dedicated to our team, to ourselves, and our goals," said junior Monica Henderson. "This weekend was just the beginning of what we plan on accomplishing this season."

"I am happy with the results, this is the third weekend of racing, the Sharks Varsity 8+ was again named the Shark's Boat of the Week for the second time in three weeks. "A unique aspect of the team takes is the number of medals we've won," said Henderson. "Our focus, determination and drive to be successful is what will get us an NCAA championship this year."
Tampa, Florida and Villanova University and three important victories. The Shark's Varsity 8+ crew took
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triumphed over conference rivals of Rollins College. The Sharks Varsity 4+ "A" boat
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"We are a dedicated team. Dedicated to our team, to ourselves, and our goals," said junior Monica Henderson. "This weekend was just
the beginning of what we plan on accomplishing this season."
In addition to this triumphant weekend of racing, the Sharks Varsity 8+ was again named the SSC
Boat of the Week for the second time in three weeks.
A unique aspect of the women's rowing team is that no one
can be the best without the help of one another and we are constantly
improving on the water and on the ergs," said Henderson. “Our focus, determination and drive to be successful is what will get us an NCAA championship this year.”

**Upcoming Games**

**Baseball**

- **Tuesday, 03/20/07**
  - Palm Beach Atlantic U.
  - Site: Home (NCAA II)
  - Time: 6:00 PM

- **Wednesday, 03/21/07**
  - Franklin Pierp
  - Site: Home (NCAA II)
  - Time: 6:00 PM

- **Friday, 03/23/07**
  - Florida Southern College
  - Site: Home (NCAA II)
  - Time: 6:00 PM

- **Saturday, 03/24/07**
  - Florida Southern College
  - Site: Home (NCAA II)
  - Time: 1:00 PM

- **Monday, 03/26/07**
  - Florida Southern College
  - Site: Home (NCAA II)
  - Time: 6:00 PM

**Women's Golf**

- **Sunday, 03/25/07**
  - NSU Spring Classic
  - Site: Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (NCAA II)

**Softball**

- **Friday, 03/23/07**
  - Florida Southern College
  - Site: Lakeland, Fla. (NCAA II)
  - Time: 7:00 PM

- **Saturday, 03/24/07**
  - Florida Southern College
  - Site: Lakeland, Fla. (NCAA II)
  - Time: 3:00 PM

- **Sunday, 03/25/07**
  - Florida Southern College
  - Site: Lakeland, Fla. (NCAA II)
  - Time: 1:00 PM
**Sports Bites**

By Alicia Winslett  
Sports Editor

**Baseball**  
On March 14, the men’s baseball team took on Adelphi University at home at the NSU Baseball Complex. The Sharks took down Adelphi 14-8. NSU now has their 13th consecutive win. Their record is now 20-4 and Adelphi falls to 5-4. NSU centerfielder Matt Mindick had a three run homer in the sixth inning. Ralph Arrojo received the victory as the relief pitcher in this game. Steven Emery and Dale Alberto each had three hits in the game. Overall, there were 16 hits by the Sharks. Shawn Langlois went 2-4 with a run scored, two RBI’s, three steals.

**Softball**  
On March 14, the softball team took on the Albany State Rams. The Sharks won both of these games, with scores of 9-8 and 1-0. In these games, Noemi Luciani went 7-8, driving in seven runs and scoring three. In the first game, Adrian Tuttle earned the win having thrown five innings and striking out eight batters and allowing only one earned run with four hits. In game two, Dani Caron pitched six complete innings, struck out nine, starting up a new club or organization?  
Desperately searching for new members?  
How about placing an ad in  
The Current!  
Contact our Business Manager at knightad@nova.edu to discuss our rates.

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**Classifieds:**

**TUTORS NEEDED:**  
Math- (to HS Algebra) Reading-General Homework-FCAT Prep. Compensation $18-$20 per hour. Contact Abbe abbek@comcast.net cell (954) 257-0072 office (954) 748-0607.

**Sitters Wanted.**  
$10 or more per hour. Register free for babysitting, housesitting and pet-sitting jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com.

**WANTED: Egg Donors**  
Healthy, non-smoking women 19-31 for infertile loving couples. Earn up to $5,000 or more! Agency 954 987 5802

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**Finance$ not adding up?**

500 plasma donors needed now!  
New donors earn $75* this week! Qualified Specialty Plasma Donors can earn up to $300* a month!  
*Payment amounts depending upon donation frequency & program  
Must have valid ID along with proof of SS# and local residency. Walk-ins welcome. No appointment necessary.

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What’s the Deal with 1% Mortgage?

By Jason Valdes
Contributing Writer

Have you ever seen an advertisement in the newspaper or received a mailer for a one percent mortgage? If you have and have been wondering about it, the following might help you understand this rather complex program.

First of all, this type of mortgage is called an adjustable rate mortgage. Basically, it is a mortgage that has an interest rate that will adjust for a given time period based on overall interest rates nationwide. The Payment Option ARM usually adjusts monthly.

An index is an economic indicator of interest rates in a U.S. or foreign market. The Prime interest rate is a good example. This is the rate at which all banks charge creditworthy customers to borrow money and is largely influenced by the Federal Reserve. When you hear the news report that the Fed is going to jack up the interest rate, you can rest assured that your ARM will also increase as well as your credit card’s interest rate. There are many others indices and they can get rather confusing, but the important concept to remember is that they can adjust monthly. For a list of current indices, go to www.moneycache.com.

The margin is the portion charged by the bank and the broker and stays constant for the life of the loan. Remember, this figure will not change. It ranges between 2 and 5 percent in most cases.

The start rate is the famous one percent you see in advertisements. Basically, this is the minimum amount you need to pay each month. So, if your mortgage is $100,000, with a start rate of one percent, and a 30 year term, your minimum monthly payment would be $321.64 (using a mortgage or financial calculator one can calculate the payments). Wow, that’s low! Sounds great, but what’s the catch? Well, that amount is not what you really owe the bank. There is the interest you owe the bank, and if you were to calculate only the interest due to the bank at an average of 7.5 percent interest it would come to $625 a month.

Confused? Don’t worry, most are. One question you might be asking yourself is where does the difference between $321 and $625 go? That is something called “deferred interest” and it gets tacked on to the loan amount. Hub! Yup, instead of owing $100,000, you now owe $100,304.

The main features of these adjustable rate mortgage loans are the options you have in repaying the loan. Every month your mortgage bill will give you the options of paying the minimum payment, interest only, the 30-year payment (interest plus principal) or a 15-year payment (interest plus principal amortized over 15 years).

Over a period of 12 months, if you only pay the minimum payment, and assuming the index hadn’t changed, your total deferred interest would be $3,648, and your new loan amount would be $103,648.

Why would people get into something like this? The main reason why this type of mortgage was so popular was because of the extremely high rate of appreciation in homes. Say you bought a house for $200,000. In the past, it is fair to say that it might appreciate to $250,000 in a few months. Why would you care if you accumulated $6000-7000 of deferred interest if you just made $43,000 off the deal and you were able to pay less than $700 a month for the mortgage?

Before, you could flip the house and make a good profit. But today, home prices are declining in many parts of Florida. That same house that was once $200,000 is not appreciating.

Please See MORTGAGE
Page 15

Movie Review

A Movie of Epic Proportions

By Stefani Ruino
Variety Editor

For those who don’t know, the story of the Spartans is an interesting and courageous one. Three hundred Spartans go to war without the support of the rest of Greece and are fighting against over one hundred thousand Persians who are trying to rule the world. Although I’m not violent and I don’t support of the rest of the world, I do like s,omeone who is a strong leader and a strong voice and accent. And this is exactly what Spartan is. The effects were brilliant; they were so believable and so ‘unbelievable’ at the same time. They suck you in and make you feel like you’re watching the battle.

The Phantom of the Opera, which is one of the most popular movies of all time, was a great success. It has been a hit for many years. It’s Black Snake Moan proves It’s Always Hotter Down South

By Kristine Belzare
Distribution Manager

When I first heard the plot for Black Snake Moan, I was instantly hooked and knew that I had to see it. Craig Brewer, who also wrote and directed Hustle and Flow, knew what he was doing when he put together a cast with amazing chemistry and enough character to make a hit movie. Black Snake Moan tells the story of Lazarus Woods (Samuel L. Jackson), a sad and angry blues singer who believes that his mission is to cure a woman named Rae (Christina Ricci) of her sex addiction by, amongst other things, changing her to his radiant. After going to a party and getting high off of drugs and alcohol, she gets beat up by her boyfriend’s (Justin Timberlake) friend who then dumps her off in front of Lazarus’ home.

While the plot does sound a little fishy, the cast is perfect. Jackson convincingly plays the role of an angry man who is...
On The Scene:

"What do you think of student life at NSU?"

Andre Donaldson  
Biology  
Freshman  
Queens, NY

I think student life at NSU could be a lot better. There should be more advertisements for events so that commuter and residential students can mingle.

Danielle Muzak  
Pre-Med  
Junior  
Los Angeles, CA

I think student life at NSU is fun because it is diverse community and it gives everyone an opportunity to meet new people.

Derya Redeius  
Biology  
Sophomore  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

I think it offers students a way to interact with others in a college setting. It gives students a chance to make friends who share in their passion for learning in the same field.

Carlos Gabriel Arias  
Biology  
Senior  
Hialeah, FL

In my opinion, I think that students should develop a better "balance" between studying and their social life so that they can get the most out of student life at NSU.

Alvin Alex  
Pharmacy  
Freshman  
Weston, FL

Student life sucks because they don't offer enough opportunities for commuter students (to meet more people).

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Zodiac offers a frightening and intriguing look into one of the most famous cold cases

By Stefani Rubino
Variety Editor

Despite its two hours and thirty minutes running time, David Fincher’s (Seven, Fight Club) Zodiac is a treasure amongst suspense films about serial killers. The film takes us back to the early-70’s when a killer ran rampant in the San Francisco Bay Area. Although the investigation lasted many years, the killer was never caught. This is one of the most famous cold cases in history and to this day has never come close to an indemnity.

The film is lightly fictionalized and based on Robert Graysmith’s (Jake Gyllenhaal) book which investigates every possible suspect in the case; mostly pointing the finger at one man, Arthur Leigh Allen (John Carroll Lynch). After the killings began in December 1968, the Zodiac killer sent taunting letters to the press and police in the area. This is when the story begins and where the plot’s focus is: that of reporters and detectives who try to find the killer. The movie’s tagline is “There’s more than one way to lose your life to a killer” and that’s what the film is about: how these people spent a good deal of their lives looking for this man.

The intriguing one, and the film will make you more curious.

Jake Gyllenhaal (Brickback Mountain, Jarhead) plays Robert Graysmith, a cartoonist for the San Francisco Chronicle, who becomes interested in the case after the newspaper begins to get letters from the killer. Gyllenhaal’s innocence and boyish naivety help Graysmith come alive on the screen. Zodiac shows a different side of Gyllenhaal, a curious and intelligent one, one that I have never seen in any of his other films. He knows how to portray a man who believes in his gut convictions and does it extremely well. I can see Gyllenhaal getting more dramatic movie roles after this film.

However, the best acting came from Robert Downey, Jr. (Paul Avery). He was fabulous. Downey, Jr. (A Scanner Darkly, Fer) definitely steals the show in this one. His sarcasm and dark humor fill the role of Paul Avery perfectly and, like Gyllenhaal, is extremely good at portraying a man who talent and I hope that his role in this film will help open their minds.

Despite the impeccable acting and decent storyline, this film is certainly not for everyone. There’s the running time, and then there are the murders. The murders aren’t gory and they’re not really all that bloody, it’s just the disturbing way in which they were portrayed. The murders are depicted with a creepy type of coldness, and no remorse is ever shown from the killer. You never see the killer’s face, either. All you see while the murders are happening are the facial expressions of the victims, and in one case you see an incredibly realistic stabbing. I found myself squirming in my seat and I normally don’t do that; so this film is probably not the best for everyone.

For those of you who can stand it, this film is definitely worth a watch. I don’t like many serial killer films, but this one had me hooked. I was guessing all the way until the end, and it still has me guessing today (since there was no arrest in real life, there is isn’t an arrest in the film). The story of the Zodiac killer is a frightening and intriguing one, and the film will make you even more curious.

300 delivers good effects, cinematography, and memorable performances by Lena Headey and Rodrigo Santoro

The movie was finished, I found myself wanting so much more and I wanted the story to continue forever. I have never seen a war-film this beautiful and this interesting before. I only knew bits and pieces of the story when I went in and I still loved it. This film is great for anyone looking for an incredible film to see. Snyder and his crew proved that violence doesn’t always have to be in vain and despite the gore and blood, it was an awesome and inspiring film to watch.
“We could have gone anywhere. We chose Florida International University.”

Miguel Alonso, Jr.  
Miami  
Electrical Engineering

Douglas Houghton  
New York  
Nursing

Megan Bottega  
North Carolina  
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Saira Babu John  
India  
International MBA

Charlie Emerson  
Connecticut  
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Dear NSU Community,

Are we scary? It seems that nearly every time I try to catch someone for a random student interview or to do On The Scene, half the people I approach flee in terror at the sight of someone walking towards them with a notepad and a camera. Okay, not necessarily flee, per se, but I have to approach several people before anyone is willing to talk to me, and god forbid I should want to take someone’s picture. Oh, the travesty!

All joking aside, it concerns me a little that I and my staff have such a hard time getting people to go on record for trivial things such as opinions of events, let alone more pressing issues. Do the students at NSU value their anonymity that much?

While NSU is touted as a dynamic and diverse campus, many of the students I come across aren’t all that interested in representing themselves. I admit we’re diverse (you only have to look around an average classroom to see that), but I’m not sure how dynamic we are when so few people want their opinions publicly known.

I think the student government (or at least the undergraduate student government, being as I haven’t dropped in on any graduate SGA meetings) has the same problem: lots of politics going on with minimal participation. I think just about as many people are begging for senator positions as there are people lining up to be quoted in The Current.

Come on, Sharks! Represent! ... and do kindly excuse my lame attempt at humor while doing so. There are lots of ways to make yourself known, heard, and generally dynamic, but most students aren’t taking advantage of it.

So really, I won’t bite, and neither will anyone else on the staff. We would love for you to talk to us though, whether we walk up to you with a camera or you send us a letter.

Sincerely,

Alisha VanHoose
Editor-in-Chief

A Fly on the Wall: Nitty Gritty

By Paul Saneaux
Managing Editor

When an SGA meeting ended at about 6:15 p.m. and I leave with solid block of just about four pages of single-spaced notes on my laptop, I know its time to get down to business right away. I don’t have too much space to work with.

And gladly, those four pages are not about mindless blather concerning an event’s food or other insignificant specifics. Important issues were discussed. Some of which I hope will incite students to come to the SGA and speak out. If not, then I can officially say that this campus is full of walking undead. I know people have objections, yet I see no action on the part of the student body that is visible outside of mandatory IOC meetings and the sort.

The first issue discussed was a referendum to add two more residential senators to the senate in response to the growing residential student population and the addition of the Commons, the new dorm next to Goodwin. At the moment there is only one residential senator, Ezzie Millh, and she is heading the meetings as the pro temp in the absence of a VPI. And so she cannot vote on any legislation.

The issue seemed simple but senators revealed that there was much more to it. Oh no, there was no getting out at 5:30 p.m. for anyone. But hey, the discussion introduced some interesting matters. Fraternal Senator Steven Reddy said that he worried adding a senator just for the Goodwin dorm would in essence be like adding another freshmen senator, since Goodwin’s population is primarily freshmen. Good point, but that apparently only skimmed the surface. Advisors Gary Gerhsham and Terry Morrow agreed that increasing the senate to 20 members would make the senate unwieldy and might create redundancy and overlapping of representation. Gerhsham said it was good that the senate was “anticipating the future of growth,” but suggested reallocating senate positions. That means the removal of senate seats and the adding of residential senators.

The term proportional representation came to my mind, and then President Andrew Ibrahim said that reallocation is “essentially taking voice away from another constituency.” Van, in a comment that I was thought was nearly out of order, said that reallocation transfers what is not being used. She mentioned the athletic senators in her example, and surprisingly, Athletic Senator Nicole Felluca agreed. “I agree, after looking at the commuter and IOC senators and what they have brought to the senate,” she said. However, the Athletic senators were appointed not too

Please See FLY

Page 14
FLY continued from page 13

long ago and so I wouldn't fully discredit them.

After Morrow suggested the renaming of senate to redistribute committee membership, International Senator Akshat Bhargava then presented a bill for the Nicole Robinson Scholarship for international students. The discussion for this bill went so far as to become personal, with a few senators expressing opinions that should have stayed outside of the room. This is an abridged version. Room is limited. The scholarship is for two international students ($500 each) on F-1 or J-1 Visas and they must be student leaders. Bhargava is on the committee and he helped to write the application. He also said earlier problems with distribution of scholarships through the bank's office were cleared and the only six students applied last year. Echevarri said that the amount requested was too

large of a portion of the remaining $10,948.90. So that Gershman said that many senators do not understand "how hard it is to be here as an international student on a visa." He advocated the senate to be empathetic. Empathy was lacking, Reddy said "it was their choice to come here" and that international students "had more choices." He said it was unfair that two of six applicants fight over this money. IOC Senator Amy Van mentioned that since the senate has not seen the application, they "cannot say we trust this." Echevarri, a former international student, said the scholarship was a "given grant" because of the number of applicants and that though "this is the land of opportunity" it is "not the job of the government or the SGA to pay for education of anyone that can make it in this country.

Whoa, what? Come on, people. What happened to empathy? It is only $1,000 that I doubt any club can put into a more noble use. This should not have been turned into an immigration issue. International students have it rough and they need help. Sure, it's not the SGA's "job" to help, but who's to say it's the SGAs obligation to help anyway. It's just the nice thing to do. How can this scholarship not be trusted? Bhargava said the scholarship was based on need and merit and that is proof enough. Gershman pointed out that this was about either "slamming the door" on international students or helping them, and that many senators were "callous" about it. I couldn't agree more. This bill was tabled so it can be reviewed by the Scholarly Awards Committee. That should be interesting, considering that VPIJ Lomali Latwani, who is for the bill, and Reddy are on the committee.

The last big issue was a resolution to give clubs volunteer hours for Community fest. Superabridged version: clubs only received hours for setting up and sitting down their booths and they complained to the IOC that they want more; five of 30-something clubs have their 10 mandatory hours completed and are not facing suspension of their charter; clubs were not paid, there were reimbursed for expenses; club sizes and required hours are not proportional; Community fest would have been a disaster if any clubs arrived. Echevarri said the mandate benefits the clubs because of the community outreach, but it also benefits the administration because they can say "Hey, look, NSU is a very active university in the community." Funny and true. The resolution was approved 8-3-0. My view: the mandate is useless, clubs are not adhering to it, and clubs that do not have it in their mission statement to serve the community should not be required to do so.
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Tuesday, March 20, 2007
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at University Center Pit

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Wednesday, March 21, 2007
2:30–4:00 p.m. at Alvin Sherman Library, Room 4009

Assistive Technology Expo: Presented by Joanna Lindsay, Regional Coordinator—Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)
Participate in a demonstration of adaptive equipment and assistive software commonly used today, including voice recognition and screen reading software. Light refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, March 22, 2007
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