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Every year, students at NSU gather in front of the Alvin Sherman Library quad to take part in the Wall of Hate Project, a symbolic tradition taking place toward the end of Unity Week which represents the dissolution of hate among the NSU community. Students are chosen to paint a derogatory word that highly offends and bothers them on the side of a concrete cinder block. These cinder blocks are then combined together to build a wall of multicolored bricks. The completed wall contains hundreds of curse words, racial slurs, and derogatory names that signify discrimination, oppression and inhumanity. Derogatory terms such as "fatso," "nigger," "fag," and "chink," were painted on the wall at one spot or another. The wall is then left standing during all of Unity Week and passersby are able to see the number of words that hurt and affect the NSU community. Finally, at the end of Unity Week, the wall is taken down as a group, symbolizing how every individual has the power to create constructive change for the future.

This year's annual Wall of Hate proved to be stronger than expected as participants attempting to pull down the wall heard the sound of latches snapping off. It became apparent that the latches were not installed tightly enough as they came flying off with one big tug of the rope. Onlookers watched the Wall of Hate remained stable and intact. Attempt two was a bit more successful; the ropes were retied and readjusted to ensure destruction of the wall, speakers Wall of Hate Continued on pg. 6

The results are in and Florida voters have spoken. After last Tuesday's primary election, Republican contender Senator John McCain of Arizona and Primary Continued on pg. 2

Can Students Manage to Keep up With NSU's Rising Tuition Rates? Students share their thoughts on the financial aid process

Tanya Parnes NSU News Editor

Attending NSU every year costs the average undergraduate student $18,000 in tuition, $5,000 in room and board, $500 in student activities fees, and $50 in registration fees. There are also extensive book costs, and depending upon the student's course load, he or she can spend anywhere from $50 to $150 per book per class.

In order to combat these fees and expenses, many students apply for financial aid and assistance from the university. Beginning on Jan. 1, students can fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly referred to as the FAFSA, in order to request financial assistance with their educational costs. NSU students are eligible for federal and state grants as well as student loans depending upon their financial situations. Both are need-based awards granted by the federal government. However, often the federal and state grants do not have to be repaid, while the loans often incur interest both during and after the student has completed his or her education, after which time period he or she has a number of years to repay the loans, sometimes at a fixed interest rate. Undergraduate students who qualify are eligible for $3,500 in subsidized loans their freshman year, $4,500 their sophomore year, and $5,500 during their junior and senior years. They can also receive $4,000 in unsubsidized loans during their freshman and sophomore years and $5,000 during their junior and senior years.

"The process of trying to get aid is really difficult," said Tangela Jones, a senior biology major. "Up until a certain age, you can't be classified as an independent, so the loan amount is based upon what your parents make, but that doesn't mean that they can afford it." Jones said that everything at NSU is expensive and that she is really dissatisfied with the financial aid process. "I wish they would decrease the tuition period, because it throws everything off," said Jones. "You have 30 days to pay the balance in full and then they apply a $50 late fee. I commute every day and yet my student activi-
A new amendment coming up for vote in Florida is the Marriage Protection Amendment, which proposes to extend beyond the existing ban on gay marriages and threaten the fundamental rights of unmarried heterosexual domestic partner couples by altering the constitutional rights of shared healthcare plans offered by government agencies, universities or private businesses and the right to visit a domestic partner who may be hospitalized for any reason.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU), the front runner in the fight to dismiss this bill, describes the amendment as far-reaching, intrusive and discriminatory. It puts government in the role of regulating the personal relationship of two consenting adults. The ACLU also believes that this amendment would change Florida’s constitution, an action that should only be reserved for improving governmental policies.

The language of the proposed amendment, the ACLU opines, has the illusion of being straightforward. The ballot initiative’s language says, “Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.” The phrase “substantial equivalent” leaves the door open to ban gay marriages, permanently block civil unions and threaten domestic partnerships. Therefore, this amendment will impact Florida’s senior citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Governor Charlie Crist, according to the Associated Press, has said, “It’s not an issue [the proposed amendment] that moves me. I am more of a live and let live kind of guy.” This statement indicates that the privilege of life comes with the freedom of how it should be lived.

Parties interested in voting “no” on the Marriage Amendment can partner with the ACLU, Florida Red and Blue, and Fairness For All Families by logging on to their Web sites. www.aclufl.org,

The proposed amendment has become a great concern for Florida’s aging population. Due to the structure of current laws regarding social security benefits, many senior citizens, some of whom are widowed and choose not to remarry, construct a mutually beneficial household (as opposed to getting married) so they will not lose their social security benefits or other pensions. Therefore, this amendment will impact Florida’s senior citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Democrat contender Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York emerged victorious at 36% and 50% respectively. Republican hopeful and former Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts came in a close second with 31%, while former Mayor Rudy Giuliani of New York had his dreams of winning the election shattered as he gained a mere 15% of the statewide votes. Democratic hopeful Senator Barack Obama of Illinois trailed Clinton’s solid lead at 33% while Senator John Edwards rallied a mere 14% of the votes. Sidney Price, a Sophomore criminal justice and legal studies major, was fairly satisfied with the results of the primary. “I felt as if the right decision was made,” said Price. “I think the turnout was very good but I was disappointed at the low turnout rates in younger voters.” Price noted that Clinton is more experienced than Obama. “I think Hillary will do a good job and bring a change to our country,” said Price. Price said that she does not think that the results of the Florida election will have a significant effect on the polls nationwide. Price said that she does not think that the results of the Florida election will have a significant effect on the polls nationwide.

The Current, formerly known as The Knight, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in room #103 of the Alwin Center. The Current is a student-owned and student-run publication. It is the official student newspaper and the only student-supported periodical published by Nova Southeastern University. The Current serves as a forum for student opinion and debate among students, faculty, staff and alumni. It is intended to serve as a window to the world of Nova Southeastern University and as a means for the university to share its mission with the wider community.
Is the Academic Advising Office as Effective as It Could Be?

Tanya Parnes NSU News Editor

NSU undergrad students share thoughts and experiences

Financial Aid Continued from pg. 1

they feel they never have enough money to pay for everything they need. "Depending upon the student, you'll see that you've been awarded a certain amount of money like $500, but then the lender takes a fee, so even though you were awarded it you do not get the full amount. It's like a never-ending cycle," said Brandi Nottingham. "She's got it, honestly," said Nicholas. "They have problems with financial aid and Salome Mae and she corrected it. She actually called me out of the blue to help me out." Nicholas is really satisfied with her adviser but recognizes that there are some problems with the advising office. "I'm lucky, and I've been really blessed with her," said Nicholas. "She's really caring and she's always up to date. Unfortunately, I do have a friend who was a law student major and they made her take Irish literature, which had nothing to do with her major and nothing to do with getting into law school."

Camilo Lineros, a sophomore international business major, has not had a good experience with academic advising. "I don't like my adviser," said Lineros. "I think that she's too busy for me. I always go to the walk-in advisers, because they are much better." Lineros said that he has a lot of friends who have good advisers and feels that you have to be lucky to be paired with the right one. "When I go in there and make an appointment she's very sarcastic and says things like, 'oh, you again,'" said Lineros. "I don't think there's a problem with the advisers. I think I'm just unlucky with her." Lienanh Nguyen, a junior psychology major, has a pretty bad experience with the advising office. "A big problem that I had was that since I was a transfer student, I did not know about class requirements at Nova," said Nguyen. "At my other university I was able to CLEP out of classes at any time. However, when I talked to my adviser, he told me I had to have taken the CLEP courses during my transfer orientation. Nguyen was a biology major at the time, and had already taken many of the introductory courses. The first week I spent at Nova, I was disheartened by the magnitude of prerequisites that I had to take in order to get to the classes that I really needed," said Nguyen. "During that time there was also the fact that none of my transfer credits had showed up on my records despite the fact that I asked my adviser many times about that and he had confirmed that they were there. There were many reasons as to why I changed my major to psychology but the frustrations of late advice with no helpful solutions played a prominent role."

Patrick Cao, a freshman biology major, also had a rough start his first semester due to some bad advice from the academic advisers. "When I initially signed up for classes I did it over the phone and the adviser put me in the wrong class," said Cao. "About two weeks after school had started they sorted it out. It was just the beginning of the semester, so luckily I didn't miss too much, but it would have been nice if I was in the right class." Cao said that he has had some issues when he has gone into the office for advice. "At first they were pretty helpful when I went in to get some help with schedul­ing my classes, but then they kept throwing me back and forth between advisers," said Cao. "I think that everybody goes to the same people for help so they need to get more advisers. I was sitting in the office for two hours." Cao noted that it took too long for his schedule to be fixed because there were too many people waiting to be seen by the advisers. "If you have the time and you really need advice, then they're good, but if you know what you're doing, you might as well go online and do it yourself," said Cao.
**Take Back the Night**

NSU hosts annual event to stop domestic violence and sexual abuse

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

**On Tuesday, Jan. 22, NSU held its sixth annual Take Back the Night Campaign to raise awareness about domestic violence and abuse. Take Back the Night has its roots all the way back in 1877, when women in London, England, began to protest the fear and violence that they felt when walking the streets at night. It is also believed that the first rally occurred in 1976 when women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes against Women in Belgium began to walk in the streets to denounce violence against women.

Several projects were put into play in conjunction with Take Back the Night, including The Clothesline Project—a visual display of shirts with graphic messages designed by women who have experienced abuse or know someone who has been abused. The shirts are now on display in the Alvin Sherman Library.

Other projects mentioned during the event were the Cell Phone Project and Shoe Project. A cell phone drive was created to help women and children who need help and can call 911 on the cell phones they receive from the project. The cell phones are donated to the organization, Women in Distress. The Shoe Project presents the statewide statistics of those who are victims of domestic or sexual abuse. The shoes are donated by members of the NSU community who drop off the shoes in designated drop-off areas on campus. All the shoes collected will be donated to a local charity.

Stephan Wilcosky, NSU head volleyball coach and host of the event, was honored to be a part of such a cause, and hoped that the event would invigorate others to become part of the solution to stop abuse.

Gay Holliday, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, also addressed the audience. Holliday spoke about the impact of sexual abuse on campus, saying that it is a "pretty critical role in this institution." Since
Alyssa Milano Captivates Audience at Life 101

Christopher Balaban Staff writer

NSU students and community members gathered for an hour and a half in advance of the screening of the movie "The Life 101" at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The movie screening was sponsored by the NSU's Student Government Association and hosted by the NSU Athletics Department.

The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the audience, which raised a variety of questions related to the themes of the movie. The audience was left with a sense of inspiration and motivation to take action against domestic violence and sexual assault.

The evening ended with a candlelight vigil to remember those who have been lost to domestic violence and sexual assault. The event was a powerful reminder of the importance of taking action against these issues and the need for continued education and awareness.

Take Back the Night

The NSU Women's Commission held a Take Back the Night event to encourage people to speak up against sexual assault and domestic violence.

The event included a performance by the NSU Dance Team, a candlelight vigil, and a speech by a survivor of domestic violence.

The audience was encouraged to speak out against sexual assault and domestic violence and to support those who have been affected by these issues. The event was a powerful reminder of the importance of taking action against these issues and the need for continued education and awareness.

the death of NSU student Nichola Seegobin, who was murdered in 2005 by her ex-boyfriend, NSU strives to increase awareness about domestic and sexual abuse. Holliday urged attendees to come forward if they or someone they know are or had been victims of abuse so that they can get started on taking back their lives.

Another speaker at the event was Staci Narkier, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator for the Jewish Family Service of Broward County. Narkier shared a personal story with the audience about a young woman who was killed by her ex-boyfriend.

The incident was reported and the predator was imprisoned. Due to legalities, Boyd was unable to speak to her best friend, the one person she could talk to about the incident. When Boyd went home to Maryland this winter, she saw her friend and they were able to talk about the issue. The microphone was then turned over to the audience so that attendees could share their own stories about abuse that they experienced or witnessed. One by one, several attendees shared stories about being raped as children, seeing their mothers abused by their fathers, and knowing people who were attacked for political reasons and sexual orientation.

The event ended with a call to action for everyone to take back their lives and to support those who have been affected by these issues.

Below: NSU students protest rape and domestic violence.
Hatred Crumbles

Before NSU Students

played sounds of the wall crumbling, and section by section the wall was torn down leaving only rubble on the ground, dust in the air, and the sound of cheers from onlookers and those who took part in the pulling.

Francis Charlemagne, a sophomore at NSU, had much to say about the event. "I love to watch the tearing down of the wall. I was able to see last year's Wall of Hate go down, but this year's wall was definitely more exciting. I hope to see this tradition maintain itself in the future because of all the meaning it holds behind it. The one block that I wanted to see go down the most had the word 'dinky' written on it. I hate hearing that word and so I was glad to see it go down."
NSU Fraternities Seek to Recruit New Members During Rush Week 2008

Bibin Mannattuparampil Staff Writer

Greek life at NSU is slowly becoming bigger and bigger. As Rush Week began on Jan. 14, a number of events took place to reach new audiences for Greek organizations. Without the help of new members an organization will slowly dwindle. Rush Week is so important for the many organizations that participate in it.

The Sigma Delta Tau sorority worked in an army theme for their recruitment plan with the slogan "No One Wants You!" They also arranged some events on campus which included tabling on Mondays, an obstacle course game night on Tuesday, a Quad Thursday promotion, and a "mocktail" party event on Friday. Sigma Delta Tau, one of the newer sororities at NSU, hopes to aid in correcting the child abuse problem in America. Sigma Delta Tau’s future plans include a trip to the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Miami.

Without the help of new members an organization will slowly dwindle. The race has also arranged some events on campus which included a Taste of Italy dinner, game night and dodge ball tournament, to name a few. Beta Theta Pi also has big plans for this semester. "Our vision for this semester and the semesters to come is to exemplify what it means to be Greek at NSU," said Vice President Brandon McKinney. "Our focus is to build bridges, not walls." Beta Theta Pi has a number of conferences they plan to attend this semester as well as various philanthropies which include Adopt A Highway, NSU Community Fest, and an Easter egg hunt to benefit underprivileged children. Beta Theta Pi also made it clear that they will be hosting many brotherhood events, socials, and fun activities in the near future. Although Phi Sigma Sigma fraternity does not participate in Rush Week events, they had a lot to say about their plans and goals for this semester. "Phi Beta Sigma will be working on a food drive initiative in which we will be hosting events and asking each guest to bring at least two canned goods with them," said Andrea Dennis. "And in order to increase outcome, we will be offering huge discounts on the events we host, to each of those guests who bring at least two canned goods with them, where an event that may normally cost $20 will only cost $5 for those who help us."

For information regarding the new fraternity, who to speak with, and how to join, stop by the Greek Life office located in the University Center.

Step It Up Kickoff Rally

Bibin Mannattuparampil Staff Writer

Past elections have shown that only 44% of Davie's registered voters actually go to the polls, according to the speakers at the Step It Up rally. In an attempt to increase voter participation, NSU hosted its Step It Up Kickoff Rally on Jan. 24 to promote participation in the primary elections, which were quickly approaching. The event took place at Quad Thursday, where a number of speakers discussed some facts regarding Florida voting statistics.

One of the topics discussed compared the bias between male and female voters which showed males well behind females in voter quantity. The current presidential race exemplifies the importance of making one's vote count. The race has also demonstrated how the polls have been largely affected by youth voters. "Youth voters really need to make an active effort to rock the vote this year at the general election," said sophomore Lyndon Forte. "We need a change, and collectively we can make a difference."

After the pep talk from several speakers, there was a performance by Chicks on Point as well as an original song sung by student Christopher Babalan which touched on important and sensitive political issues. In addition, the Indian Student Association performed a well-practiced Indian style dance which included props, original choreography, and Indian style outfits.

The event concluded with news that NSU will be offering shuttles which will pick up and drop off students at the University Center Circle on Tuesday, Jan. 29 for anyone needing transportation to the polls for the Presidential Primary election. For those wishing to step it up to the polls, shuttles will be leaving at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. for your convenience, which means there is no excuse for registered voters to miss out voting. In order to reserve a spot on the shuttle be sure to contact Rachel Garbaj at garbaj@nova.edu with your full name, shuttle time you would like to be on, and phone number.
Inaugural Homecoming Concert featuring Hellogoodbye

Thursday, February 21, 2008
at University Center Arena
8:30 p.m.
with doors opening at 7:30 p.m.

Two Opening Acts:
Jean Marie • Kingsley of Miami

Tickets: NSU Students $10.00**
NSU Staff $12.50
Non-NSU $15.00

** These discounted student tickets can ONLY be purchased with valid NSU ID through the Student Engagement Office in ASA 106.

Ticket Information: Seating is limited. Students can purchase tickets in the Student Engagement Office located in the Athletics and Student Affairs Building (ASA), Room 106. Other tickets can be purchased at the University Center Arena Box Office or through Ticketmaster. The Box Office will be open February 18-20 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and February 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets through Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.com), you will need to use the promotion code “homecoming” to access the NSU discounted tickets for this event. For more information, please call 954-262-7193 or email studententertainment@nova.edu.
Sharks Creep Up to First Place in SSC

Women's Basketball

Tim Coenraad Staff Writer

After taking away their seventh consecutive victory, the Sharks (14-5, 7-1 SSC) have also managed to steal away the first-place ranking in the SSC from Tampa University.

The Sharks closed out January by defeating Lynn's Fighting Knights on uncharted territory, 68-58, on Jan. 26, along with crushing Barry's Buccaneers while in the Shark Tank on Jan. 30 with a commanding score of 61-40.

After a brutal first half which saw both the Sharks and the Fighting Knights struggle defensively while committing a large number of turnovers, NSU entered the locker room on the wrong end of a 26-21 score.

The Sharks didn't let the deficit faze them, and returned for the remaining 20 minutes of the game with intensity. Freshman Abbie Tepe astounded the crowd as she posted her career's best at 21 points, 17 of which came under the pressure of a trying second half. After shooting 43.9% while holding the Fighting Knights to 32.8% shooting, the Sharks were able to come out on top. Joining Tepe in double figures were fellow teammates junior Eliza Allen with 16 points, senior Amber Bishko with 11 and sophomore Stephanie Sarosi with 10. While taking on the much-rivaled Buccaneers, Tepe sparked the Sharks' offense, once again hitting a beautiful 3-point shot and sending NSU on a thrilling 15-2 run. The Sharks headed into the locker room at the half with a 10-point lead, 27-17, and maintained the lead for the remainder of the match. Sarosi led all Shark scores with 11 points, while sophomore LaShawanna Edwards contributed 10 of her own to go along with 6 rebounds.

The Sharks will be back in action on Feb. 6 when they will face off second place SSC rivals, Tampa University, at 5:30 p.m.

Freshman Abbie Tepe defies gravity as she lays the ball up for the Sharks.

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The Official NSU Fin-Atics Fan Club
Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

NSU Cheerleaders Take 12th Place in UCA National Competition
Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

Head Coach CA Tolchinsky made it known that the team definitely reached their goal for the competition. "The girls wanted to have fun and perform, rather than compete, and the girls did just that," Cooper said, "More importantly than the outcome of the competition, we all really bonded."

Samantha Robinson, NSU's New Assistant Women's Soccer Coach
Tim Coenraad Staff Writer

NSU's women's soccer team took another huge step forward this week, as they have now experienced their two best seasons on record with two consecutive NCAA Tournament berths and a number of individual accolades for outstanding performances. With the 2008 season quickly approaching, Head Coach Mike Goodrich is looking to take his team even farther with the hiring of a new assistant coach whose achievements speak for themselves.

Coach Samantha Robinson comes to NSU after an illustrious four-year career at the University of Tampa. In her four years as a star athlete at UT, Robinson collected a number of awards, such as All-SSC honors all four years, as well as All-Region honors in 2004, 2005, 2006 and an NCAA All-American status in 2005.

Robinson was key in helping the Spartans reach their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 2003, performing superbly in 2004 and getting a hold of their first Conference Tournament Championship title as well as an SSC regular season title in 2005. Robinson was also named South Regional Tournament MVP in her senior year, making a National Semi-Final appearance as captain. Robinson still holds single-game records for goals, assists and points at UT and went on to play a season of professional soccer in Ireland.

"Sam is a great addition to the coaching staff," said sophomore Megan Kim. "She was an incredible player at UT and I think we will be able to learn a lot from her."

More importantly, she's just a great person to have around."

The women's soccer team will undoubtedly benefit from a coach that has accomplished what the NSU program is attempting to achieve. Robinson has been there before and can give first-hand knowledge of what it takes to win at such a high level.

The knowledge and experience that Robinson brings to the table can only improve on the first-class coaching and players that the NSU Sharks already possess, and with only four seniors graduating from their roster, the Sharks will certainly look to build on their two best seasons on record.

The Official NSU Fin-Atics Fan Club Card works as follows. At each Shark Soccer, Basketball, Softball, Tennis and Baseball home event, students will have their Fin-Atics Card stapled. Once students have attended ten events, they will be given a new blank, card and will be rewarded with sponsor discounts, gift cards and other great NSU items. The original card will be placed into the drop box located in the athletics building, and the student will be entered into a drawing to win a grand prize. The drawing will be held at the last home athletic event of the year.

The club was officially kicked off on Jan. 30 at a tip-off party held in NSU's Flight Deck. Free pizza was provided and senior basketball player Griffin Anthony performed his original music live for the energetic crowd. Registration will continue throughout the month of February at all home NSU basketball games, and will extend into March, during which time students will be able to register in the NSU Department of Athletics, located in the ASA building on the 3rd floor.

Upcoming chances to get your Fin-Atics FinCard stapled can be found on the NSU Athletics Web site, http://nsuathletics.nova.edu/.

Condor Invited to Train With Guatemalan National Soccer Team
Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

NSU's men's soccer team, along with the Athletic Department, are delighted to announce that sophomore midfielder Terence Zikomo Condor, more commonly known around campus simply as Ziko, has been invited to attend a training camp for Guatemala's National Soccer Team with the intent to perform well and represent his home country of Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis in the World Cup Qualifier on Feb. 6.

Congratulations to Condor, and best of luck!
Sharks Steal Two Key SSC Victories in Men’s Basketball

Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

NSU’s men’s basketball team (9-9, 4-4 SSC) concluded a terrific week of basketball, taking home two much-needed Sunshine State Conference wins against Both-Lynn University’s Fighting Knights with a score of 76-66 and Barry University’s Buccaneers in front of their home Finatic crowd, 69-42.

A number of dedicated Finatics such as fellow NSU athletes from the women’s rowing, volleyball and basketball teams as well as members from the cross country and track team showed their support for the Sharks at this important match-up against Lynn University by traveling to Boca Raton to watch the game. In an atmosphere that should have been overrun with Fighting Knight pride, Shark fans dominated.

Following an outstanding performance against Florida Tech in the previous week, freshman Lemar Dyer proved himself to be worthy of a starting position as he made his first-ever collegiate start while on Lynn’s home court.

"Lemar provided our defense with incredible energy, which is something we usually struggle with," said freshman Matt Massey. "He was great."

Senior Kevin Chester got the Sharks off to a phenomenal start, putting NSU on the score board with a quick six points. The Sharks entered the half ahead, courtesy of a 10-4 run kicked up by junior Tim Coenraad and freshman Ross Allsop.

The Sharks’ coaching staff was more than pleased to not only out-shoot the Fighting Knights 56% to 38.7%, but also of three Shark athletes registering double digits during the evening, beginning with Coenraad’s 26 points, 16 of which were in the second half alone, along with 12 from Massey and 10 from Chester.

The Sharks combined forces in all aspects of the game on Wednesday evening to dominate Barry’s Bucs, entering a remarkable 30-10 point run in the first 20 minutes of play, allowing the Sharks to strut into the locker room at the half with an overpowering 22-point lead.

Coenraad put up tremendous numbers once again, tallying up 27 points, with Massey supplying 13 points and 7 assists of his own, adding to the team’s season high of 23 total assists in a single match.

Following a fabulous performance versus the Fighting Knights, Dyer made himself known to NSU’s home crowd in the starting line up for the second time, providing not only intense energy but 4 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists without a single turn over.

The Sharks will be back in the Shark Tank on Feb. 6 to take on the Sunshine State Conference’s first-place team, Tampa University, at 7:30 p.m.

Introducing New NSU Softball Assistant Coach Robin Martin

Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

Kristen Atkinson, NSU’s Assistant Softball Coach, has recently resigned from her position in order to take up a career opportunity by becoming Head Coach at Flagler College. With the spring sports season quickly approaching, Head Coach Lesa Bonee took immediate action in hiring a new assistant, Robin Martin. Although NSU’s Athletic Department, coaching staff and softball team will all miss coach Atkinson, they are thrilled to announce the new addition of Coach Martin and welcome all that she has to offer with open arms.

Martin not only graduated with a minor in sports coaching, but also has hands-on experience that has immeasurable importance to the Sharks’ program. While playing for the Tigers during her student-athletic career, Martin played a large role in giving the Tigers the opportunity to compete in the NCAA Tournament three times while in the catchers slot, as well as achieving rankings within the Top 25 and obtaining a Regional Championship Runner-Up Title.

In addition to making sure the Sharks excel on the field, Martin is committed to helping the team exceed all expectations in the classroom as well. Martin was honored by Auburn from 2004-2007 with the Top Tiger Awards, along with receiving SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition as a result to her academic performance.
Cloverfield Tears Down Filmmaking Boundaries

Stefani Rubin Staff Writer

In the age of psychological thrillers and slashers films, it’s hard to believe that movies like Godzilla, King Kong or The Wolf Man once packed movie theatre seats and scared people. With the age of “creature features” now long past, it’s understandable why some filmmakers might want to bring them back. J.J. Abrams, the co-creator of the hit show Lost, is up for his eccentric and unusual personality, so it should come as no surprise that he happens to be one of those filmmakers.

Cloverfield, the newest and possibly the most “bad-ass” creature feature, is the brainchild of Abrams, who claims he got the idea while visiting a toy store in Japan. He told Comic-Con reporters that America needed its own monster, one that was “insane and intense” and “admirable” like King Kong.

Much like his show Lost, Cloverfield’s theme and plot were kept very much under wraps for the last year and they didn’t even release the name of the film until a couple of weeks ago. There was a lot of build-up for the film on the Internet when Paramount launched its viral marketing campaign for the nameless feature, which led to the launch of tons of websites dedicated to decoding the film’s secrets.

Last weekend finally saw the release of the elusive Cloverfield. The film is set in, of course, New York City, where an unknown monster surfaces and wreaks havoc on the city. Unlike most monster films, Cloverfield is shot using hand-held type video cameras to create the illusion that regular civilians are documenting the monster’s attack, which proves to be one of the most original and thought-provoking filming tactics one has ever seen.

Cloverfield begins at the going-away party for Robert Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) during which his best friend Hudon Platt (T.J. Miller) is filming the party as a going-away present. When the lights go out temporarily, the whole group gathers on the top of his apartment building and witness a giant explosion in the middle of the city. With Platt documenting every move, every scream, every injury, and every terrified look, Hawkins, Platt, and others try to escape the city alive.

The way Cloverfield is filmed makes it virtually impossible to pick out which actor has the best performance and conveys the most emotion on-screen. All of the actors and actresses in the film did an incredible job and should be commended somehow for completing the amazingly difficult task they were all handed. The film is unsetting to begin with, but their screams and terror made the film much scarier than expected. The filming and the acting make you feel as if this monster actually attacked New York City.

As previously mentioned, the film is quite disconcerting. Abrams plays on that post-9/11 anxiety of New York City getting attacked very well and uses it to create a more intense and interesting film. Cloverfield is for fans of creature features and those interested in seeing some for truly innovative filmmaking. Otherwise, Cloverfield will scare most people or, as reported by some viewers, give movie-goers motion-sickness.

"Anxiety Manual"

By Raquel Fagon

Continued from last week

Later that night as I was getting into bed, I realized that I didn’t know the best friend’s name because Carroll never said it. I guess people talk like that sometimes. When you hear a name, you see a face, and maybe Carroll didn’t want to see his friend until then. I didn’t have any feet. Work. I guess my mom got some beer and vodka for the party. I had ordered the cake a day before; it was a layered chocolate cake with white butter icing on the top. I had basted it with a homemade barbecue sauce. I made my infamous sweet and sour chicken and fried sweet plantains; I cooked some white rice and made sweet potato salad. Chips and dip were also to be served, along with tossed salad and fried tofu rings. I had planned the menu for the party before I came home from work. I guess my mom got someone to work at her counter at Macy’s, because she came home earlier than usual and with gifts in tow: a new dress for the party for herself, a pair of gold earrings and a black, padded bra for me (she said my cleavage needed assistance).

"Bobbie, sweetie, you’re a beautiful girl," she said, as she handed me the bra and the earrings. "These, honey, will make you more beautiful." Mom knew I hated jewelry; it made me feel like a Christmas tree in summer.

"A bra will make me more beautiful?" I looked at her incredulously.
“Mom, did you drink the vodka in the first place?” She shook her head and chuckled to herself, as she walked towards her bedroom. I ended up asking Carroll to buy the liquor for his party. This meant he had to leave work early, buy the liquor, drop it off at the house and then rush to the Hilton Hotel, which was about eight miles away from us, to pick up his best friend and three other doctors. He estimated that he would be back at the party at about nine o’clock.

Until that time I decorated the apartment. I moved the television set and the sofa to the dining area and hung blue, purple and white balloons from the ceiling in bunches, creating a bee hive. I dug out a disco ball and hung strings of icicles from the walls and the ceiling. At about seven, I went to get dressed. I decided on a pair of grey, skinny Levi jeans, a white, silk tank top and a pair of black, wedge-heeled shoes. I felt really beautiful, like a younger version of my mom. I plumped up my cleavage, admired my form, and thought maybe Mom was right after all. While applying a little mascara and trying not to blind myself, I started to feel anxious and uncertain. I was going to a party, for heaven’s sake! I should be excited!

At eight o’clock, eight people were scattered over the living room, sipping a drink, chatting, adoring someone or nibbling on something. Two girls, one mulatto (or Hispanic, I wasn’t too sure) and the other black, sat on folding chairs, next to the entrance of the side patio, and giggled and gesticulated wildly. The middle-aged Indian or Mexican man who lived across from us was leaning against the wall next to the patio entrance, sipping a dark brown liquid from a plastic cup and ogling the two girls. A white lady with bleached blonde hair, stuffed into a neon, skin-tight leather skirt and a black spaghetti strapped top with matching neon stilettos squawked away on her cell phone and nibbled a cheese cube. The other four were young men busy Clearing out my mother, as she confidently sat on the kitchen counter accosted in her royally tight, strapless black dress, banking under the adoring glow of her subjects. Everyone but the two giggling, gossipy girls were our neighbors; the girls worked at the Macy’s with my mom. I stood in a far corner next to the stereo system and surveyed the guests, hypothesizing about what they were thinking and chatting about right now. As I was about to get into their psychology, Bob Marley’s song “Is This Love?” suddenly went low and my mom’s voice caressed our ears.

“Your attention, everyone. Hi.” She seemed to smile with each person in the room, as she sauntered her hips to the left, then to the right, with her right hand fixing her hair. “Thank you for coming to our little soirée. Bobbie, my beautiful daughter, and I, are happy all of you could make it.” Her eyes found me and told me to get my butt beside her. “Our special guest...you know the person we are having this party for...Carroll...” she looked around for someone to acknowledge who she was babbling about; no one did. “Course you don’t know him...silly me. Anyway, he should be here around nine. That’s about twenty minutes from now, so mix and mingle and ah...have fun!” She then giggled and reached out for my hand, as I approached her. “This is my beautiful Bobbie. She planned and organized all of this.” She was putting me on display for this ridiculous gathering. Maybe this was the reason for my earlier anxiety; my body had been warning me. “So, have fun, everybody...enjoy the food and the music.” She giggled and put her hand around my waist and squeezed, so I giggled too and said hesitantly, “Yes, please have fun and eat as much as you want.”

To be continued...
let's go to the oscars

rachel fagon, Variety editor

• a bitter-sweet air permeated the film industry on tuesday, jan. 22, as minutes after the oscar nominations were announced, the breaking news of actor heath ledger's death was announced. the nomination list lately has been centered on the tragedy, not much has been said solely about the oscars. however, even in the face of the ongoing writer's strike and this tragedy, the oscars must go on. within the contenders for the big races, the same names float around for the same awards. the oscars may have been the opportunity for the academy to say, "no, this isn't right."

below: ted danson at his first moment. "shredding" stamy money, empowered woman that most actresses just don't have and probably couldn't pull off. she's strong yet delicate; it's an amazing dynamic that she pulls off with ease.

• "crime is contagious," bridgeport says in the opening lines of the film, and it's too bad the laughs weren't nearly as contagious as this film made crime seem. possibly, with more time and more jokes, this film could've been a slam-dunk for all involved, but it felt short.

however, if you're looking for a film to take mom or grandma to see on a sunday afternoon, then this one is sure to please. otherwise, head to blockbuster and rent bringing down the house, which is probably one of the funniest latifah films out right now.

Untraceable: A Satisfying Thriller
Kristine Belzaire
Current Affairs Editor

• as far as police- suspense films go, i did not really expect much from untraceable. however, after watching the movie, i am sure that untraceable will be one of the top ten suspense movies of the year.

untraceable tells the story of fbi special agent jennifer marshall (diane lane) and her partner griffin dowd (colin hanks), who work to capture online sexual predators. the story really begins to unfold when marsh discovers a website that is downloading images of child pornography. the web site shows a dying cat that has been put onto a sticky rat trap. not sure if the site is just a box, marsh attempts to take down the site. however, the creator of the web site has made sure that the site is untraceable and cannot be removed by anyone.

later on in the movie, the cat is replaced by a bleeding man who is wrapped up in an iv containing an anti-coagulant. as that scene progresses, it becomes evident that the more people who watch the show, the faster the man will die. currently, enough, instead of logging off the site, more and more people log on to the site to watch the man die. when it is determined that the killer is local, marsh and dowd are sent to capture him.

this movie touches on real life issues, such as the fascination that people have with logging onto internet sites such as youtube.com, where they can watch people hurt themselves. it also deals with the desensitization that people have with violence. even when the people see that the person is being killed, they are not affected by it enough to even call the police.

lane, hanks, and billy burke put on the best performances of their careers in this film. lane successfully plays the role of a hardworking fbi agent and also a caring mother who has received a call from her husband. hanks (who is the son of tom hanks) also puts on a convincing role as a likeable fbi agent, who puts the web on the map for women to date. burke, who plays the part of detective eric box, seems to have a crush on marsh.

the setting added a lot to the plot. while the scene of rotting bodies, burnt flesh, and gruesome deaths ala the saw series might gross viewers out a little bit, it simply adds to the story line. while the plot seems pretty basic, it turns out not to be the case because the movie progresses with many twists and turns that will keep you on the edge.

diane lane and colin hanks in untraceable.
Editor's Note
Michael Bergbauer, Interim Editor-in-Chief

When you have to write something under the same vein every week (cough cough, you're reading it right now), it's not too difficult to fall into a slump. In search of inspiration, I did something I've never done in my three and a half years at NSU: I went to a basketball home game.

To be honest, I don't know why I wanted so long. I guess it was just never on my mind. However, editing the Sports section every week made me feel like I was missing out on something cool. So I figured what better time to go than Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Night? It didn't sound too intimidating, but the next thing I knew, I was pretty fun. There have been “Mike Night,” and I don't foresee that coming about anytime soon.

All in all, the game was pretty fun. There was a lot of basketball action, a free-throw contest and giveaways. However, the Shark Tank really needed more “Finatic Frenzy” in the air. A lot of the seats were empty, which made it kind of intimidating to let rip with a boisterous “Whoa-hoo! Go Sharks!” especially if you don't have a “Sharks are #1” foam finger. Those things are like an excuse to get rowdy, even if you're the only one in the section.

Cat Power

Continued from pg. 13

completely new. “Don't Explain” exhibits a new side of Cat Power's gorgeous voice and shows off her strengths as a singer more than any other track on the album. However, the best track turned out to be the only original Cat Power song on the album, “Song for Bobby,” which recalls Cat Power's teenage infatuation with Bob Dylan and how that infatuation slowly turned into something more like a romantic affection for Dylan's songs, and not so much for the man himself. The song is sung in Dylan's conversationalist form and is funny, sweet, and extremely charismatic. Although some of the tracks on Jukebox show how Cat Power has grown in the past few years, it doesn't work quite as well as her previous cover album, The Covers Record. The Covers Record introduces listeners to a new side of Cat Power through her interpretation of the songs, unlike Jukebox, which really only shows how great she can sing. However, for a cover record in general, Jukebox is definitively one of the best out there.

On The Scene
Kristine Belzaire, Current Affairs Editor

What is the most important to you as a voter?

“Race and gender should not be an issue. I think that as the U.S. being one of the top countries, we should break the glass ceiling.”

Amber Taylor, Senior, Biology

“Having the young people come out and vote because they are the ones who are going to be there to shape the world.”

Andre Dennis, Senior, Legal Studies & Criminal Justice

“Investing in non-fossil fuel alternatives because we should have been doing that ten years ago.”

Fred Auguste, Senior, Undecided

“The rights of black people because I still think that we have a lot of prejudiced people out there.”

Jade Messam, Sophomore, Criminal Justice

“War in Iraq, because it has had so many economical effects on us and affected many people personally.”

Katrin Scheurer, Freshman, Psychology

“Tax issues, water management, global warming, and national security.”

Tien Nguyen, Junior, Biology

“Social security since we're not going to get it.”

Zain Chalid, Sophomore, Biology

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For more information, contact the Office of New Student Orientation
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