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NSU STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON FLORIDA’S PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Tanya Parnes  NSU News Editor

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 derogatory words that highly offend and bother 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.

The results are in and Florida voters have spoken. After last Tuesday’s primary election, Republican contender Senator John McCain of Arizona and

Financial Aid Continued on pg. 3
New Amendment Threatens Rights of Hetero and Homosexual Unions

Racquel Fagon Variety Editor

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, "As much as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman, 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 partnership protection already in place.

This, the ACLU declares, will impact couples, regardless of their sexual orientation.

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.

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.aculf.org, www.floridaredandblue.com, and www.fairnessforallfamilies.org. To also speak directly, attend scheduled meetings, or campaign on this issue, contact Dave Gamin with the ACLU at D.gamin@aculf.org.

Democratic supporter Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York emerged victorious at 30% and 50% respectively. Republicans 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 dream 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.

Sidjai Price, a vaccines 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.

Chris Giocielo, a junior business major, was dissatisfied with the turnout. "I think that a lot of people didn't vote," said Giocielo. "I feel that it's too early to see who's going to win the election. I'm still rooting for Ron Paul." Giocielo feels that this year's election results will have a tremendous national impact.

Laxmi Lalwani, a senior psychology major, was hoping for a Clinton win and was really happy with the results of the primary. "I was going between Hillary and Obama," said Lalwani. "I checked out their Web sites and their positions on ontheissues.org. I think that Hillary has a lot more experience than Obama." Lalwani said that she was concerned about Obama's position on the issues since he does not have an extensive voting record. "I always value experience," said Lalwani. "I think it's kind of jumping the gun to be president if you don't have much experience." Lalwani noted that she has seen a larger number of younger voters come out this year which is great. She is, however, concerned about the turnout for the primary election in November. "Obama's going for the youth vote and he's the one getting them to the polls," said Lalwani. "Hillary doesn't really appeal to me so I'm scared that they won't show up if Hillary wins the nomination."

Anthony Ferrera, a senior legal studies major, said, "I think the Florida primary shows the consistency because the two Democratic front runners keep going back and forth." Ferrera feels that the results indicate that this country is moving in a progressive direction. Ferrera was happy that he saw a lot of people in his neighborhood go out to the polls and vote. "I'm happy because the turnout wasn't as low as some people in my neighborhood."

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Is the Academic Advising Office as Effective as It Could Be?

Tanya Parnes
Editor

NSU undergrad students share thoughts and experiences

NSU undergrad students often refer to the academic advising office for help in registering for classes, changing their majors, staying on track and other relevant academic issues that arise during the course of the semester. Some have received some great advice, while others have left the office feeling frustrated and angry with the advisers and with the university.

Ish Aberion, a first-year MBA student, noted that he had a few encounters with advising having been mixed. "I think that if you’re persistent enough, they are there for you," Aberion said. "They are pretty open to approach them," said Aberion. "I notice that I always have to contact them roughly two to three times on average. Then, when I ask them for something, I won’t hear back so I have to contact them again." Aberion has used the academic advising office several times and has found their advice helpful overall. "Most times when I ask them to process things they do help me," said Aberion. They have given him worksheets and practice handouts that have helped him with her major. However, she is not very satisfied with their availability. "They’re always late," said Aberion. "When I have a phone appointment they always tell me that they need to call me back. I always have to wait."

Clodyna Nicholas, a freshman business administration major, said that she has had really great experiences with her adviser Brandi Nottingham. "She’s great, honestly," said Nicholas. "I had problems with financial aid and Sallie Mae and she helped me. 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 studies 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 adviser, I think I’m just unlucky with her."

Liemnah Nguyen, a junior psychology major, had a pretty bad experience with the academic advising office. "A big problem that I had was that since I was a transfer student, I did not know about all the different 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 whole first year 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 shown 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 advisor put me in the wrong class," said Cao. "About two weeks after school 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 went 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 people available. I was sitting in the office for two hours.” Cao noted that it took so 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 I can’t tell you what you’re doing, you might as well go online and do it yourself," said Cao.

The Finer Points

Financial Aid Continued from pg. 1

Tuition and Fees

Type of Tuition/fee is still $2590 a year." Jones said that she feels like she never has enough money to pay for everything she needs. "Depending on the lender, 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 Jones.

Atianne Diaz, a freshman athletic training major, is also pretty frustrated with the financial aid process. "I actually don’t recommend financial aid because they just don’t give enough of it for the school year," said Diaz. "It’s very difficult to get scholarships. I have my sister here with me, so it’s very expensive for my parents." Diaz said that she feels NSU should discount the tuition rate for those students who have several family members attending the university together. "The books are very expensive. I only have three and if I was to buy them new, I would have to spend about $500 dollars," said Diaz. "The dorms are very expensive too, especially for people living together." Diaz lives in the Leo Goodwin Residence Sr. Hall with her sister and finds the living conditions to be very comfortable.

"I would have to say that I find the process really helpful, because without it I wouldn’t be here,” said Anthony Ferrera, a junior legal studies major with a very different perspective on the financial aid process. "What they offer in dollar amounts and the other scholarships available to students are very helpful and I am grateful to them. Ferrera said that he has been fairly satisfied with the process thus far and his only complaints would be in regards to the clerical and administrative process of receiving the award. "Basically, in the past I have had problems getting my aid because things didn’t transfer in time, or because academic advising did not turn in my schedule in time, or because they typed my social security number incorrectly,” said Ferrera. Ferrera states that this mixture of grants, loans and scholarship from NSU and for the most part as though these funds are sufficient to cover the costs of attendance. "Overall, I’m happy with it, but I do think that there’s room for improvement," Ferrera said. "When you get accepted to Nova your tuition should be locked in at the rate it was when you began. The university should take into account inflation rates before they increase tuition across campus.”

Phyllis Rottman, who has worked in the financial aid office at NSU for over four years, said, "I think we’re doing really well. I help everybody and if I can’t, then I find someone who can.” Rottman said that she finds the financial aid process very satisfying and truly loves making people happy. "We all have the student in our hearts. That’s our job, the students,” said Rottman.

Kacey Atkinson, Manager of Financial Aid Undergraduate Counselors, said, "I would love to see people be able to afford the university. The biggest challenge is to get students to apply for scholarships.” Atkinson manages the four financial aid counselors, who are in charge of the disbursement of funds every semester. The peak term periods ran from March through September and the office is always swamped the first two weeks of any given semester. "I feel like more students need to come to the One Stop Shop and be more proactive than reactive,” said Atkinson. "They should know by the time class starts how they are paying for school. That is a huge challenge that I face every year.” Atkinson pointed out that there are tons of scholarships available to students every semester and that students should reach out for them. Applying for these scholarships is a year-long process and there are many options available to students. In regards to financial aid awarding, Atkinson urges students to get their FAFSAs completed on time. "If they meet the priority deadline date of April 15, they will get their aid on time,” said Atkinson. Atkinson noted that students do not have to have their taxes completed in order to fill out their FAFSAs. ‘We take walk-ins and appointments, so if any undergraduate students want to meet with us they can.” For more information or questions, please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at (954) 262-3380 or visit the Web site at http://www.nova.edu/cwu/financial/index.html.
The Strength of Black Families Film Festival: The Family, Marriage and Therapy Department, along with the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, will host the film festival to celebrate Black History month. The festival will take place in room 1047 of the Carl DeSantis Building. For more information, contact Annmarie Masi at amasi@nova.edu.

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Take Back the Night
NSU hosts annual event to stop domestic violence and sexual abuse

Kristine Belzaire
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.

Stephen 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

Take Back the Night Continued on pg. 5

Above: One of several shirts now on display in the Alvin Sherman Library.
Take Back the Night
Continued from pg. 4

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 by honoring Seegobin annually at Take Back the Night. In closing, 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 reclaimed her life after being gang-raped by two men, including a co-worker. When the young woman reported the rape, she suffered humiliation by her forensic examiner, was ignored by the legal system, lost her job and was shunned by people she thought were her friends. In the end, however, she realized that she was a survivor.

Jessica Boyd, a student leader on campus, decided to speak to the audience about her own experience with sexual abuse. When she and her best friend were young, they experienced abuse. The incident was reported and the predator was imprisoned. Due to legalities, Boyd was unable to speak to her best friend, the one person who she could talk to about the incident. When Boyd went home to Maryland this winter, she saw her friend and they were finally able to speak about the issue.

The microphone was then left open 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 came to an end with a candlelight vigil to remember those who have been victims of abuse and a rally through the campus to help bring awareness to the issue of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Below: NSU students protest rape and domestic violence.
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."
Greek life at NSU is slowly becoming bigger and bigger. As Rush Week began on Jan. 14, a number of events were planned to recruit new members for Greek organizations. Without the help of members from an organization simply die out, which is why Rush Week is so important for the many organizations that partake in it.

The Sigma Delta Tau sorority worked in an army theme for their recruitment plans with the slogan "We Want You!" They also arranged some events on campus which included tabling on Monday, an obstacle course game on Wednesday, and shuttles for those who signed to raise awareness about hunger.

At the Hunger Banquet, an event that took place on Jan. 23, approximately 6 billion people, 8.4 million hungry individuals live in what is termed the "developed world." Six million children die each year due to hunger, another 2.5 million children due to Vitamin A deficiency, along with countless others overlooked by those who could have contributed and saved a life.

The Hunger Banquet is an event designed to raise awareness about hunger in the present world, including the large population of hungry individuals living in Davie, Fla. A large tent was set up in the back of The Commons residence halls on Jan. 23, and beneath it were plastic tables, hissing Indian style dance which included props, original choreography, and Indian food from the second world tables with those of the third world.

The evening’s dismal weather had a number of speakers discussed some facts about hunger. "In the second world and the remaining eleven at the third world, food was distributed to exhibit a likely meal in the countries the tables represented: the first world tables received a full three course meal, the second world table received a hearty one course meal, and the third world tarp was given rice in cups – no cutlery – and water. The evening’s dismal weather gave the participants the ability to grasp what it is truly like to live in a hut with no furniture, no plates or cutlery, and no selection or variety of food.

Fabio Vogel, a pharmacy student, was seen sharing his food with children of the second world. When asked why he was in attendance, Vogel replied, "I’m from Brazil and I’ve witnessed poverty. I never want to see anyone hungry." When asked about his future plans of assistance, Vogel replied, "I would like to put a lot of money into Africa."

Sophomore Francis Charlemagne was born in Haiti and saw much poverty when he resided there. "The next step is to take action and spread the word about world poverty and hunger. It hurts me deeply," said Charlemagne.

"The goal for the evening is for everyone to go home angry, frustrated and hungry, and to realize that this is how people live for weeks, forever!" said Lu Hancock, Director of Residential Life and Housing at NSU. With such a realization in mind, NSU hopes that awareness of these conditions, and actions taken against them, will increase.

Hunger Banquet Educates NSU About World Famine Issues

Christopher Balaban Staff Writer

NSU Fraternities Seek to Recruit New Members During Rush Week 2008

Bibin Mannattuparampil Staff Writer

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 Communityfest, 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 Beta 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 Andre 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, step by the Greek Life office located in the University Center.
Inaugural Homecoming Concert

Two Opening Acts:
Jean Marie • Kinsey of Miami

Tickets:
NSU Students $10.00
NSU Staff $12.50
Non-NSU $15.00
$12.50 (floor seats)
$15.00 (floor seats)

Family Events: Two opening acts can only be purchased with valid NSU ID through the Student Engagement Office in ASA 106.

Located in the Student Center, Student ID can be purchased in the Student Engagement Office in ASA 106.

Thursday, February 21, 2008
at University Center Arena
8:30 p.m.
with doors opening at 7:30 p.m.
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 41.9% 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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Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

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

NSU Cheerleaders performed with an outstanding display of school spirit when they traveled to Orlando, Florida on Jan. 18, where they competed in the All-Girl Division II portion of the UCA College Nationals, and placed 12th amongst the 34 competing Division II teams.

"We have a completely new team this year, so it has been challenging, but a few of the girls who cheered last year came to help out at the competition, which we all really appreciated," said freshman cheerleader Honey Cooper. "We were all just really excited to compete together for the first time and even though our routine wasn't as complicated as a few of the other teams, we worked really hard on it, so we were proud in the end."

Head Coach CA Toleshisky 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 year, 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 NSCAA 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 Iceland.

"Sam is a great addition to the coaching staff," said sophomore Megan King, who was an assistant last season. "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 Fighting Sharks coaching staff 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 the road.

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

NSU Cheerleaders performed with an outstanding display of school spirit when they traveled to Orlando, Florida on Jan. 18, where they competed in the All-Girl Division II portion of the UCA College Nationals, and placed 12th amongst the 34 competing Division II teams.

"We have a completely new team this year, so it has been challenging, but a few of the girls who cheered last year came to help out at the competition, which we all really appreciated," said freshman cheerleader Honey Cooper. "We were all just really excited to compete together for the first time and even though our routine wasn’t as complicated as a few of the other teams, we worked really hard on it, so we were proud in the end."

Head Coach CA Toleshisky 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 year, 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 NSCAA 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 Iceland.

"Sam is a great addition to the coaching staff," said sophomore Megan King, who was an assistant last season. "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 Fighting Sharks coaching staff 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 the road.

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 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 stamped 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 Fin-atic 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 Buccs, 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 turnover.

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.

Upon completing a successful four year career at Auburn University’s Division I institution, along with posing as Auburn’s Student-Antisist Coach for a single season following graduation, Martin has now committed herself to the Shark family.

“We will all really miss coach Atkinson and all that she did for us,” said sophomore and second baseman Dana Bergner. “But Coach Martin is a great addition and we really look forward to working with her.”

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-athlete 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 Top Tiger Awards, along with receiving SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition as a result to her academic performance.
In the age of psychological thrillers and slasher-films, it’s hard to believe that movies like Godzilla, King Kong or The Wolf Man once packed movie theater seats and scared people. With the age of “creature features” now long past, it is understandable why some filmmakers might want to bring them back. J.J. Abrams, the co-creator of the hit show Lost, is known 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 not “adorable” 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 buildup for the film on the Internet with Paramount launching its viral marketing campaign for the nameless feature, which led to the launch of tons of Web sites 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 Hudson Platt (T.J. Miller) is filming the party as a garage away present. When the lights go out temporarily, the whole group gathers on the top of his apartment building and witnesses 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 three 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 unsettling 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 seriously scare most people or, as reported by some viewers, give movie-goers motion-sickness.

“I’m not sure how I knew it was a man, but I did. When I looked up, a figure was coming towards me. It had a determined stride and a happiness about it; I felt excited to find out who it was. I could hear the creaking of its shoes on the concrete tiles and I kept walking towards it, as it kept walking towards me. Suddenly, the figure stopped and stood in the middle of the passage. I stopped walking too, but I knew I didn’t want to; my feet were numb and then I didn’t have any feet. Each piece of me was disappearing. Before my hands disappeared, I stretched them out towards the figure and yelled, “Bobby!” I jolted out of my sleep and my eyes roamed my darkened bedroom, earnestly looking for something... someone. I caught myself and realized I was dreaming. I quickly untangled the sheets and got out of bed to go to the bathroom as a wave of nausea suddenly came over me. It was the day of the party and everything was set. I had ordered the cake from Joan’s Pastries the day before; it was a layered chocolate cake with strawberry filling (Carroll’s favorite fruit) and “Happy Birthday, Carroll!” written in white butter icing on the top. I baked chicken and basted it with a homemade barbeque 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 torta rings. I had asked my mom the day before to buy some beer and vodka for the party before she 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 was something she knew I hated. I looked at her incredulously.
"Mom, did you drink the vodka on your way home?" I said, staring at the three doctors in front of me. They were all looking at me with concern.

"Of course not. I’m just tired," she replied.

I couldn’t believe it. My mom was drinking vodka on her way home from work. I knew she was lying, but I didn’t want to argue. I just wanted her to be safe.

"Okay, let’s get you some rest," one of the doctors said.

I left the hospital with my mom and headed home. As we drove, I couldn’t help but think about how much this was all affecting me. I felt like I was losing control of my life.

I decided to call my best friend and tell her everything. She’s always been there for me, no matter what. She was the one who convinced me to go to therapy.

"I’m really worried about my mom," I said.

"I know, honey. I’m worried too," she replied.

I told her about the vodka and the doctors. She promised to talk to my mom and see what she could do.

I went to bed that night, hoping for the best. But I knew it was going to be a long road ahead.

To be continued...
Mad Money is Not That Funny

Stefani Rubino Staff Writer

If you’re one of those Web and the Dowd are sent worth the ‘drama,’ you’d probably happy to see that her movie, Mad Money, was probably the second best. However, if you’re looking for a bitter-sweet air penetrated the film big heist.

The woman who pushes all the carts filled with the old money too genius for even someone’s untraceable cash? It’s a plan too genius for even someone’s likeable. The film begins as Bridget Cardigan (Keaton) is narrating the story of her, Nina (Latifah), and Jackie (Holmes) big heist. It all begins when Bridget’s husband, Don (played by Ted Danson), is laid-off and the Cardigans are left to live a life on less than they’ve ever had. Bridget takes a job as a janitor at the local Kansas City location of the United States Federal Bank. There she meets Nina, the woman in charge of shredding old, “worn out” money, and Jackie, the woman who pushes all the carts filled with the old money to Nina. After just a few weeks of working there, Bridget, a woman with no criminal background and a degree in Comparative Literature, comes up with this grand idea of how they can rip off the “Fed” by taking the old money and using it for themselves.

Seems unbelievable, right? That’s because it is. It’s work of fiction, of course, but how is anyone supposed to buy the fact that some upper-class woman could walk into a building as secure as Fort Knox and steal millions of dollars of untraceable cash? It’s a plan too genius for even someone’s like Robert De Niro’s character in Heat to come up with. On top of that, the dialogue is weak, specifically that of Latifah’s character. She wasn’t her usual smart-ass, confident self, but instead, played a sort of whiny, timid woman that doesn’t fit with her character or personality at all. If there is anything worth spending the money for Bob Dylan’s life, it is definitely Danson’s (Damages, Becker) performance. Personally, the only Danson performance I’ve ever seen was in a Whoopie Goldberg film called Made In America years ago. In Mad Money, he’s completely different, and he’s actually pretty hilarious. His one-liners were memorable and entertaining and he was perfect as Bridget’s down-and-out husband. Keaton’s performance was probably the second best. Honestly, even though the entire premise of the film was unbelievable, her character was just the opposite. There’s a certain poise that Keaton has when playing a strong, independent 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,” Bridget says in the opening of this 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 fell short. However, if you’re looking for a film to take mom or grandma to 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.

Let’s Go To The Oscars

Racquel Fagun, 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. Since all conversation 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 Oscar must go on. Between the contenders for the big races, the names float around as a buzz for the biggest race, for Best Picture, is the widely spoken of No Country for Old Men. The Coen Brothers’ dark and violent adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s novel impressed the Academy and scored, in total, eight nominations. With similar stripes and possibly the most upsets, No Country is Paul Thomas Anderson’s saga, There Will Be Blood, for Best Picture and also eight nominations. Other contenders are the Indie crown, Michael Clayton.

Best Actor run are also Lord of the Rings’ Viggo Mortensen for the crime drama Eastern Promises, George Clooney for Michael Clayton, and the talented Johnny Depp, for his turn as a barber with demonic inclinations in the horror musical Sweeney Todd. The Best Actress call sounds for Julie Christie in Away From Her. She already won the Golden Globe for her excellent performance in the film and all bets are on her for the Oscars. The acclaimed Cate Blanchett received two nominations, one for Best Actress in the sequel to Elizabeth, Elizabeth-The Golden Age, and the other for Best Supporting Actress in the adaptation of this film, it is definitely hard to believe that Blanchett will walk away with the Best Supporting Actress Oscar.

The movies speak for the directors. You can bet that if a movie gets rave reviews, the director is in the mix of it too. In the category of Best Director, Ethan and Joel Coen, directors of No Country for Old Men, claim the fifth nomination under their “finally” for this year in Johnny Depp for Best Actor. Fans love Depp, but the Academy is known for not being a fan. In his riveting, acclaimed career, Depp has only received two nominations: for the first Pirates of the Caribbean and Finding Neverland. The biggest surprise is, of course, the Best Make-Up nomination for Norbit. Even though the man behind the make-up is the Academy-known Rick Baker, still... seriously... Norbit? Ellen Page scored a Best Actress nomination for her witty performance as a pregnant teen in the comedy Juno. This is quite a surprise, as the Academy usually awards dramatic roles and not comical ones, but it goes to show that there are great expectations for little Miss Page.

The snubs for the Oscars are not necessarily great surprises, but they are still unexpected. Angelina Jolie, in the true-life drama, A Mighty Heart, after completely dominating herself in the role, did not secure

Untraceable: A Satisfying Thriller

Kristine Belzazaire Current Affairs Editor

As far as police- suspense movies 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 suspense movies of the year. Untraceable tells the story of FBI Special Agent Jennifer Marsh (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 Web site called killwithme.com. The Web site shows a dying cat that has been put onto a sticky rat trap. Not sure if the site is just a hoak, 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 blinding man who is hooked up to an IV containing an anti-coagulant. As that scene progresses, it becomes evident that the people who watch the show, the faster the man will die. Curiously 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 the man being killed, they are not affected by it enough to call the police.

Lane, Hanks, and Billy Burke put on the best performances in this film. Lane successfully plays the role of a hardworking FBI agent and also a caring mother who has recently lost her husband. Hanks (who is the son of Tom Hanks) also puts on a convincing role as a likeable FBI agent, who surfs the Web 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 alive the 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 pulls off a few twists and turns that will keep you on the edge.
Editor's Note
Michael Bergbaure, 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 waited 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 interesting, but the next most relevant thing that could have related to me would 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.

NSU Athletics is initiating a program to give out prizes to Finatics who attend a lot of games. Hopefully, that will inspire a bigger turnout at these games. The Sharks need the fans, err, Finatics. Go Sharks!

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 off how great she can sing. However, for a cover record in general, Jukebox is definitely one of the best out there.

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Orientation Leaders (OLs) play an integral role in the success of the Nova Southeastern University Orientation program and are recognized leaders throughout the Nova Southeastern University Community. They serve as group leaders, contacts between various departments, peer educators, and positive role models. Orientation Leaders are actively involved in assisting all new students with their transition to NSU.

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Student Affairs Office, Rosenthal 100
Athletics and Student Affairs Building, PSK 102

Applications are due by February 25, 2008 at 5pm (Rosenthal 205)

For more information, contact the Office of New Student Orientation at 954-262-8050 or via email orientation@nova.edu