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Do YOU Feel Safe on Campus?

NSU Students Speak out About this Disturbing Dilemma

Tanya Barnes
NSU News Editor

NSU's Public Safety department, also known as NOVALERT, is designed to give students, faculty and staff twenty-four hour day access to security and safety on campus. Some of their services include a lost and found department located inside the Security Operations Center (SOC) of the Parker Building; reporting lost or stolen SharkCards, safety escorts throughout the campus and vehicle assistance in the community cannot get into his or her car for some reason. The campus is well equipped, with state-of-the art electronic equipment that monitors different aspects of the campus. 520 video cameras have been placed strategically across the campus to help monitor the level of unusual or dangerous activity, if any, at all times.

"There are fourteen Public Safety officers patrolling the campus during the evenings, plus one dedicated solely to the residential parking lots," said Bronson Bias, Executive Director of Protective Services. "In an emergency activation of a Blue Light NOVALERT phone, Public Safety officers respond ASAP. The goal is to arrive within one minute." Bias noted that the most reported incident on NSU's campus is lost and found property reports. "Fairness and professionalism to students, faculty and staff is Public Safety's policy and this policy is a large part of PSD officer training," said Bias, who is very satisfied with the job performance of the Public Safety officers at the university. Bias noted that the few complaints received in his office are usually related to parking issues on campus. "Public Safety issues roughly 180 parking tickets in any given week," said Bias, who pointed out that there are relatively few complaints on file related to this issue. "Field Patrol Officers do not have the electronic parking ticket writing equipment to perform parking violation enforcement and are free from parking control to perform safety and security duties," said Bias. "If a student is aware of anything suspicious, improper and/or unlawful, the student should immediately call NOVALERT." Bias also discussed Public Safety's policy regarding locking the doors on campus in the evenings to ensure student safety. "Public Safety's policy is to lock the doors as post orders indicate," said Bias. "In most cases, doors are equipped with crash bars or electronic locking mechanisms that allow people to exit without encumbrance and the doors lock behind them when they关 Public Safety Continued on pg. 2

SHARKS UNITED Wins 2008-2009 SGA Election

Tanya Barnes
NSU News Editor

Philip Ortiz, a junior and finance major, is NSU’s newly elected Student Government Association (SGA) president for the 2008-2009 academic school year. Julian Brownlee is the newly elected Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Anthony Campelli is the newly elected Vice President of Judicial Affairs. The SHARKS UNITED party was victorious at the polls and were announced the winners at the victory party held in the Flight Deck on April 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.

"I think that Phil has worked very hard all year long and he really cares about the university," said Gary Gershman, J.D., Ph.D., one of the advisors to the SGA. "He will try very hard to do things to benefit the college. Every year SGA gets better and more involved. The voter turnout is a reflection of how hard Philip and his party have worked." Gershman hopes that those who did not win this election will still remain active within SGA in the upcoming year.

Terry Morrow, Director of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and the other advisor to the SGA, was extremely happy with this year’s voter turnout. "We only established the online voting system last year," said Morrow. "The goal is to allow all students to vote. We wanted to make sure that it was fair since not all students can make it to the polls." Morrow worked very closely with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to help create a special Web link which all students could access in order to cast their votes. OIT ensured that students would only be able to vote once, so as to prevent any kind of abuse or misuse of the online voting system and to ensure that the election was fair.

There were some problems that arose however. "I think that there are always issues that arise and we always expect that," said Morrow. "We wait for them to come about and then deal with them." The issues Morrow is referring to involve the online voting system. "This year there were some students who were having problems voting online," said Morrow. "The first issue was..." SHARKS UNITED Continued on pg. 3
Coralie Correia, a sophomore and international studies major who also lives in The Commons, said that she is highly dissatisfied with the performance of Public Safety on this campus. “They just sit in their cars, whip out their laptops and chat on their cell phones,” said Correia. “I’ve felt like they’re trying to look for something or be looking for emotion.” Correia said that she is very angry about the whole situation. “As soon as somebody walks by they pull up in their car and start looking at people’s laptops to make it seem as though they were doing some kind of legitimate work.”

Correia said that she had seen some of Public Safety vehicles parked in the corner of the lot near the break-in had occurred a few months ago and simply could not make sense of what was going on and the officers were never called when there were incidents completely. “When something happens on campus they want to be all up in your business or be looking around and doing random things just so they can feel like they’re actually doing something, you know,” said Correia. “When an incident occurs they act like they want to do their job for a week or two. For two weeks on and off, Public Safety had been driving all over the parking lots and then they stopped them once again.”

“What’s the point of all this because they could not find whatever they were looking for.”

Amanda Peters, a sophomore and business major, who also commutes to campus said that she is highly dissatisfied with Public Safety. “I’m here in school pretty safe and secure,” said Peters. “I think it’s pretty safe because I never had a reason to be concerned with it.”

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“Best of Show” award. NU also received five awards in the American Advertising Federation 2008 Addy Awards event held in Miami on March 1. The awards are based on the best work for top brands which include Fortune 500 companies. Dave Dawson, Executive Director of the Communications and Media Studies Department at NU, said that the university is very happy with NU’s new branding campaign. “What we’re trying to do with the NU identity is that we are trying to promote the university in a way that will make it stand out and be recognized. We want to make sure that people can recognize the university and that it stands out from the rest.”

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that Banner told them they had already voted. The second issue was that Banner told several students that they were not authorized to use the system. SGA elections were set to begin Monday, March 31 and run through Thursday, April 3. "The link for online voting was sent out on Sunday, March 30 instead of that Monday, March 31 therefore the ballot was not quite ready yet," said Morrow. "Anyone who tried to use the online voting system on Sunday and had voted in last year’s election was therefore told by the computer that they had already cast their vote. The computer was pulling up last year’s records." Morrow was alerted to this problem when several students approached her about the glitch in the system.

In order to combat the problem, Morrow sent out a mass email once again to all NSU undergraduate students on Wednesday April 2, reminding them to go out and vote. The email also included a message from Morrow asking those students who had difficulty voting to contact her for assistance in the matter. "Another issue was that Banner was telling students that they were not authorized to vote." About five students received that message and reported back to Morrow with this second glitch in the system. "I sent the information into OIT to be fixed," said Morrow. "Most times these simple issues simply weren't coded correctly for campus. The information just got fixed," said Gist. "So once we heard that it was going on, we spoke with Terry Morrow and decided that the system as it was could be allowed to go around with the computer. They were allowed to ask students if they had voted, however it was specifically allowed to ask them to vote specifically for one party or another." Gist said that OIT plans to update its rules and create specific guidelines before next year’s election cycle.

Brandy Shafer, a sophomore and biology major, who was running on one of the opposing tickets was a little saddened by the results. "I think that SGA’s platform was the most attractive and realistic one in regards to the SGA budget," said Chubb. "I hope that the students’ voices and needs will really be reached. I believe that Shane would have done a good job focusing on the students’ needs rather than his own personal agenda." Chubb said that even though Ortiz has been in SGA and has had some experience with the organization she is concerned about next year. "I plan on returning as the Athletic Senator to see what will hopefully be a successful year and will hopefully include some of the ideas that Shane presented," said Chubb. 

Ujahl Patel, a sophomore and biology major, was really dissatisfied with the election results. "I’m definitely disappointed that only 400 or so kids voted when we have over 2,000 undergraduate students on campus," said Dyer. "I’m disappointed that only a certain amount of students voted. I really hope that more students show up next year and get involved in what’s going on around this campus. Students complain about a lot of things to vote, but then they don’t go out and vote." 

Christina Chubb, a junior and sports management major, who was running on last year’s winning ticket was shocked by the lack of student involvement in the SGA election. "It was really interesting that only 400 or so kids voted when we have over 2,000 undergraduate students on campus," said Dyer. "I’m disappointed that only a certain amount of students voted. I really hope that more students show up next year and get involved in what’s going on around this campus. Students complain about a lot of things to vote, but then they don’t go out and vote." 

Melissa Haggerty, Associate Director of Web Development in OIT, was one of the individuals who worked on setting up this online voting system. "There were glitches with the online voting this year and OIT did notify the problems as they arose," said Haggerty. "Whenever any glitches were found and reported they were dealt with to the best of our abilities." Haggerty said that OIT worked quickly to fix the problems as they occurred and to resolve the situation. Haggerty also pointed out that those student votes cast on Sunday March 30, by students who had not voted in last year’s election were counted. "All votes that were cast on March 30 by students who did not vote in last year’s election did count," said Haggerty. There were a total of 489 votes cast in this year’s election which is the largest number so far in NSU history. "I’m surprised with the turnout for this year," said Morrow. "Every year we look for ways to reach new students and to allow them access to campus. Some students just really want to get involved on campus while others just want to have a say in their student government. This is one way that we’re trying to reach students and it’s really been working since we’ve had such a huge difference in the turnout."

Laurie Dyer, a freshman and biology major, was shocked by the lack of student involvement in the SGA election. "I thought that it was really interesting that only 400 or so kids voted when we have over 2,000 undergraduate students on campus," said Dyer. "I’m disappointed that only a certain amount of students voted. I really hope that more students show up next year and get involved in what’s going on around this campus. Students complain about a lot of things to vote, but then they don’t go out and vote." 

Shane’s platform was the most popular, according to the best student involved in the SGA election. "I think that the right party won and I am sure that Philip will do a great job," said Shafer. "I’m really happy with this year’s election turn out and I’m hopeful that the students will be so happy with their choices that they have laid is going to make my job that much easier," said Ortiz. "It says a lot and is really nice to know that so many students have voted. It’s definitely a step in the right direction. I am happy to be a part of an organization that was able to get so many people out to vote."
Afghanistan Today: 
Members of the NSU community are invited to join Bahaudin G. Mujtaba, Ph.D., as he discusses present day Afghanistan. The lecture will take place at 12:30 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

Comparative Religions: 
Robert P. Franzin D.D. and Major Pannu will help attendees understand Sikh and Hindu beliefs. The lecture will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Ask a Judge but Never had the Chance: 
Join Judge Ronald Rothschild, Broward circuit judge, as he gives attendees an opportunity to ask him questions that they always wanted to ask a judge. The event will take place at 12:30 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

Digressions Launch: 
Members of the NSU community are invited to attend the Digressions Launch. Digressions is a student run literary magazine sponsored by the Division of Humanities in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. The launch will allow contributors to present their work to the audience. Visual art found in the magazine will also be on display in a gallery. The event will begin at 4 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. For more information, contact Ryan Frabizio at frabizio@nova.edu.

World Updates: 
Join Tim Dixon, Ph.D. and Gary Gershman, Ph.D., J.D., as they give the audience an update on current affairs in the world. The lecture will take place at 10 a.m. at the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

University-Wide Open House: 
NSU will host an open house that will allow prospective students to learn more about the university and what it has to offer. The event will begin at 3 p.m. For more information, contact the Office of Public Affairs at 954-262-5353.

NISA and CSA Celebrate Culture Through Fashion

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

On Friday March 28, the Nova International Student Association (NISA) and the Caribbean Student Association (CSA) put together their second annual fashion show to celebrate the diversity at NSU. “We wanted to showcase all the culture at NSU, and we [NISA and CSA] wanted to show how diverse NSU is,” said Krystal-Gayle O’Neil, president of NISA. The event was hosted by Camille Wright, DJ for NSU’s Radio X and event coordinator for CSA. “Culture is everything,” said Wright. According to Wright, culture is in everything that people do from the foods they eat and the clothes they wear. Aside from a few wardrobe malfunctions, such as models walking on stage unknowingly displaying their underwear, NSU student volunteers modeled the clothing worn in various countries and continents, such as Asia, Africa, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas and South America.

They modeled traditional African and Asian garb, while also modeling outfits that had writing on them such as “IZA Haitian” and “IZA Yardie” and various shirts with logos for Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil. This year’s sponsors for the fashion show were Cooyah, a Jamaican brand of clothing; Izatrini.com, an internet-based brand which makes apparel for all West Indian countries and “Proud to Be,” a brand name that celebrates all different cultures around the world.

NISA is an organization that helps international students in providing a supportive, family-type network. Most members are looking to interact, network and further enhance their future career goals, all while fostering an environment of integration and diversity among people of all nations. For more information about NISA’s events email Krystal Gayle at krystalg@nova.edu.
Peace Corps Comes to NSU

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

On April 1, Peace Corps regional recruiter Colleen Scott came to NSU's Office of Career Development to speak to students about volunteer opportunities offered in the Peace Corps Program. Scott is a former Peace Corps volunteer who now works as a recruiter in Atlanta, Ga. She is also responsible for recruiting in South Florida and coming down during the school semester to speak to students. Scott began the information session by giving some general information about the Peace Corps.

Volunteers serve in many countries such as Africa, Asia, Europe, The Middle East and Central and South America. According to the pamphlet that Scott gave the attendees, 37.8% of volunteers serve in Africa, 23.5% in Latin America, 20% in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 6.6% in Asia, 5.4% in the Caribbean and 4% in North Africa, the Pacific Islands and the Middle East.

Scott went on to describe the various opportunities that volunteers can become involved in if they join the Peace Corps. Some of the opportunities involve teaching, health care, agriculture, the environment and business development. After completion of a two-year service in the Peace Corps, volunteers are eligible for post-volunteer programs. These benefits involve job placement support and noncompetition eligibility, which means that if volunteers meet the minimum requirements for the position that they are applying for, they are exempt from the hiring process that other applicants are subject to. Volunteers also receive affordable health benefits and over $6,000 that can be used towards readjusting to life in the United States.

Scott ended the session by explaining the volunteer requirements. Volunteers are required to be at least 18 years old, and be a U.S. citizen or naturalized citizen of the U.S. For more information about getting involved with the Peace Corps, contact Colleen Scott at escott@peacecorps.gov.

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**Sharks Sweep Florida Southern for First Time in Program History**

Tramell Mesa  
Sports Editor

On day two of the Mocs and Sharks series, the Sharks stole away another victory in game one of the doubleheader by a score of 3-1, thus ensuring the series for NSU. Freshman starting pitcher Lexi Sarratid recorded her 14th win on the 2008 season to go along with seven strikeouts. Brooks and Mitchell are credited with the Sharks' offensive performance, grabbing two and one RBI's, respectively.

Upon sealing the win in game three, 2-1, the Sharks made history by not only defeating Florida Southern's Moccasins for the first time in the program's history but actually taking the sweep in all three games. While the Sharks registered the first run of the second game match up, the Mocs quickly answered the call to even the score up, 1-1. Standout senior pitcher Ashley Baker managed to stay calm, cool and collected as the Sharks entered extra innings. Headed into the bottom of the 8th with two outs and NSU on the offensive end of the spectrum, the Sharks prepared to head back onto the field for yet another inning when junior Brittany Lamb attacked an outside pitch, sending it into right field allowing the game-winning run to be scored by fellow freshman teammate Rachel Tatenfeld.

**Sharks Place Third in Buccs Invitational**

Tim Coenraad  
Staff Writer

The NSU men’s golf team competed in the Buccs Invitational hosted by Barry University from March 11-April 1 and took third place amongst thirteen rivaling teams. In the first of two days of competition, the Sharks found themselves in third after two rounds of play—just four strokes off the tournament leaders and their conference rivals Barry University.

NSU was led by junior Constantine Schwarz who shot 141 over two rounds. Schwarz was followed by freshmen Bobby Bode and Michael Moore who both shot 144, aiding the Sharks along the way, taking the final day without striking distance of the tournament leaders. While competing in day two, Schwarz continued his fine play, shooting 72 in the final round, thus moving him forward into a tie for second on the individual leader board, a mere two strokes off the tournament champion.

A standout performance by senior Greg O’Malony kept the Sharks in third place to finish the day. O’Malony shot the best round of the day, 70, following him to jump 25 places and place 25th individually. Moore shot a solid final round with 75, which also contributed heavily to the NSU third place finish as the Sharks finished only six strokes off the tournament champion. Barry, with NSU looking to defend its Sunshine State Conference Championship title on April 13 in Melbourne, Fl, as they compete in the SSC Championship Tournament.

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**NSU Sports**  
April 7, 2008
Sharks Drop Tampa Series

Tim Coenraad

The NSU baseball team (19-13; 4-3 SSC) dropped the Sharks vs. Tampa Spartan series after first dominating the opening game on March 28. The Sharks came to lose both games of the double-header on March 29.

In the opening match against the Spartans, NSU produced a 17-hit offense drive in 13 runs on 13 RBIs. The Sharks’ starting pitcher, senior Rudy Garcia, pitched seven innings allowing seven hits and five runs to claim his sixth victory of the season.

The first inning saw both teams drive in one run a piece—the Sharks’ run coming from junior Dale Alberto’s RBI single to left field. However, NSU would break even in the game in the top of the second with a five-run, six-hit inning.

Senior and pre-season All-American Matt Mindick started the scoring off with an RBI single through the left side. Then, senior Cory Clark hit two RBI singles through the right side, scoring the runners on second and third.

The scoring in the second inning would come to a close, but not before Alberto’s two RBI doubles gave NSU a 6-1 lead. Scoring would resume until the top of the fourth when the Sharks drove in another three runs thanks to freshman J.D. Martinez’s RBI single to center field. Senior Bryan Cook then dropped a double RBI bomb to make the score 9-1.

NSU scored another two runs in the fifth off of RBIs from Mindick and Clark, but Tampa replied with a solo homerun in the same inning.

Garcia pitched the first five innings allowing only three hits and two runs, but the Spartans had a big sixth inning, scoring three runs on three hits to bring the score back to 11-5, which would be the last runs that Tampa would score.

Sophomore Jose Velazquez pitched the last two innings allowing no runs and no hits as well as allowing the Sharks to stack up two more runs off of sophomore Eric McCans’ RBI single and a forced-in RBI when freshman David Robinson was walked with the bases loaded, bringing the score to its final tally of 13-5.

Standouts for the game included Clark, who went three-for-five with three RBIs and three runs, Alberto for going three-for-six with three RBIs, McCans, who went four-for-six with an RBI and two runs and Cook who went two-for-five with 2 RBIs and 2 runs.

The next day NSU faced the University of Tampa in a double-header to determine the winner of the series. Unfortunately, the Spartans took both games 5-1 and 4-2.

The first game saw Tampa take a 4-1 lead after three innings with NSU’s run coming from a McCans’ RBI single to right.

The Sharks rallied off two more runs in the fourth and sixth inning off junior Damon Manno’s RBI single through the left side and another RBI single by McCans, also through the left side, giving the Sharks some hope of a comeback. Tampa scored the last run of the game in the bottom of the sixth giving Tampa the victory.

McCans led the Sharks going two-for-three with two RBIs, and Manno followed as he went two-for-three with an RBI and a run.

In the final game of the series, the score remained locked at 0-0 courtesy of pitcher, Jon Spier who retired nine batters straight in three innings. However, the Spartans broke the tie in the fourth inning scoring the game’s first two runs.

The Sharks clawed their way back into the game in the top of the sixth inning when McCans provided a clutch double RBI homerun tying the game back up at 2-2.

Tampa immediately responded with what was to be the winning runs in the bottom of the sixth, making the game 4-2. NSU was unable to bring the game back in the seventh and final inning.

McCans and Robinson were the bright spark for the Sharks, as they both went two-for-three with McCans scoring one run and batting in two.

Sharks Finish Fourth in Hoya Invitational

Tim Coenraad

The NSU women’s golf team finished fourth amongst a Division I field of competitors while taking part in the Hoya Women’s Golf Invitational hosted by Georgetown University from March 31 to April 1 at the Members Club at Four Seasons.

The Sharks found themselves closing off the opening day in fourth place overall, 11 strokes off Yale who led the tournament after two rounds of play, shooting a total of 614.

Freshman Taylor Collins played a quality two rounds of golf, shooting a solid 74 and 79 to finish with a two-round scoring score of 153, putting her in ninth place—just four strokes back from the individual leader.

Sophomore Maria Garcia Austt finished one shot behind freshman Nicole Whitmore, who stood in a tie for 15th place, shooting a total of 156, keeping NSU’s hopes of a top three finish alive.

On the second day of play, the Sharks were able to hold onto the fourth spot on the leader board despite their fourteen-rivaling Division I and II competitors. Collins once again came up with the goods, shooting two over 74 in the last round of play, giving her a three-round total of 227, which was a score worthy of a fourth-place finish in the individual standings.

Austt also finished strong, shooting a total of 213 to place her ninth overall, which jumped her seven places on the leader board. Whitmore’s solid play was pivotal in securing NSU’s fourth place finish as she came in with a total of 236.

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State of the University Address
By Akshat Bhargava,
President Undergraduate Student Government Association

Dear NSU Community,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present you with the 20th Student Government Association (2007-2008) State of the University Address. This year’s SGA started off with a daunting task and responsibility: to rebuild and restructure SGA from the ground up. As reflective in our goals, this year we have been committed to making SGA student oriented, collaborative, accountable, professional and the voice of the students. Passion, along with dedication, commitment, good leadership and hard work has served as the bottom line of our administration. The administration has met a lot of success in achieving its goals and serving as the voice of the undergraduate students. I hope you will take the time to read the address and judge for yourself this year’s SGA’s performance. Following are our accomplishments as per the goals we set in the beginning of the year.

Goal #1 Connecting to Students:
NSUSGA is the voice of the students and serves as a liaison between administrators and students. In order to be a true voice and to ensure all sections are represented equally, NSUSGA will make extensive efforts to connect and reach out to as many undergraduate students as possible. To further build a more positive, professional and friendly bond with the administrators, image building, more interaction and communication will serve as the key to success.

Accomplishment of Goal 1:
SGA made huge strides in making a connection with the students and having its presence felt. Following are some of the accomplishments for the above goal.
- Student Issues and Concerns Meeting: SGA meetings were restructured to make them more student oriented. First and third meetings were restructured to be bill bearing and resolution, the second meeting was titled “Student Issue and Concern Meeting” to discuss student issues on campus, whereas the fourth meeting was made a leadership development committee session for SGA members to re-group and plan for the future.
- SGA Tuesday: The creation of a monthly event on campus for students to meet and greet student government members, as well as express concerns, in a fun and informal atmosphere. This allowed SGA to better represent student needs.
- SGA Welcome Back Week – SGA hosted the first ever SGA Welcome Back Week in the first week of school in the winter semester to connect to students.
- SGA Welcome Back Week was a full week of events giving students more information about SGA, as well as listening to student’s feedback, suggestions and concerns.
- SGA Seal: SGA designed its own logo to give itself an individual identity. The new seal has also helped students recognize SGA and make a connection.
- SGA Board In Parker – The SGA Board in the Parker second floor was completed and serves as a stationary location for information about SGA to its students.
- The board has been decorated with goals and updated with SGA meetings dates, a contact list and a calendar to further connect with the students.
- Ask Mr. Shark – The SGA president’s column in The Current – the universities student newspaper. The bi-weekly column sought to answer questions that students might have about the campus.
- SGA at Sharkapalooza – SGA co-sponsored Sharkapalooza with the Office of Student Engagement to help students to connect at NSU and get to know different clubs and organizations on campus. SGA also had a booth present at the event with free give aways and information about SGA for students.
- SGA Campaign “What Has SGA Done for Me Lately” – A campaign started to promote awareness of various things SGA has done for its students. It has provided a better connection between students and SGA.

Goal #2 Addressing Project SERVE
SGA realizes the importance of volunteerism among students in building a better campus community, but at the same time realizes that students, clubs and organizations have raised some concerns about Project SERVE. As the voice of the students, NSUSGA needs to address those concerns with their respective groups and help in reaching a win–win solution or a mutual conclusion.

Accomplishment of Goal 2:
- Member on Civic Engagement Board: SGA was able to get one of its members on the Civic Engagement Board started by Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement to promote volunteerism as well as to work on any suggestions or feedback for Project SERVE. The Civic Board is currently working on a week of volunteer events to provide organizations with plenty of opportunities to do volunteer work as well as planning an “alternative spring break.”
- IOC Meeting for Concern: Project SERVE suggestions and concerns were brought up this year as one of the topics for discussion for clubs and organization led by SGA.

Goal #3 Building a Campus Community / Collaboration:
One of the purposes of NSUSGA is uniting the NSU community. Collaborating events and activities with its constituents as well as the administration, faculty, staff and departments will play a vital role. Organizing and planning with DOSA and Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences would be of great importance. This will also provide NSUSGA the opportunity to be the students’ voice in matters of importance.

Accomplishment of Goal 3:
As SGA this year has worked very hard on collaboration with different clubs, departments and schools to promote unity, school spirit and create a more dynamic and diverse campus.
- SGA collaborated with AVACS and Student Union Board to host Halloween party in the flight deck for students.
- SGA members are also part of the Food Service Committee with Chartwells to improve the dining experience of its students and NSU Community at large.
- SGA is also part of the Commencement committee. Currently, two of its members serve as the students’ voice in one of the most important events of their life.
- SGA drafted a resolution called Memo of Understanding to create partnership with Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to fund conferences for pre-professional organizations. Even though the resolution got passed and strongly supported by the Dean of Farquhar, Don Ronneblum, SGA unfortunately could not implement it since Brad Williams, Dean of Student Affairs, raised some concerns and denied the resolution even after acceptance and prior knowledge.
- SGA co-sponsored Sharkapalooza with the Office of Student Engagement for the NSU community.
- SGA co-sponsored the Shark Show with PASA and SUB during Homecoming Week. In addition to that SGA also be hosted the homecoming dance and raft races for the students.
- For the first time, SGA members assisted with planning and organizing CommunityFest, making us the first SGA to get volunteer hours.
- SGA collaborated with the Office of Disabilities and passed a resolution requesting the administration to let the University Center doors remain automatically
Finally, to address the Accomplishment of Goal 4:

- Worked with administrators to open 700-plus parking spots on campus for commuter students.
- SGA members rode the campus shuttles and shared their experiences with administrators.
- Lead the parking concern in PANSGA.
- Met with Office of Facilities to discuss the parking situation and get a better understanding of it.
- Created Parking Survey that was adopted by PANSGA and sent out to all students.
- Did parking surveys at SGA Tuesdays.

Goal #5 Budget Guidelines/Constitution: The NSUSGA will be undergoing a transition and will be modifying the ways that money is allocated. The purpose is to be fair and consistent with money allocations. With the changes taking place, NSUSGA will make a special effort to reach out and communicate the changes to its constituents as efficiently and effectively as possible to minimize any inconvenience to its constituents as well as the concerned authorities.

Accomplishment of Goal 5

- Adopted new and modified guidelines for money allocation to clubs and organizations, which simplified money allocation.
- Advertised new guidelines through various listservs for organizations to be well aware of them.
- Held budget workshops and new budget guideline workshops to help organizations adapt to the new guidelines and answer any questions or concerns they might have.

Goal #6 Promoting Leadership, Campus Life and Development of Undergraduate Students: Student leadership development is the process of involving students in meaningful ways, both in and beyond the classroom. It is providing opportunities for students to demonstrate their talents, skills and interests while continuing to develop new skills. It is also about giving students more ownership of the programs they attend. Students bring new energy and ideas to the program. Second, student leadership provides opportunities for students to get involved and to learn skills that can be transferable to the workplace or community. Finally, student leadership deepens each student’s commitment to adult literacy and increases the chances that the student will continue to learn. Campus leadership has an abiding commitment to the improvement of campus climate, community and diversity and must seek effective ways to translate that commitment into action. NSUSGA respects student/campus leaders and will make a strong effort to produce future NSU leaders and work with the administrators to provide them with training, opportunities, recognition and other necessary tools as needed.

Accomplishment of Goal 6

- Passed a resolution for recognition at the Commencement Ceremony for Leaders.
- Secured two seats on the Commencement Committee, presented and lobbied the idea to the commencement committee for recognition of graduating leaders at the commencement ceremony.
- Attended IOC meetings and gave special gifts to IOC leaders for their commitment and dedication to NSU and their organization.
- SGA this year nominated for some categories for Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS).

Other Outstanding Achievements for SGA This Year:

- Holding an SGA meeting with Dean Don Rosneblum present.
- SGA working with Residential Life to provide fax machines for residential students.
- SGA working with Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to provide printing stations in the Parker Building.
- SGA sponsored Homecoming witnessing the highest attendance in the history of homecoming with over 300 students attending the event.
- SGA nominated for the Best SGA of The Year at Student Life Achievement Awards 2008.
- SGA lead FRAG petition got over 250 signatures.
- SGA food court survey gets 243 responses.
- SGA Team was the best undergraduate team at the 2007 ethics bowl competition at NSU and went to represent the school at southeast regional ethics bowl debate competition in St. Petersburg. SGA came in eighth place out of 22 teams. This has been the highest rank ever for NSU.
- SGA got 10 volunteer hours for helping with Community Fest, making us the first SGA in the history of NSU to earn volunteer hours.
- First SGA to go technology friendly, SGA is now on WebCT to make SGA more organized and planned as well as to support the SGA Go Green Initiative.
- First SGA to have a full senate in over 5 years.
- First SGA to hold a presidential debate at Quad Thursday for the election process.
- SGA elections had a voting record with over 450 votes being casted.

Please let us know what you think. We look forward to hearing your comments, suggestions and feedback. Please feel free to contact me at bhargava@nova.edu or SGA at nsusga@nova.edu

Remember, SGA is always there for you!

Sincerely,

Akshat Bhargava
21 Goes from Exciting Thriller to Melodrama

Stefani Rubin
Staff Writer

College can be a tough time for any student. It's not just the work, but creating a new social life while dealing with crazy professors and most of all, the costs. Take a walk in the Parker Building and you're guaranteed to hear somebody talking about how much money they spent on books, tuition, food and a number of other school-related issues. It is here that the true story of the college students in 21 begins.

When Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess), a student at one of the United States' most prestigious universities, M.I.T., learns just how much it will cost him to keep attending school, he becomes desperate to find a means to pay his way through. While searching for a solution, Ben begins to hear rumors about one of M.I.T.'s professors, Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey), who was known for teaching a group of students how to devise a system of cheating by counting cards on Vegas casinos' blackjack tables in order to make money. Campbell joins Rosa's team along with five other students who are all thrown into a life of duplicates, card counting, and money...lots of it.

As most of these stories go, Campbell finally realizes his mistake at Libby. The real excitement begins when Doyle gets wrapped up in the money, the crazy Vegas lifestyle all while falling for his teammate, Jill Taylor (Kate Bosworth). The pressure is further pushed to its limit as the team is placed under surveillance, being watched by the casino's toughest security guard Cole Williams (Laurence Fishburne). Now the team must learn to do their thing,"dealing with the pressure while "keeping their cool," however, as you might have guessed, these stories never work out like that.

Due to romance toppled onto typical teenage drama, what could have been a truly interesting thriller turns into a melodramatic love story which happens to take place during one of the most tumultuous times of these students' lives. The movie starts out strong, but the director and producers seemed to have tried too hard by adding in too many subplots, which left them without satisfaction. There was too much focus on the love and "feeling" rather than on what was going on in the casinos and the team dynamic itself.

To be honest, I saw this movie because of Kevin Spacey's previous performances. In the one that made the film worth its while, Sturgess' previous role in Across the Universe, a major waste of time to say the least, showed that he definitely has an array of screen presence 21 proves no different. Even co-starring next to the great Spacey, Sturgess takes command of the screen, which is uncommon for a young actor such as himself to accomplish while standing behind veteran co-stars. He is lovable and intelligent, all which comes through wonderfully in 21.

Spacey's role was probably the best decided part of the production crew made for this film. He was demanding, as an incredibly intellectual teacher should be, as well as sneaky. If it wasn't for Spacey, these kids wouldn't have so much money, and Spacey's demeanor and attitude reminds you of that throughout the entire film. From his presence in a room to each word he spoke, Spacey took the film straight to the next level and beyond. Both Sturgess and Spacey fans should be impressed with the work that they both accomplished in this film, I am sure you will enjoy them in the roles of Campbell and Rosa.

Overall, the film can be a bit boring, typical and uninteresting, but taken in bit by bit there are definitely parts which make it worth the eight dollar movie ticket or, at the very least, the four dollar rental.

A Good Race for Run Fat Boy Run

Racquel Fagon
Variety Editor

Upon viewing the trailer of this movie, I knew it was a "must see" for me. Finding out that this film was directed by my favorite star, David Schwimmer, from the sitcom "Friends" was just another fantastic kicker for me.

In this silly "underdog" comedy, British comedian, Simon Pegg (Hot Fuzz, Shaun of the Dead), plays Dennis Doyle -- a commitment-retarded guy who can never see anything through to the end. Five years earlier, Doyle leaves his pregnant fiancée, Libby (Thandie Newton), at the altar along with the love and money he promised her. He had his life planned out, he would do his best friend and heavy gambler, Gordon (Dylan Moran), then follows after Gordon in the marathon. It was a funny, sweet, sometimes gross, romantic comedy that deserves to be seen at least twice. It definitely serves as a winning start for Schwimmer's directing career.

Stop-Loss breaks the Mold

Stefani Rubin
Staff Writer

Kimberly Peirce, director of Boys Don't Cry, is known throughout Hollywood for taking unconventional or controversial stories and turning them around into something that is accessible for all. In Boys Don't Cry, she challenged the status quo with her disturbing expose on a transgender in the American south. In her most recent film, Stop-Loss, she does something similar by challenging the U.S. Army's policy known as "stop loss."

Once decorated Iraq War veteran Sgt. Brandon King's (Ryan Phillippe) tour of duty throughout the Middle East has finally come to an end, he returns home to see his family and best friends he had left behind when fighting. Soon after, he settles back into his new life at home, reconnecting with family and friends. While learning how to be a civilian again, King finds out that he has become the newest victim of the Army's "stop-loss" policy which was also known as the "Back Door Draft." He did his duty and fought through his term, however, now the Army is requesting him to come back and serve another tour. With the support of his friends and family, King must decide what he is going to do and what would be the "right" decision.

With his in-depth character, Ryan Phillippe (Erla Blackeby, Broken Arrow) brings some of his best acting since Cruel Intentions in the film Stop-Loss. I would personally like to welcome him back into the "real actors" club seeing as he did an amazing job playing the role of King. He demonstrated both force and feeling, as if these events were actually happening to him. Amongst a sea of young actors, Phillippe stands out as he takes control over each and every scene, demanding his audience's attention with every word he says.

Nonetheless, a great deal of credit is due to Peirce. She managed to steer clear of making the film pro- or anti-Iraq War. There was not a direct message about whether or not we should still be in Iraq or not, or even whether or not the war is truly worth its cost, however, you can tell that Peirce deeply sympathizes for American soldiers. Stop-Loss provides its audience with one of those little known injustices that over 80,000 soldiers have become victims of.

Peirce was incredibly fair in the way she portrayed soldiers, because in all rationality, not every young man who enlists is a stereotypical violent, racist psychopath. Peirce makes clear to her viewers that these soldiers are regular people who want and yearn to do something great.

While expectations were initially high for this film and although it didn't quite match up to Boys Don't Cry, Stop Loss is a step in the right direction for Peirce. She shows us what she is made of and manages to keep it coming up to the very end where a surprise is in store for all. She breaks normal Hollywood conventions by taking this story above and beyond anything I expected. It doesn't matter what your opinions are; Stop Loss is a war movie everyone should be able to appreciate. Get ready to be surprised, delighted and shocked when you see this film; it is definitely worth being seen.
Editor's Note

Michael Bergbauer
Editor in Chief
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As the pressure of the last month of the semester sets in, it seems school is on everyone's mind. That's good for exam week, but too much of one thing is never good. That is to say, you shouldn't learn everything in a classroom.

Perhaps the best thing about the college microcosm is that the pursuit of knowledge has many venues and much variety. NSU has boasted symposiums, famous speakers, more special topics lectures than I can count, and about 18 volumes of The Current. Taking the pursuit off campus doesn't lose traction. You can tune a radio to NPR and learn about world events or foreign policy. There are presidential debates on TV, libraries, museums, the Internet. Yes, knowledge is everywhere.

This week NSU step out of the classroom and expand your list of learning mediums. Check out the Current Affairs calendar this week and pick something that either interests you or something you don't know much about. Take the time to learn about other fields of study. It was a long time ago now, but remember the key message of orientation: stay well rounded, and have fun.

What do you think about the music in the RecPlex?

"It's fine. They play every genre of music that touches every student who works out."
Shane Johnson, Junior, Business Administration

"The music is good. It's hype and makes you want to work out."
Alex Sarradet, Freshman, Nursing

"I really don't pay attention to the music, but from what I've heard it is repetitive. They play the same songs all the time."
Willie Wood, Senior, Legal Studies and Communication Studies

"It's repetitive. They play the same songs all the time."
Monica Henderson, Senior, Nursing

Current Affairs calendar this week and what you think about the music in the RecPlex.

What's Your Drink?

WORDSEARCH

SPEANUT PUNCH PONC
MDFHIPERAPGGMAMHR
ITRECIUJEGNAROEI
GEULRPPROPCUTC
RITTASUPLEOGNDE
ACAUTIEJWPLRETAW
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Correction

In the story titled "NSU Student Assaulted in The Commons (Vol. 18, Issue 22, March 31, 2008), eyewitnesses Varun Sharma and Zain Khalid stated that public safety arrived upon the scene roughly 10-15 minutes after the assault incident was reported. Prior to going to press, an attempt was made to verify this timeline with the Department of Public Safety, but no answers were provided. Post publication, The Current was provided with the following timeline from the Department of Public Safety, based on their video records (written records were not and still have not been disclosed to The Current). The incident was reported at 3:00 p.m. A public safety officer was dispatched at 3:01 p.m. The officer arrived on the scene at 3:02:56 p.m. (approximately 3 minutes after the incident was reported). The first Davis police officer arrived at 3:08 p.m., and two additional Davis police officers arrived at 3:11 p.m.
An open invitation to our campus-wide open house.

Now is a great time to let your friends and family discover NSU. With more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, 16 colleges and schools and locations in 9 countries, there's a lot more to NSU than even you may know. Find out more at our campus-wide open house. NSU faculty, advisers, admissions counselors and students will be on hand to answer questions and show off our campus. Mark your calendars and bring your friends because it's an open house that will open doors. Don't miss it.

DISCOVER NSU: CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE

Friday, April 11th, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 12th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale - Davie Main Campus
www.nova.edu/openhouse
(866) 432-2002