Jack McKeon, Manager of the
Florida Marlins, Shares All at NSU

By Earl Tinsley
webmaster@knight-online.fib.net

The evening of the “Life 101... Personally Speaking Series” started in the plaza area outside the Miniaci Performing Arts Center, where spectators debated over the possibility of a shower and how to handle the problem if it should arise. At 6:15 p.m., a news crew with cameramen met up in the Green Room on the Second Floor of the Library for a full-feature interview with Jack McKeon. The session was filled with witty comebacks as he expressed joy in what he does and hopes that — with the right mix of players — he will lead his team to another big win next season. The feeding frenzy lasted for about half an hour, and afterward the press was ushered out into the lobby area, where faculty and students were handing in tickets to watch the live interview with Jack McKeon and Life 101 host of the evening, Dr. Mark Cavanaugh. To make the wait for McKeon’s arrival less agonizing, the audience was graced with some light music.

The excited audience, who had been waiting in anticipation, greeted the Marlins manager with a standing ovation. The interview was opened up with a profile of the series of jobs that McKeon had held since early childhood. He spoke about his time in the Air Force, then told some humorous anecdotes, including one about a baseball player who was afraid of snakes, one about the time he taught Spanish, and another about his practice firing blanks out of a gun. He also shared with us his philosophy on the power of prayer and worship of St. Teresa, who he believed saved his brain-dead son, cancer-ridden wife, and led him to his rightful path in life. He closed the interview with some advice: “To be successful, you must continue to work hard and dedicate yourself, challenging yourself every day.”

With the one-on-one interview closed, McKeon turned to the audience for questions. After the Q&A session came to an end, the guest of honor was presented with a framed NSU jersey, hat, and watch. Then, NSU Baseball Player Sean McFadden revealed a surprise as he wheeled out a birthday cake and joined the audience in wishing Jack McKeon a happy 73rd Birthday. After the presentation, guests were invited to join a reception where an assortment of hors d’oeuvres awaited, and attendees lined up for autographs and pictures with Jack McKeon.

The objective of “Life 101” is to bring to our campus the stories of accomplished and well-known people. The Dean of Students, Brad Williams, with the help of the Director of Student Development & Special Events, Kenny Hendrickson, have planned two more notable guests to grace the campus of NSU for the upcoming 2004 year. Mark your calendars for January 20th and February 16th as Mo Rocca, a Senior Political Correspondent for The Daily Show, and renowned actor, James Earl Jones, respectively, come to NSU to share their life stories.

Four NSU University School Students Named National Hispanic Recognition Scholars

By Elizabeth Ninomiya
Public Affairs Specialist

Four seniors at University School of Nova Southeastern University have been named Scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. Students Joan Ghitis, Max Kelerstein, Danielle LaRocco, and Natalia Martinez are part of the select group of 3,000 students nationwide - chosen from an initial 150,000 applicants and 4,000 semi-finalists - recognized as program finalists.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) recognizes outstanding students of Hispanic origin who are in the top 2 percent of Hispanic PSAT/NMSQT test takers in any given year. A combination of PSAT/NMSQT score and the student’s GPA is used to designate students as Scholars in their senior year of high school. NHRP provides the names of all qualifying students to admissions offices at colleges and universities throughout the country to encourage them to recruit highly talented Hispanic students, and provide them financial assistance.

Separately, 11 students at University School have been recognized as Semi-Finalists in the 2004 National Merit Program, and 16 students have been recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars. University School of Nova Southeastern University is a private pre-kindergarten through 12th grade college preparatory school located on NSU’s main campus in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The school was founded in 1971 as a university-based laboratory school, and has grown into one of the largest, most successful independent college preparatory schools in Florida, winning a designation as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the Department of Education for its Lower School. For more information on University School of NSU, visit http://uschool.nova.edu.
Editor’s Note

By Todd Collins
Editor-in-Chief

The courts have recently declared that Lionel Tate, now sixteen years old, should be granted a new trial for the killing of a young girl in July 1999, since his competency to stand trial was never evaluated. He may not have been competent, but neither were the adults in charge of his fate.

The defense’s strategy was to claim that Lionel was imitating pro wrestling, but their strategy was hardly consistent with the evidence. Young Tiffany Eunick suffered thirty-five injuries including a broken skull and damage to many internal organs. This is reflective of great physical force and malice, not rough horseplay. Lionel was a big and healthy twelve-year-old boy and Tiffany was only six. A mismatch. The defense risked life imprisonment by rejecting a plea bargain for a three-year stay in a juvenile facility in favor of implementing an incredibly weak line of defense.

On the other side, the prosecution and the courts acted to imprison a twelve-year old boy for his entire life. His crime was heinous. But common sense tells us we mustn’t lock up such a young child -- one without a troublesome past -- for life. Surely, he may be able to be salvaged. Surely, an attempt must be made.

The courts have finally declared that the youth’s competency was uncertain, and has acted accordingly. I declare the adults who handled this case non compos mentis.

December Calendar of Events

December 15-Monday Night Football
Miami Dolphins v. Philadelphia Eagles
9pm-12am
Student Union

December 17- Advanced Resume Writing Workshop
5pm-6pm LRIC 4036
Career Services

Buck Bingo
6:30pm Student Union

December 19- First Night of Hanukkah
TGIF’s
5-7pm Flight Deck
Student Union

December 21- NFL Sunday Ticket
1pm-8pm
Student Union

December 22-Monday Night Football
9pm-12am
Student Union

December 24- University Closed
½ Day

December 25- Merry Christmas! University Closed

December 26- First Night of Kwanzaa
University Closed

December 28- NFL Sunday Ticket
Miami Dolphins v. New York Jets
1pm-8pm
Student Union

December 31- University Closed
½ Day

The Knight serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in the Parker Building. The Knight is NSU’s established vehicle for the transmission of student reporting, opinion and arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to The Knight.

Editorials, commentaries and advertisements in this publication reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily express the views of the University or its officials, The Knight staff, or other advertisers. The Knight will not publish unsigned letters except under special circumstances at the editor’s discretion.

The Knight reserves the right to edit.
College Students Urged to ‘Stand Up and Speak Up’ for Reproductive Rights

By Amanda N. Brown
Business Manager
bamanda@nova.edu

Gloria Feldt, President of Planned Parenthood, held a news conference on December 2, 2003, inviting college reporters to listen in and ask questions regarding the March for Freedom of Choice on Sunday, April 25, 2004.

“I believe this is the right time to march,” said Feldt, as she enthusiastically explained the rally and all of its purposes. She asserted that this is “extremely important,” and “it is your reproductive rights and reproductive freedom that are at stake.”

“I have never seen so much energy for marching,” Feldt exclaimed. “People are booking buses, and people have already committed to bringing tens of thousands of participants.”

The March for Freedom of Choice is in response to an anti-choice onslaught, which includes not only abortion, but attacks family planning, birth control, hormone pills, sex education, etc. “The Bush Administration is ready to take away a woman’s child-bearing rights without interference of the government,” said Feldt.

The pro-life charge in Congress affects more than just criminal laws. It affects critical funds as well. Millions of dollars are being given to abstinence-only programs, taking away sex education and deducting funds for planned parenthood associations, explained Feldt. Furthermore, she pointed out that efforts are being made to give an embryo the same rights as a woman at the point of contraception.

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer made a statement on the enactment of the Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003: “The recently-signed ban on the so-called ‘Partial Birth Abortion’ provides no exception to protect the life or health of women, and this ban strikes at the very heart of the Roe decision. It is so broad that doctors say that it may prohibit many second trimester abortions. Criminalizing this procedure is not the end goal for the anti-choice zealots – it is the beginning.”

The Partial Birth Abortion Act has passed, but there is a temporary restraining order, and so the law cannot be enforced for certain doctors. But Feldt vigorously emphasized the consequences of this recent bill on abortion: “Attorney General John Ashcroft said he would enforce the law vigorously, and any doctor not covered under the restraining order would be prosecuted.”

College students play a vital role in the march and the stance for pro-choice freedom in general. “College students are at the beginning of their reproductive stages, and sex education, availability of contraceptives — these are very important issues. This directly affects your life every day,” stated Feldt.

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“For more information on the march and the Partial Birth Abortion Act go to: www.plannedparent.org www.saveroe.org www.marchforchoice.org”
Letter to the Editor

Hello,

I am an undergraduate here at NSU and I have always picked up the latest copy of the NSU Knights newspaper, and have enjoyed reading about our University. In the recent Thanksgiving edition of 2003, I read a cartoon illustrated by Christie Bailey that offended me. The cartoon depicted some creature giving the middle finger to Canadians who come to Florida in the winter. I am Canadian and was deeply offended by this illustration. The cartoon made me feel unwanted in the United States, and I feel it should not have been printed. I understand the humor intended, but the message is no joke.

I just hope you consider ALL nationalities before printing anything, because not only does NSU have a diverse student body, but the United States is one huge melting pot of mixed cultures and nationalities.

Thank you for your time,
A concerned undergrad

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A Very Merry Murder Mystery

By Christie Bailey
Copy Editor

On the evening of December 4, 2003, the Honors Student Association hosted its last event for the term, a murder mystery dinner entitled "I Saw Mommy Killing Santa Claus." The event started at 6:30 p.m., when students and faculty were given the scoop on the crime. Elmer Ellsworth, a Santa at Lacy's Department Store, had died suddenly and mysteriously one evening while on the job. At the end of the night, after each team had shared their notes with the others, the perpetrator of the crime was revealed to the dinner guests.

A lot of effort was put into the planning and setting up of the dinner, and the students put on a good performance. It was a lot of fun, and a great break from studying for final exams.

CAPSTONE
cont from page 1

Student creativity gets the spotlight

foundation in the arts and gives students the ability to incorporate several different disciplines into their work.

The capstone project is conceived, written, created, and produced by the master's degree candidate with the help of the production team she assembles. The project may be a lecture or an artistic work, but must incorporate some manner of performance. This project actually replaces a thesis and is the culmination of the student's work in the program.

The I.A. program is headed by David Spangler, who has worked in various fields pertaining in the arts, including Broadway theatre, off-Broadway theatre, music for film and television, and television commercials. For further information about the program, he can be contacted at davids@nova.edu.

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Book Sale

Open to NSU faculty, staff, students, and the public

Date: February 6th, 7th, and 8th 2004

Time: Friday 12 pm-6 pm,
Saturday 10 am-3 pm,
Sunday 1-5 pm

Location: Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center
Conference Room 2053 (2nd floor)

Items being sold: textbooks, hard cover novels, paperbacks, children's books, magazines, full sets of journals, CDs, CD cases, DVDs, and video cassettes.

Price range: 10¢ to $10

Cash or checks ONLY
(Atm located on the 1st floor)
To Sell or Not To Sell

That is the question most college students face when it comes time for textbook buyback

By Shanell Lee
Contributing Writer

When final grades are in, we take that final sigh of relief because we know another course is finally over. Immediately, a mental image of the school bookstore pops into our heads. On the left side of the door, we see a sign reminding us we can sell our textbooks back for some cold hard cash. Whether we’re undergraduate or graduate students, most of us could use the extra cash. Then, reality sets in. We start to wonder: “Should I hold on to this book? I may need to refer to it in a future course.”

Now we have a dilemma — what should we do?

A few reasons we’d probably sell back our books:

1. The money, of course.
2. We just don’t have the space to store all those books.
3. We would rather not ever see the book again.

Seriously, putting the money from your old books towards buying your new books is a pretty smart idea. The extra cash could be put into your NSU card account to buy snacks, soda, and coffee from the machines on campus, as well as to make copies at the copy machines. Now, that could come in handy. If you live in a small apartment or a dorm room with a roommate, keeping the books is a bad idea. Are we really willing to lose quality closet space for our books? I don’t believe so. Last but not least, we’re just ready to say farewell our books. We think to ourselves, “if we sell this book back, someone else will be able to purchase it used at an affordable price, and maybe the same will happen for me.”

However, holding onto old textbooks after completing a course could be a good idea. There’s really no way to know if you’re going to need a book again until that time comes. For example, composition books can be excellent sources for explaining different writing formats. Marketing textbooks can be used to gather ideas for a current class project in business. All textbooks could prove to be a reference tool for future classes, study guides, or personal knowledge.

Personally, I recommend keeping any textbook that you feel might be important to you in the future. If you don’t keep the textbook, at least keep the CD-rom that came with it. The CD-rom is a good study tool, also. In the end, it is up to each individual to decide the merits of selling books back or keeping them. A professor once told me he kept all of his books to start his home library, an intriguing idea.

Political Correctness is Un-American

PC or Free Speech?

By Ed Hershman
Contributing Writer

It is America in the 1960’s. Martin Luther King stands at the dais. Before the gathered thousands, he says, “I have a dream.”

Plainclothes goons from the FBI swarm the podium, shove King into a waiting black sedan and drive off.

How is this different from firing or suing someone for making a politically incorrect or racially insensitive remark? It isn’t.

Both examples, though certainly different in degree, represent the stifling of free speech, a right so important that those evil white men who wrote our constitution made it the First Amendment.

The First Amendment has no meaning if only acceptable speech is protected.

Repressive regimes like the Nazis and Maoist China demanded ideological conformity. Those who chose to express differing viewpoints did so at their own peril. How is this different from attacking those who would dare stray from the lockstep of political correctness? It isn’t, though being sued or losing your job has to be better than a camp surrounded by barbed wire.

It is ironic that those who embrace political correctness were the first to demand the conformity, be it sexual, racial, or otherwise, imposed by a society that once put white, male and heterosexual superiority as the only way to go without incurring condemnation, or worse.

A President who guided the US through some of its most trying times, and who happened to be a gimp, once said, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.”

Political correctness aims to strike fear in those who might misspeak, and fear is un-American. If we dare not speak boldly, how could we ever dare to act boldly?

If we cannot dare express our opinions in a marketplace of ideas, how can we risk our lives, or even inconvenience ourselves, for the sake of our fellow American? Fear allows no place for duty.

In the end, political correctness is all about cowardice. Fear to say the wrong thing. Fear of being punished. Fear of being different. Fear, fear, fear.

As someone who is half-Jewish and half redhead, I can have sympathy for those who object to the Confederate flag being part of an official state emblem. I know I would want to speak up against a swastika as part of any governmental seal. Perhaps no black person can understand the fuzzy-headed romanticism many Southerners attach to the Confederate flag, a romanticism that puts only peripheral importance on the keeping of humans as property.

However, when I see black-and-white footage of somebody’s mother being shoved down the street by the blast of an Alabama firehouse, I understand the Black Panthers completely.

Yet, I don’t think I would hit the streets over a sports team that called itself “The Dishonest Jewish Accountants,” and had a long-nosed sneaky caricature as its mascot.

Why? Because at some point we all need to be able to laugh at ourselves. Political correctness allows no place for humor. Who would want to live in such a sterile, Orwellian world?

Every culture and ethnic group within the human race has something to be embarrassed about. It is inseparable from being human. Mark Twain once said that man is the only animal that blushes, or has cause to. Every stereotype exists for a reason: that reason is that despite a morally solid majority within every group, a minority steps forward and acts in a stereotypical, embarrassing fashion.

As a white person, I write here today the shocking fact that some rich white people engage in dishonest business practices, stealing millions from the masses. There might even be a dishonest Jewish businessperson or two out there in the real world. Notice how I dodge the possibility that any person of color could ever be anything but morally pure. Pay no attention to the two black males recently on trial for shooting humans for sport on the East Coast.

Human failures come in all colors. All of us, if we are honest with ourselves, can find something in our daily conduct that needs to be laughed at. But a self-deprecating sense of humor implies self-knowledge, confidence, and maturity — qualities, apparently, many of us lack.

In perpetually playing the false victim, purveyors of political correctness in the end practice racism on themselves, saying, in essence, we need special protection, we need a handout, we aren’t strong enough to make it on our own, or even tolerate a nasty word. It is, in the end, a declaration of inferiority and infantilism. Such conduct perpetuates the very racism it purports to combat. Perhaps it is simply tragic proof that no human, or group of humans, can be granted even a small measure of power without abusing that power.

It is far more admirable to say that no barrier can stop us, whoever we may be, because we are capable and determined. No word can hurt us, because it is merely the exhalation of air, albeit possibly foul, or dark markings on a light background, nothing more.

So, Mr. Skinhead, call me and my darker brothers mad people if you wish. It is your right. Mr. Limbaugh, if you choose to reveal your ignorance of recent NFL history and criticize Donovan McNabb, knock yourself out, you’re paid to make noise. But that noise is the hubbub of a robust and courageous people that knows, in its heart of hearts, that stupidity will reveal itself, that wrong ideas fall of their own weight, that truth, in the end, will out.
German-born Meir Proves Himself on the Court With Winning Record

Hopes for nationals and intense practice keep this player on the ball

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

Marco Meir has been at Nova for a year now and has proved himself as a basketball player by leading with scoring and rebounding the last couple of games. Against Puerto Rico Bayaman he led with fourteen points and five rebounds. Also, against the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Marco totaled sixteen points and twelve rebounds, leading the Knights to a victory.

Marco was born on September 12th 1981 in Nurnberg, Germany. He grew up in Nurnberg and stayed there until deciding to move to the United States to play basketball. He played soccer for eight or nine years, until he found basketball. Marco began playing when he was sixteen. "Friends asked if I wanted to practice with them; that's how I started playing basketball," Meier explains.

In Europe, students don't play for their high schools as in the United States. The culture surrounding high school sports is not like it is in America; the teams are not available. "Basically, we have clubs and don't play for schools. It's hard to play and go to school, but if you want to get better [at basketball] you come over here to play," Marco explains. "It's much easier to practice and get your studies in over here."

In Germany, he played on 2nd division teams while also playing for clubs. At the age of eighteen, Marco was selected to go to the McDonald's All-European Camp.

This was a very elite club and "five or six players from my camp are now in the NBA," explains Marco. "I got to play with Dirk Nowitzki, my favorite athlete during the summer," he explains. At the All-European Camp they rowed once a day and practiced basketball twice after that. "It was the best experience for me," declares Marco.

Marco was recruited from Jamestown University. On his visit, he practiced with the team. "I liked the way the plays were open. I also like the motion offense; it makes you really understand the game," says Meier. "With the motion offense, if you are a post player, you can come out instead of staying in one place the whole time." Marco has been thoroughly challenged since he came to Nova. "I've always played wing, and now I'm playing center," says Marco. It's a big challenge to change positions when a player has already been ingrained with one from the beginning of his career.

"The workout at NSU is pretty intense. We practice everyday, lift, and watch videos from previous games," explains Marco.

"My goals are that we have a winning season, and a fun one as well. I also want to get as many rebounds as I can while helping Kluis and Garth as much as I can." Since Marco will be here for three more years, he has high hopes for his team in the future. "I look forward to hopefully going to Nationals at least once and/or winning the conference," he says. With admiration, Marco says, "In three years we'll definitely make it to Nationals."
Men's Basketball Team Surpasses Puerto Rico-Bayamon Cowboys

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

The Nova Southeastern University men's basketball team (3-2) was hosted by the University of Puerto Rico-Bayamon in St. Petersburg FL on November 29th 2003. The Knights barely beat the Cowboy's 59-57. The Classic that the Knights participated in at Eckerd's McArthur Center was concluded Saturday evening. The Knights fell to Armstrong Atlantic State University, finishing 1-1 on Friday. "We played Atlantic, which was an undefeated team. They beat us 73-63. We did play a great defense against Armstrong, though. Our shot decisions and turnovers at the end of the games are our biggest problems right now," says Coach McAndrews. He also explains that teams have been pressing them a lot since the beginning of the year; they and have started handling it better and better.

Marco Meier (So., Nurnberg, Germany) led NSU in the first half with ten points and five rebounds. The Knights led the game throughout the first half, heightening their lead to as many as 12 points. Trying to catch up to the Knights, the Cowboys came very close, scoring five extra points before the half was over.

The Cowboys came out, thirsting for a win. They came back and tied the score at 41 a piece. But, with three minutes left in the game, the Knights pulled away by scoring 10 points to close it out. "The Cowboys are one of the better Puerto Rico teams," explains McAndrews. "We also had four guys in double figures: Garth, Kluis, Marco, and Calvin."

"We shot the ball well in this game, but still took ill-advised shots late in the game," declares McAndrews.

The Cowboys were led by Hector Martinez and Omar Rivera, who contributed 19 and 13 points. Meier led the Knights with 14 points while Calvin Jenkins (So., Germantown, MD) posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, as well as three steals for NSU.

The Knights have added seven new players to their team this year. "We're a very young team, and steadily improving as the year goes on," explains Coach McAndrews.

Arkansas-Monticello Surpass Nova Women's Basketball Team

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

Jessica Pate records Double-Double, and Earns Place on All-Tournament Team as Knights Round Out Qualchoice/QCA Classic

The Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team (0-6) was hosted by the Arkansas-Monticello Blossoms (5-2) in Conway at the Qualchoice/QCA Classic. The Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team (0-6) was hosted by the Arkansas-Monticello Blossoms (5-2) in Conway at the Qualchoice/QCA Classic. The girls were beaten 75-51 by Monticello. 

NSU senior center Jessica Pate (Kissimmee, FL) earned All-Tournament honors by posting 18 points and 13 rebounds, her fourth double-double of the season. Also aiding the Knights was senior guard Kiara Wallace (Tampa, FL). She scored a season high of 11 points and 8 rebounds.

The Knights started off strong in the game by building a six-point lead. But, the Blossoms came back strong to take the lead and close the half with an 11-point advantage.

The Blossoms stretched their lead to 17 points early in the second half. The Knights came back on an 11-2 run to close within eight points. After that, the Knights went on a seven minute scoreless streak. The Blossoms pulled away with a 21-point lead and never let the Knights catch back up.
Adult volunteers are needed for a research study of an approved medication to observe recurrent genital herpes outbreaks. Qualified participants must be 18-65 years, and had four or more outbreaks within the past year. All study-related care is provided (doctor visits, physical exams, laboratory tests and investigational medication.)

For more information, please call: Lisa, Study Coordinator at (954) 452-5850

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