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Dalai Lama Leads Community to Compassion
Lecture leaves NSU with positive energy

By Taylor Anne Williams
Graduate Assistant for Student Media and Marketing

On the bright morning of Saturday, September 18, secret service agents and swat teams swarmed the Alvin Sherman Library, Resource, Information and Technology Center (LRITC). Snipers sat positioned on the rooftop of the Carl DeSantis Building, ready for any sign of odd behavior. Ironically, they were all there to protect one small man that preaches a message of peace.

His Holiness The Dalai Lama appeared to a crowd of thousands from the Nova Southeastern University community and Broward County to share his thoughts about the power of one individual. His energy and charisma calmed the anxious audience. The Dalai Lama even illustrated a light-hearted sense of humor when he received his Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. He remarked that, though he had many degrees from many schools, his knowledge was not increasing.

The strongest tone of the event was seen in the Dalai Lama's speech. His Holiness shared that negative emotions are like the tide, coming and going, and that apathy is not natural. One's sense of compassion is a more...
Dear NSU Community,

There has been a change of staff at The Knight. Amanda Brown, the Editor-in-Chief for approximately the last year, has decided to resign her position to make more time for her many other academic and extra-curricular obligations and maybe even a social life.

We at The Knight would like to thank her for all of her dedication; we have grown tremendously, and Amanda has played a great part in this. At the beginning of the 2003 fall semester, The Knight was a monthly publication, and there were only two people running it. One of them was Amanda. One year later, we publish weekly, have more than doubled our circulation, and are 12 staff members strong. Amanda has been with us through it all; this growth of the paper is a great testament to her devotion and labor. Despite her heavy workload, she has shown incredible commitment to the paper. We will miss her leadership, as well as her creative and journalistic insight.

For the interim, I – Managing Editor – will be overseeing matters at The Knight until we hire a new Editor-in-Chief. The rest of the staff and I are working hard to make sure that the newspaper continues to build and improve. We greatly encourage reader response. Remember, this is your student newspaper; your comments and suggestions help us to grow and to tailor the publication to your needs. Please, continue to send us your feedback! We can be reached at nsunews@nova.edu.

Sincerely,
Christie Bailey
Managing Editor

Are you afraid of full-time commitment?

Would you still like to write for The Knight?

Then be a Knightwriter!

Knightwriters are regularly contributing writers who get paid per article. There is no additional commitment or obligation. Write when you want, and get paid! For more information, email nsunews@nova.edu.

Corrections

On page 2 of the September 20 issue, the Fall Career Fair was advertised as occurring at the wrong date, time, and location. The fair was actually on Wednesday, September 22, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the Carl DeSantis Building.

On page 11 of the September 20 issue, for the article “NSU Law School Graduate Gets Praise from the Donald,” the show “The Apprentice” was mistakenly labeled as airing Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. It actually airs Thursdays at 9:00 p.m.
Focus of Elections Shifts to Violent Iraq
New poll numbers unclear

By Greg Kyriakakis
Staff Writer

The ongoing war in Iraq has been a central issue, with both presidential candidates weighing in on the continuing violence. The New York Times recently broke news of a highly critical report from the National Intelligence Council (NIC) that found bleak prospects for Iraq. The Times learned that the report outlined three grim scenarios for Iraq—achievement of a tenuous stability by the end of next year; increased extremism and the fragmentation of Iraqi society; and civil war. Senator John Kerry immediately took to the offensive against President George W. Bush on the topic during a speech to the National Guard Conference in Nevada. "His own intelligence officials have warned him for weeks that the mission in Iraq is in serious trouble," Kerry said. "That is the truth—hard as it is to heat." He went on to say that Bush has been "living in a fantasy world of spin" and made "serious mistakes" in the Iraq war. Kerry then promised to be honest with the people and the troops, to provide better benefits and equipment to Guard members, and to increase the number of troops in the armed forces in an attempt to "to hunt down the terrorists."

Bush countered Kerry's remarks in Minnesota. "There's a lot of violence in Iraq; I understand that," he said. "Iraq now has a strong Prime Minister, national council, and national elections are scheduled in January." However, he failed to comment directly about the NIC report. 

Vice President Dick Cheney also took an opportunity to counteract Kerry's remarks during a speech in Nevada. "John Kerry said that our troops deserve no less than the best," said Cheney. "[He] voted to send the troops into combat and then deny them the support they needed." Cheney was referring to Kerry's vote against the $87 billion of funding for troops.

NSU student Yanick Kleyman said that negative information in the report is the "result of Bush's haste," and that his lack of a plan for post-war Iraq was "not a smart move." Student John Dinh feels that, despite the depressing report, "Bush wants freedom in Iraq," and "should stay in" the country until the job is finished.

Recent polling shows major discrepancies and cast a cloud of uncertainty over which candidate will win the White House. A recent Gallup poll finds Bush leading Kerry 55 percent to 42 percent among likely voters and 52 percent to 42 percent among registered voters. However, a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center paints a different picture, as Bush leads Kerry 47 percent to 46 percent among likely voters and has the candidates deadlocked at 46 percent among registered voters. The Pew numbers also indicate that voters age 30 and younger, a demographic indicative of institutions such as NSU, are more likely to vote for Kerry, who holds a 14 percent lead over the incumbent Bush.

The Gallup figures reflect that Bush is still enjoying the bounce he received after the Republican National Convention, while the Pew Poll results resemble pre-convention numbers. These varying poll numbers are not trusted by NSU students. "A poll can be somewhat accurate," said Luis Guarrieres. "But until election time, you can't trust them."

Walk Like a Man...
Why will resident students be leaving their rides behind?

By Caroline Cullen
Section Editor

Effective July 1, 2005, all residents of NSU will be restricted from parking anywhere on campus, with the exception of their dorms. This controversial policy was initially set to take effect August 31. After careful consideration, the new policy was postponed and will be implemented in its upcoming summer. This delay will enable current resident students to prepare alternate transportation and from their destinations on campus. Resident students will be forced to exhaust resources such as walking, rollerblading, bicycling, and utilizing the free shuttles provided by NSU. Brad Williams, Ed. D., Dean of Student Affairs, foresees "an increase in the shuttles, with more frequent stops for convenience."

Many of those who will be directly affected by this new policy are interested in how it will benefit them. According to Dean Williams, "This University parking policy is designed to alleviate congestion on campus." NSU is not the first college to implement such parking policies on its campus. Many universities hold further restrictions on their campuses concerning student parking. A number of colleges prevent all first and second year students from participating in parking privileges regardless of residential status, while some eliminate driving and parking altogether.

Kunal Gadhhi, a resident of Goodwin Hall, shared her concerns on the future parking restrictions. "How safe is a young woman at night in the heart of Davie?" When it comes to safety on campus, Dean Williams and his colleagues are completely confident about NSU's Public Safety team. NSU will be "well-lit and safe," assures Williams. Students will be encouraged to practice common safety measures such as:

- The use of the buddy system.
- Travel with a friend or in groups, especially at night.
- If forced to walk alone, make sure to have some type of deterrent device and know how to use it. Even keys, pens, and pencils can be used as defense devices in an emergency.
- Stick to well-lit areas.
- Carry a cell phone and program the speed dial with emergency numbers.
- NSU's Public Safety Department uses a safe and convenient 24 hour safety escort that will take you anywhere on campus free of charge.
- One student resident speculates on the public metered parking lot, which is located on the east side of the parking garage between the library and the Parker Building. "Usually, there are only a few dozen cars in the public parking lot; it seems like a waste of space," says Senior Nimita Lakhani.

Dean Williams makes sense of the matter, explaining, "There is an agreement between NSU and Broward County in which the county owns half of the library and the parking garage. This enables the county to claim these spaces and charge by the minute."

As for weather conditions, resident students will have to keep a spare umbrella or poncho on them at all times to escape our frequent tropical rains.

Residents of NSU can expect a memo explaining this new policy in the near future. As for now, students are free to drive around for 20 minutes looking for a parking spot. Enjoy the freedom and frustration.

Please forward any comments or concerns regarding this matter to mnews@nova.edu.
“It’s a pleasant sensation, especially when they get to the bone.” It is a “new kind of pain, it dulls out,” said Kleyman. “Your body is a canvas. You must balance it out. You just get attached.”

NSU junior Kristen Gasiewski got her first tattoo at the age of 21. “I conned my job into paying for it, convinced them that it would be beneficial to advertise.” As some students at the university seem to have an inclination towards getting markings upon their flesh, she did mention a young woman she knew who had once referred to getting a tattoo as giving birth – not everyone is capable or willing to have one.

Acquiring a tattoo is a lifelong commitment; once you get one, it sticks for the rest of your life. There are surgeries that can remove tattoos, yet they cost an arm and a leg, as well as the possibility of permanently discoloring the skin. The procedure is harsh; it takes three layers of skin off and scars your skin. The procedure is harsh; it takes three layers of skin off and makes you unrecognizable scars.

Once you commit yourself to acquiring a tattoo, you have signed an agreement that will last you a lifetime.

Everyone struggles with choices, some more difficult than others. Tattoos that may seem trivial to some represent “an art form” to others, as put by Yanick Kleymen, a sophomore at NSU who recently acquired his first tattoo at the age of 19. Many students at NSU have tattoos or some sort of body art representing their beliefs, affirmations, or a significant moment in their lives. Body art is seen as a dramatization of drastic accounts or significant experiences attained in an individual’s life.

Certain cultures, such as Buddhism, consider body markings an illustration of a certain belief or affiliation, and some students at NSU have taken it to that extreme – acquiring a tattoo to represent some strong belief in their ever-changing lives. Sophomore Amy Eichelberg had recently lost a dear friend; she and other friends gathered to commemorate the passing of that loved one by tattooing a letter “K” to their bodies.

“The majority of my friends that have one have more than one. It gets kind of addicting,” said Eichelberg. Many agree that, once you have one, it is common to want another.

Whether it is a “sporadic, spontaneous” decision, as referred to by Andrea Tambasco, a junior at NSU, or a premeditated, planned, and thoroughly considered one, it is a commitment and an acceptance.

Looking for a great way to break out of a rut? Are you bored with your workout? Can’t stand Jane Fonda aerobics? NSU Recreation and Wellness has the perfect group exercise class that jumps outside the box of typical workouts. H.E.A.T is an extended exercise class that focuses on a variety of training: aerobic, resistance, circuit, flexibility, balance, and endurance. Don’t worry about being on the beat in this class! Whether you are working with a partner, as part of the group, or by yourself, you are guaranteed an exciting workout utilizing medicine balls, jump ropes, body bars, steps, resist-a-balls, resistance tubing, hand weights, fitballs, and balance trainers. This class is a great way to train for an upcoming road race, or just to introduce something new to your fitness program! The class has challenged me both physically and mentally. It’s the best class I have ever taken! I tell everybody about the class. I love it so much! We have so much fun , says Michelle Manley of Radio X.

This class is not just for women, though! Most men typically stay away from aerobics class because they think it is not for them. Well, think again! There is no choreography to understand, no rhythms to move to, just straight up total body training! Joel Sanderson, Graduate Assistant in the office of Recreation and Wellness has attended the class several times and says, This class is no joke! I didn’t know what to expect going into a ‘Group Exercise’ class that only girls go to, but I quickly realized it wasn’t the typical aerobics class. It was a lot of fun and I really got a great workout. It reminded me of the training we used to do playing team sports in high school and college. I would encourage my friends to try it with me and have a little competition out there!

H.E.A.T is every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at the RecPlex (located directly across from the Main Library). Classes are open to all NSU Faculty, Staff, and Students. Bring some water, a towel, and get ready to feel the H.E.A.T! Go to www.rec.nova.edu for a schedule of all of Nova’s Recreation and Wellness offerings!
Keep it Down: Cellular Policies and their Exemptions

By Jaheshnev Aimee Rivera-Azua
News Editor

Not one day goes by without there being a disturbance in class by cellular phones: either it is the newest downloaded version of pop-music star Britney Spears, or the rhythmic notions of Lil Bow Wow; either it is vibrating and flashing, or sounding its musical notes. Whether they are songs or sounds, the tones are deafening. The interruption is ignored or scorned at, yet no action is taken! There was a time when these “contraptions” would have been confiscated and kept till further notice. However, no longer is this the case in our fast-pace cellular dependant society; Even the library is not an exception. Before, cells weren’t allowed in; now, their use is accepted in designated areas of the university.

Laura Kukich, the Collection Maintenance Coordinator at the Alvin Shermin Library said, “Within the library regulations, cell phones are to be used in the designated areas such as the Internet Café, the Hallways of second, third, and fourth floor, wherever it says (cell phone zone).” If these regulations were to be defied “you would be asked to leave that area; it is a quiet area, it kind of intrudes.”

Professors generally inform their students about their own unique cell phone policies whilst in their classes; most professors request you put the cell on vibrate if expecting an urgent call, or to otherwise turn it off.

When asked around campus, most students concurred that having a cell phone was a primary way of staying in communication with their families, friends, and with emergency lines. However, some agreed that at times it can be a burden. Mary Lou Suppa, a student at NSU, stated in an exasperated tone, “It rings all day! Nonstop!” However, she feels that it is her only means of communication when not at home (which is the majority of the time); it makes her accessible to her sorority. The same thought is shared by Andrea Tambascio, though her ap­praisal of the device is extreme: “[It is] definitely useful; god forbid something happened, I would have communication.” However, she still hates “the damn thing.”

Burdensome, antagonizing, obnoxious, useful, necessary, all these words represent one single device: the cell phone.

Welcome to NSU New and Returning Students!
On behalf of the 2004-2005 Presidential Knights, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new entering students to the University as well as all faculty, staff and students. We wish each of you a most successful academic year and hope your education at Nova Southeastern University is an exciting one!

Returning “Presidential Knights”
Mary Christochos, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Gabriela Girota, College of Pharmacy
Karthish Krishnamurthy, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Olga Martinez, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Stephanie May, Center for Psychological Studies
Amanda Patterson, H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Kareem Shaker, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Leidy Su Ham, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Michelle Jaffe, Shepard Broad Law Center
Micaela Mercado, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Natalicia Mintsis, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Anthony Nardi, College of Pharmacy
Andy Shih, College of Dental Medicine
Julie Thompson, H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

New “Presidential Knights”
Jacquelyn Blanco, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Brian DeSesa, Shepard Broad Law Center
Harrison Diep, College of Allied Health and Nursing
Robert Keller, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kristin Charoudis, College of Allied Health and Nursing
Robert Hoesa, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kristothe Karami, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Brandon Lichtman, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services
Patma Louis, College of Pharmacy
Daveda Maharaj, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Andrea Meier, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Jesica Parker, Center for Psychological Studies
Nicole Pasternak, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
Jennifer Smith, College of Optometry
Daniel Torres, College of Dental Medicine

NSU’s Presidential Knights-2004-2005
What are the Presidential Knights? Presidential Knights serve as voluntary student ambassadors for Nova Southeastern University. Their work promotes pride in the University, as they help to share positive experiences as a student at the university with the people of the state of Florida and local community. They do this through close contact with dignitaries, alumni, and other guests who visit our campus and participate in University sponsored events. Presidential Knights are nominated by faculty, staff, and administrators during the spring semester and go through an extensive interview process that is very competitive. Nominees possess good communication skills, leadership ability, are in good academic standing, personalizable, and demonstrate a positive attitude about Nova Southeastern University. Most importantly these student leaders serve as ambassadors for the University and help to represent the President at many important campus events and functions. For additional information on the Presidential Knights program, please contact Kenny Hendrickson, Director of Student Development/Special Events, at (954) 262-7283 or Terry Weech, Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development, at (954) 262-7293.


This year, more than 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States and more than 40,000 women will lose their lives to this disease.

Will You Be The 1 In 8 Women Who Faces The Diagnosis Of A Lifetime?

The Cure For Breast Cancer Could Be 2 Feet In Front Of You! Join Our NSU Team In The Battle Against Breast Cancer:

Sunday, October 3rd, 8:00 A.M. Aventura Mall
Or
Sunday, October 24th, 8:00 A.M. Sawgrass Mills

NSU Recreation & Wellness Will Be Hosting A Team At Both Events. We Invite You To Join US And Help Support This Wonderful Cause Through The 3.1 Mile Walk/Run Event. Transportation Will Be Provided, No Fund-Raising Required. A $20 Registration Fee Includes A T-Shirt and Event Packet. Free Food, Prizes, Massage, Music, Entertainment, and A Health & Wellness Expo!

Too Many Suffer, You Can Help!
To Join Our Team, or For More Information, Call America Minc at 954-262-7040.
permanent fixture of the mind.

“In order to transform the big human family of this planet, you must start with the individual,” the Dalai Lama said. “Try to create more compassion within your family and society, because in the long run it’s the only way.”

After his 40-minute address, His Holiness took a handful of questions collected from the audience. The Dalai Lama then consecrated the Tibetan prayer wheel that was donated by philanthropist Albert Miniaci, Jr. The wheel was spun and blessed with flower petals by His Holiness.

When the event ended for the public, a small group convened for a reception with the Dalai Lama in LRITC. Prior to his visit, the humble monk requested to meet with a group of students. Graduate Assistant for Multiculturalism and Spirituality April Eldemire coordinated such a group of NSU students to meet the spiritual leader. Their personal accounts are available on page 16.

The Dalai Lama also received a distance learning computer lesson, because of his interest in NSU’s ability to provide an education to anyone anywhere. Though a man without material want or need for technological training, His Holiness keeps an open mind in the name of free learning. This is what makes his presence profound.

“In your mind heart and in the world, work for peace,” the Dalai Lama said. “No matter what is going on around you, never give up.”

E-mail nsunews@nova.edu with your thoughts and comments.

Above: The Dalai Lama waits with a serene smile as NSU President Ray Ferrero Jr. addresses the crowd. Photo by Jaheshnev Alme River-Azu. Below Left: Buddhist monk Nawang Wangchuk’s dark, creased skin seemed to radiate kindness as he sat quietly, awaiting the arrival of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. For Nawang and his monastic companions, their excitement was concealed by apparently permanent expressions of satisfaction, peppered with the occasional jovial grin and laugh. Below Right: Buddhist monks Phupten Kalsang (left) and Nawang Wangchuk (right) gaze towards the stage where the Dalai Lama was scheduled to arrive soon. Phupten and Nawang traveled from out of state to hear the Dalai Lama’s message of hope, which they eagerly awaited. Photos by Nick
Some professional athletes make more money in a year than we’ll ever see in a lifetime. Some make more than $40 million dollars a year, while the president of the United States only makes $250,000 a year. The one that is supposed to lead the country makes only a fraction of what some professional athletes make. Granted, most athletes enjoy what they do, but most of them get paid more than they know what to do with. This is why you see athletes all over the television getting sued or put in prison for something stupid they’ve done sometimes the money gets out of hand.

In the 1996 season, playing 3,106 minutes, Michael Jordan made $170,000 a day. Computed, this equaled out to be $160.97 a second. Even more unbelievable are Mike Tyson’s earnings in his match with Peter McNeeley. In a single second, he made $281,000.

In most lines of work, people get paid for the value of their work. Most professional athletes practice 3-5 hours a day, play the sport they love, and get paid unbelievable amounts of money. It just does not seem fair. Not only do they get paid for that, they get paid in revenue from ticket sales, odds and ends sold at games, and endorsements with other companies.

As an athlete in college, I know that playing a sport is a lot of hard work. We not only practice in season, but in off-season as well. We work so hard to become better at what we love, but to see that professional athletes make unbelievable amounts of money is unremarkable. Most professional athletes work all their lives to become amazing in their sport, and the chances of becoming a professional athlete after college are very slim. I’m more thankful than anything to be given the opportunity to play golf, a sport I love, in college. I think most professional athletes should be glad they were given the opportunity to play something they “love” instead of worrying about the dollar amount.

Professional athletes also get a lot of crap from everyone that is watching them. If they get paid enormous amounts of money and have a bad day, everyone lets them know about it, especially the press and the public eye.

Alex Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers signed a contract for $252 million over ten years. The money he makes could feed the nation’s poor for a year. The combined salaries of the Pittsburgh Pirates players were less than the personal salary of Albert Belle of the Chicago White Sox.

The average NBA career lasts 6.2 years, and it’s half that for the NFL. Most of the time this happens because these athletes don’t know how to manage their money. They go out and spend extravagant amounts of money. These athletes do not think about it before they do, so they end up going broke in a couple of years.

In the 1960s, golfers were the ones making the most money. Gary Player and Arnold Palmer used to be the highest paid golfers, but you’d laugh at their makings if you saw how much athletes get paid today. One contract was for a half a million dollars, which was unheard of in sports then. Tiger Woods, one of the most widely known golfers, gets paid $26.8 million a year.

I’m not saying athletes always get paid too much, but most of the time they do. They should stop looking at the dollar amount of everything and just play!

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Nova Southeastern University Women’s Golf Team Pick Up Second Place at Anderson College Invitational

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

The tenth ranked Nova Southeastern University women’s golf team competed in a two-day tournament in Anderson, SC for the fourth Annual Anderson College Invitational. The 11 teams that competed in the tournament played at Brookstone Meadows Golf Course. This was a par 72 course with a 5,818 yardage.

The University of West Florida took the title, shooting the two daily rounds of 312 and 321 as a team. NSU’s team took second, shooting 322 and 330, followed by Pfeiffer University in third, shooting 341 and 359. The individual winner of the tournament was Lorena Fortlage from the University of West Florida, (75-80). Jenni Mostrom, from NSU, came in fifth place (83-78) for The Knights. All of the women on NSU’s team came in the top 20 in the tournament. Anne-Sophie Friis came in seventh place, shooting 80, 83. Tied with Sophie was Lina Bjorklund, shooting 78, 85. Lindsey Colbert tied for fourteenth place (84-84). Lastly, Amanda Brown came in sixteenth place, shooting 81, 88.

The second tournament of the season will be held at the Lady Falcon Invitational hosted by Daytona Beach Community College. The tournament will be played at Riviera Country Club in Ormond Beach, FL. Amanda Brown will defend her individual title on September 25-26 in the tournament.

“The ability of the girls has definitely gone up over the past year. If it was last year, the girls would have been content with how they played at Anderson, but since their level of play has increased, they wanted to win and were disappointed with the second place finish,” said Assistant Women’s Coach Kelly Andrejevski.

Jenni Monstrom
Photo from NSU Athletics Website
Ireland Native Joins Men’s Soccer

Former Horizon League Newcomer of the Year Lorcan Cronin optimistic about new team

By Greg Kyriakakis
Staff Writer

Sophomore Lorcan Cronin, a transfer student from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, is a new addition to the NSU Knights men’s soccer team. The Dublin, Ireland native became interested in attending NSU after hearing good things about the school via a friend from home. Cronin “likes it a lot better” at NSU, because of the warmer weather and abundance of things to do in South Florida. He is also optimistic that the team, currently suffering from a few injuries, will be able to get everyone fit and ready to play soon.

The NSU soccer player began his soccer training with neighborhood children on the streets in Ireland at age three. Cronin has since realized an accomplished career, earning a spot on the first-team all-conference in the Horizon League. In addition, he was honored as the Horizon League Newcomer of the Year, and was named to the All-Newcomer Team his freshman year at Wisconsin-Green Bay. Cronin’s athletic career in Ireland consists of playing in four internationals on top of being a member of the Irish Skills soccer team.

Cronin has already proven to be an asset to NSU. He scored two game-winning goals this season, along with providing four assists. Adjusting to the heat of Florida “wasn’t a problem” because of his training, but the same cannot be said of the American referees.

Currently a business administration major, Cronin’s future plans involve returning to Europe to play professional soccer. He finds inspiration in such players as Argentinean Diego Maradona and Everton’s Kevin Kilbane. Cronin believes he can best help the team because of his will to win and his “soccer brain.” The ninth ranked Knights men’s soccer team has lost one game this season, bringing their record to 5-1.

Experienced New Volleyball Coach Brings Positive Vibes to The Team

Michelle DeSantis prepares her team physically and mentally for conference play this weekend

By Alicia Winslett
Sports Editor

Michelle DeSantis, head coach of the women’s volleyball team, comes to Nova Southeastern University with ten years’ playing and coaching experience. “After one season as a graduate assistant at Barry University, I began coaching at local high schools, as well as at Boomers Volleyball Club,” says DeSantis.

Not only does she coach volleyball, but she played in college, as well. “I played collegiate volleyball at Barry University where I earned my accounting degree. During my tenure, we made three appearances to the Elite Eight tournament, placing second once and winning the national championship once, as well,” explains DeSantis. She graduated from Hollywood Hills High School and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Barry University. She was also a graduate assistant coach at Barry University1998-1999. In addition, she has past coaching experiences as a club volleyball coach, and has been a head coach at Southside Volleyball Club in Plantation and the Boomers Volleyball Club in Fort Lauderdale.

“For the last year, she has served as head varsity volleyball coach at American Heritage High School. Previous to that, she was an assistant coach for the 2002 Class AAA State Champions - Pinecrest College Preparatory School. DeSantis was also the head volleyball coach at Hapagan High School from 1999-2003 and led the Falcons to a State Qualifier appearance in 2001,” states the NSU athletic website.

“The NSU volleyball team returns seven players and adds four new athletes. After our first tournament out in California, I made some changes to the line-up, which has given us better match-ups on the court. We are a very young team without any seniors, and our inexperience sometimes gets the best of us. In practice, we are putting as much emphasis on the mental aspect of the game as we are with the physical aspect of the game,” says DeSantis.

The upcoming games for the women’s volleyball team are: September 21 against Northwood University at 4 p.m. at home, September 24 against Florida Tech at 7 p.m. at home, September 25 against Rollins College at 4 p.m. at home, and September 26 at 2 p.m. against Florida Southern College at 2 p.m. at home. “We are eager to start conference play this weekend, and will continue to practice and work hard,” declares DeSantis.
All Around Excitement

The 2004 Emmy Awards Ceremony

By Melanie Denny
Distribution Manager

Donald Trump, Simon Powel, Kelsey Grammer, Al Pacino, and Meryl Streep were just some of the big names present at the 56th Annual primetime Emmy Awards. The Award Ceremony aired live on Sunday, Sept 19 on ABC, and was broadcast from the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium. The auditorium was full of great actors, actresses, producers, writers, and many others who are responsible for producing television entertainment.

The hosts from several well-known shows such as “Hollywood Squares,” “Entertainment Tonight,” and “The View,” provided entertainment on the red carpet. The main event, hosted by Garry Shandling, proved to be a night full of familiar faces, stunning gowns, and laughs.

The show would not have been complete without a stab at the United States government. “We missed Osama Bin Laden but got Martha Stewart. Don’t we feel a little safer?” Host Shandling’s sarcastic remark kept the star-studded building amused, while cleverly insulting our current administration.

Among all the excitement, HBO dominated the night, with “Angel in America” receiving seven awards and “The Sopranos” receiving four. HBO managed to end as the night’s top winner, bringing in a total of sixteen statues out of the twenty-seven distributed.

Among the more eclectic winners was Elaine Stritch, who won for Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program for “Elaine Stritch: At Liberty.” During her acceptance speech, she acknowledged her fellow nominees and exclaimed, “I’m so glad none of them won!” Stritch went on to speak, reiterating how happy she was to receive her Emmy. As her thirty second speech time was up, the band began to chime in while she spoke, indicating to her to wrap it up. That didn’t stop her. She shouted, “I’m not moving from here until somebody comes and recognition.

Don’t we feel a little safer? You’ll never know – you’ll just f-ing never know!” Her joy was obvious. Though best dressed was difficult to decipher, fashion is always a key component in a major event of this caliber. Patricia Heaton of “Everybody Loves Raymond” wore a striped gown, complete with a train, simple earrings, and a purse to accessorize. Another outstanding fashion statement was Jennifer Garner of “ Alias.” Garner wore a layered white lace gown with flounces and frills; she was very much noticed.

From the pre-show with Kermit the Frog and Ms. Piggy to the post-show entertainment with Star Jones, the 56th Annual Emmy Awards was a night of upscale fun, fashion, and recognition.

Literary genius has not been readily identified in the late twentieth century American author. In the modern era, the work of authors from other countries surpasses the work of authors native to the US. Talent like that of early authors Mark Twain and William Faulkner seems to be scarce in the present community of American writers. To the discredit of late twentieth century authors, literature does not have the draw it used to. A majority of written works that produce excitement in readers are those found in the science fiction or fantasy sections. There is nothing wrong with books of these genres, but as our generation grows and shuns reading for fun, what will happen as literary works of art fall to anonymity?

Literature has returned.

Recently, the phenomenon sweeping the American reader, other than that of fantasy and science fiction, is that of author Dan Brown. His literary mystery the Da Vinci Code, though entertaining, relies heavily on historic events as the basis of its content. Despite the fact that this book is consumed in mass quantities, a question arises about the content: if a piece relies heavily on past events or allusions to the work of other authors, is the original innovation of an author lost?

Matthew Pearl’s The Dante Club, highlighted in Issue One of The Knight, answers this question. This literary mystery uses allusions to the Divine Comedy written by Dante Alighieri simply as a springboard for the novel’s events. Actions in the novel are interesting, fed by the unique way Dante is incorporated. Even though he relies on Dante’s poem, Pearl’s voice is not lost. Simply put, Pearl pays homage to the great author by allowing Dante’s words to be brought into the modern world.

But the question persists: do the creations of these authors hold a candle to works of the past? Innovation is what separates the average person from the one who achieves fame. Any author’s creativity and style cement them in the minds of readers for years. These authors, regardless of nationality, may be achieving some level of renown, but will it last as long as those of the past? Not every author achieves what Twain did. Sure, not every author writes the novel of the century, but as these new authors try, do they even reach the bar?

Putting aside the question of whether these authors reach the bar, this is the more pressing matter of capitalism. While readers read less art, will less be published? Publishing companies take risks when they publish, and if readers are reading certain genres, these may be the only ones published. Will society reach a period when an author who writes the great novel of this time is not published because it does not profit? With the changing dichotomy of readers and authors, will the headway literature has made remain? If literature has returned, I fear it may be only temporary.

Has Literature Returned?
The long-anticipated movie Hero, also known as Ying Xiong, was disastrous. Appearing to be another action sensation, Hero’s previews allude to an incredible tale of sword fighting and beautiful but fierce women warriors. Contrary to the previews the movie was slow torture thanks to the ongoing parade of plots and the overuse of computer graphics. These factors detracted from the true meaning that the movie tried to establish: What truly is a hero? This saga, set in China, occurs in a time when the land is split into kingdoms. Many of them are brought under the dominion of Qin, emperor of the largest domain. Emperor Qin Shihuangdi (Chen Dao Ming) is the object of assassination attempts by those he had conquered. In historical reality, he was a key element in uniting China. He also supervised the construction of the Great Wall of China. This historical fact was incorporated into a script and made into a film. The end result is a film that is simply a long run-on sentence in slow motion.

For ten years, three of the top assassins, Broken Sword (Tony Leung), Sky (Donnie Yen), and Flying Snow (Maggie Cheung), have each attempted to exterminate the emperor of Qin. “Nameless,” played by Jet Li also champions their cause. When the theater goes dark and the film opens, “Nameless” begins his story which is one of the four subplots. Ignorant people watching the movie began to laugh at the unfamiliar sound of the Chinese language as Nameless and the emperor began to converse. The multiple twists and turns of the four different sub-plots are unbearable to those without tremendous patience. However, each sub-plot is skillfully presented within a mixture of ornate environments, wardrobes, and tones.

Some fighting scenes were absolutely dynamic, while others were hindered by slow-motion cinematography. The bursts of slow-motion caused scenes to look fake and unrealistic. For example, Sky and Nameless duel during a comical display where the two men prance and bounce upon water, looking more like ballerinas than warriors. The backdrops, nonetheless, were breathtaking—endless realms of pale sand, another of immense mountains cascading along a motionless lake and, a forest drenched with blazing yellow and orange hues. Elements of earth, fire, wind, and water played into the film’s metaphors, which to many were undetectable. Although some scenes were just plain ridiculous, they all attempt to convey a deeper meaning.

Aside from the exasperating plots and multiple deaths of the same characters, the movie was a metaphorical masterpiece. Director, Yimou Zhang ingeniously portrays intermingled themes of nature and man. Zhang conveys the importance of unity and sacrifice, as well as portraying the fate of love and death. Although common themes, these metaphors are communicated through the fighting, the detailed wardrobes, and the stunning acting skills of the all-star Asian cast. The average movie viewer does not leave the theatre imbued with an understanding of these themes. Instead, these profound ideas were lost, hidden by cheap looking cinematography and the exaggerated special effects.

Hero- probably on one level, excellent on another, was directed by Yimou Zhang and produced by Shoufang Dou and Bill Kong.

Distributor Miramax
Directed by Yimou Zhang
Produced by Shoufang Dou and Bill Kong
Rating PG-13

Part-Time Employment
Babysitter Wanted for four-year-old boy in Davie, Florida. Nice family, good pay. Please call Barbara, (954) 382-2806.

Part Time Writer Wanted for Woman’s Organization, help with ezine and articles. Please call Barbara, (954) 382-2806.
If Resident Evil: Apocalypse seems familiar, it could be because it features a recycled plot strikingly similar to that of Dawn of the Dead, the 2004 Dawn of the Dead remake, 28 Days Later, or any of the countless films where zombies play prominent roles. Apocalypse falters in its futile attempts to take the horror/apocalyptic genre to new heights. While the creators tried to introduce new elements to surpass the tired horror clichés, the end result is a convoluted, predictable film that follows nearly every convention of the genre.

When viewing Apocalypse, the audience does not need to know much about the first Resident Evil film. In case one finds the details a bit foggy, there’s no need to worry, since part two endlessly recaps the events. Once the film gets moving, Alice (Milla Jovovich), the anti-heroine of the first film, awakens from an induced coma. Upon awakening, she finds the oddly named Umbrella Corporation’s latest biomedical experiment has escaped its underground facility, “The Hive.” The creature is turning much of the even odder named Raccoon City’s inhabitants into zombies. Umbrella evacuates their top brass and families, but shockingly, the car carrying the lead scientist’s daughter wrecks, leaving the helpless girl stranded in an abandoned school. Police officer Jill Valentine (Sienna Guillory) and Special Forces member Carlos Oliveira (Oded Fehr) are trapped in the quarantined city and cut a deal with the scientist, Dr. Ashford. If they find his daughter, he will get them out. With a nuclear strike and subsequent cover-up planned by Umbrella, the group is inexplicably joined by the mutated Alice, who conveniently pops up during tumultuous times. They must find Ashford’s daughter and escape the city in order to expose the illegal workings of the corporation.

Apocalypse suffers from its half-hearted attempt to expand upon the horror genre. Instead of taking the typical zombie to a new level, this film leaves them unchanged, but calls them “biological weapons.” Shockingly, a member of the group becomes infected and turns into a so-called “biological weapon” after a few hours. What should they do? With heavy hearts, they let him live so he can maul them later on. These remarkably smart characters also decide to split up to search an abandoned building, a move that predictably gets them attacked one by one. On more than one occasion, a member of the group will appear to save the day. Not to worry, the classic scene where the protagonist slowly walks up behind a non-responsive, bloodied person in a chair who turns out to be a zombie is there too.

To their limited credit, the filmmakers tried changing the typical horror formula by introducing the “Nemesis,” a hulking mutated beast wielding a machine gun and rocket launcher. Umbrella uses the outbreak to test this “weapon;” his mission is to slaughter the Special Forces team that is trying to contain the epidemic. Interestingly, before becoming a disfigured freak, the “Nemesis” was Alice’s boyfriend, a fact that comes in handy during their climactic battle. Besides this halfway decent addition (which fans of the video game will already expect), this film takes the clichés of the horror genre and embraces them with a vice grip. Resident Evil: Apocalypse may, at times, completely defy logic, but the action is intense and entertaining. In addition, Mike Epps provides some extremely funny moments as a reluctant hero. The ending is also somewhat surprising, and sets the scene for an inevitable third film. Fans of the video game series will undoubtedly enjoy the numerous nods to the games, and action fans will like the mostly well-done fight sequences. Unfortunately, besides those two groups, there is little left for anyone else. “Resident Evil: Apocalypse” is presented by Screen Gems, written by Paul W.S. Anderson, and directed by Alexander Witt. It is rated R.

By Greg Kyriakakis
Staff Writer

Resident Evil: Apocalypse Brings More Of The Same

Distributed by Screen Gems
Producers: Paul W.S. Anderson, Jeremy Bolt, Samuel Hadida, Bernd Eichinger, Don Carmody
Directed by Alexander Witt.
Rating R

Left: Alice (Milla Jovovich) keeps her barrel trained on one of the many foes she comes up against.
Above: Alice speeds through the streets of Raccoon City, pumped and ready for action. Photos courtesy www.cinecon.com
By Caroline Cullen
Knightlife Editor

Sex and Chocolate – what more could one ask for in life?
NSU’s Office of Recreation and Wellness took it one step further by inviting Sexologist Marilyn Volker, Ed.D. to the Goodwin Hall on September 14 to discuss what many college students think about on a daily basis: sex. Students curiously wandered into this discussion on intimacy expecting to get a good laugh; what they walked out with were invaluable insights on sex. From behavior to emotions to oral pleasure and orgasms, students had plenty to talk about.

The Goodwin classroom was littered with flavored condoms and lubricants mixed with Hershey’s and M&Ms. Approximately 30 chairs were set up in a circle with a table in the center; on the table sat three bags, each containing questions. The first bag’s questions were directed to the men, and the second to the women; the third was a mixture of questions for both sexes. “Do women think about sex as often as men do?” read one question. “Probably more than the men,” answered one of the enthusiastic females in attendance that evening. What is the best position? Do women prefer a man who is groomed to the men’s hair?”

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According to Volker, there are eight types of intimacy: affection, sexual intimacy, social intimacy, emotional intimacy, intellectual intimacy, physical intimacy, spiritual intimacy, and aesthetic intimacy. Sexual intimacy includes both inner and outer course. Volker compares a woman with a car: “Never start in fifth; always shift the gears or else she’ll stall.”

Overall, this event received great reviews from those who attended. “I thought that it would be boring; I was wrong. Students were able to speak their minds and voice their opinions. We were the discussion,” says David Evans. The Office of Recreation and Wellness will be hosting an event in November called “Condomology.” Don’t miss it! For more information on upcoming events, call (954) 262-7042.

Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty ... More and More Colleges are Becoming Pet Friendly

By Rafia N. Chodhry
Staff Writer

Since 1996, part of Mohawk Hall at the State University of New York has been dedicated as the “Pet Wing.” The wing can house 48 pets and consists of two dozen pet friendly rooms.

Recently, a second school was added to the list of pet-friendly colleges. Stephens College, a women’s college in Missouri, initiated a pet-friendly dorm on the first floor, which permits dogs, cats, and rabbits. The program only permits dogs 40 pounds or less. Students are required to keep the pet(s) in crates or cages when the student is out of the room. They must also walk their animals in a fenced dog run.

With NSU policy permitting students to keep only a fish, many students feel heartbroken and consider the policy unfair. Others could not be happier.

Blake Blakenship, a freshman from Virginia, was not permitted to bring his pet turtle, Leo, because turtles can carry salmonella. “I have had Leo for 15 years and I never had any problems with it. But they would still not let me bring it down. I am very sad. NSU should change its policy,” said Blankenship.

Even though Blakenship might be heartbroken, there is a good reason behind NSU’s policy. Reasons for prohibiting pets include noise, smell, allergies, and concerns about sanitation. “A lot of people are allergic, and it’s really unsanitary having pets – especially dogs – living on campus,” Freshman Natalie Saintus said. “There are already problems with roaches. I am too phobic – I do not like animals.”

Even though there are students that desperately miss their pets and would like NSU to change its policy, it seems highly unlikely any changes will be occurring in the near future.

A student who chooses to remain anonymous recommended the following advice: "Students who miss their pets should visit them as often as possible. For those who live out of state, they can always talk to their pets on the phone or have their family e-mail pictures.”

Despite NSU’s ban on keeping pets, domestic animals still manage to make their way onto campus, like this loose feline who makes her home near the Rosenthal Building. Photo by Rafia Chodhry.
Helpful tips for freshmen that want to survive and thrive at NSU

By Rafia Chodhry
Staff Writer

College life can be stressful for students—let alone freshmen. Some have moved out of state, leaving behind their family, friends, and professors. With this new environment students arehttp://www.nova.edu/volunteer or call 262-7297. E-mail nsunews@nova.edu with your thoughts or comments.

Creating Community Through Service
Office of Volunteerism gives students chance to get involved

By Taylor Anne Williams
Graduate Assistant for Student Media and Marketing

Volunteering is about meeting new people and being a part of a team. As an opportunity to give back to the community, volunteering can help you develop skills and make new friends. It can also provide you with a sense of fulfillment and purpose.

Get involved: Participate and become a member of a club or organization. Joining a club or organization can help you meet new people and develop leadership skills.

Learn to approach professors: Developing a friendly relationship with your professors will help you succeed in your classes. It is important to take advantage of your professors’ office hours and seek their guidance when you need help.

GPA: Many students have the perception that they can slack off during their freshman year. It is important to start off on the right foot by maintaining a strong GPA.

Time management: It is important to manage your time effectively. Use a planner or calendar to keep track of your classes, assignments, and activities.

Always go to class: “Don’t miss a class,” said Cheyenne Koskey, a sophomore at the Office of Volunteerism (NSU). “It’s better to do well on the first test rather than slack off and hope to improve.”

Major: It is recommended that if you want to change your major, you should do it as soon as possible. Junior Bijou Stoc recommends that students research their major before they actually start taking classes. “Unless you change your major in the beginning, it is very hard to make up classes and graduate in four years,” said Stoc.

Time management: It is a skill that many college students lack. Many students do not know how to balance their time between classes and activities. Sophomore Jafer Ali recommended that students avoid procrastination and spend at least one hour every day on each of their classes.

By volunteering at NSU, visit www.nova.edu/volunteer or call 262-7297. E-mail nsunews@nova.edu with your thoughts or comments.

Creating Community Through Service
Office of Volunteerism gives students chance to get involved

By Taylor Anne Williams
Graduate Assistant for Student Media and Marketing

Volunteering is not about meeting new people or adding value to a resume. It is an act of kindness that humblest the giver and receiver. Volunteering is rising above busy schedules and hectic lives to help those in need. Nova Southeastern University recognizes the importance of service, and gives students opportunities to help their community.

The Office of Volunteerism is the base of operations for Student Affairs community service. Within the last two years, the office has expanded its agencies, programs, and outreach to local residents. Broward citizens are not the only people benefiting from the work done at NSU.

“Each and every year these programs seem to grow in numbers and in better quality of participation,” Kenny Hendrickson, Director of Student Development and Special Events said. “Through more marketing and community involvement, they are seen and grow in providing more university resources.”

The Orphan’s World Toy Drive is the latest to come from the Office of Volunteerism. This drive is collecting both toys and money to send to Haitian children this Christmas. Orphan’s World is a Christian non-profit humanitarian organization that enlists the help of others to make the holiday special for these impoverished children. The drive is looking for new or gently used items, and will be held through November.

The Office of Volunteerism will also be raising donations for the Teddy Bear Fund throughout October. These stuffed animals are collected for children affected by Domestic Violence. The group’s goal is to acquire 500 bears and animals by October 31; drop boxes are located at hot spots around campus.

The December Senior Prom is perhaps the most impacting event hosted by the Office of Volunteerism. The annual dinner and dance will be held on December 6, and is designed to give two local nursing home residents an exciting evening out. Couples at the prom include one student and one senior. Everyone dresses formally, and it is the seniors teaching volunteers how to cut a rug.

“By volunteering, students have the opportunity to experience new things and introduced to new experiences,” said Jen Bowman, Graduate Assistant for Student Development and Volunteerism. “To work with the NSU campus community helps within our local communities, builds self-esteem, and increases student leadership skills.”

NSU contributes time not just to local residents, but also to those within its own community. The Presidential Knights are the crème de la crème of the student body, and are a personalization of the NSU spirit. These volunteers serve as student ambassadors to the university. Presidential Knights represent President Ray Ferrero, Jr. at NSU functions, including the recent visit from the Dalai Lama. A student must be nominated by a faculty or staff member by early spring. Responsibilities include approximately four events per semester, but applicants must go through a competitive selection process.

Students looking to get involved on an organizational level should check out the recently formed Volunteerism Club. The club hopes to form a network of service through student organizations and their members. By getting the word out, the Volunteerism Club will be a core group of dedicated community volunteers.

For more information about volunteering at NSU, visit www.nova.edu/volunteer or call 262-7297. E-mail nsunews@nova.edu with your thoughts or comments.

How You Can Help
Orphan’s World Toy Drive Sept. 15 Nov. 15 Drop boxes at: Goodwin Residence Hall and Rosenhall Student Center (Sept.& Oct.) Health Professions Division, Shepard Broad Law Center, Center for Psychological Studies and the Carl DeSantis Building (November)

Teddy Bear Fund Oct. 1 31 Drop boxes at: Health Professions Division, Shepard Broad Law Center, Center for Psychological Studies and the Carl DeSantis Building.
Food for Thought: NSU’s Dining Services

By Rafia Chodhry
Staff Writer

Dining services offered to students by NSU and ARAMARK provide a variety of food selections. The Knight Court Café, located in the Rosenstahl Student Center, features Sbarro’s Italian Eatery, the Green Pickle deli, a buffet salad bar, home-style entrees, a full service grill, Coca-Cola fountain beverages, and delicious desserts.

“The food tastes really great,” freshman Natalie Saintus said. “I like the fact that the salad bar, pizza, and sandwiches are always available.”

Many students do not realize that the dining services provide a variety of services.

ARAMARK catering services offer catering not just to the administration, but also the student body. They realize that originations are on a tight budget and therefore provide a specifically priced menu. They will also design a menu to suit the needs of you or your club.

Students who live on campus are required to have a declining balance meal plan of $1200 per semester. For others, the service is voluntary. The university offers an Optional Declining Balance Account to students, faculty, and staff who would like to use the NSU I.D. Card as a debit card at the various dining locations on campus. In increments of $100, $200, $300, or more, you can have the amount you want placed on your card to be used for meal purchases. Students on the Mandatory Declining Balance Account plan can also sign up for the supplemental plan to add more value to the required $1200 Mandatory Declining Balance plan.

For more information, select “dining services” under “current students” on NSU’s main website.

On Target: Career Services

By Luis Nicola “Nico” Aguilar
Intern

Located on floor four of the Alvin Sherman Library, the office of Career Services offers services that go beyond those typically provided by colleges and universities. When asked to share the philosophy of the department, Assistant Director Patrick Madsen says, “We want to give lifelong help.” Madsen also explains that the main function is on the developmental part of the student’s career. In the first two years of college, Career Services helps students to “become prepared, find a career, understand yourself, and give life to your career,” Madsen said. Juniors and seniors should already be on the run. Readiness is the key! Relating programs to careers is not easy, unless one is prepared.

Career Services has the answers for students’ professional needs. From résumé writing to career counseling, students find a professionally active environment. Most of the staff is composed by graduate assistants with “developmental” counseling background. They compose an incredible database with jobs and internships. For example, E-recruiting allows students to have a résumé online, and creates connectivity between students and employers. The Experiential Learning Program (ELP) is a planned progressive educational program that provides integration of student’s academic studies and relative work experience in a professional environment. The program is a three-way partnership between the employer, the student, and the university. In order for the program to be successful, there must be a clear understanding of the role of each partner, as well as a firm commitment to the program. The ELP adheres to the parallel model of part-time paid work and full-time study.

The numbers are incredible: 10,000 students use Career Services; 2,700 make individual appointments; and 70 to 75 percent of jobs are in a “hidden market.” Using all the resources available now will be beneficial tomorrow. Students have pro-actively go find a job, create a job, or search through networking.

Career Services organized a workshop on Sept. 14, “The Power of Internship,” in which Maggie McInerney and Robert J. Poloio from Northwestern Mutual explained some of the advantages of internships. They described internships as a training-mentoring process, during which one builds one’s résumé, creates business networking, sets a career, benefits from income, and builds future opportunities. The best way to hit that “hidden market” of jobs is through networking, approximately 61 percent of jobs are found by networking or through word of mouth.

Career Services also organized the “Career Fair,” which was held last week. Career fairs are organized throughout the whole year and NSU hosted four career fairs last year alone. For more info, go online to www.nova.edu/career/elp/a, or call 954-262-7201.

Cash Or Character?

By Rafia Chodhry
Staff Writer

Martha Stewart proves that only one is needed for survival.

Arts and crafts guru Martha Stewart has requested to serve her five-month prison sentence immediately to ensure her freedom for spring planting. The notorious diva never apologized publicly for her involvement with insider trading, and continues to claim good character. Stewart will receive profits from her corporate empire while tinkering with the Feng Shui of her New York prison cell.

Celebrity scandal has taken a twist with this good-girl-gone-bad trial. Not only did Stewart cover-up her knowledge of a stock fall, but she also lied to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Stewart’s best friends exposed her on the stand, and the queen of collagen never flinched.

Kara Walters was one of the first journalists to interview the convicted Stewart. When asked about the fear of prison, Stewart boldly admitted to some sense of emotion. “I’m going to have to face it, and take it and do it and get it over with,” Stewart told Walters. “…there’s many people that go to jail. Look at Nelson Mandela.”

Mandela was imprisoned because of his valiant effort to end Apartheid. Stewart illegally traded her stock in order to save money she does not need. The only similarity between the two is that they both know the high fashion of one-size jumpsuits.

Many celebrities have committed criminal acts and continued to find success. Hugh Grant apologized for solicitation of prostitution on “The Tonight Show,” and still receives top billing for any movie he appears in. Halle Berry was charged with a hit and run in 2000, but won the Academy Award two years later. R. Kelly is the self-proclaimed “pied piper of R&R,” with 21 counts of pedophilia currently on his record.

These stars dealt with the savage nature of the media and did not call attention to the situation by asking the public for support of sales. America has found something worth saving by forgiving these fallen celebrities’ actions. Their guilt was obvious, so they did not put spin on the situation.

Perhaps, Stewart could not resist the urge to shape her public face. Her strengths as a businesswoman and entertainer have made her the Kaiser of creativity. Now, the attempt to make Stewart seem warm further illustrates her callousness.

To err is human, and recognition of that is pivotal for Stewart. She has missed her opportunity to come clean and regain professional respect. However, her tulips and begonias can keep her company after prison.

Character is an essential value in modern society. Liars, cheaters, and thieves will always be caught. Now, there will be one less person roaming winter dinner parties in the Hamptons. Martha Stewart in jail: “it’s a good thing.”
The Dalai Lama is a person that you read about in newspapers and books. A person who, when talked about, is said to be one of the most revered men in the world. Through all of this, I have always asked questions like, “What would it be like to listen to His Holiness?” and “What would I say to him if I had the chance?” Never in a million years would I expect to get that opportunity, and through the efforts of President Ray Ferrero, Jr. and Dean of Students Brad Williams, I had the opportunity to meet with His Holiness the fourteenth Dalai Lama. I was nervous when I found out that we were going to have a private interview. However, during the whole interview, I was totally calmed and touched by his compassion and love.

His Holiness expressed the basic human values that promote a happiness that is dependent on our own inner strength and self-confidence. He mentioned that human affection is an example that no matter how powerful one individual is, his or her survival and successful life depend on others. Especially with today’s modern economy, the environmental issues, and the technology, our world continues to become much smaller. In reality, we are heavily interdependent.

He also discussed a sense of compassion, a sense of caring, and a sense of community. He attributes those values to a better world and outlined some things that we can do to help promote those values. Although I was pretty much a novice to the Dalai Lama’s speeches, he seemed to have a great sense of humor, and his smile was definitely contagious!

My name, Farheen, means “happiness” in Arabic, and I will always remember to smile, and if people don’t smile back, I’ll smile again.

From the very beginning of our session, it was evident that His Holiness had influenced me and the other students with great warmth and sincerity. He expressed his love and compassion to all humankind. We have a duty to live with concern and regard for all humankind. We have a duty to help others, and in turn, love ourselves. How profound! I left with a new outlook on life. I left knowing that happiness does not come from material possessions. I left with a new respect for others and a new respect for myself; as if he was talking to me directly.

In summary, during my meeting with His Holiness, I had the opportunity to face to face with one of the greatest leaders of our generation, the Dalai Lama, for whom I have had a great sense of respect and admiration. I am so thankful for this opportunity, and I am happy to be able to share my experience with others.

The Dalai Lama is a person that you read about in newspapers and books. He is a spiritual leader and an interfaith leader. He is known for his compassion and his ability to relate to people from all walks of life. He is also known for his sense of humor and his ability to make people laugh. He is a powerful speaker and his words are often cited as inspirations for people around the world.