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Nova Southeastern University

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Ladies’ Crew Dominates At Stetson Sprints

Dark, choppy waters and extreme weather conditions make for intense competition

By Nicolle Garber
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 26, 2005, the ladies of NSU’s rowing team competed in dark, choppy waters and temperatures in the low 60s. Despite the adverse weather, the ladies succeeded in winning gold in three out of four events.

The opening event of the day, which set the tone for the rest of the morning, was the Women’s Pair event. Varsity rowers Taylor Liput and Mary Brylski competed against Stetson and FSU, beating the crews in a time of 9:57, leaving them in the wake of their watery trail. Taylor, being only 5’5” and Mary about 5’11”, seemed like an unlikely pair; nonetheless, the two ladies blew away the competition with strength and finesse.

The second event was the Women’s Novice Four, with a crew of Christy Fritch in stroke seat, Brittany Betkey, Tatiana Fabriico, Nicolle Garber in bow, and novice coxswain Danielle Garcia. The Four competed against Tampa and Stetson, placing second behind Tampa after a chaotic, false start by Tampa and competing with perseverance to finish the race with a time of 9:10.

As the wind picked up and the conditions of the water worsened, the Varsity Eight boat finished first with a brutal defeat against Embry-Riddle who finished second, while Tampa came in third. The Varsity Eight crew consisted of Varsity Coxswain Cheyenne Poskey, Katrina Bonilla in stroke seat, Nicole Felluca, Ashley Amrich, Miglena Dzhupanova, Lauren Thomas, Monica Henderson, Luciana Bedos, and Stephanie Blair in Bow. This 2000m race proved to

Coach Gartin exchanges words with his crew. Photo by Nicolle Garber

Please See STETSON
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Library Happenings

By Africa Barfield
Director of Marketing and Community Relations

Youth Services Librarian Article Published

Dante Tang, a Youth Services Librarian at Nova Southeastern University’s Alvin Sherman Library, was recently published in the Winter 2005 issue of Young Adult Library Services magazine. Tang’s article centered on the topic of combining courage and teens. After receiving a “We the People” Courage Grant provided by American Library Association and the National Endowment for Humanities, Tang encouraged the teen advisory board (TAB) to create promotional materials that would highlight the concept of courage. Tang coordinated the efforts of the teens, which produced a book display and a letter writing campaign to Unites States President John F. Kennedy. In the letters, each TAB member wrote personal thoughts on what courage means to them. For anyone interested in more information on the TAB or Tang’s article, please call (954) 262-5477.

Third Bi-Annual Used Book Sale

What's your pleasure? Suspense? Children's books? Drama? Romance? Or academic journals? The Third Annual Used Book Sale will have it all. Come to the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center April 28–30, for your pick of the best previously owned, gently used collection in Broward County. Times are as follows: Thursday, April 28 1pm-6pm; Friday, April 29 10 am-6pm; Saturday, April 30 1pm-6pm; Sunday, April 1 1pm-5pm. For more information please call (954) 262-5477.

Free Evening of Celtic Music

Join us March 17 from 7-9 pm for traditional and contemporary Celtic folk music at Connections Café in the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University. The event is free and light refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information please call (954) 262-4548.

In Pitkin, Colorado, a group of students taking an avalanche safety course near the Aspen Highlands Ski Area were ironically pummeled by an avalanche during their instruction. According to 9News, one person died after being buried in the snow, while the five other members of the seminar remained uncathed. The safety group is thought to have caused the avalanche.

A man in Berlin who went on vacation left his lights and stereo on so that his dear pet hamster would not feel lonely in his absence. Reuters reported that concerned neighbors alerted police when the man failed to answer the door. Fearing that he was disabled or dead after five days of non-stop blaring music and no activity, police broke into the man’s house to find the “golden hamster.” He is still on vacation.
Who Has Your Identity? It’s Not Just the Credit Bureau

By Laura George
Contributing Writer

If you haven’t asked that question of yourself lately, you may be one of thousands who will suddenly be forced to do so. Every time you make a purchase, submit a loan application, hand out your social security number or visit the doctor, there is an organization that has access to that personal information. Most people, when asked who has access to their personal information other than themselves, will say the credit bureaus and the government. What most do not know is that the credit bureaus are information aggregators. They take all the information that they gather on the public and make parts of it available to companies for marketing or law enforcement to conduct research. Most of this collected information is kept on computers where other companies may purchase the information for their business interests.

But now, a serious situation has come to the forefront. Lately, a major security breach via the Internet into ChoicePoint (www.choicepoint.com) has been discovered. According to Wired.com on February 22, 2005, an online article entitled “ID Theft Victims Could Lose Twices,” Kim Zetter explains how hackers created 50 false accounts to obtain consumer identity information. In another online article posted by MSNBC on February 14, 2005 entitled “Database Giant Gives Access to Fake Firms,” the company has “10 billion records on individuals and businesses and sells its data to 40 percent of the nation’s top 1,000 companies.” These figures are staggering when understanding that you may be one of the consumers who has had their identity stolen during the security breach. According to the press release on ChoicePoint’s website, Kim 10,216 people in the state of Florida alone will most likely be victims of having their identity stolen.

What can you do to protect yourself? Pull your credit reports. Watch the mail to see if ChoicePoint contacts you. If your account suddenly seems empty of funds, put a stop to all financial actions and audit all of your accounts. If you are strongly convinced that your identity has been stolen, make a call to the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov) at 877.FTC.HELP or 877.382.4357. Then, contact the three credit reporting agencies, Experian (www.experian.com), TransUnion (www.transunion.com), and Equifax (www.equifax.com) to have fraud alerts placed on your accounts. If you have never pulled your credit reports, now is the time to do so!

Even if your identity has not been stolen, it is a good idea to pull your reports and learn what information the agencies have on you. It is also a good idea to start thinking about all the different places that you give your personal information out to. This includes the garbage can. Pay stubs, letters from school, bills, and advertising all provide the necessary details that a criminal needs to steal your identity. Instead of just throwing them out, shred it up and then throw it out. Remember, advocate for yourself because the criminals won’t!

Sex Recording... I Bear Forewarning

Some readers may have seen the headline to this column and thought dub... After the blatant media attack on both Pamela Anderson and Paris Hilton, anybody in their right mind would have learned through their folly: recording intimate acts can and will come back to haunt you.

I will not debate in this column whether the act of recording intimate moments is right or wrong, nor will I pass judgment on those who have participated in such acts, publicly displayed or not. Although the thought of taping, recording, or photographing of one’s lover and/or their sexual acts appalls some, it must be acknowledged that there are those who do it, and enjoy it. Who, why, or how is not the question, what I ponder is how wise this practice is, and how apprehensive one should be about the fate of such material.

Pamela and Paris are not the only two people in the world who have recorded themselves “in action.” Many couples indulge in recording and watching the play back of their sexual endeavors; in my opinion, as long as both parties are consenting adults: “lights, cameras, action!”

Many lovers trust their partners and feel comfortable getting a little kinky; it is, after all, between the two of them…for their eyes only…right? Although many do keep such intimacies under wraps, there are those who betray that trust when the relationship falters. When your partnership dissolves, who knows what intimate moments will be turned into evidence or blackmail?

The point is, relationships don’t alwayslast forever and people change. Sometimes it is hard to believe that someone you care about would ever do anything to hurt you; unfortunately, it happens, so believe it, your past naiveté can come back and bite you. If you are compelled to record yourself in an exposing position, make sure that is only one copy and you own it.

Spanish Class Takes Interactive to a Whole New Level

Diarios de Motocicleta sheds some light on South American culture

By Danielle García
Contributing Writer

Spanish Professor DelMarie Martinez used Spanish food and the biographical film Diarios de Motocicleta to teach her Spanish II and IV classes a little more about South American culture. On February 25, the two Spanish classes combined to fully interact in the Spanish culture as a technique to making speaking Spanish second nature.

Dr. Martinez teamed up with the department of Humanities to supply a traditional Spanish entrée to further educate the students. The Spanish students dined on arroz con pollo, a mixture of chicken and rice, with a layer of cheese on top, and fried plantains from La Carreta as a special treat from Dr. Ben Mulvey, head of the Humanities department. Dr. Martinez also whipped up flan as dessert for the students and they all relaxed as the watched Diarios de Motocicleta.

The relatively new film, Diarios de Motocicleta, is a semi-biographical film based on the journey of activist Ernesto Guevara de la Serna, better known as Che Guevara, as he traveled through South America in search for adventure. (For a review of the film, see the October 25 issue of The Knight)

Students were able to test their Spanish speaking skills to interpret the Spanish speaking film, but English subtitles did flash on the bottom right of the lower level students had the opportunity to understand vocabulary not yet covered. The developing Spanish club and Spanish minor at Nova Southeastern University continues to implement different ways to familiarize students with the Spanish culture and raise Spanish culture on campus.

The club and minor have been working together to ensure the most interesting interaction between students and the Spanish culture. Activities in which both have combined efforts to increase the Spanish culture on NSU’s campus include: Salsa lessons, Spanish movie nights, a trip to Costa Rica. Spanish diners, and informational seminars. All their efforts have been successful and have motivated many to check out the growing Spanish minor on campus and the popular Spanish culture.
Inside the World of Spirituality
College: A Time for Self-discovery
By April Eldemire
GA for Multicultural & Spirituality

Most students today are more concerned with the pursuit of material goods and external rewards than lives filled with meaning and purpose. We now live in a society where immediate satisfaction is viewed as the key to happiness, and one’s gains are more important than another’s losses. The pursuit of vocation and calling has been an area of interest for many colleges throughout the country. Sarah Lawrence College, Fisk University and Connecticut College, to name a few, have all gone to great lengths to prepare their students for their future roles in society. These colleges have recognized the importance of developing meaning and purpose in students’ lives and the impact this will have on their development. College is about self-discovery and finding a place in the journeys of life; these institutions seek to make a change, not just in students’ academic performance but in their self-exploration as a whole. Unveiling one’s unique talents, abilities, and skills is the goal, and these universities are creating a more holistic outlook on students’ lives.

According to Discovering the Self at Sarah Lawrence College (www.collegestylevalues.org), Sarah Lawrence College focuses on the individual, and academic and social issues are made on the basis of that individual. Each student is paired with a faculty mentor who helps that student design a curriculum according to their needs and interests. In addition, students are also encouraged to integrate social activism with their pursuits and passions.

Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee uses music as an expression of education and commitment. The musical group, the Jubilee Singers, seeks to preserve the musical genre of the Negro spiritual, according to the article. By facing much adversity and discrimination, they used music to express their creativity, talents, and dynamism. Through their music, they were able to raise enough money to build a new university. It is the hope of Fisk University through the Jubilee Singers to demonstrate that the most meaningful learning is learning that transcends what the person is at present, toward what that person is capable of becoming, wrote Crosby in Learning from the Past at Fisk University.

Connecticut College has a mission to prepare its students for contribution in the societies in which they live (http://www.conncoll.edu/aboutcc/mission.html). Promoting an “understanding of local, regional, national, and international communities,” and encouraging “involvement in them” are vital aspects of this mission, according to Crosby in Creating Informed Student Activists at Connecticut College.

The university has created a center devoted solely to furthering the involvement in them” are vital aspects of this mission, according to Crosby in Creating Informed Student Activists at Connecticut College. The university has created a center devoted solely to furthering the cause of active citizenship. They create close relationships with outside civic services to promote students’ interest in volunteering, and also help educate students’ on their future interests.

When asked about her future career goals, Cammie Cacace, an undecided sophomore at Nova Southeastern University said, “I have no idea what I want to do when I get out of college. I am the first person in my family to go to college, and it seemed like the only right thing to do.”

Eric Thompson, a freshman at Nova Southeastern University, was asked the same question and responded, “I’m a Finance major here. I don’t know what I want to do with it yet though. I already have a job working towards my business degree and I would just be working up the ladder once I get my degree. It just seemed like the easy route to take.” These are common themes among today’s youth. The idea of “getting ahead” and “making money” overrides the search for meaning and purpose in life.

Nova Southeastern University has a department dedicated to student development and volunteerism, as well as an Office for Career Services. Students have resources on many college campuses; the challenge is finding those resources. It is with great hope that students’ search for meaning and purpose in their life; through the present and for the future. If you would like to find out about volunteering opportunities, contact Jen Bowman at jbowman@nova.edu and if you would like to speak with someone about career advice, contact Shelly Atkinson at career@nova.edu.

To The Students of Nova Southeastern University
By Dr. Brad Williams, Dean of Student Affairs
Dr. Gay Holliday, Associate Dean of Student Affairs
Lula Hancock, Director of Residence Life and Housing

As a University we value and support the diversity of our community. As a student you find yourself among other students who are different than you; students who are of a different race, culture, religion, and background; students who have different views, opinions, beliefs, and values; and students whose sexual orientation is different than yours.

The Student Affairs staff is aware of ongoing incidents on campus that have displayed disregard for students in our community that are gay. Posters and flyers have been defaced using homophobic language and homophobic comments have been directed at students. We are saddened that this behavior has taken place, and we are committed to responding to the incidents and addressing students identified to be involved.

The NSU community is a place for open dialogue and provides each of us an opportunity to learn from each other and examine our own prejudices and beliefs. We encourage students to find forums to discuss their differences, and participate in creating a University community that is respectful, welcoming and supportive of diversity. We encourage students to “step-up and stand-up” when they encounter discrimination.

We invite you to a continuing series of programs sponsored by the Office of Residence Life and presented by the National Conference for Community and Justice - Breaking the Barriers of Hate. Contact the Office of Residence Life for more information at reslife@nova.edu.

Safe Zone Training Sessions are scheduled in March and April. E-mail phillip@nova.edu if you are interested in participating.

Here are a few programs being sponsored by the Office of Residential Life & Housing:

Movie Night – Journey to Hate-Free Millennium: Stories of Hope and Compassion – March 24 – 9 pm – Founders, Farquhar and Vettel Pagoda
Art/Poetry Slam – Walk in My Shoes: The Face of Inclusion at NSU
April 6 – 5pm – Goodwin Hall Backyard
Heritage Panel – It’s Hard to Hate Someone When You Know Their Story
April 14 – 5:30 pm – Goodwin Hall Classroom.

You can finally read The Knight from the comforts of your own home

Check us out online: www.knightnewsonline.com

Stay tuned next week for our poll question of the week.
University Nicknames and Mascots: Part 3 in a Series

By Dr. Mark Cavanaugh
Associate Professor of Social & Behavioral Sciences

In conversation, people often use the terms “nickname” and “mascot” interchangeably, which can lead to great confusion since in many cases, mascots and nicknames are quite different. In modern practice, it seems that the nickname provides the more immediate identifier and the context from which the mascot (if not the same as the nickname) comes. Think of the nickname as that which identifies the team itself and the mascot as that oversized, costumed, crafted or molded head one can spy patrolling the sidelines at football or basketball games: the mascot is the ultimate embodiment of that team nickname.

While that states the general rule, many colleges and universities exist whose nickname and mascot, at first glance, have no connection to one another and seem to have arisen as entirely separate historical traditions. That said, it is easy to identify three categories, followed by some brief examples:

1. Schools whose nickname and mascot are the same.

   The University of Southern California
   Nickname: Trojans
   Mascot: “Tommy Trojan” an ersatz (Trojan) warrior

   Auburn University
   Nickname: Tigers
   Mascot: Aubie The Tiger (a costumed cheerleader)

2. Schools whose mascots derive from their nicknames.

   The University of Miami
   Nickname: Hurricanes
   Mascot: “Sebastian,” the Ibis.

   The University of Mississippi
   Nickname: Rebels
   Mascot: “Colonel Reb”

3. Schools whose nicknames have no apparent relation to one another, (unless you are versed in arcane college lore).

   The University of Alabama
   Nickname: The Crimson Tide
   Mascot: “Big Al”, the Elephant.

   The University of Tennessee
   Nickname: Volunteers
   Mascot: “Smokey” a “blue tick coon hound”.

   Simple enough? Not so fast. Some schools have nicknames too abstract to inspire a mascot; other institutions use nicknames too abstract for representation in mascot form but have one anyway; many colleges have neither nicknames nor mascots; and some have mascots but no nicknames, and vice-versa.

   In addition, witness a small set of (perhaps over-enthusiastic) colleges with multiple nicknames (FAU’s teams are the Owls, but that university’s baseball team is the “Blue Wave”). A growing but grammatically questionable practice is evident in the odd oxyymorons (think “artificial turf” or “microwave oven”) produced when, fortunately, women’s opportunities to participate in intercollegiate athletics expanded in the last three decades. Some of these, if taken literally, would send the designers of mascot costumes into fits of creativity (“Lady Bulls?” Aren’t they cows?).

Happy St. Patrick’s Day
March 17th

Who was Saint Patrick?
Find out that and more on page 20!

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**Women’s Golf Team Finishes 6th Place at Lady Moc Classic, Ahead of Lynn and West Florida**

In this 54 Hole-Event, Jenni Mostrom Ties for 13th

**By Alicia Winslett**

Staff Writer

March 1, eighteen schools in Divisions I and II took on Cleveland Heights Golf Club in Lakeland, FL for the Lady Moc Classic. This course was a par 72 with a yardage of 5,997. The first day of the tournament got rained out, but the second day the women played 36 holes. The following day they played 18 holes.

In the first round of the tournament, Middle Tennessee State took the lead with an 18-hole team total of 299. But in the next 18, Rollins College shot 298 as a team and never looked back. Rollins took the title with rounds of 305-298-298. Middle Tennessee State took second with team totals of 309-313-314. The Knights came in sixth place with team totals of 317-326-317. This might not seem like the best scores for NSU but they beat higher ranking West Florida and Lynn University. Many times last year they came close to these two teams, but now they beat them.

Taryn Durham of Middle Tennessee came away with the individual win shooting 73-74-75. Freshman Jenni Mostrom led the Knights with scores of (78-76-79-233), as she tied for thirteenth place out of 97 women. Sophomore Sophie Friis also had a top-20 finish. She shot (75-84-77=236) to finish eighteenth individually.

Other NSU players included freshman Lina Bjorklund who shot (82-82-79=243). Freshman Elizabeth Bond shot (82-84-82-248) finishing in fifty-first place. Senior Amanda Brown shot (82-86-83-251). The Knights’ next tournament will be March 14 and 15 at the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational hosted by Rollins College at Tusawilla Country Club in Winter Park, Florida.

**NSU Women’s Basketball Knocks Off 50-44 By Florida Tech In SCC Tournament Semifinal**

Missy Guadagnino Scores 21 Points and Grabs 10 Boards in Second Straight Game

**By Eddie Kenny**

Sports Information

The Nova Southeastern University women’s basketball team (17-12) was knocked off 50-44 by the Florida Tech Panthers (21-8) March 5 in a Sunshine State Conference Tournament semifinal played at Barry University’s Health and Sports Center.

NSU junior guard Missy Guadagnino led all scorers with 21 points, and also grabbed 10 rebounds for her second consecutive double-double. Junior Andrea Martin also had 12 points for the Lady Knights, while Katie Cloud had 10 rebounds.

The game was close from the opening tip with neither side leading by more than four-points through the first 15-minutes of the contest. NSU put together an 8-0 late in the half to open its biggest lead of the game at seven points with 1:34 left. However, Tech scored the final three points of the half to send the teams into the locker room with the Lady Knights leading 26-22.

The Panthers scored the first eight points of the second half to open up a four-point lead, as the Knights did not score a basket in the first 5:59. Tech took the lead for good with 10:56 left and built a seven-point advantage with a 7-0 run.

NSU closed to within two with 4:40 left in the game, but the Panthers sealed the win with solid free throw shooting down the stretch to move on to Sunday’s final.

**Way to Go Tiger!!**

On March 6, as I watched Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods play together in the last 18, I could hardly wait to see who would take away the victory. The PGA tournament was the Ford Championship at Doral in Miami. The course the men were playing on was the Blue Monster. I’ve walked that course before, and I can say that it is a fairly hard course, but these guys don’t show any mercy, finishing 23 and 24 under! Tiger trailed Mickelson by two strokes going into the last round, but stats show that Tiger usually goes into the last round shooting 3 shots better than his opponent.

This win for Tiger means he has regained his position as the number 1 player in the world. All day he had a look of determination; he didn’t talk to Mickelson or change his expressions when his opponent hit a good or bad shot. After making his par put on 18 he finally cracked a smile for the first time all day! Phil and Tiger both hit on the fringes of the eighteenth hole Monster. Phil almost made his chip, which would have made the two go on to a playoff, but Woods made his par putt to take the win.

Woods not only got the victory but he got $990,000 and a new car. This was his second victory of the year after winning the Buick Invitational in January. This also marks his 42nd PGA Tour victory. All the men playing said that you can’t go out there and make pars at this course; you have to make birdies to take away the win.

The crowd was a sell-out of 35,000 people. “It was electric,” said Woods about the atmosphere. “It was definitely bipartisan out there. You could hear Phil’s fans, you could hear Tiger fans. They were both yelling at the top of their lungs.”

I wanted Phil to win the tournament, but Tiger Woods is also a great golfer that deserves the win. I guess we’ll have to see how Woods, Mickelson, and Singh do at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia in April.

This was a battle between two great players that I will never forget; that six-foot final putt Woods had to make for the victory will go down in history.
On March 7 and 8, the Nova Southeastern University Men's Golf team competed in the Buccaneer Invitational in Hollywood, FL. The men played three rounds at Hillcrest Golf Club. Thirty-six holes were played on Monday, followed by 18 on Tuesday. The golf course played 7,076 yards and was a par 72.

The University of Alabama won the tournament with 6-under-par round team totals of (283-283-292=858). NSU's team finished in seventh place. They shot a 54-hole total of (288-296-298=882). They finished two strokes ahead of eighth place; No. 12 Delta State.

St. Edward's University's Blake Slaughter won the individual title with an impressive 11-under-par 205 (69-67-69). He was the one of only two players who shot under par in all three rounds. The Knights were led by Stephen Conrad, who shot a three-round 1-under-par 215 (71-72-72).

Martin Styf and Josh Green tied for twenty-first with a 5-over par 221's. Michael Davenport finished in thirty-ninth place with a 226 (72-76-78). Brian Macho finished with a 234 (73-78-83).

The next tournament will be the home tournament for both the men and women's golf teams. NSU will be hosting the 2005 NSU/Unicco Spring Invitational at Woodmont Country Club in Tamarac, FL Monday and Tuesday, March 28-29.

Head Coach Kevin Marsh had some positive outlooks on the teams’ performance in the Buccaneer Invitational. He said, “Overall they played good, but everyone else just played better. Team total for our men was 73.5.”

He also stated that the conditions on the second day were pretty rough. “The wind really blew hard on second round, and 15 people [from other teams] went under par, and I thought the conditions were the toughest. The six teams in front of us had 8 rounds under par and we didn’t have any.” The thing that really stands out with men’s golf is there’s not much margin of error. “The difference between fifth and eleventh place was only 14 shots. I thought they played well, but the second round got us. Four of the teams went under par in the second round and we were 8 over.”

By Alicia Winslett

Men’s Golf Team Finishes Seventh at Buccaneer Invitational in Hollywood

Stephen Conrad finishes 8th place Individually with a 1-Under-Par in Two Day Tournament

Above Right: Mike Davenport steadily swings his golf putter hoping to make a clear shot into the hole. Left: Josh Green keeps his eyes away from the ball as the ball goes soaring. Right: Stephen Conrad hitting the ball. Photos by Alicia Winslett
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL (17-12, 11-5 SSC)

Junior guard Missy Guadagnino (Winter Springs, Fla.) was named to the 2005 SSC All-Tournament team after posting consecutive double-doubles with 21 points and 10 rebounds against both Barry and Florida Tech. Guadagnino finished the season as the Lady Knights leading scorer with 12.4 points-per-game.

SSC STANDINGS

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WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Knights fell 7-2 to Seton Hall on Saturday with No. 1 player Tsippy Waterman (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) helping to earn NSU’s two points, as she won her singles match in straight sets (6-1, 6-3), and also teamed with Stefanie Gribi (Fr., Kappel, Switzerland) to win 8-6 in doubles action.

SOFTBALL (8-6, 3-3 SSC)

Junior Angela Martinez (Miami, Fla.) leads the team with a .434 BA, 23 hits and 18 runs scored. Catcher Janette Rodriguez (Sr., Miami, Fla.) leads the team with 15 RBI, 8 doubles and a .596 slugging percentage.

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WOMEN’S ROWING

The NSU Varsity 4 crew won its event at the Rollins Invitational this past weekend, finishing almost 10-seconds faster than Division I Connecticut.

The Varsity 8 boat finished second behind the DI Central Florida with a time of 6:56.5.

BASEBALL (14-8, 1-2 SSC)

Senior CF Alex Froloff (Coral Springs, Fla.) leads the team with a .372 BA and 29 hits. 2B Sean McFadden (Jr., Hollywood, Fla.) is the team leader with 22 RBI and is second on the team with 27 hits. Junior SS Shawn Langlois (West Palm Beach, Fla.) has a nine-game hitting streak and leads the team with 14 stolen bases. Senior right-handed pitcher Derek Antelo (Miami, Fla.) is 5-0 on the mound and has allowed only 6 runs in 35 2/3 innings of work while striking out a team-high 31.

SSC STANDINGS

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corporate ladder

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GOT IDEAS?

NSU needs your help finding its new mascot!

http://nsuathletics.nova.edu/contest.cfm

The mascot will be chosen by YOU!
For most of those who used to worship the king of pop, that feeling has either been intensified despite the recent allegations or has dissipated as a result of them. Still others who never caught on to the Jacko phase may now be saying that they knew something finicky would happen with this not-so-average celebrity. By now, news of the ongoing trial has circumnavigated the globe, reaching fans and dissenters alike. After what some would call a ridiculous spectacle, jurors were finally selected and, despite Jackson’s sudden health problem, the supposed molestation trial is now underway. For those of you who have not heard, the proposed witness lists look more like guest lists to A-list Hollywood parties with people like Elizabeth Taylor, than typical witness lists. This simply ensures that the trial will be a spectacle.

So far over the course of the trial, the presiding judge, Judge Rodney Melville, has made a ruling that will allow evidence that could discredit one of the state’s prime witnesses: the mother. This may be particularly damaging because this woman claimed sexual assault and abuse in a past case where she was tried for shoplifting. More recently, however, information has come out that the alleged victim in this case, a former cancer patient, and his family received gifts from a plethora of celebrities. The generosity of the many celebrities was only outshined by that of Michael Jackson, who, his attorneys argue, attracts people who profit. The alleged victim’s family enjoyed limousine rides and trips to luxury resorts. The defense also points to the fact that the family had been receiving special treatment on multiple occasions, when the mother elicited support for her cancer-stricken son. A TV news personality organized a fundraiser for the boy where he met Chris Tucker, Adam Sandler, and Michael Jackson. In addition, the defense highlights the fact that the mother approached other celebrities, receiving a negative response from Jay Leno who called the police to tell them “something was wrong...[the family was] looking for a mark,” according to defense counsel Thomas Meserau Jr.

The 2002 documentary made by Martin Bashir about Jackson has been used in the trial. Points have been made that during the airing of the documentary, Jackson sent the mother and her daughter to a spa in Florida, where they were treated like royalty and told not to watch. The prosecution has talked about Jackson’s frenzied rebuttal to the documentary, and that Jackson showered the family with generous gifts in order to coax them to make a video negating the actions. This response culminated in the family being threatened if they didn’t cooperate, and finally with their return home when they never visited Jackson again. Weeks later, the family contacted two lawyers, one of whom was responsible for the 1993 settlement against Jackson. At this point, the child was sent to a psychologist who said that there might have been molestation, and proceedings began.

The prosecution called the alleged victim’s brother to the stand, during which time he testified to porn being shown to both him and his brother. He also, however, says that while the boys slept in his bed, Jackson slept on the floor. Many say that it is unclear as to what actually happened because, earlier the same day as this testimony, an audiotape was played in which the alleged victim’s siblings and mother say that Jackson served as a de facto father figure. The alleged victim’s sister was questioned about the tape and finally about whether she thought anything inappropriate had happened, to which she said no.

Michael Jackson trial updates can be gotten via news channels like CNN, cnn.com, and E! Entertainment. onelin.com, will be doing daily reenactments of the trial proceedings.
### Movie Openings:

**Ice Princess** opens on March 18 to audiences nationwide. This comedy/romance is rated G and stars Michelle Trachtenberg, Joan Cusack, Kim Cattrall, Hayden Panettiere, Trevor Blumas. Synopsis: Bratny Casey Carlyle (Michelle Trachtenberg) has never quite fit in. She is always caught between her fantasy of becoming a championship figure skater and her strong willed mother (Joan Cusack), who has her on the fast track to Harvard. Casey can only hope to be like Nikki, Tiffany and Gen (Hayden Panettiere)- three of the elite skating prodigies who are ruthlessly competing on the US Figure Skating Circuit. And have the attitudes to match. But when Casey gets the chance to train with Gen and her coach, a disgraced former skating champion who also happens to be Gen’s mother, she must dash her own mother’s hopes in order to pursue her dream. Now, with only the support of Gen’s teenage brother, a hunky Zamboni driver (Trevor Blumas), Casey takes on the challenge of her life when she finds herself competing against the best to make it into the championship circuit and become a real “ice princess.”

**The Ring Two** opens on March 18 to audiences nationwide. This suspense/horror is rated PG-13 and stars Naomi Watts, David Dorfman, Simon Baker, Elizabeth Perkins and Sissy Spacek. Synopsis: The story picks up six months after the horrifying events that terrorized Rachel Keller and her son Aidan in Seattle in The Ring One. To escape her haunting memories, Rachel takes Aidan and moves to the small coastal community of Astoria, Oregon, to start fresh. However, Rachel’s resolve quickly turns to dread when evidence at a local crime scene—including an unmarked videotape—seems eerily familiar. Rachel realizes that the vengeful Samara is back and more dangerous than ever. Rachel must fight to disbelief and put up a fight against the vengeful spirit before it’s too late.

### CD Releases

**David Bowie, David Live!**
- Released March 15.

**Kaiser Chiefs, Employment**
- Released March 15

**Better Than Ezra, Greatest Hits**
- Released March 15

**Blind Boys of Alabama, Atom Bomb**
- Released March 15

### Concerts/Performances:

- **3/18 Edge, 8:30 p.m. at the Culture Shock, 111 NW Frist Street, Suite 628, Miami, FL 33134**
- **3/18 Interpol, 7p.m. at Revolution, 200 West Broward Blvd., Ft Lauderdale, FL 33312**
- **3/18 Joker’s Wild Comedy Tour: 8 p.m. at James L Knight Center, 400 SE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33131**
- **3/18 Elton John, 8 p.m. at Office Depot Center, 2555 Panther Pkwy, Sunrise, FL 33323**

### Movie Review

**The Jacket: Insanity isn’t All That Bad**

By Paul Saneux

Staff Writer

Rating: $5 outstanding performance by Brody, seamless plot, unique story, satisfactory thriller.

In the past few years, the string of repulsive and gross-out spectacles here had several in common: large budgets, lots of hype, famous studio productions, and appropriately critical reviews. The trend points at the relationship between the involvement of Hollywood “big shots” and the quality of films. For example, *Be Cool* was recently released with the promise of an excellent movie due to its all-star cast (Sarah Jessica Parker, Malcolm X, Martin Sheen, Lucy Liu) and high budget production. However, it fell face first, tripping over its own momentum. *The Jacket*, on the other hand, is under Warner Independent Pictures and is of far higher quality.

It is pleasant change to see Adrien Brody and his distinctive nose rise to the big screen. His being on such a vastly and inappropriately underestimated actor, it is an ignorant shame that directors do not exploit Brody’s exceptional acting skills more often. Brody has the ability to realistically portray a character’s normal reactions to stressful situations. This is apparent in *The Jacket* as Jack Starks (Adrien Brody) happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time—several times. Starks knows he is a victim of extraordinarily bad luck, yet he does not lash out with violence and imprudence. He is somewhat calm as he concentrates on his dilemma although he is trapped in an asylum for the criminally insane. Even though the circumstances are against Starks, Brody conveys his realistic expressions convincingly. All of this heightens the sense of frustration that the film seeks to spread to the audience. Jack is the only ‘normal’ person, surrounded by actual psychos and those who think he is crazy. One cannot help but sympathize and feel frustrated for Brody’s character.

Opposite to Brody, Keira Knightley also gave a respectable performance as a young woman disturbed by the death of her mother. Her character, Jackie Price, donned dark hair and makeup to emphasize her distress and attitude. Knightley is already adept at portraying gloomy characters, and her role was well chosen. In addition, there is an intriguing variety of characters in *The Jacket* that only complement Brody’s performance. One such character was Mackenzie (Daniel Craig), a fellow inmate who provided the comic relief with his eccentric nervousness and a story about attempting to kill his wife 30 times and failing, only to have her send him to the asylum. Mackenzie also provides an interesting philosophy, questioning sanity: he claims no one’s life is so perfect that they’re never nervous. Quite true… who is so crazy and who is not? In this way, *The Jacket* attacks society’s assumptions of the “insane.”

The plot, which is too complicated to delve into here, wraps up nicely by the conclusion of the film and leaves no doubt as to the believability of the story. Unlike other thrillers that have been riddled with plot holes, *The Jacket* leaves no questions beyond those posed by the characters themselves, and no confusion. Even with flash-forwards and flash backs, the plot is seamless. *The Jacket*, for these reasons, deserves 5 dollars out of 6.
The Year Hiatus

Many students explore the idea of the year hiatus: time taken off between high school and college or undergraduate and graduate level schooling. Some people use the time in between to work, others to travel, and still others to loaf and think about what they want to do with their lives. Is taking such a break a good idea? I myself have been counseled both by people who took the year off, and by those who didn’t; each has their own perspective, but there are certain things that you should think about that will occur despite the purpose for your hiatus.

Many people want to get school over with - others could stay forever. The ones who take a year off may just want to get back into a normal groove or regain the ‘love for learning’ that might have dissipated during the years of college that left you burnt out. The year hiatus may help you explore your interests through travel or work or offer experiences that will help define yourself. On the other hand, once you take time off, you might not want to go back. This may be a problem, but is certainly one of the smaller ones. The largest issue that you may contend with is the economic issue. To pay for school, many people take out loans. You do not have to pay back these loans right away, but often after a period of time, the ‘free period’ sunsets and you accrue debt that must be paid off. This is something to consider when taking time off between schools.

Another issue is the fact that taking a year off might hurt your application - not because you forgot anything, but because the schools you apply to may look down on your taking time off, but the year hiatus might affect the quality of several parts of your application. One part of the application that may be harmed is the letter of recommendation section: teachers who you did not have a major effect on may forget you over a year-long period. The letter that they write for you now may be a mere shadow of what they may have written 12 months ago, and could thus weaken a grad school application. Of course, this section of the application could be fulfilled if you ask for letters prior to your extended vacation or keep in serious touch with teachers. If you work after leaving school, a boss could write your letter - which may or may not be as strong as that of a teacher. People who, after graduating, take time off and take jobs often use the letter of a boss. If you do not work, however, and instead travel or do something of the sort, you should think critically about who will fulfill this section of your application. Remember (frankly, I can’t forget because I’ve been reminded so often); the application speaks for you when you cannot speak for yourself.

If you plan on spending the entire 12 months of your year hiatus without serious academic thought, you might also want to think about taking the graduate school exams prior to taking your break. There are many tests that may test direct knowledge or similar skills that you use in school, such as reading comprehension. A lot of people take courses to help them study, and if this doesn’t cross your mind, you might be tempted to take the test cold - which is a really bad idea.

The year off does have its uses: deciding what you want to do, finding yourself, or just taking a break. But if you think that taking a break means you have nothing to think about until the end of the next year, you’re mistaken. Things like getting letters of recommendation or taking entry exams might be something you want to think about before getting on that plane and jetting off somewhere.

Video Game Review

Star Wars Knights of the Old Republic II: The Dark Side is Hard to Resist

By Paul Saneaux
Staff Writer

How difficult is it to make a sequel in any genre, be it a movie, a piece of literature, or video game, that is better than the original? Very difficult, it seems. That menacing question has plagued the movie and video gaming industry for ages - probably even a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Entranced in a horrible vortex, only diluted clones of original games have attempted to answer the question, only to ruin the reputations of entire series. Okay, no more puns and back to business. There are exceptions with the Star Wars game. Knights of the Old Republic II (KOTOR II), which LucasArts created as a sequel to last year’s Game of the Year, LucasArts makes their successful production of a sequel look easier than turning on the TV, flopping down on the couch, and grabbing a game controller.

What makes KOTOR II a great game is the same elements that made the original an excellent addition to any game collection. This time around though, these features were thoroughly enhanced. Even under the new direction of Obsidian Entertainment instead of trusted BioWare, the solid structure of the game has not been seriously altered. The game’s fight engine is still real-time and turn-based, meaning that battles continue while you give orders to the characters. Other role playing games have this feature, but only KOTOR allows pausing during the fights to give a series of commands before moving on. Commands have also been improved, with orders to have characters fling grenades, fall back and fire weapons, or provide support. Combat, as with the original game, is versatile: weapons, armor, and items can all be upgraded or modified. Beside these features, new Force powers are also available - along with the cool originals: there is nothing like tossing the lifeless bodies of enemies across a room with a flick of the wrist. Another new feature is the ability to choose lightsaber "forms;" in other words, the characters can adjust to situations with multiple enemies, one-on-one duels, and fire fights by adjusting the way they fight. Being familiar with these forms can literally make the game simple or impossible.

The most innovative element of the entire series, which others have attempted to duplicate unsuccessfully, is the transition of the main character from neutral to the Light or Dark Side. During the progression of the game, decisions made affect the personality, and ultimately the appearance, of the protagonist. Light Side characters offer sympathetic responses during dialogue, which is chosen from a menu by the player, while Dark Side characters generally offer insults and threats. Movement from one Side to another is effortless, as almost every action or piece of conversation adds points to one Side or the other.

Along with the ability to choose a moral standpoint, the storyline changes drastically depending on the Side chosen. As a Jedi, one of the good guys, or Sith, one of the bad guys, the character protects Jedi Masters or seeks to annihilate them all. This element gives the KOTOR games large amounts of replay value. Playing through KOTOR II once is not enough to thoroughly enjoy the game: not all Force powers, additional characters, items, or branching storylines are accessible through one path.

With only a few flaws, such as unimproved graphics, unbearable loading times, and artificial intelligence that get annoying now and then, KOTOR II is an unbelievably solid role playing game. It has much to offer to diehard Star Wars fans, fans of the original, gamers, and even those who are not so fond of Star Wars.
A Different Competition, A New Venue

“American Idol” moves into the ‘fourth’ round of competition

By Alaina Siminovskv
A&E Editor

“American Idol” has become an annual tradition where thousands of performers show up at various locations around the country to showcase their perceived singing talent. The good and the bad are paraded around in the first round on TV simply for ratings; people tune in to point and laugh at the William Hungs of the competition. The better performers are selected and whisked off to Hollywood for the second round of competition, where the judges exert their final authority, and this year, selected 24 performers to move on to the next round.

The third round, this year, was structured by gender. The 12 men and 12 women competed against each other and, for a three week period, the two performers of each gender with the lowest amount of votes left the competition. On March 9, the third round was completed and 12 finalists, six men and six women, will move on to the fourth and final round where the competition takes a direct change: everything counts, especially personality, because that is what will attract a fan following that may support a vocalist all the way to the finals.

This year’s top 12 is a motley crew. Bo Bice and Constantine Maroulis represent the Rock genre, while Anthony Fedorov revives the Clay Aiken spirit in the competition. Mikalah Gordon is the youngest of this year’s contestants and has, for the past few weeks, sang with an old style, winning her both praise and renown. Completing the top 12 are Anwar Robinson, Carrie Underwood, Jessica Sierra, Lindsey Cardinale, Mario Vazquez, Nadia Turner, Scott Savol, and Florida resident Vonzell Solomon.

The competition will heat up next week on Fox. Wednesday is elimination night, but if you miss it, weekly recaps will appear in The Knight, or you can check out American Idol online at www.idolonfox.com.

A Better Competition, A New Venue

Preparty is eliminated

“American Idol” moves into the ‘fourth’ round of competition

By Alaina Siminovskv
A&E Editor

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NSU On The Scene: “How do you feel about the new student services fee?”

Andrea Cevallos
Junior
Business Administration
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Those involved at NSU will appreciate where the fee is going now. The development of the Athletic Center will benefit all students and boost our sports program.

Areege Afaneh
Senior
Biology
Palm Beach, FL

I think its ridiculous! We pay enough for tuition, student activity fees, lab fees, etc as it is.

Risel Borrego
Junior
Psychology
Hialeah Gardens

Every year new fees are added to our tuition and the service in school stays the same. I ask myself, where is this money going to?

Michael Berbauer
Freshman
Biology
Coral Springs, FL

What services, in particular, am I paying for? Tuition is high enough.

Keith Johnson
Senior
Business Administration
Miami, FL

This is a learning institution and our money should not be used for unjust expenses by milking every dime out of the students who are already hurting financially.

Jonathon Mammarelli
Sophomore
Biology
Pembroke Pines, FL

More money, then I hope there is more free food.
Dear NSU Community,

I briefly mentioned the new Student Services Fee in my column a couple weeks ago, and people have been asking me ever since when I was planning on writing about it. Well, I aim to please (to a point) - so even though I intend to explore the subject in more depth in the future, here’s what I have to offer now.

I’m not going to go off on a rant about how horrible it is that we have to pay more; honestly, while I’m not thrilled to death to be paying more than I used to be, I’m just glad that we don’t have the kinds of fees some other schools do. For example, at the first school I had planned on going to, Tulane University, there was a Student Activity Fee of $120, then you had an additional $220 required fee for the Recreation Center, and a $1600 Student Support Fee. Frankly, after having enrolled, I never found out what the Student Support Fee would have covered. Kinda’ makes me glad I didn’t go there after all; I would much rather pay $250 a semester for Student Services than $1600 for Student Support. This is a pretty extreme example, but I’m sure most people have seen the breakdown of Student Services Fees in the area, and we’re pretty close to the bottom of the list in dollars per semester.

While I’m not ranting, I’m not going to extol the virtues of every wonderful thing that the fee is going to pay for, either. President Ferrero has stated that “this service fee … will enhance the services offered to our students that improve health, safety and welfare, and support the ongoing technological advancements that have become a hallmark for NSU as an institution of higher education.” After all of the new technical equipment installed in the Parker Building over the summer, I can see why they would want to add a little bit of a fee. NSU is also in the process of improving the science labs (which rather need improvement). And as far as improving “safety and welfare,” I imagine that some of the money will go towards the NOVAlert program. These guys spend a lot of time unlocking doors and getting sets of keys out of cars (I hate to say it, but they’ve had to retrieve mine three times), so we have to have enough people to be able to do that kind of thing whenever someone needs it.

Not that I’m entirely sure that the fee has anything to do with these particular examples, but these are all things that are pretty expensive to do. I wouldn’t mind seeing a more detailed list of what the fee is paying for, though.

Careful readers of President Ferrero’s letter to the students will also note that those receiving financial aid will have their financial aid budgets increased to help accommodate the fee. Between this and the fact that the new Student Services Fee incorporates some existing fees, it’s not as though $250 is being arbitrarily added to everyone’s bill each semester.

In other words, while this whole thing isn’t making me jump with joy, I’m not ready to picket the University about it either. Yes, I realize that I’m “sitting on the fence,” but I happen to like the fence, and that’s where I’m going to stay for now.

If anyone would like to make their own comments or observations on the subject, I would be more than happy to hear them. As always, email your letters to munews@nova.edu.

Sincerely,

Alisha VanHoose

Editor-in-Chief

Marriage, Families, and Children

Dear Ms. VanHoose,

I am a graduate student of Marriage and Family therapy and I appreciate your making note [in the February 21 issue] of the messages family systems give not only to themselves, but to the systems outside and interconnected to themselves as well. I found your insightful observations and musings to be meaningful and timely to the events surrounding us and our times regarding family unity, integrity of marriage and due social responsibility. Thank you for expressing your concerns. I, for one, appreciated the sharing.

- Jason McGuire

“The message we are sending our kids sometimes is unclear…”

Hello Alisha:

I found your article interesting and having two little rascals I can related to this moms. Nevertheless, the message we are sending our kids sometimes is unclear and in the future it will be nice if you give you personal comments about the topic.

- Yasmin Bey

Graduate Business

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Letter from a Reader

Mary Kay Letourneau- a different perspective

I read the article “Shame On You Mary Kay” in the February 28th, 2005 edition of The Knight and would like to add a different consideration to the opinion expressed by the News Editor. In my studies as a Marriage and Family Therapist at SHSS we’re taught to be open about hearing the stories of our clients and I think there is a story here to be heard as well. That being said it has to be understood that I am not speaking for SHSS or even my peers because we have individual opinions in these matters as well; I’m just trying to apply some of our tools in a way that is helpful in making sense of this situation for me.

While I agree that it was immoral and illegal of Miss Letourneau to have engaged in sex with a minor, I have a different opinion on their circumstances in the present. I find it interesting that through all these many hurdles of not being able to be together there has been something binding, something resilient in the relationship that has allowed them to remain highly motivated in being together as a couple. Unlike the editor, I am not as convinced that the relationship will not work simply because of the many years they have made it work for them thus far. The young man is now an adult, and as such ought to be able to make his own decisions on who he loves and wants to be involved with regardless of how unusual and/or non-traditional it seems. Granted, he was technically molested as a young teen, but now as an adult he has the power to accept that fact and create a loving relationship out of it if he feels interested in doing so. This does not seem at all different from when children are molested by parents, family or friends who work through the pain as adults and develop different, loving relationships with the perpetrators in order to take control of their lives and their happiness. I’m not comfortable stepping in and condemning their relationship at this point, but rather interested in seeing how it makes sense to them and knowing if they think it is workable or not.

- Jason McGuire

STETSON
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"As the wind picked up and the conditions of the water worsened, the Varsity Eight boat finished first with a brutal defeat against Embry-Riddle who finished second, while Tampa came in third.”

be the downfall of the other crews—the Varsity Eight won first about 158 feet ahead of second place Embry-Riddle.

Although the boat is primarily a Varsity boat, four of the eight crew members are novice rowers—Dzhupanova, Thomas, Henderson, and Bedos. These four girls have demonstrated a high degree of talent and strength, which has enabled them to row on the level of second year rowers with twice the amount of experience.

The final event of the day was the Women’s Varsity Four competition, where NSU displayed an amazing and shocking recovery into first place with their Varsity A boat. The A boat was in fifth place, then passed three boats in the last 30 seconds of the race, taking first place from Stetson University, a division I team, by a staggering 1.2 seconds. The two boats competing were the varsity A boat, holding Taylor Liput in stroke seat, Brittany Berkey, Christy Fritch, Victoria Corbyons in bow, and coxswain Danielle Garcia. In the Varsity B boat, Lauren Thomas held stroke seat, Miglena Dzhupanova, Luciana Bedos, Monica Henderson in bow, and coxswain Cheyenne Poskey. The Varsity B, aside from the power and strength presented, the boat suffered a drawback while holding first place at the start of the race, consequently ending the race in sixth place.

The team already made waves last year by reaching the NCAA finals in California, and this year, the team is expecting to wipe out the competition.
i've never been the type to wait for anything, especially an opportunity. Matter of fact, the only handout that was ever given to me was a Navy brochure. I wanted to see the world... I did. I wanted a bright future, and I have one of those, too. I've worked; now I own my own company... all because of the experience I've gained in the Navy.

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What's St. Patrick's Day Really About?

By Caroline Cullen
Staff Writer

Let’s be realistic: for the majority, St. Patrick’s Day is just another excuse to get plastered (at least in my part of town). How many of us really know what we are celebrating? I am not suggesting that we can’t party for the heck of it, but the history of St. Patrick’s Day is quite interesting and worth reading about. The History Channel has provided the public with the history of St. Patrick’s Day — here are some of their findings:

Who is Saint Patrick?

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity’s most widely known figures. But for all his celebrities, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, and are the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling. It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He was believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D.

At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family’s estate. They transported him to Ireland, where he spent six years in captivity. After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice — which he believed to be God’s — spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission — to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.

Symbols of St. Patrick’s Day: Bonfires and Crosses

Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

Leprechauns

The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is “lobaircin,” meaning “small-bodied fellow.” Leprechauns had nothing to do with St. Patrick or the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, a Catholic holy day. In 1959, Walt Disney released a film called Darby O’Gill & the Little People, which introduced America to a very different sort of leprechaun than the cantankerous little man of Irish folklore. This cheerful, friendly leprechaun is a purely American invention, but has quickly evolved into an easily recognizable symbol of both St. Patrick’s Day and Ireland in general.

Corned beef

Though cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began to be associated with St. Patrick’s Day at the turn of the century. Irish immigrants living on New York City’s Lower East Side substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon to save money. They learned about the cheaper alternative from their Jewish neighbors.

The Shamrock

The shamrock, which was also called the “seamsony” by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the seventeenth century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism. As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and the practice of Catholicism, many Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage and their displeasure with English rule.

Parties & Festivities

Now that we have some of St. Patrick’s Day history down, where do we go to party? On March 17 you will find that all bars are celebrating the holiday, but if you really want to get a genuine Irish feel you have to go to an Irish Pub. Many Irish Pubs go all out on St. Patrick Day, where you will find Irish bands, green beer, corned beef and cabbage, and a neverending supply of Guinness. Below are some cool Pubs that you can check out this St. Patrick’s Day:

The Frog & Toad – Fort Lauderdale
The George & Dragon – Fort Lauderdale
J. P Mulligans – Cooper City
The King’s Head Pub – Dania Beach
Maguire’s Hill 16 – Fort Lauderdale
Mulligan’s – Fort Lauderdale Beach
Shenanigans – Hollywood
Ye Olde Falcon Pub – Davie

*Drink smart, and have a designated driver!!!