Public Parking Opens to NSU Community
Library Parking Garage Opens up 653 Parking Spots
Tanya Parnes Staff Writer

NSU has recently expanded the number of parking spots available to students, staff and faculty in the Alvin Sherman Library parking garage. There are now 653 new spaces available on the public parking side for the NSU community’s use, in addition to the spots on the university side of the garage.

“We have been working with the county for more than a year to allow us to utilize the underutilized parking spaces,” said George Hanbury II, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at NSU. The garage itself has approximately 1,200 parking spaces. The university side of the parking garage is paid for through student tuition and is open to the entire NSU community. The county pays fifty percent of the debt incurred by the library as part of their agreement with NSU, and therefore charges one dollar per hour for parking in the public parking side of the garage. Hanbury has been working with the county to free up some of the parking spots that are not routinely used on the upper floors of the public parking side.

“The deal that we made with the county was that half of it would be for university faculty, students and staff, and they would access it with their card,” said Hanbury, referring to the original agreement NSU had made with Broward County. “The other half would be open to the general public to utilize, and the dollar an hour was required by the county to pay their share of the debt services for the parking garage.” Broward County agreed to lease half of the parking garage from NSU so that parking would be available to the public when they utilize the NSU campus. The money made from the public parking is collected by the county to cover their expenses.

Hanbury and the county have been discussing the possibility of freeing up some of the public parking for NSU’s use. Hanbury said, “The county agreed that we could lease from the ramp on the second floor up, and we agreed that we would pay them about 400,000 dollars a year so that our students, faculty and staff could have access to [those parking spaces].” Hanbury pointed out that this money had already been budgeted and therefore it will not affect the student tuition rates in any way.

Entertainment for Different Tastes: Mixed Martial Arts and Moscow International Circus Events
Jany Cabecas Staff Writer

NSU’s University Center brought together two very different entertainment groups this past weekend. On Oct. 6 and Oct. 7 the Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Championship and the Moscow International Circus performed for both the local and NSU community.

Members of the MMA community as well as the families of the fighters came to support their favorites. Famous guests were also present at the event, including Miami Heat basketball player Shaquille O’Neal, who took pictures with the audience members.

Steve Ronda, a Southwest Miami High School student, came to the UC to support his cousin, Danny Perez. The match between Perez (a former wrestler) and Will Mora was a three-round ground battle, during which Perez turned Mora upside down and slammed him into the mat. Perez won by unanimous decision.

After Perez won his fight, among much cheering, Ronda and his friends ran down to embrace him. “He was great out there. We’re always here to support him,” Ronda said.

Many audience members chanted the names of competitors and cheered or booed others. “It’s always exciting to come to these fights because people get all pumped up, up off their chairs, and even groan when they feel their champion’s pain,” spectator Amalia Otero said. “The violence gets to people; it’s not called Rage in a Cage for nothing.”

The Moscow International Circus the following day also brought excitement to the UC Arena. Families gathered together in long lines that were divided into several sections in order to buy tickets. “I think the University Center is a marvelous building,” Guillermo Badillo, grandfather of an NSU student, said. “I got these tickets from my granddaughter and I don’t regret the wait.” Featuring second- and third-generation circus performers from all over the world, the Circus wowed the audience with their motorcycle stunts, magic tricks and aerial acrobats.

NSU Hosts the Real-Life Captain Planet
Tanya Parnes Staff Writer

Erin Brockovich, distinguished legal speaker, is coming to NSU as part of the third annual Distinguished Speaker Series, which is hosted by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Brockovich helped build a large class-action lawsuit against Pacific Gas and Electric, while she worked as a file clerk in the law firm of Masry and Vittoze, which resulted in the largest legal settlement in this nation’s history.

“Every year, Farquhar College has a theme,” said Dr. Schulman, Director of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. “This year it is truth versus power.” According to Schulman, the theme is a unifying organizing principle that runs throughout the university every school year. NSU picks a broad theme so that each of the three divisions in Farquhar, which include Humanities, Math, Science and Technology, and Social and Behavioral Sciences, has the chance to select and host one of the five speakers for the lecture series.

Brockovich is the second of five speakers that NSU will host this year. She was chosen by Dr. Allan H. Schulman and a team of about half a dozen faculty members from that division. “The reason that Erin Brockovich is appropriate to this division is because one
Current Affairs

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

Monday
Distinguished Lecture Series: The H Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship will host the lecture series, featuring CEO of Career USA Marilyn J. Ouirian. The lecture will be held in the Ellen and Julian Knight Auditorium of the Carl DeSantis Building at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Ichsewit@nova.edu.

Sex, Drugs and Rock 'N Roll: Barry Gregory, Ph.D., will speak on these controversial topics in the HPD Morris Auditorium at 9:15 p.m. Shuttles will leave from in front of the University Center and the Commons Residence Hall from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. to provide transportation to the event. For more information, contact L. Hansock at 954-262-7092.

Tuesday
Japanese Culture: The Art of Edzo: Freya Horner, Docent at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, will speak about the elements of Japanese culture at 12:30 p.m. in room 119 of the NSU North Building of the University Park Plaza. For more information about the event, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

Tournament Tuesdays: Spelling Bee: Be prepared to start reading your dictionary and memorizing those hard-to-spell words! The tournament starts at 8 p.m. in the Flight Deck. For more information contact Chris Ramsdell in the Recplex at 954-262-7306.

Wednesday
Fall 2007 Career Fair: Come learn about employment with various companies including Bank Atlantic, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and Geico. The Fair will take place at 1 p.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building. For more information, contact the Office of Career Student Government Association Meetings: Come speak your mind about issues on campus. The meeting will take place in the Goodwin Building classroom at 4 p.m.

Thursday
Divali: Festival of Lights: The Indo-Caribe Entity will celebrate the Hindu Holiday (Festival of Lights) from 12 p.m.-1 p.m on the Quad. For more information, contact Nadim Bickram at Bickram@nova.edu.

Friday
Flight Deck Fridays: Come out for live music, free food and drink specials at the Flight Deck from 5-7 p.m. For more information call the Flight Deck at (954) 262-7260.

Current Affairs Calendar

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Parkng Continued from pg. 1

Hanbury told Broward County that NSU will be installing gates midway up the ramp on the second floor of the public parking side of the garage. These gates will require a card access only. The installation process will take approximately 60 days. Until then, the public parking can be accessed through the west parking lot of the building. The barricades that previously separated the public from the university side of the garage have been removed.

“Where we were having a problem was that everybody was trying to park in front of the law school, this building, or the psychology building; and parking was a real mess,” said Hanbury. He expressed the hope that some of the students utilizing the Carl DeSantis building will park in some of these 653 new spaces. This would open up the lots in front of the law school and the psychology building, making more spaces available for those who attend classes or work in those buildings. Hanbury thinks that this action will significantly reduce the parking problem.

Dr. Hanbury has been attempting to allow university access to the parking spaces in question 24 hours a day, but the county wouldn’t budge. Students can park in these areas until 6 o’clock, after which they are subject to the same dollar fee that the public pays for using those spaces. “I hope that after maybe a year or two years, which is the contract we have with

of the majors in this division is paralegal studies,” said Schulman. “Brockovich is a good example of how an individual can stand up to an organization.”

The university will be showing the film Erin Brockovich on Oct. 25 in the Mailman Auditorium prior to the lecture event. This showing is open to the NSU community and to the public. The lecture itself will be held on Nov. 1 in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center from 7-8:30 p.m. Entry is free to NSU community, as well as to the public, but only those with tickets will be guaranteed a seat. After 6:45 p.m. walk-ins will be welcome for as long as there is still available space.

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The Current, formerly known as The Knight, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in room 1105 of the Athletic and Student Activities (ASA) Building. The Current is NSU’s established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to The Current.

Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributors is subject to review and approval by the editors. The Current and its contributors shall not publish unsigned letters except under special circumstances at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. The Current reserves the right to edit, publish, or deny submitted works as it sees fit. The Current shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

The Current is distributed to the non-student population by NSU’s Office of Student Affairs, Campus Life at 1-866-495-8060.

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“We could have gone anywhere. We chose Florida International University.”
The Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra Returns to NSU
Jany Cabezas Staff Writer

The Ars Flores Symphony returns to the Miniaci Theatre this year with Piano Virtuoso Jereny Denk. On Oct. 20, the symphony will perform at 7:30 p.m., showcasing the talent of young high school students and college students who excel in their playing and are given the opportunity to perform with mentors and talented musicians such as Denk.

Denk has played in Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, among other venues. He has been recognized by The New York Times as well as The New Yorker and has been featured on NPR’s Performance Today. The Ars Flores Symphony’s Opening Concert is open to the NSU community, as well as the public. Students and faculty can receive discounted tickets. For more information contact the Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra at 954-462-0222.

Jany Cabezas
Nov. 6, 2007

At intermission, special guests SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer arrived from behind the curtains, causing the children to squeal with joy. “My kids always watch them on TV,” one mother said. “They immediately ran towards the stage to get their pictures taken with them.” As she stood watching her children stand in line to get their pictures taken with the cartoon characters, she continued, “Although they charge you quite a bit for everything, it really was worth it. They loved the spinning acrobats the most; I could see it. I mean, it’s more than just entertainment and it sure gets them out of the house!”

Kristine Belizaire
Nov. 6, 2007

Do Psychopaths Have Souls?

Members of the NSU community gathered on Oct. 2 to listen to Dr. Thomas Fagan, associate professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, discuss “The Soul of a Psychopath” in the second installment of the Faculty Lecture Series.

Fagan began the lecture by giving the different definitions of a psychopath. According to the dictionary, the term psychopath describes a person with an antisocial personality disorder. Fagan then went on to give the definition used by Robert Hare, Ph.D., who describes a psychopath as a predator who uses charm, manipulation, and intimidation to satisfy their own needs.

According to Fagan, a lack of remorse, guilt and empathy are very common characteristics of a psychopath. The lack of these specific feelings enables the psychopath to commit violent acts, such as rape or abuse. Psychopaths are responsible for most of our day-to-day crime, making up about seventeen percent of all incarcerated criminals.

The causes of psychopathic behavior are both biological and environmental. Fagan gave the example of Phineas Gage, a railroad worker who was involved in an accident which severed a connection in the frontal area of his skull, to illustrate biologically induced psychosis. Although he was a friendly man prior to the accident, Gage became violent and verbally abusive. In addition, Fagan mentioned research which suggests that children who had parents with criminal tendencies have the potential to become criminals themselves.

Fagan showed a videotape of an interview with a psychopath who was in prison for life after committing three murders. During the interview, the psychopath mentioned drinking alcohol at the age of 12, which led to drug abuse and gun use. While in prison, this criminal had been transferred from unit to unit because he was thought to be a threat to prison staff.

Fagan ended the lecture with the case of a boy who had robbed his foster parents after they had raised him lovingly for five years. When the boy was asked why he stole from his parents, he said that he knew where to find what he wanted in the house. Commenting on the psychopathic mentality, Fagan said, “There is no loyalty, love or anything else.”

Junior psychology major, Lydia Malcolm, was pleased with the event. “It was an insightful lecture,” she said. “It gave a clear picture of the difference between an average criminal and a psychopathic criminal.”

Psy•cho•path | sīk·∂pä | noun
a person suffering from chronic mental disorder with abnormal or violent social behavior.

Jany Cabezas
Nov. 6, 2007

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NSUSports

The 11th ranked NSU women's soccer team (7-21-3 SSC) suffered a heated defeat against the 5th ranked Tampa Spartans (9-1-1, 3-0 SSC) in an intense battle for SSC supremacy this past week.

The first half saw both teams remain scoreless; however, it was not in short supply of thrilling action. In its closing stages, sophomore goal keeper, Sarah Glass, was red-carded for handling the ball outside the 18-yard box as she was forced to act upon Tampa's forward, Marissa Mohammed, who had made her way through the NSU defense. This forced NSU's freshman midfielder, Alyssa Quevedo, to take Glass' place in goal because sophomore first string keeper, Megan Kim, was out with a knee injury.

Even with a man down, NSU was able to strike first, courtesy of an inspired solo goal from freshman, Lauren Prow, as she went through the Spartan defense to punch the ball into Tampa's net. Unfortunately, the Shark lead would be short lived as Mohammed found herself unmarked at the top of the 18-yard box, allowing Tampa to score. In the 73rd minute UT scored the game-winning goal in favor of the Spartans. Despite the Sharks' vicious attack in the game's closing stages led by junior, Shurell Burton's four shots at the goal, NSU came up short in a 2 – 1 nail biter.

The NSU men's and women's golf teams experienced a successful weekend of play while on the course.

The final round of the Flagler Fall Slam was cancelled due to heavy rainfall. Despite the cancellation, the women's team was able to capitalize in day one of the tournament, taking home a third place slot.

Freshman, Taylor Collins, were not far behind. They shot 82 and 83 respectively. "Although the overall scores didn’t truly reflect how good our team really is, we are still excited to have won our first tournament of the season," said Garcia-Aust. "With each win, we are given more and more motivation to practice even harder. We are now looking forward more ever to the next time we get the opportunity to compete."

Garcia-Aust claims that with the addition of four hardworking and talented freshman to their already strong roster, this win is just the first of many to the 2007-2008 season for the Sharks.

To boost this exciting achievement for the women's team, the men's team were able to bring home a victory while competing in the Aflac/Cougar Invitational as well, shooting a team overall of 7-under par.

Women's Volleyball
Climbing Back to the Top
Tim Coenraad Staff Writer

During a week full of ups and downs for the NSU volleyball team (17-6; 6-2 SSC), the Sharks' eleven-game winning streak came to an end at the hand of the #1 team in the nation, the Tampa Spartans (17-1, 6-0 SSC). Later in the week the Sharks suffered a second defeat to Eckerd's Tritons (15-5; 5-3 SSC). The women did not let the losses get to them however, as they worked hard to get back on track. The team accomplished a win against Palm Beach Atlantic (12-12) last Tuesday night.

The defending Spartan National Champions erased the winning streak put together by the NSU Sharks with a score of three sets to none. Tampa maintained control of the first game as the Spartans converted on eighty-two percent of side out points and controlled NSU's attack, forcing them to a hit percentage of .028 in a 30-15 first game. The Sharks showed poise upon losing game two, refusing to give up. NSU stepped up their game in a notch in third, forcing the Spartans to truly earn the win, 30-25. In fighting efforts, sophomore, Ashley Sluman and junior, Christina Chubb, led the Shark attack with eight kills a piece.

In game two of the week the Sharks matched up against Eckerd's Tritons. With ending scores of 30-24, 30-21 and 30-27, the team unfortunately dropped their 2nd SSC game of the season. Nonetheless, Chubb performed well with twelve kills on a .455 hitting percentage. Junior, Melinda Gorman registered 10 kills for the Sharks, along with five blocks to stamp her name on a well-played defensive game. The Tritons showed their dominance on paper despite Shark efforts, masses eight more kills, two more assists, and twelve more digs for the match.

Regardless of the week's prior struggles, NSU turned everything around and managed to get their 2007 winning season back on track upon defeating Palm Beach Atlantic in a five set match, 30-24, 30-26, 28-30, 21-30 and 15-8. The Sharks seemed comfortable in the first two games, displaying an outward appearance of pure confidence. Upon the Sharks' dominance in the first game of the match, PBA fought back in the second and third by limiting the Sharks' attack. Juniors, Emily Carl and Melinda Gorman, sealed the match for the Sharks in games 3 and 4, both tallying up four more kills each in the last game while holding PBA to zero in the fifth and deciding match. Gorman and Carl led the team in kills with 20 and 19, while junior setter, Vaila Petrova, recorded a commendable 20 assists and 18 digs. Freshman libero, Kathleen Yony, registered a recorded career high of 22 digs.

Women's Soccer Falls to #5 Tampa
Tim Coenraad Staff Writer

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NSU Finishes 3rd at FLRunners.com Invitational
Ekander Abdalla named SSC Male Runner of the Week for the 3rd time
Nelly Mesa Sports Editor

The men's and women's cross country teams finished up in the third place slot while competing in Tinasville, Florida, at the FLRunners.com Invitational.

The Sharks' top female runner for the weekend was sophomore, Tara Haddock, who crossed the line in 14th (20:08.52). Junior, Bethany Brenchus, came in at 16th (20:25.41) and senior, Stetl Cevallos, came in close behind at 17th (20:34.25).

Top male finishers were ju- nior, Ekander Abdalla, at 6th (27:18.98); and sophomore, Tim Coenraad, at 8th course. With a time of (28:15.80) freshman, Joe Pena, came in at 22nd place.

NSU's men's and women's teams both took first of all div- ision universities and colleges competing in the race.

NSU Team Rankings
Nelly Mesa Sports Editor

NSU's men's and women's sports are topping the charts this 2007 season. Not only are the Sharks dominating the SSC, but they are making their mark in the regional and national polls as well.

While men's golf is holding steady in the #1 position within the SSC, they have crept up to 2nd in the region and 3rd in the nation. The women's golf team is trailing close behind at 3rd in the SSC, as well as 5th in the region and nation.

Men's and women's cross country are commanding recognition in the region as the women's team maintains a 9th place ranking, while the men uphold the 7th place position.

Sharks volleyball is making history as they are dominating the SSC thus far in the season with an overall record of 17-6; 6-2 SSC, placing them at 2nd in the conference.

With a record of 9-1-1; 3-1-1 SSC, men's soccer is currently placed 1st in both the SSC and the region, while establishing a name for them in the nation at a 17th place rank.

Women's soccer (7-2; 3-1 SSC) are 2nd in the SSC within the region as well as preserving the 10th place slot in the nation.

NSU is going strong and doing better than ever. Continue to show your support at all home events!
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Halloween is almost here and if you haven’t started thinking about decorating and costumes for the holiday, you should. Even if you don’t officially embrace the celebrations, participating in Halloween is part of the American culture. So, if you want to participate, scare the sadness out of someone. There are easy everyday things that you can use to create your own unique decorations. Masks are an important aspect of Halloween and there are fun, cost-effective ways to make your own mask. Here are instructions to make a mask with paper mache.

Items needed for making your mask are:
- Newspaper
- Disposable bowl
- Disposable cup
- Plastic wrap
- Glue
- Balloons
- Tin Foil

Cover the work surface well. Set down newspaper first and then wax paper or plastic wrap on top of the newspaper. This is a very messy project!

Decide on the size and shape of mask or head and choose an appropriately sized balloon. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed. Find a bowl or cup your balloon can sit up the balloon and tie it closed. Find appropriately sized balloon. Blow of mask or head and choose an appropriate sized balloon. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed. Find a bowl or cup your balloon can sit up the balloon and tie it closed. Find a large disposable bowl to prepare the paper mache paste; use a disposable bowl. Now you are ready to start with the paper mache.

Dip the newspaper strips into the glue and spread them onto the balloon. Completely cover the balloon, except for the area where it is sitting in the cup. Set aside and let this first layer dry.

Once the first layer is completely dry, use various supplies to make the facial features on your balloon such as a nose, ears, thick eye brows, lips, etc. Use cardboard, masking tape, foil, or other items. Use masking tape to hold everything in place.

Add at least two more layers of paper mache to the balloon. Allow each layer to dry completely before putting on the next layer. Once it is dry, pop the balloon and remove it through the opening left at the bottom. You can now paint your mask as desired. You can add hair using yarn, thin scraps of material, or anything else you desire. Halloween Tips Continued on pg. 10

Additional reading:
- Balloons
- Glue
- Plastic wrap
- Disposable cup
- Disposable bowl
- Tin Foil

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Racquel Fagon Variety Editor

Halloween Tips

Halloween is almost here and if you haven’t started thinking about decorating and costumes for the holiday, you should. Even if you don’t officially embrace the celebrations, participating in Halloween is part of the American culture. So, if you want to participate, scare the sadness out of someone. There are easy everyday things that you can use to create your own unique decorations. Masks are an important aspect of Halloween and there are fun, cost-effective ways to make your own mask. Here are instructions to make a mask with paper mache.

Items needed for making your mask are:
- Newspaper
- Disposable bowl
- Disposable cup
- Plastic wrap
- Glue
- Balloons
- Tin Foil

Cover the work surface well. Set down newspaper first and then wax paper or plastic wrap on top of the newspaper. This is a very messy project!

Decide on the size and shape of mask or head and choose an appropriately sized balloon. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed. Find a bowl or cup your balloon can sit up while you work on it. Completely cover the cup or bowl with plastic wrap so the paper mache does not stick to it. Also, cover the table or work surface under the cup with the plastic wrap. Set the balloon in the cup or bowl and set it aside.

Tear several newspaper pages into strips. Strips about 1 inch wide and about 6-8 inches long work best. Set them aside.

Use a large disposable bowl to prepare the paper mache paste; use a disposable bowl. Now you are ready to start with the paper mache.

Dip the newspaper strips into the glue and spread them onto the balloon. Completely cover the balloon, except for the area where it is sitting in the cup. Set aside and let this first layer dry.

Once the first layer is completely dry, use various supplies to make the facial features on your balloon such as a nose, ears, thick eye brows, lips, etc. Use cardboard, masking tape, foil, or other items. Use masking tape to hold everything in place.

Add at least two more layers of paper mache to the balloon. Allow each layer to dry completely before putting on the next layer. Once it is dry, pop the balloon and remove it through the opening left at the bottom. You can now paint your mask as desired. You can add hair using yarn, thin scraps of material, or anything else you desire.

Halloween Tips Continued on pg. 10

Next

Crichton’s novel warns against the danger of genetics
Alexandra Paroulek Freelance Writer

Michael Crichton yet again introduces his readers to an intense new perspective of the upcoming future. In Next, his latest novel, Crichton blends the present knowledge of genetics with a future of practical applications of genetics in surprising twists, such as talking monkeys. In the book, a talking ape is discovered in the jungles of Borneo. He speaks Dutch and enjoys cursing at the tourists. It is true that the genes of humans and chimpanzees only differ by a very small percentage. However, could combining the DNA of both species, or an unforeseen mutation, result in another species having a voice? That is just one possibility of several introduced in Next.

One of the highlights of Next is a court case involving a leukemia patient. In this case, Crichton covers the legal consequences of genetic reform. The patient accuses UCLA of using his discarded tissue without his permission, in order to grow and patent a cell line that may be the link to a cure. The court sided with the university, informing the patient that once his cells were out of his body, he had no legal rights to them.

The brother of a bioengineer picks up a case of what is a toxic gas used on mice, and inhales it. He was a hardcore drug addict, but soon he becomes clean-cut and is out looking for a job. Upon seeing these results, the bioengineer comes to believe that this gas is a miracle drug which will turn anyone with a serious addiction around. The side effects, however, prove that the gas is just too good to be true. His brother begins to develop wrinkles and age spots, literally aging from his thirties to his eighties or nineties, and inevitably dying. There was no known cure for this gas, as it was only experimented on mice and never meant for human use.

Crichton’s gripping futuristic thriller explores all the questions and
Halloween Wordfind
Racquel Fagon Variety Editor


Halloween Tips Continued from pg. 9
To create a more realistic shaped face, make as above except use a double layer of tin foil instead of a balloon. Use your face as a mold. Have someone help you gently press the tin foil to your face to get a nice face mold. Wad up newspaper and put it inside the curved section of the foil mold and lay it on your work surface. While applying the first layer of newspaper and paste, make sure not to press on your mold too hard or it will lose its shape.

Next Continued from pg. 9
possibilities that are the least likely to pop up in anyone’s mind at the present, and acts as a forewarning of the possibilities surrounding the genetics field. In Next, Crichton warns his readers of the lack of thought about the long-term consequences of meddling with genetics. Crichton has produced a highly imaginative and enjoyable novel which is at the same time immensely practical.

Copies of Next by Michael Crichton are available in the Alvin Sherman Library.
So NSU, how was midterm week? Some students have eight-week courses, and for them, it was finals week as well. It should probably be called “big important test week.” When I wasn’t occupied with studying, I wondered what this week means to other students at NSU.

NSU has a largely diverse student body, and each of them tests differently. For example, as an English major, most of my exams are essay based. This gives me a bit of wiggle room in terms of partial credit. However, that usually makes tests worth less and the majority of my grade comes from essay assignments turned in throughout the course. Oftentimes, my grade is more or less determined before I even see the final exam.

For other majors, things can be a little different. Students in the sciences may see most of their grade come from a final exam or from a log of lab procedures, business majors may get most of their grade points from a final presentation, and for graduate students, it all comes down to the daunting thesis.

In most cases, the results of one assignment can make or break your grade for the entire class. We might gripe a bit as we quietly and diligently prepare for our exams, but we don’t really consider whether they are fair or not. Granted, they usually come at the end of the course, and you are (or should be) prepared for your exams. NSU has even recently instituted allotted weeks before final exams in which no classes are held, called reading weeks, in order to give students more exam study time. But there is still perhaps too much depending on just one assignment.

Do you think we should have more chances to affect our grades, or do you like things the way they are? Either way, study hard, NSU. That degree doesn’t earn itself.

As a student at Nova, I was saddened at the recent news of the death of a former Nova janitor, Elirose Pierre-Louis. She emigrated to the U.S. from Haiti with dreams of making a better life for herself and her children, like so many others do. One year ago, many Nova janitors lost their jobs while fighting to form a union. Elirose was Haitian, poor and unable to carry health insurance for herself or her children. I feel that if she had been able to access proper health care, she might have been aware of the medical problems that led to the loss of her life.

After losing her job at Nova, Elirose took a job picking beans in Virginia. She died one week later. Although it has been a difficult battle for former Nova janitors to survive since losing their jobs, Nova can still make a difference. There are approximately 30 former Nova janitors who are still unemployed and lacking medical insurance. If Nova would reconsider their positions and allow medical coverage, other lives may be saved.

A fund has been set up in Elirose’s name to help her family cover the costs of services in this most difficult time. If anyone is interested in helping her family please make donations payable to the “Ellirose Memorial Fund” and send to:

SEIU Local 11
Attn: Kathy Bird
333 W 41st Street, 9th floor
Miami Beach, FL 33140

- Sherry Langstaff

Letter to the Editor:
Sherry Langstaff NSU Student

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