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Students’ FRAG Assistance in Jeopardy

ALEXIS IRIAS
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 11, SGA President Philip Ortiz will meet with legislators, who last year reduced the Florida Resident Access Grant from $3,000 to $2,637, to urge them to increase next year's budget.

NSU has 2,662 undergraduates who received the FRAG in 2007, which was created in 1979 to provide tuition assistance to students who choose to attend a private university such as NSU over a public university. Ortiz and other FRAG supporters fear that additional reductions could jeopardize students’ ability to attend the school.

"By reducing the aid," said Stefania Iglesias, a senior economics major, "they are reducing a person’s standard of living because it’s less money we have and more money we need to come up with for school."

Ortiz is determined to raise awareness among students and encourage them to write letters to Governor Charlie Crist expressing how important it is to increase the FRAG budget.

Take Back the Night

United For Change
Nova Southeastern University
Unity Week 2009

Tiffany Simocini
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 21, Nova Southeastern University held its eighth annual "Take Back the Night" event on the ASA Patio. As part of NSU’s Unity Week, this event successfully gathered members of the NSU community to help speak up against domestic violence and become part of the solution.

"Take Back the Night" is a nationwide event that began in 1877 when women protested the violence they experienced in the nighttime streets of London, England. NSU decided to host its very own version of this event, including the traditional candlelight vigil, empowerment march and various survivor testimonials.

The evening was dedicated to raising awareness and helping men and women confront a myriad of social ills, including rape, sexual violence, domestic violence, violence against children and violence against women. The unifying theme is that all humans have a right to feel safe from violence and, furthermore, the right to speak out against it.

Dr. Gay Holiday, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, began the evening by giving the audience a bit of background information on rape, sexual assault, domestic violence and how it affects the NSU community.

Ethan Blick, a sophomore marketing major commented, "This event is definitely an eye-opener for the entire student body. I was shocked by many of the things I learned and am very thankful to be given the opportunity to hear about it."

Included in this event was "The Clothesline Project." This is a visual display of shirts with graphic messages and illustrations that have been designed by women and survivors of violence. These shirts were hung throughout the tent and gave the students a more vivid sense of what the event was all about.

"The Clothesline Project" is just one of the many ways to give every woman a voice and place to be heard. "I feel that the t-shirt idea was great! As I sat down and read the shirts, I was instantly sucked into the event and had a greater sense of what was really going on," said Brittany Killiany, a sophomore nursing major.

The shirts included phrases, such as "I'm a Survivor of Rape" and "Children Need Love Not Sex." This display will be moved to The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center to be displayed from Jan. 22 through Jan. 29.

The next topic of discussion was the "Shoe Drive." This represents the statewide statistics of the victims of domestic violence.
Being Free to Be Heard

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The two-time Emmy winning Public Service Announcement, "Free to Be Heard," held auditions at NSU for the first time this past Jan. 16 in the Performing Arts Center located in the University Center. Many individuals came to audition and be a part of the announcements that will air on WSFL-TV, a Miami-FT. Lauderdale local station, throughout February.

Each person had to prepare a 20-second speech about an African American who inspired them. They had to use the spoken word to express their feelings and opinions about their chosen person and his or her achievements.

Participants worked hard and researched their selected person to know them better, and some had never actually heard of their choice before. "I chose Dr. Carter G. Wilson, who was the founder of Negro History Week, but I had never heard of him before so I chose him to let others who, like me, did not know who he was, know of his accomplishments," said Melissa Martinez, a criminal justice major at Broward College.

Although some were nervous about the prospect of being on television, others managed to remain calm and were confident in their performances. "You need to be confident or you won't get ahead. Confidence comes from having a message and something to say, and I do. So I'm not nervous at all," said Alexis Caputo, a freelance performer who at the moment had not chosen her topic.

The event was organized by the SPL/CW channel, or WSFL-TV, which has been doing public service announcements specifically for Black History Month for three years. The producers looked for people who spoke up, were original, heartfelt and those who had passion and expressed it throughout their audition.

Brittany Nicole Gooden, a theater major attended the auditions as part of a vocal articulation assignment. "This is so dear to my heart. There are a lot of emotional and spiritual connections to African-American roots. It is based on the spoken word which is so big in our community and it hits a nerve because these are people's own reflections on the negative and positive of our history."

If chosen, their 20-second features will air every week during Black History Month, so keep a look out for these inspiring stories, but right now you may log on to www.nsucurrent.com and see some of their speeches before they even air.
Wikipedia Doesn’t Cut It: NSU Pharmacy Study Gets National Recognition

NAIDA ALCME
STAFF WRITER

Research initiated by NSU pharmacy professor, Dr. Kevin Clauson, is getting national recognition for its significant findings. His study, which assessed the accuracy of drug information given on the user-edited online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, found that although it contained accurate information, critical drug data, such as drug side-effects or risks associated with mixing medications, were omitted from the information given on the site.

Published in the Annals of Pharmacotherapy in December 2008, the study underwent expedited publication and has also gotten coverage on online news resources such as MSNBC, Fox News, Yahoo! 7 News and American Medical News online.

Clauson, coordinator of the study, as well as the lead author in the published article, undertook this study after observing that more health care professionals and students were referencing Wikipedia in their research and many patients were also consulting Wikipedia to get their personal healthcare information.

Diana Padilla, a special events planner who works in the LA. Department at NSU, uses Wikipedia often. On one specific occasion, Padilla and a friend used Wikipedia to discover the source of a random rash they spotted on her friend’s skin. Unsatisfied with the vague results, Padilla's friend consulted a doctor.

Given that it is common for consumers to look to various Internet sites for their medical information, Clausen and his colleagues decided to investigate the scope, completeness and accuracy of drug information in Wikipedia by comparing it with that of the Medscape Drug Reference database.

To do this, Clauson chose three other experts in the field to help. They included the following: Dr. Hyla Pajes, a family faculty member at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom and an expert on Web 2.0 and Wikipedia and Dr. Jean Dzenowagis, a senior scientist at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and expert on e-health.

The team’s research pointed out that the biggest problem with Wikipedia has to do with the fact that information can be added, edited and removed without explanation and without the author revealing his or her identity. According to a separate study done by Dr. Peter Rost, former vice president of Pfizer, found that drug companies were caught deleting negative information on user-edited sites, including Wikipedia.

This is of particular importance to members of the NSU community who may have fallen victim to relying on such incomplete health information either for research papers or for personal health consultation. “The silent danger of Wikipedia is that having missing information could be as dangerous as factual errors,” said Clauson in an American Medical News article written in December 2008.

Clauson noted that pain medications were at the top of the list. One example was an entry on Arthrotec in which the Wikipedia entry omitted a warning that the drug could cause miscarriages. Similarly, an over-the-counter supplement such as St. John’s Wort, can cause severe health problems if used with the HIV drug Prezista which is critical information not found in the Wikipedia entry.

“While it can be an easy first step in finding drug information, neither patients nor healthcare professionals should consider Wikipedia as a final or authoritative source.”

- Dr. Kevin Clauson

former NSU pharmacy student who has presented and published on clinical decision support tools and drug information question construction, Dr. Maged Boulos, a faculty member at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom and an expert on Web 2.0 and Wikipedia and Dr. Joan Dzenowagis, a senior scientist at the NSU community.

According to a study done by Clauson, coordinator of the study, 84% of his students were referencing Wikipedia in their research and many patients were also consulting Wikipedia to get their personal healthcare information.

Clauson, coordinator of the study, as well as the lead author in the published article, undertook this study after observing that more health care professionals and students were referencing Wikipedia in their research and many patients were also consulting Wikipedia to get their personal healthcare information.

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

NSU Pharmacy Study Gets National Recognition
sexual assault and rape. Each pair of shoes was donated by the NSU community and was used as a visual representation of those individuals who were murdered due to domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or rape. The shoes collected and donated will then go to a local charity.

Many women who are affected by rape or domestic violence do not speak out. They are usually afraid, vulnerable and simply do not know what to say or whom to say it to. Dr. Douglas Flemons, Director of the Student Counseling Center at NSU and five other members stood nearby to support those in need of help. Many women were invited to the stage to share their experiences and tragedies. This invitation to speak out was a way for each individual to reach out to themselves as well as others, and help the many people who may keep these incidences a secret find a way to reach out to get the help and find the safety that they need.

Freshman Alex Kowalski said, “This was my favorite part of the event. We got to hear real [live] stories of people who endured abuse. This really made me realize how common sexual abuse is and how I should be aware and help raise awareness as well.”

After various speakers spoke about their stories, everyone at the event stood up for the cause and joined Elaina Persinger then walked around the lake with a candle to show respect for those who may have been injured or killed due to these domestic acts of violence as well as help bring awareness to issues that could possibly be prevented.

For more information on the history of this event, please visit http://takebackthenight.org/history.html.

Professor Christine Jackson Explores Edgar Allan Poe’s Influence of the Portrayal of Death in Pop Culture

KRISTINE BELIZAIRE
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

Members of the NSU community gathered in Room 240 of the Parker Building for a lecture titled “Friends and Murderers: Edgar Allan Poe’s Influence on Death as Depicted in American Media,” featuring Christine Jackson, Ph.D., professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities. Jackson announced that in the December 2008 issue of U.S. News and World Report, investigating the world of Edgar Allan Poe was listed as one of the 50 ways to improve your life. According to Jackson, this shows that while it has been 200 years since Poe has lived, his reputation is still pervasive in today’s society. Jackson went on to say that Poe was the first poet to develop many sub-genres, including the detective story through the creation of C. Auguste Dupin, an eccentric genius who could solve unusual crimes who first appeared in “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.” Dupin held the characteristics that many famous detectives in the media hold now, such as having a sidekick, investigating with a full perspective, using a street informant and fighting with the police. Jackson gave the example of detectives Perry Mason, and more recently Monk.

In his work titled “The Gold Bug,” Poe was the first to develop the story of detection involving code, cryptography and search for wealth. He also make us to the limit of language and its strengths and weaknesses. “What is the limit of language in helping us understand messages?” said Jackson. Poe’s quest to invoice this question later influenced many political thrillers, such as the “The House of the Iguana.”

Extemporization opportunities for interested NSU students. The event will be preceded by a reception at 5 p.m. The event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Room 2053 of the Alvin Sherman Library. For more information and to RSVP, contact Rita Silverman at rtsi@nova.edu.

Then attend this event that will provide you with information about the necessary steps that you can take towards your career path while at NSU. The workshop will take place from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Alvin Sherman Library.

Della Ventura’s Restaurant and Pizzeria

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Events Calendar
January 27 - February 2

Tuesday, Jan. 27
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Start Planning Your Career Today - The Four Year Career Plan: Interesting in planning a career? Not sure where to start?

Monday, Jan. 30
Residue: A Dance Poem: The Division of Performing and Visual Arts of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences will show “Residue: A Dance Poem,” which looks at the effects of sudden tragedy and examines the times that make living worthwhile. The performance will be shown on January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. and February, Monday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Unity Week 2009 Comes to an End

Tiffany Simoncini  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 23, the NSU Multicultural Affairs Programming Committee hosted various events to celebrate the end of Unity Week 2009. These events included the Cultural Fashion Show, Wall of Hate, Dabke Line Dance and Unity Jam.

The kick-off event to the Unity Week 2009 closing ceremonies was the Cultural Fashion Show, held in the Library Quad. Tamara Scovil, Jose Jaques, Christi James and Sakayna Dooreman, members of Multicultural Affairs, coordinated this event in order to promote unity between different cultures in a fun and exciting way. "Basically we wanted to promote different cultural lifestyles, and I think it shows that we were successful in doing just that," said Jose Jaques, a freshman biology major.

Beginning at 6 p.m., the crowd indulged in various foods, music and fashion from different regions, including the following: Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, the Caribbean and Middle East. The atmosphere was great and refreshments were provided throughout the event in order to promote unity between different cultures in a fun and exciting way.

The Wall of Hate Project is a dramatic and physical representation of the historical oppression that has occurred throughout our society. During the week of Jan. 12, NSU students, faculty and staff were given the opportunity to paint cinder blocks with words and slogans that have been a symbol of hate and oppression. The wall was displayed throughout Unity Week. The crowd watched as the 10-foot-long wall filled with profanity was knocked down to symbolize an end to hatred and break the barrier that exists amongst individuals.

Following the Wall of Hate Project was the Dabke Line Dance. This event was planned in hopes of getting NSU into the Guinness Book of World Records for World's Longest Dance Line. Coordinators attempted to get 3,000 people to do this dance for six minutes. With only four steps involved, the entire crowd joined hands and began to learn this traditional Mediterranean chain dance. Although they did not get the sufficient amount of people to break the world record, it was a major success in the unification of different cultures.

The evening ended with the Unity Jam. Lambda Theta Phi NSU Multicultural Affair Programming Committee hosted this event to officially end Unity Week 2009. Including cultural food and fashion, members of NSU dined and ate while experiencing many different lifestyles. "This was the perfect end to Unity Week. First the fashion show then all the cool dancing, now a time to just hang out - I couldn't have done it better myself," said Ethan Black, a freshman marketing major.

Alexis Irias  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 21, Nova Southeastern University held its annual Hunger Banquet in the University Center Pit as a highlight of Unity Week; a week that was designed to celebrate diversity, create peace and foster community support.

The Hunger Banquet served as a hands-on illustration of the unequal distribution of food in the world. Students gathered to make sandwiches that were donated to the Cooperative Feeding Program. "The Hunger Banquet is a great way to raise awareness and make a difference," said Tina Rando, a freshman biology major.

After making sandwiches, each student received a card identifying them as a First, Second or Third World citizen. First World citizens ate at tables with tablecloths and are served a full-course meal by waiters; Second World citizens sat at a bare table and ate rice, beans and salad; Third World citizens sat on the bare floor and shared two bowls of rice.

Sharen El-Tourky, chairman of the Hunger Coalition, introduced the guest speaker from the Cooperative Feeding Program, Belle Jackson. Jackson expressed the hunger issues in the world and the positive impact students can make by getting involved.

"We did this event to raise awareness on hunger locally and globally," said El-Tourky. "We want to encourage NSU students to do something about it."

The view from a riverboat on the Mississippi River in New Orleans, Louisiana.
Cheerleading Team Makes it to the National Championship Finals

TIM COENRAAD  STAFF WRITER

NSU's cheerleaders traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., for the weekend of Jan. 16 through the 18 to compete in the College Cheerleading National Championship. The Sharks delivered their greatest performance in program history, sending themselves into finals for the first time ever and grabbing seventh place amongst 15 nation-wide competition.

Previous to the Sharks' record marking accomplishments, on Jan. 15, NSU put on a performance in the University Center to practice their national's routine in front of family and friends.

"A lot of people showed up to watch us this year; some even came because they had heard about us from the men's basketball game the night before and wanted to come check us out," stated Monica Moya, a sophomore co-captain. "It was a great feeling and the routine went great."

"The friends and family performance went really well. One stunt fell each time we performed it that night but the crowd was there to pump us up and keep up going strong," stated senior Amanda Litt. "This performance helped us to get rid of some of the kinks and jitters before we went off to nationals."

The Sharks were more than happy with their performance at the national competition, but were even more proud that they had accomplished their biggest goal of all which was getting the crowd involved.

When referring to their half-time performance at the men's basketball game on Jan. 17, Moya stated, "The whole year we cheer and try to get the crowd involved, but there has never been a connection like there was this night before. With their support, we were able to hit our routine better than we have all season. I can only hope that our relationship continues to grow with the crowd throughout the season."

Sports Corner: Men's & Women's Basketball Exclusive

1) I am a fourth-year senior on the men's basketball team. You will see me on the court wearing the No. 1 on my jersey. I am majoring in business administration and I love music.
2) I am a freshman on the men's basketball team wearing the No. 24 on the women's basketball team. I am a 5-foot-6-inch freshman wearing the No. 24 on the women's basketball team. I think my best assets to the Sharks are my passion and dedication to the game.

Across:
5. The Sharks were more than happy with their performance at the national competition, but were even more proud that they had accomplished their biggest goal of all which was getting the crowd involved.

Up/Down:
1) I am a 5-foot-6-inch senior on the men's basketball team. You will see me on the court wearing the No. 1 on my jersey. I am majoring in business administration and I love music.
2) I am a 5-foot-6-inch senior on the men's basketball team. You will see me on the court wearing the No. 1 on my jersey. I am majoring in business administration and I love music.

Answers to Cheerleaders Exclusive

Down: 1. Monica Moya

A business degree from NSU. Rays of hope in an economic storm.

From Wall Street to housing to unemployment to recession, these are extraordinary times. But there's still one business decision that can lead to brighter days ahead. A business degree from the Huiizenga School at Nova Southeastern University. NSU professors are real-world corporate leaders from companies like GE and Citicorp. They know what it takes to survive and succeed in today's challenging business climate. And with day, evening, weekend and online classes, you can earn your business degree on your terms. So don't miss our open house. Come learn what it takes to really shine.

BUSINESS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
• Learn about our graduate and undergraduate programs.
• Speak with academic and financial aid advisors.
• Receive on-the-spot admissions help.
• Application fee is waived for those who attend.

Wednesday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m.
Carl DeSantis Building
R.S.V.P. 954-262-5026 or nova.edu/business
Inside the Locker Room:  Dominic Ross Allsop

ALEX GYNES
STAFF WRITER

Nova Southeastern University is happy to welcome back sophomore Dominic Ross Allsop, also known as Ross to the team, to be one of the Sharks' most successful seasons in program's history.

This talented center was born in Chertsey, U.K., and raised in Sydney, Australia, by his parents Derek and Fiona Allsop along with his older sister Natasha. Ross sees himself as a dominating 6-11 inches, thus far.

Ross stands tallest amongst his teammates at a dominating 6-11 inches, 250 pounds and has proven himself to be a true asset to the Sharks this season as he has started in nearly every game thus far.

"I believe my best asset to the team is my height," states Ross. "It's intimidating."

Fun-facts about Allsop

If you were stranded on an island, what are three things you would want to have with you?

- A mobile phone and a TV (both with signal) and a bed.

- What is your greatest childhood memory?

- Moving to Australia when I was 7 years old, I was born in England.

Women's Basketball

TIM COENRAAD
STAFF WRITER

The NSU women's basketball team (6-10; 2-4 SSC) split their last two conference match-ups as they downed the No. 8 nationally ranked Rollins College Sharks on Jan. 17, but fell short to Florida Tech's Panthers on Jan. 21.

While facing the Sharks, both teams encountered a low scoring affair while shooting below 33 percent from the field. However, the Sharks were able to build on their six point halftime lead, allowing them to take the match 53-45 and mark their second straight win against a nationally ranked opponent. The Tars worked themselves back into the game and took the lead 42-41 with 5:09 left in the second half.

NSU was able to quickly take control back as they went on a pivotal 12-3 run to finish the game with senior LaShawnta Edwards (23) coming through in the clutch scoring seven of the Sharks last 12 points. Junior Stephanie Sarosi (44) led the Sharks with 16 points and a staggering 17 rebounds, followed by Edwards with 14 points and sophomore Albie Tepe (3) contributed nine points to go alongside six assists.

NSU worked hard through the next few days of practice in preparation for facing-off against yet another Sunshine State Conference rival, the Panthers of Florida Tech. The Sharks fought hard the entire match, but sadly were unable to find the range offensively as they shot just 33 percent while going a bleak 5-22 from the arc.

Even with their offensive struggles, NSU was down only two points with 3:01 remaining in the game. Nonetheless, the Panthers closed the game on a 14-4 run to take the match. Sarosi once again dominated defensively with a career high 32 points to go along with 15 rebounds, falling two blocks short of a triple double.

Men's Basketball Clobbers Florida Tech

TRANELL MESA
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball (10-4; 5-1 SSC) saw their 7-game winning streak put to an end as they were defeated by the Rollins College Tars in a nail biting, overtime match-up on Jan. 17, by a score of 83-79. However, the Sharks were able to get back on track on Jan. 21 as they clobbered Florida Tech's Panthers, 80-55.

The Sharks gave the crowd a game of junkball as they went on a lengthy drought before putting the game away with 9 minutes left in the game. Nonetheless, the Tars were able to hold on for a victory over the Panthers, 77-72, while in overtime with Williams adding in 10.

The first half was a struggle for the Sharks as they rallied back and forth for the lead, but they would dominate in the second half of the Sunshine State Conference, the Rollins College Tars.

While in the Shark Tank, the match was taken into overtime at 69-69 thanks to a deep 3-point basket from senior Tim Coenraad (22) with 5 seconds left in regulation. Coenraad would hit two more back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Sharks the lead, 77-72, while in overtime with 5:05 to go. Unfortunately, this would not be enough to see NSU to their eighth straight win as the Sharks took the "W." Coenraad led the Sharks with 23 points with fellow senior Dionte Perry (1) adding 16 points of his own, and junior Dave Naylor (33) snatched down 12 rebounds.

NSU got back into their winning ways upon traveling to Melbourne, Fla. where they faced the Panthers of Florida Tech. The first half was a struggle for the Sharks as they rallied back and forth for the lead, but they would dominate in the second half of the game, shooting 64.4 percent. The Sharks were dominant from under the basket once again as they out-rebounded the Panthers 26-14, with Perry grabbing another 11 rebounds for the game. Coenraad was 6-7 shooting on 3-pointers, tallying together 23 points on the evening followed by freshman Darrin Williams "Big Baby" (32) who contributed 11 and Naylor adding in 10.

Fan of the Week

CHRIS BALABAN
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bibin Mannattuparampil, a junior finance and dual admissions major to NSU's law program, was spotted studying in the library before he made his way to our men's basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 17. When asked what he has been up to lately, Bibin let The Current know that he has been enjoying spending his time cooking, sewing quilts and reading with his family members who are here from India. Congratulations Bibin on being NSU's "FAN OF THE WEEK!"
Mickey Rourke Shines in "The Wrestler"

Occasionally, a film comes around that truly astonishes critics and audiences. So far this year, "The Wrestler" has generated more buzz than most films produced in the last three years.

"The Wrestler" focuses on Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Mickey Rourke) who in the late 1980s was headlining professional wrestling events all over the country. Now, 20 years and countless injuries later, Robinson is retired and struggling with his new life as a civilian. While working part time in a grocery store, Robinson starts to compete in independent wrestling matches around the New Jersey town where he resides. After one of his matches, a promoter approaches Robinson with a proposition to take on his old nemesis, "The Ayatollah" (Ernest Miller). He agrees, hoping this would put him back on top, and begins training for the match.

During training, Robinson agrees to a hardcore match with another wrestler on the independent circuit. While being treated for the injuries received during that match, Robinson has a heart attack, and is faced with death. So, the match with Ayatollah is cancelled. Robinson then begins to examine his life after the heart attack, and tries to connect with his estranged daughter, Stephanie (Evan Rachel Wood), while beginning a new relationship with Cassidy, an exotic dancer (Marisa Tomei) from his favorite strip club. After that all occurs, a series of events lands Robinson back into the ring with "The Ayatollah" after all.

If you cannot tell from the description, the most important, monumental and impressive performance in the entire film is Rourke's. After having something akin to a mental breakdown, and after years of being out of the limelight, Rourke finally comes back to give us the performance of a lifetime. As the star of critically acclaimed films such as "Nine 1/2 Weeks" and "Diner," Rourke showed the public his incredible wealth of talent early on in his career. However, Rourke quickly dropped out of the spotlight only to become something of a joke around Hollywood and the viewing public. In "The Wrestler," Rourke re-emerges as the gifted actor we once knew and loved. As Robinson tries and fails to improve his life, Rourke shows his capacity as a truly brilliant character actor. He slips into the role with ease and enthusiasm, setting the bar at a new height for actors in his position. I cannot name another on-screen comeback as beautiful and engrossing as Rourke's in "The Wrestler."

Additionally, Rourke's performance is certainly aided by the talented actresses within the film. Evan Rachel Wood's performance proves she is one of the most interesting and engaging young actresses working in Hollywood today. Her performance complements Rourke's perfectly, making their characters' relationship one of the best I have ever seen on screen. Tomei also makes an intriguing and ideal co-star for Rourke, as her character slowly falls for the tormented wrestler, all the while pushing him away as gently as possible. Her performance serves as a sort of comeback as well, since she has not had a substantial role like this for some time. Not only is "The Wrestler" a triumph for the actors and actresses, it is a triumph for director Darren Aronofsky ("Requiem for a Dream"). Aronofsky is known for his love of unusual and eclectic stories under which one cannot categorize "The Wrestler." Although, without Aronofsky's interest and experience in the unusual, Robinson's story probably couldn't have been told as intelligently and wonderfully as it is. Aronofsky shows that his capabilities go above and beyond what is expected of him.

The only unfortunate circumstance of "The Wrestler" is the fact that from now on, I will have high expectations for every independent film coming out this year. "The Wrestler" is a truly moving and intimate portrait of a troubled man, and the people around him.

A Thought from Maya Angelou

A quotation of 13 words is concealed in this diagram. The letters for each word are in a straight line reading up, down, forward, backward and diagonally. The solution is one continuous line through each of the words. We have started you off with the word "THERE." Next, look for a two-letter word that adjoins the "E" in "THERE."

A quotation of 13 words is concealed in this diagram. The letters for each word are in a straight line reading up, down, forward, backward and diagonally. The solution is one continuous line through each of the words. We have started you off with the word "THERE." Next, look for a two-letter word that adjoins the "E" in "THERE."

Are you a communications major? Are you considering a career in journalism? Then come gain some hands-on experience at The Current!

If you would like to write for The Current, please contact Laura Starr at nsunews@nova.edu to set-up an appointment.

Student Medical Center

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Answers to For New Year's...

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January 27, 2009
“Bride Wars” Is a Losing Battle

NAIDA ALCIME
STAFF WRITER

I was very excited to see “Bride Wars.” I had this idea that it would be another one of those adventurous chick-flicks that I ardently enjoy—one that would have me laughing, crying and feeling all fuzzy inside from all its wonderful cheesiness. And boy was I wrong! I left the theater dissatisfied and, frankly, disgusted.

"Bride Wars," directed by Gary Winick, was not all bad. It actually started out pretty cute with a scene where two best friends, Emma (Anne Hathaway) and Liv (Kate Hudson) were about 8 years old, and got me laughing, crying and feeling all fuzzy all-out war, when a clerical error places the only thing that goes down the drain—so does the movie.

Unfortunately, Emma and Liv's friendship actually started out pretty vulgar. What bothered me most was its messages in "Bride Wars" that had never been so laughable. From marriage to society, it seems like having a night where you get wild and sexually aroused by other people is the type of person who cherishes marriage, and thinks that when two people come together, they should do everything in their power to protect that relationship. I felt that this movie portrayed the opposite, and made marriage look like a game. One scene that I found particularly offensive was when Emma crashed Liv's bachelorette party. I was not prepared for that scene, which contained strip-pers shaking sacred body parts in obscene ways.

However, it wasn’t just the crude behavior that I disliked, but the fact that the movie—and even society—are making it seem like having a night where you get wild and sexually aroused by other people right before your wedding day is okay. This movie made me realize why people have such a hard time staying together. It's because movies like this encourage infidelity right before the marriage—which makes it even harder for married couples to resist cheating while married.

The ending contained a crazy twist which I felt perpetuated the phony portrayal of marriage in the film. Sadly, I was so blinded by what was wrong with the subtile messages in "Bride Wars" that I didn’t even notice other aspects of the movie, such as the costume designs or cinematography. "Bride Wars" happened to be one of those movies that if anyone were to ask me to see it with them for a second time, I'd have to pass. If however one insisted on watching it, I'd suggest not using it as a measuring stick for real-life relationships.

Kevin James Is Perfect As “Paul Blart: Mall Cop”

RACQUEL FAGON
VARIETY EDITOR

Kevin James is a funny guy. When a man allows his body to take over his brain and just perform the most ridiculous stunts, one can’t help but be in stitches about it. James’ “King of Queens” character is transparent in the character of Paul Blart. The only downside is that transposing that same 30-minute sitcom character into a 90-minute film, slackens the elasticity of humor at times, which leaves one giving a little chuckle instead of a gut-wrenching laugh.

James plays a hypoglycemic, police academy-failing guy who can’t seem to catch a break in life. The best things going for him are his daughter, Maya (Raini Rodriguez), and the chance to take his position of mall security to espionage, crime-fighting levels. These single-minded characteristics are what Blart banks on when his mall is overrun by acrobats and crooks. The film then goes through an amusement park of spills, slides, hits, misses, traps and an adult twist on Macaulay Culkin like antics.

Blart and his co-workers all bringing something unique to the picture, and they all form a productive (although amateur at times) mix of comedic talents. To talk about the plot is unnecessary, as anybody who has seen any movie can figure out what is going to happen next in this film. Blart’s role as the chubbier superhero is different, but predictable as character plots go.

All in all, the film conjures up some well aimed chuckles and laughs. The film leaves you feeling satisfied with the ending, and appreciative of the fact that the writers and director didn’t go through too much trouble to make the film what it is.

“Paul Blart: Mall Cop” delivers as it should, indicating that Director Steve Carr (“Daddy Day Care” and “Next Friday”) is obviously going for the basics on this one.

Black Musicians and Singers

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Psoriasis often strikes between the ages of 15 and 25.

1. Plaques psoriasis on chest
2. Inverse plaques psoriasis in armpit
3. Psoriasis of the nails

Hat Tricks Are for Magicians, Not for the Government

STEFANI RUBINO
OPINIONS EDITOR

Last year, the American public watched as our economy took a turn for the worse and automakers started begging the government for money. The new year has ushered in the beginning of a new presidency and the new administration that comes along with it. While we should not expect them to solve all of this country’s ills, they have made some hefty promises concerning the way they will handle these problems. However, analysts, scientists and economists everywhere are claiming the problems may not be solved as hastily as most would like.

Repairing the economy to a perfectly functioning and prosperous system is not something anyone should hold their breath for. Although Obama has brought hope for a better America to all of us, even me, it would be a mistake to assume he can fix everything, especially the economy. Economists interviewed on National Public Radio and in The New York Times have said it over and over again there is not a quick or perfect solution to what has happened, the American public needs to stop assuming that our troubles will be over by February.

The Obama administration is not entirely responsible here, though. Americans around the country can do their part to aid in the reconstruction of our once wealthy economy. Similarly, there is plenty we can do to help push this country towards more environmentally friendly practices and sustainability. This is another issue Obama talked much about during his campaign and one we should all take into account.

Obviously, the Obama administration is not going to fix the thousands of years of damage brought about on this planet by human beings in just one year, or even four years. However, it is possible that the U.S. may have a reduced fossil fuel dependency by the time he leaves office. The Obama administration has put science back into the forefront, which could help scientists everywhere figure out how to reverse this mess, or slow-down the effects. But, really, it should not be left up to just them.

We live on this Earth and we cannot live anywhere else. The Earth is extremely conducive to how human beings live and breathe, which means we cannot very well go somewhere else. Obama made it a point in his campaign to expose this obvious truth so that everyone understands it. Even if people cannot afford a hybrid vehicle, they can certainly reuse their plastic bags, recycle, reduce the amount of waste they produce, etc. The list of small steps we can each take everyday goes on and on, so every person should be able to “green” their lifestyle in one way or another.

Although this is somewhat unrelated, Obama’s campaign stressed the importance of closing the Guantanamo Bay prison and giving the prisoners fair trials. According to an early-January issue of The New York Times, analysts say this will not happen as quickly as Obama wants it to. The article goes on to say that it could take up to a year or more to hold the trials, move prisoners and close the prison. Not only that, but he also has to figure out where these prisoners will go: back to prisons in their own countries or prisons in the U.S. Without these questions answered, it seems people should not look forward to Guantanamo closing any time soon.

The final thing, and possibly the most important point Obama stressed during his campaign was creating a multi-partisan atmosphere in the American government, for the American people and around the world. This is not going to come easy, especially for the American public. These days, it does seem as if our representatives in the government are getting along much better than they were four years ago. Obama may be able to accomplish some deterioration of party lines. However, the election proved that the American public is still split somewhat evenly along party lines.

With people like Ann Coulter, Rick Warren and Bill Maher out there, it is hard to imagine a true “United States.” I doubt that Obama can correct this partisanship in the four (or eight) short years he is in office. Once again, it comes down to us, the American public, to fix this situation. There are problems in this country that need to be corrected and simply dismissing someone’s idea because he or she is a “republican,” “democrat,” “communist,” “libertarian” or even an “anarchist” is a grave mistake. If someone has something useful to say or an idea that can be used, people should listen regardless of the party they support.

With that being said, it is imperative that we do not just leave the “fixing” up to our leaders and assume everything will be alright. We need to take an active role in improving our country, our cities, our families and ourselves. The Obama administration cannot perform magic tricks, so we should not expect them too. We should put that energy into figuring out what we can do to accomplish shared goals.

Write a Letter to the Editor

Want to say something about what you have read? Do you have an idea that you think would be great in The Current? Visit our Web site at www.nsucurrent.com and write a Letter to the Editor.

While you are on our Web site, take a look at the changes we have made. You can also comment on the articles, go through our archives to see previous articles, as well as read staff bios.

On The Scene
KRISTINE BELIZAIRE
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

What Do You Feel is the Most Hateful Word?

“I would say any word that is derogatory to any race, ethnicity and towards women.”
- Alicia Leavitte, a sophomore education major.

“I hear these words being used so casually all the time, so you don’t really get offended by them anymore.”
- Aurora Mendez, a junior biology major.

“I think hate itself is a hateful word.”
- Japheth Pizarro, a sophomore criminal justice major.

“Anything that is said in a hateful way to special needs kids. Words like retard and slow really anger me when used the wrong way.”
- Michelle Carrion, a junior business administration major.
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