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Nova Southeastern University

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# Women's Soccer Team Takes Out Eckerd 6-0, Keep Their Winning Streak



Photo by NSU Sports Information

**ABOVE:** Shurell Burton protects the ball away from a defender.

**BELOW:** Nikki Paquette defends NSU's goal away from the defender.



By Nelly Mesa  
Staff Writer

The NSU women's soccer team (7-0-0, 1-0-0 SSC) competed in their first conference game of the 2006 season the weekend of Sept. 23 against Eckerd College. With a six game winning streak on the line the Sharks took to the field calmly and collectively, yet with the up-most confidence. With their assured and commanding presence on the field, NSU quickly took control of the game, shutting the Eckerd Wave down, 6-0.

Sophomore Shurell Burton started the game off with a positive spin as she registered the first goal of the game in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute. Shortly after Burtons shot the game winning goal. there was a penalty in the box and freshman Monica Tobin stepped up to receive the second goal off the penalty shot. Toward the end of the first half freshman Kelly Diershow banked the first of what was to become two goals of the game. Sophomore Alyssa Fernandez along with teammate freshman Megan Kim each had a goal in the second half.

"Comparing this season to last year you can really see how the 7-0 start has given the girls tons of confidence," said red shirt sophomore Nina Firmani. "The team is doing awesome, we just need to keep our composure and take it one game at a time from here on out."

## Career Café: Students Mingle with the Sports Career Community

By Jany Cabezas  
Staff Writer

Four different sports representatives came together in the University Center's lobby on Sept. 21 to discuss career opportunities in each of their specific fields. In this Career Café program, representatives from The Dolphins Stadium, Florida Panthers, The University Center's Sports Management (SMG), and PGA of America sat at different tables as students chatted with them, receiving valuable advice and information. Sponsored by Career Services, this informal meeting took place to expose students to different fields, and most importantly to emphasize "getting involved."

Students from a range of fields made an appearance to informally discuss opportunities and interest in sports careers. "I'm majoring in Sports Management and Recreation. I'm just here to see what it takes to work in this field and how to get started," said junior Alex Mitrani. Many other students, with resumes

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**CAREER**

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in hand, were eager to ask questions, and the representatives were happy to answer.


Liza Fandino — recruiter for Dolphin Stadium — explained all positions amongst other opportunities, such as volunteering at events like the Super Bowl, to the students. She firmly reiterated that “this is a business, not just a football team,” emphasizing the need for serious workers, not just fans of the game. The variety of jobs range from part time seasonal, lower level spots, to managing parking spots. “There are also some internships for the summer time and most of them are paid positions,” said Fandino, referring to applying to such positions early on.

The PGA of America representative, Bill Ciofoletti, was more casual about the opportunities he had available by demonstrating how and where to find the job positions on the web. “Internships, summer jobs, part time jobs and anything else you’re looking for is at [www.pga.com/employment.com](http://www.pga.com/employment.com); it’s the ‘monster.com of golf,’ all you need to do is specify what you’re looking for when you browse the site.”

Both the Florida Panthers representative and the SMG representatives emphasized one main point. “It doesn’t matter what you do at first. Just get into the industry; it’s all about building relationships with people,” the Panthers representative repeated while handing out tickets to a game. Jaime Arhens and Ekita Shaw, UC Arena Event Manager, emphasized “do as many internships as you can. The biggest thing is networking because everyone knows everyone. Even if the first internship you do isn’t the most exciting, or exactly what you’re looking for, the second or third can lead you in the right direction.” Jobs are open for events at the UC Arena. Part-time student positions range from event services, box office, and administrative.

Career Services’ Imani Fredricks-Lowman expresses how she wants students to become more aware of the services they can provide. “We can help you write your personal statement for medical school, or give you resources for internships in

**Event Spotlight**



**OktoberFest 2006 - Sponsored by Student Union Board.** NSU students gathered around in the UC Flight Deck on Thursday, September 28, for a German festival complete with party hats, drinks and german dishes. Check out our next issue of “The Current” for a complete review of the event.

## Sick of those steady 9 to 5 jobs?

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## Intelligence Assessment Paints Grim Picture of Iraq

By Greg Kyriakakis  
Nation & World Editor

Following the leak of parts of the National Intelligence Estimate to the New York Times, some Democrats are calling for the release of the full document, which they believe highlights the failures in Iraq. Republicans have pointed out that releasing the document could jeopardize the war against terror by providing too much information to terrorists.

Select parts were released by the Bush administration on Sept. 26, but democrats fear that not all of the facts were included.

The Washington Post reported that the estimate, which calls the war in Iraq a "cause célèbre" for jihadists, has given support to those who oppose the 2003 invasion.

On the other hand, the report said that if terrorists leave Iraq having failed in their battle, "fewer fighters will be inspired to carry on the fight," a sentiment with which the president agreed. This claim bolsters Bush's assertion to keep troops in Iraq.

In an Associated Press report, White House press secretary Tony Snow said that for terrorists, "Iraq has become... the battleground. If they lose, they lose their bragging rights. They lose their ability to recruit."

Snow indicated that releasing the NIE could risk the lives of the agents who prepared the document. The released could also cause analysts to "pull their punches" when believing that their work will be publicly released.

Democrats, such as Massachusetts

Senator Edward Kennedy, feel that the public should see "the full story, not those parts of it that the Bush administration selects," which is why they continue to demand the release.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that the declassified sections were "key judgments" that would allow for the American people "to see the truth and precisely what the document says."

Gulfnews reported that despite Prime Minister Nour Al Maliki's plea for Shiites and Sunnis to put aside differences during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, deadly violence continues in Iraq on a daily basis. Last week there was a roadside bomb that killed six, and a suicide car bomb that killed five and wounded 17.

From the Editors of E/The  
Environmental Magazine

## EARTH TALK

**Dear EarthTalk:** What defines a "wetland" and how are wetlands protected in the U.S. and Canada from destruction by development and other threats?

-- Julie, Olathe, KS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines wetlands as "lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface." Environment Canada's official definition is almost the same wording.

Beyond definitions, wetlands are essential ecological features in any landscape. They are primary habitat for hundreds of species of waterfowl as well as many other birds, fish, mammals and insects. They naturally filter and recharge the water that later comes out of our faucets downstream. They act like giant sponges, slowing the flow of surface water and reducing the impact of flooding. They prevent soil erosion and buffer water bodies from potentially damaging land use activities such as agriculture. And they can remove and store greenhouse gases from the Earth's atmosphere, slowing the onset of global warming.

More than half of the original 221 million acres of wetlands that existed in the continental U.S. at the time of white settlement were destroyed by the 1980s. The story has been much the same in Canada, with analysts estimating between a 30 and 70 percent of that country's wetlands lost during the same period.

Recognizing the importance of waterfowl and wetlands to North Americans and the need for international cooperation to help in the recovery of this shared resource, U.S. and Canada developed and signed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 1986. Mexico joined in 1993. The three countries have since spent \$4.5 billion protecting some 15 million acres of wetlands in jeopardy across the continent.

All three governments have instituted complex regulations whereby developers wanting to fill in wetlands must make a case to justify their project. In many cases builders must create new wetlands elsewhere to "mitigate" losses, though most scientists do not consider man-made wetlands to be ecologically sound.

Wetlands protection issues landed on the national political stage in the U.S. during the 1988 presidential race, when candidate George H.W. Bush promised that under his watch there would be "no net loss" of wetlands. However, when the dust cleared after the election, developers pressured the

## E-Coli and Milk: The New Mix

By Greg Kyriakakis  
Nation & World Editor

The recent outbreak of E. coli in spinach has spread, now contaminating raw milk products. Tainted organic milk was traced back to Organic Pastures, a dairy in Fresno, Calif.

The strand of E. coli also affected other milk products such as cream, buttermilk, whey, and colostrums, a special milk from cows, according to Foodconsumer.com. The raw milk products are so susceptible to bacteria because they are not pasteurized, a process that helps eliminate bacteria.

The tainted products have caused

four to fall ill. According to NCTimes.com, among the victims was a seven year-old, two eight year-olds, and a ten year-old, all of whom live in California. Three were hospitalized.

Organic Pastures was the only dairy prohibited from producing any raw milk for the retail market. Stores stripped raw milk from the shelf in California and consumers were advised to destroy all raw milk products.

According to the FDA, at this time, the only two confirmed sources of E. coli from spinach were traced by the New Mexico Department of Health and the Utah Department of Health to

packages of non-organic, conventional Dole baby spinach packaged by Natural Selection Foods.

The Natural Selection Foods website states that those ill from spinach consumed the non-organic variety. The FDA and the California Department of Health Services have advised Natural Selection Foods that test results from their California processing facility were clean.

Officials are still asking consumers to stay away from spinach. E. coli has now infected 183 people in 26 states. California producers are thought to be the source for the outbreak.

## Recent Advances in Breast Cancer

By Shenita Ann McLean  
Staff Writer

Just before National Breast Cancer month in October, two dynamic advances in treating the cancer are making it more comfortable for patients seeking a cure. Light emitting diode photomodulation, reducing the mild skin reactions to radiation therapy, and the "Lab on a Chip" are revolutionizing the way breast cancer screening is carried out.

LED photomodulation, a painless non-invasive procedure used to promote skin repair, appears to be efficient at reducing mild to moderate skin responses from radiation to the breast. According to MedPage Today, breast cancer patients receive 100 pulses of low-energy non-thermal LED delivered to the breast during the 30 second treatment.

"So many of those women, their skin breaks down, it peels... you know that it's miserable," said M. Maitland Deland, M.D., of Louisiana State University.

In a study, 19 of 28 control patients who did not receive LED photomodulation required temporary

interruption of their radiation therapy because of moist skin damage.

The 19 women in the experimental group that did receive the treatment received no moist skin. Seven of the women who received the LED photomodulation had no skin reactions and eleven had only mild reaction. The last patient had moderate, induced dermatitis, according to MedPage Today.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech has created a breakthrough in breast cancer screening that may further treatment and research.

According to Collegetimes.com, the breakthrough is a three-inch by one-inch "Lab on a Chip." The chip finds protein indicators in cells that signify an abnormality.

The chip can replace a full laboratory of instruments by enabling scientists to remove cell samples, separate, and label biomolecules in a matter of only minutes.

"Lab on a chip" is still new

technology and mostly under the research umbrella," microfluidic and mass spectrometry specialist Abdulilah Dawound told the Virginia Tech Collegiate Times. "We are trying to take it to another level by demonstrating that it can be used in real applications, such as disease-screening, where conventional systems have been used."

The chip was developed especially for breast cancer, but researchers from Virginia Bioinformatics Institute are hoping it will also help cure disease.

These advances come as cancer survivors from across the nation fight for more funding. On Sept. 20 during the "Celebration on the Hill" protesters fought a proposed cut of \$40 million from the National Cancer Institute's \$4.8 billion budget. McClachy News Service reported that protestors, including Rep. Clay Shaw of Fort Lauderdale, want to increase the amount of the current federal budget to be spent on cancer research and prevention.

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# Bizarre Briefs

Compiled by Greg Kyriakakis

## Three year-old Buys Barbie Pink Car from eBay

A three year-old English lad playing with his mother's computer accidentally purchased a used car from Japan on eBay. AFP said young Jack Neal purchased a "Barbie pink Nissan Figaro" for \$22,750 and told his parents the next day that "I've bought a car." The parents rushed to call the seller, who luckily found the incident humorous and decided to restart the auction. "He must have good taste in cars," said the seller.

## Teddy Bear Causes Mass Murder

A teddy bear murdered 2,500 trout in Milford, N.H. A drain at a hatchery pool at the Fish and Game Department was recently clogged by the toy bear, blocking the circulation of oxygen and suffocating the fish, reported the Associated Press. A supervisor said that other items, such as frogs and dead muskrats, have clogged pipes before, but never has a teddy bear caused such death. The bear's owner is unknown, but officials have posted a sign warning "RELEASE OF ANY TEDDY BEARS into the fish hatchery water IS NOT PERMITTED," and encourage those who accidentally drop bears into the hatchery to alert an official.

## Old, Disabled Applicants Asked to Dance for Job

Some applicants for a job at Philadelphia Park Casino walked out of interviews after discovering that they would have to dance to "YMCA" or perform an air guitar version of Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer." Bucks County Courier Times reported that numerous people, such as 60 year-old Mary Lou Bentivenga, came to the interview expecting to talk about accounting. Bentivenga noted that there were "many senior citizens... along with one man who had a prosthetic leg," and that they probably did not even know the songs. Casino officials said that they are looking for those with personality, and that "Senior citizens and those with disabilities are applying and participating in the audition process by showing their enthusiasm as best they can, just as the other candidates are."

## Elmo Sparks Dangerous Encounter

After causing mayhem in stores ten years ago, Tickle Me Elmo is back (in a new "Extreme" version that can stand upright) and just as deadly as ever. 49ABC News reported that a Tampa man recently went to his local Target to buy the doll and picked up the last two, deciding to give one of the dolls to an older woman. This infuriated a crazed toy collector who threatened the man with a gun. The man is believed to be a toy trader known by Target employees as "Hot Wheels," reported Tampa Bay 10. New Elmo dolls, which retail for \$39.99 are selling for up to \$100 on eBay.

## EARTH

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new Bush White House to ease its stance and raise the number of days a piece of land needed to be under water (from seven to 15 per year) to qualify for protection. This allowed developers to build on new tracts of land that were previously off-limits. Environmentalists were incensed--and three key EPA scientists quit in disgust.

If you are concerned about wetlands you have several options. By keeping up on local building projects and zoning law, you can raise questions

during the planning process rather than complain after the fact. Volunteering with national or local groups and land trusts that work on wetlands restoration is another way to help. American Rivers and the Izaak Walton League are two leading nonprofits working on wetlands restoration and advocating for wetlands protection in the United States; in Canada, the Wetland Habitat Fund works with landowners nationwide to protect wetlands, as does Ducks Unlimited Canada.

### CONTACTS:

American Rivers, [www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org); Izaak Walton League, [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org); Wetland Habitat Fund, [www.whc.org/wetlandfund](http://www.whc.org/wetlandfund); Ducks Unlimited Canada, [www.wetlandscanadatrust.com](http://www.wetlandscanadatrust.com).

**GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION?** Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: [www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/](http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/), or e-mail: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com). Read past columns at: [www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php](http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php).

# News from Around the World

Compiled by Paul Saneaux

## Middle East

### Iraqi refugee count on the rise

According to a report by Reuters, data released on Sept. 28 Iraqi Migration Ministry confirms that "a quarter million Iraqis have fled sectarian violence and registered as refugees in the past seven months... amid an upsurge in attacks that has accompanied the Ramadan holy month." Adding to the unrest, an al-Qaida leader also recently released an Internet audio recording instructing followers to kidnap Westerners as hostages in exchange for a Muslim cleric jailed in the United States. Police in Baghdad have told reporters that they have found the bodies of 40 victims that were "bound, tortured, and murdered" on Sept. 27, "a total that has become almost commonplace in the capital over the last few weeks." U.S. officials have also released reports stating that violence in Iraq has increased dramatically with "the most suicide bombs of any week since the war began in 2003." The Migration Ministry's figures places the number of refugee families claiming aid at 40,000, which is up from 27,000 families recorded last July. The figure does not include refugee Iraqis who have not claimed aid and have not registered.

For more information, visit [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com).

## North America

### Rep. Foley resigns over email controversy

On Sept. 29 Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., announced that he resigned from Congress, "effective immediately, in the wake of questions about emails he wrote a former teenage male page," according to the Associated Press. "I am deeply sorry and I apologize for letting down my family and the people of Florida I have had the privilege to represent," Foley said in a statement released by his office. The AP said that the "two-sentence statement did not refer to the e-mails and gave no reason for Foley's abrupt decision to abandon a flourishing career in Congress." Campaign aides told reporters that Foley emailed the former courier five times but there was "nothing inappropriate about the exchange." Critics of the exchange involving the page, who was 16 years-old at the time, say otherwise. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-La., who employed the page, told reporters on Sept. 29 that he informed the teen's parents about the emails 10 to 11 months ago and "notified the House leadership that there might be a potential problem." The emails were sent after Hurricane Katrina and asked the boy what he was doing, what he wanted for his birthday, and if he could send a picture of himself. House Speaker Dennis Hastert commented on Foley's resignation saying "he's done the right thing."

For more information, visit [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com).

## Middle East

### 63 Kazakh children given HIV-infected blood

At least 63 children in Shymkent, Kazakhstan have become infected with AIDS after medical negligence, corruption, and the illegal sale of blood allegedly led to the use of infected blood. The Associated Press reported that at least five infected children have died "after receiving injection or blood transfusions in hospitals in Shymkent." Valentina Skryabina, the leader of the non-government group Nadezhnaya Opora, an organization that works to prevent AIDS among drug addicts, told reporters that she is convinced the illegal sale of blood is the cause of the tainted reserves. She explained that "blood is an article of trade... Hospitals are offered blood, and not always through the official blood center." It is believed that "people trade in blood like they do in human organs." Skryabina claimed that the regional blood center has paid addicts and the homeless less than the official rate of \$47 for a half-pint of blood and that the samples have not been properly screened. Parents of infected children have claimed that health officials have tried to cover up the outbreak by removing pages from the children's treatments that mention injections or blood transfusions. More than 13,000 other children and adults who have been treated in the city have yet to be tested for HIV.

For more information, visit [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com).

## Asia-Pacific

### Typhoon Xangsane kills 48 in Philippines

The Associated Press reported on Sept. 29 that "the death toll from a powerful typhoon that cut across the northern Philippines rose Friday to at least 48, with dozens of people missing in floods and landslides." Officials said that hundreds of residents began a "massive cleanup and the financial markets, schools and government offices" have remained closed since the deadly storm made landfall late Wednesday, Sept. 27. Romeo Panisales, a provincial social welfare officer, said most of the deaths occurred in three cities of the Laguna province where flash floods and landslides took many residents by surprise. The coast guard also reported several vessels found in nearby waters that had its crew missing. Most of the missing people are believed to be from the town of General Trias where an irrigation dike collapsed letting flood waters wash away houses and buildings.

For more information, visit [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com).



## Intramural Sports Holds Indoor Mini-Golf Contest

By Michael Bergbauer  
Current Affairs Editor

On Sept 17, Intramural Sports hosted a miniature golf contest at the UC pit with many giveaways and a prize; the person with the lowest score won a pair of athletic shorts.

Students who passed by grabbed a putter and tried their best at the five hole, 12 par course. Constructed out of pieces of gym equipment and overturned furniture, the course presented quite a creative contest.

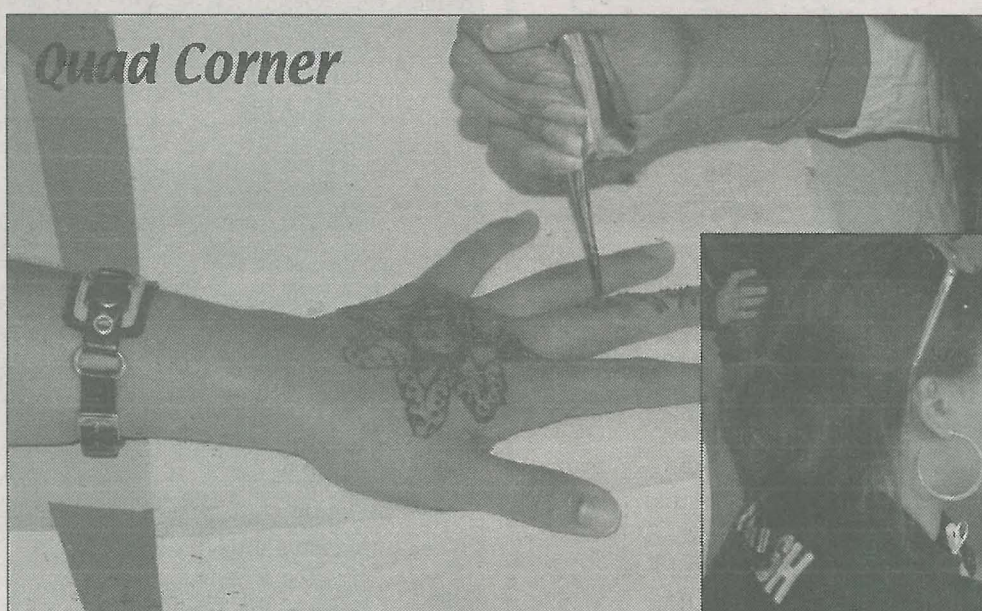
"It was fun and pretty challenging. Intramural sports did a great job setting up the pit for mini golf," said student Robert Keever.

Intramural Sports utilized the event to raise student awareness about the program.

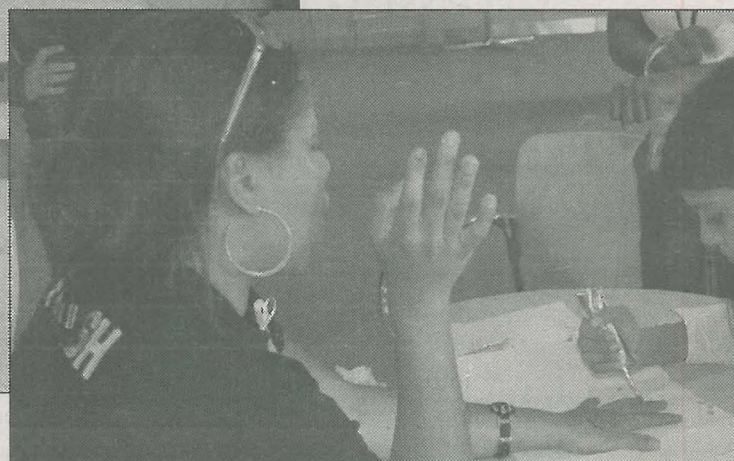
"We're here today to get our name out there and to get students to check out our opportunities," said GA for Intramural Sports Chris Ramgdell. "Especially undergrad students. A lot of freshman come in and don't realize all the opportunities for sports that we offer."

"We're also promoting our upcoming golf tournament," added Ramgdell. The tournament will take place at the Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach on Saturday, Oct 7. Cost will be \$30 per person, and the format will be a two-person team scramble.

For more information about Intramural Sports, contact Campus Recreation at 954-262-7301.



The Art of Henna Tattoos. Photos by Mike Palozzola



## ISA and Alpha Phi Omega Bring Fun and Food to Quad Thursday

By Michael Bergbauer  
Current Affairs Editor

The last Quad Thursday on Sept. 28 was moved to the UC Pit due to a rain out. The Indian Student Association provided food and music for the event, while Alpha Phi Omega was present looking for volunteers for its latest project.

"We're making [trick-or treat]

bags for the Christmas Wish Foundation in Hawaii," said APO Treasurer Janice Sham. Students gathered at APO's table to paint and decorate the cloth bags. "We make the bags, then send them to the foundation, where they are filled and given to homeless children," said Sham.

Meanwhile, ISA played Indian music and served Indian

food. "We want to share Indian culture," said ISA Historian Sara Gama. "We're doing that by getting students to hear the music, taste the food, stuff like that."

"It's also about breaking down cultural barriers," added ISA Vice President Divya Sadhwani.

Be sure to attend the next Quad Thursday for fun and free food.

## Got a Question for Student Counseling?

### Fire Away.

**Q:** I grew up in a violent household. My parents would get drunk and hit each other, and so did my father's parents. I'm hoping not to end up like this, but I'm not sure if it's possible. Is a violent temper genetic?

**A:** Scientists haven't found a "violent gene," but as you have witnessed first hand, this pattern of relating can follow families from one generation to the next, so you're smart to be paying attention and asking important questions. You're wondering what the future holds, given your family's legacy of abusive behaviors. Because you grew up *witnessing* violence, are you destined to *perpetrate* it in your own family? Certainly not. But would it make sense for you to take some proactive steps to develop a non-violent approach to relationships and a non-abusive approach to drinking? Absolutely.

Figuring out a viable alternative to violence is necessary for all of us. As consumers of popular culture, we are forever being invited by Hollywood to cheer when heroes use "righteous violence" to deliver justice. And it is always alluring to resort to violence as a way of stopping an argument or preventing someone we care about from putting us down.

Some people attempt to avoid violence by refusing to take a stand or to make their wishes known. But if you find yourself appeasing your partner so that things don't blow up, you could just end up being the recipient, rather than the instigator, of abuse. You've already taken a much better first step toward ensuring a future of non-violent relationships. By recognizing how your parents and grandparents *lost* their tempers, you've made it possible to *find* yours. Finding your temper—sounds like an odd solution, eh? But if you're going to create sustainable ways to resolve conflict without resorting to alcohol and violence, it will help to start with the recognition that anger is a legitimate emotion. Anger happens when you're feeling intimidated or violated, or when you're afraid you're going to lose something that matters to you. When you know and respect your (and, indeed, your partner's) anger, recognizing it as an expression of fear and insecurity, then you won't need to use violence to keep fear and criticism in check.

Not that this is easy to do. We run groups at Student Counseling that could be helpful, or you can see someone individually. Give us a call: 954-262-7050.

Have a question you'd like answered in this space? Fire away: Call us (954-262-7050), send us an email (studentcounseling@nsu.nova.edu), or drop by our office (Suite 150, Parker).



*The Current* is looking  
for talented, enthusiastic  
individuals to be part of a  
growing news team

## Positions include staff writers

Drop by ASA 105 for an  
application or contact  
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at (954) 262-8455 or  
[nsunews@nova.edu](mailto:nsunews@nova.edu)

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## Take a Bite Out of This...

## Current Events Calendar

### MONDAY

02

### Yom Kippur

Hope you enjoyed your day off!

### TUESDAY

03

#### Clinic Exploration Program Informational Meeting

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Mailman 309

#### Informational Session for International Students

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. BUS 1048

### WEDNESDAY

04

#### Informational Session for International Students

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. BUS 1048

#### Join Kate Waites for a Reading

7 p.m. Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
591 South University Dr.  
Plantation, FL

### THURSDAY

05

#### Quad Thursday!!

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Library Quad

#### Lunch & Learn Series

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Carl DeSantis 1047

#### The 123s of Starting Your Own Business, hosted by AKPsi

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Knight Auditorium (1124) in the  
Carl DeSantis Bldg

### FRIDAY

06

#### 2006 Florida Children's Summit

9 p.m.

#### Informational Session for International Students

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. BUS 1048

### SATURDAY/SUNDAY

07/08

#### P.A.S.A. Welcome Back BBQ

Saturday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
ASA Building

#### NFL Sunday Ticket

Sunday, 1 p.m. Flight Deck



## Movie Review

# Half Nelson Not Half Bad

By Stefani Rubino  
A&E Editor

For the most part, movies about teachers are either really boring, extremely powerful, or about some inappropriate relationship between the teacher and a student. *Half Nelson* wasn't really any of these. It was powerful, but not in the way other movies are, and it was richer and more intellectual than the typical teacher movie.

Dan Dunn (Ryan Gosling) is an inner-city American History teacher and girl's basketball coach who is completely hooked on drugs and a theory called "Dialectics," which was designed to explain changes in the world. Instead of teaching his mostly African-American students the simple and boring facts about the Civil Rights Movement, he defies the principal and teaches them the basics of "Dialectics" with examples from the movement.

Dre (newcomer Shareeka Epps) is a student in Mr. Dunn's class and a player on the girl's basketball team. She comes from a broken home with a mother who is constantly working and brother who has been put in jail

for a reason they never explain, but the viewer, I believe, is supposed to assume it's because of drugs. Dre is a smart girl, yet her involvement with one of her older brother's affiliates, who is also Mr. Dunn's dealer, becomes a possibility for trouble.

After a long night on the basketball court for the both of them, Mr. Dunn gets an emotional visit from an old girlfriend and decides to get high in the girls locker-room, as he thought no one was there. He was wrong, and Dre ends up finding him almost passed out on the bathroom floor. This creates an unlikely bond between the two and from that point they become the most unlikely of friends.

Dre becomes almost like a daughter to Mr. Dunn, as he starts trying to protect her from her brother's friend who has taken a sudden "business" interest in Dre. Dre starts to look out for Mr. Dunn and tries to take care of him, in a sense.

It's an emotional and heartfelt journey through the lives of two totally different people who end up seeming like they have more



Photo courtesy of [www.phillyfests.com](http://www.phillyfests.com)

Mr. Dunn (Ryan Gosling) and Dre (Shareeka Epps) pause to talk for a moment.

in common than one would have thought. Although it may not seem like it on the surface, they're both struggling to figure out what they want in life and the meaning of their existence.

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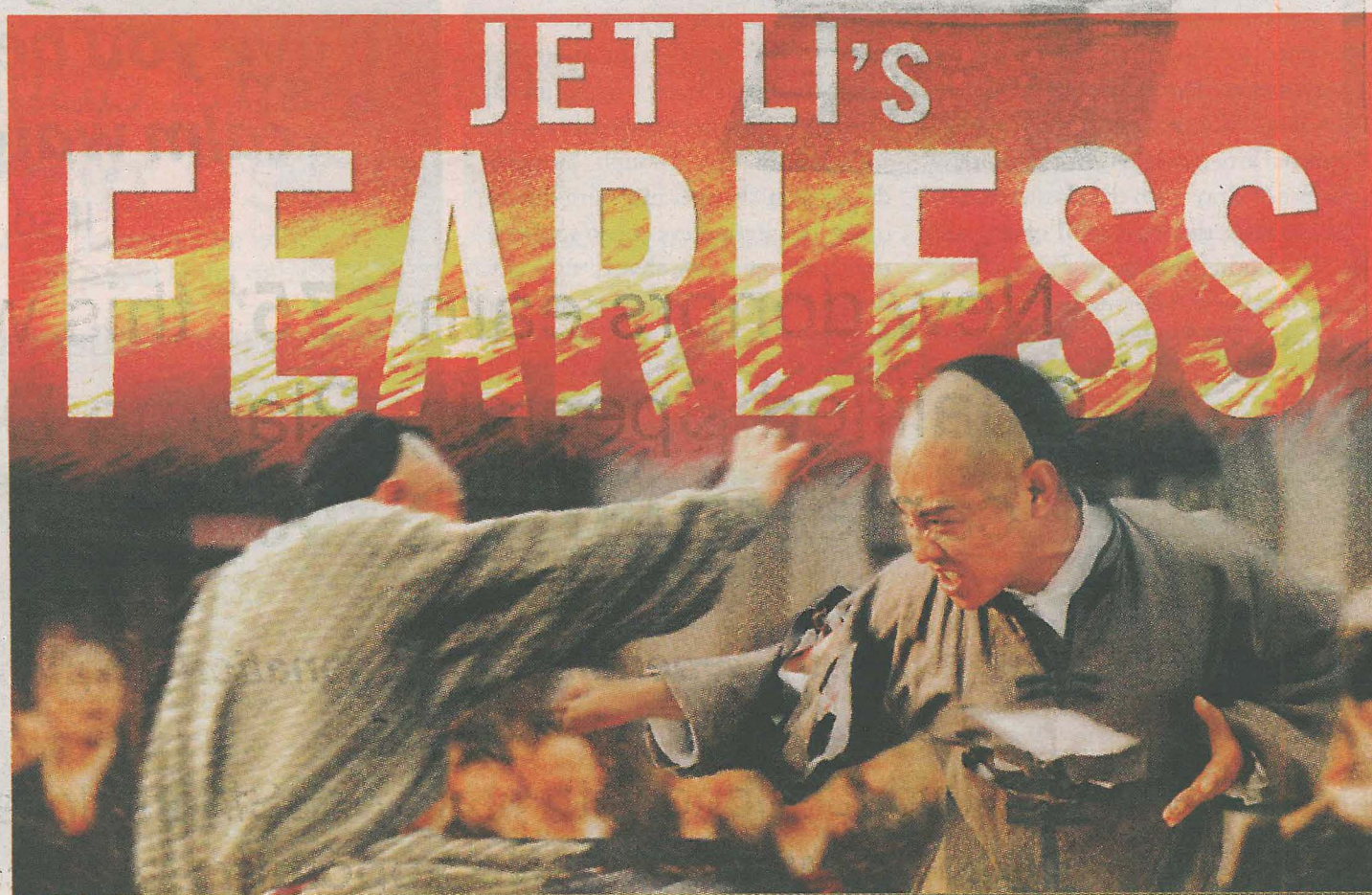
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## Jet Li's Fearless

By Paul Saneaux  
Managing Editor

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unforgettable *Master of the Flying Guillotine*. Huo Yuanjia (Li) and all of his adversaries use specific styles

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## CD Review:

## Fergie ventures into musical hell on 'The Dutchess'

By Dustin Pangonis

Daily Collegian (Penn State)

Let me get this out of the way immediately: I sincerely, truly despise Fergie's solo debut, "The Dutchess." I am not just being a snobby critic or taking potshots at an easy target. This album is a disgrace to pop music on every level, and by far the year's worst release.

Every last enjoyable second (and there aren't many) of music on "The Dutchess" is based on a sample. "Fergalicious" samples Afro Rican. "Clumsy" samples Little Richard. And when I say "sample," I don't mean reinterpreting a small snippet of the original.

Fergie literally takes half-minute segments and sings inane lyrics like "Fergalicious/ So delicious/ But I ain't promiscuous." As if it's not enough to commit aural hate crimes with songs like "London Bridge," Fergie also desecrates older artists.

"Here I Come" is the worst, though. Fergie wails over the Temptations classic "Get Ready," in what I imagine must resemble karaoke night in hell.

Listening to Fergie ruin Motown is the year's most offensive song. I'd be less upset if I saw Gandhi's image promoting an all-you-can-eat buffet, or heard a car dealership declaring "a

jihad on the automotive market." (Wait, didn't that just happen?)

Fergie also includes one of those I'll-whine-about-critics-giving-me-bad-reviews tracks, called "Pedestal." "You hide behind computer screens so you don't have to be seen/ How could a person be so mean?" Fergie laments, later warning us "You think I don't see you on the Internet," while typing sound effects (I'm not making this up) are sampled.

The song also starts with the mini refrain "Your pedestal is falling down, falling down, falling down" to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down." Yes, Fergie is so incompetent that she repeats the reference to the children's melody of "London Bridge" in an entirely different song.

Fergie also shows her detachment from reality by alternately whining about her rough life -- child actors have it tough -- and then bragging about her wealth. She boasts about how she "be up in the gym just working on my fitness," but then two songs later asks "Would you love me if I didn't work out?"

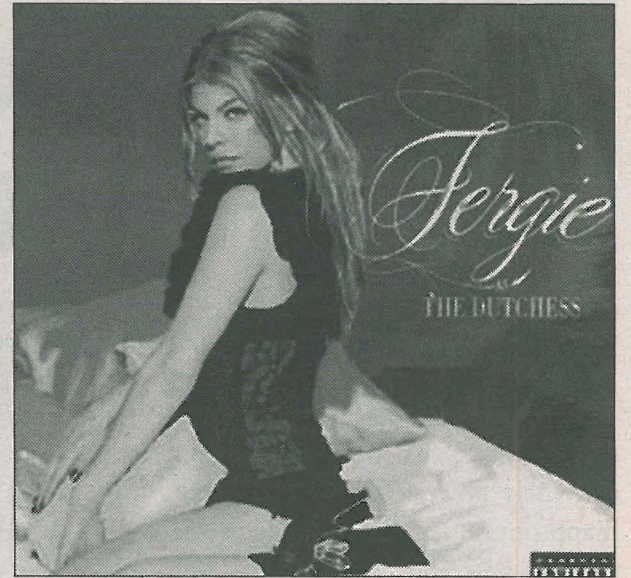
Worse yet is "Glamorous," in which she tries to show that she's still Fergie from the block by singing "I still go to Taco Bell/Drive-through, raw as hell." This song starts with

the refrain "If you ain't got no money take yo' broke ass home/G-L-A-M-O-R-O-U-S." Fergie later sings "Reminiscing on days when I had a Mustang." Here's a tip, Ferg: If you're trying to get sympathy, talk about driving a Pinto or an Edsel, not a Mustang.

Speaking of product placement, here's a few more I noticed: Grey Goose, L'Oreal, the children's cartoon underwear brand Underoos, UNO cards and an entire song devoted to "Mary Jane Shoes," which I thought was a pot song, but is apparently an actual brand.

Ferg does, of course, recruit Bob Marley's wife Rita to give it a reggae sound and obvious connotation. They even sample "No Woman No Cry," the kind of move that should get Rita disowned from the family. More humorously, the song's last minute breaks the hazy vibe and triples the tempo, making me wish Fergie had been true to herself and just recorded "Crystal Meth Boots" instead.

And, of course, Fergie lists God in the "thank you" section of



the liner notes. I'm pretty sure He didn't have anything to do with this album.

In fact, this album is a good example of the notion that you can't prove something true, you can only prove it not true.

This album doesn't just represent everything that's wrong with today's pop music; it breaks new ground for terrible.

If you like this album, if you even tolerate this album, you have no respect for song craft, art, creativity or good music. Fergie certainly doesn't.

## FEARLESS

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of wushu, like the tiger claw, for instance, which involves using three fingers to jab, grab, and tear at opponents. The tiger claw style can be seen in practically every classic martial arts movie. *Fearless* definitely does not stray from the classics and it also retains the same kind of appeal.

Another feature of *Fearless* that is typical of the classics is that it can be considered to be a "tournament" film. In this setup, the plot revolves a series of tournament bouts with the main character participating for whatever reason he has and developing in the meanwhile. The movie is loosely based on the feats of legendary Yuanjia and his motivation to become the undefeated champion of his province. While it is loosely based on the life of Yuanjia, certain scenes are completely unrealistic. One part features Yuanjia battling his childhood rival for supremacy atop a platform raised about 50 feet in the air. Completely unrealistic,

but oh so cool.

Where *Fearless* does stray from Jet Li's usual is in character. Huo Yuanjia is portrayed as jovial, smiling man who enjoyed his wine early on in life. Though Yuanjia's disposition changes mid-film due to some life altering event (no spoilers) the character is one that Li typically does not take on. *Unleashed*, another film by Li, presented an unusual character, but Yuanjia is one that is truly dynamic and moviegoers can sympathize with. It is refreshing to see Li play a character that actually smiles, and by the time the credits roll, Yuanjia could easily be considered a favorite.

Even with subtitles (because some people don't like to read), a plot that is not too innovative, and mediocre acting at some parts, *Fearless* is a modern take on the old school martial arts formula that kung-fu fans will love and the general public can enjoy.

## Starring:

Jet Li, Nakamura Shido, Yong Dong, Betty Sun

Director: Ronny Yu

Writer: Ronny Yu

Rated: PG-13

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## Movie Review

# Half Nelson Not Half Bad

By Stefani Rubino  
A&E Editor

For the most part, movies about teachers are either really boring, extremely powerful, or about some inappropriate relationship between the teacher and a student. *Half Nelson* wasn't really any of these. It was powerful, but not in the way other movies are, and it was richer and more intellectual than the typical teacher movie.

Dan Dunn (Ryan Gosling) is an inner-city American History teacher and girl's basketball coach who is completely hooked on drugs and a theory called "Dialectics," which was designed to explain changes in the world. Instead of teaching his mostly African-American students the simple and boring facts about the Civil Rights Movement, he defies the principal and teaches them the basics of "Dialectics" with examples from the movement.

Dre (newcomer Shareeka Epps) is a student in Mr. Dunn's class and a player on the girl's basketball team. She comes from a broken home with a mother who is constantly working and brother who has been put in jail

for a reason they never explain, but the viewer, I believe, is supposed to assume it's because of drugs. Dre is a smart girl, yet her involvement with one of her older brother's affiliates, who is also Mr. Dunn's dealer, becomes a possibility for trouble.

After a long night on the basketball court for the both of them, Mr. Dunn gets an emotional visit from an old girlfriend and decides to get high in the girls locker-room, as he thought no one was there. He was wrong, and Dre ends up finding him almost passed out on the bathroom floor. This creates an unlikely bond between the two and from that point they become the most unlikely of friends.

Dre becomes almost like a daughter to Mr. Dunn, as he starts trying to protect her from her brother's friend who has taken a sudden "business" interest in Dre. Dre starts to look out for Mr. Dunn and tries to take care of him, in a sense.

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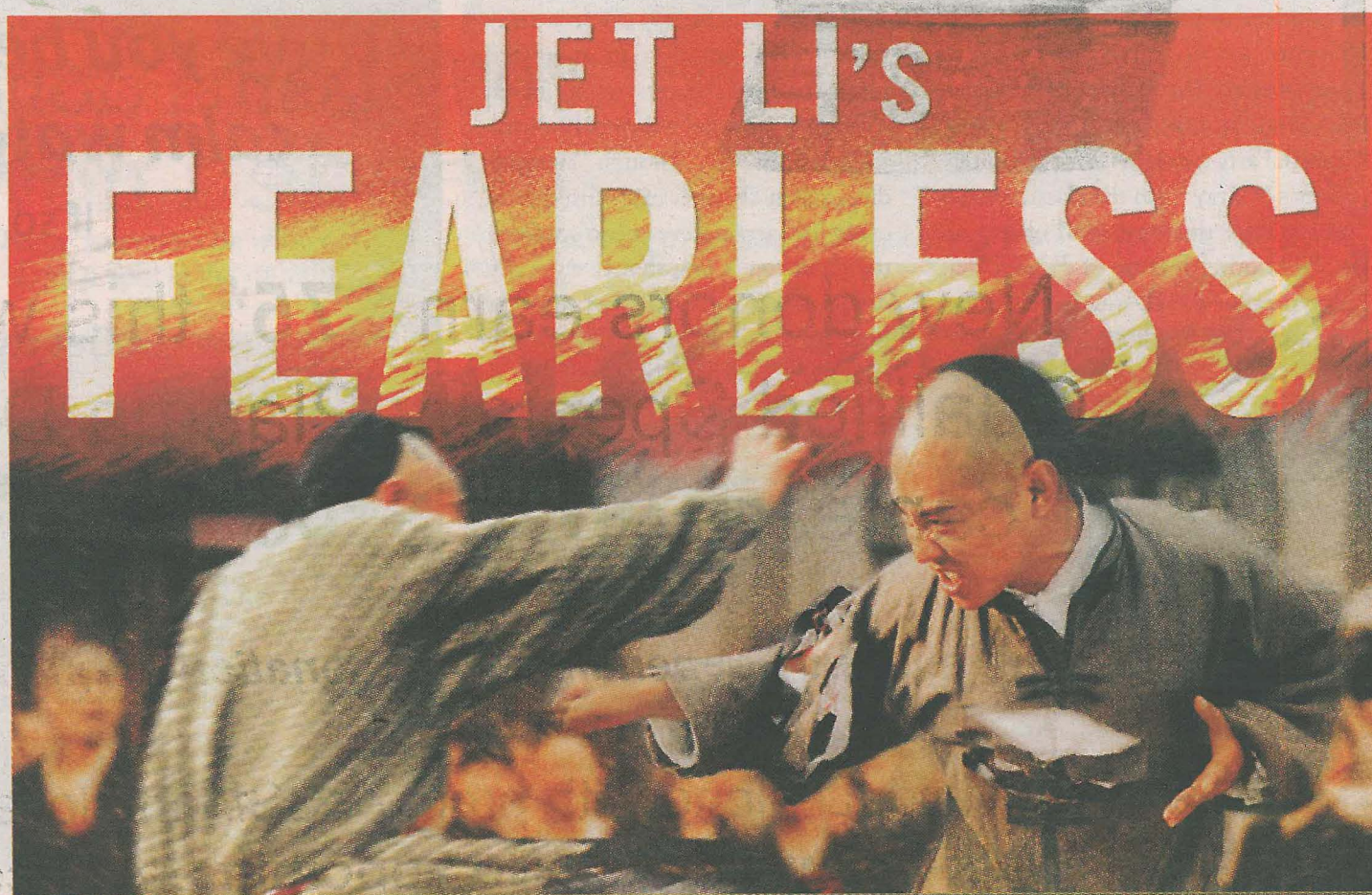
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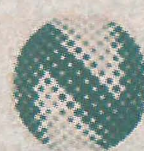
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NSU Sports Information

Senior Colin Benyo keeps the ball out of the net.

## NSU Men's Soccer Team Downed By Eckerd College, 2-1

By Nelly Mesa  
Staff Writer

The NSU men's soccer team (5-2-0; 0-0-0 SSC) took a loss, 2-1, while playing St. Edwards University at their home field this past Friday, Sept. 22. Unfortunately, the defeat put an end to the Sharks roaring 5-game winning streak.

"It was hot day and the wind and pitch made the game very difficult for us," said sophomore Mark Fletcher with a disappointed look upon his

face.

The Sharks were down 1-0 as the second half was quickly approaching when senior Eric Naples worked with his fellow teammate, freshman Corey Sheriff, to score his first goal of the season. Going into half time with a tie score of 1-1, the Sharks began the second half with a greater sense of enthusiasm.

Well into the second half the Hilltoppers capitalized on NSU, scoring the game winning goal.

"Despite this setback the team has kept it's spirits high, the best I have seen it in my time at NSU. We have a belief in our ability to bounce back. The opposition we have faced so far has not been the toughest, but we are fully prepared for the higher level of competition we are about to face in the next few weeks," assured Fletcher. "How we handle ourselves now will make or break our season."

## Men's and Women's Cross Country Team Finish 2nd at Embry-Riddle/Smoothie King Classic

By Alicia Winslett  
Sports Editor

On Sept. 23 the NSU men's and women's cross country teams competed at the Embry-Riddle/Smoothie King Classic.

"The women's team finished second out of 13 teams and the men finished second out of nine teams. Bethany Brenkus led the women as she has in every race this year and Aaron Kolterjahn led the men for the second time this season. The course at ERAU is tough with hills and a sandy stretch which everybody hates, so the times weren't too fast. But we had 2 men and 2 women in the top ten, which was nice," said head coach Bruce McCrea.

For the women's team, Brenkus finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 20:33.73 in the 5k race. Stefi Cevllos finished in eighth place overall with a time of 21:19.27. Heather Sternau and Courtney Clearwaters finished in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, respectively. Winning the individual title for the women's 5k race was Melissa Daugherty of Valdosta State with a time of 20:08.43. As for

the team titles, Florida Tech finished first as a team with 57 points. The Sharks were close behind with 79 points and a second place finish. Host Embry-Riddle finished third with 80 points.

On the men's team, Aaron Kolterjahn led the Sharks with a seventh place finish with a time of 29:17.59 in the 8k race. This week he was also named SSC male runner of the week. He was the first runner to cross the finish line not from the host school, Embry Riddle. Sophomore Abdalla Eskender finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 29:27.03. Robert Maughan finished in 15<sup>th</sup> and Brandon Peterson finished in 17<sup>th</sup> with times of 30:22.17 and 30:34.30, respectively. Taking home the individual title for the men's 8k race was Jason Powers with a time of 27:50.25. The men's team finished second overall with 57 points. Winning the team title was host team Embry-Riddle with 20 points. In third place was Savannah College of Arts and Design.

"We have been spending a

lot of time working on staying mentally tough during races," Coach McCrea said. "We make sure we eat early the night before, get to bed early, and get up in plenty of time to get to the race without having to rush around. Then we get in a good warm-up. Finally, we try to focus on our race plan and stay loose until the gun."

He added that there were still some things that were holding the team back as a whole. "As a team, we've had some injuries and a bunch of people have been (and still are) sick so we really haven't had everyone at full strength yet. It's tough to be aggressive in races when you don't feel 100 percent.

However, McCrea has set very high goals for his strong team this year. "Our goal is to finish strong at the SSC conference championships and the NCAA South Regional in early November. Our training is geared to the late season, so hopefully everyone will be healthy and ready to go at that time."

## Shark Bites

By Alicia Winslett  
Sports Editor

### Women's Golf

On Sept. 24 the Women's golf team came home with fifth place at the Lady Falcon Invitational out of 13 teams. This tournament was hosted by Daytona Beach Community College and played at the Riviera Country Club. Lynn University took the team title at this tournament with a two round score of 599, which was four shots better than runner-up Bethune-Cookman College. Stetson and Barry University tied for third place with a score of 605. Leading NSU was freshman Maria Garcia Austt who shot a two round score of 150, and came in eighth place. Andrea Moldonado finished with a two day total of 151 and Sophie Friis shot 152.

### Women's Soccer

On Sept. 26, the women's soccer team defeated Barry University 4-0 when they played at home. Midfielder Lauren Huffman score the game-winning goal and Nicole Paquette tallied her third shutout. Paquette made three saves in this game. This game was the first-ever win for NSU against the Buccaneers in 14 games. This game also extended the Sharks winning streak to eight games.

### Men's Golf

On Sept. 26, the men's golf team competed in the Coker College Invitational. They finished fourth out of 18 teams. In the first round the Sharks shot a one under 287, and shot 291 in the second round to finish with a total of 578 in the tournament. Valdosta State University took home the team title with a team total of 572. Leading the Sharks was junior Greg O'Mahany who finished in sixth place with a three under par score of 141.

### Men's Cross Country

In the week of Sept. 25, Aaron Kolterjahn was honored as SSC male runner of the week. He is the third NSU runner to be honored with this award in four weeks. In the Smoothie King Invitational in Daytona Beach, Kolterjahn finished seventh out of 86 runners. He finished the 8k course in 29:17.59.

### Men's Soccer

On Sept. 27, the men's soccer team took down Barry University 4-2 at the NSU Soccer Complex. Sharks Anton Siedlitzki scored in the second minute of play. Then NSU had a 3-0 lead as Michael Kammermeyer and Collins scored in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Barry forward Marcus Reynolds scored in the 30<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> minutes to have the score at 3-2. Lorcan Cronin scored a goal in the closing seconds on the game to seal the victory for the Sharks.

### Women's Volleyball

On Sept. 27, the women's volleyball team fell to Lynn University in four games. The scores were 30-27, 30-27, 29-31 and 30-25. The Sharks are now 6-12 overall and 0-6 in the Sunshine State Conference. Lynn improved to 7-6 overall and 3-2 in the conference.



# NSU's Sports Stats of the Week

## Women's Golf

### Lady Falcon Invitational

Riviera Country Club in Ormond Beach, FL  
Par 73, Yardage 5,937

1	Lynn University	304	295	599	+15
2	Bethune-Cookman Col.	301	302	603	+19
T 3	Barry University	309	296	605	+21
T 3	Stetson University	310	295	605	+21
5	Nova Southeastern U.	303	305	608	+24
6	Embry-Riddle - FL	315	308	623	+39
7	Florida Gulf Coast U	317	312	629	+45
8	Daytona Beach CC	324	312	636	+52
9	Bary College	323	326	649	+65
10	Northwood U. - FL	323	330	653	+69
11	Flagler College	359	345	704	+120
12	Eckerd College	404	397	801	+217

## Men's Golf

### Coker College Invitational

Orange County National Orlando, FL  
9/25-26

1	Valdosta St. U.	282	290	572	-4
2	Florida Southern Col	286	287	573	-3
3	West Florida, U. of	286	289	575	-1
T 4	Columbus State	288	290	578	+2
T 4	Nova Southeastern U.	287	291	578	+2
6	Armstrong Atlantic	293	287	580	+4
7	USC Upstate	290	292	582	+6

## Women's Cross Country

Teams	Points
1 Florida Institute of Technology	57
2 Nova Southeastern University	79
3 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical	80
4 Savannah College of Art & D	114

## Men's Cross Country

1 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical	20
2 Nova Southeastern University	57
3 Savannah College of Art & D.	78
4 Valdosta State University	120

## Men's Soccer

### SSC MEN'S SOCCER STANDINGS

	SSC						OVERALL					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	W	L	T	PCT	GF	GA
Lynn	2	0	0	6	5	1	7	0	0	1.000	18	2
Rollins	2	0	0	6	7	2	8	1	0	.889	44	11
Nova Southeastern	1	0	0	3	2	1	5	3	0	.625	15	12
Saint Leo	1	1	0	3	3	4	5	4	0	.556	23	16
Florida Southern	1	1	0	3	3	6	2	5	1	.313	9	16
Barry	1	2	0	3	4	8	6	2	0	.750	22	12
Tampa	1	3	0	3	8	7	5	5	0	.500	22	19
Florida Tech	0	1	0	0	1	3	3	4	1	.438	26	16
Eckerd	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	3	1	.500	10	9

## Women's Soccer

### SSC WOMEN'S SOCCER STANDINGS

	SSC						OVERALL					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	W	L	T	PCT	GF	GA
Tampa	3	0	0	9	14	3	8	1	0	.889	34	7
Nova Southeastern	2	0	0	6	10	0	8	0	0	1.000	36	2
Rollins	2	0	0	6	3	0	8	2	0	.800	29	13
Saint Leo	2	2	0	6	8	4	7	2	1	.750	19	5
Lynn	1	0	0	3	3	0	4	3	1	.563	14	12
Florida Southern	1	3	0	3	5	12	3	7	0	.300	12	23
Florida Tech	0	1	2	2	2	7	4	3	3	.550	19	13
Barry	0	2	1	1	0	7	2	7	2	.272	9	19
Eckerd	0	3	1	1	3	15	1	8	1	.150	6	28

## Volleyball

### SSC VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

	SSC			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Tampa	5	0	1.000	17	0	1.000
Florida Southern	5	0	1.000	17	2	.895
Rollins	3	1	.750	11	4	.733
Saint Leo	2	2	.500	11	4	.733
Barry	3	3	.500	8	5	.615
Lynn	2	2	.500	6	6	.500
Eckerd	1	3	.250	10	6	.625
Nova Southeastern	0	5	.000	6	11	.353
Florida Tech	0	5	.000	2	15	.118

## Women's Cross Country

September 29<sup>th</sup> - FLRunners.com Invitational in Little Everglades Ranch-Dade City, FL at 6 p.m.  
October 7<sup>th</sup> - Disney Cross Country Classic at Wide World of Sports in Orlando FL at 7:45 a.m.

## Women's Golf

October 8<sup>th</sup>- Myrtle Beach Intercollegiate in Myrtle Beach, SC

## Women's Soccer

October 4<sup>th</sup> against the University of Tampa in Tampa, FL at 7 p.m.

## Women's Volleyball

October 3<sup>rd</sup> against Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, FL at 7 p.m.

October 6<sup>th</sup> against Florida Tech at HOME at 7 p.m.

October 7<sup>th</sup> against Rollins College at HOME at 2 p.m.

## Men's Cross Country

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## Men's Golf

October 1<sup>st</sup>- Aflac/Cougar Invitational in Columbus, GA

Upcoming  
Games



# Volleyball Team Taken Down Against 3 Conference Rivals

By Nelly Mesa  
Staff Writer

The NSU women's volleyball team (6-11; 0-5 SSC) faced off against three conference rivals the weekend of Sept. 23 which including the number one team in the nation, University of Tampa, the Saint Leo Lions, and Eckerd College.

Sophomore Melinda Gorman stated, "We still performed well, we just need to find a way to maintain consistency throughout each game."

Sept. 22 the Sharks strutted into the new University Center where they took on the number one ranked Tampa Spartans and were defeated in 3 games. The following Saturday, NSU athletes and fans waited patiently for hours on their Saint Leo opponents, who were left to endure a broken down bus on the highway. The 4:00pm match was finally played at 8:30pm that same evening. The Lions did not let the transportation delay set back their aggressive play on the court as they conquered the Sharks in a total of four games.

"With each game our defense really picked up well," said Gorman

with a satisfied look. "It's a lot of fun to see the other team get frustrated when they can't get a kill on us."

Sunday, Sept. 24 the Sharks went head to head with the Tritons of Eckerd College in a five game match; unfortunately, NSU did not come out on top. Upon losing the first game the Sharks battled their way back into the competition as they won the next two consecutively. Despite Sharks effort, the Tritons took control of the fourth game, taking the match to a fifth and final game. With a suspenseful score of 15-13, the Tritons took home the conference win.

Senior Karla Ortiz had a great weekend despite the losses as she registered a total of 36 kills along side sophomore Christina Chubb who had 37 kills of her own. Senior Itza Miranda played outstanding as the team's libero, recording 63 digs for the weekend. "I think we handled the competition the best way we could have. I wish we could have capitalized more on key strategies," Miranda said, "but we really did our best."

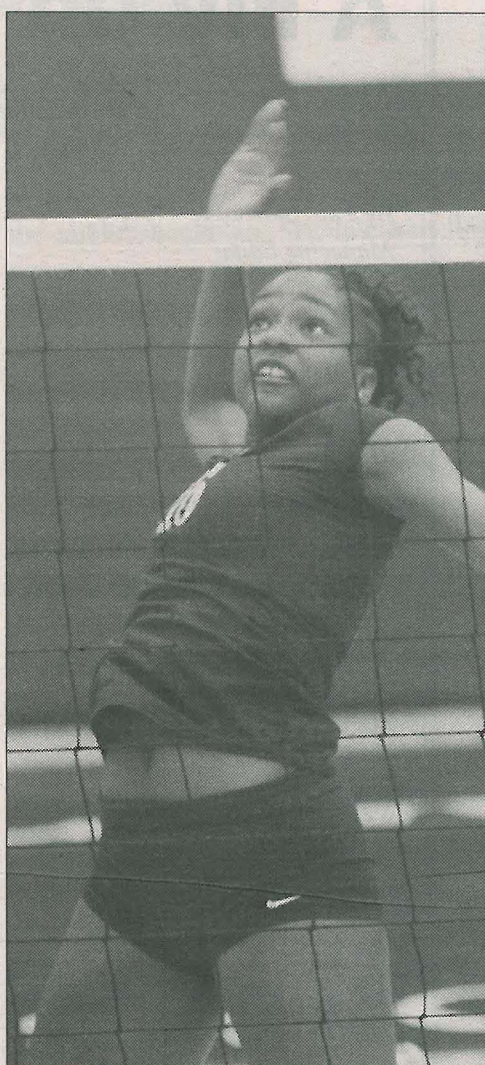


Photo by NSU Sports Information  
**Sophomore Melinda Gorman takes on the defense.**

## Cowboys Terrell Owens says, "There was No Suicide Attempt"

By Alicia Winslett  
Sports Editor

There are many sides to the "suicide attempt" of Cowboys Terrell Owens, it's hard to figure out the truth. On Sept. 26 there were rumors going circulating that Owens had tried to commit suicide by overdosing on pills.

On Sept. 27, Owens was interviewed and he had plenty to say about the rumors. "I want to thank God for letting me be here," Owens said. "I apologize to the organization for this being a distraction."

Owens went on to tell his side of the story. "There was no suicide attempt. I went home yesterday after leaving the facility, and took pain pills, and was groggy and took extra pills with supplements. The 911 call with [my publicist], she made because there were some pills that I separated and the bottle was on the table empty; the rest of the pills were in a drawer. She felt like I took all the pills. I was non-responsive and she made the call out of her judgment for my well-being," Owens explained. He allegedly had a bad reaction to that combination of painkillers and supplements that he had taken.

Owens' publicist, Kim Ethredge was the one who made the call to 911. During her interview she said, "I'm just upset, I feel [emergency workers took] advantage of Terrell. Had this been someone else this may not have happened."

The report stated that an EMS worker asked Owens if he was trying to hurt himself and he said "yes." In response, Owens said, "At this point, I wasn't as coherent as they thought I was. I don't remember the police officers or even the doctors." Owens made it clear that after he took the pain pills, he had a physician examine an injured hand. He fell asleep and awoke later to take the supplements, which he claims made him non-responsive when his publicist discovered him. Owens asserts that he only took two to three extra supplement pills after taking the painkillers.

There were also rumors that Owens took 35 pills and he had his stomach pumped. He said that the rumors were "absurd." A reporter asked him during the press conference if he was depressed to which Owens responded he was not. "I'm very happy to be here. I've come here to help this team get on a roll and win some ball games," Owens said.

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Alisha VanHoose  
Editor-in-Chief

Dear NSU Community,

Most days, it takes me about five minutes to find a parking spot on campus, and most days, I'm reasonably lucky if I can see the building I'm going to from my parking spot. I don't know how many of the rest of you can share similar experience, but I know that it's a good amount. I'm not the only one parking in the outer reaches of the lot.

However frustrating my parking woes may be, however, I know that they're nothing compared to what some people face. This afternoon I spoke to someone who said he got a parking ticket for parking at the wrong school. I don't know how he was parking in the wrong school, considering the Mailman parking lot is a pretty open lot. I park there every day. And since when do our parking decals specify which school we're supposed to be in front of?

What's crazier is what may happen the first time the University Center hosts a big event that's well advertised outside the University community. A whole arena full of people, plus all the resident students, plus people working late on campus, plus people hanging out to exercise sounds like it equals a lot more cars than we have parking spaces for. Unless you count the ones in HPD and thereabouts. I wasn't planning to.

While I haven't finished my research on what the University plans to do with the lack of parking, I can't help but notice that there's not a lot of open space on which to create parking. Maybe they'll create a parking garage near the dorms. Not a parking lot- a parking garage.

But that's only if we're lucky. As of now, I guess we're stuck getting here way earlier than we need to, praying we don't get random tickets we don't understand, and asking a lot of questions.

So go ahead. Ask away. And happy parking.

Sincerely,

*Alisha VanHoose*

## A Fly on the Wall: Sisyphus

By Paul Saneaux  
Managing Editor

Someone in the executive board of a club once told me that they were afraid of going to the SGA meetings to represent a bill because they were in turn afraid to confront the SGA and take on the barrage of questions that would be asked. This was back when I first began the Fly on the Wall project, and only after last week's meeting do I truly understand why this may be true for many organizations. The SGA tends to severely grill representatives of bills with their onslaught of questions.

The cause of all these harsh grillings (because it has happened on more occasions than I care to count) has a multifaceted origin. Several factors play into why the SGA has to discuss and "nit-pick" (as Commuter Senator Sara Gama called it) at length over bills that seem to have simple requests. All the factors are not directly the fault of the SGA either. Trust me, I know. Although some organizations love to hate the SGA because of their rules and regulations and guidelines and policies and that pesky document called the constitution and procedures for going about business, the organizations are not fully without blame either.

The bill that got me thinking about all of this was IMAN's bill for their Fast-A-Thon event. The simple idea behind this legislation was to have the SGA fund food at a reception that would break the fast that participants would have begun earlier in the day. According to IMAN's representatives, they have acquired business

sponsors that will donate money to a charitable organization for every person that agrees to fast. The problems arose when the SGA inquired about the specifics of the bill that quickly became confusing.

The club was asking for funding to feed about 500 people, but they are also expecting only 250 people to attend the event. The question on everyone's lips was "Why ask for funding for more food than people will eat?" The Representatives (who were asked this question more times than I care to count) said that the food be of two cultures, Chinese and Arabic, and that attendees would eat both, requiring double the amount of food than people expected. The math does not add up, so it is obvious why the same question was asked numerous times with the same look of confusion. SGA Advisor Gary Gershman gave a nifty wedding analogy with the maxim that "you should only plan for what is expected so that everyone is on the same page." Pretty much no one was on the same page at that time, but in different volumes of different anthologies. Would it not have made sense to order enough Chinese and Arabic platters to feed 125 people each, equaling 250 people? I don't know; I was so confused at that moment, even sound thinking seemed rickety.

Other details that were fuzzy and added to the overall scrunched-up face of mass confusion was co-sponsoring, itemization, and self-sufficiency. Apparently OASIS was supposed to co-sponsor the Fast-A-Thon with IMAN, but communication broke down somewhere and no

one was sure. Executive Secretary Jessica Boyd suggested that the bill be tabled so that if OASIS was a co-sponsor they would not get "screwed out of their money." As for itemization of what was requested, the bill was very unclear as to exactly what was being requested so IMAN was asked to redo that portion. The last problem was that of self-sufficiency; Public Relations Director Sean Burque asked if the club did any fundraising to pay for this event to which the representatives gave a shady answer.

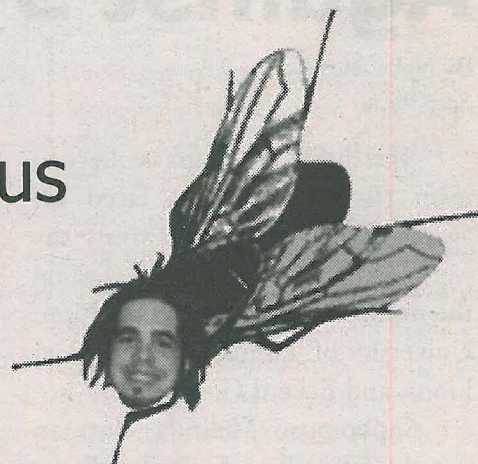
The total time of discussion ran almost to 40 minutes on this one bill, and most of it was dedicated to resolving the mystery of how much food was to be ordered. Thank the gods there was only one bill, though it was tabled unanimously until this week.

My point is this: though the SGA does have copious (and probably unnecessary) amounts of rules and red tape for almost every course of action, the clubs need to better educate themselves on how to write clear bills and follow the guidelines. There are problems on both sides of the steep hill, and as the Fly on the Wall and a former club vice president, I know this first-hand.

### Additional Notes

Congratulations to Divya Sadhwani for being appointed IOC Senator number two of three.

The Compensation Bill did not return last week because the goals were not refined.





Space for Reflection

What's your mission?

A recent article in the Sun-Sentinel titled "The Gospel of Youth" made the following observation: "Regardless of faith, today's young adults generally don't like attending traditional worship services, where their numbers are down. And they shy away from labels, increasingly identifying with no specific religion or, if they are Christian, calling themselves nondenominational. Yet in conversations and in academic surveys, Generations X and Y still demonstrate an overwhelming belief in God and an interest in how all things spiritual relate to their lives and the world around them."

This combination of interest in spirituality but disinterest in organized religion has been described by sociologist Robert Wuthnow as a shift from "a spirituality of dwelling" to "a spirituality of seeking." Seekers tend to be open-minded and appreciative of diversity. At the same time, though, some worry that young people who aren't grounded in a religious tradition might become shallow and

self-absorbed—seeing spirituality as merely something to make life more pleasant and comfortable.

An organization I'm involved with on campus, the Spiritual Life Council, has been working on a mission statement over the past few weeks. We began by doing an exercise to determine what our core values are as an organization. We identified six values as the Council's core values: authenticity, contribution, humility, leadership, passion, and respect. Now we're putting together the actual wording of our mission statement. In his book on facilitation, Schwarz states, "A group's mission answers the question 'Why do we exist?' A group attempts to achieve its mission by accomplishing various goals, which in turn are achieved by performing various tasks."

So, what does this stuff about a mission statement have to do with college students' spirituality? When I came across the comment recently about today's young adults being in danger of shallowness and self-absorption, I started wondering

whether one way to avoid this danger would be for us to create our own personal mission statements.

How might this work? Maybe each one of us could set some time aside to reflect on our personal core values. Then we might ask of ourselves, "Why do I exist? What are my goals as a spiritual being? What tasks do I need to perform to achieve those goals, which reflect my overall personal mission in life?" Reflecting on how our actions can express our spirituality may lead to more acts of service and cause us to impact others more consistently in a positive way. After all, we don't want to be labeled as shallow and self-absorbed! We have too much to contribute to this world.

Robin Cooper  
G.A. for Multicultural and Spiritual Affairs  
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