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Nova Southeastern University

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NSU Women's Basketball is Unstoppable

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The Current

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

February 25, 2008

Vol. 18 Issue 19

NSU Unveils Time Capsule and Wall of History

Tanya Parnes NSU News Editor



▼ NSU unveiled its first ever 50-year time capsule and the new *Wall of History* during this year's Homecoming 2008. The *Wall of History* stretches alongside the walls of the atrium on the north side of the UC with the time capsule adjacent to it. The wall outlines the history of NSU beginning with the early years in 1964 when it was known as the Nova University of Advanced Technology up through its total transformation into the Nova

Southeastern University it has become today.

"I think that it's great," said Robin Cooper, Graduate Assistant for Spiritual Life. "Just being a part of the committee that helped to put this all together really helped me learn a lot about the history of NSU." Cooper said that this wall has helped to provide a basis for what is happening with NSU today. "One goal of the timeline is to inspire current students

to recognize the impact that they can have on campus and upon the history of the school," said Cooper. "I think it's really beautiful."

Stephanie Sultan, a junior and biology major, said that the wall is a great addition to the university. "I think it's nice and it just shows how NSU has grown and the progress that it has made," said Sultan. "It

Time Capsule Continued on pg.2

New Division Presents New Opportunities for NSU Students

Tanya Parnes NSU News Editor

▼ The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is creating four new Bachelor of Arts majors within a new Division of Performing and Visual Arts that will be available to students beginning in the fall 2008 semester. These majors, which include Music, Dance, Arts Administration and Visual Arts, will be housed in the Performing and Visual Arts Wing of the University Center, which is set to be completed by August.

"The university is making a marvelous commitment to music and arts," said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., Dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. "Part of that commitment is supporting the development of new majors and the other part is the development of the Performing and Visual Arts wing." Rosenblum said that several different colleges throughout campus have approached him with an interest in an expansion of the performing and visual arts offerings at NSU. "Performing and visual arts are critical to any undergraduate program," said Rosenblum. "It's very exciting and it is part of hopefully a long term commitment to increasing the cultural life of the students."

Rosenblum said that these majors were selected because they are the foundation areas of visual arts. "I think that these programs will have a substantial impact upon NSU enrollment," said Rosenblum. "The cultural dimension on campus will be broadened with these programs. I think that there are a lot of students both locally and nationally who will become more interested in NSU."

Marlisa Santos, Ph.D., Director of the Division of Humanities, is especially pleased with the new additions to the university. "I think it's wonderful because the arts are an area that we really needed to develop," said Santos. "Even if students do not want to major in one of these programs, it will really enhance their student lives to have electives available in the arts." Santos said that she believes NSU will attract new students who were hoping to major in the arts, who may have been turned away in the past due to the limited options

New Division Continued on pg.3

PASA and SUB Put Together NSU's First Shark Show

Raquel Fagon Variety Editor

▼ The first NSU Shark Show, which was riding the waves to Homecoming, started with a hoot as the Pan-African Student Association (PASA) and the Student Union Board (SUB) hosted an evening of stepping and comic relief in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Theater. The semi-filled theater exploded with school spirit as the MCs introduced the program, giving the audience a touch of what the main attraction would be like.

"We tried to bring some diversity to campus, and we tried to bring some local comedy," said Natalie Champagne, secretary of PASA. "We wanted to introduce NSU to different kinds of entertainment."

The show started with the Lambda Theta Phi Latin fraternity, who displayed their individual cultures with rhythmic, sassy dance moves from Colombia and the Dominican Republic, respectively. Not to be left out, Andrew Ibrahim gave a piece of his personal dance culture by twisting

and swirling to the beat of Indian music. The group sashayed into their stepping performance to the great appreciation of the audience.

Chicks on Point, NSU's own step team, roused even more crowd appeal as they gave a well-practiced and synced display of their stepping prowess. Phi Beta Sigma, one of the newest fraternities at NSU, was the last group to perform with their stepping collaboration, which phased into a freestyle dance fest.

The main attraction and act for the evening was acclaimed comedian Benji Brown, who is widely known for his comic relief talent on Def Comedy Jam and BET's Comic View. Brown rendered a very good performance using many black/white stereotypes that the general public found to be innocent enough. Brown, also known for being the voice behind Keke on 99Jamz, thoroughly entertained the crowd with the

Shark Show Continued on pg.6



Time Capsule Continued from pg.1

shows all of the buildings and the major events that have taken place. I think it's a pretty accurate portrayal of NSU."

Bernard Pierre, a sophomore and accounting major, said that he really likes the mixture of colors and the glass panels that they have placed over the wall to protect it. "I really do like the fact that they've gone by each generation to see what the school looked like then in comparison to what it looks like today," said Pierre. "It really helps to tie in all of

the information about Nova with the UC. People have gone up to the wall to read about NSU and enjoy the history." Pierre said that it adds a very new and exciting element to the UC but he thinks that they should alter the layout a bit. "The way that it's been laid out has not been done with a futuristic vision," said Pierre. "There's only one extra wall for the next ten years, so what are they going to do about the future?"

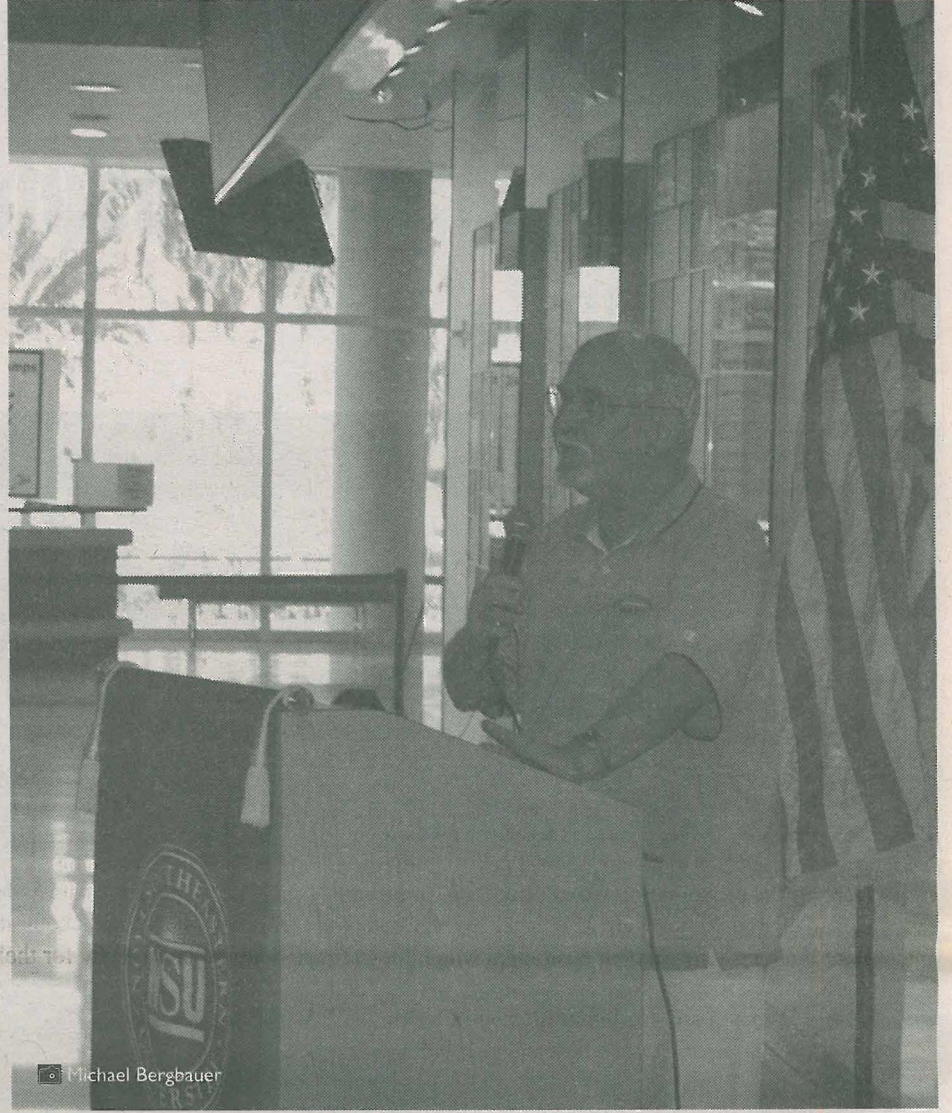
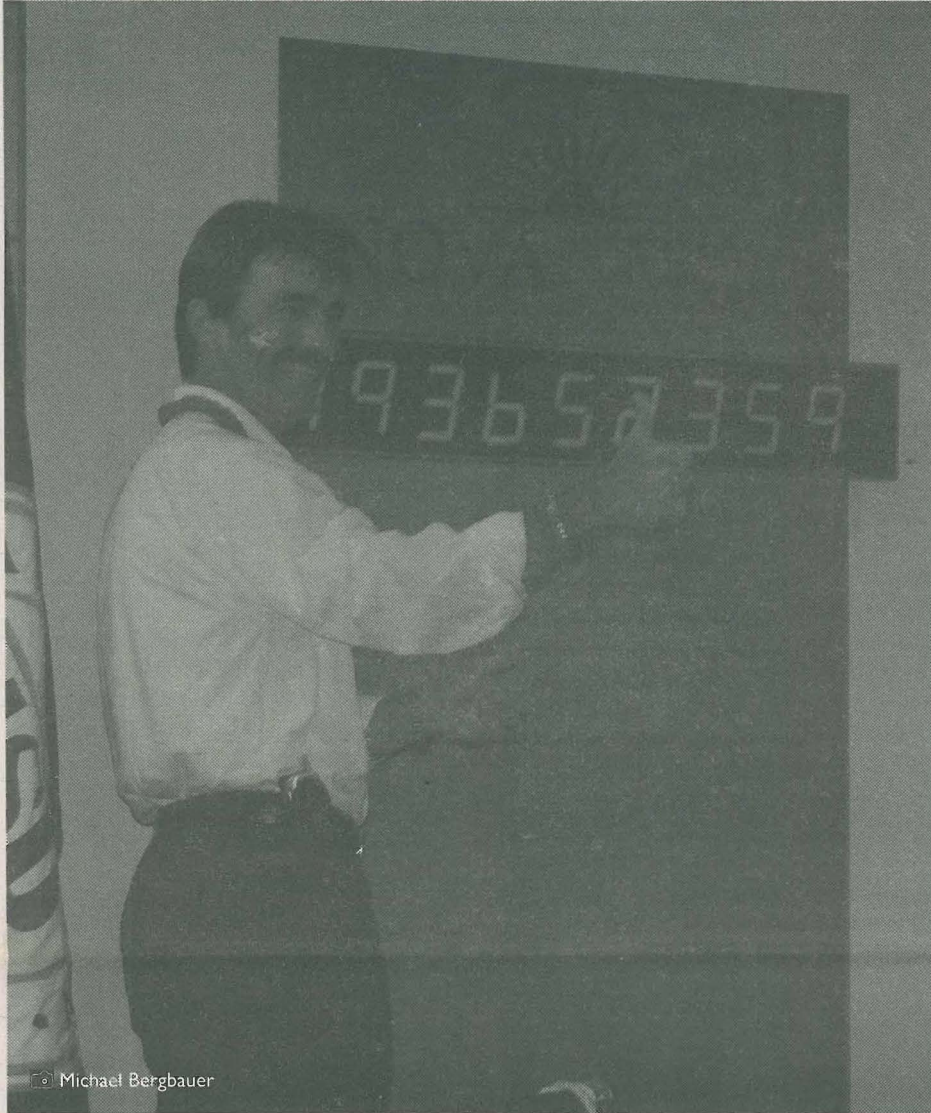
Michelle Cancio, a sophomore and

education major, said that she really likes the overall layout of the wall. "I think it's a really good placement because not many people see the one in the library," said Cancio. "They made very good use of the wall." Cancio said that she also likes the fact that they have left a whole wall open for future students to add to and enjoy.

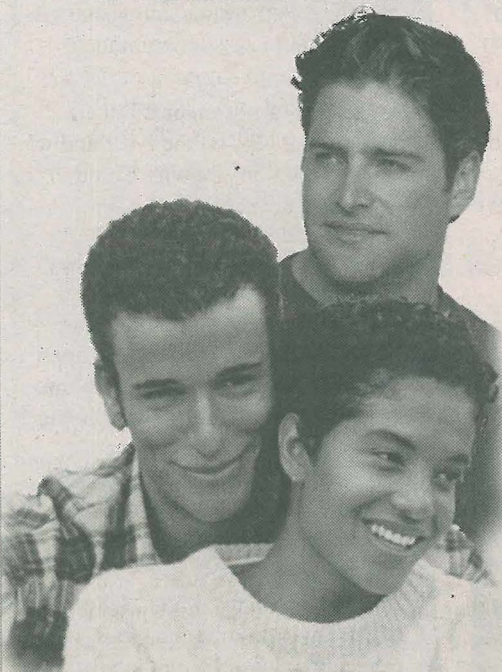
"I think that they did an excellent job with it," said Deandria Moss, a freshman and English major. "You can tell that they put a lot of time into it." Moss said that

she thinks the time span is very well put together. "I also like the way that they have profiled some of the accomplishments of the students," said Moss.

The unveiling took place Saturday, Feb. 23, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Dean of Student Affairs, Brad Williams, delivered an opening speech, followed by remarks from Tim Dixon Ph.D. and several other speakers. Afterward, Williams initiated the countdown that will continue for the next 50 years.



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Editor in Chief	Michael Bergbauer	bergbaue@nsu.nova.edu
Managing Editor	Chana Dukes	dchana@nsu.nova.edu
NSU News Editor	Tanya Parnes	tparnes@nsu.nova.edu
Current Affairs Editor	Kristine Belizaire	kbelizai@nsu.nova.edu
Sports Editor	Tranell Mesa	tranell@nsu.nova.edu
Variety Editor	Racquel Fagon	fagon@nsu.nova.edu
Staff Writer	Stefani Rubino	stefani@nsu.nova.edu
Staff Writer	Tim Coenraad	coenraad@nsu.nova.edu
Staff Writer	Christopher Balaban	balaban@nsu.nova.edu
Staff Writer	Bibin Mannattuparampil	mannattu@nsu.nova.edu
Visual Design Chief	Alexandra Paroulek	paroulek@nsu.nova.edu
Webmaster	Sachin Patel	sachin@nsu.nova.edu
Business Manager	Akshat Bhargava	knightad@nsu.nova.edu
Distribution Manager	Christopher Bergbauer	cbergbau@nsu.nova.edu
Staff Advisor	Lori Albrizio	albrizio@nsu.nova.edu
Staff Advisor	Eddie Jittraphai	jitrapph@nsu.nova.edu

The Current, formerly known as *The Knight*, serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in room 105 of the Athletics and Student Activities (ASA) Building. *The Current* is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute anything they desire to *The Current*.

Editorials, commentaries and advertisements in this publication reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or its officials, *The Current* staff, or other advertisers. *The Current* will not publish unsigned letters except under special circumstances at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. *The Current* reserves the right to edit.

Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributing writers must be meaningful and of interest to the NSU community. *The Current* reserves the right to edit, publish, or deny submitted works as it sees fit. *The Current* shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

New Division Continued from pg.1

previously available to them. “Some of the faculty who have gone on various recruiting trips have been able to mention to students that these programs are coming to NSU and they have been met with favorable responses,” said Santos. “We’re pretty confident that the interest is there and so we’re hopeful for the fall.”

Santos believes that these programs will greatly enhance student life at NSU. “There will be increased offerings in music, dance, visual arts and for the first time ever we will have courses in graphic design and drawing,” said Santos. “We’ve had art classes before but we’ve never had studio classes so that is something we’re very excited about. It’s going to increase opportunities for students, faculty and staff to enjoy more arts at NSU whether it is a concert, an art show or something else and it will add a rich dimension to the university.” Santos hopes that NSU will continue to diversify the course offerings in

these majors as these programs grow over time. Santos also expects that the addition of these new programs will subsequently increase the number of concerts and shows offered during the course of the school year. “The faculty has really done a tremendous job in trying to develop these programs,” said Santos. “I think it’s just really exciting and I’m eager to see what’s going to happen.”

William Adams, Assistant Professor of Music, is also very happy about these new expansions to the NSU undergraduate curriculum. “One of the incredible things that the visionaries of the university had in mind in trying to create an undergraduate student life on campus, was to bring students together,” said Adams. “It’s truly the arts that bring people together.” Adams noted that a music degree is one of the most traditional programs offered at undergraduate institutions throughout the country. There are three elements to the music major that include applied lessons, music theory and musicology. “We will set the

student up with a professor who teaches that particular instrument for the applied lessons,” said Adams. “Even if you want to start at the bottom, and have no experience with musical instruments, we will find a teacher for you.” Adams believes that these greater course offerings will translate into greater enrollment and engagement. “There is a philosophy that the arts drive economic development,” said Adams. “The community has not been brought together and showcased just yet so these new programs will help to move them into that direction.” Adams feels that these programs are really inspired and he hopes that they will have a very positive impact on the university. “We have this incredible responsibility to comment on society whether through a theatrical production or a sculpture,” said Adams. “I think that it’s incredible that the university has given us the chance to inspire the community.”

Birth Control Price Spike

Bibin Mannattuparampil Staff Writer

▼ NSU’s pharmacy has spiked prices on prescription contraceptives due to the federal law passed recently, which has ended the practice in which drug companies offered prescription contraceptives to health centers for deeply discounted prices. Due to the Medicaid rebate law, which is part of the Deficit Reduction Act, prices on many of the common brands of birth control pills and other contraceptives have skyrocketed. Most of the name brand companies have more than doubled their prices for their products due to the clause within the bill.

The Deficit Reduction Act, which was signed by President Bush last year, aims to decrease federal funding for various programs, such as subsidized student loans and Medicaid, by \$39 billion.

Prior to the passing of the bill pharmaceutical companies were able to offer their products at highly discounted prices. According to an article on MSNBC, one reason the discounts made business sense was because of a formula which allows drug companies to offer low-cost prescription drugs due to rebates the participating states offer them in return. Pharmaceutical companies were also eager to offer discounts because of the long-term student customers which they attract through the universities.

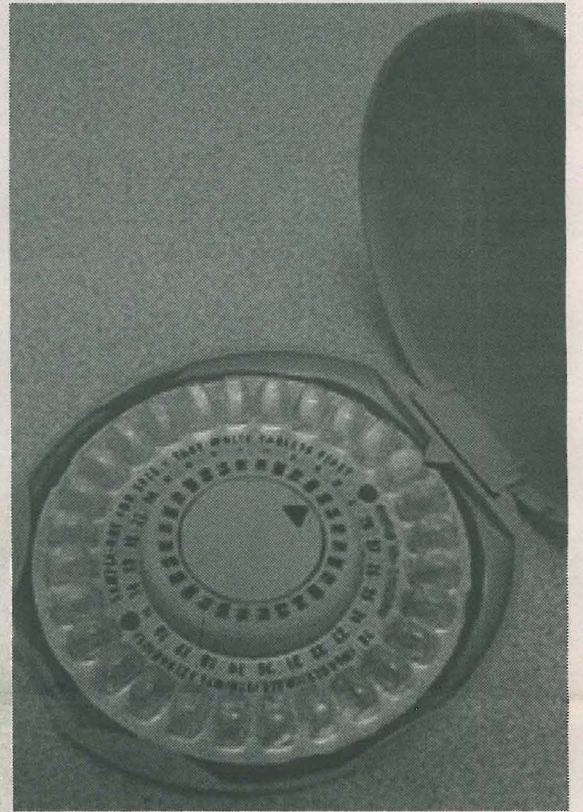
“It’s outrageous,” said freshman Elizabeth Rodriguez. “A modest increase in price would be understandable, but the fact

that prices have doubled and even tripled in many instances is ridiculous. For the many women that use these products, this change will require them to find a new means of dealing with the costs.”

Many women are forced to now forgo their privacy and take the matter to their parents and go through their parent’s insurance company to keep the same prescription. Others now have to settle for the generic version of these products, which will still cost them significantly more than what they were originally paying, and for some this price spike means they will completely discontinue the use of these products.

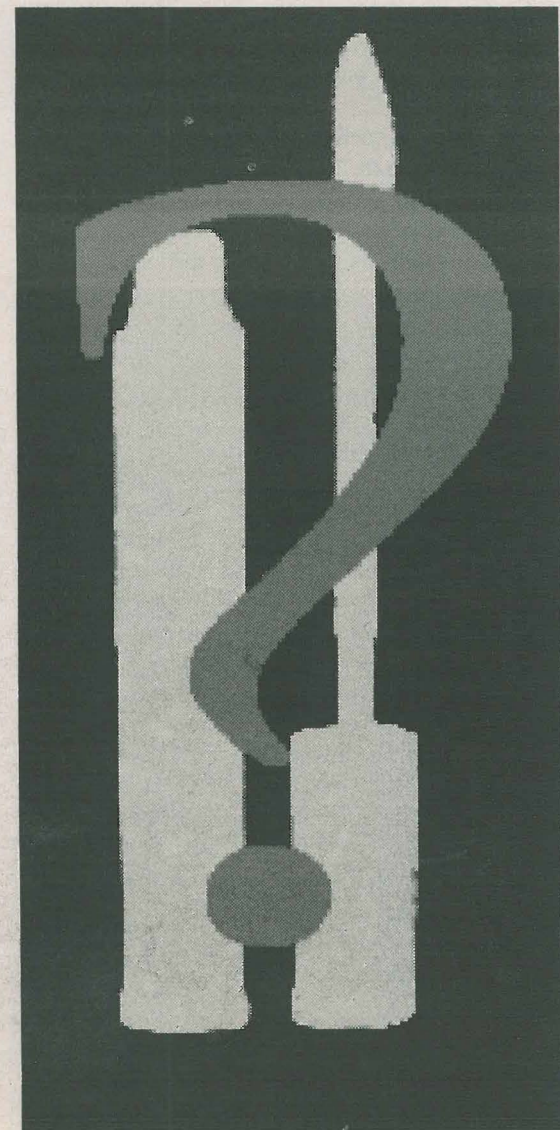
There are many problems that are posed by changing birth control brands or stopping use completely. Not all birth control pills are the same. The changing of a prescription drug can lead to a chemical imbalance, which could essentially result in discomfort and new risks for side effects for the women taking them. Completely stopping the prescription could lead to sudden increase in unwanted pregnancies in many college women.

“As tuition costs rise along with all the other costs associated with school, it’s sad that women now have to worry about how to pay for their prescriptions,” said student, Francis Charlemagne.



Is Your Mascara Safe? NSU speaks out about this disturbing phenomenon.

Tanya Parnes NSU News Editor



▼ The safety of standard beauty care products has fallen under fire now that Minnesota has become the first state to ban mascara products containing any trace of mercury from their store shelves on Jan. 1, 2008, according to a Fox News report.

Current federal laws allow for 65 parts per million of mercury to be present in beauty products, because at those small dosages, it does not pose a severe problem. Mercury is known to cause many neurological disorders and problems and, according to the aforementioned Fox News report, retailers who knowingly sell products containing mercury to their consumers face up to \$700 in fines, and manufacturers who fail to put warning labels on these products face up to \$10,000 in fines.

“I think it’s really crazy that it’s in everyday products and can be life threatening,” said Julianne Olegario, a junior and nursing student. “I will definitely be looking more closely at the products that I buy.” Olegario said that she hopes the stores all switch to natural products, because those are much healthier for the skin. “This will affect my decision,” said Olegario. “A lot of people don’t know what they’re buying. They just see what’s on the front cover. Everyone should know about it.”

Carolina Jaramillo, a junior and marketing major, said, “I’m allergic to all kinds of cosmetics, so I use these Clinique products that are natural.” Jaramillo said that she plans to find out if any of these products are mixed with any mercury, because she is concerned about this recent warning regarding the dangers of mercury in the body. “I know people that go to Walmart and just buy any products that are available, which is really bad,” said Jaramillo. “When I go to Macy’s, I really read about what is in these products. I always try to choose the best products for my face and I now plan to be even more careful about it.”

Katie Scheurer, a freshman and psychology major, said that she is really concerned about this issue. “I think it’s scary, and as soon as I find out which ones are dangerous,

I’m going to switch products,” said Scheurer. Scheurer said that she realizes students do not watch the news as much as possible and are therefore most likely unaware of this important issue. Kaitlin De’aeth, a freshman and marine biology major, had a very similar take on the issue and was quite frustrated. “How long have they known about this and how long have we been putting this stuff on our skin?” asked De’aeth. “Since I’m a marine biology major, I always check what’s in the products I use, but this will definitely play a role in the types of mascara that I purchase in the future.”

Sarah Hafeez, a junior communications and pre-law major, said that this whole situation is ridiculous. “I can’t believe it,” said Hafeez. “I didn’t even know it was possible for mercury to be in your mascara, and I think more girls should be aware of that fact.” Hafeez said that she does not wear a lot of makeup generally, but when she does, she usually applies a small amount of blush and mascara, which is why she was very shocked to hear this news. “I don’t think it will affect my decision to buy mascara,” said Hafeez. Hafeez noted that she will still purchase those products but will pay extra close attention to the ingredients within them.

“I think it’s amazing that they can’t make something to enhance your beauty without putting dangerous additives in it,” said Lesa Phillips, a senior and business professional management major. “I think it’s really sad that there are no warning labels, because they should at least give people the chance to decide whether or not to put that product onto their bodies.” Phillips said that she plans to do a lot more research at her local makeup counter before she purchases her next tube of mascara. “I haven’t seen or heard about this, so had it not been for the media, I never would have found out about it,” said Phillips. “Women who have very tight schedules and don’t have time to watch the news are most likely not going to find out about it.” Phillips advises all women to do a lot more research before they purchase any kind of skin care products because they should make sure that the ingredients are safe before applying them to their bodies.

Exam Week: Study Hard!

25

monday

✓ *Health Screening:* A metabolic syndrome screening will take place in the University Center at 8 a.m. For \$10, attendees can test their blood glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol, and waist circumference measurement. For more information, contact Marcela Pagano at pmarcela@nova.edu.

26

tuesday

✓ *ASEE Funding Opportunities for NSU Students:* If you are enrolled in one of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) majors, you will not want to miss this opportunity to learn more about receiving funding through the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). At 6 p.m., the

Program Director of the ASEE's Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Center, Tim Turner, will be conducting a presentation to promote scholarships and research fellowship opportunities available to eligible students in the STEM majors. The presentation will be held in the auditorium of Huizenga Building.

✓ *Cultures of the World:* Members of the NSU community are invited to listen to Mario Ferr as he discusses the culture of the Indonesian province of West Papua. The lecture will take place at 10 a.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

✓ *The Tradition of Kente Cloth:* In honor of Black History Month, Cyril Blavo, Ph.D., will speak on the origins of Kente, and will discuss the traditions related to it. The lecture will take place at 2:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

27

wednesday

✓ *Protecting the Precious Gift of Sight:* Members of the NSU community are invited to listen to Maryke Neiberg, O.D., as he discusses the ways to protect and preserve eyesight. The lecture will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

28

thursday

✓ *Huizenga School Open House:* Interested in learning about the different business programs offered at NSU's business school? Then attend the all-day open house located in the Huizenga School. For more information, contact Karen Goldberg at karen@nova.edu.

29

friday

✓ *The Conners Assessment System:* Penny Koepsel Ph.D., will discuss the Conner Assessment System, an attempt to assess the behaviors and emotions of children and teenagers. The event will feature a workshop that will teach the participants how to recognize children who might need special education services. The workshop will take place at 9 a.m. in the Maltz Psychology building. For more information, email cpsinfo@nova.edu.

Truth and Power Behind Commercial Whaling

Kristine Belizaire Current Affairs Editor

✓ This year's academic theme for the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is Truth and Power. In this year's Faculty Lecture Series, professors explore this theme through various subjects, such as "Truth and Power in Modern China" or "The Propriety Of Relationships." As part of the Faculty Lecture Series, NSU Professor Edward O. Keith presented a lecture titled "Stacking the Deck: Japan, the International Whaling Commission, and the Resumption of Commercial Whale Harvests." In this lecture, "Power" is represented by Japan and the "Truth" is what they are trying to do with the resumption of commercial whaling.

Keith began the lecture with the history and origin of whaling. According to Keith, whaling has been going on for centuries. The first people to kill whales were the Basques, a tribe that originated in Northern Spain. The whales that were targeted were the Blue, Fin, and Right whales. The whales were used for commercial products, such as oil and meat. Lack of technology limited the number of whales that could be killed until the 19th century, when the invention of harpoon guns and steam-powered ships led to the expansion of whaling.

When the whale population began to decline, the International Whaling Commission was created to regulate and oversee research. Instead of ending whaling, the primary goal of the commission was to find ways to continue whaling at a rate

that would never fully deplete the whale population. This concept was known as the Maximum Sustainable Yield.

According to Keith, the composition of the commission began to change in the mid 1970's with the growth of the environmental movement. At this time, Japan began accusing the US of "stacking the deck" against whaling.

The IWC claimed that whaling would only be allowed under three general exemptions: aboriginal whaling, scientific permits, and whaling under objection. Norway and Russia continued whaling under objection, meaning that they objected to the rules set by the IWC. Japan also continued whaling, claiming that they were doing it for scientific research. The scientific programs set by Japan were widely criticized because it started as a feasibility study but never stopped. Japan also claimed that they needed the whale meat to feed their growing population, but a survey found that most Japanese did not consume whale meat.

Keith went on to talk about the ways that Japan has tried to resume whaling. Japan has admitted to giving foreign aid to countries in the Caribbean in order for these countries to vote in favor of commercial whaling. Keith concluded the lecture by saying that "stacking the deck" is not in the best interest of Japan, as it creates an hostile atmosphere in the IWC, and causes Japan to lost its credibility in the long run.

Distinguished Speakers Series: Eric Kandel, M.D.

Christopher Balaban Staff Writer

✓ Excitement was brewing at the entrance of the Miniaci Center for Performing Arts on Feb. 23, as crowds of interested students and faculty members from NSU awaited the much anticipated lecture from Nobel Prize laureate, Eric Kandel, M.D. Kandel is the third distinguished speaker of the 2007-08 lecture series, and high expectations surrounded the evening's event. Kandel's lecture addressed "The Molecular Biology of Memory Storage and the Biological Basis of Individuality" in accordance with the Farquhar College of Art and Sciences' 2007-08 theme of "Truth and Power." The doors to the theater had to be closed early due to the underestimated turnout for the lecture.

Kandel is a professor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and was the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology in 2000. Kandel's lecture focused mainly on an in-depth analysis of short-term and long-term memory retention and loss, as well as the associated connections of synapses in the brains of humans, mice, snails and flies. Much of the lecture was from an in-depth biological perspective dealing with various synaptic and membrane passageways, though expressed in a manner which made it possible for everyone in attendance to understand – scientific background or not.

Dr. Kandel's lecture lasted one hour; however, extensive questioning followed for nearly another hour. Kandel's research was truly mind-expanding and extremely intriguing to all in attendance. It was remarkable that nearly the entire audience remained for the prolonged question and answer period – a sign of how captivating Kandel truly was. No question was unanswered, regardless of the degree of difficulty; Kandel simplified each question to its essential components and delivered answers

which astounded the audience. An interesting comment repetitively stated by Kandel was how intelligent the students of NSU truly were. His lecture consisted of questioning the audience on how to solve certain issues in the brain, and to his surprise, he received exactly what he was looking for.

Students were motivated, intrigued and "mind-blown," by Kandel's intelligence. When asked what she got out of the lecture, sophomore Marcela Matamoros replied, "I'm a pre-dental student at NSU, but Dr. Kandel truly inspired me to learn more about neurology and the brain. The issue of memory retention and loss is an important factor, since I am a biology major. There's a lot of information we have to remember, and understanding what memory developments are taking place in brain research would help out any student, but especially bio students!" Divya Sadwhani, a junior at NSU, said, "Dr. Kandel is truly an inspirational role-model. His intelligence is something which I look up to, and his dedication to his passions is something which drives me to work harder towards my own." When asked if Sadwhani felt Kandel's success in his field was a result of his dedication, she said, "Of course! He is proof that you can achieve anything you truly put your mind to. The Nobel Prize is sufficient evidence of his dedication!" Bobby Vinceguerra, another biology student in attendance, said, "The man's genius is what I dream of achieving in the future, and if I could pull off the Doc's red bowtie with such swagger, I'd be set!"

The next Distinguished Lecture Series will take place on April 17, 2008, and will be given by Kerry Kennedy, human rights advocate.

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www.undergrad.nova.edu/currentstudents/gsp.

Shark Show Continued from pg. 1

many other voices in his treasure chest of impersonations. There was a general feel of approval from the audience as they giggled, chuckled and guffawed throughout his forty minute performance.

NSU student Jimmy Dean closed the show with what he called his "superfly dance moves."

"It was a good event. It was cool because it started with a performance and ended with a comedian, who was funny and kept us entertained," said Maria Lopez, a junior from Florida International University.

NSU student Jimmy Dean closed the show with what he called his "superfly dance moves."



Kristine Belizaire



Kristine Belizaire



Kristine Belizaire



Kristine Belizaire

Flight Deck Follies

Bibin Mannattuparampil

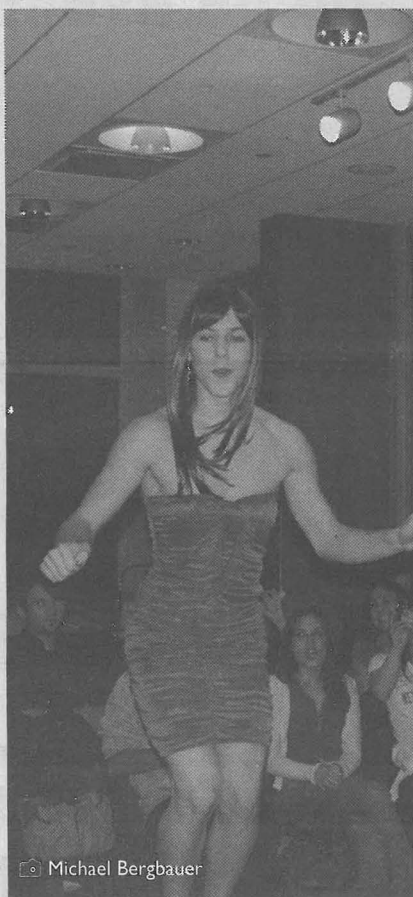
Staff Writer

✎ Flight Deck Follies is a beauty pageant with a twist which NSU's Phi Sigma Sigma sorority hosts yearly at the University Center Flight Deck. However, the contestants taking part in this event are not what they appear to be. Flight Deck Follies is a women's beauty pageant consisting of men. Confused yet? Essentially, Flight Deck Follies is a drag show in which men dress up as women to fight for first place by competing in three different pageant categories. The pageant categories include a talent section, a question and answer session, and an eveningwear show.

The show proved to be very entertaining as contestants took the stage for the talent portion of the evening. Some of the more interesting performances included a Britney Spears inspired dance routine performed by Rico Hernandez and a performance of the song "Live on the Hotline" by NSU sophomore Robert Vogel who was accompanied by NSU sophomore Kosta Lagos for this performance. There were a total of five contestants that participated in the event. As the night came to a close, it was time to choose the winner for the evening. The audience was allowed to participate in the task of choosing the event's winner. After the results were tallied, Vogel was crowned Miss Congeniality for winning the crowd favorite vote with a substantial win over the contestants.

The judges agreed with the crowd's decision. However, Vogel was not allowed to win both Miss Congeniality and first place for the event. When asked to comment on the judges' decision not to award him first prize, Miss Congeniality said, "I want my crown! This is a conspiracy!" Vogel later said, "I'm happy that I can represent Phi Sigma Sigma in helping them gain points in winning the homecoming race."

First place was therefore awarded to Chris Giello, aka Big Beatrice, with Hernandez coming in as runner up.



Michael Bergbauer



Christopher Bergbauer



Christopher Bergbauer



Michael Bergbauer



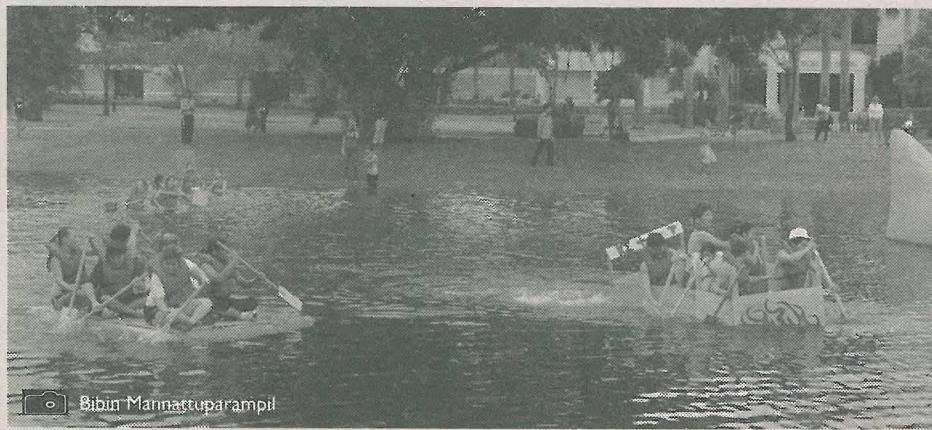
Michael Bergbauer

NSU Raft Race

Bibin Mannattuparampil Staff Writer

▼ NSU's Annual Raft Race took place at the Gold Circle Lake on Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. Teams created rafts out of a variety of unconventional materials in an effort to create seaworthy vessels to carry them to victory. If the viewers didn't admire the creativity that went into each raft that stayed afloat, they still had a good laugh at each of the teams, who struggled to keep their rafts from capsizing or outright falling apart.

The event was sponsored by NSUSGA as part of the Homecoming Week festivities. Prizes included homecoming dance tickets and Hellogoodbye concert tickets, a funded party from SGA and a "boatload" of SGA schwag. The Kappa Sigma team took first place, and the Flight Deck team came in a close second, with the NSU Conservatives team trailing in at third.



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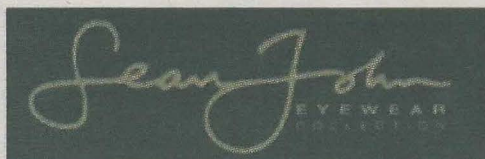
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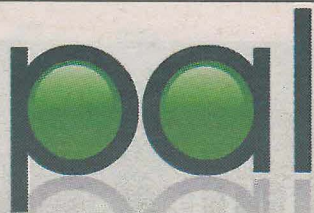
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Men's Basketball Snatches Double Overtime Victory Against Rollins College, 95-94

Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

✓ NSU's men's basketball team (10-14, 5-8) overcame a five-game losing streak to defeat the #15 Rollins College Tars, 95-94, on Feb. 20 in a double overtime match, which kept the crowd on the edge of their seats up until the clock hit the zero marker for the third and final time.

After struggling throughout the month of February, the Sharks sent a statement to their rivals throughout the SSC, saying that they will not lie down and die, as they brought home a win from one of the best teams in the conference, as well as seizing their first victory over a nationally ranked team.

With the score locked at 75-72 in favor of the Tars, 12 seconds remaining in the game and the Sharks' hopes dwindling, junior Tim Coenraad attempted a 3-pointer which was fouled and Coenraad was sent to the line to take three shots. Coenraad remained calm, cool and collected as he knocked down one shot at a time, sending the Sharks into overtime, 75-all.

After a rally in the first set of overtime and 25 seconds left on the clock, the Sharks faced a 3-point deficit. Senior Jason DelCalvo kept his composure as he fed the ball to Coenraad, who sank a 3-point shot, tying the game up once again and jetting both teams into double overtime.

Senior Oresti Nitsios came to the Sharks' rescue, converting on a 4-point

play, nailing a 3-pointer and swooshing a single foul shot to put the Sharks on top, 91-90, where they maintained the lead.

Senior Kevin Chester continued to excel as he raked in an astonishing 39 points, tying the NSU all-time single game points record while still managing to capture 11 rebounds, block three shots and steal two Tar balls.

Coenraad tallied up 24 points, eight rebounds and a career high of 13 assists, just two rebounds away from a triple-double.



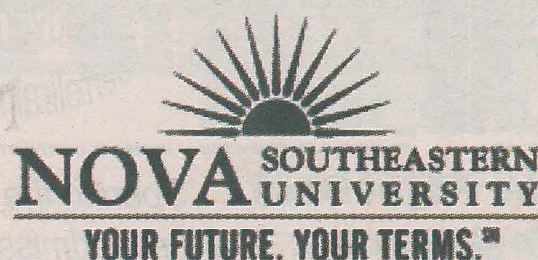
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NSU Women's Basketball is Virtually Unstoppable

Tim Coenraad Staff Writer

▼ The NSU women's basketball team (18-6; 12-2 SSC) has maintained their grip on the top spot in the SSC with two thrilling wins, the first over the Saint Leo Lions 69-67 and an overtime victory against the Rollins College Tars 67-64.

The #6 regionally ranked Sharks came out of the gates firing against the Saint Leo Lions, opening up with a 17-6 lead kicked up by senior Amber Bishko. However, NSU would find themselves on the lower end of a 29-27 score going into the half.

With help from fellow teammates freshman Abbie Tepe and junior Eliza Allen, who provided six and seven assists respectively, sophomore Stephanie Sarosi played the hero of the game,

registering a team high of 27 points while snatching 12 rebounds and swatting five Lion shots.

On Feb. 20, the Sharks were up against the Tars of Rollins College in an exciting game in which both teams refused to lie down, battling it out into overtime for one of the most thrilling matches of the 2007-08 season.

While Sarosi provided 23 points and 11 rebounds for the 45 minutes match, senior Amber Bishko fed off her adrenaline to tack six points onto her 17 overall, allowing her team to steal another Shark victory, 67-64.

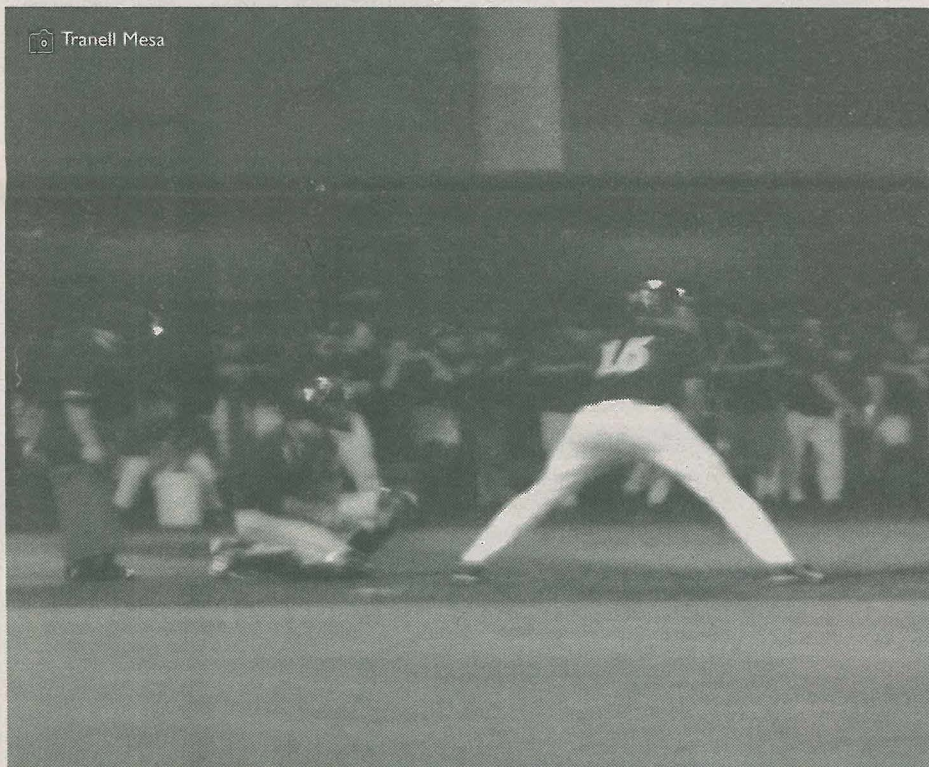
Allen did not go unnoticed as she put together 11 points and 11 rebounds, as well as another eight assists, just two away from recording a triple-double.

Freshman Abbie Tepe protects the ball as she drives towards the basket.



NSU Baseball, 1-2 Versus #17 Columbus State

Tim Coenraad Staff Writer



Senior Bryan Cook revs up for a big hit.

▼ The NSU baseball team (5-5) matched up against the Cougars of Columbus State University in three games, taking the victory in the first game on Feb. 15 but dropping both games on Feb. 16.

Facing the #17 team in the nation, NSU brought a combination of great hitting and quality pitching to the first match, defeating the Cougars with a score of 6-2.

Senior Rudy Garcia set the tone early, pitching for six innings and giving up just four hits. The lead enabled the Sharks to strike first in the top of the second inning as senior Jimmy Sposa hit an RBI single into centerfield for the 1-0 lead.

The Sharks struck again in the top of the third with a runner on third. Sophomore J.D. Martinez flied out to centerfield, enabling the runner to tag up and bring in NSU's second run of the game.

The Cougars found their first run in the same fashion, as a fly ball to right field allowed the runner on third to score, making the score 2-1.

NSU found themselves two runs up when junior Dale Alberto brought in another RBI of a single down the leftfield line, scoring Martinez on third.

After another Columbus State scoreless inning, senior Matt Mindick stepped up to the plate at top of the sixth and smashed a two-run homer to left center, pushing the Sharks' lead to 5-1.

The Cougars found their final run of the match off an error by the Sharks' defense, but NSU added one final run off an RBI single by freshman David Robinson to reach the game's final score of 6-2.

Senior Nick Carris recorded the save, pitching 2.1 innings and never giving up a single run or hit. NSU's offensive onslaught included a total of 15 hits with

Robinson going 4-for-5 with an RBI, Sposa and Martinez going 2-for-4 with an RBI each and Mindick going 2-for-3 with 2 RBI's.

The next day the Sharks would jump out to a 7-2 lead after just two and a half innings of play on the backend of a RBI single smashed by Sposa, along with a 3-run shot by freshman Nikko Echevarria, two RBI triples by freshman J.D. Martinez and senior Cory Clark, and another RBI single by Alberto, all which came in the second and third innings.

The Cougars turned the game around in the bottom of the third, stringing together eight runs off of six hits, putting themselves back on top by a score of 10-7.

Four runs were scored over the course of the next six innings with two belonging to Columbus State and two from NSU off a Mindick two-run homer, his second shot in as many games. However, the Sharks fell in a high scoring affair with a final score of 12-9.

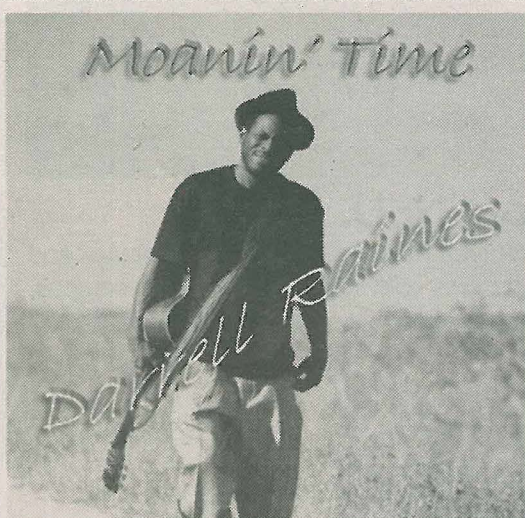
In the second match of the Sharks' doubleheader, the Cougars struck first, taking three runs in the top of the first inning.

Columbus State added two more runs in the fourth before Mindick once again breathed some life into the Sharks' offense with another two-run homer to left field.

NSU found another run in the top of the sixth when Martinez scored from third base in the midst of a Cougar double play, making the score 5-3.

Another run in the bottom of the sixth gave Columbus State a 6-3 advantage which would be the deciding margin in the seven-inning game.

J. Martinez, Clark and Alberto led the Sharks' offense with six hits off eight at bats between them throughout the three-game series.



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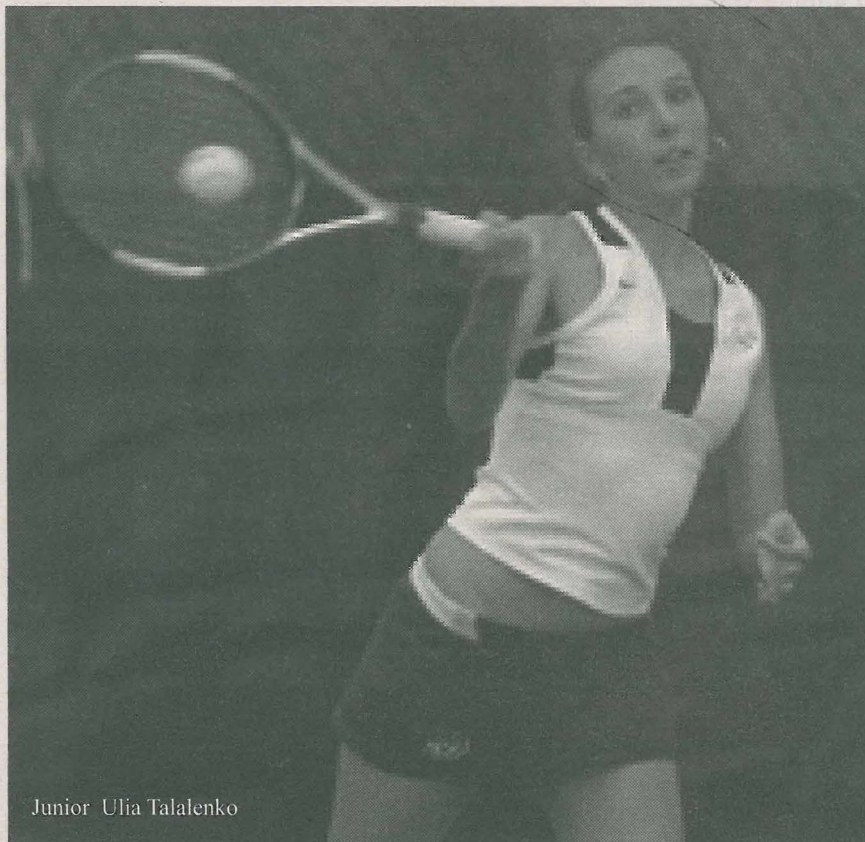
Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

▼ NSU's #8 nationally ranked women's tennis team excelled on the weekend of Feb. 17, during which they battled it out with SSC rivals, Florida Southern, taking six wins of nine total games.

The Sharks dominated the doubles competition, taking all three games of the match. Not only did doubles partners senior Alexa Korotkevich and junior Ulia Talalenko win their game 8-4, but seniors Tsippy Waterman along with partner Adrienne Duenas saw victory, 9-7. Sophomore Mary Crider and senior Edita Kulichova also overpowered their Florida Southern's duo, 8-0.

The nation's #8 ranked player, Talalenko took a victory in the singles rivalry as well, 6-4 and 6-1. In addition to the Shark's already triumphant day, Duenas won her singles competition, while #13 Kulichova dictated her game point by point, taking an admirable win 6-1 and 6-0.

The Sharks will be back in action on their home court on Feb. 24 to take on Tampa University at 12 p.m.



Junior Ulia Talalenko

SSC Men's Golfer of the Week, Constantin Schwierz

Tim Coenraad Staff Writer

▼ Junior Constantin Schwierz from the NSU men's golf team has been named the Sunshine State Conference's Golfer of the Week for his outstanding play for the week ending on Feb. 18.

While competing in the Matlock Collegiate Classic, Schwierz finished

second out of a field of 75 golfers, leading NSU to a fifth-place finish over the three day tournament in a field that consisted of 15 solid teams, including seven teams from the SSC.

Schwierz shot an impressive 74 in. the first round, a 70 in. the second and

finished with a 69, concluding his three rounds with a total of 213.

The NSU men's golf team will be back in action on March 2, when they travel to South Carolina for the Charleston Southern Spring Kick-off.

NSU Softball Dominates Salem International, 12-0

Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

▼ NSU Softball (6-5) ruled Salem International on Feb. 18 in just five short but exciting innings with an overwhelming score of 12-0. This win helped them regain their confidence after falling to Palm Beach Atlantic for two straight games, 4-5 and 1-7, respectively.

The Sharks got into a rhythm right off the bat, attaining a 3-0 lead in the second inning. Junior Brittney Lamb got the Shark's offense off to a great start courtesy of a RBI single, followed up with heads-up base running, which allowed her to steal home during the commotion raised over sophomore Noemi Luciani's single.

The Sharks came out charging in the bottom of the fourth inning, batting around the line up and tacking another nine runs onto NSU's score. Junior Katie Pepper broke her bat loose, racking in two RBI's, as well as junior April Donachie and Lamb assisting with two RBI's a piece.

With solid defense backing up all three Shark pitchers, senior Ashley Baker, sophomore Dani Caron and freshman Lexi Saradet, NSU was able to close the game up in the top of the fifth inning, taking the victory.

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Fool's Gold is a Perfect Romantic Comedy

Kristine Belizaire
Current Affairs Editor

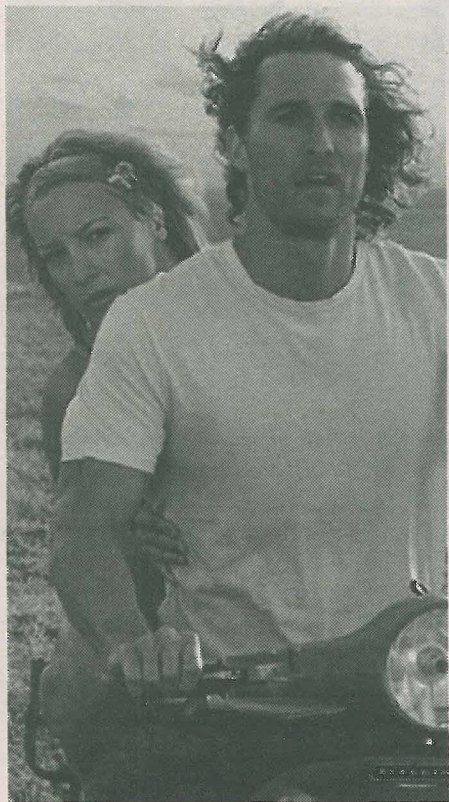
✓ If you are a hopeless romantic just looking for some humor and a warm feeling in your heart, then *Fool's Gold* is the perfect movie for you.

Fool's Gold tells the story of Finn (Matthew McConaughey), a handsome beach bum obsessed with finding sunken treasure, especially the "Queen's Dowry" which contains about 40 chests of treasure that was lost at sea in the early 1700's. Finn is also facing a divorce from his wife Tess (Kate Hudson) who thinks that he is immature and is too obsessed with the sea to be committed to his marriage. However, Finn is still madly in love with his wife and is not even sure why she wants to leave him. Even while she claims that she cannot stand him, they come together for one last chance to find treasure. Other supporting cast members include Donald Sutherland, who plays a rich man who just wants his daughter to love him after he left her mother. Sutherland gives Tess a job on his yacht, where his daughter, who is a superficial bimbo played by Alexis Dziena (*Broken Flowers*), comes in with Kevin Hart, playing a rapper named Big Bunny who blackmails Finn into giving him the treasure.

McConaughey and Hudson are both very attractive actors, and share chemistry onstage as they have in previous movies, such as *How To Lose A Guy In Ten Days*. Other noteworthy performances come from Michael Mulheron and Adam LeFevre as two homosexual cooks working aboard the yacht. Donald Sutherland must also be given some credit for his work as a compassionate father who would do anything for his daughter. Dziena's performances can make every woman in the audience want to cringe, as she effortlessly plays her role and is actually very entertaining to watch. Not so great performances come from The Cosby Show's Malcolm-Jamal Warner, who sports a really bad Jamaican accent, and Hart, whose role as a dangerous rapper, while amusing, is hardly believable.

While director Andy Tenant (*Hitch*) created a decent, romantic film, there are some problems with the movie. Some of the jokes lack humor, and some of the scenes seem exaggerated. However, the scenery was breathtaking, with shots from the beautiful waters from Key West to the Bahamas.

Fool's Gold is a perfect first date idea, and will bring a little humor to the audience. If you are looking for something to do this weekend, go see it. You will not be disappointed.



In Bruges Is In-credibly Funny

Stefani Rubino Staff Writer

✓ Most filmgoers in the United States know Colin Farrell (*Alexander*, *Miami Vice*) simply as an action-hero or bad guy or an actor who only does big-budget blockbuster films. However, he has surprised his audience with indie-action flick *In Bruges*, which came out last week starring the surprisingly versatile Farrell.

Written and directed by popular playwright Martin McDonagh, *In Bruges* (pronounced "broozh") focuses on Ray (Farrell) and Ken (Brendan Gleeson), two hit men sent to the titular sleepy Belgium town to relax after a surprisingly difficult and bloody job they did in London. There, they must live their lives as tourists while awaiting a phone call from their boss Harry (Ralph Fiennes). However, instead of keeping to themselves and laying low as they were told, they, especially Ray, get into all sorts of trouble with other tourists, townspeople, Dutch prostitutes, an American dwarf, and potential love-interest for Ray, Chloe (Clemence Poesy).

Farrell's performance was, by far, the best in the entire film. He was witty, dramatic, and still had some of that tough-guy sort of flair. The character of Ray

actually turned out to be pretty complex and Farrell took it on like a professional, like someone who had been playing these types of characters for years. Farrell's timing is perfect and every joke, one-liner, or smart-ass response comes in at the best time possible, showing that he is more than just a meathead who only plays characters that kick ass or kill people.

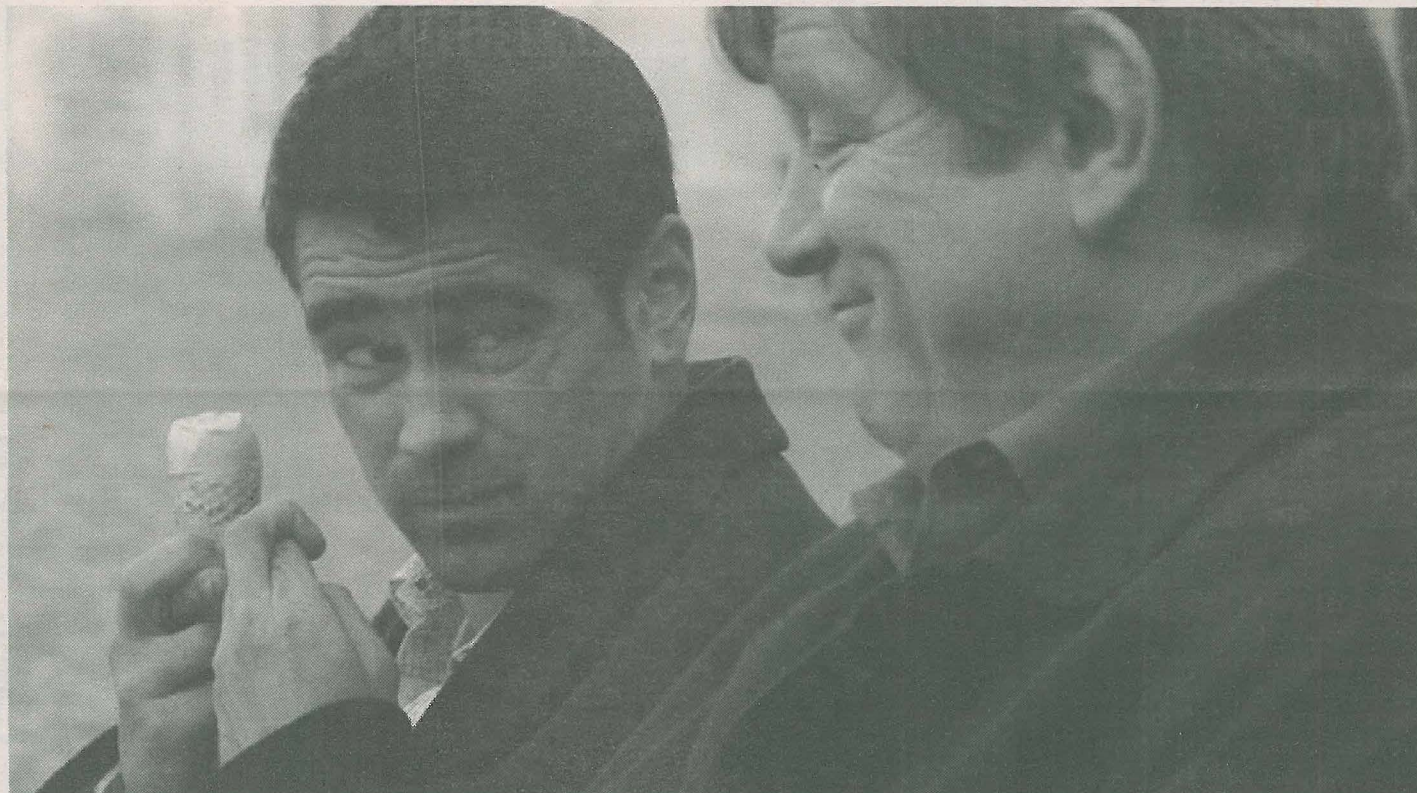
Gleeson's (*Beowulf*, *Kingdom of Heaven*) and Fiennes's (*The Constant Gardener*, *Harry Potter* series) performances are startlingly great as well. Gleeson mostly always plays sidekicks or wingmen, but here he takes on a more substantial role as "babysitter" for Ray. Gleeson plays an interesting character; Ken is a man who pretends to be strong and dangerous on the outside but actually takes solace in the sites and people of Bruges and keeps a close watch on Ray as if he were his own son, showing that he is actually a sensitive and caring guy.

Fiennes is usually mysterious and sometimes very awkward on screen, which is what makes his performances so interesting to watch. *In Bruges* is a testament to that fact. Fiennes plays the

boss of a group of hit men, which viewers would expect to be elusive and weird. Fiennes does a great job, as he normally does, and turns Harry into a powerful character, even though he is only a side-character.

The best thing about this film, though, is not just the acting, but how hilarious and witty the writing is. The dialogue in the film is smart, and even though there are points with high-action, the script takes the show. Viewers will be laughing before the movie even really gets moving, and the most memorable scenes turn out to be the ones with the most jokes, not the most action.

For me, *In Bruges* is the perfect type of action movie, one where the action falls in the background and reveals a more humane element to the people doing the killing. Ray and Ken's fumbles through Bruges prove to be more entertaining than the gun battles at different parts throughout the film. All-in-all, *In Bruges* is a movie for anybody and everybody who is looking for a smart, entertaining film without all of the emotional baggage that comes along with it.



Step Up 2: Awesome Dance Moves, Horrible Plot

Kristine Belizaire Current Affairs Editor

✓ *Step Up 2: In the Streets* is the sequel to the musical drama *Step Up*, which scored bad reviews in 2006. *Step Up 2*, however, is a major improvement over the original, but finds itself still lacking in the plot department.

In the Streets follows the same plot line as its predecessor, and tells the story of the white lead actor/actress who grows up in a bad neighborhood and faces the same adversity as many lower-class blacks. The lead actress is Andie (Briana Evigan), an orphan and one of the most talented hip-hop dancers of the infamous dance crew 410, who competes for bragging rights in a club known as The Streets.

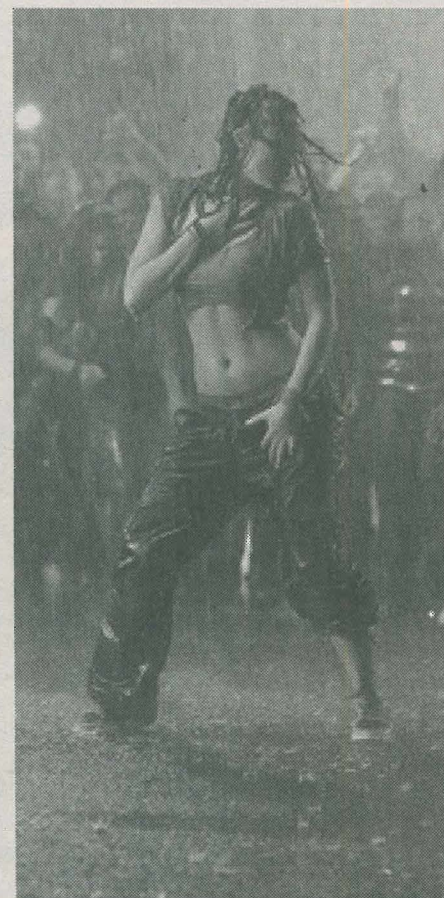
When Andie's legal guardian threatens to send her to Texas if she does not stop her rebellious ways, she decides to clean up her act and attend the Maryland School of Arts in Baltimore. However, her involvement with the school causes her to miss dance practices, which gets her kicked out of the 410. Andie is left crewless. She then teams up with the school's top dancer Chase (Robert Hoffman) and forms her own crew. However, because her crew is thought to be made up of a group of snobby white students, they are not given the opportunity

to take part in The Streets competition.

The majority of the crew is white, and it gets annoying to watch them trying to get the group of non-whites to respect them. While the movie tries to touch on issues of social and racial equality, it fails miserably in inciting the audience to think about deep issues. On the bright side, the movie does manage to get the audience to move, with hot music beats and dance scenes.

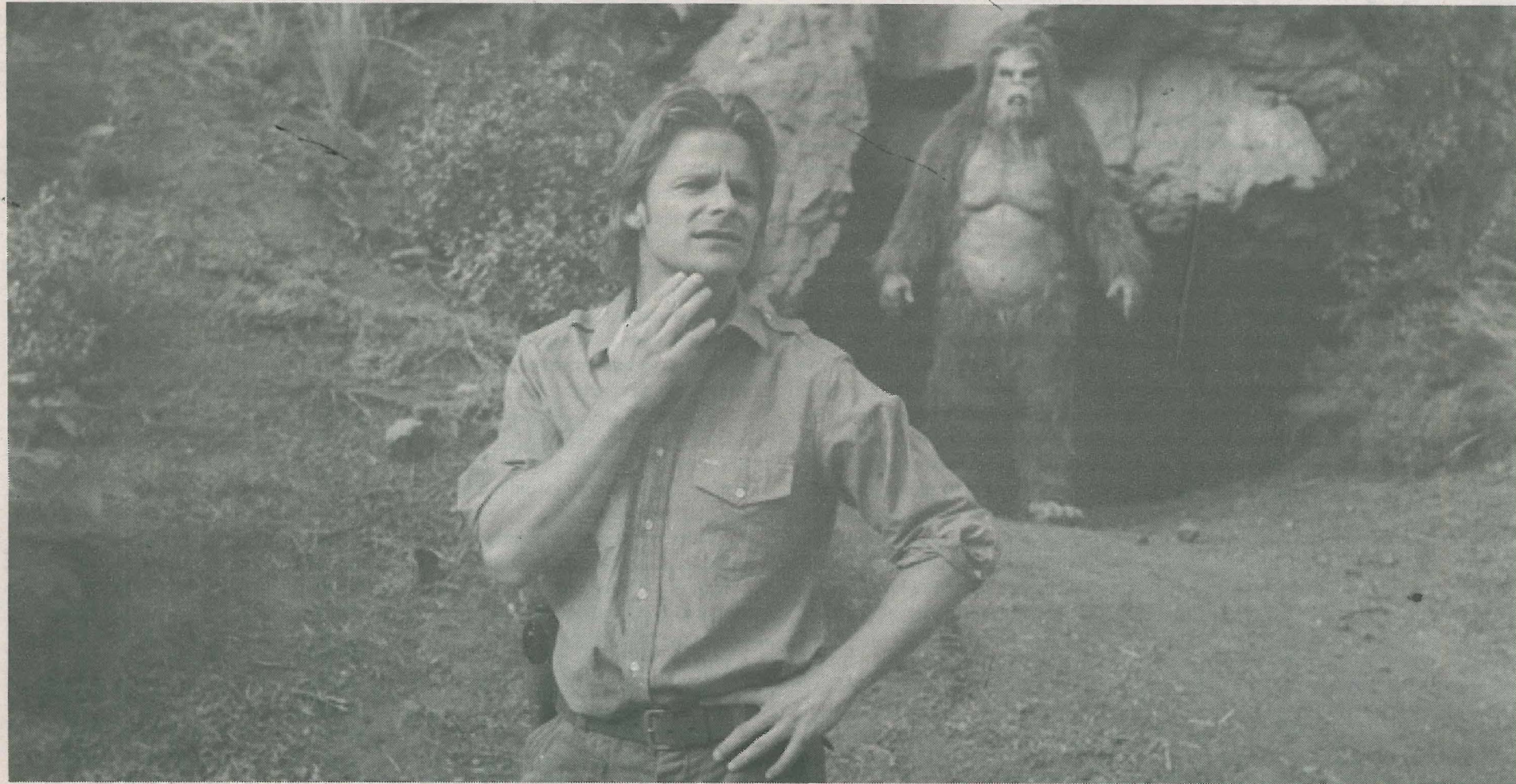
The acting is mediocre, but watchable. Evigan and Hoffman manage to successfully play their roles, but there was much room for improvement. However, there is no denying that Evigan is a very beautiful and talented dancer, and that is reason enough to watch the movie. The best performance comes from Moose (Adam Sevani), who plays a nerdy but adorable gifted dancer who also manages to become one of Andie's best friends.

Step Up 2 does considerably better than *Step Up*, with a more likeable cast and killer dance scenes. If they had stuck to a more solid plot, the movie would have been a lot more enjoyable to watch. But if you are looking for a movie that will keep you moving, *Step Up 2* is the movie for you.



Strange Wilderness: Not Strange, Just Terrible

Stefani Rubino Staff Writer



✓ Spring hasn't even arrived, and yet it already seems as though Hollywood has hit a serious filmmaking slump. Their latest embarrassment comes in the form of a stoner-comedy called *Strange Wilderness*, which was produced by Adam Sandler's Happy Madison Productions. However, unlike other "stoner-classics," such as *Half Baked* and *Dazed and Confused*, *Strange Wilderness* is missing one seriously important element: the comedy!

The story begins with the death of the host of television's most beloved animal-show, "Strange Wilderness," and the subsequent impact it has upon his son, Peter Gaulke (Steve Zahn), who is suddenly thrust into the limelight and left to pick up the pieces. Peter encourages his friend and partner Fred Wolf (Allen Covert), to help him run the show. Yet, because the two idiots barely know a pigeon from a flamingo, the ratings sink to all time lows. Refusing to lose the show and disappoint his family, Peter concocts a scheme to try to win back his audience. He decides to go out and search for the only creature that no one has ever really seen before: Bigfoot. However, as soon as Peter and his band

of bumbling idiots arrive in Central America to begin shooting, they run into several disasters that they had not expected to face.

The premise of the movie sounds fairly decent and quite possibly, with a lot more work, could have been a very satisfactory film. It has been advertised as a hilarious, slapstick comedy, supposedly in the realm of films like *Happy Gilmore* and *The Wedding Singer*, but *Strange Wilderness* ultimately fails to be an even passable film, unlike the former two. This film was packed with slapstick but lacking in comedy. It's not even funny enough to entertain the teenage boys whom it was originally designed for in the first place.

The biggest victim here has to be Steve Zahn (*Bandidas*, *Rescue Dawn*). He is generally never offered any leading roles and the ones that he does manage to land are roles in some of the worst films that I have ever seen. You really can't help but love him in every other film he's been in and he's usually extremely funny. *Strange Wilderness* however, was doomed from the minute the script was printed, and he was unfortunately trapped on

a sinking ship. Although his performance is the most bearable one in the film, he had absolutely no opportunity to flourish here and his career is going to suffer as a result.

Other disappointments would have to be Jonah Hill (*SuperBad*, *Knocked Up*) and Justin Long (*Accepted*, *Live Free or Die Hard*), who both showed so much promise after their other recent flicks. In *Strange Wilderness*, they play the dumbest of the bunch and they don't play it all that well. Both Long and Hill are masters of snappy, witty one-liners, but their talents were barely used in this film. Here, they play complete idiots, like the rest of the minor characters, and much like Zahn, also don't get the chance to expand their talents. The movie suffered because of it.

The most unfortunate part about all of this however, is the fact that people actually spent their hard-earned money to go and watch this film. It is just a disaster and as I have already noted, was doomed as soon as the script was printed and handed to the executives at Happy Madison. Hopefully they'll be able to redeem themselves sometime, before it's too late.

M. Ward and Zooey Deschanel Make Beautiful Music Together

Stefani Rubino Staff Writer

✓ Some time ago, Zooey Deschanel (*Bridge to Terabithia*, *Winter Passing*) co-starred alongside Will Ferrell in his holiday-themed, kid-friendly flick *Elf*, where she is featured reluctantly singing "Jingle Bells" to save Santa. I'm sure that anybody who has seen the film never expected anything to come out of the fairly beautiful singing recorded in the movie. However, it seems as if we were all wrong, as Miss Deschanel and her boyfriend, indie-superstar M. Ward, are releasing their collaboration album, *Volume One*, in the beginning of March.

According to Merge Records, they first met and collaborated when they covered Richard and Linda Thompson's "When I Get to the Border" for a movie soundtrack. Eventually they started dating, and decided to release an album together, recording under the name She & Him. The news of their collaboration has been buzzing since the end of 2007, and now, the album has inevitably been leaked all over the Internet. Some were extremely skeptical about what this album might sound like, and most of all, about how Deschanel

would sound compared to Ward's incredibly soft and gentle vocals. Surprisingly, her singing does not pale in comparison and the album is actually quite good.

However, there is one thing listeners should be aware of. *Volume One* is not a showcase of Ward's talent, but more so of Deschanel's. Ward simply plays the instruments and produced the record, which he does well, of course.

Of the original tracks on the album, the ones that stand out the most are "Why Do You Let Me Stay Here?," "I Thought I Saw Your Face Today," and "Change is Hard." The first starts out with a very Beatles-like piano solo by Ward and then Deschanel's Dusty Springfield-like vocals come in and take the entire song home. Her singing is almost unbelievable, and brought back memories of listening to my mother's record collection and discovering people like Springfield and Linda Ronstadt.

"I Thought I Saw Your Face Today" is an incredibly fun song to listen to, and probably my favorite on the entire album. The lyrics are

catchy, playful, and interesting, discussing a long-lost love of sorts. Deschanel's voice sounds especially sweet and innocent on this track and the melodies that Ward lays down behind it are charming and inviting.

"Change is Hard" is slower than "Why Do You Let Me Stay Here?" and shows off Deschanel's versatility as a singer. You can tell that she puts her heart into every lyric, lifting the entire song up to another level. Ward's sort-of early-sixties-like guitar melodies carry the song and give way for Deschanel's voice to take the stage for this song. Here, more than any of the other songs, Deschanel reminds me of how amazing Jenny Lewis's (of Rilo Kiley) first solo album was when it came out.

As I said, the album is surprisingly good, and Ward and Deschanel both did a great job on the writing, recording, and composing of the entire album. It is beautifully done and when you reach the end of the last song, you'll want to hear more from these two. *Volume One* is due out in stores March 18th, and if I were you, I would be running, not walking, to get this album.



Short Story

Love Magic

Racquel Fagon Variety Editor

▼ The district was located in a valley, about two hundred miles down from the peaks of the Mocho Mountains which surrounded it. The valley was the womb of the mountains. It nurtured and protected the four fresh water springs, two rivers, and innumerable fruit blossoms and seeds that the mountains naturally produced. It created a luscious and bountiful offspring that we called Lodgie Green. It was predominantly a farming district, in which livestock pleasantly decorated the landscape, and crisp green, ripe vegetables and fruits populated most of the land.

The houses scattered around the valley were boxy and neat, made with a solid concrete frame and painted bone white. The roofs added color to the structure, as they were painted with the various colors sprouting in the valley, complementing them superbly. No fences separated the homes. It was one big yard with separate occupants who were only a shout away for any conceivable reason, even if it were simply to borrow some cane sugar. Also, there were no individual gardens; the valley was the community garden, a vast expanse of panoramic, flowery beauty, with all imaginable species, colors and scents which suffused the atmosphere in sweetness and delight.

The people added to the magical beauty of the district with their easy-going natures and unconditional giving to each other. The vice that kept the district in check was their unmovable belief in the power of magic. Few people in the district practiced the craft, but those who did garnered a fearful respect from the others. My Auntie Vie received that respect from the district. But when the obeah she lived by took Charm from her and the district, the serenity and the warmth in the valley changed to a cold, anxious dread that has never left to this day. Ten years later, the valley remains the same, but is now a place of whispers and unspoken names. The day of Charm's death came back to me like a boomerang. I floated back to that time, remembering...

Everyone started to crowd around the bed, each trying to touch Charm before Mrs. Lyn from the funeral parlor came

for the body. The entire district seemed to squeeze into my sister's tiny bedroom, which contained only her single bed, her bureau and a chair in the corner. Auntie Vie had always told her she could do more with her personal space.

"Give it some life, man. Pretty up the place," Auntie Vie would chant. "Put a vase with some Joseph Coat and Morning Glory flowers on the bureau. The flowers will brighten up the room." She stood at the doorway, and pointed out where she believed the changes ought to take place. Sweet, delicate Charm neither said yea nor nay to the instructions, but would have the biggest grin on her face and a lilt in her voice as she said, "But Auntie, Joseph Coat don't have any flowers, only leaf, and Morning Glory smell frowzy. An' Auntie, you know the flowers flare up my asthma, and if not for you want to look on me and my beauty, why you come here?" If I said this, Auntie Vie would have said I was being very fresh and would have ordered me to learn manners by sitting on the front steps of the house and saying 'Howdie do' to everybody who passed by. But for her Charm, she only said, "But look 'pon you," gave a little giggle and went about her business.

Nine hours earlier, I awoke with a long stretch and a loud yawn. I was gearing up to put my plan into action, "Operation Kill Rooster." Miss Mary's presumptuous rooster had decided he wanted a wider audience and come four houses up and settled his cockity self right on the barb wire fence under my bedroom window, for the seventh morning in a row. He had all but woken up the dead people resting peacefully down at the Baptist cemetery, the way he crowed and squawked at exactly five every morning. But I had a plan. I had a plan for his bauxide. On this bright and holy Sunday morning, I, Ezra David Johnson, would wring that blinking cock's neck.

I bolted out of bed, quickly de-wrinkled the sheets and threw on a pair of shorts and an old Bob Marley T-shirt. I could already hear Auntie Vie in the kitchen clanking pots and pans and cursing the puss about the twenty dollars per pound sugar that he had decided to molest. For Auntie Vie, any person, or animal for that matter, who did something bad had molested whatever and whoever was the victim.

When I entered the kitchen, I found Auntie Vie bent over the kitchen counter, concentrating on using a spoon to scoop up some spilt sugar into a bowl.

"Bauxide puss," she hissed, as she emptied the bowl of sugar into a black plastic bag. "Plentiful when he was a man and worse now him is a bauxide puss. Jus inna everything." She knotted the plastic bag and placed it in the refrigerator. "Me want to see you use your claw dem and open this, Mr. James Swaby." The dare was potent in her voice, as she gently placed her hands on the refrigerator. The refrigerator shook violently once without as much as a push from my Auntie.

"Ah shoulda turn you inna a cockroach, so ah could step 'pon you." Immediately, she wheeled around and faced me. A look of complete disgust and venom was etched on her charcoal, plump, round face and then, in a blink, it was gone. The Auntie Vie who now faced me was the picture of sweetness and concern.

"Ezzy, how you walk so quiet in the house? Ah tell you ah don't like it, man." She uttered it so softly that if I hadn't heard it several times before I wouldn't have had any idea what she said.

"What you doing up so early anyway? Is not today you and Charm suppose to run young people Sunday School?" she said, as she gave the refrigerator one last menacing look and went over to the stove to start getting the pots going. I was now at the back door of the kitchen, with the rooster under close surveillance as he pranced and preened around the yard.

"Charm love to do them something there, Auntie," I said distractedly. "She can do it for both of us. I have plans for Miss Mary cussid rooster."

"That rooster still coming unda you window and makin up noise? How long now, Ezzy?"

"Seven days in a row now," I said.

"Seven days in a row? Ah wonda what that mean though?" Auntie's tone had that hint of suspicion and knowledge that told you she already knew what it meant.

"What you talking 'bout, Auntie?" I was definitely curious now to hear her theory.

"Ah mean, it mus' be a sign a something. No rooster not making him way so far, to perch the same place seven days in a row. How you know is Miss Mary rooster anyway?" She had obviously isolated the rooster in her thoughts, as the cacophony of 'meows' and 'squawks' went unobserved. She kept chanting to herself, "Seven days in a row...seven days in a row... strange... very strange."

"Auntie? Auntie!"

"What you shoutin fa, chile?" She looked at me as if I had interrupted some very important thoughts.

"But you not hearing me. I said I know is Miss Mary's rooster because is the same rooster did find Mas Jasper daughter dead under the guinep tree in their yard. Remember? And Miss Mary tell Mas Jasper, say him will have to pay her because if it wasn't for her rooster, nobody would find the body."

"Oh yes! She and her play-play magic. She tryin' to make money off poor, ig'nant people." She stirred up the contents of the frying pan, adding pinches of black pepper and salt, making the oil spatter more. "You know people have it that Miss Mary was using her magic and it ketch the rooster, but the magic did too 'trang, so it run off of the rooster to the little girl and kill her. I did know Miss Mary always fooling roun' with magic, but she don't know what she doing; is like it's play-play magic for her." Auntie knew everyone who practiced magic or obeah; those who did it well and those who didn't.

By then, the breakfast was in full swing. The pot of green bananas bubbled and spewed in its urgency to cook and the frying pan spat and sizzled with the chopped onions, sweet peppers and tomatoes as Auntie stripped and added the salt mackerel to it. Auntie Vie had the dexterity to do several tasks at once with equal excellence. That was one of reasons she was the most respected woman in the district. The other was she was the most powerful obeah woman; no one dared to cross her. People sometimes confuse obeah with other sacrilegious practices or acts of evil. Obeah is a fusion of herbal medicine and spirituality, spirituality based on distorted Christian principles. "Even in the Bible days," Auntie would say, "God needed helpers on the land to teach the people lessons whether by bringing destruction or prosperity." Auntie Vie was one of those self-proclaimed helpers.

"Ezzy, don't worry 'bout that rooster. I deal with him." She turned off the stove burners and heading for the cabinets to get the plates "Go and call Charm and the two of you come eat oonu breakfus" With Auntie Vie "dealing with it," the rooster, Miss Mary and this encounter were on their way to becoming another notorious lesson for all.

I knocked on Charm's bedroom door twice and got no answer. "Don't tell me this gal still sleeping," I said aloud, as I turned the knob and pushed open the door.

To Be Continued...

Landmarks in America JUMBLE

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TMHRMRNUOUESU ○○○○ ○○○○○○
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DANGLCARE ○○○○○○○○
MELEMOTAIVNMIRA ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○
UTYSEFOERTTABLI ○○○○○○ ○○ ○○○○○○
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President's Day WORDSEARCH

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E N O S N H O J T J D N N
J L N N G J E L R A A O P
E O A O S A U B M S X O I
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F N A C U K F D N K M N R
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S M A I O N R C L I N T L
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Adams
Bush
Carter
Cleveland
Clinton
Eisenhower
Ford
Hoover
Jackson
Jefferson
Johnson
Kennedy
Lincoln
Madison
Nixon
Pierce
Polk
Reagan
Truman
Washington

Editor's Note

Michael Bergbauer
Editor in Chief
nsunews@nova.edu

▼ Well, NSU, we have reached the end of the first half of this semester. Normally, it would be a passing thought, but in the minds of seniors like me, it marks an important point in time. Most people that I have talked to want to continue their education by attending graduate school. I, however, find myself in a very different boat – leaving school and entering the “real world.”

When one dwells on it long enough, it has rather intimidating prospects. For the past 16 years, I've been going to school and doing homework. That change of pace itself is unnerving. Then there is the student life. The connections I have within this microcosm that is “campus” will be severed. Currently, I walk down the street and people say, “Hey, you're the editor! Love your articles, man!” All of that will be gone. But this negative thinking will never do. There's still over two months to go in the school



year. For other seniors who find themselves in my position, consider what our elders most often reminisce about. “Back in my college days,” they say. It is a time to be cherished. With this in mind, I urge students to make the most of their time here. Attend events and get involved on campus.

In other news, with spring break coming up, you won't be seeing *The Current* for the next two weeks. It's going to be rough having that kind of disconnect in the NSU community, but don't worry; we'll be back on the racks come March 17. Until then, enjoy your spring break.

On The Scene

Kristine Belizaire Current Affairs Editor

What kind of special plans do you have for spring break?



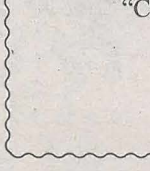
“Going to Orlando and visiting every park and club there.”
Aamir Ahmed Sophomore, Biology



“Going to parties and club hopping.”
Reggie Fleuriss Freshman, Accounting



“Going to the Keys for a weekend camping trip by the beach.”
Mathew Mazanec Senior, English



“Catching up on much needed rest and, of course, studying.”
Amber Taylor Senior, Biology

“Going to Calle Ocho to party hardy.”
Monique Reid Freshman, Theater

“Practicing belly dancing for the *Spirits of the Tribes* belly dance show in April.”
Lydia Malcolm Junior, Psychology

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read the article “NSU's Thoughts on SGA” dated Feb 11, 2008 and as a President for the Student Government, I want to provide correct information to any of our constituents and readers of the newspaper. As undergraduate students, we have worked very hard and our numerous achievements this year speak for themselves. Having the newspaper write an article about SGA only tells us that we have made at least enough positive impact for students to care about SGA. One of the attitudes we wanted to develop at NSU was for students to feel a connection with their SGA. After reading the article, I think we have been very successful. Some students liked us and some expressed concerns, but the best part was that everyone cared, as opposed to previous SGA senates when students didn't seem to care.

I want to thank the students who have shown support for SGA and are happy with our performance. Students' satisfaction is the motivation that drives us in student government. We have taken great pride and honor in serving students and we are glad to see that the students have taken notice of things we have done for them.

However, some students expressed concerns and I would like to address them. First, I would like to point out that all three students who were interviewed and had expressed concerns were a part of SGA during the last academic year (2006-07) and that two of them resigned in the middle of the year – showing their level of commitment and leaving the already incompetent SGA in 06-07 completely shattered. This year's SGA (2007-2008) has had to rebuild and restructure it. We have made SGA student-oriented, collaborative, accountable, professional and the voice of the students.

One of the concerns raised was that I, or the SGA itself, has not been tactful in dealing with administration. In fact, due to our working with the administration this year, SGA has been successful in opening up 700-plus parking spots for commuter students, placing fax machines in the residential halls, introducing printing stations to the Parker Building and arranging for Dean Rosenblum to speak to students in SGA meetings. These are just a few of our successes working with administration this year.

A second concern raised by students was the allocation of conference funds. SGA has funded conferences this year according to the guidelines, and the organization Beta Theta Pi mentioned in the article did not follow the correct procedure, even though the information was sent out months in advance by the treasurer. Would giving an organization that did not follow procedure money be fair to other clubs and organizations that turned in their budgets on time?

A third concern was brought up by the former SGA president about this year's SGA not following up on the State of the University Address and the attitude of SGA members. This year's SGA is committed, passionate and dedicated to serving the students and we cannot take the former SGA's trademark of incompetence, self-serving attitude and ineffective communication. We are here to serve our students and create a more dynamic and diverse campus. We love to collaborate for the interests of students, but sometimes, if we have to be a little pushy with respect to the administration to work on the needs of the students, we are willing to do that instead of giving up or not trying at all like former SGA's on campus. Also, the State of the University Address to the board is something decided on PANSGA, the entire university's student government. We would like the other 12 SGAs to be part of this process as well and give all of the schools equal opportunity by rotating it.

SGA has worked day and night to serve our students, and has transformed internally and externally, providing results for everyone to see and enjoy. We have made it our top priority to communicate effectively with concerned groups and behave in the utmost professional manner, making us a very active, interactive and successful SGA. I hope this letter will clarify some of the misinformation printed in the article and will give students a better understanding of SGA. Also, if you want to make a difference, SGA elections are coming this March, and information sessions will be held the week of Feb. 25. If you are interested or need more information, please contact us at nsusga@nova.edu. Should you have any concerns or suggestions about SGA, please feel free to contact me at bhargava@nova.edu.

Sincerely,

Akshat Bhargava

President, Undergraduate Student Government Association



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