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Nova Southeastern University

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April 14, 2008

Vol. 18 Iss. # 24

## Students Voice Grade Concerns with Fauxtest

**Tanya Parnes**  
•NSU News Editor

A group of NSU students wearing red t-shirts, carrying huge signs and marching in unison held a mock protest on campus April 10. This "fauxtest," or fake protest, as it was called, was a demonstration held by communication studies majors who were protesting their concerns regarding NSU's grading policy, as part of a classroom project. The students chanted together and then marched through the campus airing their grievances for all to hear.

"It was an imaginary protest based on a controversial issue that affects us as students," said Willie Wood, a senior student who was one of the participants. "We had the choice of doing something that affected us as students at NSU or something that affected the general population. We decided to keep it local and choose something that affected us here at NSU." Wood, along with the others, is enrolled in a performance studies course under the communications studies major. Wood noted that the class discussed possible topics before they voted to choose the issue of grade concerns. "We thought about how other universities have standardized grading scales where a 90-100 is an A," said Wood. "Here at NSU a 90-93 is an A-, depending upon the professor's discretion, and the numbers trickle down from there to the other grades below." Wood said that the class was using this "fauxtest"



to promote standardized grading scales across the board at the university. "To have a real affect we had identical colors, identical chants and messages and identical posters," said Wood. "As our professor told us, it is important to know the facts of every situation. It is important to expect anything whether it's from the protestors,

the spectators or whomever else."

Chetachi Egwu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, teaches this course. "The class is a performance studies class which looks at everyday life as performance," said Egwu. "We've actually been studying the use of protest as performance and

decided to have a 'fauxtest' instead of a protest. I told them to pick an issue that they felt strongly about." Egwu showed her students a film about the South African struggle which demonstrated the power of protest and the use of marching and song in

Fauxtest Continued on pg. 2

## NSU Law Student Plans Lie-In to Protest Lax Gun Laws in U.S.

**Tanya Parnes**  
NSU News Editor

On April 16, 2007 at approximately 7:15 a.m., Seung-Hui Cho opened fire in one of the residential halls at Virginia Tech University, instantly killing two students in a massacre which later amounted to a total of thirty-two victims, making this the deadliest school shooting in history to date. Cho was able to purchase the handguns used in these killings quite easily under Virginia law, despite his documented history of mental illness and the fact that he had been declared mentally ill by a Virginia special justice in 2005 after stalking two female students on campus.

"I emailed thirty-two of my friends just three days after the Virginia Tech massacre had taken place and asked them to lie down with me in front of City Hall to protest the amount of time it took for the shooter to buy the guns," said Abbie Spangler, founder of Protest asy Guns, which is a grassroots movement focused on protesting the lax U.S. gun laws. Spangler organized

the first lie-in on April 19, 2007. "Fourteen of the best friends of the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre are organizing lie-ins across the country this year. I'm leading the lie-in that will take place in front of the U.S. Supreme Court for three minutes. Then we're going to lie down in front of the U.S. Capitol."

Spangler said that she is protesting these loose gun laws because she does not want criminals and dangerous individuals to continue to have easy access to guns.



"We want to close the gun show loophole," said Spangler. "In thirty-five states you can walk into a gun show where they have tons of tables set up to sell guns and some of these sellers will allow you to buy guns without doing a background check first. You can be a criminal, a terrorist or a dangerous person and you can walk out with an AK, an Uzi, or a high capacity ammunition magazine, which is essentially anything containing over ten bullets." Spangler said that

while there are some vendors who do have to provide background checks at gun shows, there are several private sellers who are allowed to sell guns without conducting background checks first. "Twenty five to fifty percent of private sellers at gun shows can sell guns without doing a background check," said Spangler. "These are weapons of war that were never supposed to be in the hands of regular civilians. We have allowed it to happen through lax laws." Spangler said that she is very supportive of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), who has presented a bill to Congress that will close the gun show loophole throughout the country if it passes.

"About thirty five states are planning to have lie-ins this year and most of them are going to take place on college campuses," said Samira Arabnia, a law student who is organizing the event on campus. "About

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bringing about change. "The students decided to choose the issue of grades," said Egwu. "They all wore red for solidarity and they held up signs. Some even marched in uniform." Egwu noted that the issue really came alive through their protest, even though its intention was for educational purposes only. "They were very serious about it because I think this issue really hit a chord," said Egwu. "A lot of them had never been involved in a protest before.

Some students really got into it and truly saw the power of protest as well as what it can accomplish." Egwu had assigned two students to speak at the protest; and they really got into their roles as well. "I think that they saw the value of protest and that it can really have an impact," said Egwu.

Titina Gist, a junior who was another one of the participants, said that the "fauxtest" was a really unique experience. "I thought that it was really successful and some people around campus even yelled back as they started getting into it too," said

Gist. Gist said that she thought the group really stood out with their unified colors, posters and marches. "One of our chants was, 'An A is an A either way, you're not gonna drop my GPA,'" said Gist. "I thought that we stood out more because we were in one bold color which made us really uniformed in our efforts."

Robin Furmanski, a senior student who also participated in the "fauxtest," thought it was an interesting experience. "I'm concerned about the grade issue because it affects your scholarships, your standing

at the university and your overall grades," said Furmanski. "It makes you look worse because you're then compared to students at other schools where the grading is much different." Furmanski said that she thought the "fauxtest" went pretty well although she had a few concerns. "We all knew that it was a 'fauxtest' but everyone else at NSU thought that it was a protest, so I was a little nervous at first," said Furmanski. "I do think that although not too many people saw it, the impact was felt because most students stopped to watch us."

## Student. Robbed in the UC

Tanya Parnes  
NSU News Editor

Heather Dawe, a Florida Gulf Coast University student who was visiting NSU with a bunch of her fellow students for the day, was robbed while eating lunch in the University Center food court. Dawe's bag, which contained various items including her purse, was stolen from a seat in the UC where it was lying, when she took her eyes off of it for just a few moments.

According to the Public Safety report, the purse theft occurred at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at the University Center food court dining area. A Public Safety officer on patrol in the UC was advised by a non-NSU affiliated individual that another non-NSU affiliated person had her purse stolen from the UC dining area by a non-NSU student. An NSU Davie police officer was dispatched to the scene immediately. The officer apprehended and arrested the suspect for petty theft. The victim's stolen property was recovered. Four other individuals who were non-NSU persons affiliated with the suspect were also banned from NSU.

"We had been touring the recreational facilities at NSU because we're going through an expansion right now at our university," said Dawe. "We're trying to get ideas. We had just been to FIU and FAU so it had been a long day." Dawe said that she and her friends decided to sit down in the UC to grab some lunch once they had completed their tours. Dawe placed her bag on a chair that was a couple seats over from where the table was located. "Two guys came and sat down at the table next to us where my bag was for about thirty seconds, and then got up to go to the bathroom," said Dawe. "About a minute later, I decided to buy a drink so I went to go grab my purse and my entire bag was gone."

Dawe said that she quickly turned to her friends to inquire about her missing bag but they all told her that they had not seen it. "About a minute later, the two guys walked out of the bathroom and walked outside," said Dawe. "One of my friends ran into the bathroom to look for the bag. My friend found my bag and all of my things, minus my wallet, thrown out into the trashcan of the handicapped stall in the men's bathroom." Dawe said that her other guy friend ran outside to stop the guys who were walking towards a van full of people that was waiting in the circular drive in front of the entrance to the UC. "My friend ran up to the guys outside and asked them if they took the bag and they said that they did not," said Dawe. "I had three dollars, twenty pesos, my credit card, my debit card and my student id in my wallet. All of the items were later found inside of their van."

Dawe said that she was really upset about the fact that something like this could happen on campus. "I'm shocked that someone can just sit down and take your bag without having a conscience," said Dawe, who was even more surprised and shocked to learn that there were little children in the van as well. "I'm going to press charges even though I don't want to go to court. It doesn't matter if it's only petty theft or whether it was one dollar or three dollars I just don't want to walk away without making sure that they have something on their records."

Dawe said that she was really tired and irritated about the whole incident. "The university's Public Safety officers and the Davie police were really helpful. Everyone got out here very quickly," said Dawe. "People just really need to keep their bags locked to their arms."

Christina Burke, a junior NSU student, was one of the witnesses who saw the event unfold outside of the UC. "We were going to the Starbucks to get some coffee and as we were opening the door to enter the UC a guy came running past me," said Burke. "The door closed and then another guy came running out after him." Burke said that she and her friends remained outside watching the situation take place. "We then saw NOVALERT come running out," said Burke. "We weren't really sure what had happened. Then the Davie police came out."

Kyle Brunette, another visiting student from Florida Gulf Coast University, was one of the guys who ran into the bathroom to try to recover Dawe's bag. "I just saw these guys come and sit on both sides of the bag but I didn't think or suspect anything," said Brunette. "Then Heather asked about her bag. I just looked up, looked around and saw the two guys who had been sitting next to the bag coming out of the bathroom. So I ran into the bathroom with my friend Scott and we found the bag in the handicapped bathroom's trashcan. Everything was in it minus the wallet."

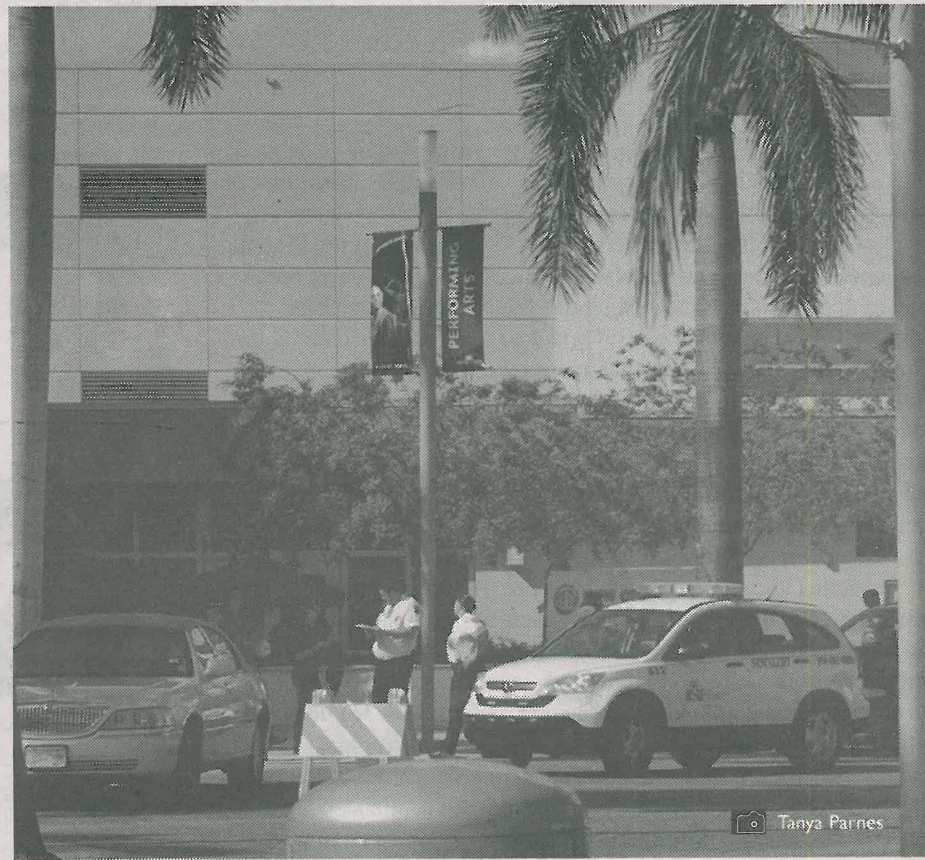
Brunette said that the whole situation was really unfortunate. "It just sucks. I hate it when things like this happen," said Brunette. "I feel bad for everyone that didn't really even have anything to do with the situation but are still getting dragged into it such as the rest of the people in the van like the children who have nothing to do with it."

Brunette said that he was really very pleased to see the quick response from NSU as soon as they were alerted of the situation. "I told the Public Safety security guard and the response was immediate

which was very impressive," said Brunette. "Even the Assistant Director for Operations for campus recreation, Crystal Morvant, showed concern and we had literally just met her."

Kenny Bastani, another visiting student from Florida Gulf Coast University, was the one who ran outside to stop the perpetrators from driving away in their van. "I saw the guy leaving and I ran outside to apprehend him," said Bastani. "I delayed him until the police arrived on the scene. I feel that the Davie police response was very prompt and I am very satisfied with the response."

Bastani said that he was very surprised by the incident because he is used to a very small community where crimes like this are very rare. "I feel as though when you let your guard down in such a safe environment like NSU things can happen," said Bastani. "Our initial reaction was to be shocked that something like this could happen in such a nice facility, with such great security since we come from a much smaller community." Bastani said that as soon as they had found the bag in the trashcan without the wallet, he ran outside to stop the perpetrators from trying to leave the area. "I stopped one of the guys on foot right by his car and I said to him, 'You need to stop right now because if you leave they'll stop you on the way out,'" said Bastani. "I'm glad that I was able to stop them. As they were about to leave I got a picture of the license plate. Then the Nova security guard came out as I was doing that and we both jumped in front of the van before they had the chance to drive away." Bastani said that he was also really satisfied with the immediate response from both Public Safety and the Davie police.





**Lie-in** Continued from pg. 1

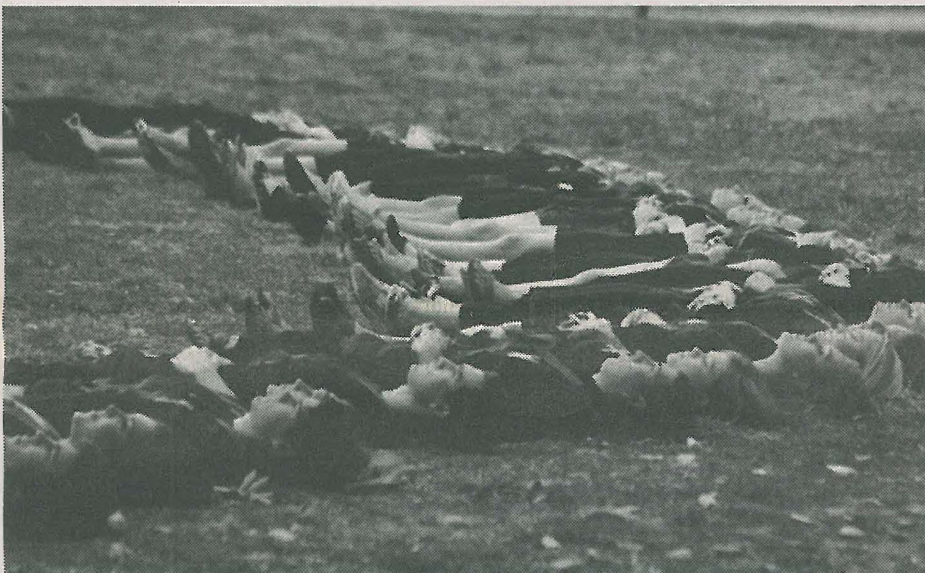
a month ago, a good friend of mine, Eve Carson, who was the student body president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, had her car stolen and was shot in the process." Arabnia said that she wanted to be involved in organizing the event on campus because she wants students to be aware of the loopholes associated with the purchase of guns throughout the country. "We hope to have at least 32 people because 32 people a day die from gun violence. Coincidentally, 32 people were killed that day at Virginia Tech," said Arabnia. According to the National Education Association Health Information Network Web site, more than 80 Americans die from gun violence everyday.

"We're going to come out here on the lawn in front of the Shepard Broad Law Center. We're going to take pictures as well as a video and then we're sending it to the U.S. Supreme Court." Arabnia urges anyone who has lost a loved one and wishes to participate to bring a picture or some memorabilia to be placed on their chests as they lie down on the ground in honor of the deceased. "I'm bringing orange and maroon ribbons, which are Virginia Tech's color for everyone to wear and I'll be passing out a little postcard explaining further details about the cause," said Arabnia. "I hope that this will open

people's eyes. From what I have seen a lot of people in Florida are pro-guns. I hope that people will see that many have lost loved ones due to gun violence and that guns are not the answer."

Arabnia said that she is unsure about the turnout since the event is taking place during final and exams week but hopes that there is a decent showing from the NSU community. "I've gotten permission from Dean Brad Williams and Terry Morrow, who have both been very supportive," said Arabnia. "They think that it really demonstrates NSU's purpose very well." Arabnia said that school shootings, such as the recent one at Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008 in which the shooter was taking several brands of prescription medication, would never have happened if the laws weren't so loose. "This protest is not to ban guns period," said Arabnia. "There is a loophole in many states where people can buy guns at these gun shows without background checks and we would like to see that resolved."

NSU's lie-in will take place on Wednesday, April 16 at 12:30 p.m. in front of the Shepard Broad Law Center. For more information, questions, or concerns please contact Samira Arabnia at [arabnias@nsu.law.nova.edu](mailto:arabnias@nsu.law.nova.edu) or visit <http://protesteasyguns.com/>.



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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.



**14**  
monday

*v Who are You Calling Apathetic? Student Activism at NSU and Beyond:* Various NSU student leaders will hold a panel discussion to refute claims that NSU students just don't care. During the event, students will have the opportunity to discuss topics ranging from political in nature to community activism. The panel discussion will be held at 7 p.m. in the Mailman Auditorium in the Mailman-Hollywood Building. For more information, students can contact Eileen Smith-Cavros, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, at [eilesmit@nova.edu](mailto:eilesmit@nova.edu).

**15**  
tuesday

*v Japanese Culture: The Tea Ceremony:* Join Freya Homer as she discusses the Japanese traditions rooted into the customary process of the serving of tea. The lecture will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, please contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

*v 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS):* NSU will celebrate the life achievements of those in the NSU community. The event will take place at 6:15 p.m. in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center. For more information, please contact Katie Blanco at 954-262-7283.

**16**  
wednesday

*v Basic Principles of International Law:* Steven Levitt, LL.B., LL.M., Associate Professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, will discuss the principles and foundations of international law. The lecture will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Institute. For more information, please contact Heike Dose at 954-262-8471.

**17**  
thursday

*v Truth and Power in Iraq: Approaching Activism:* Members of the NSU community are invited to attend a lecture that will cover the themes of truth and power in Iraq. The event will also feature open discussion where attendees can participate. The lecture will take place at 12 p.m. in room 241 of the Parker Building.

*v Distinguished Speaker Series:* Kerry Kennedy, a leading advocate for human rights around the world, will speak about her book entitled *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World* from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available by contacting (954) 262-8286. For more information about the Distinguished Speakers Series, please visit [www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/speakerseries](http://www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/speakerseries) or contact the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences at (954) 262-8236.

**18-**  
friday

*v Graduate School of Humanities & Social Sciences Open House:* Come out and join the Graduate School of Humanities & Social Sciences at their open house that will feature a welcome reception, campus tours and information sessions. The open house will begin at 6 p.m. For more information, please call 954-262-3000.

## Digressions Launch Brings Student Poetry to NSU

**Kristine Belizaire**  
Current Affairs Editor

*v* NSU students and faculty gathered together at the University Center Black Box Theatre for this year's *Digressions* launch on Wednesday April 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. The launch is an annual event that gives students who have been published in *Digressions* the opportunity to read and present their literary works and visual designs.

*Digressions* is the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences' (FCAR) literary magazine designed specifically for undergraduate students and supported by the Division of Humanities in the FCAR. According to Ryan Frabizio, Editor in Chief of *Digressions*, "It's a place that works as a small but intimate forum, giving students an opportunity to have their creative work published. We take poetry and prose and also a scattering of visual art."

Frabizio noted that the main purpose of the launch was not only to announce this year's edition, but to create a live forum for those writers and artists who contributed. The event was open to the entire NSU community. Photos, paintings and other works from the various contributors were on display to give attendees the opportunity to examine these works. Authors were also given the chance to read their poems or other literary works. Some of the contributors included NSU students Chana Dukes, Iva Marc, Anthony Labson, Ed Marks and Perry Uwanawich.

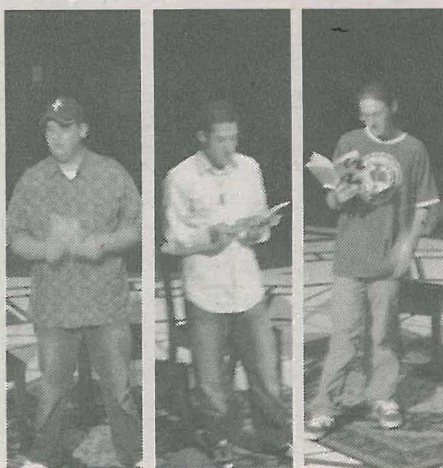
This year's launch also featured a competition among the submitted works. Receiving recognition were Frabizio's submission "Midnight Crossroads Standard Time" for best poetry submission and Dukes' submissions *The Library* and "The Burren, Ireland" for best fiction and best visual arts submissions, respectively.

"I probably wouldn't have gotten as involved with *Digressions* as I have if it weren't for the people who essentially

pulled me in two years ago," said Frabizio. "I just sent in a couple of poems. A couple people on the staff back then knew me and asked if I'd do some staff work. I said, 'sure.' Then they left, and I was in charge, and I've had fun with it since. I get a little jittery when deadlines and set dates start coming up toward the end, but I've never had a real need to panic. There's always the staff and Dr. Suzanne Ferriss, the magazine's faculty advisor, to fall back on if the need actually did arise."

Frabizio pointed out that although voluntary changes in the staff have occurred every year, they have always been positive. "I've always had a good [staff], because they're [the changes] all voluntary," said Frabizio. "They want to be there and to do stuff, so I'm pretty secure about how things will be next year and beyond. It's been fun, and it's going to feel pretty strange in a few months when I won't be hearing every couple days, 'How's *Digressions*? Is it starting up?' and probably stranger to hear those questions coming from me instead." Frabizio will be graduating this year and no longer working directly with *Digressions*.

For more information about *Digressions* contact Ryan Frabizio at [frabizio@nova.edu](mailto:frabizio@nova.edu) or Suzanne Ferriss at [ferriss@nova.edu](mailto:ferriss@nova.edu).





# Speakers Probe Sikh and Indian Religion

Kristine Belizaire  
Current Affairs Editor

Major D.D Singh Pannu and pundit Arun Sharma delivered a lecture entitled "Comparative Religions: Understanding Sikh and Hindu Beliefs" at the Lifelong Learning Institute on April 8, which covered the various aspects of the Sikh and Indian cultures.

Pannu served as a Major in the Indian army and has received the Distinguished Community Service award. Pannu is also a member of the Board of Justice. Pannu began the lecture by mapping out the historical background of the Sikh religion. Sikh began in 1469. The religion came to south Florida in 1961, held its first meeting in 1972 and had its first official religious marriage ceremony in 1973.

Pannu is a teacher at a local high school and was quite surprised to see the poor educational levels of the students in his classes. Pannu wears a turban since that is a part of his culture, and his students often mistake him for an Iraqi. Some of his students do not know where the country of India is located. "America is a great country," said Pannu. "But there is ignorance at the school level and that is unfortunate."

The Sikhs do not believe in the act of idol worshipping and have created a scripture known as the Guru Granth Sahib that contains the sayings of their many Gurus. Pannu added that unlike some other religious doctrines, the Guru Granth Sahib does not contain negative statements about other religions.

Pannu continued to speak about some of the Gurus who were essential in shaping

the Sikh religion. One in particular that he mentioned was Guru Nanak Dev, who worked very hard to help achieve human equality. Dev was also the only non-Muslim to ever visit Mecca. Pannu also discussed Guru Gobind Singh, who was the last of the gurus, and fought against injustice and tyranny. Sharma was the next speaker who discussed the different aspects of the Hindu religion. According to Sharma, Hindus greet others by saying Namaste, which means, "I bow to you with both of my hands together." Sharma noted that all Hindu religious practices are very hygienic practices in which the participants refrain from hurting others. Hindus believe that their religion is a practice that teaches one how to live his/her everyday life. Sharma believes that the purpose of life is evolution and growing into a better human being. Sharma also believes that religion is a type of code that people depend upon to become better individuals.

Sharma described some of the gods in the Hindu religion. One of the most widely worshipped ones is Ganesha, the God of Obstacles and Success. Sharma also mentioned the Trinity Gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

Sharma ended the lecture by reminding the audience about the importance of humility. Sharma said that the Earth is a small dot compared to many other planets. According to Sharma, people are more interested in thinking about what they want than about the wants of others. "Don't be too proud or arrogant with people," said Sharma.

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Kristine Belizaire  
Current Affairs Editor

Joining the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Gint?aign, NSU student leaders will go on a clean-up mission called the Great American Cleanup to help fight the dirty areas in our community.

According to Sharkoytes, NSU's online student newsletter, the national Great American Cleanup takes place from March 1 to May 31 annually. This year, an estimated three million volunteers will get involved and campaign for a "cleaner, safer, more beautiful" by participating in 30,000 community improvement activities and educational workshops taking place in over 17,000 communities nationwide. They will all work to spread the message of individual responsibility, keeping America's communities cleaner, greener and beautiful. In 2007, cleanup efforts resulted in 200 million pounds of litter and debris being removed from America's landscape, including 351,000 illegal dumpsites and over 10,000 abandoned vehicles. Participants picked up 4.6 million tires, 22.4 million pounds of aluminum and 592,000 pounds of fireworks. They also collected over 70 million PET bottles for recycling. To find out more about the Great American Cleanup

events improve over 178,000 miles of coastline (more than seven times around the world), 121,000 acres of parks and public lands, 900 miles of rivers, lakes and shorelines, and 3,900 miles of trails, biking and hiking trails - which is the equivalent of a winding trail stretching from Key West to Seattle.

NSU will take part in the Great American Cleanup beginning at 11 a.m. on April 1. Marcie Washittgwn, Graduate Assistant for leadership development, said that volunteers will meet in front of the Rosenthal Student Center at 11:45 a.m. to travel to the cleanup site located at Orange Drive in Davie.

We are calling on all students, faculty and staff to become volunteers and rally to fight dirty streets, waterways and public spaces by removing litter and illegal dumping sites, greening up parks, school grounds and other public spaces, holding recycling drives, painting graffiti removal, and more. The cleanup will be held on April 19, 2008, in Washington.

For more information about the event, visit the website at [www.greatamericancleanup.org](http://www.greatamericancleanup.org) or contact NSU at [nsu@nsu.edu](mailto:nsu@nsu.edu) or call 1-800-4-A-NSU.

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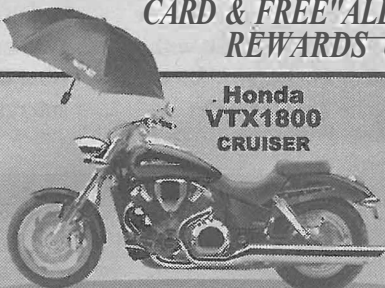
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## Interracial Dating Discussed at Student Panel

Stefani Rubino  
Staff Writer

On April 10, NSU's Diversity Ambassadors held a panel discussion on interracial dating in The Commons. The event, which featured panelists from all walks of life, was moderated by Marcie Washington, Graduate Assistant for Student Leadership Development in the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. Panelists included Timothy Arcaro, J.D., a professor in the Shephard Broad Law Center, Michael Reiter, Assistant Director of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and NSU students Liana Aquino, Shane Johnson, Rachel Garbaj and Samantha Toney.

The event began with a quick discussion of the "ground rules," which were created to help promote a comfortable and respectful environment in which everyone had the chance to discuss their opinions. After that, the panelists began to introduce themselves and Reiter showed attendees a quick presentation about common perceptions of interracial/"inappropriate" relationships and how the law has treated them.

Reiter and Arcaro discussed the use of miscegenation laws in the United States that have prevented interracial dating and marriages. They also discussed the ways in which these laws had been used by the Nazis in Germany and the Afrikaners in South Africa during Apartheid to prevent a "mixing" of the races. Reiter then discussed various culture role perspectives surrounding these "inappropriate" relationships. Reiter used his own marriage as an example of this cultural bias. Reiter, whose marriage to a Japanese woman barely raises an eyebrow in the US, is seen as highly inappropriate in Japan. This example helped him to demonstrate how certain races and ethnicities are "allowed" to be together and are deemed socially acceptable.

Many of the questions and most of the discussion was centered on the children who are born out of interracial relationships, as well as the ways in which that "mixing" had affected them and their families. Garbaj and Toney, who are both from "mixed" families, pointed out that

they never saw the differences between their parents until it came time for them to fill out questions regarding race and ethnicity. "During the SATs, I wasn't sure what to put down," said Garbaj. "I'm both African-American and White-American. When you check two though, they get mad and confused so I just checked 'other.'"

The group then began discussing their personal experiences with interracial dating, at which point Aquino and Johnson began discussing their relationship. They noted that in South Florida, there is very little animosity towards interracial couples and therefore they feel very comfortable with their relationship. Johnson did point out though that people sometimes try to come up with excuses as to why he and Aquino are dating. Johnson said that it is unfair to assume that they intentionally entered into an interracial relationship. "I like who I like and race is just not a factor in that," said Johnson.

Attendees then began sharing their stories and experiences with interracial relationships. One student in particular,

of Peruvian decent, said that she had been adopted by a white Swedish couple, was now married to a Jamaican man, and had just given birth to a son who will be exposed to all three cultures throughout his lifetime.

Panelists then made their closing statements, which mainly centered on the importance of being open minded and accepting of all people. Toney's closing statement stuck out the most from the bunch. Toney pointed out that she went to an all-girls institution for a while and the girls would often say to her, "I don't date a sex, I date a person." Toney said that when discussing her opinions about interracial relationships she often says, "I don't date a race, I date a man."

Everyone seemed to walk away from the discussion having learned something new. The open forum allowed for everyone to discuss his/her feelings and thoughts surrounding interracial relationships. NSU's Diversity Ambassadors deserve a hand for putting together such an amazing learning experience for all involved.

## Students Reveal Research at Undergraduate Student Symposium

Bibin Mannattuparampil  
Staff Writer

NSU students had the opportunity to display their hard work and research at the Undergraduate Student Symposium (USS) on April 4, in the Alvin Shennan Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

The event began with an introduction from Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., Dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and was followed by keynote speaker, Weylin Sternglanz, Ph.D., Assistant professor of psychology in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who spoke about the value of scholarship beyond the classroom.

As the day progressed, great numbers of students and teachers stopped by the library's atrium to examine the different poster projects on display.

Several different topics were showcased on the posters in the atrium including sophomore Briana O' Dowd's work regarding consensual sadomasochism in which she argues that consensual sadomasochism is only threatening

when it begins to conflict with normal everyday functioning and when safety is compromised. Senior Jenet George's poster dealt with the use of cardiac stem cells for myocardial regeneration.

Student oral presentations took place from 1:45 to 3:30 p.m. in various conference rooms of the library. Topics discussed at the student symposium included various fields of study such as the social sciences, arts, humanities, and biological and physical sciences. Each presentation was judged and graded by specified faculty members.

NSU also hosted its second annual film festival at the symposium, which allowed students to showcase their visual creativity.

Once the presentations were finished and refreshments had been served, it was finally time to present the participation certificates as well as to announce the winners for best creative writing, humanities research, social science research, biological and physical science

research and the short film presentations.

Benita Williams took first place for the film category of the evening. William's short film *Easy to Love*, was a story about two engaged college students who came to a crossroads in their relationship when they decided to get blood tests.

Chana Dukes won in the creative writing category for her poem *Gentle Words Say Something Unbeautiful* in which she uses pretty words to describe the ugly act of rape.

Ryan Frabizio placed first in the Humanities research section. Frabizio, whose work was entitled *Austen's Male Subordinate: Equality of Imbalance*, analyzed several minor male characters within Jane Austen's novels.

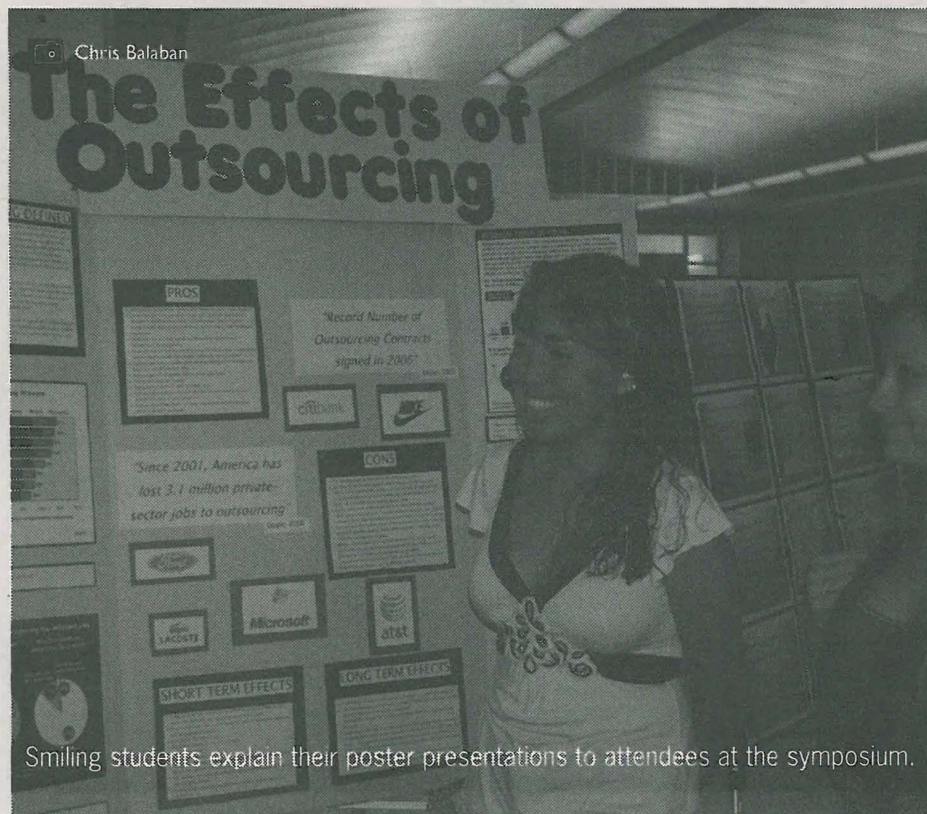
Lara Murphy and Hayley Oligane tied for first in the biological and physical science research category - a USS first. Murphy's presentation dealt with the *Conservation of Porbeagle Sharks Worldwide*. Oligane's presentation was

*Rapid Polymerase Chain Reaction Based Assay*.

Laxmi Lalwani and Samantha Domingo placed first in the social and behavioral science portion with their work regarding the association of synesthesia and creativity amongst a general population.

Randy Dennis was awarded first place for his poster, *Is There a Gender Difference Regarding Perceived Efficacy of Openly Gay Tutors?* Dennis predicted that the participants in his experiment would perceive homosexual tutors as less knowledgeable, less friendly and less helpful than the tutors in the control condition.

The first, second and third place winners in each specified category were invited to attend an awards luncheon on Friday, April 12 commemorating their excellent work. In addition, the first place winners were asked to stay a bit longer after the awards announcements for an interview.



Smiling students explain their poster presentations to attendees at the symposium.

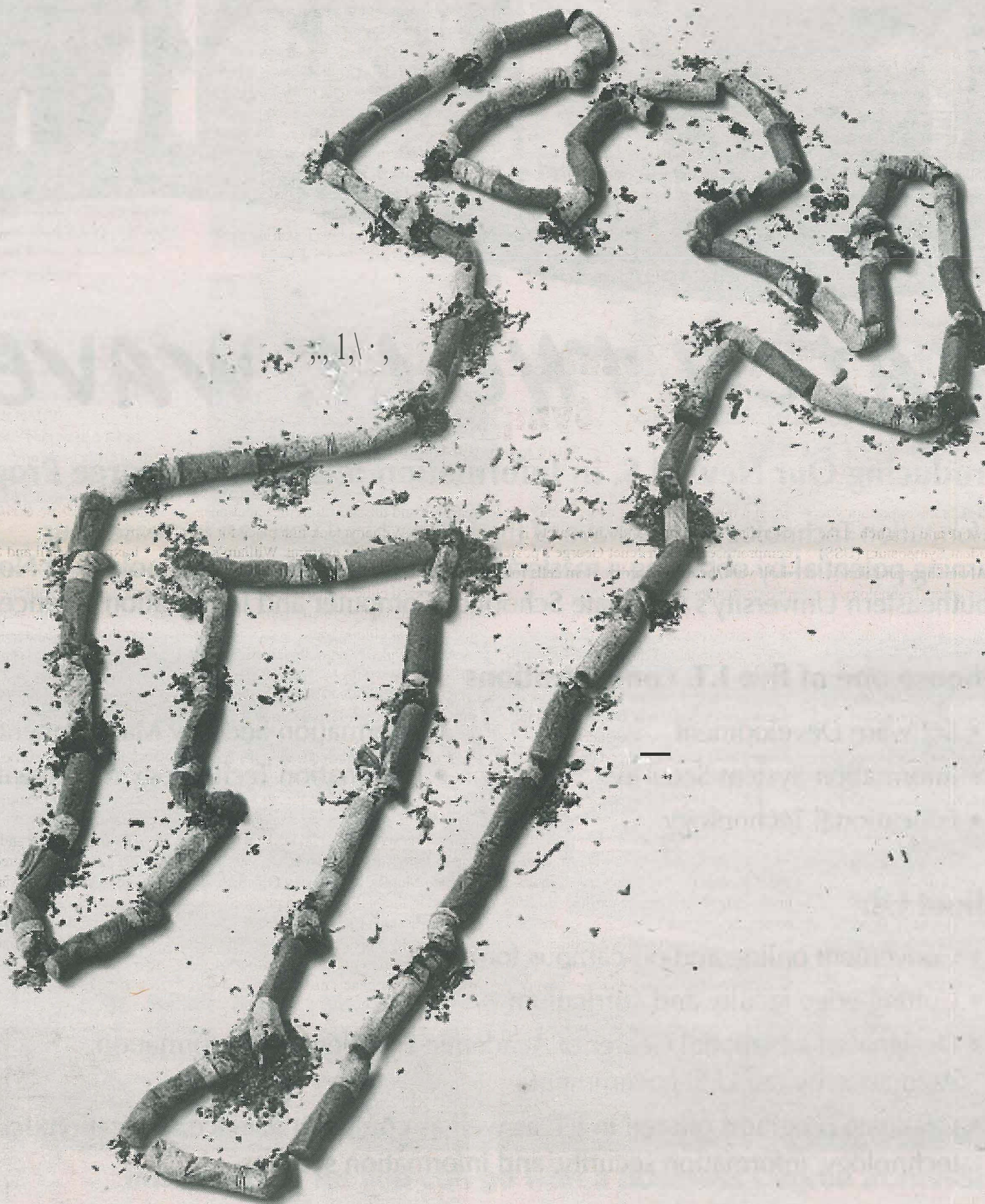


Debbie Ali receives certificate of participation and photo op with Don Rosenblum and Allan Schulman, Director of Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences.



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# Straight from the Shark's Mouth: NSU Personalities on Campus

Tanya Parnes  
NSU News Editor

Ulia Talalenko, a biology and pre-dental major enrolled in the dual-admissions program, is currently in her junior year at NSU. Talalenko, who is originally from Novosibirsk, Russia, grew up in Naples, Fla. with her family, which includes her parents Sergei and Lana, her younger sister Anastasia and her little brother Gregory. Talalenko is a decorated player on NSU's women's tennis team, who plays both singles and doubles, and really enjoys the sport. The 5'7" athlete has played tennis since she was a little girl and was a two-time recipient of the MVP award in high school.

**Tanya:** Why did you choose to come to NSU?

**Ulia:** My mom graduated from the dental school here and she liked it a lot. I mainly came for the dental school and because NSU has a nice atmosphere.

**Tanya:** How do you like NSU?

**Ulia:** I like it a lot here. It's a really good campus.

**Tanya:** What's your favorite thing about going to school at NSU?

**Ulia:** The location! There are a lot of things to do here. You're so close to the beach. You're close to the malls and there's a lot to do around Ft. Lauderdale.

Talalenko Continued on pg. H



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# NSU Baseball Team Wins One out of Three

**Tim Coenraad**  
Staff Writer

The NSU baseball team (22-15) took part in the conference series match-up against the Panthers of Florida Tech. An impressive pitching performance by the recently named conference Pitcher of the Week, Rudy Garcia, saw the Sharks hold off the Panthers, 4-2.

Garcia pitched for 7.1 innings allowing only one earned run off three hits while striking out six batters, thereby improving his win-loss record to 7-1.

It wasn't until the sixth inning that NSU dug up their first run, which came from sophomore Eric McCans' RBI single. However, the Panthers tied up the game in the bottom of the seventh on a solo homerun, I. I.

The Sharks responded immediately when junior Dale Alberto flied-out to centerfield, allowing freshman J.D. Martinez to score. Freshman pitcher Zachary North stepped up to back up fellow teammate Garcia to record his second save of the year.

During the first game of the doubleheader the following day, NSU registered 18 hits and nine RBI's in their 10-8 victory, sealing the series against Florida Tech. For the win, senior Matt Mindick opened the Sharks scoring in the first at bat of the game, slugging a solo homerun to start proceedings. However Florida Tech answered with a three-run inning instantly afterwards.

Florida Tech's pitcher seemed to have no answer for Mindick as he smashed his second homer of the game during his very next time at bat, allowing the Sharks to close up the gap and making the score 3-2 in favor of the Panthers.

NSU regained the lead in the top of the fourth with their third homerun

of the game, with a homer from senior Bryan Cook as well as an RBI single for Robinson. However, the Panthers once again responded in the fifth scoring two runs, and tying the game at five runs a piece.

The Shark's decisive attack came in the top of the sixth when Robinson batted in two more runs off a single, eventually scoring off a throwing error. McCans batted in senior Jimmy Sposa soon afterwards, and the Sharks then took a 9-5 lead.

NSU weathered a Panther three-run inning in the seventh and scored another run in the ninth when junior Pete Simon hit yet another homerun for the Sharks bringing the game to its final score of 10-8.

Senior pitcher Nick Carris recorded his impressive seventh save of the season, while Mindick (2-for-4), Cook (2-for-5), Simon (3-for-4), Alberto (3-for-5), Robinson (4-for-5) and Sposa (2-for-5) all posted multiple hit games. Robinson tallied three hits, followed by Cook and Mindick with two apiece.

In game two, the Florida Tech Panthers finally found a way around the Sharks as they won the third game, 4-3.

The Sharks were back at it once again on April 9 as they took on their conference rivals, the Buccaneers of Barry University, in a non-conference match-up. The visitors started off strong knocking in two runs in the top of the first inning. In the bottom of the second, the Sharks hit back and Simon tied it up with a two run homer. The tie was tied in the sixth inning when Barry batted in three runs off four hits to take back the lead 5-2. Barry put up one extra run in the seventh inning to take the game to the victory with a final score of 6-2.

# Sharks Fall in Rollins Series, and Take Northwood Doubleheader

**Tranell Mesa**  
Sports Editor

The NSU softball team (37-14, 6-3 SSC) faced off against their SSC rival, Rollins College, during the weekend of April 4 where they took one of the three games played.

The Sharks dropped the first game of the series 2-7. Sophomore starting pitcher Dani Caron was unable to find her rhythm, and the Tars quickly tuned in, tacking together five hits for six runs in the first two innings. Freshman Lexi Sarradet quickly came to the rescue, holding the Tars to only one hit for the remainder of the game. Unfortunately, the Sharks did not prevail.

Sarradet kicked off game two, giving up only three hits while the Sharks tallied up a total of eight for the win, 5-0. Unfortunately, NSU was unable to follow through for the third game win and they were sadly defeated once again by the Tars, 6-1. Despite the loss, freshman Brooke Mitchell, along with fellow teammate

sophomore Noemi Luciani, performed extremely well, each going 2-3 from the batters box. Luciani had two singles while Mitchell had a single and a double.

On April 9, the Sharks took on Northwood's Seahawks for a doubleheader, which was controlled by dominant pitching from Sarradet in game one and senior Ashley Baker in game two. The Sharks came out victorious with a score of 8-0 in both games after going just six innings in each.

In game one Sarradet recorded a sensational 12 strike outs for the shutout, bringing her overall pitching record up to 16-5. In game two, Baker, in addition to her peak pitching performance, went 2-3 from the box including a triple and her sixth homerun for the 2008 season. Baker then continued to pitch through game two, with Sarradet closing for the no-hitter, improving Baker's win-loss record to 8-3.



Chris Balaban

# Men's Baseball Pitcher Ruddy Garcia and Men's Golfer Constantin Schwierz Awarded SSC Honors

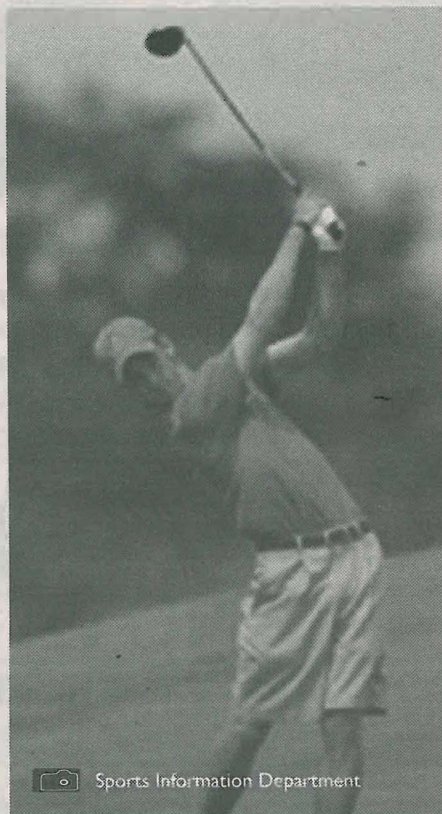
**Tranell Mesa**  
Sports Editor

NSU just experienced yet another fantastic week of athletics with two Shark athletes, senior baseball pitcher Ruddy Garcia and junior golfer Constantin Schwierz, named with SSC honors on April 7.

During the Buccaneer Invitational, Schwierz gave a sensational performance, shooting 74 in the first round, 67 in the second and 72 in the third, totaling 213 overall, placing him in second among the 78 competitors. In addition to his individual accomplishments, Schwierz has helped his team earn its third place finish in the tournament.

Garcia took on a huge leadership role in the recent Sharks versus Florida Tech SSC match up, bringing home two wins out of three games to clinch the series. Garcia pitched a total of 7.1 innings in game one of the series, facing a total of 24 batters, and only allowing three hits and one run, while striking out six Florida Tech hitters. With his impressive numbers Garcia leads the Sharks' pitching staff in the conference with a win-loss record of 4-0 and a stellar 2.77 ERA.

Junior Constantin Schwierz



Sports Information Department

# Sharks Track Sets New Records

**Tim Coenraad**  
Staff Writer

The men's and women's track teams have only officially been at NSU for two seasons but have left a lasting impression nonetheless. Their most recent accomplishments occurred during the Pepsi University of Florida Relays, which took place on April 7 in Gainesville, Fla.

A four man freshman team, consisting of John Besharat, Jeff Palmer, Joseph Pena and Agustin Rey, took the gold in the prestigious 4x1600m relay with an impressive performance, which resulted in a time of 18:12.20.

Pena also competed in the 1500m race, in which he set a new personal record for himself as well as a new NSU record by posting a time of 3:59.60.

Additionally, freshman sprinter Mike Wilson and sophomore John Crute took part in the 400m event in which they each posted times of 50.32 and 51.69, respectively. Palmer and sophomore Christian Moore ran in the 5000m event, in which Palmer grabbed a second place finish, setting a new best time record for himself of 15:30, and Moore finished in sixth with a time of 16:29.

Tara Haddock was the day's standout on the women's track team as she smashed the school record in the 800m race with a new personal best time of 2:21.96. Haddock's accomplishment comes at the start of her 2008 return appearance on the women's track team, since the conclusion of the 2008 women's basketball season.



Sophomore Tara Haddock



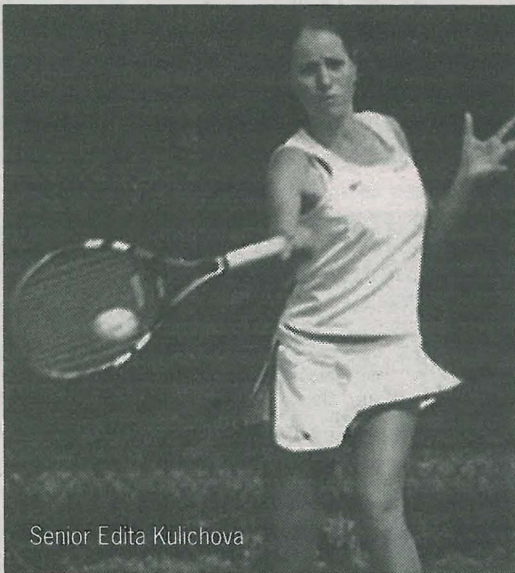
# Tennis Finishes Regular Season by Defeating Eckerd, 9-0

Tranell Mesa  
Sports Editor

The Sharks' #13 nationally ranked tennis team (13-5, 5-3 SSC) finished their 2008 regular season off right as they crushed the Eckerd College Tritons 9-0 on April 6.

Senior Alexa Korotkevich, along with junior doubles partner Uliya Talalenko, made it very clear as to why they are regionally ranked #4, as they destroyed their opposition, 8-5. Both of the other Shark duos, senior Tsippy Waterman and freshman Andee Johnson and sophomore Mary Crider and senior Edita Kulichova prevailed as well, at 8-4 and 8-0, respectively.

The southeast region's #2 singles player, Talalenko, crushed her rivaling Triton singles player by a score of 7-6



Senior Edita Kulichova

(7-3) in game one just before falling 2-6 in the second game. Talalenko came out victorious in the third and final game however with a score of 10-8.

Waterman, Kulichova and Crider were also successful as each ended with a score of 6-0 for every game of their singles competition,

all three refusing to give their opponents a chance to counter.

The Sharks will kick off the SSC Championship tournament on April 17 when they travel up to Lakeland where Florida Southern will host.

Continued from pg. 9

Tanya: What's your position on the tennis team?

Uliya: I started as a second position for singles and first position for doubles in my freshman year. Now I'm playing first position for both singles and doubles.

Uliya: How do you like being a part of the tennis team?

Tanya: I like it because they are really nice group of people. I love our coach, Michael Coleman. He always looks out for our best interest in everything. I really love being a part of the team. There is always someone there when you need them.

Tanya: What is your current ranking? Uliya: I'm not in the top 100 for singles and not in the top 100 for doubles. I'm not in the top 100 for doubles with my partner, Alexa Korotkevich. I'm in the top 100 for doubles.

Tanya: What have you earned so far while at NSU? Uliya: During my freshman year, I was awarded a scholarship for being a member of the tennis team and the AU, FC & ST team for doubles. We're not doing well with our season, so I'm not sure yet about my year.

Tanya: How do you balance tennis and your academics? Uliya: I don't sleep very much. It's hard, but it's doable. When I first started out at NSU, it was difficult. I had to take time

to balance my classes and my tennis. Our coach really helped me as much as he does athletes.

Tanya: Given your high rankings do you plan to pursue tennis after college?

Uliya: I'm not going to pursue it right now just doing it during my college years. I've enjoyed tennis competitively. I'll continue my whole life since I was severe in my love for the game. I want to move on to the next stage of life.

Tanya: What do you hope to do in the future?

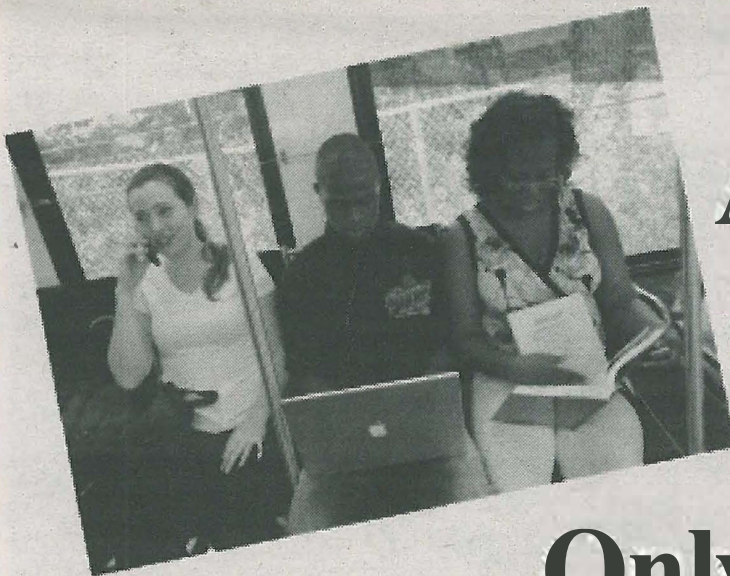
Uliya: My mom has her own dental practice so I'm hoping that one day I can take over and continue her career.

Tanya: Do you think your college experience so far?

Uliya: I think it's a better experience being a part of a team. I've made friends with the other athletes and it feels like it adds to your experience.

Tanya: Do you have any advice for other athletes?

Uliya: Just keep your priorities straight. It's easy to lose focus when you come to college because you're on your own for the first time in your life. There's a time for fun and a time to be serious. You have to find a balance.



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# Leatherheads Drops the Ball

Stefani Rubino  
Staff Writer

v My father loves football and silly movies. So, in an attempt to go to the movies together, we chose *Leatherheads* because we figured that maybe there would be something in it for both of us. Boy, were we wrong! Films that display as much nostalgia as *Leatherheads* should never be made in the first place because they always seem to exploit their own weaknesses.

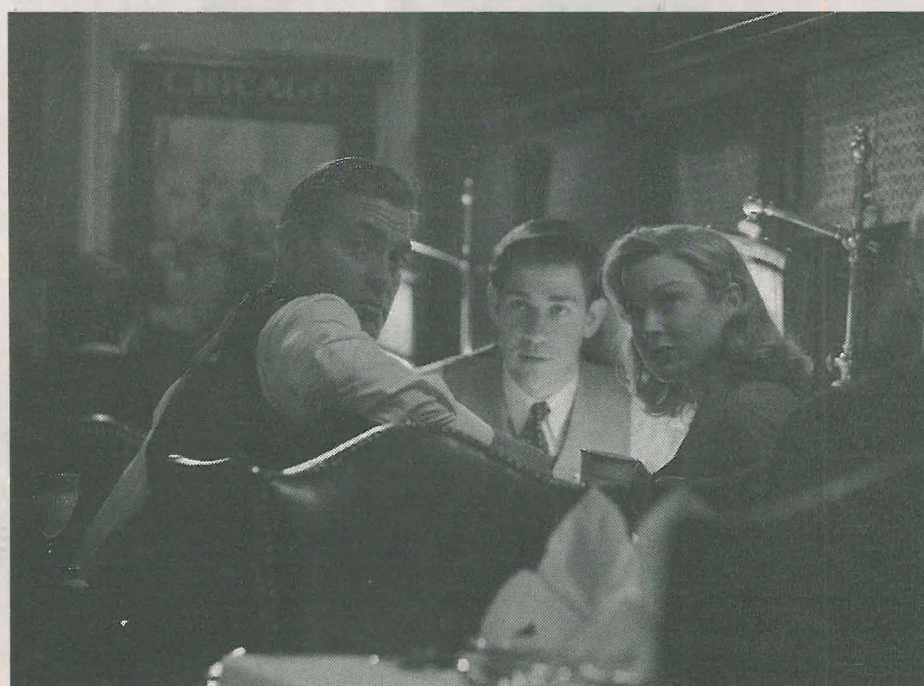
*Leatherheads* focuses on the U.S.'s newly formed professional football league of 1925, where Dodge Connelly (George Clooney), a lover and hero of all things football, is determined to make his team as well as the league itself the best that it can possibly be. Connelly recruits America's "golden-boy war hero" Carter Rutherford (John Krasinski), who can play football better than anyone Dodge has ever seen. When a young aspiring sports reporter, Lexie Littleton (Renee Zellweger), starts hanging around the team more often however, Dodge and Carter become off-field contenders for her heart. As the dreams he had for both his team and the league begin to dwindle, Dodge must find a way to keep it all together and beat out Carter for Lexie's love.

The problem with the film is not really the acting itself (aside from Zellweger's performance, which I'll get to later) but rather with the entire story. The story is unoriginal and boring. Going into this film, I thought that I would learn something about how the NFL was formed, what struggles the players had to overcome and whatever other issues were related to the creation of this team. Instead, *Leatherheads* gives us a love story with football in the backdrop, which is not how the movie had been marketed at all.

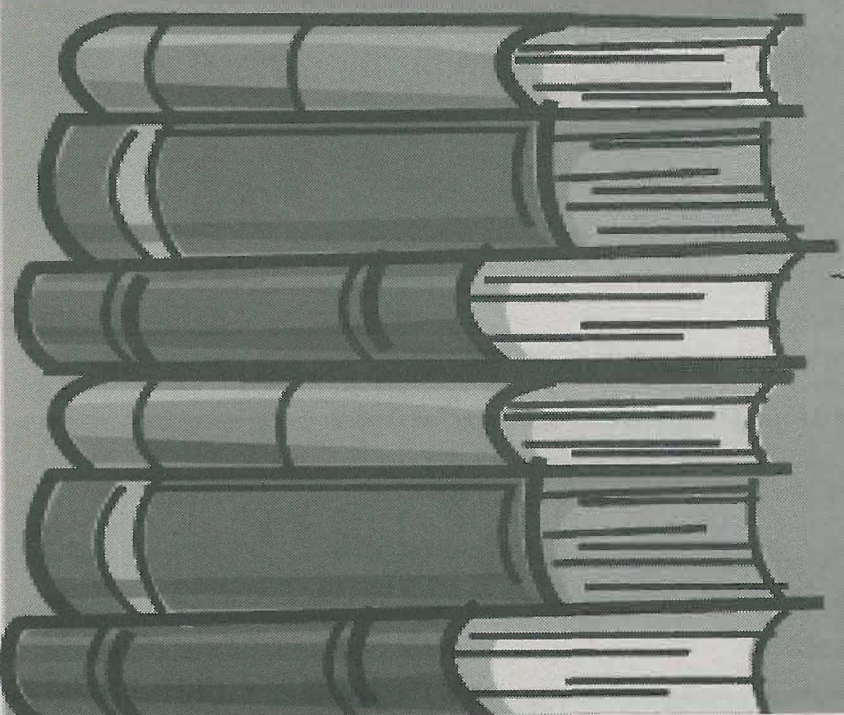
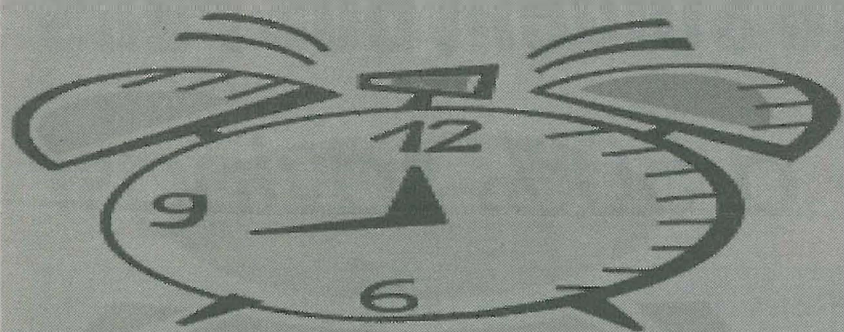
George Clooney (*Michael Clayton*, *Ocean's* series) and John Krasinski (*License to Wed*, *The Office*) make *Leatherheads* somewhat tolerable. Their off-field antics actually provide a little humor to this dullard of a film and help make it more entertaining than it would have been otherwise. They especially shine through their antics as they each fight for Lexie and exercise deception against one another in their quest for her. Clooney is also exceptional when he tries to teach his team of bumbling idiots new strategies and techniques.

I said we would get to Zellweger (*Cinderella Man*, *Bridget Jones'* series) later, so here it goes. I do not want to completely bash her, but pretty much every time Zellweger walked into a scene or had a line in a scene, the movie stopped for a moment, and it was not in a good way. Aside from the dull storyline and the overdose of nostalgia, Zellweger was quite frankly the worst part of this film, and she puts a weight on it that is impossible to ignore. Let's just say, she has seen better days and better roles. This was just not the right fit for her.

It was extremely disappointing to find out that Clooney directed this film, considering the fact that it came out the way that it did. After Clooney directed the 2005 major award-winner *Good Night and Good Luck*, it was expected that his next few films would be just as incredible. Unfortunately, *Leatherheads* proves otherwise and shows us once again that it is impossible to make a perfectly nostalgic sports and romance film that will truly break the mold. Here's to hoping his next film will not be a repeat of this one.



## DURING CRUNCH TIME NSU LIBRARIES HAVE EXTENDED HOURS.



*Alvin Sherman Library*  
April 18- May 9  
7:00 a.m.- 1:00 a.m..

*HPD Library*  
April 20 to May 15  
Monday-Friday:  
7:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m.  
Saturday and Sunday:  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m..

*Law Library*  
April 22-May 8  
7:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m.  
Friday May 9  
7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.



# The Ruins - Just Another "Dumb Tourist" Film

Stefani Rubino  
Staff Writer

When looking at the history of horror films, it seems as though certain types of scary movies have come in shifts. The seventies and eighties were dominated by "slasher films," the sixties were taken over by "psychological thrillers" as well as a lingering obsession with demonic forces, and before that was the age of the "creature feature." Beginning in the late nineties, the "horror" film began focusing on curious and obviously unintelligent tourists or "adventurers." In the tradition of films like *Cabin Fever*, *Hostel*, and *The Descent*, we get the film adaptation of Scott B. Smith's novel, *The Ruins*.

*The Ruins* focuses on (that's right you guessed it) a group of curious and unsuspecting tourists who travel to Cancun for the vacation of their lives. Jeff (Jonathan Tucker), Amy (Jena Malone), Eric (Shawn Ashmore), and Stacy (Laura Ramsay) arrive in Mexico together, where they meet Mathias (Joe Anderson). Mathias' brother Heinrich (whom we never really see throughout the film until we see that he is dead) has disappeared with a beautiful archeologist at a dig-site in Cuba. Before leaving, Heinrich gave Mathias

a map as well as directions to the site. Because Mathias hasn't seen his brother in days, he convinces the others to join him in his search.

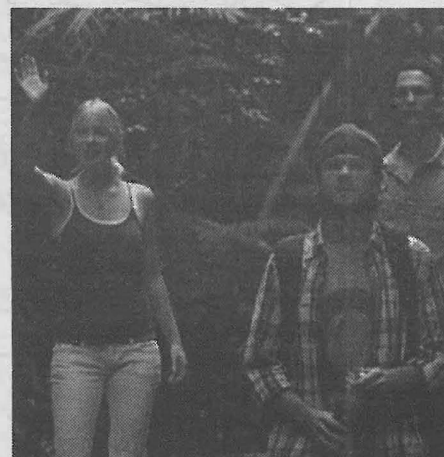
They agree (no questions asked of course) and make their way down to the titular ruins. Almost immediately, the audience learns that their trip is doomed. The group meets a tribe of violent unrelenting Mayans who try to get them to leave. The group manages to escape and make it over to the ruins where something, a plant to be exact, is trying to eat them. What they know about the ruins is that people used to get sacrificed there. What they slowly figure out is that they're the freshest set of human sacrifices.

The movie is pretty lame, as are most of these "dumb tourist" films. Yet it was certainly a step up (or two) from films like *Hostel* and *Turistas*. I will admit that *The Ruins* got into my head a little bit, similar to how the plant's poison slowly overtakes the tourists' bodies. However, I'm certain that the reason for that was because of the great performances of the young actors and actresses in this film.

It is expected that Jena Malone (*Into*

*the Wild, Saved!*) will give her all in every film that she's in, and *The Ruins* is no exception. Malone is one of those young actresses who often gets overlooked, except in the world of independent films. Malone is one of the very few actresses who takes command of every scene and reveals what feels like true emotion in every shot. Malone brings the character of Amy to life, and turns what could have been an atypical role into something more enjoyable than what the rest of the cast brings to this film. This will not be a "break-out" role for her, but she did do an amazing job with what she was given and should be recognized for that.

Besides the acting styles of Malone and the rest of the cast, *The Ruins* is a fairly typical 21<sup>st</sup> century horror film, and although I'm sure it did get at the box office, it will barely be noticed by critics or award-givers. But, if you like to see films simply for entertainment, *The Ruins* can definitely fill that need for you. However, it will not keep you on the edge of your seat like you might be expecting.



## NSU's Cinderella is Sensational

Racquel Fagon  
Variety Editor

Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* is a popular favorite for many lovers of the classical fairytale. NSU has added its brush stroke to renowned art by staging its unique version of the beloved play. With even more glitz, fancier costumes and a one-of-a-kind framed background projection, the Black Box Theater resonated with the appreciation of NSU patrons and many others, too.

Aiming to tinker with our existing stereotypes, the play carried a cast as diverse and as wild as a New York City subway. From the punk-rock stepsister to the other one dressed in drag, it seemed as though Cinderella's modern world had gone completely MTV. Suffice it to say, the plot remained the same, with the cinder-girl being given a chance to dance with the prince at the ball, lose her glass slipper in her haste to make the midnight deadline and deservedly live happily ever after with his charming prince. And yes, the prince, biology major Konstantine Lagos, was quite charming, resembling the real-life, dashing version of the Disney character, with his flowing hair and winning smile. While he made an acceptable prince, during his musical numbers, he sang in a smooth, mellow tone that made him sound sweet

but that lacked the power and assurance that his character rightly deserved.

His leading lady Cinderella, played by songbird, Lauren Butler, gave a dreamy, demure performance but her royalties lie in her musical renditions, especially the acclaimed songs "Ten Minutes Ago" and "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" Accompanied by only a piano, the ring in her voice twirled around the words sweetly, creating the fairytale feeling.

Cinderella's music is timeless and catchy, the dancing was hip and enthusiastic and the plot was memorable. Whether or not it fulfilled Director Jett Canary's intention to inspire each person to live his or her own Cinderella story, it did accomplish a sense of making everyone appreciate and love the fairytale just a little bit more.

One of the major adjustments to the play was the role of the Fairy Godmother. In this play, there was a Fairy Godfather instead. Dressed in the design and colors of a circus ringmaster, along with his trusty extendable stick, Cinderella's godfather makes all her dreams come true.

As for Cinderella's ugly stepsisters... well they simply gave ugly a very

good name, as they both gave excellent performances as rude, obnoxious, overbearing (and the list goes on and on) comically decorated step-siblings. Joy's (Robyn Shaplo) Kiss-style make-up and freaky Chucky-like doll were an excellent extension to an already witty character. Similarly, Portia's (Colin Morgan) drag attire and five inch heels sprinkled a hefty portion of "spicy" all over Cinderella's fairytale. Both performances were replete with juicy one-liners and comical tumbles, that managed to evoke giggles, grunts and huffs from the audience even when they were in the background or side 'stage. Lauren Kairalla, who played the notorious, suffocating stepmother, was also an absolute show stealer. With her glass of martini and Broadway air, Cinderella's stepmother commanded respect and attention from the other characters as well as from the audience.

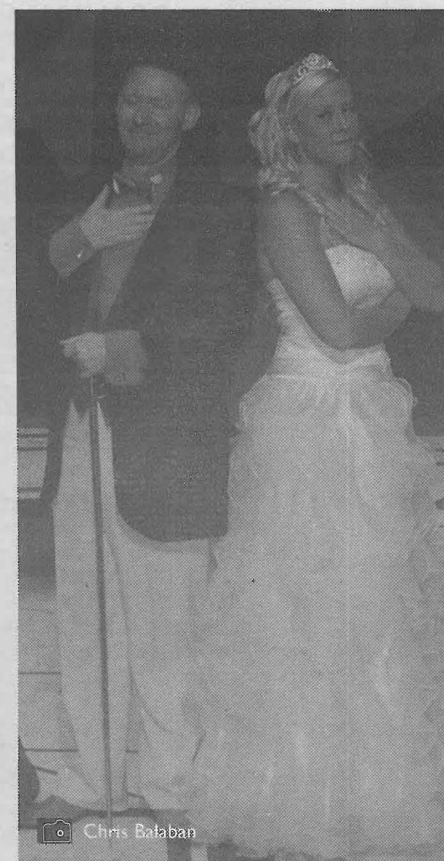
The King and Queen gave solid performances too, showing off their royal streak and cool governing and parenting skills. The townspeople made up the rest of the colorful, well-choreographed cast, making Cinderella an instant NSU hit.



Chris Balaban



Chris Balaban

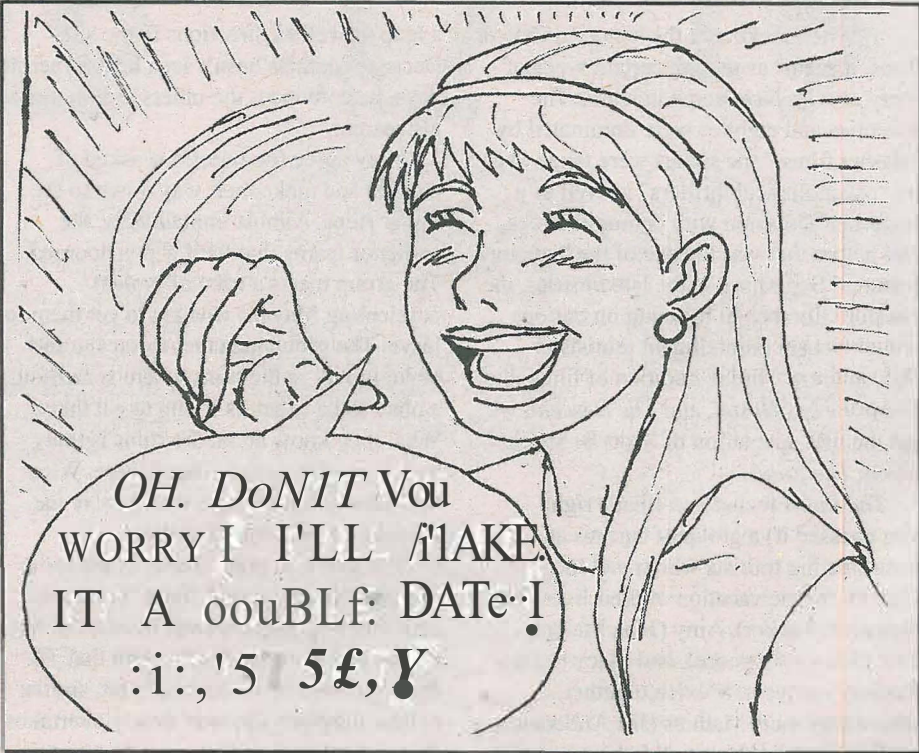
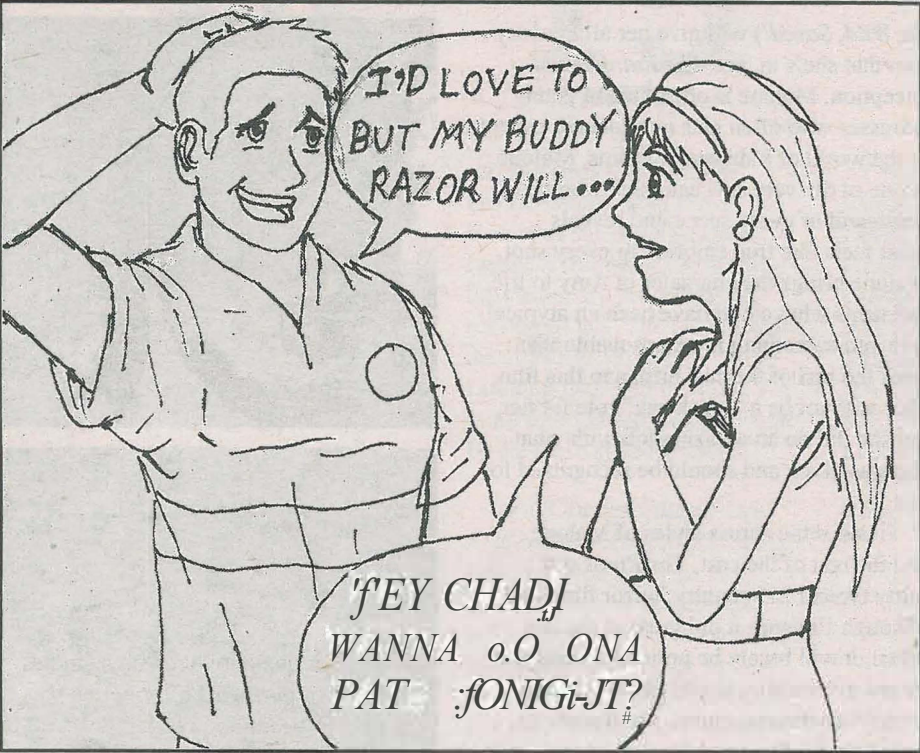


Chris Balaban



Razor Adventures

Marlon Oakley



© April 2008 Marlon Oakley

What Movie? JUMBLE

RSALWU 000000  
USEGPNIN 00000000  
LLHIAERKEWL 000000000000  
GNISGNI 00000000  
CANETADP 000 00000  
OLPEPE 000000  
AMGUNKCIAHH 0000 0000000  
SHKAWOOOOO  
BUEMML 000000  
UUGROOOO

What movie are all these names in?

The Animals of B WORDSEARCH

A B B A R C B L U E W H A L E  
C B H C E T T A O G Y L L I B  
N O O B A B L W O N R A B E L  
I P L T H S I F W O L B I O L  
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A P Y A J E U L B B B U E N B  
C H A R Y L F K C A L B T B B

- Baboon
- Bait Shrimp
- Bald Eagle
- Barn Owl
- Bass
- Bat
- Bear
- Beaver
- Beetle
- Bee
- Buffalo
- Bison
- Birds
- Billy Goat
- Black Fly
- Blue Jay
- Blue Whale
- Boa
- Bobcat
- Bobwhite
- Boar
- Bongo
- Butterfly
- Bull



# Letter to the Editor

April 8, 2008

To the Editor of *The Current*:

As you know, the past two issues of *The Current* have extensively focused on campus safety citing an assault that took place by an NSU student in The Commons (Vol. 18, issue 22, March 31, 2008) and a general overview of safety in the April 7<sup>th</sup> edition ("Do YOU feel Safe on Campus?"). I am writing because I believe the Public Safety department on campus has been inaccurately portrayed and unfairly characterized.

To *The Current's* credit, it did identify corrections to its March 31 article which appear on page 11 of the April 7 issue. My concern lies that in the follow up issue (April 7) a reader unfamiliar with NSU could surmise this is an unsafe campus which it is not. Because of the significance of campus safety in this post Virginia Tech world, I would have hoped *The Current* would have done research on a national level relative to campus crime statistics. I have. My findings reaffirmed what I have personally witnessed during my 20 years at the university. Public Safety does a comprehensive and thorough job of protecting NSU and most importantly its students.

You can always find a student with a negative opinion on any college campus at any given time. They are entitled to them. I would have been interested had *The Current* conducted an opinion poll regarding the important question of whether students feel safe at NSU. Gaining 300 responses as opposed to three would have been more valuable to help

us assess the student viewpoint. Good journalism is thorough and it is hard work. Moreover, my own informal conversations with over 20 students since yesterday suggest students feel very safe on campus and find Public Safety significantly helpful and responsive (although two did mention their disappointment in receiving parking tickets).

I applaud Executive Director Bias in welcoming student comments. He provided every possible person to contact to share feedback with him. I know he cares about Public Safety. I know he cares more about the students he and his team serve. I also applaud *The Current* for raising such an important question as a student's sense of their own personal safety and well being. However, I am hopeful that in the future there is the kind of comprehensive research and analysis that would support such a story.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brad A. Williams  
Dean of Student Affairs  
Nova Southeastern University

## Editor's Note

Michael Bergbauer  
Editor in Chief  
nsunews@nova.edu

You have often heard me say that *The Current* serves as the voice of the NSU community. Lately however, I have thought of rephrasing that to *The Current* serves as the dialogue of the NSU community.

*The Current* has printed its fair share of controversial stories as of late. As you can see, we have even received a letter to the editor regarding one of them this week - which is wonderful! I am glad that *The Current* has raised awareness on this campus because that is essentially the goal of the student press. One should never go through life without asking questions. I feel that the Editor's Note has been a designated space in the paper that has helped to promote student engagement and I am always very pleased to receive letters proving that the NSU community has an interest in what it is that we report.

As for what we report, we always aim to be as objective as possible. All interested parties had a say in the April 7<sup>th</sup> Public Safety story, including students with both positive and negative experiences, as well as the Public Safety department. While I consider myself a strong proponent of accuracy, *The Current* is not a vehicle through which to perform high quality



quantitative or qualitative research studies for NSU. We report what information we can as per our deadlines, but I hope that the university will conduct its own research for the benefit of the students.

Which brings me back to the main purpose of *The Current*: to make people aware, whether it is through voice or dialogue. It is only through that awareness that good social change can truly come about.

## On The Scene

Kristine Belizaire  
Current Affairs Editor

What are your plans for the summer?



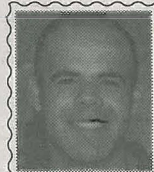
"I'll probably get an internship or a research opportunity."  
Myra Rafi Sophomore, Biology



"I'll be working at Washington Mutual."  
Bernard Murray Sophomore, Biology



"I'm going to summer school at Nova and working at Walgreens' pharmacy."  
Tervicine Delva Sophomore, Biology



"I'm volunteering at the Westside Regional Hospital."  
Reinaldo Trujillo Junior, Biology



"I might be doing an internship in Indiana."  
Alexandra Timis Sophomore, Biology



"I'm working and saving for school expenses."  
Haris Sayeed Sophomore, Biology

## Classifieds

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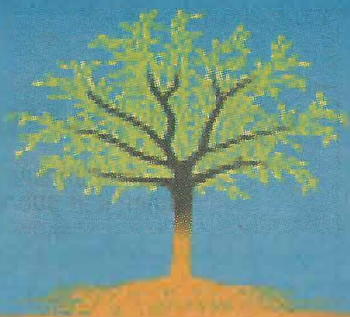
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## ...AT THE GENEALOGY FAIR

Saturday, April 26, 2008

10:00 am. to 4:00 p.m.

Alvin Sherman Library

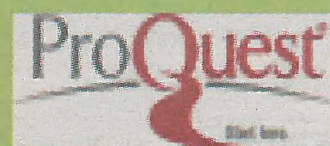
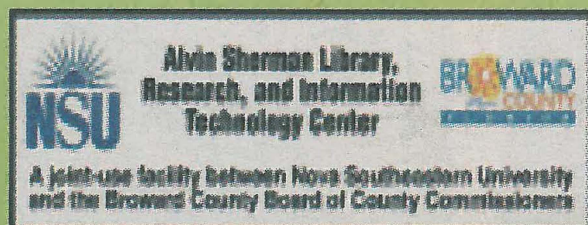
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