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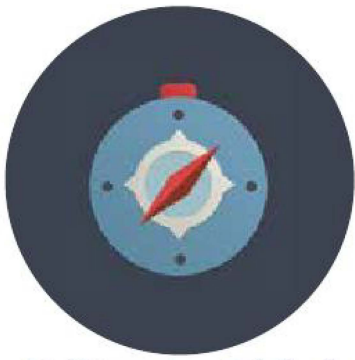


CONTACT US

STING@SPSU.EDU OR 678-915-7310

DEPARTMENTS

Editing Marketing/Social Media Web Development
Writing Layout & Design Ad Sales Video Production



Editor In Chief

Desmond Hilson

sting@spsu.edu



The Sting is a monthly publication



Managing Editor

Zuri Coleman

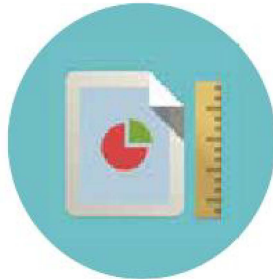
managinged.sting@gmail.com



Games Editor

Connor Cobb

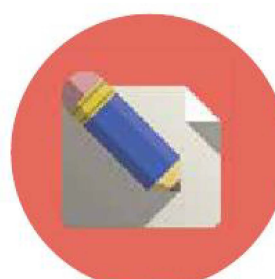
gamesed.sting@gmail.com



Layout Editor

Brandon Rich

layoutdesign.sting@gmail.com



Features Editor

Gerron Green

features.sting@gmail.com



Copy Editor

Brittany Rosario

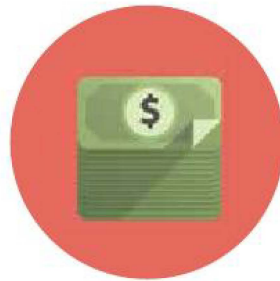
copyed.sting@gmail.com



Web Editor

Addison Wilson

webd.sting@gmail.com



Ad Manager

Joseph Pitts

ads.sting@gmail.com



News Editor

Christopher Harris

campusnews.sting@gmail.com



Faculty Adviser

Prof. Jeff Greene

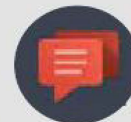
jgreene3@spsu.edu



Administrative Adviser

Ron Lunk

rlunk@spsu.edu



1100 South Marietta Parkway
Marietta, GA 30060

www.readthesting.com

678-915-7310

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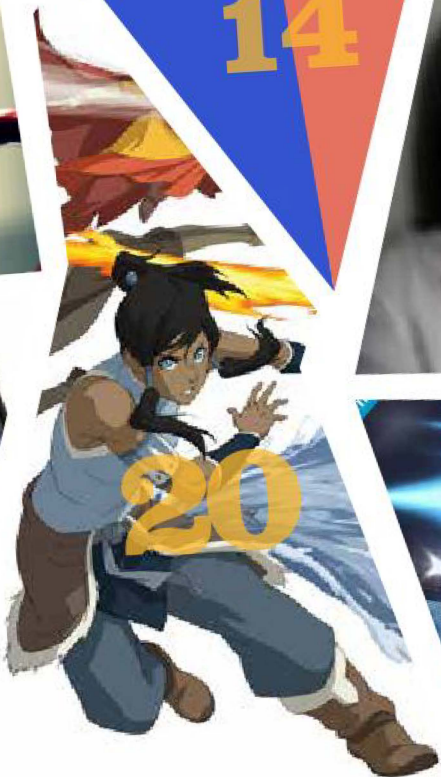
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The "New" Sticks & Stones

Words HURT

♦ By Desmond Hilson



[1]

**“Use the hashtag
#SticksStonesSPSU on
social media to further
get the word out.”**

this reflects upon our university as a whole, and upon all of us as Southern Poly students. This was brought to my attention to help come up with a way to raise awareness against the use of offensive and derogatory language on campus.

So, The Sting has partnered with the Department of Housing and Resident Life to bring about a campaign known as The New Sticks & Stones: Words Hurt. We reached out to students, faculty and staff for help in getting this message across. These individuals volunteered their image to show how words we use everyday, that might not seem bad, might harm others.

It doesn't stop here. We need your help to further spread this message. Take an active stance against words that hurt in your community by speaking up when words such as these are said. Also, bring this campaign to the web. Use the hashtag #SticksStonesSPSU on social media to further get the word out.

We are a community. We are in this together. We are Southern Poly.

We were brought up in a world where we are taught to fight the onslaught of hateful and derogatory words with the old adage of “sticks and stones may break my bones but, words will never hurt me”. According to the CDC, suicide results in about 4,400 deaths among young people. Studies in Great Britain have shown almost half of suicides in young people are due to bullying with the Megan Meier Foundation reporting that 59% of bullying incidents that occurred

were verbal.

Words might not be able to break bones but they bring approximately 1,300 individuals to give up on their lives every year and not to mention the thousands of more who are traumatized and oppressed due to verbal bullying.

We recently had an incident in a resident hall where the parent of one of your fellow Southern Poly classmates visiting campus, overheard offensive language being thrown around like it was okay. It's never okay. Behavior like

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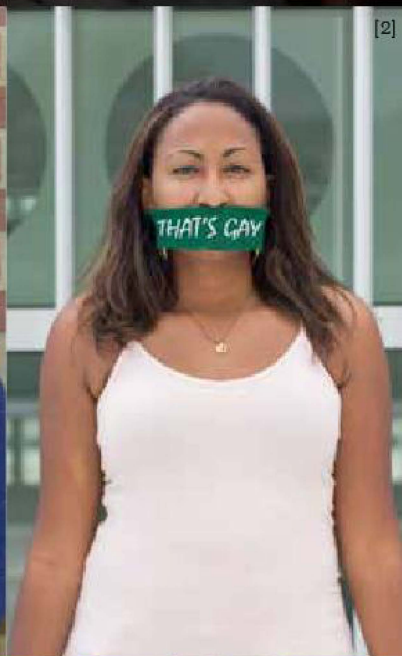
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IT'S A CULTURE, ~~NOT A COSTUME~~

► Gerron Green

Every year as Halloween approaches, individuals finish their costumes and prepare for the big night. Fun, trick or treating for kids, parties for everyone else, and all in costume. One issue has continuously come up in recent years. More and more news stories are being released where an individual thought it was appropriate to darken their skin to portray another race; I'm here to tell you that it's not. The most common change in color, from any ethnicity to black, is widely known as "black face."

Blackface has a long history in the United States, starting with early minstrel shows in the 1800s meant to make fun of people of African descent, though many of the indi-

viduals who participate in blackface may not mean offence by it, offense simply will be taken. Some may ask, how are you supposed to accurately portray an African American character without darkening your skin, and the answer is simple. Do everything you were going to do otherwise, just don't darken your skin.

"That's not accurate," some would say. Well everyone else seems to be able to dress as characters of different races without the urge to make another culture part of the costume.

This isn't to say that you shouldn't dress as a black character like Michonne from the Walking Dead, Blade, and other characters would make great costumes. Just remember to be respectful to the cultures of others.

"BLACKFACE HAS A LONG HISTORY IN THE UNITED STATES, STARTING WITH EARLY MINSTREL SHOWS IN THE 1800S MEANT TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, THOUGH MANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN BLACKFACE MAY NOT MEAN OFFENCE BY IT, OFFENSE SIMPLY WILL BE TAKEN."





[1]

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A Campus Project (Coming Soon)

› By Aaron Jeter

Do you remember when an adult would ask you what your favorite class was in elementary school? I guarantee you've all said recess at least one time.

That special 40 minutes we got to go outside, to play and socialize was always a blast. However, after elementary school, there was no more recess. The transition between classes became awful.

Now some ten years later, we finally get those special 40 minutes again, this time in college.

This is just one of the many reasons why he wants a playground on campus. For those who don't know, Shah Zafrani is helping put together a playground project for SPSU. He's the one that made the survey Ron Lunk sent via email.

These are great results considering only 11% of students said they wouldn't want any new structures. Zafrani was very pleased with the results. Zafrani isn't just wanting to add a new playground, he wants more structures (like benches and new tables), to help draw people outside and socialize.

The location hasn't been decided yet; Zafrani and his team are still debating, but have narrowed down to a few locations.

SGA will be funding a majority of the project. Zafrani also mentioned that his group will work to

The stats from the email were:

- 89% said they wanted a playground
- 62% said they would actually use the playground
- 80% they wanted new study tables, not just a playground
- 11% people said it would be a waste of money

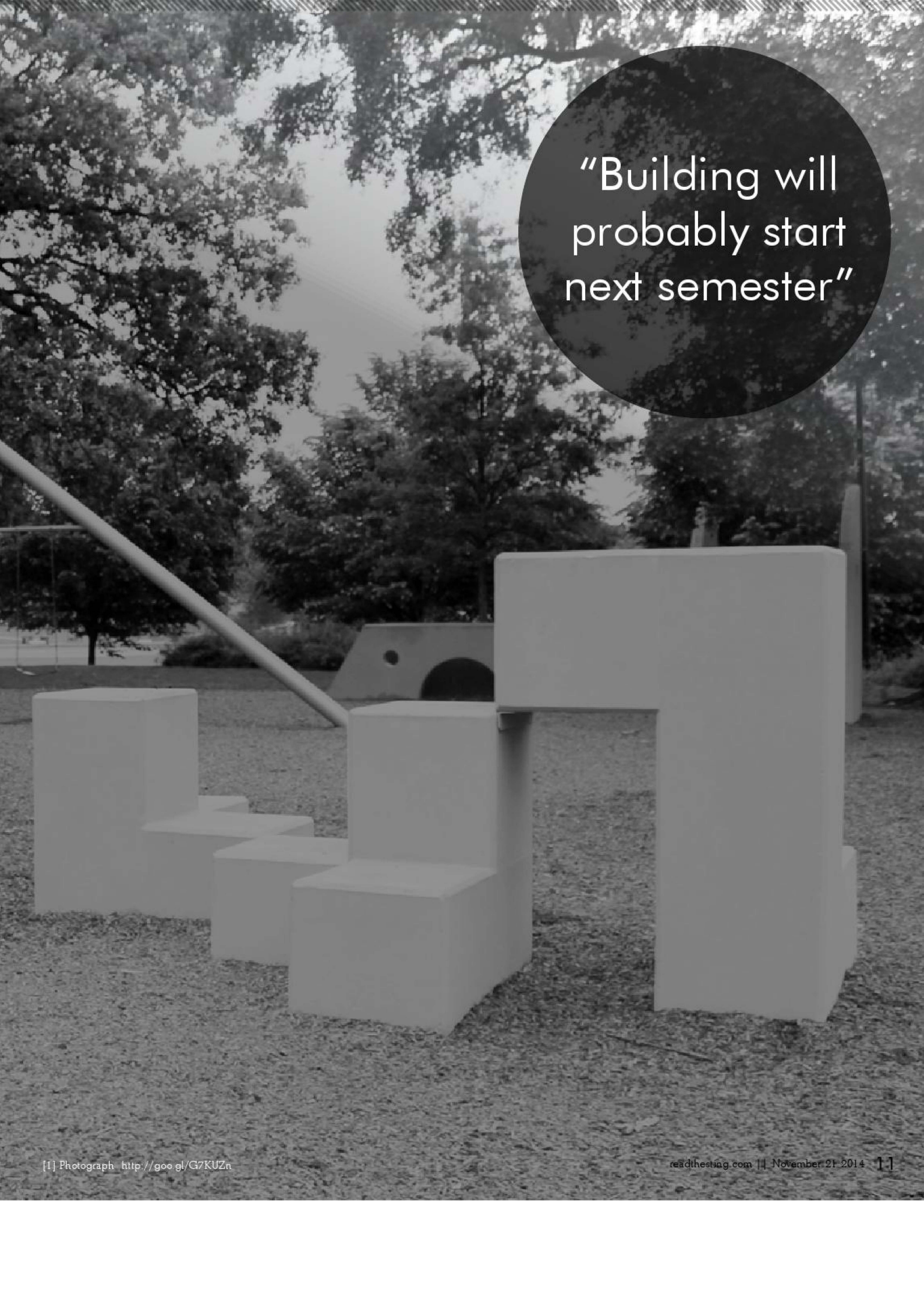
get sponsors to help pay to build, as well.

Zafrani hopes to finish his playground before the end of the academic year.

So when the project is done, be sure to thank Zafrani whenever you see him on campus, for following through on his great idea.

"It just seemed like students are stressed out all the time" SGA council member Shah Zafrani said, "... they don't have ways to physically express themselves."





“Building will probably start next semester”



Johnnie MacCracken's Celtic Pub

15 Atlanta Street, Marietta

678-290-6641

Very Reasonable
Prices!



"One day a Graphic Arts Student, a Business Student, and a Mechanical Engineering Student walked into a pub together. They each bought a pint of Guinness. Just as they were about to enjoy their Creamy beverage, three flies landed in each of their pints, and were stuck in the thick head.

The Graphic Art Student pushed his beer away in disgust. The Business Student fished the fly out of his beer, and continued drinking it, as if nothing had happened.

The Mechanical Engineering Student, too, picked the fly out of his drink, held it out over the beer, and started yelling, "SPIT IT OUT, SPIT IT OUT!"

2014 Pride Weekend in Atlanta

► By Zuri Coleman

Pride 2014 started much like the previous year. Kickoff party at the Georgia Aquarium on Friday night and tons of pride themed drinks at all of Atlanta's supporting bars. Atlanta has their Pride celebration in October to coincide with National Coming Out day. I love the fact that we do that because a summer Pride in Atlanta would be way too hot. (Of course this brings complaints from

"To me Pride is about going out with your friends and family, gay, straight and in-between and having a good time."

people who don't understand that). Despite the rain on parts of Saturday and Sunday at Pride I had a lot of fun.

For the first time I stuck around long enough on Sunday night to watch the Starlight Cabaret and I am kicking myself for not going to it sooner. It was a blast. It was roughly two hours of back to back entertainers, all of which were drag, mostly queens. I would say this was better than their average performance because they had to perform the entire time, they weren't being handed tips and had a full stage to

themselves. This might sound kind of odd if you're an outsider; but it is so refreshing to walk through the market at Piedmont Park during the festival and see all the companies that support Pride. You can find a company or club for anything you are interested in whether it's playing board games, hiking or going to church, there is a Pride group for you and it's open to allies as well.

Don't get me wrong I love all things Pride, but man do these places raise the prices for events. To me Pride is about going out with your friends and family, gay, straight and in-between and having a good time. It's a chance to celebrate how far we have come and to remind you how

much more work we still have to go. This is why I can say I'm a bit disappointed when places raise the cover price and drink prices. To me, you already have all these people coming out in droves to be in the city. You are going to have a record number of people in attendance. Each year Pride gets bigger and bigger. There is no need to milk people for their money like that.

Pride 2015 is a year away but they have already begun planning for it now. Each year they hope to get bigger and bigger so if you are around in October next year you should swing by and watch the parade. Pride is for everyone. Not just members the LGBTQ community.



Kids Are **NOT** For Me.

What a childless 26-year-old thinks about not having kids.

► By Delwyn Andrews

Children are clearly not for everyone. Whether you learn this when you're young or when you're older—when you know, you just know. I've always had a feeling that I didn't want kids ever since my little brother was first brought home from the hospital when I was 5-years-old. Don't get me wrong, I love my brother dearly, but changing diapers, waking up at 2 AM for feeding, and dealing with constant crying isn't my metaphorical cup of tea.

Despite there being a legitimate catalog of reasons to never have kids in my mind, for this article, I've narrowed them down to my top 5:

1. Sex

I can't speak for anyone else, but my sex life is my world. When I'm not doing it, it's pretty much all I'm thinking about doing. With that being said, for most people, once kids are introduced into their relationship, sex stops (or at the very least slows way down). I don't know about you, but I literally can't even.

Ultimately, whatever the reason, the choice is up to you. Whether or not you have kids is up to you and only you. Do not let anyone (friends, family, or society) pressure you into bringing a life into this world if you wholeheartedly know that it's not

2. Sleep

Believe it or not, even at 26-years-old, afternoon naps are the reason I live. As a matter of fact, I just woke up. So, given the fact that I'm sleeping at night and most of the day (unless I'm doing the aforementioned activity listed above), when am I going to have time to take care of another living being?

3. Money

It's no secret, kids are expensive. Even raising kids on generic cereals and Payless Shoes can get pricey when you look at it over an 18+ year timeframe—not to mention college tuition, braces, or any other unforeseen situations that may arise. And what do you get in return? The laughter and joy of a child? I'll pass.

4. Friends

By now, I'm sure the majority of us have friends who have kids. So, you most likely know that they are literally the worst people to be around. From the constant Facebook pictures and updates about their kid's first potty trained poop, to going out with them and dealing with them constantly having to call home every two minutes to check if their kids are still breathing. (Newsflash, they still are.) Everything that "friends with kids" do is utterly obnoxious. You don't want to become that, do you?

5. No Responsibility

At this stage in my life, my days are pretty much focused on me. When I want something to eat, I go get it. When I want to watch TV, I watch it. When I want to pass out after a few shots of Fireball...well, you get the picture. But, once children come on the scene, your life revolves solely around them. There is no more "you time," which seems more and more depressing when I think about it.

the path you want to take in life. Having a child is not just an 18 year commitment, but a life commitment. So, if you're not ready for kids, don't try to force it in the hopes that it will all "work itself out" in the future.

1. Experience Childhood Again

You get to experience childhood all over again with a different perspective. Who didn't enjoy their childhood? Ok, forget that question. Seriously, though, witnessing first steps, first words and true curiosity and excitement seems pretty amazing to me. Children are completely and utterly free, pure and funny, plus they have no filter. As we grow up, that transparency tends to slowly go away, so why not experience it again with your own kids and remind your grown up self that life doesn't always have to be so serious and complex.

2. Fun Food & Movies

You get to eat fun food and watch fun movies. Sign me up! Eating animal crackers, dinosaur shaped chicken nuggets and chocolate chip pancakes while watching Finding Nemo sounds like heaven. No, but seriously, sign me up.

3. Teach & Learn

You get to teach them stuff and learn along the way. Parents love to teach. No matter what they say, they love showing people, anyone for that matter, new ways to do things. It's comforting, it's helpful and it rewarding, and if you have kids you get to teach them and learn from them forever.

4. True Selflessness

You get to experience true selflessness. Selfishness comes natural to human beings but selflessness does too. Being responsible for keeping a baby alive, nurturing his or her mind, teaching them about values, showing them what love is and preparing them for future responsibilities among many other lessons will be a part of your life forever. How great is it that you will be responsible for gifting the world an awesome human being that will make it better?

Everyone has a different plan. Some plan to go to college, find an amazing job and go after their professional dreams, while others would like to travel the world and settle down later on. All these are valid and it's important to keep in mind there is no right or wrong choice.

I, personally, like what American writer Richard Bach has to say about children, he said, "You are not the child of the people you call mother and father, but their fellow adventurer on a bright journey to understand the things that are"

Kids ARE For Me.

What a childless 21-year-old thinks
about having kids.

► By Maria Guerra

I've noticed that lately women are much more vocal about their struggle with the idea of having kids. Many argue that they don't want to sacrifice their lives and time for another person while others think that they would not be great mothers so they don't entertain the idea whatsoever.

Did you know you could cook before you tried preparing a meal? How can you predict you will be bad at it if you haven't tried it? I'm not saying women should be having kids left and right, what I am saying is that if you base critical life decisions out of fear then you might be denying yourself from a potentially enriching experience. It's like saying you shouldn't accept a job promotion because you think you would probably be incompetent at your new, more exciting and rewarding job position.

Should people have children? Yes. Should everyone have children? Probably not. Should intelligent, loving, driven people want to bring life into this world? Of course! I don't know about you but I want to live in a world inhabited by smart, compassionate, hard-working people and in order for this to happen people have to, at some point in their lives, consider the idea of having children.

Here are a few reasons why I think having kids would be awesome:

Caffeine: The Monster Under The Bed

A look into what might be causing you to have crazy dreams.

► By Cayla M. Howard



“What the hell did I eat to dream that?”



If you ever wake-up after a long night of sleep and think to yourself, “What the hell did I eat to dream that?” then you’re not alone. I’m 22 years old and I still haven’t mastered the art of not having bad dreams. I am making progress, though.

I first knew that I had to make a change last year, when I had a rather vivid nightmare involving a mind-reading, fire-breathing T-Rex.

Detailed dreams

Laugh if you will, but this thing was the nightmare of all nightmares. I woke-up panicked and ran to find my boyfriend at the time and managed to tell him my disturbingly detailed dream between frantic gasps for air. His response was something like, “I’m not laughing at you, I swear!” He did his best, I have no hard feelings.

Call for help

But his suppressed laughter helped me realize just how totally ridiculous I was being. A fire-breathing T-Rex? That’s actually kind of awesome, not scary! I put on my big-girl pants and decided

to look into ways to stop unwanted nightmares. I turned to the one I could always count on—who I knew could help me—Google.

Okay, so actually I called my mom. I told her my latest nightmare and patiently waited on the line as she worked to get her laughter under control. Twirling the non-existent cord of my cell phone around my fingers, I waited for my moment of truth: the cure to nightmares.

Cure to nightmares

My sort-of cure came to me in the form of: “Sweetie, have you been drinking caffeine before you go to sleep?” Thinking over my nightly rituals, I realized I drank my glorious coffee every night before I entered my Doomed Dreamscape. I was also shocked to learn that my liquid intake consisted of mainly coffee and other caffeinated beverages—something I didn’t usually think about.

I am not the only one

After talking to several friends, I realized I wasn’t the only one who wasn’t aware of the full effects of caffeine and the impact it can have on a good night’s sleep. Caffeine

is a powerful drug that stimulates brain activity, which may seem like a good thing until it’s time for bed.

“Caffeine is a powerful drug that stimulates brain activity”

Your overstimulated brain goes into hyperactivity, even while sleeping, which can cause extremely bizarre and frightening dreams.

Caffeine intake

I resolved my problem by only drinking caffeine in the mornings to wake me up and get me going. I’m not cured of bad dreams, but I’m sleeping much better at night. So, if you’re having bad dreams, the answer could very well be in your caffeine intake.

[1] Photograph by Logan Brumm <http://goo.gl/6M7Wbs>

[2] Photograph by Shereen M. <http://goo.gl/GpwYiC>

AMERICAN HORROR

Why the TV series has captured the audience's attention for what now is four seasons.

► By Katelyn Hohn



How does American Horror Story turn our favorite characters' continuing nightmarish misery into an entertaining, self-aware, and thoughtful piece of entertainment? Why do we watch it?

Why do we watch it?

For one, it is very refreshing to see something horror-related that doesn't involve vampires, werewolves, or idiotic teenagers partying in the woods.

Critics and audiences have responded very favorably to the series over the last three years. I think a large part of this show's appeal comes from the writing, acting, and the likeability of the characters. The characters, though involved in typical horror movie situations, feel more like typical people as opposed to the self-obsessed idiots that usually dominate horror flicks these days. Plus a scene-stealing Jessica Lange doesn't hurt the series either.

Originality

Another part of the show's appeal is how it references and changes the typical tropes found in horror films,

while also connecting the tropes with aspects of life your average viewer would recognize and relate to. The first season, *Murder House*, is spent with a troubled family stuck in a haunted house while attempting to fix a broken marriage, dodging

“CRITICS AND AUDIENCES HAVE RESPONDED VERY FAVORABLY”

HORROR STORY

ghosts, psychotic former flames, and a nosy neighbor along the way. The audience could easily draw parallels between the increasingly dangerous house and the increasingly bitter family that pulls them further apart from each other. As the ghosts in the house threaten the lives of each of the family members, their own personal demons come back to haunt them.

The second season, *Asylum*, takes place in (you guessed it) an asylum for the mentally insane. This story covers a wide variety of subject matters from mental illness, race, religion, and even alien abductions.

The third season, *Coven*, draws parallels between a coven of witches in New Orleans and the South's history of racial discrimination and violence. A coven of teenage witches is paralleled with a raunchy fraternity, typical high school cliques, and even the KKK (don't dwell on this metaphor too long, it'll only confuse you).

Each season is a self-contained mini-series with its large number of characters played by a reoccurring cast, but the characters in each season aren't related. The show cleverly acknowledges each actor's past roles on the series. For example, one actor's character is a psychiatrist in one season, but then he plays a dangerous patient in another season with several shots composed to replicate and mirror those from another season.

"EACH SEASON IS A SELF-CONTAINED MINI-SERIES"

This season

The fourth season has recently started with its highly anticipated storyline revolving around a freak show in the fifties. The main characters feature a bearded lady (played by Kathy Bates), a young man with crab-like hands (Evan Peters), a three-breasted woman (Angela Bassett), a pair of conjoined twins (Sarah Paulson) and the world's smallest woman (Jyoti Amge), among many other memorable characters.

The current season is marketed with the hashtag "#WirSindAlleFreaks," German for "We Are All Freaks," and is heavily inspired by Tod Browning's 1932 horror classic "Freaks."



AN UNNECESSARY AVATAR

When the World Needed Her Least, She Vanished

► By Zachary North

Spoiler Alert: The following review discusses information regarding season four, episode one of *The Legend of Korra*. If you have interest in this show and have not watched this episode yet, please do not read any further.

The Legend of Korra, a sequel series to Nickelodeon's *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, has had its share of problems that go along with trying to make a sequel stand up to the popularity and ratings of its predecessor. The first season tried to fit too much story into twelve episodes, the second season had a confusing plot hole in its ending which still has yet to be filled, and the third season, while being my favorite thus far, left me wondering how the final season was finish of the series.

The entirety of the episode shows what everyone has been doing for the past three years after the big battle against the Red Lotus, which caused Korra to be crippled and thrown into a depression.

Asami has further expanded her industrialist business and has created a rail line connecting the

United Republic to the Earth Kingdom. Mako has become the personal bodyguard to the annoying, soon-to-be king of the Earth Kingdom, albeit against his will; his brother, Bolin, has joined up with Kuvira, a woman who was randomly introduced in the last episode of season three and then comes back as a major character in this season.

Kuvira, or the "Great Uniter", is not okay in my book. She is currently on a quest to achieve order by uniting all of the Earth nation's states under her rule, as long as they give Kuvira their loyalty.

On the surface she seems like she is doing good, but her means

of achieving her goals are ruthless and tyrannical. She promises to protect a town from bandits who are stealing the town's food; however, when the town's leader refuses to join her, she later hires bandits to attack the town and gives them the equipment to keep others from helping the town. From what I can see, Kuvira is shaping up to be this season's villain, but what purpose does all she is doing





serve?

Lastly, let us not forget about the title character, Avatar Korra. We don't see her until the very end of the episode, when it is discovered that she lied to her parents and did not return to Republic City and is now missing. She is instead in some Earth nation town, fighting in an underground earth-bending ring. Upon seeing this,

I could only question if the events that happened over the past three seasons caused her to give up her title as the Avatar and go rogue. The ending of the episode didn't make sense.

So far, the final season is proving to be something that I have to watch every detail or else I might miss something. While trying to unfold a new plot device, it only left me confused

“So far the final season is proving to be something that I have to watch every detail or else I might miss something.”

and upset in the direction that some of the characters are going. The Legend of Korra is certainly off to a rough start, but I'm hoping future episodes will serve to patch things up.



Atlanta Professional Section with American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

► By Kevin Van Der Horn

On the evening of Monday, October 13th, SPSU's Student Section of ASME and SPSU conjointly hosted the ASME Atlanta Professional Section for one of their monthly meetings.

The evening started off with dinner, where SPSU students got to meet and network with professional engineers based in Atlanta and the surrounding area. Following the dinner, SPSU's ASME Student Section led a group of the engineers on a tour of SPSU's campus, showcasing the various engineering programs, clubs, and labs SPSU has to offer.

The labs of the tour included: a demonstration done by Dr. North in The Army Visualization Research Center, an informative overview of The Materials Science and Thermal labs by Professor Ilksoy, a showing of the machine shop and mechatronics labs in Q-Building, and lastly a presentation of The Additive Manufacturing Lab by Professor Emert.

The competition teams that the group got to see include: The Formula SAE Team, The Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Team, The

Electric Vehicle Team, and The Aerial Robotics Team. Each competition team showcased some projects that

"SPSU's ASME Student Section led a group of the engineers on a tour of SPSU's campus, showcasing the various engineering programs, clubs, and labs SPSU has to offer."

they completed and gave an informative description of their team and their goals.

The evening was closed with an intriguing presentation about Biomechanics, done by Dr. Michael Zabala of Exponent Engineering and Scientific Consulting. The entire

event turned out to be a success and the ASME Atlanta Professional Section really enjoyed their time at SPSU.

The evening would not have been possible without all the awesome professors and students who volunteered to make this event a success. A great shout out goes to The Sting and Alain Santos for covering the photography for this event.

Thank you all for representing SPSU well and showing what quality engineering our university is capable of!





Silver-Lined Talks

The Scholastic Conundrum

► By Daniel R. Rivers

I look over at my clock as I'm lying in bed...1:16AM. Great; another sleepless night. I pull out my laptop and just started writing this article. This is a constant struggle that I deal with every day.

My article about the political arena becoming a political circus can wait. I hope you voted! At last, I had the opportunity to be interviewed for an internship at a local firm. In a suit and tie, I walk in and begin another interview that can give me an opportunity to show how bad I want to become a civil engineer. In the past year and half, I've been applying and sending my resume for any job opportunity that opens. I'm getting worn down and tired. I constantly ask myself the question "Is it worth it? Should I really put in the efforts to finish

this degree? When will the opportunity arrive for me to apply what I've learned to the real world?" My head is racing. This is getting ridiculous.

Someone suggested that I take a few semesters off. No, I want to graduate! I want to contribute my knowledge to the profession. I want to live by the American Society of Civil Engineer's Fundamental Canons of Ethics. I want to advocate important legislations for the benefit of the pro-

"When will the opportunity arrive for me to apply what I've learned to the real world?"

fession and the welfare of the general public. I want to be an alumnus that can eventually be financially stable to give back to the University.

With all my learning challenges and mental disorders, I have to work twice as hard. I have to find ways to get around each obstacle. I want to be an engineer. I will succeed. Some days will be harder and other days will be miserable, but I don't care. I want to get to that moment where my family is in the audience, my name is called, and I shake the president's hand knowing that I worked my ass off to obtain my degree.

Looking forward from now, if I need the support, I will read this article. A message to my future self: Daniel, get back to work! Don't let me down!

"Turn Out For..." I'll pass

► By Christopher Harris



[1]

Earlier this October, the non-profit (and supposedly non-partisan) organization, Rock the Vote published a video containing different celebrities encouraging youth to register, and ultimately participate, in the upcoming elections on November 4th.

The video follows Lil Jon as he raps his way through a version of the popular "Turn Down for What?" song, with celebrities telling viewers what

"Rock the Vote claims to have registered millions of voters since 1990, and their efforts at reaching youth through popular culture seems to be working."

they were "turning out" to vote for, with topics ranging from legalization of marijuana, marriage equality, women's rights, education, and reproductive rights, among other issues.

A friend of mine shared this video on Facebook, with a comment saying "[Rock the Vote's] mission is to make voting feel appealing and important to millennials, and I say mission totally accomplished. This was awesome!"

Rock the Vote claims to have registered millions of voters since 1990, and their efforts at reaching youth through popular culture seems to be working.

However, despite the fact that

most (if not all) of the reasons those celebrities were voting for sounded like the Democratic Party's platform (where is the celebrity saying "I'm turning out for traditional marriage"?), I am not convinced by their beliefs.

I hear on multiple occasions that if you don't vote, you don't get to complain when things don't turn out your way. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but this isn't true at all. As

citizens (or just plainly as humans), we all get to have opinions on the state of affairs whether or not we voted.

The fact of the matter is, voting does less than you think it does. Think about all of the changes that have occurred in our country (for better or worse). What caused them? Most of the drastic changes in this country have come from direct action, with political change following.

Even when you get the person you voted for, people change. Guantanamo is still open, we're still at war, and racism is still rampant. Our president was bought, even though he said he wouldn't be.

If you want something to change, voting isn't the way to do it. With the sham that we call "American democracy," those with the most money are going to get what they want whether or not they vote.

And in many cases, the candidates that are on the ballot don't represent what people want. I care about equality, but if the candidate also supports imperialist wars I can't bring myself to support that. We can't lie to ourselves and say that a third party will get elected, either.

I benefit nothing from voting. No matter what, my vote doesn't change anything. If I want to change this country, if I don't stand for policies, then I have to do something about it. Actions speak louder than words.



[2]

[1] Photograph <http://goo.gl/kEvt60>

[2] Photograph <http://goo.gl/fPb4qP>



NOW OR LATER?

➤ By Alain Santos

Smartphones have become our most used device for media consumption, productivity, and communication. Smartphones can act as a compact camera, a notebook, and a GPS. They can even connect us from across the globe. Although, there comes a time where that loyal smartphone starts to become dated. In recent years, numerous manufacturers have developed shiny new hardware and software every year. Similarly, these smartphones come with more and more complex and intuitive features every year. With so many smartphones to choose from, when is the right time to go ahead and purchase a new phone and get that upgrade?

A common trend with current smartphones is that they follow a yearly cycle. What usually happens is that companies responsible for releasing the latest and greatest smartphones do so at a specific time of year. More often than not, a very similar trend holds true with the past four generations of the iPhone and the past three generations of android. With the iPhone 4s to the iPhone 6 and 6 plus, they have all been released at some point in the fall. In addition, the last four releases of Android have also been released in fall from Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich to Android 5.0 Lollipop. What exactly does this mean for upgrades?

With the release of an iPhone, usually there comes a release of “s cycles” of the iPhone, like the iPhone 4s and 5s. These models feature refined upgrades; meaning that “s cy-

cles distribute their own smartphones to take their vision of Android on their respectable phones. Comparatively, with each iteration, Google has also introduced smartphones under

deck. Alternatively, when considering buying an android phone, plan to purchase it before six months of release as well. Determining which Android phone is the best, look at what the

“WHEN DECIDING ON THE NEXT SMARTPHONE UPGRADE, CONSIDER THE YEARLY CYCLE WHICH SMARTPHONES FOLLOW.”

“s cycle” updates what the “non-s cycle” iPhones were lacking, such as the iPhone 5. The release of the “s cycle” iPhones tend to have more stable versions of the latest operating system and well-optimized software. The trade off of buying the “non-s cycle” iPhones is that you will always have the latest hardware and software. For example, it might look different. In essence, you get the cool factor in “non-s cycle” iPhones. The latest and greatest may have a few kinks in software that comes with first releases. Yet, the “s cycle” models tend to be more reliable and the software is properly supported.

On the other side of the spectrum, lies Android. Android was always a little different to Apple image of the smartphone. Android has a similar trend to the iPhone. That being, the past four Android versions have also been released in the fall. With each release of Android, other Android man-

ufacturers distribute their own smartphones to take their vision of Android on their respectable phones. Comparatively, with each iteration, Google has also introduced smartphones under the Nexus line to match the latest in Android. For example, the latest Nexus device, the Nexus 6, will debut in November 16, 2014. The Nexus 6 will feature Android 5.0 Lollipop. The release date is important as it sets the base line standard for all future Android phones. In the coming months, optimized smartphones will run what the latest Android has to offer.

When deciding on the next smartphone upgrade, consider the yearly cycle which smartphones follow. Generally, the rule of thumb for buying an iPhone is to buy it as soon as it’s released, more than likely this is during the fall and winter months. Waiting longer than six months after release means that the next iPhone will be on

current top Android phones are, and which models have adopted the latest version android. Waiting a month or so after the first release of a new Android version will usually clear up any critical flaws. A great way to determine which smartphones are the best is to look at reviews online. See the pros and cons of each. Then, evaluate each one to under your criteria. Smartphones have become a commitment. The best smartphone is the one that caters to your needs.





Portable Beat Downs

A Review of Super Smash Bros. for the 3DS

► By Zachary North

It's time for every gamer's fantasy fight to happen yet again, as Mario, Link, Pikachu and many other Nintendo favorites duke it out in the fourth installment of the Super Smash Bros. franchise.

Super Smash Bros. is a crossover fighting game series directed by Masahiro Sakurai, the director of the Kirby franchise before he left HAL Laboratory, Inc. in 2003. The series started out on the Nintendo 64 in 1999. It was such a success that it continued in 2001 with Super Smash Bros. Melee on the Nintendo GameCube and again in 2008 with Super Smash Bros. Brawl on the Wii.

Six years later, Super Smash Bros. is back and, for the first time ever, on a portable system and a console; these two installments are Super

Smash Bros. for the 3DS and Super Smash Bros. for the WiiU.

The objective of the game is different from other fighting games in that rather than trying to decrease the health of your opponents to zero, you are pummeling your opponents

until they reach a damage threshold—shown in-game as a percentage—where you can knock them off screen for a K.O. Players can choose between a time match, where K.O.'s count as points and the winner is the one with the most points, or a stock match,





[1]

where the winner is decided by whoever is the last man standing with at least one life.

Unlike most other fighting games, the controls are simple and there are no long combo inputs to try to remember. There are basic attacks, special moves, jumping, shielding, grabbing, and dodging, each only requiring one button to use. There are a few other techniques, such as smash attacks, and wall jumping, which require a little bit more finesse to use but still aren't complex.

Super Smash Bros. for the 3DS can be played on both a Nintendo 3DS and 3DS XL, I have heard different opinions on the controls, many of them being that they are too cramped on the smaller 3DS. I have a 3DS XL, so I don't have any comfort problems with playing the game. It is a mild hassle trying to relearn the controls, since they are mapped to the buttons slightly different than the past games, but I was able to play just as well as be-



[3]

“Unlike most other fighting games the controls are simple and there are no long combo inputs to try to remember”

fore once I got the muscle memory back.

I've been enjoying the new and returning characters and stages. Some of the returning characters have had changes to their move sets that really helped to balance them and make them more playable than past iterations, while many of the new characters introduce a lot of interesting mechanics that I have been enjoying toying with. I'm extremely happy that Mega Man, a character who has been in need of some love for a while, and Pac-Man, my all-time favorite retro gaming character, were added to the roster. All of the old stages are the same as they were before, but the new stages help give more variety and flavor to the game, especially since the stages are all based on games that were on portable Nintendo systems.

My favorite new feature to the game is a mode called Smash Run.

It plays like City Trial from Kirby Air Ride, where you run around a map fighting enemies trying to get stat boosts, such as attack, defense and speed, in order to prepare yourself for a random event after the five minutes of training is up. The events range from races to battles and the winner is usually the one who has the best stats for the event, but that's not always the case.

Ever since I picked Super Smash Bros. for the 3DS up from the store, I've been enjoying every minute of it. I could go on forever reviewing every detail this game has to offer, but such an amazing experience is better left to be enjoyed by picking up a copy of the game and joining in on the fun.



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Food Truck Thursdays!

Thursdays from 11am to 2pm

The Loaded Burger Food Truck

Located in front of the Student Center, next to the Globe.



Catch the PolyTrolley

The PolyTrolley begins at 6pm and makes its final route around 10:45pm.

Free ride to the local Walmart and Marietta Square.

PolyTrolley stops can be found at the Community Center, Hornet Village, and University Columns.

More info about the PolyTrolley can be found online at spsu.edu/universitytransportation/polytrolley.



Spring 2015 Campus Housing Application is Open!

If you would like to live on campus next semester, you can apply online at spsu.edu/housing. Applications are being accepted until the end of November, so apply today!



Hump Day Hammock Hangouts!

On Wednesdays when the weather is nice, you will most likely find a group of Eno Hammocks hanging up around Sycamore Grove. Drop in and hang out! It's completely free and you are welcome to study, take a nap, or just hang out with friends.

Eno Hammocks are available for rent during non-hump day events. See the Student Center Info Desk to find out more.