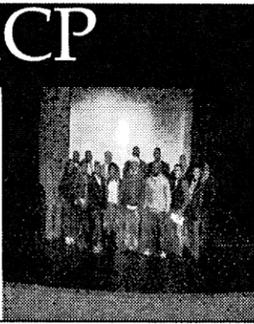


NAACP

NAACP week was recent and several of their events was covered, including the visit by Hame of Famer, Harry Flournoy
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The Sting

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Spring Break

Spring Break is coming up very quickly. Do you have a plan? Check out our article in for a little suggestion
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Feels heavier than usual, doesn't it?

Volume 64, Issue 6

PRESIDENT'S VIEW ON SPSU FUTURE

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, President of Southern Polytechnic, was in attendance at the Student Government Association luncheon on Friday, February 5. She was the keynote speaker at the event, giving an update on construction on campus, the goals, and the challenges that face the school in the future. She also spoke exclusively to the Sting after the event on how she envisions the school in five years.

During her address to those in attendance, she noted that enrollment to SPSU has been averaging 7% increase per year. In the last year alone, enrollment is up 40%. Due to the rapid increase of enrollment, the school is feeling "pressure" in keeping up the facilities available for classrooms, parking, and dormitories for the incoming students. She mentioned that the waiting list for on-campus housing is very long for this upcoming Fall. However, the new housing under construction near the K building complex and the parking deck is on track to be opened at that time.

There is also pressure to keep up in the context of classroom space. According to Rossbacher, this is being "addressed in multiple ways." One

of those ways is the construction of the new Architecture Studio annex, which is being built between the current building I and building K3. The Engineering Technology Center which is being built on the north side of the parking deck, along with the studio annex, is slated to open next fall. These two new buildings will be in full use a year from now, she noted. Due to the massive amount of building to the tune of a whopping \$100 million, state agencies "drool" over the growth that is taking place on this campus, Rossbacher said.

SPSU is very lucky to have all of this new construction. The Board of Regents has a specific six-year plan on funding new construction and this construction got underway before budgetary issues put the brakes on new construction elsewhere for this year. All of the construction that we are witnessing is the first year the Board of Regents implemented this plan. There were many other schools that were looking to get projects in for the first year and ended up not getting those projects. Moreover, given the economy, those schools are likely to not see any construction for considerable time. The construction projects on our campus were well underway before the budget crunch took hold.

So exactly why are the building of new facilities following so long after continuing increases in enrollment? Rossbacher noted that there is a two year lag between enrollment and operating funds for the school. That is, enrollment goes up for at least two years before more money comes into the school to handle the enrollment. She stressed that "enrollment now will benefit us in the future," as in more facilities and faculty. However, with all of this growth, there is an obvious need for more staff, such as technical support in Information Technology, more staff in Student Affairs, the Business Office and Financial Aid.

Given all of this, many people may be wondering how the future will look for Southern Polytechnic. In her address, Rossbacher explained the current strategic plan, which comprises of three steps. The first is to be more comprehensive. To do this, the school will need more academic programs and an expanded range of academic courses. The second step is to increase enrollment. Finally, the third step is to increase "our sense of place," in which Southern Polytechnic will "become a school of first choice."

In tandem with the idea of increasing our sense of place, a survey was conducted by the Chronicle of

Higher Education, a newspaper for university faculty and administrators, on how administrators, faculty and staff felt about the school. Fifty percent of people at SPSU participated in this study and the school scored well in every category except two areas--salary and packaged benefits, two elements that the school has no control over. The survey, according to the school website under "A great college to work for" in the About SPSU section, describes Southern Polytechnic as "an excellent place to work" and the survey helps in assessing "our progress in continuing to develop community, pride, and an even stronger sense of place."

There is now a new strategic plan that was started last year that will be more refined yet will not discard elements from the current plan. According to Rossbacher, this plan is "still evolving." This plan still includes increasing enrollment with a focus on student success. In addition, increasing resources, in the context of non-state funds such as private scholarships and endowments, will help to achieve the goal of increasing enrollment and student success. Also carried over from the current plan with some refinement is strengthening the sense of community. This strategic plan is expected to

be on the website for everyone to see and give feedback.

In expressing how she sees the school in five years, Rossbacher expects that there will be approximately 7,000 students attending classes at SPSU. She also hopes to acquire additional property and to have money to renovate existing buildings on campus. This will have a "positive impact on student life." In the diversity arena, the lack of a healthy percentage of women on campus has been noted by current students over the years and as one of her initiatives, Rossbacher looks forward to having a greater percentage of the students being female. Also falling under the umbrella of diversity is maintaining a status in enrollment where there is a healthy mix of traditional and untraditional students. Finally, a considerable amount of SPSU students are transfer students from other technical colleges. One of her goals is to make the transition process from another school to Southern Polytechnic easier for those students.

Considering the current and upcoming strategic plan and the vision of our school President, the future looks bright for Southern Polytechnic.

OrgSync

THE NEW ONLINE SYSTEM FOR SPSU ORGANIZATIONS

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

If you noticed at the back of the last issue, there was a drawing done by one of our staff members that depicted OrgSync. That depiction alludes to the major benefits that this new online system will bring to the SGA-recognized organizations that exist and operate on Southern Polytechnic's campus.

So what is OrgSync? OrgSync is simply a free online database manager for student organizations. This online system was started by college graduates for the purpose of organizing the organizations. Exactly how does OrgSync do this? This system keep track of advisors, officers, documents of the organization (including budgets and other treasury documents,) and co-curricular transcripts, just to name a few features. Organizations can also create a public website on this new system without having the experience of being a webmaster.

Ron Lunk, the Associate Director of Student Life, says that OrgSync was chosen to better

manage organizations. He said this system makes it easier for organizations to obtain "more resources to efficiently do their work." Other systems were considered for the task of organizing the organizations, but OrgSync was chosen over all the others due to it being comprehensive, easy to use, and functional.

Lunk states that people constantly come into the Student Life office asking about what organizations are active on campus. Along with the issue of not knowing what organizations are active on campus, there is a need for the students to know what takes place on campus. There are also instances of different organizations holding the same event on the same day. A solution was needed to help rectify these and other issues.

Student organization leaders may wonder exactly how will this system benefit their respective groups. This system has a great deal of potential, as it allows for people to find an organization and look at their calendar to see what events that organization is hosting. Lead-

ers of these organizations can get an idea of student life by how much their fellow students are engaged in their organizations and their activities. They can also recruit new members and communicate with members of the student body. For organizations that are concerned that the messages about their events are not getting out, OrgSync can send messages out to members of the organization by e-mail, text messaging, and a feature that functions like the 'wall' in Facebook.

The following example illustrates the power of OrgSync; Say for instance one needs to send an e-mail out only to the officers, or only to the members, or perhaps members of just a certain committee. OrgSync allows the administrator to target specific groups of people to send messages to. Organizations that are fundraising can use this system to set up an online market place where people can purchase items. One can also offering tutoring services through this system. OrgSync is an "all around organization resource with

all various modules," according to Lunk. He also stated that this system will make large organizations more efficient and allow smaller organizations to get on the ground and get established.

In order to use OrgSync, a student will need to register on the website. Will all students be required to register? No student will be required to register. However, Lunk says it is strongly encouraged that students register. Incoming freshmen will have the opportunity to register so they can get acclimated with organizations that are available on campus. On the other hand, all organizations that want to be recognized by the Student Government Association (SGA) and receive a budget will be required to register on OrgSync. This requirement is being made for SGA to keep track of an organization's constitution, advisors, roster, and officers. Their level of activity on OrgSync is dependent on them, according to Lunk.

Considering what we have said so far, perhaps one may wonder how this benefits the entire

school, organizations aside. OrgSync "makes us aware of what the student body is doing," says Lunk. He stresses, "It is all about assessment." That is, the school will be able to give resources to the organizations efficiently and use the system to get outside grants for student activities by showing hard numbers of organizations recognized and their levels of involvement.

If you have not explored this system, Lunk has three words for you: "Get on it." OrgSync will be fully active at the beginning of the Fall semester. (So there is still time to touch, feel and learn how everything works.) The system is very useful, easy to use, contains lots of resources and provides an interface for students and organizations to connect with each other. OrgSync is the "Facebook for student organizations," said Lunk. For organizations that have had a problem recruiting, organizing documents, and/or having merits to determine if your organization is effective, this system is the one to solve your ills.

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We can breathe; it's over

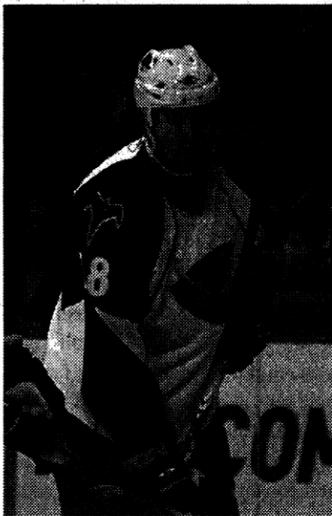
Stefan Seville
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, February 4th, the Thrashers lost to Tampa Bay by the score of 2-1. As he skated off the ice, Ilya Kovalchuk broke his (\$300) stick in a rare display of frustration. As some people in Philips Arena correctly suspected at the time, that would be his last action as an Atlanta Thrasher. Two days later, General Manager Don Waddell finalized and announced a trade that sent Kovalchuk and young defenseman Anssi Salmela to the New Jersey Devils in exchange for four assets:

- Defenseman Johnny Oduya (Sweden/Kenya – 3 year NHL veteran)
- Forward Niclas Bergfors (Sweden – NHL rookie)
- Forward Patrice Cormier (Canada – junior prospect)
- New Jersey's first round pick for the 2010 entry draft

Initial reaction to the trade was not surprise – many if not all followers of Atlanta hockey had felt it coming and had heard the rumors. The problem we had was that once again, we, as fans and 'customers' of this team, were disappointed with the lack of return on a superstar player we had to trade away. Most fans got the feeling this would turn out like an eerily similar trade involving Marian Hossa two years ago – simply not enough return for the amount lost.

Waddell, in a letter to fans release shortly after the trade was finalized, revealed how Kovalchuk had turned down two different contracts during negotiations: one that would have made him the highest



Niclas Bergfors is third in the league for goals by a rookie with 16.

Photo credited to: Stefan Seville

paid player (per year) in the NHL (\$10 M for 7 years), and one that would have made him the highest-paid player in NHL history at the end of the contract (\$101 M for 12 years).

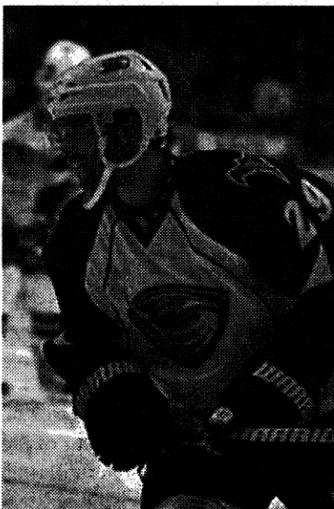
That said, I do not think there will be too many 'welcome back' cheers on April 6th when New Jersey returns to Philips Arena and #17 plays his first game as a visitor in Atlanta. I personally have loved watching Kovalchuk play – he's exciting, energetic and fun to take pictures of as well. He's been the spark to this team for 8 years, bringing a booming slapshot to the powerplay and bringing life to the team when his linemates seemed stuck in the doldrums. Through 594 career games with the Thrashers, he scored 328 goals and 287 assists – franchise leader in all 3 categories. Just from walking the arena once over, I would say 50% of the fans wearing a Thrashers jersey have his #17 on the back and sleeves.

His impact on the team cannot be equaled, but this does not mean we, as a hockey city, cannot move on. It's a sad truth that business is such a large part of sports, but it is just that – the truth. When contract talks came to an impasse, the necessary action was taken (too late in my opinion) by Waddell to move the one-time NHL scoring champion. Hopefully the return on the first Russian to ever be taken 1st overall in the NHL draft will be worth what was traded away. Even if it isn't, I, along with the other true fans of Atlanta Thrashers hockey, will still be there for the boys – clad in blue, thousands strong.

Through their first 5 games as Thrashers, Johnny Oduya and Niclas Bergfors are making some noise of their own. Their situation is less than desirable – at the beginning of February, they were playing for Conference-leading New Jersey, only to be traded to an Atlanta team struggling for a playoff berth. Bergfors especially has made a splash, especially as an 18-year old rookie. He has three goals and an assist in the 5 games he's been with Atlanta, while Oduya (the only NHL player of direct Kenyan descent) has 3 assists with the Thrashers.

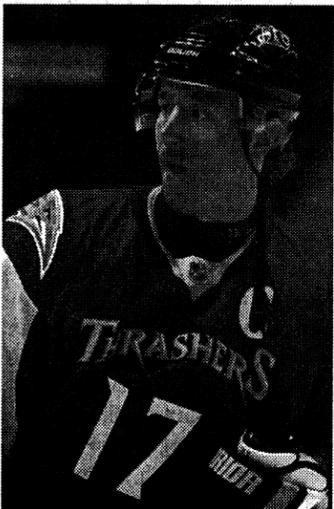
While Bergfors and Oduya are already making fans happy, one piece of the trade is not. Prospect Patrice Cormier, a highly touted selection in last year's draft, is currently serving a season-long suspension from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League for a flagrant elbow on another player. Cormier might not have been suspended for so long had he not been guilty of malicious elbowing twice in the month before he dropped Mike Tam with a forearm to the skull at full speed. Many Atlanta fans are confused as to why Waddell would want Cormier to be part of the trade. Reports are that Waddell would not have let the trade would not have gone through if Cormier had not been included. As Cormier matures as a hockey player, we will be able to see if his nasty streak is a matter of teenage irresponsibility or an unbreakable habit.

Also part of the trade, Atlanta and New Jersey will switch positions in the second round of this year's NHL entry draft.



Johnny Oduya will help solidify the defensive core of the Thrashers

Photo credited to: Stefan Seville



Kovalchuk demanded more than \$10 million per year to stay in Atlanta

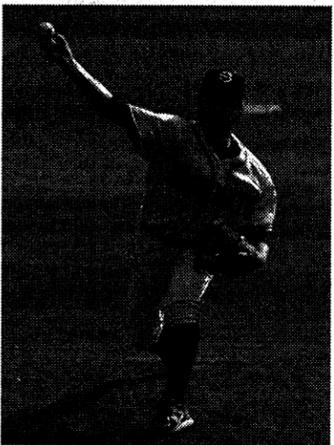
Photo credited to: Stefan Seville

Hornets Come Out Swingin'

Stefan Seville
Sports Editor

Starting pitcher Blake Mainor recorded the win in the first game, and Greg Hendrix the in the second to lead the Hornets to a two game sweep of the Truett-McConnell Bears at SPSU's Sir Walter Kelly Field. Jake Barrow scored 5 runs while reaching base safely in 5 of six at-bats to power the offense for 10 runs over the two games.

Nationally ranked at #4 in the NAIA, the Hornets have high expectations for this sea-



Mainor powered the Hornets through Truett-McConnell

Photo credited to: Stefan Seville

son. Loaded with big hitters in Jake Barrow, Gary Owens, and "Big" Ben Fleming, and solid pitching from the one-two punch in Mainor and Hendrix, there is plenty of reason to believe that #4 ranking could transform to #1 by season's end.

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ORGANIZATIONS

Articles written by organizations to inform the campus of activities and events are welcome. Articles must be submitted in electronic format (e-mail, disk) by the deadline printed below. All such articles are subject to editing for style, content and size, and are run on a space-available basis.

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Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join *The Sting*, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Thursday at 12:00 PM in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call (678) 915-7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. *The Sting*: It's not a job, 'cause a real job pays more.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is **The Weekend of March 5th**. Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

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BASKETBALL HALL OF FAMER VISTS SPSU

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

The Southern Polytechnic chapter of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has been hosting events each day during the week of February 8, commemorating the civil rights organization's 101 year existence. In celebrating this milestone, Harry Flournoy, member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, came to speak to a group of students, faculty and staff on February 12 in the theater at the Student Center.

Before Flournoy spoke, those in attendance watched the film *Glory Road*, which is based on the true story of events leading up to the 1966 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship, in which Flournoy was a member of the Texas Western College team (that school is now called the University of Texas at El Paso.) This film set the stage for Flournoy's address to those in attendance.

Flournoy, a tall, athletic, and deeply spiritual individual, stood up on stage and took the microphone. He noted that each and every individual has talent that has been planted in us by God. He stressed that the talents that are given to us are to be used to help and serve other people. As he continued in his address, he reflected on his experience on the team. During his reflection, he said he would gladly go through everything he went through again.

At this point, Flournoy turned

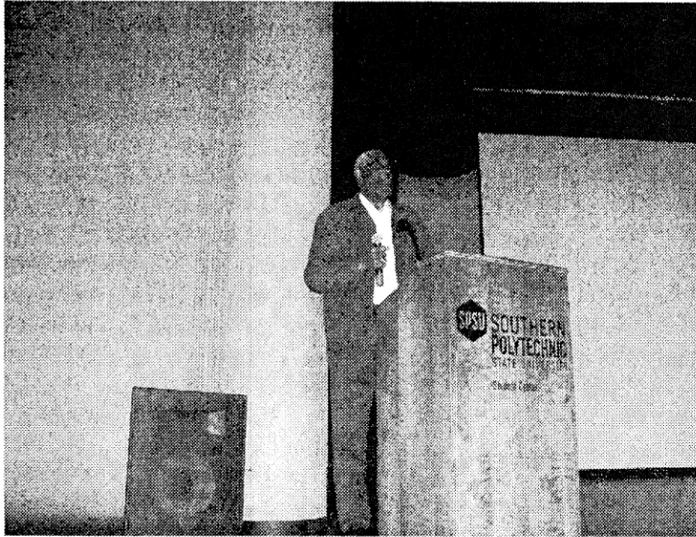


Photo credited to: Jarrett Bell

the attention off of his experiences and shined light on history. He noted that civil rights leaders and those who participated in the movement stood in line and voted, had dogs sicked on them (in Birmingham back in the 1960s), and put their lives in danger, knowing that somebody would benefit from their actions. "We must all become visionaries," Flournoy said, as he explained that these people who made these sacrifices were visionaries. He took some time to explain the difference between dreamers and visionaries--the former being people who sit there and do not make an effort to make changes while the latter can see into the future and bring the changes to fruition.

Flournoy stressed to those in attendance that everyone needs to "get up and get out," as in a call to arms to make life better for other people

and make a difference in the African American community. He lamented on the issue of black people killing other blacks, and other people of color killing their own. Part of the problem is their lack of courage to make a difference in their own lives. Dysfunctional families, according to Flournoy, produce the lying, stealing and killing that we see and hear about every day. He stresses that there are no excuses for not making the world a better place.

Many other topics came up during his address. One of those topics was education. Flournoy said that education is key to being successful. However, he says that "we all need a lifeline" and the only way to be successful is to have that lifeline, and that lifeline is God. Secondly, he stressed the importance of not being average. While saying do the best that you can, Flournoy also says

Professor Retires with Legacy

Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

Jack Haley, founder of the Forensics Team and Public Speaking professor, is retiring. For many, taking the required Speech 2400 course is as far as they will pursue public speech. Professor Haley sought students who would go further. He believed that forensics is an activity that strengthens the ability to argue and think. He founded the team in Spring 2003, while he has been an adjunct professor.

Jack Haley's passion for speech began in his years as an undergrad. When he was in university, public speaking was a huge deal. Universities invested thousands of dollars in their speech and debate teams, and if you were good at speech you would have many scholarships. He developed a profound respect for debate, as an art that taught people how to create solid arguments and thorough analyses. He has carried this respect nostalgically throughout his entire career, and has tried to teach it to his students.

According to Haley, though technology has bettered our lives in so many respects, he dislikes the negative effects it has had on debate. "I would never recommend a person to join a debate team," he stated seriously. Today, he claims that debate has become about tricks and word-craft. It is about sounding like you are making a good argument, and not

about making one. Though more people than ever are participating in public speaking (i.e. YouTube, BloggingHeads, TED, etc..) it is a completely different activity than it was when Jack Haley was in debate team.

Professor Haley has been old school and believed grades had to be earned. He did not want his students be dependent on PowerPoint, and so he did not let them use it. He did not think twice about tearing apart someone's speech in front of everyone. He refused to be satisfied with students just speaking in front of the class, he wanted to see them thinking thoroughly and applying logic. His ruthlessness in critique is the same zeal admired in sports coaches. If you could take it, you learned and became a stronger speaker.

At the Berry Tournament last year, LaRon Bell got second place in the Prose category for a humorous reading from *The Lost Continent*, a story about an overly friendly town that might be aliens. Rosa Santillan received 5th place in the Poetry competition for a compilation of work on overcoming a breakup. Neither of these students are in the ETCMA program, yet they place in competitions against Speech majors supported by huge scholarships. LaRon Bell, a third year Information Technology major, says that the forensics team has been his favorite extra curricular activity. Mark Stevens has volunteered

to help with the dramatic and literary interpretation events for several years. "He's an inspiration, I would have never gotten into this without his leadership," he says.

As Jack Haley retires, SPSU is finally investing in the Forensics Team--a choice long overdue. While formerly, Haley and the other professors worked on the team without monetary compensation, Haley's replacement will be selected based on his willingness to lead the forensics team, and will receive pay to do so. In the past, SGA gave \$2000 in funding that all went towards traveling to the tournaments hosted at the University of Alabama, Berry University, and Gainesville, as well as funding the annual state forensics competition hosted by SPSU (held this year on February 13th). SPSU will also begin offering scholarships for students doing well in forensics team to encourage participation. As the team enters a new phase, Haley should be proud to have started a fun, valuable, and important speech team on campus.

"making C's is nothing" since it "says you are at the top of average." Succinctly speaking, he wants everyone to do their best without giving up. Things will be hard in life but one cannot be at the top in their life if they give up.

Back to talking about his experience but in tandem with the idea of not giving up, Flournoy refused to give up on the court and in the classroom. He stated that he endured criticisms from both the white press and the black press after the team's NCAA championship win in 1966. Interestingly enough, he said that there was no recognition given from *Ebony* or *Jet*, two well known and popular black magazines. At that juncture, he spoke a bit more about recognition. Not getting recognition is no reason to stop doing what you do, says Flournoy.

Transitioning from recognition is expectation brought about the following statement from Flournoy: "Expect the best, do the best, give the best." Towards the end of his address, he once again stressed the importance of educating oneself and the immense empowerment that one achieves when they are educated. He also made a final call to go out to the streets and serve the community.

After hearing his inspiring and informative address, there were questions from the crowd. One person asked on whether his family was supportive in going the Texas Western. According to Flournoy, his family "jumped for joy." Another asked whether or not students today are as successful as students in his time. He responded by say-

ing that students must have a "strong family background" to be successful. The importance of knowing where black people came from became the focal point of answering this question, as he said that the current freedoms we enjoy have "made us forget where we came from." Later on in the question and answer session, he highlighted the importance of knowing history and that the times we live in now were nothing near the times he lived in when he was playing on the Texas Western team.

The last and final question was what was the hardest thing he had to go through. Flournoy's answer was stirring, as he stated that it was "dealing with my own people." He says that too many black people believe they cannot be great and they're destined to be stepped on all of their lives. Refusing to accept this notion, he believes that God did not make black people to look at themselves as less than other people.

The event that took place was truly an excellent event to take part in. The movie and the following address, given by a participant that the movie depicts, was not only fascinating but also put our goals in perspective. Those that attended the event were enriched and rejuvenated by the movie and more importantly from Flournoy himself. I personally want to thank him for taking the time to come speak to those in attendance. We can all appreciate the efforts of him and many others that have made it possible for us to be where we are today.

Engineering Technology Student of the Year

Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

The Georgia Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers has nominated Nick Thornton as 2010's student of the year. He is a third year student pursuing a bachelor's in Civil Engineering Technology. This award is open to all students enrolled in an ABET accredited engineering or engineering technology school.

Thornton has demonstrated dedication and impacted Georgia's engineering community positively; he is the vice president of both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the captain of the Concrete Canoe Team, a mentor for West Hall Middle School's Future City team, and guest speaks at pre-engineering courses at Flowery Branch High School.



Photo provided by: Facebook.com

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT RECAP

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its annual luncheon on Friday, February 5 in the Student Center ballroom. During this event, all of the committee chairs give a short presentation. Many student organization leaders were in attendance, as well as school President Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, Dean of Students Barry Birkhead, and Associate Director of Student Life, Ron Lunk. Food was served at the event before the Student Government committee chairs made their presentations. Dr. Rossbacher delivered the keynote address before the event ended. Coverage of Dr. Rossbacher's address is covered separately in this issue.

Frank Johnson, the Budget and Finance Chair, was the first to give his presentation. He discussed the Standard Operating Procedures, or colloquially known as the SOP. This docu-

ment gives guidelines for organizations that are recognized by SGA, encourages campus activities, and investment of funds. He made clear that the next year's fiscal budget has been extended from the February 15 deadline. Johnson also stressed that organizations put as much information as possible into their budget requests. Adjustments can be made after the organization's budget is submitted. For new organizations without a fiscal budget, the organization can put in its request through OrgSync, the Student Life office or the SGA website and can get money after the budget has been allocated.

Ericka Payne, the Internal Affairs Chair, was the next one to speak. She talked about the benefits of an organization being recognized by SGA. In order to be recognized, the organization must have an original constitution, a roster of at least 4 members (who can be officers of that organization), the email

addresses, phone numbers and other contact information of those members, and a letter from an advisor. Organizations that are recognized have the possibility of obtaining an office. She also stressed the importance of getting on OrgSync (which will be discussed in another article in this issue.)

The Elections Chair, Brandon Denney, discussed the upcoming SGA elections. The elections are set on the week of March 25. The elections will be held online, he said. For those who want to run for a position on SGA, the applications are on their website, at sga.spsu.edu. For anyone running to be in an executive role, one must have at least a 3.0 GPA. To be on the council, you must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

The Vice President of SGA, Valerie Thomas was the next one up. She spoke on her position in SGA. As the Vice President, she is responsible for the internal op-

erations and running the general body meetings. There is a student comment box available for input by students outside of the SGA office in the student center. She is also launching a program called Emerging Leaders, which trains the incoming freshman on leadership skills. Finally, Thomas stated that alumni want to bring back the Bathtub Race, which was a tradition on the SPSU campus but has been discontinued.

February is the month for homecoming events. Former SGA President and current Vice President of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) Anjili Patel spoke about these events. A packet of information was available for each person in attendance. The packet included information about the homecoming events, including the voting for Mr. and Ms. SPSU on the week of February 22. She says that the "Greeks typically participate" but CAB is "trying to move past that" by getting more people involved. Patel

stressed the importance of other organizations and their levels of participation will make the homecoming events successful.

Dr. Rossbacher was in attendance and delivered the keynote address. She discussed the school's current strategic plan, the new strategic plan that was started last year, and gave an update on construction on campus. Her keynote address is covered separately in another article within this issue.

The SGA President, Andy Cohen, finished off the luncheon. In his call to action, he said that leaders of organizations on campus, in preparing the new incoming freshmen to take their places upon their departure, must take charge in "propagating what we've learned" to the future leaders. He also noted that great leaders are those who "gives the best part of themselves to others." With that said, organizational leaders in attendance heard the call to action and presumably govern themselves accordingly.

Flood causes renovation of housing establishments!

An article filled with 3 apartments, 12 rooms, 12 residents, and 54,000 gallons of water!

Kevin Baker
Staff Writer

What started as a normal day on January 10th lead to a disastrous situation to ruin the day. Pipes had frozen over during the cold weather that was occupying the Marietta area that week. Thursday would come and find that as a smoke alarm was triggered, the pipes began to prime themselves in case a fire had actually occurred. What happened was far from expected.

Those pipes that were meant to put out a fire broke, flooding the 1000 building number 4 apartments. This meant three apartment establishments were flooded from the downpour of water brought on by this event. Sixty gallons of water every second flooding from the pipes into the roof of the third floor apartment, which was enough to flood through the roof into the entirety of the apartment.

This was followed by it flooding through the roof into the second floor apartment, as well as through the walls to get through faster. The walls allowed water to flood down to the first floor apartment, and my residence. Luckily roommates were there to keep the water from getting into my room while I was away (I owe you guys for that much,) but two rooms in that apartment were flooded to ruined status.

When finally maintenance arrived and stopped the system, the water had to finish flowing out of the apartment to allow full cleanup. Full cleanup consisted of maintenance bringing in a industrial strength vacuum to pull the water from the carpets and 'dry' the floor.

Here is where things start to get interesting to say the least. After the apartment was given an attempt to dry from maintenance and their devices, the residents had to let the apartment air out as best they could

to help the process along. While this normally would be easy, the weather wasn't too kind that night either--cold enough to make us choose to deal with it being wet.

The residents resided in the apartment Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, even after all that damage. Thursday the residents received a notification from housing about the renovations being done to the apartment, and the residents would be required to

moving everything to the Norton dormitory hall. Luckily the team had not arrived until the residents were finishing up the transportation of the items.

To recap for you here, the residents were flooded that Sunday night, lived in the apartment while it could have been breeding bacteria for us to breathe in for almost four-days, and finally given less than one day's notice to be out of the apartment so the repair crew,



Photo credited to: www.spsu.edu

move out and into another room while the repairs were finished.

On a first come first serve basis, students were issued a whole dormitory residing on the third floor of Norton Dormitory Residence Hall. A couple of students were forced to reside in a living space smaller than the apartment room since they were unable to get to housing before the residential placement had been used up.

In the e-mail the residents received containing the evacuation notification, the residents were given less than twenty-four hours to move out of the apartment. The e-mail stated that the repair crew would be arriving to repair at nine in the morning. For all of just one apartment to move out, it took the better part of the day packing and

who showed up late, could begin their job. Now I get to the best part of all.

The residents were given a follow up e-mail containing an explanation of how long they would be occupying in the dorms and what compensation would be received for the inconvenience it brought to them.

Their January rent (normally \$550) would be reduced by three hundred dollars (bringing the total for January to 250) as well as provided a fifty block (50 meals) meal plan. This would seem fair enough since the residents would only be in the dorms for two or three weeks while the repair crew finished and made sure all the fumes and likewise were removed.

The apartment would look

like it had never been touched and everything would be ready for them at the end of that period, or so the residents were lead to believe. The fifty block meal plan was charged to our accounts, which overrides the reduction in rent they provided to us. (Yes, fifty meals cost \$300 at the cafeteria.)

The first few days they took to process the paid rent for the residents the cards would not work in the cafeteria, luckily with some explaining of the situation, the residents were allowed to eat until everything was verified and processed.

Finally everything was in order and set up properly, until the end of the three weeks rolled around. The apartment (which residents had been monitoring the progress of to see if the estimated time of completion holds any truth) was still incomplete in the repairs. Some rooms still lack a new coat of paint from the removal of drywall when the repair crew had to tear the apartment apart in order to get everything fixed.

The beginning of the fourth week started, the apartment had yet to be completed with renovations, and the full price for February rent is what residents were informed they would be paying. The residents currently pay in total \$2200 a month for the apartment they reside in if all four reside in one courtyard establishment.

Asking the full price of rent for a month in which a resident spends less than the full month residing in their apartment is a rather low thing to do. With the rate the apartments are being fixed, half the month of February will be spent in the dorms for the students.

Take what you want from the information provided in this article. The truth of this needed to be put forth so that those who did not encounter the problem would

understand what goes on and how the situation is handled.

You receive a reduction in rent for being forced into a dorm after the incident. You no longer have your own bathroom which may not be much of a complaint, but you were paying five hundred fifty dollars for a bedroom with a bathroom in it.

You are now in the dorms, so you have to have food since in this hall you have to follow the rules like all other dorm residents of what is or is not allowed to be used for cooking in the dorm.

The meal plan given to you will cover the time you are expected to be in the dorm, but that reduction in rent is being added back on in the form of you being charged for the meal plan.

You then find out your time is extended by at least a week while the crew who has been taking the whole time with minimal progress up until the third week finishes. The meal plan given to you calculated that if properly used would last you three weeks and four days at two meals being used per day.

This is assuming that you are only in there the four weeks, barring the possibility the crew might suddenly become lazy and take even longer to finish. For those of you wondering why, until now, I have done my best to keep from giving an opinion based on all this; I wanted the news to be brought forth, not the opinion of one of the victims of this flood. Overall this was a situation that came without foresight, though the freezing over could have been partially, if not completely, prevented by properly insulating the system pipes.

NAACP: Kick-Off

Aaron Love
Staff Writer

After over a decade the SPSU NAACP chapter makes its triumphant return during its founder's week celebrating 101 years of activism. In a week full of events Monday February 8, 2010 was the "Kick Off" of this historical organization's week starting with an informative panel discussion.

This panel was composed of The Georgia State Conference NAACP President Mr. Edward O. DuBose, The Georgia State Conference Youth & College President Justin L. Bryant from Morehouse College, Retired Public School Superintendent Dr. Benjamin Williams (NAACP Lifetime member), Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Zvi Szafran., Director, Affirmative Action EEO Officer & Training Coordinator Ms. Mary Ellen McGee & Career & Counseling's Diana Harmon-Smith (SPSU NAACP Advisor).

The purpose of this event was to inform the student body of the association's history, purpose and mission.

The discussion also addressed the association's relevance in today's society with hopes to peek interest for future members.

In addition the audience received a history lesson given about our great university and the trends of minority representation

over the years.

We learned about the schools first black student Mr. William Hope (EET 67'), the first black administrator Dr. Harris Travis & the first female President Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher.

These detailed minority statistics about the school thus reinforcing the need, as discussed by the panel, for this great organization on campus. In addition to the revealing panel discussion many who attended were able to meet the panelist and have one on one conversation. This event was a very good beginning to what is sure to be the rise of a great organization on our campus.

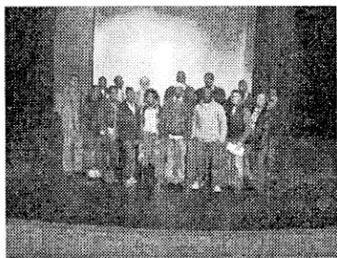


Photo credited to: Jarrett Bell

The Sting Needs Your Help!

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

As you may already know, The Sting is undergoing major changes. As the school's only newspaper, it is our job to bring to you information that you will find useful. The entire staff has realized that a great deal of our papers stay in the paper trays across campus. We have heard statements that the newspaper does not present informative content. The criticisms that are being put out are being heard and understood. However, in meeting your demands, we need your help and support in making your newspaper representative of our ever evolving campus.

How do we need your support? We have a very limited staff. Just until recently, there were few enough consistent writers that they could be counted on one hand. With a very limited staff, being responsive to events that take place on campus and bringing you important news and other information has been very difficult. With such a limited staff, and with many of us ready to graduate at the end of this semester (myself included), the Sting is at the crossroads. This is the point in time where we must decide: will our paper survive, or will the fire that has kept it alive for decades go dim?

This is where you, the reader, can make an impact. Before I begin to tell you how, let me inform you

how we are changing the way we function. A survey was written and distributed by one of our staff members so we could gauge the reader's temperament towards the newspaper. While this was taking place, the staff experimented with bringing the newspaper to the Internet. We currently have a space on Collaborate, SPSU's message board system. We are moving to OrgSync, a new technology that allows for organization management as well as ease of access for all people on campus, allowing them to get involved with our organization (you will hear more about this technology in this issue and future issues.) In addition, we are preparing to update our website (www.thesting.org) so you can read content online.

Aside from the technological changes, we are instituting some other changes as well. The Sting office, A252, will be open for people to walk in and ask questions, bring potential news, or just to hang out with staff members that are available. Our office has been cleaned up and made more hospitable to our staff members and those who come in to visit or with the intent on writing for the paper. If you have not already seen the emails that Ron Lunk, our Assistant Director for Student Life, sends out, these emails include our meeting times and location.

All of these changes should put us on the road to being a more

viable on-campus organization; one that is more representative of the student body and of this growing campus. But here's how you can help us and ultimately the rest of the student body--if you are the head of an organization, please consider putting information about events and other activities your organization is doing in the newspaper. Tell your friends about the newspaper and encourage them to read it. If you spot something taking place on campus or something that can potentially have an effect on students, consider writing about it or bring it to the attention of the newspaper staff so we can investigate. We always welcome new writers--if you have read any of my opinion pieces, you will see that the Sting is an open book for whatever you want to write about.

We hope that you are willing to join us on this exciting journey of change that the Sting is undergoing. The newspaper is evolving and is moving towards long-term sustainability. If you have a knack for writing and want to be involved, come and join us. If you have a story that you want in the paper, our staff will be more than happy to get that story published. Without your support, the Sting would be dealt a stinging blow. We hope that you will help us prevent this from happening and allow this paper to continue serving readers like you.

Global Game Jam 2010

Sean Fine
Editor-in-Chief

Walking in, there were a surprisingly small handful of participants. Some with their computers and laptops set up and some already playing Team Fortress 2 while others reviewed code, worked on graphical layout of landscapes.

As much as I'd loved to participate being such the game buff that I am this year was to observe. Many of the other participants has their own desktops set up and wearing various gaming and nerdy attire ranging from Chuck Norris jokes to Team Fortress to V for Vendetta. It certainly looked all fun.

These students were here for the Global Game Jam, a Bi-Annual event that SPSU has hosted for full year now. Every 6 months or so, developers, designers, and artists with a passion for games come together to create games in a 48 hour marathon, all based off of a theme. When the event finally began, the room was much more packed than ten minutes prior. The participants were to be given a theme and constraints to base their game around and then proceed to try and make said game.

This year's theme was Deception with a constraint of a Net, a Set, or a Pet, and there is an optional idea of achievements to acquire, including ideas such as 'universally playable' 'beatable in 5 minutes' and 'instant gratification' via playing the game online, just to name a few.

After the theme was announced, the participants discussed between themselves about ideas, several of

which included a Metal Gear hiding in box idea and "silly" ideas such as Internet meme pedo-bear or dogs playing poker.

A fair number of teams discussed platforming games in favor of a 2D sprite design. One group even suggested just having a 20 member team, though noted the problem in dividing the work.

One of the discussions were finished, several more concrete ideas were suggested and explained, such as a adventure type game that plays like Animal Crossing, except you're trying to deceive everyone into fighting each other, and a platformer where you can change light direction that deceives the landscape to pass it.

After the discussion and ideas were set, the teams split off to begin working on their projects, beginning a 48 hour marathon of design, code, and hard work with plenty of Monster energy drinks to fuel them. The second day's feeling in the air was certainly quieter as the teams had broken into their teams and were busy working at their stations. Some were drawing, others were coding, a few were doing layout design, and some were researching. Professor Jon Preston said he mostly stayed out of the way of most teams' ways, leaving all the creativity to them.

Several teams were further along in their ideas than others, as one took the shadow platformer idea and altering it to have players shift through light and shadow dimensions. Other teams were a little more creative with a adventure game taking the three little pigs scenario and the player, a bigot wolf that's trying to trick all the pigs

to leave town.

Other participants didn't come to compete but to learn from other game developing enthusiasts.

"It's alot of fun where you can work on projects for fun." Says Craig Burge, one such participant, as he worked on a cutscene using the Unreal Development kit, amazed at how users could do various things and techniques with limited amounts of coding, agreeing with the idea that it's something like the Starcraft campaign editor.

"It's informative - learned alot, just watching others work and by talking with them." George Ishadimu explains, "What I take from [the Game Jam] is the successes and failures to learn how to manage the work and flow."

When the development period was up, half the games developed weren't complete but the concepts for each were presented and were overall, very neat and many came away from the experience with better knowledge about how to go about the game development project with knowledge of better planning and agreement among the groups about coding languages and engines.

The Game Jam this time around had very good reception, with nearly double the participants than last year, "A big thing was mix collaboration and meeting new people." stated Professor Jon Preston, head of Game Development major at SPSU. Here's looking forward to further Game Jams in the future.

Madrid Experiences

Adam Myers
Senior Staff Writer

Many college students' dreams for the summer months involve going away to exotic locales, interacting with foreign people and cultures, and taking in the best the world has to offer.

What if there was a way for those students to do all of those things, while also receiving college credit for their troubles?

SPSU in Madrid offers just that. The month-long study program (which takes place this July) allows participants to study the Spanish language in a native environment, as well as experience the sights and sounds of the Spanish capital. Students who enroll in the program will also receive up to 8 credit hours for Spanish language studies.

"This is an academic program, so [participants] will principally be attending class," says Dr. Bernice Nuhfer-Halten, Spanish professor at SPSU, "...but will then have more free time to spend on the streets, wandering around, using [and improving] [their] Spanish, meeting people."

SPSU in Madrid is one of several university programs organized by Foreign Study Programs, with whom Nuhfer-Halten is a faculty member. The \$3,995 cost includes round-trip airfare, room and board, all academic expenses, insurance, and a three-night stay in Paris at the conclusion of the program; non-

stop airfare from Atlanta is \$295 extra. In addition to the main program in Madrid, excursions to other Spanish cities are available at additional cost. Upon return to SPSU in the fall, students will have the cost of the trip reduced from their tuition by registering for 15 credit hours.

Nuhfer-Halten stresses that even attending classes during the day does not take away from the experiences that can be had in Madrid.

"[Madrid] is a city of night-life," she says. "People go out at midnight. It's very hot in July, so people and families stay indoors, and go out together in the evening. Students love it because they go to clubs, go dancing, meet all kinds of people. It's a lot of fun."

Though the most recent meeting for those who would like to go to Madrid came on January 27, there is still plenty of time to sign up. Five students have already signed up to go, and Nuhfer-Halten invites anyone else to come along.

"Go anywhere," she says. "[Traveling abroad] changes your life."

Students interested in participating in the 2010 SPSU in Madrid program can contact Dr. Bernice Nuhfer-Halten during her office hours at room J-308 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12-1 PM and Monday and Wednesday from 5-6 PM, or via e-mail at bnuhferh@spsu.edu.

THE TENSTONE PAPERS - THE NORMAL SERIES

PART V: THE FINAL SAY: PEER PRESSURE, LABELING AND STEREOTYPING

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

The Normal Series of the Tenstone Papers has investigated the word 'normal' in detail through the first four installments. During our investigation of this word and its definitions, we drew four conclusions: definitions are subjective; standards are based on opinions, prejudices, and preconceived notions; "approximately" is exclusionary; and everyone has a mental disorder of a varying degree. All of these four conclusions support the assertion that was laid out in the first installment--normal cannot be universally applied. Let us wrap up this series with the final verdict on this word.

As stated before beginning Part I of the series, the writing of this series was inspired by a friend who has enormous knowledge about various subjects. However, he has ADHD and people that have known him longer than I have effectively treat him as an outcast. After I got to know him and really have constructive conversations over various topics such as airplanes, physics, politics and computers, for example, I was truly amazed about how much he knew about a plethora of subjects. I have observed from the body language of those who have known him longer is they feel he is too eccentric to be around and are not willing to see through his flaws that he cannot control and see what he really has to offer as a human being. These people treat him as if he were an alien. The actions of these people are sickening and repulsive. This is a classic example of people being bullied, ridiculed, denounced, and looked upon as less than human if they have an attribute about them that is not in the norm. I find it to be a damn shame that people cannot look past one's flaws and see the other great human being standing before them, but instead cast them into the realm of a subhuman nobody that has no business being in their presence. Actions from these arrogant blockheads are holding back the progression of humanity.

Whew... let me rein it back in for a moment. There are three

byproducts of the universal application of normal. That first one is peer pressure. To begin, let us consider younger people--those who are in elementary, junior and high school. The popular students in the school will have established a standard based upon a mutual agreement among them. Students that do not adhere to that standard are excluded, considered outcasts, and are ridiculed in some form or another. Those who are excluded have had the self-esteem blanket completely removed from them; they realize their differences--some of which they can never correct because those elements are embedded into their very being. Some of these younger people may not be strong willed enough to accept their differences and will be drawn into peer pressure. However, for those who are not, the pressure to fit in will result in a violation of their natural inclinations and instincts. The youngsters may begin exhibiting negative behaviors--being sexually promiscuous, becoming an alcoholic, drug user or seller, domestic abusers, murderers, etc. as a way to be cool or prove themselves to others and be adherent to the standard that was set. Should the attempts to fit in fail, the consequences includes depression or at the worst, suicide.

Labeling is another byproduct of the universal application of normal. Consider that these students are essentially giving the label of 'not normal' to those who do not fit in to the standard and the consequent normal that they created. Considering our Part I and IV discussions, the popular students consider themselves superior regardless of what state of consciousness they are in (whether they realize what they are doing or not) and if all others do not adhere to the standard laid out by them, they are excluded and labeled as outcasts. The labeling differentiates between the popular students and the outcasts. However, this labeling is unfair and incorrect since all people are eccentric in their own way and thus no one is normal. The labeling that is assigned to the outcasts, like peer pressure, results

in the self-esteem, self-respect and self-worth of these people taking a gruesome beating. Those who are making the assignments are guilty of gross ignorance, lack of respect, stupidity, and harboring malicious superiority complexes.

Our third byproduct of the universal application of normal is stereotyping. People come to generalizations about other people when they encounter one person that is different in some considerable way from what is considered the norm. For example, a young female who is into sports, cars, or other otherwise masculine interests typically is considered a "tomboy" and a lesbian. Such stereotyping is a gross generalization that blatantly assumes without proof that this young female is not in any way feminine. (It would be incorrect to say that all males like sports and cars because that is not the case. However, this is also a standard that has been created and expected to be adhered to.) Furthermore, this ignorant assumption assumes her sexuality is somehow tied to her interests which is not in any way a "be all, end all" indicator. Finally, since she is not considered a "normal" female due to her interests, the stereotypes used to label and classify her that are based on standards that she is expected to adhere to have resulted in her being excluded when there is a possibility that the labels are not true at all.

Situations such as the one mentioned above and others with similar premises happen all the time in society. Considering this series, there is a glaring question we must ask--exactly who are these people or society in general that have the audacity to create such standards that establish stereotypes and labels with wanton disregard for the people they affect? The people of modern society perhaps get immediate satisfaction by putting others down; perhaps these people have something to prove to other people and can only do so by putting others down; perhaps they want to be seen as superior to others; perhaps they are attempting to hide their own differences and shortcomings; perhaps they truly do not understand that not everyone will act, look, or be the same way as they are. No matter what the motivations for their actions are, the consequence is damaging; the belittlement, the putting down, the stereotyping, the labeling--all of these actions damage the other person's self-esteem, self worth and self confidence. Those on the receiving end are adversely affected by such acts--adversely affected to a point where they become self-destructive. The self-destruction stems from the need for the disenfranchised to prove themselves at the expense of their health, dignity and self-respect.

No one should have to prove themselves for anyone--not for popularity, classmates, the public, etc. Anyone that forces another to prove their worth is engaging in a form of control that most certainly adheres to having a mental disorder

as stated in the Part IV discussion. Moreover, such a repugnant display of antagonism to the other person or group of people is not the human camaraderie that we need to be displaying to each other. If this is how 'normal' people act towards others, any sensible person must steadfastly detest those actions, as such differentiation being made is illegitimate per the Part IV discussion and results in the progression towards humans being respectful to each other comes grinding to a halt.

The people that are calling the shots in our modern day society, whether they be Hollywood, politicians, your university housing RA, the popular students in the high school class, one's parents, etc.--they hold an idealistic vision of how everyone should look, act, be, become, do, what have you. Their opinions about what another individual should be should never be used as a standard to judge one's self worth, esteem, or potential. No person should make an attempt to be someone that they are not just so they can be considered 'normal' by society's standards. They do themselves an injustice, as they are unable to live their lives to the fullest. Society is also at the receiving end of this injustice as they cannot reap the benefits of what the particular person has to offer.

All humans have basic needs in order to survive. We have basic physical, mental and social needs. One of those basic social needs is acceptance. When a person feels accepted by others, this need is fulfilled and the person feels comfortable with themselves. The feeling of acceptance that a human has results in that particular person realizing they have a meaningful existence; that their life has a purpose; that they are worthy and capable of positively contributing to society. For the need of acceptance to not be fulfilled results in engaging in the negative behaviors already stated previously. To prevent this from happening, people need not be labeled; people need not be stereotyped; people need not be peer pressured into being something they are not or doing something they do not want to do. That means for those who have influence on others, these people need to be positive role models and be inclusive. Influential people also need to understand that how they carry themselves and treat people will resonate with those who look up to them. Those who have the power to inspire need to be capable of satisfying the basic human need of acceptance by not establishing a normal that is exclusionary and prejudiced.

We have shown in this series that the "one-size fits all" idea when applied to the word 'normal' does not work and is detrimental to the progression and the inclusion of all members of society. Creating a standard and expecting that everyone will adhere to that standard is unrealistic, as we stated in Parts II and III. We need to realize that all people are different; each person can be a positive contributor to

society if they exhibit their talents without fear of being stereotyped or labeled. This however, is a very idealistic and unfortunately an unreal possibility, as we have people in this world who refuse to understand other people that cannot be and live identically to who they are. However, we must all, at the bare minimum, see that each and every one of us have a different purpose and have been endowed with different characteristics by our Creator. Each and every person was constructed differently to serve their specific purpose, whatever it may be. Hence, we must not strip ourselves of those characteristics to adhere to an exclusionary standard by those who bestow it on us. Instead, we must power forward with these characteristics and make a positive impact on society and strive to understand people without letting prejudice and preconceived notions get in the way.

CLOSING REMARKS: As a person who has sat in the chair of being bullied, teased, taunted, belittled, having to prove myself to others, treated as an outcast and as eccentric, I felt an obligation to write this series--in defense of my good friend and in defense of those who have also sat in the same chair as we have. This series is also to send a message out to those who believe they are God's gift to humanity--that in fact, you are no more special than all of the other six billion plus people that exist on the planet Earth. No one should be relegated to subhuman status for any reason; no human has the authority to denigrate another for their own self-gain; no human has the authority to belittle another so they can feel better about themselves. Not one human on this Earth has the omnipotence to step into the shoes of our Creator and say, "I am normal." Any human being that boldly declares such a statement will be guilty of idolatry and a bareface falsification that can and will be wholeheartedly debunked. That thin veil of deceit will be exposed for the falsity that it is. That, my friends, is a promise.

I want to thank my friend for giving me the gumption and inspiration to write this series. Being told "you're not normal" may seem harmless to most but can have an impact on one's mental well-being. Seeing how my friend is now in this situation and how other people treat him, I also felt compelled to write this series in defense of human differences. While it may not be likely to stop these negative actions from impacting other people, I hope that you as the reader were able to understand the impact of this word and will govern yourself accordingly with others in mind. If you govern yourself without inflicting peer pressure, labeling, and stereotypes on others, our world will be a better place to live.

Thank you for reading.

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No More Heroes 2: Desperate Struggle

More bosses minus sandbox equals...

Sean Fine
Editor-In-Chief

Genre: Action
Platform: Wii

If you've been following the Console Wars, then you'll probably notice one of the Wii's main flaws (besides graphical power) would be that for the hardcore gamers, there are no where near enough releases to satisfy gamers. Thankfully, when a game targeting them does come out, it becomes something of a big deal, and No More Heroes is considered one of the best titles for the console.

Two years later, the sequel for this title has finally arrived, but does the sequel to Suda51's crazy action title maintain that level of fun and excitement?

Story: Set 3 years after the events of No More Heroes, assassins fighting assassins has become something of a past-time sport, with main lead Travis walking away from the business immediately after the first title, but returning at the beginning of the first boss to settle a revenge score, which leads into the game's plot with a central theme of revenge.

Despite having a great intro, a good portion of the middle game loses some of the extreme raging emotions initially formed until the last 5 to 6 bosses, and furthermore, the theme of revenge is also diminished somewhat by the over-the-top and insane action which leads to moments of utter hilarity. In other words, if you liked the original No More Heroes' plot, you'll feel right at home.

There are a few twists here and there, but the noticeable difference is the presentation of the many colorful bosses you fight. Yes, you end up getting a good feel for most of the boss's personalities, but their introductions are mostly cut short as another person pretty much describes the story behind the boss, which would be nice if it were actually interesting. This problem shows up less and less the further into the game you go, but it definitely lacks some of the charm that the original had.

The story is still interesting and humorous, but lends itself more to the development of Travis rather than the people he fights and the final boss who, while difficult, does seem something of a let down when you finally fight him.

Gameplay: If you played the original No More Heroes, then you'll feel right at home, A attacks



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with the katana, B does punches and kicks, and the angle you hold your controller determines the type of attacks and so on.

One feature new to Travis' arsenal is the running slash where you swing your Wiimote while running to attack the opponent on the run. It's a helpful addition and is a considerable offensive option when you just want to get closer faster.

Furthermore, no longer does Travis have to rely on random chance in order to reach a powered-up 'ecstasy mode'. While random chance certainly has a presence, players can reach ecstasy by simply fighting well, striking enemies and avoiding damage. It's a big improvement over the previous game's lottery system for a bonus.

Previously, players traveled around a sandbox-like map of the city of Santa Destroy. This has been removed for a menu based travel system. It's an improvement in the sense that you don't have to waste your time traveling by foot or motorcycle from place to place, but it does take away that explorative element that the first game had (finding t-shirts and money in garbage cans, etc). On the plus side, you're no longer required to have to make money to continue the story.

Instead, you can use money to upgrade your stats through significantly harder mini-games and purchase new weapons, which can now be switched on the fly. To earn money, there are new retro mini-games, which are pretty fun and take reference from older games. Only downside is that there are no assassination missions. Instead, you get revenge missions which

don't really pay you for completing them. Rather, you just get money from killing the minions there.

While the bosses are the main treat of the game, the various henchmen you battle have many types and are harder than their original counter parts, with some enemies grabbing you for others to attack. They're not impossibly hard, but you do have to struggle a little more against the mooks.

The other ranked assassins, however, range in difficulty. Besides the tutorial boss, the first boss can be very difficult, while the next few bosses are almost too

easy. And while the story boasts 50 ranked fights, you really only fight 15, so don't get your hopes up. Once a player reaches the top 10 rankings, however, the game begins to be reminiscent of the first game. They're challenging, fun, and, overall, leave you with a sense of satisfaction after each fight.

Add in the opportunity to play different characters with unique controls and unique fights, such as an early giant mech battle, and you have a game that has a lot of variety, if lacking in some early parts of the game.

Graphics: The graphics have

Dr. Spring Break

Or: how I learned to stop worrying and love the club

Louis Alderman
Staff Editor

I can still smell the cigarette smoke, my hearing is a little off and I now have a little embarrassing secret you'll be hard pressed to get out of me. I guess that's the symptoms of a good party. The one week to rule them all, Spring Break, is under a month away and then every night could be a party. It's important to relax and not let the pressures of school build up too much.

One of the cures is all the events CAB and our Greek organizations host for us. One of the other cures is going out with friends to a venue, a club, a bar (if you're appropriately aged mind you) or even a park! I'm getting a little bit of partying out of the way early by enjoying some good music. Last night it was the Dixie Tavern with the Tyler Reeves band and tomorrow it's going to be the Tabernacle with Flogging Molly.

Atlanta is one of the big music cities, so no matter your taste in music, you'll find someone playing it. I've moshed to Irish Punk and only days later bounced to some Nerd Rock.

You can't deny Country in the South, but Raves draw their own underground crowds. I heard that even John Williams did a live orchestral accompaniment to a showing of Star Wars around here somewhere. Every once and a while SPSU is lucky enough to host a band or a show. But no matter where you find yourself, a party



Photo credited to: Louis Alderman

is only as good as the friends you have with you. Whether you bring your friends with you or make new friends, they will be the real life of the party.

I didn't start writing this with the intent of telling you how to 'party'. Keep your eyes open and soon SPSU will give you some safety tips on that. No, I just got the opportunity to see a band playing their usual at a simple bar around the corner. I got a thrill I haven't had in a while and all the worries of classes and jobs faded away till next morning.

Do I still have a test next week? Of course. Do I still have deadlines for that report? Heck yeah. But unlike a hangover, those are stresses you won't feel in the morning, even when you're happily working on them.

I did start writing this with the

been improved upon and updated to express the game's various characters a little more. It's not the most realistic looking game, but the style and character of the game is appealing regardless. The various landscapes you fight through are rather bland at times, but a few pieces, particularly boss areas, look good enough.

Sound: Music from the previous game more or less followed a general melody and remixed into various forms, with unique pieces for each boss. While that melody is still present, the composer for the game has made new pieces for each level and of course, each boss has their own theme, one of which is, as Travis puts it, "Catchy as hell."

Voice talents take all the previous actors from the first game to reprise their roles and they all do a good job, as in all the corniness and emotional outbursts the characters love to dish out.

Overall: In the end, No More Heroes: Desperate Struggle isn't necessarily better than the first game, nor is it worse. It lives up to the No More Heroes name, but doesn't exceed it, which may be disappointing for some fans, but if you loved the first game, then the sequel is certainly worth your time. 8/10.



Like last time, there's a lot of neat boss characters

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