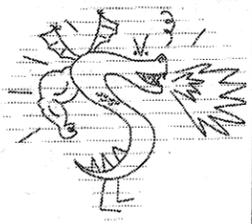


Sports

Find out what happened during the first home game of the season. Eric gives you the game highlights.

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The Sting

www.thesting.org

Opinion

A new opinion writer talks about the Jesus nativity scene. The history and what book of the Bible says what.

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December 1, 2006

Happy Holidays!!

Volume 61, Issue 6

A busy week on campus

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

The week of November 13th was one of the busiest weeks in a while here at SPSU.

Monday kicked off International Week which was hosted by the International Student Association (ISA). For the first day of festivities, the members of the Student Government Association (SGA) were announced and the upcoming events of the week were explained as everyone chewed down on wings.

Tuesday, the ISA hosted a forum on the various study abroad programs offered. Light refreshments were served and Dr. Bennett kicked off the talk. He discussed potential happenings within the Social & International Studies major, such as a possible major or minor in Psychology and, hopefully, an Education concentration. He continued to say there is currently a study abroad option in China, Germany, or Spain and possibly one to Africa and Paris in the future.

Then Dr. Nuhfer-Halten spoke about the trip to Spain and invites anyone to talk to her in J308 if they're interested in attending the

four weeks in Madrid.

Leo Felix also presented on his trip to Bellagio, Italy and how much he learned about designing architecture there. He and other U.S. American students, as well as students from Italy, Germany, and Poland, were divided into groups to propose designs to reconstruct pieces of Bellagio.

Also, on campus, Tuesday was the third installment of the Concert Series at the Community Center. This time, they had acoustic guitar soloist Davin McCoy on stage from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. They changed the time from 7:00 pm to 5:00 pm in order to attract more people. If you didn't make it out, check out Davin at www.myspace.com/davinmccoy for samples of his work.

Wednesday, there was an on-campus Organization Fair. Twelve organizations were present and all who were present had a chance to win a \$200 Visa gift card for their organization. But students had a prize, too! If you visited every table, you were entered in a chance to win an Ipod.

Later that night at 5:00 pm, Housing hosted Jive, which started at the Community Center featuring

some excellent fried food. It only lasted 40 minutes instead of the stated 3 hours, but there was a good turn out and the food went fast!

After the food you could've checked out HypnoBro at the gym. Yes, a real live hypnotist was here at SPSU. This is usually a much anticipated event – and for good reason! Fellow staff writer Jessica McNally wrote in detail about it over in the Organization section.

Thursday, the Fall Festival ensued, which fellow staff writer Jonathan Meek covered in more detail in his article "Fall Festival."

On Saturday, International Week closed with the International Dance Party. This was held in the Community Center from 8:00 pm until 2:00 am. This event was hosted by the ISA and although they said they would charge a dollar for entry, they ended up dropping the charge. There was a great turn out and food and drinks were served. A mix of Jamaican, Latin, Hip Hop, Rap, and a little Chinese was played, although some people were disappointed that the DJ didn't leave the Americas much for music selection.

That week was full of events and helped many students relax before finals start.



International Week brought to you by ISA

Steven Fyffe/The Sting

Proposed Transportation Fee

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Training

Parking decals. Their purpose is to specify which lots a student, faculty, and staff member can park in. They also fund a part of the parking office's budget and due to this office's need for additional personnel, software, and equipment, the decals do not suffice. To cover these additional expenses, the parking office is proposing a mandatory transportation fee be added to the fees already paid for with tuition.

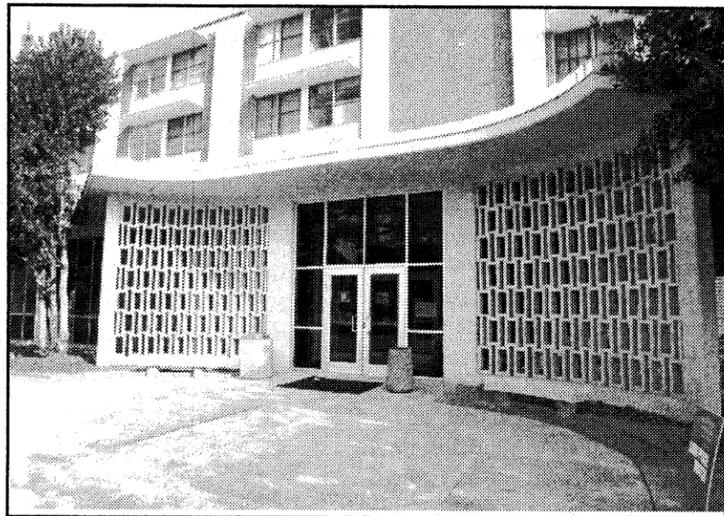
This transportation fee would raise the current fee from \$15 to \$25 and every student would have to pay it. The parking office has many justifications for this fee and its increase. First, a mandatory fee would be covered by financial aid, while financial aid does not cover the current non-mandatory fee; however, HOPE would not cover this fee. A mandatory fee would also lower the cost of enforcement, which is a current problem. Right now, the parking office does not have the budget to hire enough personnel to enforce the parking rules

and regulations. With the construction of the Courtyard Apartments, Southern Poly lost around 300 parking spaces close to the dorms. Even with this loss, Southern Poly has plenty of parking spaces, but students are having to walk farther to class and, for some, to their dorm rooms. This fact is causing many students to ignore parking rules and regulations, and are parking in the wrong areas or not buying decals

at all. With a mandatory fee, the parking office would only have to hire enough personnel to enforce parking restrictions in resident, visitor, and faculty and staff lots. Also, a mandatory fee would make it so no student could avoid paying the fee.

Those are some of the arguments for a mandatory fee, but why the increase? One, the parking of-

Continued on Page 2



The parking office entrance

Matt Finn/The Sting

Ladies program grant

Cristina Wilson
Senior Staff Writer

A team of Southern Polytechnic female students have gathered to write a proposal for the American Association of University Women's annual Campus Activity Project. This grant, if awarded, will provide SPSU with \$5,000 to use towards funding activities for women's social and economical awareness on campus.

This year, AAUW plans to fund 10 projects estimating about \$5,000 each. These projects must address the choices that college-age women must make while making the transition from student to employee.

The AAUW website states that college educated women 25 years and older are only earning 75% of what their male counterparts earned during the past year. This gap in salary begins during the first year of employment after graduation.

To make female students aware of the social and economical challenges they face in the

work place as well as on campus, a group of SPSU women have joined to write a formal proposal for AAUW to fund their project. The proposed project will occupy one week in the spring semester and will consist of volunteer opportunities on and off campus, health forums, and mentor networking.

SPSU is attracting more women to its campus each year, by means of an increasingly diverse academic program. Home to a 22% female population, this number has raised an average of 1% each year over the past 5 years.

If awarded this grant, SPSU will use this opportunity to foster interest in the engineering and life sciences with local elementary and middle school girls. Studies show that younger girls are still underperforming in the science and mathematics areas as compared to their male peers.

Helton states that the proposal is currently pending acceptance from the AAUW. Winners will be announced soon after Thanksgiving.

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HypnoBro!

Find out what crazy stuff happened when a hypnotist came to campus. Apparently, everyone that participated had wonderful smelling feet.

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Happy Holidays vs Merry Christmas!!

Find out why one Sting staff member gets frustrated during the holidays.

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Guitar Hero 2!

You know you enjoyed the first one, but what about 2? Find out what Sean thinks about this sequel.

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Fall commencement

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Chief

The semester is almost over. For most student, this means a break is coming, but for some, it means the work is finally over for at least one degree. On Saturday, December 16, at 2:00 pm in the gym, these students will receive the degree, whether bachelors or masters, they have worked so hard to get.

This fall, approximately 230 students have petitioned to graduate on December 16. Out of those 230 students, seventy are graduate students and one hundred and sixty are

undergraduates. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that all 230 students will actually be eligible to graduate.

This semester's commencement speaker is going to be Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr., of the University System of Georgia. Chancellor Davis can relate with some of the graduating students since in 1965, he graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a bachelor of science in Electrical Engineering and soon after, in 1967, received his M.B.A in finance from University of Chicago. Davis has been in the professional world seen then where he climbed the latter all the way to

president and CEO. Further out his career, Davis has received many awards and honors. Two of these honors being U.S. Black Engineer magazine's "Black Engineer of the Year" in 1988 and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business in 1993. More information is available on Chancellor Davis at www.usg.edu/chancellor/bio.

Commencement will be held in the gym at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 16, which is the Saturday after finals. Congratulations to this semester's graduates and good luck in the future.

Mental health

Jeff Hughes
Counselor

With the end of the semester rapidly approaching, even with this much-needed break we just returned from, you may already be feeling anxious about your upcoming finals, the long winter break ahead, or even the Spring semester. If you find yourself withdrawn, struggling to focus in class, having difficulty with eating or sleeping, or are using alcohol to help cope with stress, then you may be experiencing something more, possibly depression, anxiety, or a related disorder.

The SPSU Career and Counseling Center provides resources to help you deal with this end-of

semester-stress. SPSU offers its students free online screening for mental health issues (depression, anxiety, eating disorders) and alcohol use. Just go to this link to take an anonymous self-assessment: www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening, KEYWORD – spsu

The screenings are completely confidential and provide immediate feedback and information on how to connect with follow-up resources on campus. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the demands of the semester's end, be sure to get plenty of rest, eat right, and please consider the resources available through an online screening. The SPSU Career and Counseling Center staff is here to listen and to help.

Transportation Fee

Continued from Front Page

fice says it needs another full-time person to help with the work load. The parking office currently only has one full-time employee. Two, the parking office wants to upgrade their current software, which they state is necessary for keeping track of student's cars. Three, the emergency phone system on campus is out of date and needs to be replaced. This expense would be fronted by the University through its reserve fund, if the transportation fee is instated, which the parking office would then pay back over three years.

Like all rules, there are a few exceptions. Students who are enrolled in the distance learning program or courses and are not enrolled in on-campus courses would not have to pay the fee. Also, residents in on-campus apartments who aren't enrolled in classes would not have to pay a parking fee but would still have to register their vehicles.

On November 21st, Chief Chasteen presented this fee to the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA had many concerns; one being, will there be constant increases in the fee? Chief Chasteen told them that the current parking fee had not been raised for around 20 years but increases are inevitable. Another question was when the fee would be implemented. If approved, the fee would start in Fall 2007. Kevin Moss, SGA's Chief Judge, stated that he approved of the parking fee becoming a mandatory fee but he neither supported nor reject the increase in the fee.

Log in screen for the website

Photo courtesy www.mentalhealthscreening.org

Yearbook/ portfolio proposal

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

So who wants to play? It's been ten years since Southern Poly Tech has published a yearbook, main reason being a question of funding. 1995 was the last year a yearbook was produced on a budget of \$15,000.00. Do to advancement in technology as well as technological resources within the school, it is now possible to get 5,000 yearbooks printed and shipped for less than \$5,000.00 buckaroos (dollars). Not just that, we also have a whole lot more space than we ever did before. Not only could we have the standard photos of the student body, faculty, staff, academic clubs, and other school groups, we can also

do things like include artwork, a video game, song and narration. Of course it would be a little different than the yearbooks of the past, but it could be a great way for the school to showcase its talent.

I know what your going to say at this point, "yeah sounds great man, but who's gonna make it?" Well, students oh brilliant one. Students that are already in programs that focus on web development, programming, oh and what's that rumor about a sound engineering program coming to the school? Bingo, we have narration and possibly an annual song. Can anybody think of a better way to motivate the student body than to produce a video game or song

each year? Maybe even have a contest if enough people get into it. What about the Architecture and Engineering students? A senior section showcasing various projects throughout a student's career here sure sounds nice. Oh yeah, and did I mention that the yearbook would be distributed freely on campus? Well that's how it's worked in the past.

So here's what I need to make this thing work, \$8,000, a staff of six to eight talented students, some college credit, and a whole lot of student body, faculty and staff input. It's not just a yearbook anymore; it's a talent showcase that can include every aspect of student life (and then some).

The
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www.thesting.org

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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.

JOINING *The Sting*

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 Friday 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 **Thursday, January 11 at 11:00 P.M.** Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

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Making the most out of the time left this semester

Jeff Hughes
Counselor

As the semester winds down, many students find themselves behind in their studies and preparation for finals. This often brings on feelings of stress and anxiety that can impact how effective they are in the closing weeks. To help keep stress to a minimum and to give some insight on how to best use the remaining days of the semester, I have provided some tips which can be very helpful toward achieving your goals for the semester.

STUDYING

It's never too late to put good study habits in place. Follow a few simple steps on a daily basis and you will see immediate results.

- Read the assigned material. When you read the material before the lecture you can tune into more of what the professor says instead of trying to write down what you feel is important from the professor's perspective.
- Get yourself organized. Something so easy but if not done, you can chew up time looking for things. Set up 3-ring binders for each class. Put everything for the class in the binder so you only have to get one thing to be ready for studying.
- Go to class. If you're not there, you can't learn. Get questions answered that come from the readings. Don't rely on other student's

notes because they may have a different learning style and you will be at a loss to make anything out of their notes.

- At the end of each day, pull all of the paperwork for each class out of your book bag and place it in the binder. At the start of each study session all you will need is your 3-ring binder to start the process.
- Find 10 minutes for each class. When you have a break or at the end of the day, spend 10 minutes reviewing the material from that day's class. This will allow the information to enter long-term memory much sooner and you can make modifications to your notes at a time when the material is fresh on your mind.
- Manage your time. Set aside specific times each day to study. Don't wait until the end of the day when your body and mind are both tired. Know the circadian rhythms of your body and study the most difficult material at the time of day when you are at your best. Study the same types of material at the same time of the day, each day.

PREPARATION AND TEST TAKING

Taking tests is not rocket science, it simply involves studying and being prepared for the type of test you are required to take. It also requires that you have good habits in place that will add to your effectiveness.

- Sleep is required. Not just

a few hours but a good normal sleep pattern (7-9 hours) where the brain can get the rest it deserves and where there is no lingering fatigue. You will have more energy and your brain will function at its best.

- Sweets and caffeine. Avoid, especially on test day. While they may give you a boost, there is no way of telling when they will wear off.
- Eat a balanced diet. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. While potatoes are considered a vegetable, they don't provide the same nutrition that broccoli, spinach, or squash provide.
- Review vs. studying. Studying for tests is not something to do last minute; it is something you do throughout the semester so that the time just prior to the exam is for review. Stay away from pulling the all-nighter. You will be too tired on test day and you're guaranteed to not perform at your best.
- Don't cram. Cramming can cause more harm than good. If you must cram, set a realistic goal for the cram session, work to achieve the goal, and then quit. Pushing beyond that will cause anxiety during test time when you try to recall what you know about a particular subject.
- Old exams can be helpful to see how the professor writes questions but also for you to work through so you can get a feel for that type of exam.
- Rework homework assignments, anything that will get you into

the mode of recognizing the type of question you are answering.

- Time yourself to set up a realistic testing situation. The more comfortable you are with the clock, the better you will be able to pace yourself during the exam.

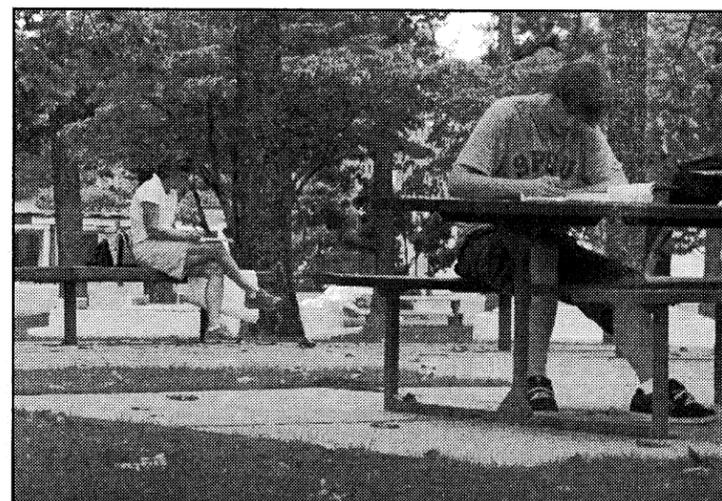
TEST ANXIETY

For the brain to perform at its best, it needs to be alert and rested.

- To keep anxiety to a minimum, quit reviewing by 5pm the day before the exam. Relax and do something that will distract the mind to help you get to sleep.
- Based on the time of the exam, be sure to eat a light, sensible meal so your body will have fuel to run off of during the exam. Avoid heavy foods or proteins which take

blood away from the brain to digest the food.

- Ignore "stress carriers", those people who like to bring their anxiety into the room. They love to share their stress and that can destroy your focus on test day.
- Arrive early to the class, pick your normal spot then leave the room.
- Tests don't start until the professor gets there, so stay out of the room until then.
- Read over the entire test before you start. This will help you budget your time on the exam.
- Believe you are ready and trust your instincts during the test. You may not know everything but you can do well on what you know and have prepared for.



SPSU students working on homework.

Steven Fyffe/The Sting

First home game of the season and we Won!

Eric Ravenello
Staff Writer

On the 7th of November, the SPSU men's basketball team matched their season high point total of 88 in their 88-60 victory over Carver Bible College. The excitement in the gymnasium was electric that night. I was one of the many Southern Poly supporters that experienced the exhilaration first-hand, and I am officially hooked.

From the pre-game warm-ups all the way through the final seconds of the game, our Hornets were hustling and exemplifying a level of passion that I haven't seen in a long time. Right before being introduced, the players locked themselves into a circle and participated in their customary pre-game chant. The tradition immediately got the crowd involved and showed them that the team means business. This was followed by the introduction of the five starting seniors, Darnell Richardson, Mike Woodard, Doug Underwood, Terrez Dewalt, and Isaac Jones.

Following the National Anthem, performed by our very own SPSU band, the players positioned themselves for the tip-off. After losing the tip-off, the Hornets proceeded to retrieve the ball and take it back down court. After some maneuvering, Underwood ended up with the ball and tossed it up to Dewalt for an amazing alley-ooop to score the first points of the game. It took all of about 30 seconds to have the entire crowd on their feet chanting. The intensity that ensued

carried throughout the remainder of the game as our Hornets never let up.

Doug Underwood seems to be in a world of his own on the court as he was the scoring leader for the third consecutive game with 20 points; 12 of them coming off of three-pointers. He also contributed 5 assists; the first of which was the perfectly tossed alley-ooop to open the game. D.J. Gibson followed very closely with 18 points while leading the team with six three-pointers. Point guard Mike Woodard once again led the team with 7 assists while also acting as a leader and communicator of the plays called.

I overheard a fan next to me raving, "They are moving the ball very well and using the whole court." She later added, "They definitely know how to hustle; exciting game."

On the defensive end, Isaac Jones pulled in 8 rebounds, followed closely by Underwood with 7 and Chase Armstrong with 6. One of the more remarkable statistics though was the 17 steals compiled by the team as a whole. These steals are what helped them outscore the opponent 48-23 in the first half and 40-37 in the second half.

Surprisingly enough, when I questioned Coach Jones about what he would like the team to continue working on, he responded by saying, "Defensively, reaction time is a bit slow. I would like them to anticipate, rather than react, on defense." If you watched the same game I did, you may not un-

derstand this statement, but Coach Jones clarified with an explanation of the team's goals. Each game, they want to keep the opposition at a 38% FG percentage and a 27% 3-PT percentage, but in that game we allowed 40% and 30% respectively. You have to respect a coach who concentrates his efforts on improving the weaknesses every day rather than accepting a win for face-value.

When asked about which players stood-out during the game, Jones mentioned names like Armstrong "coming in off the bench to provide some momentum," Underwood "knocking down open jump shots to start the game and mount a lead," Richardson "locking down at the end defensively," and Woodard "starting to show a lot of leadership." These were just a few of the individual accolades given by the coach. He did indeed add though that the team unity was tremendous and he was very proud of the upper-classmen and starters for supporting some of the back-up players near the end of the game. "I am very proud of the bench players," said Jones. The guys that are essentially practice squad players are taking their opportunities to prove they could be counted on in any situation where their number is called.

Following the game, I was able to chat with Coach Jones, and he requested I emphasize the appreciation he and the team had for all of the supporters. "I am really proud of the support tonight. Fraternities, sororities, the band, the dance team,

the cheerleaders, the new mascots, Chik-fil-a, etc.," said Jones. "I saw a lot of energy in the stands. Thank you from myself and the team."

Now, if you are reading this to find out what you missed, let me just go ahead and say you missed a lot. I do my best to capture and relay just a fraction of the excitement that actually took place, but you need to be there to truly understand. Our Hornets will have already

played about five more games by the time this is released, but we are currently undefeated through four games. The most recent road game at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC resulted in both the highest point total for the Hornets, 98, and the lowest by any of our opposition, 52. We are rollin' people, jump on the bandwagon and come support your home team before it is too late.



Rashawn McCormack, #54, has the ball. What will he do next?
Steven Fyffe/The Sting

Yes, SPSU has a Dance Team

Eric Ravenello
Staff Writer

On Tuesday the 7th of November, the SPSU Dance Team gave us a taste of what they have been practicing for the past few months. Led by coach Nancy Jacobs, and captains Taylor McMichael and Maryely Sanchez, the dance team didn't disappoint. I was there personally to witness their debut, and I was absolutely taken back by the performance I saw. The moves looked smooth and original, the attire was sexy, and the mini break-dance by Bobby Peterman was incredible. I would honestly say it was worth the price of admission itself.

"We are trying to help involve our student body in the activities and events occurring at this school," stated Taylor McMichael, "and we hope to make the experience as interesting and entertaining as we can with the limited resources and time that we have."

As a personal observer of the dance team's first SPSU appearance, I would highly recommend that the rest of the student body make time to see one of their next shows. They will be making appearances at every men's and women's home basketball game, pep rallies, International Student Association events, an Atlanta Hawks game, and possibly competitions. You might be asking yourself how many times can you watch the dance team in

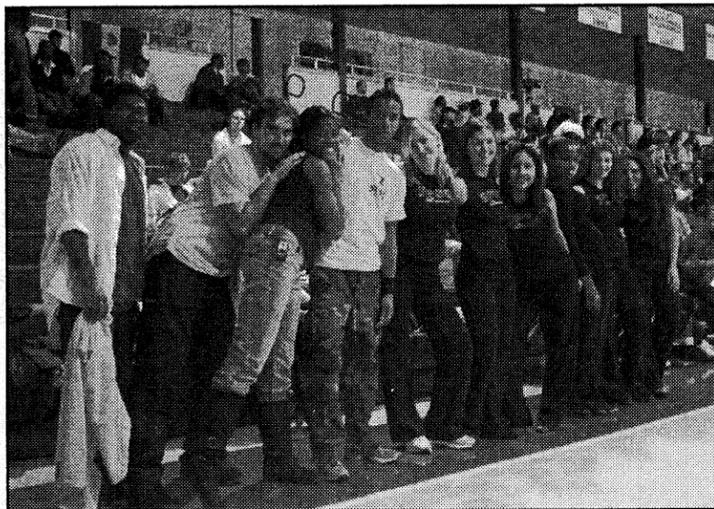
one semester, but keep in mind that they have multiple routines planned so the acts are always fresh. They have already put together a few routines for just the male performers and just the female performers, in addition to a salsa routine. They spend many hardworking hours perfecting their skills and creating new dance combinations to engage the viewers.

"Bobby is a great dancer and a great teacher," says teammate Eleanor Rochelle. "He has helped us a great deal in improving the quality of our routines each and every week."

Choreography for the first routine was contributed by Coach Nancy Jacobs, Bobby Peterman, a professional male dancer named

Dee, another coach named Stacy, Taylor McMichael, Maryely Sanchez, and a few of the other girls on the team. The performance lasted somewhere between four and five minutes and was synced up with Ciara's song "Get Up."

They are working very hard to bring life to a campus that is lacking spirit and they are doing a damn good job. If you have not had the opportunity to see them yet, make time for at least one future show and give them the opportunity to show you the future of SPSU. Hint Hint: The future holds fun, energetic, and beautiful females (and males) that want to shake what their momma's gave them...for you! Looking like a pretty bright future if you ask me.



The Dance Team waiting for half time.
Matt Finn/The Sting

Freed-Hardeman

Eric Ravenello
Staff Writer

The Hornet basketball team continued their torrid pace on Monday night, November 20th, against Freed-Hardeman. The team continues to mesh as they remain undefeated and blow by all opposing threats.

Coach Jones and the other coaches are maintaining their strict work regimen and concentration on areas for improvement. We are refusing to let our dominant play create arrogance. In order to keep the fire, we have to keep working till the last second of the last game, and we need supporters.

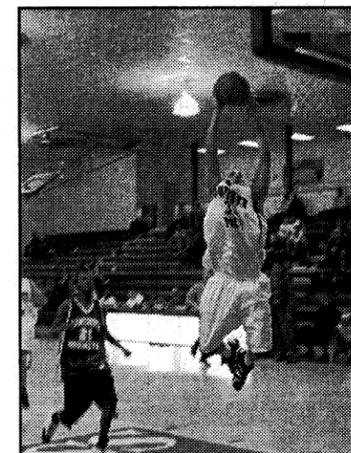
Rather than displaying individual stats on the game against Freed-Hardeman, I would rather speak generally about the intensity that took place in our 73-50 victory. It was a pretty fast paced game with a lot of fast breaks, but at the same time, it was very physical with some great displays of defensive proficiency. I noticed a lot of players, on both ends, getting sent to the line for free-throws.

Michael Woodard's speed and leadership is rivaling that of a Steve Nash or Gilbert Arenas. He hustles on every play and seems to have a radar for the basketball. Whenever it's loose, he is likely laying out to recover. Point guards probably have the most specialized and complicated role on the

basketball court and it is absolutely essential that a team has one of Woodard's caliber.

There are obviously many players doing things to help us dominate each and every game, but I am still amazed at the smooth, harmonious play of the entire team. It is obvious that the Hornets take a lot of pride in their team chemistry and have a lot of faith in each other. No matter what the situation, somebody pulls through with a big steal, block, or field goal somewhere on the court. Believe me, if you know me personally, you know that I am trying to find something to criticize, but I can't do it.

Our next two home games are on Saturday the 25th, vs. Faulkner University at 4:00pm and Tuesday the 28th, vs. Piedmont University at 7:30pm.



Dunk!
Matt Finn/The Sting

What happened during elections?

Jon Meek
Staff Writer

When the dust settled after this year's election, the Democrats ended up in control of the House and the Senate. Some conservatives are saying that this is the end of the world as we know it. Unless we hold the new Congress accountable, it can be the end as we know it.

The main reason the Republicans lost was well...they got away from the issues here at home. They thought they could say "we are helping the people in Iraq" and people would be automatically drawn to them. While I personally agree with the war in Iraq, I got tired of hearing about it. I wanted to hear about the work they had started such as Social Security Re-

form, Tort Reform, Education, and Immigration. Did they decide the American people no longer care?

Along with that, they failed to offer solutions to these problems and deal with their dirty laundry. Everyone remembers Katrina very well, along with the scandals of Mark Foley, Bill Frist, Don Sherwood, and Bob Ney. While most of the GOP pointed and called their Democratic counterparts crooked or unethical, they failed to step up to the plate and oust their own ethical problems until it was too late.

If that wasn't enough, the GOP had some people making stupid comments such as George Allen's name calling, which is on YouTube or Ted Stevens calling the Internet a "series of tubes" — which even after listening to

audio, I still don't know what he meant. We may never know what they were thinking, but they have really come across as ignorant of the facts. The Republicans became the bureaucracy that they said they would never become.

Now, the shoe is on the other foot and here's the chance for the Democrats to prove their worth after being out for 14 years. If the Democrats really want this shot at power to count, then they have to deal with the issues that the Republicans ignored. If they can keep their heads on straight and deal with the domestic issues, then they will stay in power. However, we as citizens need to hold our elected officials to the promises they made on the campaign trail and keep a constant eye on our liberty.

Nativity of Jesus mix

Merius Atangcho
Contributin Writer

For those of you wondering what the nativity of Jesus is about, it refers to the birth of Jesus. What about it? Well, it's a mix. Not a Jesus Christ Superstar, Constantine, Dogma, or anything of the sort type of mix or remix of biblical accounts—sorry to disappoint. It's just the plain old version, which, as all Christians and, perhaps, dilettantes should know, is a mix. If you're still wondering, then I'm glad I have your attention.

But first, anyone familiar with the gospels should know that they weren't actually written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The oldest manuscripts are anonymous works to which those names were added later on. But for simplicity, I will just go by the gospels' conventional names.

To begin with Matthew, he tell us of the Virgin Mary who finds out she's about to have a child by the Holy Spirit (got holy sperm?), and Joseph, Mary's fiancé, is told by an angel to name the child Jesus. The baby Jesus is then later born in Bethlehem. How come? Well, Matthew gives no clues, so we must turn to Luke for that. Before we do, I feel I should note, in case you missed it, what biblical message has been tacitly relayed here: it's not cheating if it involves a spirit,

or maybe just the Holy Spirit.

Luke tells us Emperor Augustus, the Roman emperor at that time, ordered a census throughout the Roman Empire. Everyone had to go to his or her hometown to register. Joseph took his pregnant wife to Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David, because he was a descendant of David. While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to baby Jesus and she laid him in a manger.

Matthew informs us of the visitors from the East who, guided by a star, come to Jesus' birthplace to worship and present baby Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. I can't imagine what an infant would do with such gifts. How these visitors came to be known as the wise men is beyond me. Anyhow, there's a conspiracy to murder the baby by the jealous King Herod who feels he, not some snot-nosed baby, is and should be king of the Jews. However, King Herod is unsuccessful and the baby survives.

Luke is not at all perturbed by a conspiracy to murder the infant and does not bother to tell us about it. More relevant to Luke are the shepherds who happened to be in the part of the country where the baby was born. An angel visits the shepherds with good news of their Savior's birth. The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem, confirm the angel's

good news, and return to their flocks, singing praises to the Lord. Hmm, ok. I think Matthew has a better sense of what's relevant, not to mention of suspense.

Matthew, not worried about a couple of singing shepherds, let's us in on why Herod was unsuccessful in his attempt to do away with the baby: an informant angel tips off Joseph on the conspiracy and advises him to escape to Egypt with his family and to remain there until he or she, maybe it (whatever angels are), tells them they can leave. After the slaughter, ordered by Herod, of all the boys aged two and younger in and around Bethlehem, and then the death of Herod, Joseph is told to head back to Israel. Archelaus accedes to the throne after his father Herod's death and this scares Joseph. As is said, like father like son. Anyhow, luckily for Joseph he was given further instructions to go to Galilee, where he settled in a town named Nazareth. And that's how Jesus came to be known as the Nazarene or Jesus of Nazareth.

Luke comes to the same conclusion, but after the shepherd incident there's mention of Jesus' naming and circumcision, a ceremony of purification conducted by Simeon, a prophet named Anna, and then finally the return to Nazareth, Galilee. All roads lead to Rome. Well, more or less, and if so, Mark and John apparently never left Rome.

So what of Mark and John? Well, I must admit that the title of this article doesn't apply to them. They do not mention the Nativity of Jesus, so it wouldn't be a mix for them, but, rather, a fabrication. Well, maybe I'm jumping to conclusions. Perhaps like Luke and the conspiracy to murder (not Lucky Luke!), Mark and John didn't find it all that relevant to report on. That may not be a fair assessment either. Maybe they just take Jesus' birth for granted and count on the reader to figure out that Jesus must have been born (of a woman) to walk this earth like all men and women—an axiomatic approach. Your guess is as good as mine.

Happy holidays!

Border hysteria

Merius Atangcho
Contributin Writer

I won't "label [Funkhouser] as a racist," but I'm surprised at the lack of tolerance and consideration shown by him, a "second generation immigrant." It is wonderful that his grandparents had the chance and means to immigrate to the U.S. and establish themselves in the fashion that he feels all who come here should. But he seems to forget that not all have those means or the chance.

Claiming that illegal immigrants "want to break United States law" because they enter the U.S. illegally is completely ridiculous. Obviously, they feel they have no choice, and if those individuals felt they had a chance to immigrate in a legal fashion, I'm sure they would. And how arrogant of Funkhouser to claim that what might be going through their mind is a desire to break the law. He can't even get himself to consider what circumstances might push people to such desperate measures, and rightly so because it's convenient and safe.

Imagine having to consider the economic policies imposed by the U.S. on the Mexican (might as well speak of Mexico because that's really the country in question) market which widens the gap between rich and poor, the rich generally being the servants of U.S. (corporate) interests and the poor the ones no one is meant to care about. No, it just won't do to think of illegal immigrants as individuals with legitimate problems and concerns.

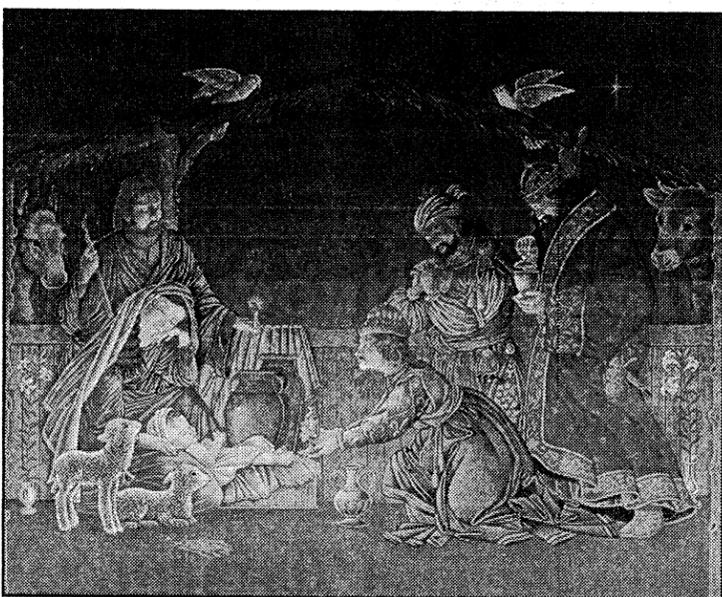
To put some of it in historical context, imagine having to consider the Mexican war, which resulted in half of Mexico being conquered, stolen really, and setting the stage for American dominance over the rest of Latin America as its own sphere of influence, this lasting up to the present. No, again that just wouldn't do. Even just imagining what would possess one to make such a potentially fatal journey to come here is not a very safe and convenient thing to do. No, Funkhouser chooses to see it all from where he stands; see it all from the viewpoint of his dollar. How noble.

Nevertheless, let's address Mr. Funkhouser's problems and concerns. Perhaps they are legitimate. He's worried that the immigrants' illegality "affords them no right under US law." Must we really believe that your concern for the welfare of these immigrants is genuine? Your article hasn't spent, or, perhaps, in your view, wasted, a single word on their affliction. He also appears appalled at the willingness of these individuals to endanger "themselves and their families [sic] life," but is

sure never to stop to wonder why. Well, that's not entirely true because reasons are offered for their motives: it's their willingness "to advance themselves at legal American's expense...to lie, cheat, and deceive to get ahead...to impose their needs on people...and cut to the front of the line for their personal gain." Be afraid because "are these the type of people we want to be in America," this depraved bunch of lunatics, as we're led to believe. How lowly you think of these persons, Mr. Funkhouser? You've well established your moral superiority over this supposed corrupt bunch and as you exclaim for them to "get the hell out of [your] country," I hope you can extend that same sentiment to those Americans who also "lie, cheat, and deceive...impose their needs on people...cut to the front of the line for their personal gain." Funkhouser is also worried about some 8 billion dollars or so in educational costs for kids of those immigrants, adding callously that even "\$10 is too much to spend on [them]." Meanwhile, American foreign policy guided mostly, if not entirely, by corporate interests results in billions of dollars in profit for American corporate power, not for social spending in Mexico. However, that's quite all right with Funkhouser because this is a "capitalistic society" where we're taught that we're only supposed to care about ourselves, not others, especially those outside the borders.

Mr. Funkhouser is absolutely correct that wrongful doings shouldn't be tolerated "because it would be easier to accept then [sic] confront." Naturally, this presupposes no wrongdoing on this side and so is restricted to the "criminal" bunch of "illegal invaders" from the other side. On top of that, their "disrespect [for the] country by not leaning [sic] English" and that they "expect us (legal Americans) to treat them legal Americans" makes it all just unbearable for Funkhouser, "descendent [sic] of immigrants who did it the right way." I wonder where this disrespect and expectation is so glaring to Funkhouser. Perhaps in the below minimum wage and workers' rights jobs that the "criminal...illegal invaders" accept without complaint. How easily your pride and ego are bruised, sir.

What is needed is a little understanding. Undeniably, there should be some form of border control, but I hope more thought goes into the form than went into the writing of Funkhouser's article. I pray steps are taken to tackle the problem, if there truly is one, at its root, which is not persons crossing the border.



The nativity scene

Photo courtesy www.elmspuzzles.com



Photo courtesy www.johntaggart.com

Response to Stuart Michelson

Merius Atangcho
Contributin Writer

As I formulate a response to Mr. Michelson's article, I am unable to locate a copy of Twila McConnell's article, to which Mr. Michelson was replying. However, since I am merely pointing out, to quote Mr. Michelson, "baseless and misunderstood arguments" presented in his article, I find that it is not at all necessary to have read Ms McConnell's article.

According to Mr. Michelson, "atheism is a religion," and he uses a dictionary definition of religion ("a particular system of faith to which someone ascribes supreme importance") to argue this point. Well, going by that very same definition, I would argue that atheism is most certainly not a religion. What system is there to atheism, which the Oxford dictionary defines simply as "the belief that God does not exist"? There are no churches, no prophets, no preachers, no rituals, no customs, and no traditions, just the belief in the nonexistence of God. What atheists do beyond that point is very much up to them and not specified in some "a-holy" book. Moreover, not all atheists place "supreme importance" in that belief. I understand supreme importance to mean that the individual uses the belief as a guideline for the living of his/her entire life. If one chooses to believe in God, there are bibles, priests, and churches to attend; and rituals, traditions, and customs to partake of. However, if one chooses not to believe in God, not much changes beyond that point, except, perhaps, the cessation of all the aforementioned activities. I'd be interested to hear of strictly atheistic activities designed to strengthen an atheist's belief in no god. There may be atheists who argue against God at every turn and seek to change institutions in society to reflect their beliefs, but they and their religious counterparts, who argue for God and also seek to change societal institutions, alike are not the mainstream and, I

hope, will never be.

Mr. Michelson proclaims, "The strongest argument for the existence of God is the utter impossibility of the contrary." In general, the existence of anything is not simply proven, or disproven, by stating the impossibility of the contrary. That's bad science, bad logic, and poor reasoning. However, I shall oblige and follow the argument. What we have to prove is the existence of God. To do so, Mr. Michelson appears to proceed by contradiction, so we assume there is no God...well now, that's impossible, so there must be a God. Hmm, it seems to me a proof is missing. However, I do sense an incredible amount of faith in place of a proof. Yet, it is exactly faith that is the only strongest argument for the existence of God. So the idea that "an atheist...exhibits faith every time they sit in a chair, faith that the chair will hold them up...that the laws of nature will continue to remain in place keeping our planet from spinning off into the sun" is a confusion of faith in this instance. An atheist may exhibit faith when sitting, but that faith, if present, soon is transformed to knowledge (the knowing) of the fact when he/she indeed is held up. Furthermore, an atheist who's a physicist will exhibit faith and the necessary formulae and data to quantify the observation and turn that faith to fact. Of course, "the existence of the Supreme Being that maintains those very laws" is out of the scope of physics because now we exit the realm of science, return to the realm of faith and remain there where no data and formulae, just more faith, can prove the existence of a supreme being, i.e. turn that faith in its existence to knowledge of its existence. Science may challenge many religious beliefs concerning the universe, but it isn't concerned with the existence of a supreme being and shouldn't be. In the quest for knowledge, a breakthrough may be made concerning the existence of a supreme being, but I am skeptical of that prospect.

I have looked and it seems I have to agree with Mr. Michelson that there is no section in the Constitution on the separation of church and state, but it is also important to note that the obverse is nowhere to be found either. The Constitution does not advocate the inclusion or integration of church into state, or vice versa. It is worth mentioning, however, that the first amendment reads that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," which could be interpreted as a virtual separation of church and state, but I won't attempt to argue that point.

The Constitution is best kept the way it is because it is fairly balanced, at least religiously; it does not promote any particular religion. So the atheist and his/her religious counterpart seeking to change the world one institution at a time are, in my opinion, treading on dangerous ground when they seek to influence the Constitution, or its resultant institutions, one way or the other, either based on the argument whether or not the country was founded on Christian values. This would be especially dangerous in America, the so-called melting pot, where so many different cultures and traditions, religious or not, are entertained.

I'm not sure where Mr. Michelson gets the idea that atheists live by the motto, "what is ok for you is ok for you, and what is ok for me is ok for me..." I happened to notice the ellipsis in that statement. Whether intentional or not, I believe the ellipsis omit an idea that is crucial to the entire statement and should appeal to any reasonable, sensible person: what is ok for me is ok for me as long as it does not harm you. To put it differently, what is good for you should be good for another. So an atheist, or anyone really, adhering to this idea would not at all be hypocritical in morally condemning "a man who breaks into your house and slaughters your family", to use Mr. Michelson's example, because that is obviously a

gross violation of another person.

I do believe that if I were born to a world where there were no holy books or such, I would recognize or come to acknowledge at least this elementary moral truism—the aforementioned motto and its addendum. And I'm not at all comfortable with and slightly offended by the conjecture that this would only be possible if I were exposed to the bible because, as Mr. Michelson claims, "the Bible is the only standard for morality, without it, mankind and society has no basis for declaring laws or discerning right from wrong." I disagree and contend that the standard for morality is honesty. And anyone who is honest with themselves and others will quickly develop a clear sense of morality. Try it! Let's take the issue of hypocrisy. Any sane individual with a minimum amount of honesty will indubitably admit that he/she would not like to be slaughtered. With that in mind, it makes perfect (moral) sense that that same individual should not proceed to slaughter another. It is evident that honesty drives even the elementary moral truism mentioned previously and can drive out hypocrisy. Since the bible is concerned with truth, whether actually being truthful or not, which is debatable, it does seem to me to support honesty as the standard for morality.

If "America is experiencing a moral decline", as Mr. Michelson claims, I do not agree that it is "directly related to the ignoring of the only one true standard of morality, the Bible." I assert that the moral decline would be due to a lack of honesty. Individuals, and institutions, whether governmental, religious, or corporate, are plagued by this lack of honesty. When individuals or institutions impose (their) systems of belief on others, frequently through the use of force or forceful tactics, without ever stopping to think how they would be affected if that were done to them, one could simply explain this depravity by a lack of honesty. Perhaps this idea of honesty won't

apply as neatly to some issues, but I am certain it can reverse rather successfully any state of moral decline.

The Nazi regime and other governments, "atheistic secular humanist thinking", and church, all of which Mr. Michelson makes mention, have all committed atrocities and continue to do so. Yes, even to this day, Hitler sympathizers carry out terrible acts of violence and terror. Did Hitler institute such a brutal regime because he lacked the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Perhaps. I cannot be sure. The issue of the three is a complicated one, or it appears so. But if one just considers the idea of honesty, it is without question that Hitler lacked this idea. The Church also had its part to play, and not a small one either, in the worldwide atrocities of the past, and continuing through the present. The American government is most certainly not a unique superpower, except perhaps in might and reach. There are blood trails from all corners of the globe and inland leading right back to Washington. From the individual to the collective, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," to quote the Christian bible (CEV), and all lacked or lack even the minimum amount of honesty.

In conclusion, one cannot venture beyond faith to prove the existence of God or a god. And proving the existence of God would, in turn, spoil the concept of faith within a religion. Because religion is a matter of faith, I don't think it is at all controversial when I say that religion is a choice. We choose, or should have a choice of, our faith, beliefs, and opinions and live our lives by them, some of more importance than others, but no matter what we believe there are certain beliefs that are simply truisms. And if we are all honest with each other and ourselves, we will find that there are more similarities than differences in our beliefs. At the risk of sounding clichéd, honesty is indeed the best policy.

What's so 'Happy' about it anyway?

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

Maybe it's just because I work in retail, but the day after Thanksgiving always fills me with a sense of dread – and not just because it's "Black Friday."

The day after Thanksgiving means Christmas freight you have no idea how to stock, crazy decorations corporate doesn't send you all the parts for, the same 15 obnoxious Christmas songs with 35 remakes each you've been doomed to hear for a month, and customers who, no matter what cheery feeling to try to leave them with, just won't be happy.

Yes it's the ever persistent "Merry Christmas" vs. "Happy Holidays" argument rehashed for a whole month. I've had people basically all but explode on me and fellow co-workers for stating the

work-friendly "Happy Holidays," acting as though despite our well wishing we had negative, vindictive, and sinister plots floating through our heads to take away their nativity scenes and Christmas trees.

On the other hand, I've had a close Jewish friend express her terrible upset and hurt at her exclusion from the holiday cheer at the sight of every "Merry Christmas" banner and spoken command. I use her as an example, but other religions and the lack-there-of aren't excluded from this sentiment.

But honestly, I fail to see the war in all of this. Yes, I can understand in a very distant way people being upset at their wishes for a "Merry Christmas" being unfulfilled. And, in a much more real way, I can understand the exclusion "Merry Christmas" brings to people who aren't Christian. I'm an atheist,

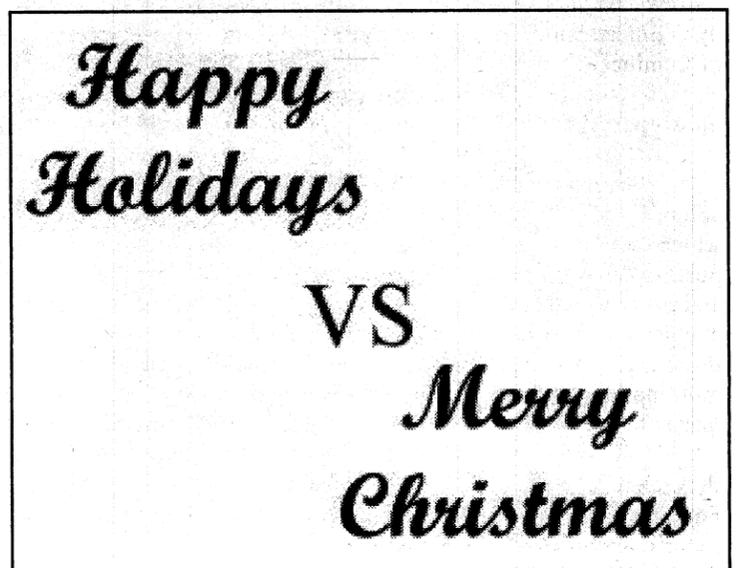
as I'm sure you all know, but my family has our own little Jesus-less Christmas of sorts every year. It started off as a pagan holiday after all, right?

But seriously, I buy gifts for my loved ones and enjoy the time we spend together. I'm sure most everyone does this. We celebrate our time together however we see fit. And I bow my head respectfully if my boyfriend's parents say grace over a meal. I attend church with those who want me there with them for the holiday season. I'm happy and I try to pass these good feelings on to every one around me. Why let these arguments we have every other day of the year stand in the way of what is truly important now? (Namely: love, happiness, and good food!)

So please, people, especially those dealing with the frustration of holiday shopping, don't blow up

in some poor kid's face when they utter the words "Happy Holidays" because corporate tells them to. And try to have a little more tolerance at a "Merry Christmas" banner

in your local Wal-Mart. They both mean exactly the same thing: "Have an awesome good time – Whatever you do or do not celebrate!"



The battle is fierce.

Junkin' with Jessie Christmas shopping on a budget

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

So let me guess, you've paid bills, picked out an expensive gift for that special someone, and now you only have twenty bucks left to buy gifts for everyone else this Christmas season? Right? Something like that...maybe? Well anyways, grab a pen I'm here to help. I'm gonna start by listing off a few stores that are budget friendly and then a few things to look for in the stores to help spread the Christmas cheer. It's not just knowing where to shop for the holiday season, you also need to know how to shop and what to buy for whom.

First off, don't go to the mall, stay away from Lennox, Phipps, Cumberland, North Point, Town Center, and any other mall like how most people avoid telemarketers. Trust me, this will only waste your gas, time, and generally depress you. Instead, do go to Big Lots, the Dollar Store, Fred's, Best Buy, Wal-mart, K-mart, Tuesday Morning Gifts, thrift shops (you'd be surprised), and never underestimate the power of a grocery store. Also, shopping centers hosting businesses like Lowe's, Home Depot, Target, and Barnes and Noble or Borders are good.

Now you know where to go, but what kind of a gift can you buy someone at the Dollar Store or Big

Lots? Well, discount merchandise stores are the true tinsel towns of any city, that is to say it's where you find the pizzazz for your gifts. Instead of that ten dollar seasonal stationary set at Macy's, or that three dollar Hallmark card, try a two to five dollar stationary set at the Dollar Store, or just a couple of cards for one dollar instead of five. If you like fun cards, Big Lots has a pretty good selection at half the price of what you pay for at Hallmark.

Here's a scenario for you; you're in a club at school with about six to ten other folks, and you would like to give them something nice for Christmas. Considering the variety of candies, lotions, and such found in Dollar Stores, try putting together a gift basket. You can also find wrapping paper, gift bags, toys, nice gift sets (like perfume or knives), and movies for a lot less in stores located in shopping centers than a store in a mall front. Be careful in places like Barnes and Noble, Wal-mart, and Target because sometimes what seems like a deal may not really be one; stay close to the "specials" racks in these places.

Still don't know how to buy everyone a nice gift? Well consider doing a family gift package instead. Combining things like photo albums, coat racks, books, DVD's, small tool sets, and so forth can re-

ally add up to one nice gift basket. You may be able to find a basket in a thrift shop, or even a hardware store. A giant Tupperware storage container for five bucks from Home Depot with a five dollar coffee table book on airplanes or motorcycles from Border's, a seven dollar Mel Brooks DVD from Wally World (Wal-mart), and three bucks in candy from the dollar shop sounds like a nice gift to me. I think you can probably get the idea at this point. Don't forget about the grocery store either, twenty bucks can get you a six pack, bottle of wine, a few snacks, and still leave you with a buck or two (for those of you going to parties this holiday season).

Above all else, never forget that it's simply the thought that counts. Even if you don't have a dime to spend, simply wishing your neighbor well this year and into the next will be appreciated. Baked goods, fresh fruit, and even frozen pizza will always be greeted with a welcoming smile too.



Photo courtesy www.nyse.com
Big savings at Big Lots!

Man of the Year

Jon Meek
Staff Writer

What if you decided to run for president and were accidentally elected due to a voting machine error? Well, that is the question that Man of the Year tries to answer for us. Robin Williams plays a Jon Stewart-type comedian named Tom Dobbs, who, after a suggestion from the audience, decides to run for president. He brings his antics from the mic on to the road as he campaigns. While the chances for Dobbs being elected look bleak, a bit of faith plays into his favor. Thanks to an electronic voting machine error, Dobbs is "elected" President. As he gears up for the presidency, a developer of the voting machine program, Eleanor Green, tells him that he became president by an error within the program. Now, the real question comes: Does he go on to

be the politician or does he step back behind the mic to let the public know what happened?

While the movie was entertaining, it also worked well as a political thriller. The movie has a real-life take of what a company might do in order to cover an error if its machines have such a direct impact on the public. So, be careful of the advertisements for the movie, they are misleading. The movie does not hold as much comedy as the ads would like you think. However, Williams does a wonderful job with transitioning from serious to funny and has great chemistry with Christopher Walken. As far as the humor goes, just remember it is Robin Williams talking about politics, so the humor can be crude, but hey it is still funny. This movie is one I recommend to those who are looking for funny, but not needing to laugh at every moment.

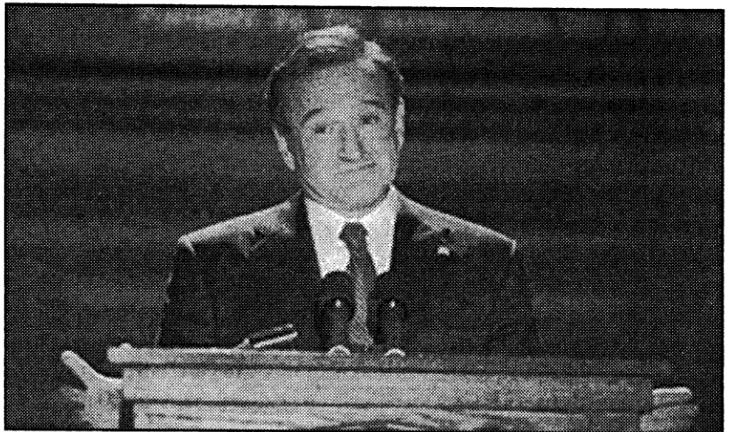


Photo courtesy www.eonline.com

Every Extend Extra

("I Swear I Thought It Was A Power-Up")

Jasmine King
Staff Writer

Ah, puzzle games, how I love thee.

Being a self-proclaimed puzzle game nut, I squealed in delight when I first downloaded Every Extend, a weird Japanese puzzle shooter (WTF?) that I had heard about in a magazine. Six months after stumbling upon this treasure, I found myself squealing again when Every Extend Extra was released for the PSP.

Every Extend Extra (or E3 for short, not to be confused with THE E3 of former glory) is, as I said, weird. The idea of releasing a sequel to the oddly addictive shareware game was picked up by Q Entertainment, the creators of Lumines.

To win the game, you must blow yourself up.

...I'm totally serious.

You start out each brightly-colored level with twelve bombs, which you then must strategically position among flying enemies and then detonate to create chain explosions. The longer the chain, the more items appear, and the more points you gain, which in turn earn you more bombs.

Now, about these enemies: they change with every level. For example, in the first level (which looks like the inside of a disco ball), the enemies take the

form of little floating stars. In any other game, touching a little floating star would give you a nifty little power-up. However, in E3, running into anything besides the green or purple diamonds WILL make you lose a life, and you'll incur a five-second penalty as well. I just wanted to give everyone a heads-up about that, because I learned that the hard way.

Also, the bosses will probably make you laugh at first. I've encountered a colored disco light (complete with little CD henchmen), a group of giant flowers, an amoeba-thingy, and a merry-go-round.

...Again, I'm totally serious.

Mind you, the merry-go-round is not a boss to be underestimated. I still have trouble with it, no lie.

That brings me to another point. The difficulty level has been cranked up quite a few notches, and fans of the original will immediately notice a difference. The time limit and number of bombs will drive you insane at some points, and you only get five continues to get through nine stages of possible acid-induced insanity. The bosses require certain chains to take damage, and they're VERY particular about placement; if you don't catch the boss in just the right point in the

chain, the hit won't count and you will have pretty much wasted a bomb. To add insult to injury, you must play the arcade mode all the way through to unlock all the levels, but you cannot save in between levels. You'll probably find yourself screaming at your PSP once you run out of continues right before beating the fifth level. Or maybe that's just me...

E3 also has its share of extra modes and features. There is an option right from the start to play the original version in all its gray, blocky glory (though it doesn't do that loud thing where it screams at you when the boss appears; I actually kind of liked that). The game utilizes the PSP's game sharing utility to let you give your friends a demo of E3 and spread the crazy puzzle shooter love. Also, the game comes with a demo of Lumines 2, to feed your puzzle obsession even more.

Overall, the game is great. Even though it can get incredibly challenging, it's highly addictive and will keep you busy for hours (or, in my case, until I finally get my hands on a Wii). If you're a fan of puzzle games, I definitely recommend E3. I'd also suggest downloading the original Every Extend as well.

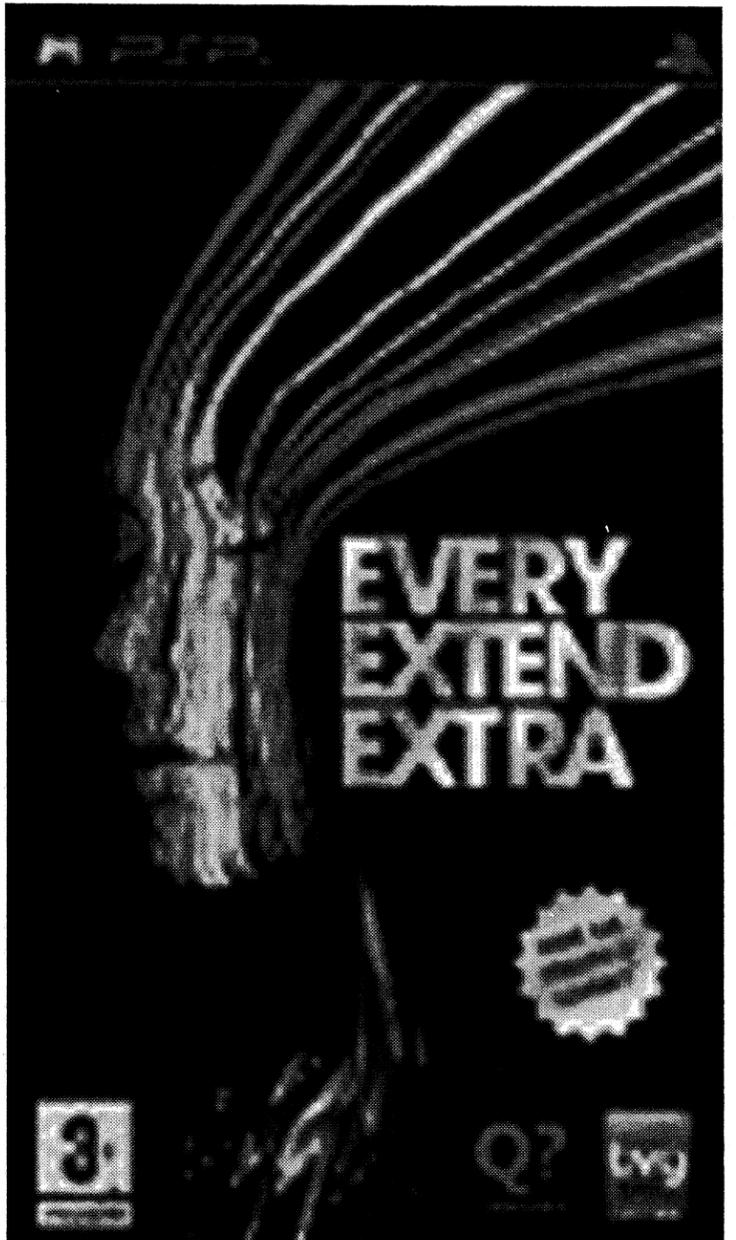


Photo courtesy unknown

Magic Abounds

Twila McConnell
Copy Editor

If you're like me, you love fall movies. Spring and summer movies are all comedies and love stories. Winter movies are love stories and festive comedies and such. Yeah. Not too much variation. But fall movies break that mold and contain some excellent dramas and horror flicks.

So eagerly watching every commercial I picked out the best movie I saw: "The Illusionist." Or so I thought. I went and saw it and wondered where all the lines from the commercials went. About a month later I found out. They were in "The Prestige." How confusing!

But what is the difference between the two and which is better? I'll let you decide.

"The Illusionist" plays the flash-back card and begins at the end. However you very quickly learn that it is a story about a magician named Eisenheim (played by Edward Norton) who's childhood crush leads him into a desperate love affair with Du chess Sophie von Teschen (played by Jessica Biel). Unfortunately Sophie is engaged to the vicious and cunning Crown Prince Leopold (played by the wonderful Rufus Sewell). Leopold is mystified and thwarted by Eisenheim's magic tricks and orders equally mystified Chief Inspector Uhl (played by Paul Giamatti) to shut him down. However, events spin out of control after the death, or murder?, of Sophie. Both Eisenheim and Leopold go nearly mad as Inspector Uhl gets caught between them.

You begin to wonder who the main character is as you become more and more sympathetic to the Inspector. And just when you've got everything figured out....

I'd rate this movie a definite four out of five stars. The graphics were amazing but not too graphically enhanced. Just enough to give you the shock and amazement that the people watching Eisenheim's shows in that time period may have felt. Also, most of the tricks performed aren't enhanced much from what was really possible in the 19th century.

There is definite dramatic and tense feeling through-out the entire film that is very well perpetuated by the wonderful cast. (Yes, Jessica Biel pulled it off—amazingly well!)

All I can say is at the end you just sit there in amazement and laugh with Inspector Uhl as he finally figures it all out.

It will definitely leave you pondering every point of the movie at the end. However, it is very intense and there aren't too many light-hearted moments through-out the whole film. You certainly want to dedicate time to this one.

"The Prestige" also being in flash back but you soon learn it's about two beginning magicians: Rupert Angier (played by the amazingly handsome Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (played by Christian Bale). However, their friendship quickly turns sour when Alfred kills Rupert's wife in an underwater magic trick gone wrong and Alfred can't even tell Rupert what knot he tied for the trick. Soon they spark a horrible rivalry in which they try to discover all of each other's tricks. Alfred has a trick Rupert can't decipher and it leads him all the way to the fascinating historical figure Nikola Tesla, played by, yes, that's right: David Bowie!

The drama gets intense as the two magicians read each other's journals with frustration at every turn. You don't really know who to feel more sorry for, especially at the end when you realize the lengths at which Rupert is willing to go to beat his one-time partner Alfred.

I'd give it a four out of five as well. Yes, it's more dramatic and colorful and at times definitely humorous, but at the same time the level of twists is almost too high. Unlike "The Illusionist" with one grand twist at the end, almost every twenty minutes there's a twist towards the end.

But it will also leave to considering every event of the movie at the end. You also feel very involved with the characters, trying to figure out their motives and how they perform their tricks as well.

Most amazingly, I can't find holes within either plot — and I can usually find more holes in a plot than I can a strainer. I would definitely recommend both of these movies for a great evening at home with a bowl of popcorn and a friend who likes to discuss movies after they're over. However, I wouldn't recommend watching them back-to-back, or maybe even within the same month, because you may very possibly get very confused!



Photo courtesy img.verycd.com

Christmas Drinks

Karen Asay
Editor-in-Chief

The end of the semester is coming and I don't know about you, but I plan on partying when I finish my finals. For those that share my party idea and those that just want to try some new drinks, here are some ideas. There are some non-alcoholic drinks since not everyone is an alcoholic.

Let's start with the alcoholic drinks. Also, so I don't get into too much trouble, remember don't drink and drive and people under 21 should follow the law and not drink, blah, blah, blah. OK, on to the festive drinks.

Black Santa
Coffee liqueur 3/4 oz
Vodka 1/2 oz
Peppermint schnapps 1/4 oz
Mix in a rocks glass with ice

Candy-Cane-Tini
Peppermint schnapps 1/2 oz
Vodka 1 oz
Mini Candy Cane 1
Mix the schnapps and vodka in a cocktail glass and add the candy cane as a garnish.

Candy Cane
Wh. creme de cocoa 3/4 oz
Peppermint schnapps 3/4 oz
Grenadine 1/4 oz
Cream Fill
7-up Top
Mini candy cane 1

Mix ice, liqueurs, and grenadine in 8 – 10 oz glass. Fill with cream. Top with 7-up. Garnish with candy cane

Christmas
Godiva liqueur 1 oz
Hot chocolate 1 package
Marshmallows 1 handful
Heat water in microwave. Mix hot chocolate in water. Add Godiva. Add marshmallows

Happy Holly-Daze
Irish Cream 2 parts
Kahlua 2 parts
Spiced rum 1 part
Peppermint sch. 1 part
Milk 3 parts
Mix together and serve in rocks glass.

Mistletoe Martini
Melon liqueur 1 shot
Coconut Rum 1 shot
Sour mix 1 shot
Pineapple juice 1 shot
Mix and serve in cocktail glass

Russian Christmas
Kahlua 1 oz



Photo courtesy www.ebay.com

Santa and one of his reindeer enjoying a drink.

Vodka 1 oz
Egg Nog 4 oz
Mix in rocks glass

Snow Bunny
Triple Sec 1 oz
Hot Chocolate 1 cup
Whipped cream Top

Prepare hot chocolate. Add triple sec and stir. Top with whipped cream

Snow Job
Pear schnapps 2 oz
Cream 1 oz
Cinnamon sprinkle
Mix schnapps and cream and serve in cocktail glass. Sprinkle cinnamon on top.

Why Santa has a Naughty List?
Amaretto 1 oz
Gin 1 oz
Banana liqueur 1 oz
Grenadine 1/2 oz
Sprite Fill with
Mix liquors and grenadine in 12 – 16 oz glass and fill with Sprite.

Well, that is the end of the alcoholic drinks. You can find these drinks and more at www.drinknation.com/theme/Christmas. Oh, you don't necessarily have to use the glasses suggested. You can use what ever you have.

Now, on to the non-alcoholic drinks. I have to say the non-alcoholic drinks are a lot more complicated than the alcoholic drinks, but all of these can be made alcoholic by adding, guess what... Alcohol.

Egg Nog
Cream (half & half) 1 qt
Allspice 1/4 tsp

Cinnamon 1/2 tsp
Nutmeg 1/4 tsp
Brown sugar 1 lb
Eggs 2
Vanilla 1/4 cup
Whipping cream 1 pint

Pour whipping cream into a large bowl. Whip until it starts to thicken. Add eggs. Whip until mixed. Add half & half and vanilla. Mix well. Sprinkle cinnamon, allspice, and nutmeg. Mix very lightly.

Hot Cocoa
Unsweetened cocoa 3 tbsp
Sugar 1/4 cups
Cold water 1/4 cups
Milk 3 cups

Combine cocoa, sugar and water in a heat-resistant, non-metallic pitcher or in individual serving mugs or cups. Heat, uncovered, in microwave 2 minutes. Stir in milk and heat, uncovered, in microwave 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 minutes or until hot. Do not allow milk to boil.

Hot Holiday Punch
Apple juice 3 cups
Orange juice 3 cups
Cranberry juice 6 cups
Maple syrup 3/4 cups
Powdered sugar 2 tsp
Cinnamon 1 1/2 tsp
Cloves 3/4 tsp
Nutmeg 3/4 tsp

Combine all the ingredients in a very large pot, except the cinnamon sticks. Bring to a boil and turn to simmer for few minutes. You can put the ingredients in a crock pot after it has boiled and k warm over low heat.

Well that is it for the drink ideas. Have a wonderful break.

Southern Poly,
Have a wonderful Winter
Break!

- The Sting

What is the meaning of life?

Eric Ravenello
Staff Writer

Quality of Life

What is the meaning of life? Ask anybody this question and expect a long, blank stare usually followed by a sarcastic, but humorous, response. You obviously cannot expect somebody to have an answer to that question, but if they respond as I described, they are well on the right track. The key to a high quality of life as I understand it is to have fun, be happy, and enjoy what you are doing, which is why somebody that makes a joke response to that question already knows the answer. The meaning of life is going to vary from person to person, but if you ask enough people and analyze the responses, they all have a similarity; they just want to enjoy life.

Whether their life goal is to be financially stable, physically healthy, academically superior, or anything else, the bottom line is that they want to lead a high quality life without stress. Money, health, and intelligence all make life easier and more enjoyable to live. I personally make an enormous effort everyday to minimize stress and improve the quality of my life, and I thought it would be interesting to identify other perspectives on the same matter. It would be completely impossible to rid yourself of all stress, but I am not in search of a way to make that possible, but rather a general idea of how important a high quality of life is and how to balance your life accordingly.

Is having a high quality of life important? Are people generally aware of the long term health effects of stress? Do we reinforce this importance to our youth or create stressful atmospheres for them? How can we be catalysts of this information for the rest of the world? These are some of the questions I set out to answer and the following are the results.

Importance

Generally speaking, people are not conscious about their overall quality of life on a regular basis. Most of us have been conditioned to just do what needs to be done or to do the right thing. With my topic in mind, this brings up a number of questions. What actually does need to be done? What is the right thing to do?

Would it be right for me to attend college if my passion is my band? Would it be appropriate for me to skip a weekend camping with my friends to spend three hours completing a 15 page exploratory heuristic just to choose a topic for my three page paper? These exact scenarios may not apply to everybody, but the point is pretty clear. Our lives are filled with obligations, responsibilities, and tight schedules, but do we make enough time for ourselves?

A college education has its benefits and academics should be a priority, but there should also be time spent enjoying the life you have. I use college students as an example because I am one and I associate with them every single day. In fact, I heard a fellow student say this while walking past them on campus: "I wish I

had the time to go visit my grandparents in Tennessee with the rest of my family this weekend." This observation led me to find the reason why it pained me so much. I concluded that college professors have taken their craft to a whole new level; a level that I would describe as unhealthy for the students. I interviewed one of my professors, Dr. Thomas Wiseman, and I was able to get the opinions of an insider that actually supported my claims. Tom Wiseman graduated summa cum laude in 1971 from Penn State University with a B.A. degree in English. He also received an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Tulane University. Tom has taught undergraduate composition, literature, technical and business communications at Southern Polytechnic State University for 21 years now. My conversation with Dr. Wiseman enlightened me in a number of ways, but one comment really hit home with my study.

"Stress and fear impede learning and many professors instill fear in their students by creating stressful and fearful situations. I see many professors assigning weekly assignments that resemble capstone projects that should be assigned once in a course. It used to be that you could be successful studying two hours out of class for every one hour in class and now it is more like four hours out of class" (Wiseman).

Basically, if a professor, especially one of his stature, supports my claim of the educational system being slightly corrupt and unhealthy, then we should all be questioning what is most important to us. In my opinion, yes it is incredibly important to follow instruction and get a great education, but are there things more important to me than stressing out over an assignment that I probably won't ever even remember doing? Absolutely! Take things in stride, work hard, and be happy to learn, but do not make sacrifices that you will eventually regret. Also keep an open mind because you will never get rid of all your stress, but you can always direct it towards something positive. As Professor Wiseman explained to me:

"Be comfortable, accept physical and emotional limitations, but continue to challenge yourself. You need a certain level of stress to survive and achieve the goals that matter to you" (Wiseman).

I think what he meant by this was that stress will always be a factor in your life, but there is good stress and bad stress. Turning the stressful situation into an opportunity to challenge yourself physically and emotionally will result in fulfillment rather than failure because you gave it all you could. This is important because years down the road, you not only want to be physically healthy, but you want to feel like you accomplished something in life and do not want to regret the opportunities you passed up.

Health

As I already concluded, stress will never ever go away. People use the term very loosely whenever something even a little stressful occurs because there is no other way to describe it, but the fact is that

stress can build. A little here and a little there can eventually add up to a giant burden on your shoulders that you are not sure how to alleviate. This directly relates to the quality of your life because if you always have something nagging at you, you will never be able to find time to enjoy yourself. Physically, your body will hurt and feel the effects of the stress, and emotionally you will regret spending all weekend every weekend working rather than taking an occasional weekend off to make some lasting memories with the people you love.

According to the Medical Editorial Board, a website dedicated to studying the body and providing health information, the reason for stress is:

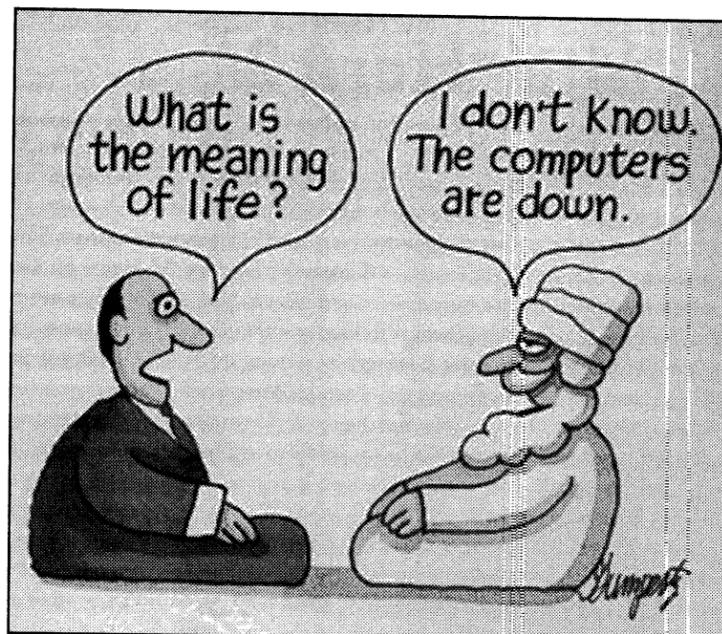
"Stress is actually the physical expression of our "Fight or Flight" survival mechanisms. A threatening or tense situation triggers a stress response, which prepares us to confront or flee a possible danger. This is a healthy response to immediate danger, such as confronting an assailant or running from a fire. Unfortunately, the stress response is also triggered by tense situations where physical action is not an option, such as an unreasonable boss, or traffic jams" (Medical Editorial Board <http://www.stress-and-health.com/>).

This is proof that stress will never go away, but take note of the examples listed. An unreasonable boss or a traffic jam usually strikes us the wrong way and sets us off in an uncontrollable and unexplainable way, but will stressing out about it make your boss anymore reasonable or make the traffic un-jam any faster? Unfortunately not. This is why we need to choose our battles. Just as with the academic example I provided earlier, we have to analyze stressful situations and really concentrate on what's most important in our lives. So you are stuck in traffic, but maybe one of your favorite songs is playing on the radio. Your boss just disciplined you for leaving work early yesterday, but your child made it to the doctor and received the necessary medication to get over his cold.

The ability to stay positive and minimize stress is not just given to people at birth. It is something you need to be conscious of and work towards. It requires a life long commitment to leading a high quality life and dealing with the consequences of some of your decisions. This idea was aptly portrayed in the feature film Patch Adams.

Application

Patch Adams, a movie based on a true story and featuring a brilliant performance by Robin Williams, is about a man who wants to help people. He wants to help people so bad that he cruises through med school and applies his very unique, but effective, form of medication...laughter. Patch eventually has to battle the hospital director, who basically represents all of society, because his character resists change and refuses to see the importance of a high quality of life because of the way he was raised and conditioned. Patch continues his methods that eventually



One of those sarcastic remarks you might get.

Photo courtesy www.ericweinstein.com

begin to catch on and finally opens up his own facility that allows him to treat his patients how he feels they need to be treated. There were a number of quotations throughout that movie that exemplified the points in this paper, but one in particular is incredibly moving and supportive of something Professor Wiseman said as well. Patch asserted, "Our job is improving the quality of life, not just delaying death" (Patch Adams).

In the movie, Patch felt it was most important for patients to be addressed by their name and treated with humor. "You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person and I'll guarantee you'll win" (Patch Adams). Obviously everyone is going to pass on at some point, but it is how we spend our time here that removes the pain and misery from life. Most people would agree that they would rather remember their friend or family member laughing and enjoying their life and not suffering from an illness they cannot control. "If I don't laugh at least ten times in a day, I feel like I have had a bad day" (Wiseman). Everyone wants to have fun, laugh, and enjoy life. Patch Adams took that to a new level in the movie, Professor Wiseman seems to live his life by it, and many people agree that doing something you love to do is more important than doing something you have to do.

Meaning of Life?

The bottom line is that our society is set-up to create stress. People's entire lives are spent trying to obtain a life that is seemingly unobtainable, except through pure luck. A couple people here and there hit the lottery or strike it rich with a brilliant/profitable idea, but the vast majority of people spend their lives continuously trying to reach the next level rather than sitting back and enjoying each day. In Patch Adams, a character named Arthur Mendelson illustrates this point by saying:

"See what no one else sees. See what everyone else chooses not to see...out of fear, conformity or laziness. See the world anew each day" (Patch Adams).

This quote was by far my favorite because it is something that people do not think about on a daily basis or choose not to do because of fear. As I discovered through my conversation with Professor Wiseman, fear is the enemy. Fear puts people in defense mode and closes them up to learning new things.

Fear naturally causes a person to act on instinct and rather than acting to succeed, they act so they do not fail. Many people live their entire lives in fear and never realize it because it was something that was with them since they were too young to be conscious of learning. I believe this is why current generations are generally more uptight and sad than previous generations. There are no more risk-takers because everyone has been trained to fear the authoritative bodies rather than being the individuals they were born to be. We work because we think we have to work. We learn because we think we have to learn. Why not work because we want to learn? It is possible, but you have to make the effort and take the risks that come with leading a passionate life. As I learned from the NFL hall-of-fame coach George Halas, a nine year player and 40 year coach, "Nothing is work unless you'd rather be doing something else" (Halas). He is recognized as one of the greatest coaches and innovators associated with the NFL and described as a workaholic. Can you blame him for loving what he did?

I feel like we all have to stop for a few minutes and really take a good look at ourselves. It may not be readily apparent, and it may seem impossible, but no matter what it is, we need to embrace it. For me, it is love. The love I have for my family, the love I have for my friends, and the love I like to receive from the people around me. Aside from my survival goals of completing college so I can get a good job, making enough money to feed myself and my family, and affording a roof and clothing, I have a lifelong goal of touching as many people as I can in a more emotional way. I want people to know that they are loved, they are appreciated, and no matter how bad things seem, they can always be worse. The meaning of my life may very well be different from the meaning of life for others, but it is the one thing that maximizes my quality of life and minimizes my stress levels. Coincidentally enough, showing and receiving love is also the time when I feel happiest, healthiest, and most full of energy. Isn't that how life should be lived? I think so. That's why I have changed the way I live and I don't think I have ever been happier to be alive. So I ask you to ask yourself, "What is the meaning of MY life?"

Guitar Hero 2: Rock and roll all night and party every day

Sean Fine
Staff Writer

System: PS2
Genre: Musical Rock out

There are many things in the world that are good: Sleep, food, um.... More sleep? But thanks to Red Octane, we were reminded several years ago how awesome Rock and Roll was. Now, they wish to remind us again of the awesomeness of rock with a new song list and even more nifty features to make the game even sweeter. But do the changes make the game worth purchasing?

Story: There's a story? Well, not so much a story, but a career. You start off as a new rocker who's playing for a gym party and work your way up to the most ultimate concert ever - Stonehenge. On your way, you'll play awesome songs like Woman, Institutionalized, Freya, YYZ, and so on.

One cool thing the developer did was make it more believable that you're performing at a concert. You get funded by different companies for your performances and when you think you're done with one section, the crowd demands an encore which ends up being an awesome song like 'Tonight I Want to Rock you Tonight' or the real crowd killer 'Freebird' and thus, you get funded by another company,

head to another location and perform there.

This pattern repeats until you've achieved the status of 'Guitar Hero' Yea, I know, it's not really a deep story, but it certainly achieves its goal of making you feel like a rock star.

Gameplay: The presentation of the game may seem like it's the same at first, but you notice all sorts of tiny changes as you progress from easy to expert difficulty. In case you have some how missed out on the first game (and how could you, it was like the biggest thing to musical players everywhere), the basis of the game is simple. Using a guitar-shaped control, you'll hold color-coordinated buttons and literally strum the notes as they come rolling down a music bar to an action bar of sorts.

The basis is simple enough, but provides more than enough challenge and fun to keep players entertained. The song list is composed of tracks that are not only longer than the original's list, but more complex and uses winding note strings and triple chords that will make a professional from the first game cringe in pain as your fingers will become nice and twisted.

And you'll love every second of it. However, another feature has been added to make sure that just in case you can't get a specific part of a solo good



Photo courtesy www.ocioakus.com

Coop is a blast and provides plenty of lengthivity

enough to pass, then you can go into practice mode and play the entire song, or a certain part of the song, until you get it right. If the part is too quick, you can even slow the song down so your fingers can get used to the pattern.

But one of the biggest inclusions to this sequel would be the new multiplayer options. Sure, having a guitar battle was fine in the first one, but personally, in some cases, some of the songs seemed one-sided to a certain player. This is fixed with the new Multiplayer option, Full Face-Off, where both players play the entire song together, with no breaks in between them. However, that is only a minor addition.

The real icing on the cake is the co-op mode, where players can choose between Lead guitar and either Bass or Rhythm Guitar (depending on the song) and work together in order to complete the song. This adds an amazing amount of replay-ability if you have friends over or if you're having a party.

High scores also reward the players not only with money to

buy new characters and skins, but Five-Star accomplishments can give players special guitars and let me tell you, there is a lot of extras to unlock through playing, so fans will have a fun time with this game.

Sound: In a word, awesome, which is good, considering the game is basically music-driven. The songs are as clear as crystal and easily encapsulate you like the rock star you wish you were. It's not just about the music though. The crowds and notes of the songs have received updates to let you know this isn't the same game that has devoured many hours of your life several years ago.

As previously mentioned, the song list is extensive, using songs from bands such as Guns N' Roses, Lynard Skynard, and a special extra song from Metalocalypse's Dethlok as well as the famous Trogdor of Strong Bad theme. Every rock fan is more than likely to find at least three songs that they'll love and constantly play them over and over. Everyone should be quite happy with the selections of music and pieces of cheering cries.

Graphics: If you take the time to look up from the onslaught of notes coming down for you to hit, you may also notice that the surrounding concert places and characters have received a face-lift to make them better. Hair bounces to and fro as your avatar rocks out and head bangs every which direction and the faces now don't look as blocky as before, giving the characters a bit more soul than before.

Additionally, there are frequent happenings on stage, such as your bassist or lead singer getting into an excited clapping frenzy during one of your guitar solos. Also, your music bar will actually darken and shake when you mess up, showing you when you mess up or, if you're playing co-op mode, which person did mess up. It's a minor thing, but an addition regardless.

Fun Factor: It's more of the same plus more characters, better graphics, more multi-player modes, and plenty of extras. Guitar Hero 2 is the game that you'll buy and play long until Guitar Hero 3 comes out, which is more than likely. 10/10. What can I say? It's a rocking game.



Photo courtesy www.bellaonline.com

You can mix and match characters, guitars, and skins to get the avatar that suits you

Capture the flag: Blue team... has the flag

Sean Fine
Staff Writer

Capture the flag. Everyone has played it in one form or another; Halo um.... Uh.... Halo 2! But earlier this month, an actual Capture the Flag event was held. There were 10 people per team. Some of the late comers who were unable to assemble a team even searched through the available teams to find a spot, some which were fortunate.

There were 96 people total that competed in the event. Each team received a number to tell where their base is at. The bases ranging from behind the Student Center to the woods between the Howell Dormitory and the Archi-

tecture people even had a jail zone set up on the hill near the community center.

The participants were to put their shirts in the back of their pants and if they were caught, a jailor would keep them there until he decided to let them go. The reasons may vary from every fifteen minutes to when the jail base becomes full, whichever came first.

One participant even made the remark that the "Jock Team wears Camo" which was quite true. One of the teams was indeed outfitted in army camouflage and marked their faces with face paint.

Otherwise, most of the other contestants wore dark clothing which appeared to be a great advantage especially in the dark of

near 10 PM. Once given the flags, the teams were guided to their bases to set up. Finally at about 9:50 PM, the teams departed with 15 minutes to set up their bases.

Prior to the event, teams huddled around tables in the community center, planning strategies and hiding methods, as well as discussing possibilities like alliances with other teams to fill up their ranks of 10 people per team. Some teams were lucky in getting the desired number while others weren't so lucky.

As I toured around the campus, I noticed teams huddled up and going over their strategies as they hid behind trees and rocks, while keeping an eye out for intruding opponents (I was almost

mistaken for one). Another thing noticed was that some teams had the bad luck of being placed near each other.

Meanwhile, players from other teams scouted around campus for enemy bases while guards from bases took captured players to the jail. Of course, to the jailor's amusement, he released some players shortly after some guards brought them to jail. There was no worry though; prisoners came at a constant flow. As the teams went to work, I noticed that some lights actually turned off, providing more cover for the dark-clothed players. One team used the clever strategy of shouting out in Chinese to oncoming players and if they didn't respond back in Chinese, they

would rush them.

The game ended at 11 PM and the players came back to the community center, out of breath and discussing with other teams how they thought the game went. Five minutes later, the winning team with 11 flags, the Baseball Team, received a tall green trophy with the label 'Capture the Flag' etched into the plate along with the team and the players names. Additionally, the winners would get carrying bags for winning as well as T-shirts for the memory. The game may have started late and ended earlier than everyone wanted it to, but most players had a fun time despite the wet weather and look forward to another Capture the Flag event.

Colombia's Amnesty Program

Jon Meek
Staff Writer

On November 6th, the Community Service Outreach Team of SGA, COST for short, presented their first project to SPSU. COST's first project is to support the child soldier amnesty program within Colombia.

The goal of the amnesty program is to give these children a second chance and to successfully enter back into society. When they are accepted into the program, they

undergo a psychological and medical evaluation where if anything is found wrong, they are treated for it. Also, they are enrolled in school, and if they qualify, they are included into an occupational rehabilitation program. The occupational rehabilitation program is where the children make elaborate crafts such as Christmas cards or jewelry. However, only a limited number of children can be accepted into program since it is dependent on the demand for the cards or jewelry. By increasing the demand

for these cards, the program can accept more children. COST is working with Enable USA, which is trying to help establish a market for these cards here in the US. The main speakers for the presentation were Dr. Phil Johnston, Former President of CARE International, and Camilo De Bedout, Colombian Consul General in Atlanta.

If you wish to support this project, then you can go to <http://www.enable-usa.org/buyproducts-now.htm>

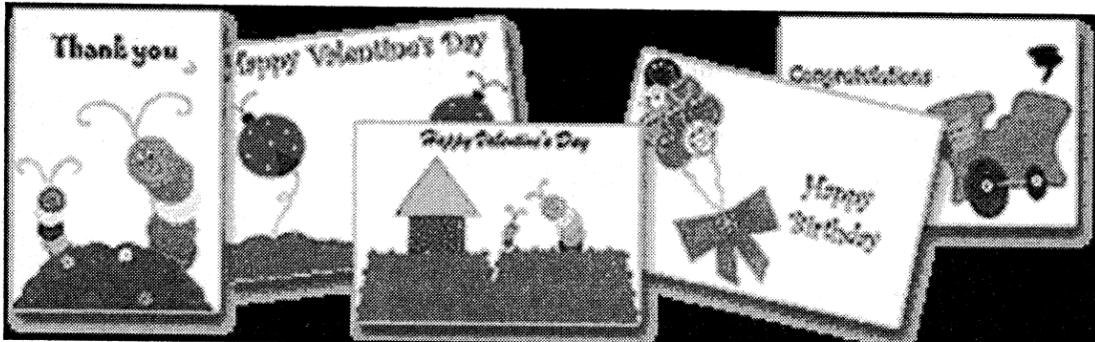


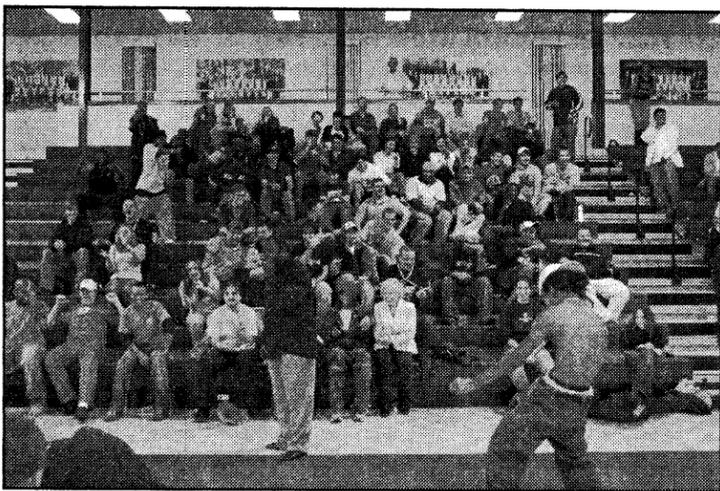
Photo courtesy www.enable-usa.org

Hypnotic Review

Jessica McNally
Staff Writer

How would you feel if you volunteered for an event that started with five minutes of disclaimers? Well a very special thank-you to the twenty-five students who did volunteer on Wednesday, November 15th. Right after the Hornets got done kicking ass, special guest Leroy Williams entertained a crowd of about 120 persons by hypnotizing student volunteers. It was a bizarre experience that left me feeling a little naughty and smiling deep inside, and I wonder if I should go to confession. To explain, Mr. Williams made clowns out of the volunteers in the same way someone can steal candy from a baby. The answers I found to the questions after the show were quite interesting as well. Apparently it takes at least six years to become a doctor, but only one week to learn how to manipulate people through hypnosis.

Leo broke the ice grandly by having the volunteers move their arms in such a fashion as to mimic that of a mixer. Kind of like the California Raisin dance. After a few minutes he casually informed the audience and volunteers alike that this had nothing to do with hypnosis, he just found it entertaining.



Matt Finn/The Sting

One of the participants mysteriously decided to give the audience a dance lesson.

We all laughed. And then just kept on laughing as the hypnotic master talked volunteers into believing they were freezing cold, playing instruments, so sad they just had to cry like babies, busted their pant flies, the best and worst smells, and even a little dirty dancing at the end. Now if this sounds a little cryptic, then be sure to go next year and see for yourself exactly what happens. Oh yeah, and feel free to volunteer.

Leo Williams started as a stand up comedian back in 1989. In 1995 he went to see a hypnosis show as a complete skeptic. I guess he was inspired by what he saw,

because in 1996 he did his first hypnotic show. I had a few questions in regards to anything else he had done. Aside from comedy, I found it interesting to know that Leo has a degree in Architecture, has been a pizza delivery driver, medical technician, as well as worked in a shipyard. His favorite superhero is the Underdog – he says the hero reminds him of his own life, and how it's "under the radar." In regards to the show, he defiantly would like the chance to expand it. Considering how entertaining it was, I think he has a pretty good shot; although Mr. Williams did say he never knows what kind of response to expect from a volunteer.

In closing, I did have a few questions about how he saw the power of hypnosis. He said "it's easy to persuade people to do stuff they already want to do," like playing an instrument or dancing for instance. Of course, this made me think of sex, but I didn't ask. Sorry, I have no idea how hypnosis works with sex; however, you can visit www.hypnobro.com and ask Leo yourself. For those of you who were there, I have no doubt you are still probably smiling from the memory. For those of you who didn't go, be sure to get there next year, there's plenty of room for you in the gym.



Matt Finn/The Sting

Apparently, everyone on stage have good smelling feet.

Fall Festival & Dance

Jon Meek
Staff Writer

On November 16th, ISA held a Fall Festival, which featured food and dance from around the world. At the festival, there was food from Colombia, Germany, Italy, India, China, and Japan. Also, ISA announced that some of the flags in the student center were being replaced due to their age along with the addition of a couple of new ones.

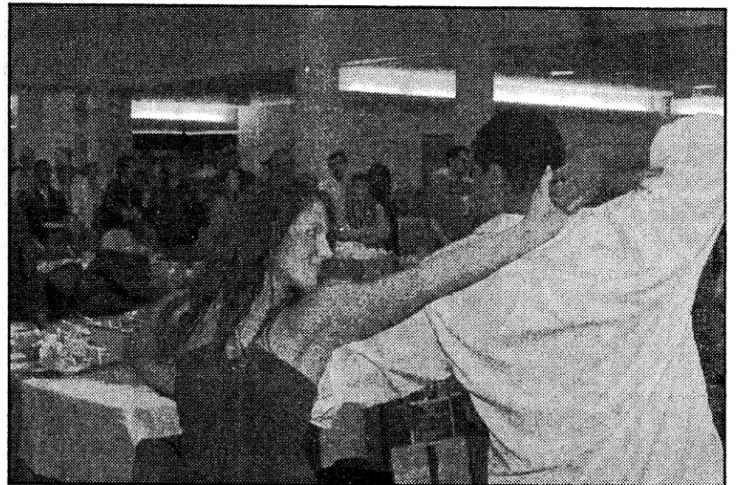
After everyone had seemed to have gotten their fill of the food,

the SPSU dance team did a wonderful number of salsa dancing which could have gotten anybody's blood moving. Then, Luo Hao did a wonderful rendition of a Chinese Moon Dance. Backed by a powerful trumpet, SGA president Carolina Daza and SHPE president Juan Martinez took the floor as they did a traditional Colombian dance, which lead to a couple of people to being taken on the floor to dance with them. The event overall was wonderful, and probably the best event in the International Education week.



Steven Fyffe/The Sting

Carolina Daza and Juan Martinez performed a Colombian dance.



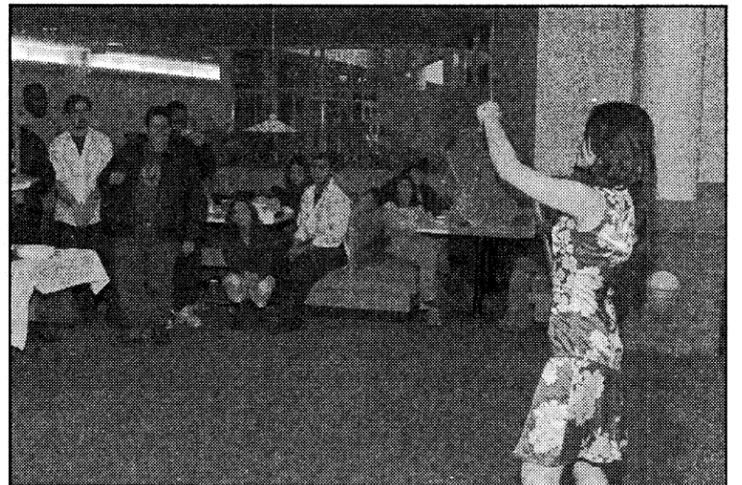
Steven Fyffe/The Sting

The Dance Team demonstrated salsa dancing.



Steven Fyffe/The Sting

The ISA had food from many countries: Hispanic, Italy, Japan, etc



Steven Fyffe/The Sting

Performance of the Chinese Moon Dance by Luo Hao

Event Calender for next semester

January

Monday, Jan 8

- First day of classes

Thursday, Jan 11

- Welcome Back Bonfire - 7:00 pm - CAB

Monday, Jan 15

- Holiday

Monday, Jan 22

- Brian Brushwood - Bizarre Magic in Ballroom - 8:00 pm - CAB

Tuesday, Jan 23

- Concert Series at Community Center - CAB

Friday, Jan 26

- Poker Night at Community Center - CAB

February

Tuesday, Feb 13

- Concert Series - CAB

Tuesday, Feb 27

- Last Day to Withdraw with a W

No Date set but will happen in Feb

- SPSU's got Talent - CAB
- Nick Motil (acoustic artist) - CAB
- Homecoming - CAB
- Poker Night - CAB
- On campus Career Fair - Career Center

March

Sunday, Mar 4 through Saturday, Mar 10

- Spring Break

Monday, Mar 19

- Dan Ahdoot (Comedian) - 8:00 pm - CAB

Wednesday, Mar 28

- Casino Night - CAB

No Date set but will happen in March

- March Madness (wings and big screen basketball)
- Coffee House Concert
- Poker Night

April

Wednesday, Apr 18

- Sailesh (Hypnotist) - CAB

Thursday, Apr 26

- Last day of clas

Friday, Apr 27

- Beginning of Finals

No Date set but will happen in April

- Free Stuff Mondays (Free give aways every monday in April)
- SPSU Big Day Out (Music, Festivities, Food)
- Coffee House Concert

May

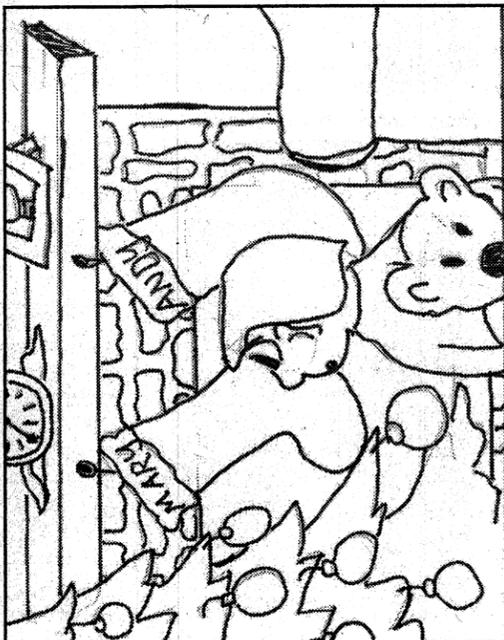
Wednesday, May 2

- Last day of Finals

Saturday, May 5

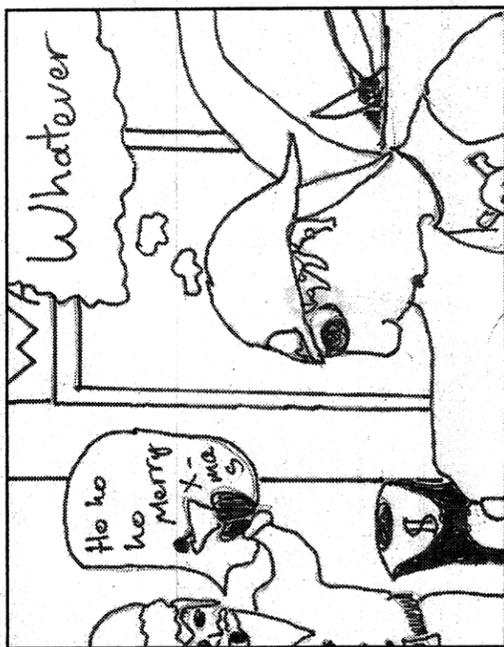
- Commencement

The Stages Of Life



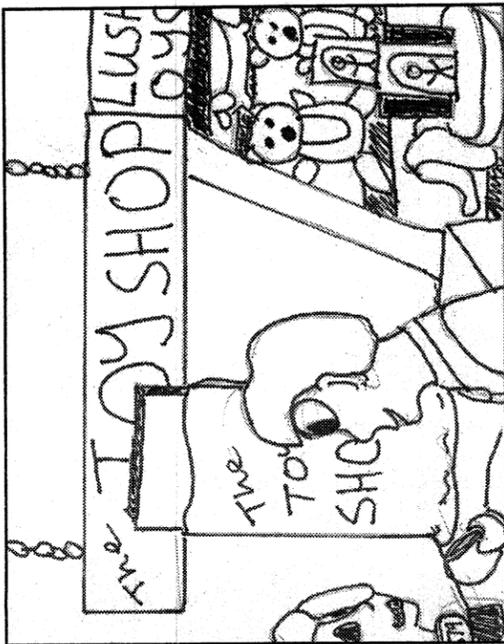
1st stage

You believe in Santa Claus



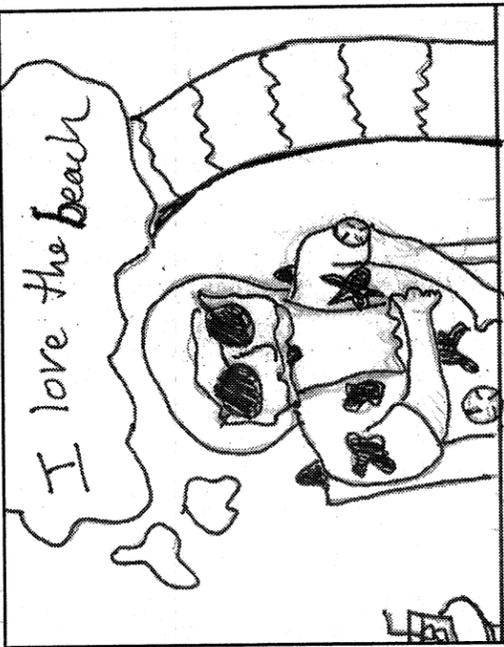
2nd stage

You don't believe in Santa Claus



3rd stage

You are Santa Claus



4th stage

You look like Santa Claus

Comic by Jessica McNelly with thanks to Professor Richard Shields