

# THE STING

## The end of HOPE as we know it?

Erin Reno  
Assistant Editor

George Washington Carver once said, “Where there is no vision, there is no hope.” This is certainly true now as the Georgia legislature faces the impossible task of saving the HOPE scholarship. The scholarship that has sent over one million students to college for free since its inception in 1993 is running out of money. The HOPE scholarship program is the largest merit-based scholarship program in the US and was the first of its kind. Funded by the state lottery, the program pays college tuition regardless of family income. The program also encourages Georgia students to stay in state for college. Studies have shown that 65% of graduates stay in the immediate area. This localism is good for the state.

However, the news isn’t all good. Along with a 76% tuition increase in the last decade, more and more students are qualifying for HOPE. Unfortunately, this means that with 29% of college students having the 3.0 GPA that qualifies them for HOPE, the likeli-

hood of the scholarship remaining unchanged is dubious. Projections show that the gap between funding and expenses will continue to grow in the future and the rate is unsustainable. “My 2012 budget does not authorize HOPE expenditures beyond what the lottery brings in,” said Gov. Nathan Deal in a recent speech to the legislature. He goes on to encourage action from the legislature to save the HOPE scholarship. The question is what will these actions be? And how will they affect Georgia’s college students?

Many plans are being considered by the legislature right now, some more seriously than others. One idea is to raise the GPA required to qualify for the HOPE scholarship to 3.5 for high school graduates and 3.2 for college students. Opponents of this plan argue that increasing the required GPA will only increase the current problem of grade inflation. The number of HOPE recipients in remedial classes shows how rampant and problematic grade inflation is.

In fall 2009, 10.4% of incoming University freshmen receiving learning support or remediation had the HOPE scholarship.

Another plan is to require a certain SAT or ACT score. Many oppose this plan, arguing that adding a SAT/ACT component rewards socio-economics rather than actual academic achievement; citing that SAT scores align with family income and parent’s education. Interestingly, in 2008, 3,465 incoming University freshmen on the HOPE scholarship had SAT scores below 1,000 (old 1,600 maximum). In 2009, only 43%, about 1,982 actually returned to any University system. Students are being sent to college unprepared for the rigors they will face there and the HOPE scholarship is paying for it.

A decision from the Georgia legislature can be expected as early as March. According to Gary Mann, Director of the Financial Aid Office at SPSU, some changes are certain. We can expect to see HOPE no longer paying for books or fees, like those associated with

parking and The Recreational and Wellness Center, as early as this summer. Mann also commented on the recent proposal set forth by Georgia State Universities’ Student Government. The plan suggests that the program should operate as a deferred student loan, at least for the first 30 credit hours. If the student maintains the requisite 3.0 GPA and if the student graduates within 6 years, the loan would be paid in full. If, however, these criteria are not met, the student would then become responsible for the debt. Mann’s main issue with this proposal is the feasibility for a financial aid office such as his to execute such a cumbersome program. Mann also opposes any plan that changes HOPE from a merit-based scholarship to a financial aid program. Proposals such as those that put an income cap on eligibility go against what the intention of the HOPE scholarship initially was; rewarding academic achievement.

So what does Mann suggest the state do? He believes that as long as the HOPE scholarship is tied to tu-

ition, we will continue to see budget shortfalls. Instead, Mann favors a plan with a flat stipend to be played out every semester. Mann used an example of a figure of \$4,000 to be paid to HOPE scholarship recipients each semester with which they can apply toward tuition. This flat rate pay out would control one of the variables (tuition costs) that is threatening to bankrupt the HOPE scholarship.

Many SPSU students on HOPE were not aware that their scholarship is in jeopardy. Most felt that they would have had to work to put themselves through school if it weren’t for HOPE. All were disappointed to hear that it might not be available to future students. So I put it to you, Sting readers, what do you think the Georgia legislature should do? Write in and tell us your opinion. There is a drop box outside The Sting office in the student center. We will be following this story closely and let you know what decisions are made.

(Resources: AJC.com and FOXnews.com)

## Green Hornet radio is worth a listen

Ronald Ellerbee  
Staff Writer

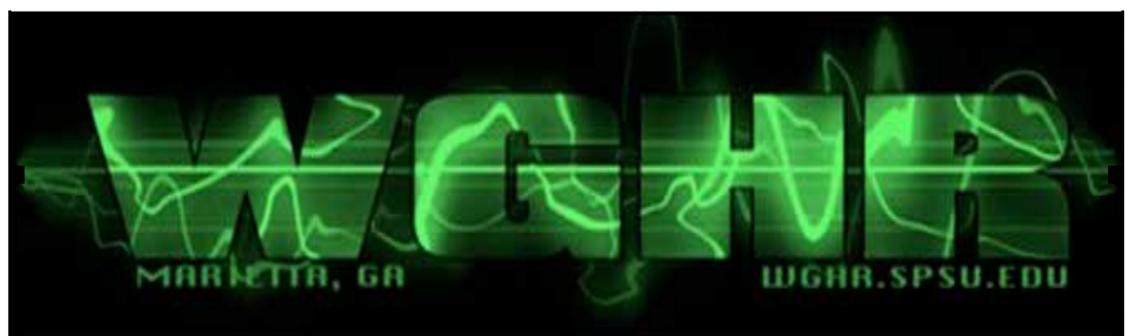
Were you aware that we have a radio station on campus? If you have been at this school for a while, then maybe yes, but for those of you that didn’t know, Green Hornet plays the best music. The music is diverse, the DJs are distinctive, and you wouldn’t find this type of talent anywhere else except in the White House. It’s also easy to make a request to hear some of *your* favorite music played by calling 678-915-7300.

Green Hornet also has a lot of exciting events happening for students this semester. Working with organizations such as CAB, Green Hornet will host sporting events,

poker nights, and other great campus events. Green Hornet’s main goal this year is to make their presence known and be more visible.

If anyone reading this knows of any sponsors that would like to support or donate to Green Hornet radio, call and speak with the General Manager, Mike Sideras, at 678-464-6792. Or if you have a bright idea or know of any events coming up this year that could use the Green Hornet touch, please call Matt Burkart or Jason Milan at 678-464-6792.

Don’t forget, in addition to listening while in the Student Center, you can listen to Green Hornet radio two other ways.



### iTunes:

Visit [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com).

1. Click on iTunes button (upper right) to Download iTunes.
2. Open the iTunes music player.
3. Find and Click on the “Radio” feature on the upper left.

4. Click on College/University category on your right.
5. Scroll down and find WGHR Southern Polytechnic State Radio. (It will be close to the bottom of the selection list.)

### Internet:

Visit [www.wghr.spsu.edu](http://www.wghr.spsu.edu) and click on the Live 365 play button on the left-hand side of the page. You can also find the schedule for current DJs on the website.

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### GIRL ON CAMPUS

This is a new column to *The Sting*. There is really helpful advice and if you don’t see your question answered, please send it in.

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### NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE LOST

Kyle Carney tells all about Chris Johnson, a former SPSU student, that biked around the country.

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### POETRY NEST

Victoria Allen contributes her poem, You. If you would like to include a poem, please send it in.

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### SO. POLY BASEBALL

Kyle Carney explains the new look, how the Lady Hornets roll early and the running’ Hornets live p to their name.

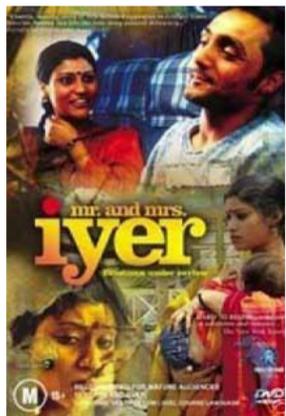
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## International film series

**Title:** *Journey From The Fall*  
**Description:** "Inspired by the true stories of Vietnamese refugees who fled their land after the fall of Saigon—and those who were forced to stay behind, *Journey From The Fall* follows one family's struggle for freedom."  
 (from [journeyfromthefall.com](http://journeyfromthefall.com))  
**Date:** Thursday, February 24, 2011  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Student Center  
**Admission:** FREE  
**Hosted by:** Roger Soiset, SIS  
**Movie Specs**  
**Released:** 2006  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Language:** Vietnamese with English subtitles  
**Country:** Vietnam  
**Running Time:** 135 Minutes  
**Awards:** Winner of 14 Awards



**Title:** *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2011  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Student Center  
**Admission:** FREE  
**Hosted by:** Rajnish Singh  
**Movie Specs**  
**Released:** 2002  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Language:** Indian and English  
**Country:** Indian  
**Running Time:** 120 Minutes



## Travel to Madrid and earn SPSU credit

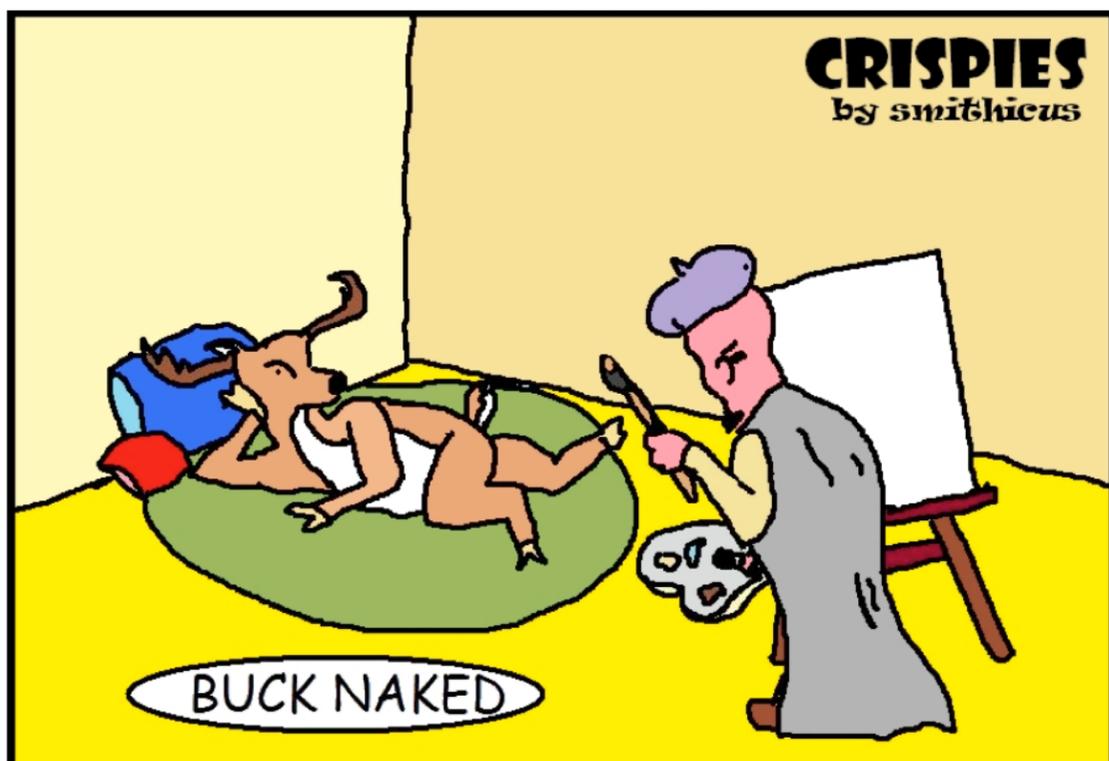
The program starts July 2nd and continues until the end of July. It is a Spanish language program through which 6 hours of credit can be earned, and for some 9 hours. (There are some courses that are taught in English, so that you can go on this program and NOT study Spanish language.) The last three days are in Paris. You will have

a private room with your own shower, and meals, except for Sunday, airport transfers, and health insurance.

The program fee is \$3995, leaving from New York, all included except SPSU tuition for credit, which can be earned AFTER the summer, in the Fall Semester of 2011. If you take a 15-hour credit

load in the Fall, NO ADDITIONAL FEE FOR MADRID CREDIT will be charged.

Watch for the flyers in Spring Semester announcing the second organizational meeting of the SPSU Madrid 2011 program. For questions, email Dr. Nuhfer-Halten: [bnuhferh@spsu.edu](mailto:bnuhferh@spsu.edu).



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Sting* welcomes letters praising or criticizing editorial policies or opinions. Letters should be typed or neatly printed, double spaced and should not exceed five hundred words. Letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes, but names can be withheld upon request. Unsigned or unverified letters will not be printed. *The Sting* reserves the right to edit letters for style, content or size. All letters are run on a space-available basis. Please send all letters to *The Sting*, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060, or drop them in the box outside of our office in A252, or e-mail [stingeditor@gmail.com](mailto:stingeditor@gmail.com).

### 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 12:30 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 **Monday, March 14, 2011**. Articles submitted after this time will not be printed in the next issue of *The Sting*, except through special permission.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to *The Sting* are \$1,000,000 per semester or \$5,000,000 an academic year. All subscriptions start with the first issue of the succeeding semester. Checks for subscriptions should be made payable to *The Sting*. Please subscribe. Somebody. Please?

### PRICE

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## Google

Does it really have the answers?

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

In our generation, it is not unlikely to make some kind of statement and notice everyone's head staring down. They are all looking at their phones making sure the statement you made is correct. Then they boast the information they just found out when they find it as if they really studied up on the subject. Is that really the way to gain knowledge though?

I may not have been around for the time when you had to delve through an entire text to find information, but I sure wish we could go back to it. Google gives us the answers to the exact questions we are asking, but just think of all the knowledge we are missing by skipping all that other reading.

The point to finding information is to learn, not to type in a question and get the direct answer. Rather than read a text, students now type in what they need in Google and it spits out a generic answer for them. When a researcher needs research, they simply type what they need into Google and it spits out the statistics.

What kind of knowledge is anyone gaining though? It makes me ask the question, is technology making us smarter or just making us appear smarter?

Technology is said to be making the world a more intelligent place. Instead, it is creating a

very fake world where people can find answers immediately without having to know the information. Google is an amazing tool, don't get me wrong; it gives us access to information that is directly relevant to what we are trying to learn. The trouble, like everything else in the world, is when we become addicted to it.

I can't say that I am not addicted to it. I did some personal research of my own and realized that I used the search engine Google over 70 times in a week. That is a ridiculously high number. I would say that I am on the lower side too, seeing that I do not have internet access on my phone.

Google may hold the answer to almost every question we have, but the thing to ask ourselves is whether we are gaining anything from the answers. The next time someone makes a remark in a conversation, try to make up your own ideas on the subject rather than immediately going to see what Google has to say on the matter. Or, rather than using Google to find a bit of information, read the whole passage where that information is held so you learn more than a single quotation. The internet is a great tool and will really start helping us once we stop abusing it.

## The girl on campus

Advice from one girl's perspective

*Dear Girl on Campus, I am having the hardest time meeting girls. I was wondering if you had any advice on where I could meet some. ~ Hard Drive*

**Dear Hard Drive,** I can understand your quandry. Girls do seem to be scarce at SPSU. Unfortunately, it is not an easy question to answer in one shot. I can give you some basic advice and you can let me know how it goes. First, though, you need to make sure you are really interested in having a girl's company or are you feeling a little lonely simply because it is February, the month of love? No matter what we say, all girls are high maintenance. We want to be made to feel important and special. And this, my firm computer friend, takes time.

If you still want to meet girls, then my first words of advice are to put yourself out there. Finding a girl friend is like finding a job. If you're not actively applying for a job, just sitting on your sofa all day, it is going to be hard to be noticed by companies. The same goes for girls. No matter how many hours you play WOW it probably isn't going to help you find a girlfriend, and no IndigoLover69 is not a real girl but a 38-year old man living in his mother's basement, eating Funyuns. The second piece of advice I have for you is be yourself. This doesn't mean a little self improvement doesn't help; personal hygiene goes a long way. What I mean is that if you're not comfortable in bars, then don't go there to meet chicks. Go to places where you are likely to find a girl with similar interests as you like a club at school. Core classes are also I great place to meet girls.

Once you see a girl, you actually have to talk to her. This should be a solo mission. Girls don't want to be barraged by your entire posse, no matter how much backup support you feel you might need. This goes back to putting yourself out there. This isn't a universe far far away, you have to make a move. Telepathy doesn't work here. If you get shot down, then you move on. No big deal! If she is totally smitten, that's even better. If she just wants to be friends; that



works too, because girls are portals to other girls. This should help you to get started. Good luck.

*Dear Girl on Campus, My boyfriend is feeling insecure in our relationship recently. He has recently faced some personal setbacks and now he is accusing me of cheating on him. What should I do to reassure him that he is the only man for me. ~ Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*

**Dear Girls Just Wanna Have Fun,** This sounds like it could be a bad situation and my advice would be to get out if his jealousy escalates. But, let's operate under the assumption that it is just a mild case of insecurity on his part. The immediate solution is your smart phone. Whenever he starts calling and texting while you're out, take a picture and send it to him along with a cute message. If you're getting your hair done, snap a photo of you with your hair full of foils. If you are at a restaurant with friends, have the waitress snap a photo of you and all your gal pals. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. With one quick snapshot, you can prove that you are not cheating on him. To pump up his ego, you can have him do little masculine jobs for you like opening a jar or changing your tire. Sure you could do it, but men like to feel like they are needed. Fun and games aside, this is a serious problem that you need to address for your relationship to work. You need to sit down with him and get to the bottom of his insecurities. Hope that helps.

## Cruising over Christmas break

Ronald Ellerbee  
Staff Writer

Over Christmas break I had the chance to take a Disney cruise ship to the Bahamas and Disney's island of Castaway Cay. I've never been on a ship before, much less a cruise ship. I was amazed at how much stuff could actually fit on a ship. I've seen television shows and pictures of large ships, but have never been on one. I was really never a Disney fan either but since this was a gift my girlfriend had received, and I was invited along, I couldn't say no to the opportunity.

Since this cruise was taken during Christmas break, there was an enormous amount of Christmas-related things to do on the cruise. There were things such as Christmas dances, theatre plays, and plenty

of character appearances such as Mickey, Donald, Goofy, and Princesses of all kinds, and that was just a minimal amount of what I did and saw on the cruise.

One of the best things, and also what I hear a lot about cruises, was the FOOD. This is the first time I tried snails (escargot). I know, yuck is what you think, and I had to keep reminding myself that it was fish instead of snail, just to keep it down. There were three restaurants plus two buffets and a lot of coffee and minibars on the cruise.

On the Bahamian island there is a lot to

do, also. Although I am not a smoker, it was interesting to see most of the natives on the island either getting high or smoking weed openly with no reservations.

The place on the island that we visited was the Atlantis Hotel, the one that Michael Jackson stayed in when he used to visit the island.

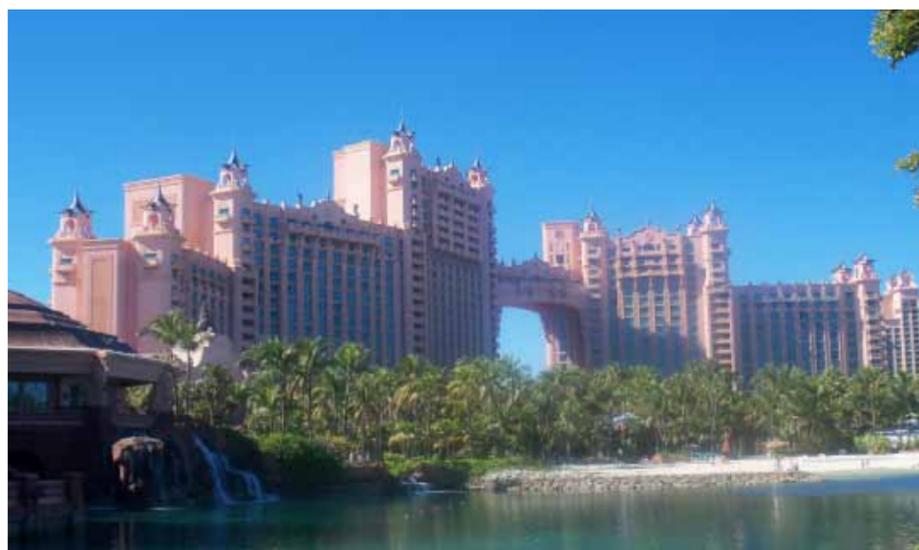
There we also got a nice tan, even though I didn't need one. The beach was beautiful and blue, and the one secret that the tourist guide told us is that they keep dye in the water to keep it so pretty.

The best experience I had during this

vacation was eating all the food and seeing the island. The Bahamians were cool, and even though I couldn't walk ten feet without being asked if I would like to buy souvenirs or smoke weed, I would definitely go back.

Also, it was interesting to see how many people come to the island for their vacation, not just people in North and South America but from England, China, and even India. The people on the cruise were also very diverse. Our server was from Bulgaria with a really strong accent.

So if you ever get the chance to get on a cruise, be sure and have as much fun as you can and take it all in.



Photos by Ronald Ellerbee

Do you feel like you're not being challenged enough?

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And what we dare to dream of,  
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## Did you know ...

### Daniel Boone was a man

Judy Garrard  
Executive Editor

If you are familiar with the old Daniel Boone TV show that is currently shown in reruns, you are probably familiar with the theme song. The title for this article is the very amusing first line of that song. It goes on to say, "Yes a big man," but my research led me to conclude otherwise, and I'll tell you more about that later.

I only recently became interested in Daniel Boone when I started watching the reruns, and the first thing I wondered was if he was a real person. Well, yes, he was; and that led me to want to know how accurate the TV show was, so I checked out a book to obtain some answers.

In reading Boone by Robert Morgan, I learned that there are a lot of general inaccuracies in the show. Most of the individual stories probably never happened, but I think it is a reasonable overview of that time in his life (the 1770s).

Morgan said that of our early American historical figures, only Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson were written about more than Boone. Morgan based a lot of his research on several of these books. The first book, that actually made Boone famous in his own time, was written by John Filson and it is known that Boone said it is accurate.

I was disappointed to learn that the real Daniel Boone did not wear a coonskin cap, and he did not have an Indian friend named Mingo as was portrayed on TV. Interestingly, Mingo is the name of an actual Indian tribe in that area.

Boone really was the excellent hunter and tracker as was portrayed. However, he was not always able

to retrieve the furs he had trapped after they were stolen by Indians; as a result, he had a lot of debt during his lifetime. He would buy items on credit to prepare for his hunting trips, and he relied on selling these furs to repay these debts.

He was also a land surveyor for new settlers and because he hated paperwork, he did not always file the proper information; this resulted in more than one person owning the same land and him being sued for ownership. He finally sold all of his own land to pay off these lawsuits. When he died at almost 86-years old, he owned no land and yet at one time he had about 50,000 acres to his name.

Boonsborough was a real place, and Boone was quite instrumental in helping to settle this area in Kentucky. The Indians really were as brutal as portrayed and maybe even more so. Reading about the constant threat, and the many people that were killed and scalped, I know that I would not have been able to be one of those first settlers.

I do agree with Boone about feeling the need to have more space when he supposedly said of Cincinnati, "too crowded - I want more elbow room." His need for more space, however, helped to make all the open spaces more and more crowded as people followed him everywhere he went.

Boone and Rebecca had ten children altogether and only one died in infancy. Two of Boone's children and one of his brothers (all as adults) were killed by Indians. His daughter Jemima was kidnapped by Indians, and he was able to rescue her.

Boone was kidnapped by the Shawnee and it took him a few months to escape. When the Indians kidnapped someone, they adopted them and treated them quite well, but if an escape was attempted, and a recapture took place, this person would likely be killed.

It was ironic that in some ways it seems that if the settlers had just been willing to live with the Indians as they lived, there may have been no killing. And, of course, the British and French turning the Indians against these settlers didn't help.

When Boone was kidnapped, he was given the name Sheltoewe which means Big Turtle, but was he big or just big for his time? Fess Parker, that played Daniel Boone on TV, was 6'5½" tall. I assume the producers felt that Boone would have to be a big man to have really done all that he did, but according to what I have read, he was only about 5'10".

According to Morgan, "an organization for boys, called the Sons of Daniel Boone, founded in 1905 by Dan Beard, was the precursor to the Boy Scouts of America."

There are at least three historic sites dedicated to Daniel Boone and available to tour. Fort Boonsborough has been rebuilt in Kentucky; Nathan Boone's stone house that he built by hand, with Daniel's help, is still in Defiance, Missouri; and Daniel Boone's childhood home is near Reading, Pennsylvania.

I hope to see some of these sites one day as I have a real fondness for Daniel Boone. I hope that I have given you a new appreciation for him, too.

## Rapid-fire art

Judy Garrard  
Executive Editor

Richard Hight visited our campus in December 2010 and put on quite a show. Hight is an artist that can complete an entire piece of **He donated the two items—that he drew during his presentation—to SPSU and in the near future, they will be displayed in the Student Center.**

art in about 15 minutes. His canvas is made from king-size black bed sheets from Wal-mart. His medium is chalk and he explained that using a black background does not absorb as much of the color, which results in using less chalk. He also explained that the black sheets are an inexpensive way to obtain the 6'x8' canvas that he needs

Based out of Oklahoma, Hight got a very early start in drawing with chalk in his grammar-school math class. He told about drawing pictures with chalk on the chalkboard—after the teacher left the room—which covered up the math problems she had left behind. He did not get in trouble like he thought he would; in fact, the next time he had the opportunity to draw on this teacher's chalkboard, he found that she had provided 24 colors of chalk for him to use. I wonder if he would have found his calling if he were in a modern classroom that does not utilize a chalkboard.

He donated the two items—that he drew during his presentation—to SPSU and in the near future, they will be displayed in the Student Center. To learn more about Richard Hight, please visit <http://www.visualimpact.com>.



Photos by Judy Garrard

Write for The Sting  
Contact [stingeditor@gmail.com](mailto:stingeditor@gmail.com)

## Searching for jobs in the net age

Victoria Allen  
Staff Writer

As I approach the end in my ren-year educational career, I have discovered that the job search market has drastically changed.

In the past, an individual was required to inquire about a new job in person. Now a days, we have numerous job search options and the way we look for the job has changed, also.

Many years ago, most establishments posted a "Help Wanted" sign in the window or ran an ad in the newspaper or even submitted job openings through the Department of Labor. In this day and age, we have the internet and that opens up a large variety of resources.

Based on your desired job field, it may be necessary to use an alternative resource to find a job or even an internship listing. In order to be considered for any job, it is

best to gain some form of experience in that job field. That brings me to how I discovered these three non-traditional job search web sites.

The three sites that I discovered were Explore Talent, Craig's List, and Freelance Writing. When I thought I wanted to be a supermodel, I found the Explore Talent website.

Explore Talent is a site that aspiring models, actors, and music entertainers would use. As I navigated through the casting call list, I stumbled upon a section for crew members.

Little did I know, it would contain many listings for jobs, as well as internship positions. Some of the job listings were: Camera/Editor, Producer/Director, Writing/Script/Edit, Graphic/Web/Animation, Make Up/Stylist, and numer-

ous other title listings that pertain to the entertainment field. The web address is [www.exploretalent.com](http://www.exploretalent.com).

Although this site would like for you to become a member to use its resources, it gives you a FREE seven-day trial to try it out, without having to submit any credit card information. If you don't like what they have to offer, you are not obligated to sign up.

The next site I looked at was Craig's List. I've heard of it and searched for things on it but I never noticed the job listings in the bottom right-hand corner of the page. I definitely didn't expect to find job listings for Writer/Editor, Graphic Artist, or Freelance Writing gigs.

*When I thought I wanted to be a supermodel, I found the Explore Talent website.*

Some of the job advertisements have well-explained position information, and other listings are vague to say the least.

You will have to use your best judgment when applying for jobs offered on this site. Each post has a date and time so you will know what information is current. The website address is [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com). This is a FREE site that doesn't require a user name, password, or credit card payment.

The last site I came across is Freelance Writing. After I found some writing gigs on Craig's List, I needed more information on how to write a freelance writing contract, and this was one of the sites I

explored. On this site, I discovered many writing, editing, graphic design, and other job or internship listings pertaining to writing. It is a FREE site that has a lot of details about writing, and it allows you to search for jobs. It contains detailed information about each job listing, the city the job is in, and the date the job was posted.

One of the things that stood out is that some of the employers request that you bid for a position, which means you have to submit a written statement that proposes how much you want to be paid for your services, and of course, you will include a resume. The website address is [www.freelancewriting.com](http://www.freelancewriting.com).

There is no sign-up requirement and you don't have to pay them for use of the site.

## Not all who wander are lost

Former SPSU student bikes the country

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

Tired and Free. That's all you think as you lay your sleeping bag out on a spot of Earth that you may never rest your weary head on again. After a long day of walking or biking, the most rewarding part is to be able to just sit down; it's even more rewarding to know that each step or pedal brings a new spot. That's life on the road.

The road has always intrigued us and still today we are captivated by where it may lead. Under our nose, there are still people out there traveling freely around the country. Some choose vehicles, such as a bicycle or a motorcycle, and some get around by foot. While this lifestyle has become somewhat of an eccentric one, there are still those out there who do it.

Chris Johnson is one of these modern day hobos. Chris attended SPSU for three years before moving on to a more adventurous life in 2007. I met him through a mutual friend and quickly caught on that there was something different about him. Not something physical, but I knew he did not share the same feeling about the world as most people do. So after seeing him a few times I invited him over to my house, where we just sat around and talked about his trips. Nothing spiritual or deep, just how he made it around the way he did. He makes no bones about doing it for any other reason than he simply loves it. "I've been told my whole life to stay on the right path," Chris says. "I'm still not sure which path is the right one. All I know is I'm loving the one I'm on now."

He completely disregards the philosophical motives behind his trips. He is not out there seeking to find some truth. He is simply out there for the adventure. Willing and able to risk his security and discover the unknown. In a world

where we put security above all else, it is a wonder there still lurks about those who would rather have spontaneity. Above all else, they are looking for freedom.

Chris decided to live this life and did it in high fashion. He began with a trip to Costa Rica, sleeping on the beach – which turned his hair into a mass of knots. He turned the knots into dreadlocks and came back to the U.S. looking to see the landscape. The best way to do it, he figured, was on a bicycle. "I guess I thought it would be easier to see the country on a bicycle than a train," he said. "I thought about walking but realized it would take way too long. When I got offered the bike, I couldn't refuse." He then headed for Toronto. "I didn't have a map, so I just followed the edge of Lake Erie," he said through a few spurts of laughter. "Eventually I ran into the Canadian border and hopped over to see the sites."

With this freedom, Chris took the opportunity to see what he wished to see. So after spending a few days in Toronto and the outskirts of the city, he was off and running—or should I say biking – again. His sites were now pointed in the direction of Michigan. Now, for those of you who have never ridden a bike for long distances, it probably seems amazing to be logging this kind of mileage on a bike. With no physical training beforehand, Chris shows just how far will power will go. It again showcases the lack of regard for what we consider normal. Most of us would fear we couldn't take the physical strain of riding a bike everywhere. Chris, on the other hand, welcomed the challenge. "Sure there were days when I didn't think I could ride anymore," he said. "The thing is, when you are off on a trip like this you just have to tell yourself you can make it. It

also helps when you're not trying to set any records and can travel at your own pace."

Sitting in my living room, Chris was very calm while telling me this story. He just sat back; dreadlocks pulled into a ponytail under a trucker hat with jeans and sandals, and told the story as if he was talking about somebody else. He made the whole trip seem very normal, as if what he had done was nothing special. Nothing seemed to faze him and best of all he was honest. "I'm not going to lie and say I enjoyed the whole trip. There were days when I hated it and wished I had never started it in the first place. But then, there were days when I couldn't see myself doing anything else."

These days of utter happiness came in many forms. After he arrived in Michigan, he realized he was in need of money and found a job working on a sailboat even though he had never been on one before. He hopped on board and was off with the crew, right on down the Mississippi. After 10 days he was let off on dry land again, only he was in St. Louis now. Along the way, Chris got more odd jobs, including construction projects and even working at a self-sustainable community in Arkansas. Talking with Chris made me realize how he managed to find jobs like this; we were speaking as if we'd known each other forever. He has the ability to make you feel at ease when you talk with him. "The key to the road is being able to relate with people," he said. "There were a lot of times when I had to rely on people to help me out and the only way to do that is to talk to them. You can't be nervous about approaching people you don't know. The way to do that is to be friendly."

While most of us would rather

walk by everyone we don't know without speaking a word to them, Chris takes up conversations with everyone he encounters. That is how he manages to live the way he does. When he needed to make money, he simply went and talked to people to find a job. When he needed a place to stay, he found a person and asked if they had a place for him. It didn't matter if they said no; he would just ask the next person that came along. And when all else failed, he had himself. "I actually managed to find people who would let me stay on their couches a lot, but if I couldn't, I just slept under bridges or behind churches."

Across the whole United States Chris did this. Starting in Ohio, he

managed to make his way with little more than a backpack and a bike. He had help, no doubt, but at the end of the day all he had was himself. For six months and more than 4,000 miles he lived this way. He saw it all from his own eyes and on the ground level. He made his way down the Mississippi, around the Great Lakes, through the vast desert of Texas and on to California. When he finally got to California, there was no parade or reporters there to greet him. He was just as he had left: alone.

"Guess I'll head back east now," was the last thing he said before he left California. Now that is a statement only those with freedom can truly make.

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## TCOM open house

**Judy Garrard**  
*Executive Editor*

The Technical Communications Department held a portfolio open house on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 with over 75 people attending. This was a means for senior technical communications students to showcase their portfolios.



Back: Morgan Shealy, Heather Gee, Matt Williams, Jeff Paffenback, Xiao Xiao Xia, Shuo Zhou.  
Front: Lamont Gardenhire, Jing Lin, Hui Yu, Tammi Vaughn, Shanshan Su

These portfolios are created in the capstone course TCOM 4800 Project Portfolio. Portfolios are a necessary tool used in professions such as graphic designer, technical writer, website designer, and videographer. This prepares these students for the job market in the fields of technical and professional communication.

Included were representations of the types of documents (print and electronic) that they may be required to produce for a future employer. Examples include business cards, logos, brochures, grant proposals, movie posters, and even the invitation that was created for this event (designed by Lamont Gardenhire). Student portfolios can be viewed on the ETCMA website. [http://spsu.edu/tc/Undergrad/ug\\_portfolios.htm](http://spsu.edu/tc/Undergrad/ug_portfolios.htm)

The Spring 2011 portfolio open house will be held on Tuesday, April 19.

## You

**Victoria Allen**  
*Staff Writer*

You wear your heart on your sleeve  
You open up your hand and reach out to me  
Everything you see, I cannot see  
You give me all of you, but I give you half of me  
You try to change my ways but I will not bend  
You ask me why I am sad, but when I try to answer  
Nothing comes out but excuses and lies  
Whenever you talk about tunes, I listen with an open mind but cannot hear  
The message that you try to send because I'm a special individual  
I have to hear it three or four times before it makes since  
That's just the way I am, and I can't help it

You try to teach me math, eight minus nine equals what, you say  
One of course, nope, that's not right  
Didn't you say that before, nope, it seems like you did  
Or is it Déjà vu, a site seen in my head  
Repeating the same things over and over again  
It now makes since, when I think two, three, four times again  
You tell me you like me, love me, trust me  
That's hard to believe when so many before you  
Lied, cheated, scammed, and bewildered my mind  
You're a good man just taken for granted in time

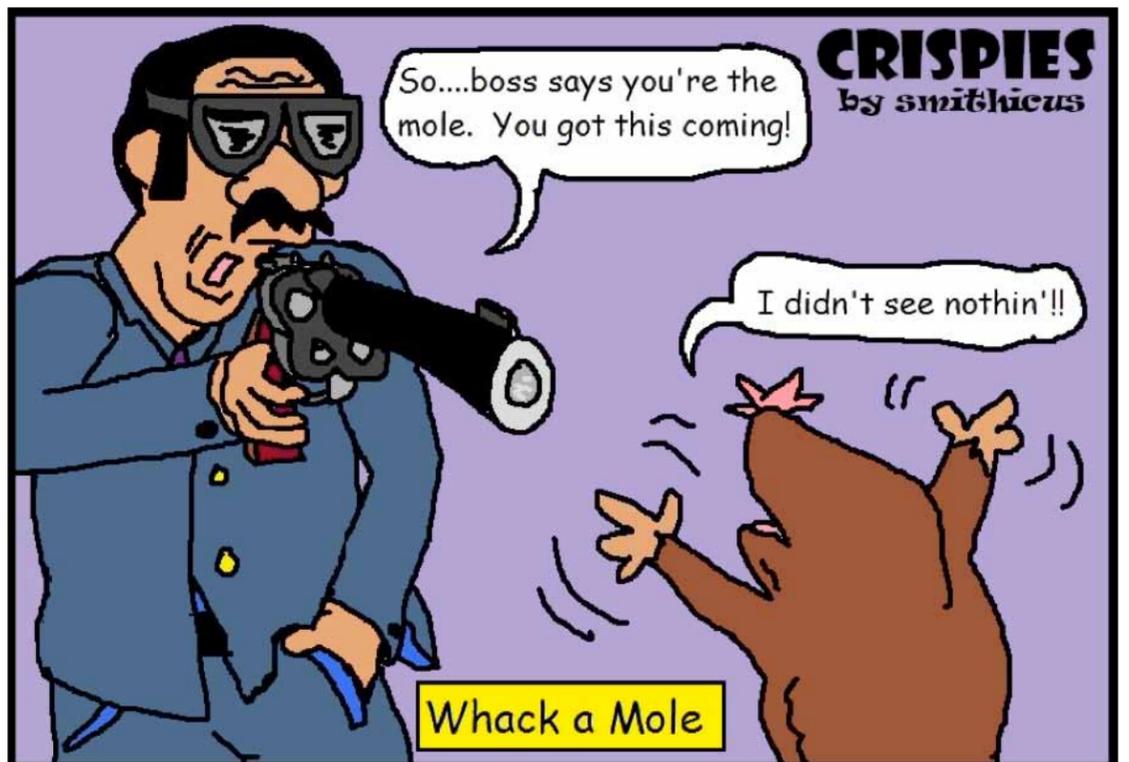
I don't mean to be harsh, that's all I know  
My body is here but my mind is in the snow, in the clouds, in the storm  
My life is all frowns and gloom  
Maybe I'm depressed, and don't want to admit it  
Maybe I was neglected, and really can't accept it  
You try to guide me in the right direction with my offspring  
You say it would be nice if I didn't scream  
I agree, I can't stand to shout and yell  
Is it me who's crazy, is it her, is it you  
No one will ever know, not even me nor you

You wear your heart on your sleeve  
You open up your hand and reach out to me  
I accept all that you offer and look into the future  
To gather all the hopes, dreams, aspirations and goals  
Together we can stride to build and provide  
For each other you and me to hold in the arms of the peaks  
The top of the mountain we will climb and retreat



Photo by Victoria Allan

THE STING WISHES  
YOU A SAFE AND  
FUN SPRING BREAK!



## A Minute in Music

Origen Monsanto  
Staff Writer

If you still need to give a gift to someone special during this month of love, consider giving some lovely music. R&B tends to be the music of love and R&B/Pop singer & songstress Keri Hilson released her sophomore album "No Boys Allowed" on December 21, 2010. Hilson creatively named the album because boys don't know how to treat a woman.

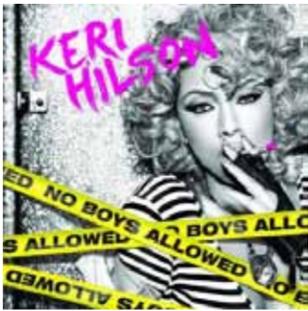
The album is filled with tracks like "Lose Way You Love" single "Pretty Girl" Hilson made an video for, and one vorites, "Gimme

Hilson opens able level with "Soldier," "I Want Down" where she relationship which One of my favor-

one of the sexiest songs is "One Night Stand" featuring Chris Brown. The duo did an amazing job in setting both a mood and a medley—almost reading the minds of two people in a similar event.

The diamond of the album, in my opinion, is the ballad "All Of The Boys." Keri really showed a different side in this song. The song is centered on a guy that Keri is in a relationship with and deals with her admiration for him. She compares him to her past crushes and relationships with a hook like, "After all the boys that I thought I loved before, I didn't know what love was, till you knocked on my door." She really sings her heart out in this song ending in a semi-Beyonce-like high-pitch note.

All in all I really enjoyed this album and I'm sure your significant other will enjoy it. too. You know I couldn't forget about your pockets during this dollar-intensive season, so I found a great deal for this album on AmazonMP3 for \$5, but I offer no guarantees as prices can change.



filled with dance Control," "The Me," the second Rock," which Ms. incredible music of my personal fa-

What I Want." to a more vulner- songs like "Toy You," and "Let Me speaks of a past ended abruptly.

ites and probably

## Dexter 5.12: "The big one"

Jay Mehdee  
Staff Writer

**WARNING: Spoilers ahead!**

"Wishes are for children," said Dexter, ruefully snuffing out not only Harrison's birthday candle but also the final shot of the season. In that case can we wish for the next season to be the show's last? That seems like the best option from a story perspective. The show is running out of interesting places to go. Last season's finale was a bold leap forward into new territory, but the ending of "The Big One" seemed like an attempt to maintain the status quo.

Despite all of that, this finale still provided interesting character movement. The episode was almost as much about Lumen as it was about Dexter. After all, her character arc reached its climax and denouement in "The Big One." Does the lifting of her Dark Passenger make sense? It can if you consider how her darkness differs from Dexter's. Dexter was traumatized at a very young age, whereas Lumen was traumatized well into her adult life. Overall she felt like a very natural and human character. Being absolved of a craving for revenge was her real accomplishment

of the season.

In contrast, Dexter has been more static in character this season than in any previous. It seems that for all of his experiences in the past year, he has not ascended to any higher plane of understanding. Each previous finale had a definite move forward in some aspect of Dexter's life, be it good or bad. But where is the big revelation now?

Probably the biggest tease of this episode, as well as a large part of the season, was the possibility that someone other than Lumen might find out about Dexter's murder hobby. How many of us were palpitating when Debra unknowingly spoke to Dexter and Lumen behind plastic sheeting? That is the type of scene that makes the audience appreciate this show. Logically speaking, how much closer can the writers come to almost letting Debra know the truth about Dexter without crossing over the threshold? Also, placing such a burden of knowledge on Debra's shoulders would greatly flesh out her character, making her ultimate fate that much more meaningful.

Seeing the transformation of Jordan Chase from a mere instiga-

tor of brutality to a full-blooded psycho warrior was perversely satisfying. Also, seeing Chase die at the hands of Dexter's disciple was a welcome change from the show's norm. One can see the single-mindedness with which Chase was devoted to his own craft, not unlike Dexter, when he takes refuge in it during his final moments. He may not have been the same beast as the Trinity Killer, but there's something to be said about a villain capable of creating an army of other villains.

Overall I enjoyed the episode on its own terms. It has all the elements of a good stand-alone story: a frightening villain, sympathetic heroes, and emotional catharsis. Whether or not LaGuerta keeps her job or if Dexter finds out about the connection between Quinn and Liddy does not really matter in the end. This season was about Dexter helping Lumen. In that sense, the year has ended with a mission accomplished.

But is this the beginning of the end? I hope so, for the show's sake. The episode gets seven and a half out of ten body bags.

## Music is in the air as spring tours begin

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

Atlanta offers a wide variety of music; from jam rock to electronic to hip hop, it has everything you are looking for. Artists are constantly passing through the Atlanta area, contributing to the expansive music scene. They come to areas like Little Five Points, Midtown and Downtown, playing at venues such as The Variety Playhouse, Philips Arena and The Tabernacle. Each venue offers a different experience; whether you are looking for the Arena shows at Philips Arena or the intimacy of the Variety Playhouse, Atlanta has it.

Last year I managed to catch two of the top 50 guitar players of all time—Derek Trucks and Warren Haynes-- in the Five Spot, which holds no more than 200 people. It is incidents like that which makes the scene so unique. Many bands from today and as far back as the 1960's consider Atlanta to be their roots and come back often to play small gigs or giant concerts. One thing they never do is disappoint; rather, most bands seem to play their best shows in Atlanta, saving their best set lists for the Atlanta area. This spring should be no different.

February will be a big month for music. Many bands will begin their spring tours, most of which will begin somewhere in the South for the weather. These concerts will still be indoors for the time being, but with the variety of venues in the area, it is no problem to find a place to play.

## Two-hand touch

Cont. from page 8

diagnosing the head injuries. The amount of concussions this season has shown that the new rules are not preventing anything but players not having checks waiting for them. The answer lies in making

sure players are not playing with the head injuries. I will commend the NFL for the steps they have taken to ensure players are tested for head injuries. It is a process that has shown it is working with the in-

Here is a list of some of the acts who will be passing through the area in the weeks to come:

- February 25**  
Underoath & Thursday: The Masquerade  
Grace Potter: Variety Playhouse
- February 27**  
John Mellencamp: Fox Theatre
- March 4**  
Bright Eyes: Variety Playhouse
- March 5**  
Ice Cube: Center Stage Theater
- March 11**  
Grassroots (311 Tribute): Vinyl
- March 18**  
Murs: The Masquerade
- March 19**  
Mike Gorson: Center Stage Theater
- March 20**  
Rebellion: The Masquerade
- March 21**  
Queens of the Stone Age: Center Stage Theater
- March 24**  
Rod Stewart: Philips Arena
- March 29**  
Janet Jackson: Fox Theater

crease in the amount of concussions diagnosed. The new regulations need to be repealed however, so that the game can go back to being played at full speed.

## Do you play a musical instrument?

Judy Garrard  
Executive Editor

The SPSU Band meets regularly on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Rehearsals are held on the stage. Two concerts are usually performed each semester.

All students, staff, and faculty are welcome to join; however, you must already be able to play an instrument and read music. There is no audition necessary, but having played in high school band and having some sort of music background

is required.

Some instruments are available for students to borrow if they do not have their own instrument. It is possible to be in band if a student is only able to attend one rehearsal a week.

You can also get credit for your participation in band if you register for ARTS 2005 (one-credit hour), but you must make both rehearsals during the week.

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## SPSU baseball: A new look

Braves star Jason Heyward shows up at first scrimmage

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

Looking at the starting line-up for this year's SPSU baseball team may not show many familiar faces, but at the team's first scrimmage against West Georgia Technical College on Friday, there was one familiar face in the stands. Jason Heyward showed up to support the team and went unnoticed. Unknowingly, fans passed right by the Atlanta Braves star right fielder, who sat in the bleachers down the third base line. The Hornets went on to win the scrimmage 9-1; a good start for what should be another promising season.

The scrimmage showed for the first time the new look Hornets. After back to back appearances in the Regional Tournament—including a trip to the NAIA World Series in 2009 – the Hornets will need to replace nearly every starter from last year. It does not seem to be slowing the team down, however, based on the fact they are ranked 9th in the pre-season coach's poll this season. The SSAC (Southern

States Athletic Conference) leads all conferences with 5 teams ranked in the top 25, including 2nd ranked Lee University, who will come to SPSU on April 22 to close out the regular season. The Hornets will look to avenge themselves against Lee, who swept the team last year in a three game series. This year's Hornets will welcome a slew of new transfers including a few Division I players.

Replacing such players as SS Jono Waugh, LF Mason Heller, C Justin Ray and P Greg Hendrix will not be easy. New additions to the Hornets will include CF Demarcus Tidwell, P Will Rankin, SS Jon White and LF Chad Hunter, who will surely ease the transition for the new look Hornets.

In the Baseball America NAIA Preview, both Tidwell and Rankin were ranked in the top 10 draft prospects in the NAIA this season. Tidwell was ranked 2nd, after his stellar performance in the Northwoods League this summer where

he hit .333. Tidwell turned down the Indians offer after being drafted in the 28th Round of last year's draft.

Rankin came in at number 7 as a result of his success at his previous schools. With a balance of offensive power and pitching, look for the Hornets to make some noise in the NAIA this season.

The Hornets will begin their season on February 4 at home against Milligan College. Conference play will not begin until March 4 against Shorter College.

All things considered, the Hornets should continue their recent success this year.



Demarcus Tidwell

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## The runnin' Hornets live up to their name

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

Big things are expected from the SPSU Men's Basketball team this year. After a final four appearance in last year's NAIA basketball tournament, the Runnin Hornets began the season ranked 7th in the preseason polls. Going into Thursday's game the Hornets boasted a 12-3 record overall and improved to 13-3 after defeating Truett-McConnell 82-67 in a fast paced offensive onslaught.

The Hornets started slow, falling behind by as much 9 points in the opening minutes of the first half. After a grueling first half, which showcased both the Hornets defensive abilities as well as their transition basketball, the Hornets were able to cut the deficit to a 2 point game, trailing 33-31 at the half. The second half was a different story, however, and the team came out with a purpose. The score remained close through the first ten minutes of the second half, with the Hornets still trailing by 5 points. However, the last ten minutes saw the Hornets

go on a 34-14 run, beginning with a big three point shot by Ervin Heron. Rashad Gill led the team with 18 points and Kurtis Woods added 17. Xavier Dawson finished the game with 4 steals and 4 assists. Dawson currently leads the nation in steals per game, averaging 3.69 steals a game, which provides the team with a catalyst for their defense first brand of basketball.

The Hornets rank in the top 25 in the nation in three defensive categories, including turnover margin (6.176), steals per game (12.118) and scoring defense per game (66.106). Dawson, along with the rest of the team, use defense—specifically steals—to jumpstart their offense. By causing turnovers, the Hornets are able to get out in transition, where their athleticism shines. Monster dunks are the result of a defensive approach to the game.

The Hornets hope to continue to play well and earn a berth into the National Tournament again.

## Lady Hornets roll early

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

The Women's Basketball team jumped to a commanding lead early in the February 19 game against Truett-McConnell. The Lady Hornets started the game on an 11-0 run, ending when Truett-McConnell hit a three pointer 7 minutes into the game. The Lady Hornets continued to put it on the Bears, leading by 12 points at the half. The game would end with the Lady Hornets winning 70-47 and improving to 16-3 for the season. Marisa Stotler put up a double-double, leading the team with 26 points and 13 rebounds, along with 4 steals. Brittany White added 12 points of her own. The team shot a remarkable 45% from the field as well as 50% from behind the three point line. It wasn't all offense, however.

Continuing their dominance on the defensive end, the Lady Hornets were able to hold the Bears to

27% shooting, which is lower than their season average, where the Lady Hornets are holding opponents to an amazing 35% shooting for the year. Stotler's presence in the paint cannot be overlooked, which keeps teams shooting jump shots. The team's ability to rebound is another contributing factor to their remarkable ability to hold teams to such low shooting percentages. Rebounding is a key element for the Lady Hornets offense as well, where they were able to get out in transition against the Bears much the same way they have been able to all season long.

The Lady Hornets are currently ranked 11th in the Nation and 2nd in Conference. They are looking forward to another successful year and hope to be back playing in the National Tournament.

## NFL: When will it be two-hand touch?

Kyle Carney  
Assistant Editor

Maybe I'm the only one, but I cannot understand the new rules regarding tackling in the NFL. Watching some of these games, it is beginning to look more like two-hand touch than tackle. Players coming in hard for a tackle and then immediately slowing up with their hands raised, afraid to even make contact. Unfortunately, football is a contact sport and like any other contact sport, there is a risk of injury. Players are bound to get hurt. With the new rules, which are supposedly supposed to prevent players from having concussions, the league has seen a 21 percent increase in concussions reported. On one hand it shows that the NFL is taking head injuries more seriously, but on the other it shows that the new rules are not working.

The new rules regard helmet to

helmet hits and defenseless player hits. Mainly, it stops defenders from being able to deliver those crushing tackles that makes football what it is. The helmet-to-helmet issue is one that seemingly would help stop head injuries. Not to say that no head injuries are caused by this kind of tackling, but a player's head is contacted by something every play, be it the ground or another part of the tackler's body. It is impossible to control injuries. In handing out these stiff fines (the NFL handed out over \$175,000 in fines on one Sunday) for violent hits, players are beginning to play the game differently. Players are slowing up where they used to play full speed and laying off where they used to tackle. And through all the new regulations, the concussion rate has risen. That is testament to the

fact that injuries are inevitable in every sport.

In every sport, we are seeing our generation listed as an era. Baseball has the steroid tag, basketball is considered to be a street ball game now and here we are trying to tag football as two-hand touch. Why is it that these sports have worked for older generations and yet we have to change them? Home runs would have been hit without steroids, baskets would be made without all the tricks and unfortunately injuries will happen regardless of rules.

These players are top flight athletes and we are hindering them with these new rules. How else do you send a message when a wide receiver comes across the middle now? What does a "defenseless player" even mean? The whole

game is based on trying to bring an opponent down to the ground. If you had to wait for the other player to see you doing it, the offense would always win. Every player is defenseless and that is what keeps everybody on the field playing to their full capacity. Making quarterbacks untouchable makes the position easier. So now what? Will they be getting an asterisk next to their names, labeling them quarterbacks who couldn't be sacked? Fear is a major factor in a contact sport and taking that fear away makes it a different game.

The new rules had good intentions but they are making the game less physical without impacting the injury rate. The rules are also giving players bad names as violent players. The problem is that most of these hits are unintentional. The

average NFL player is pretty fast. Even a high school level science class will teach that stopping a moving object is difficult. It takes time. Most of the hits that players are being fined for and flagged for are merely a continuation of running. Sure they are making contact with another player, but that is the sport. In order to play within the boundaries of the new rules, we are basically telling defensive players that they have to play at 85% while offensive players are allowed to play at 100%. It is impossible to make a player have the ability to slow themselves down fast enough to prevent making contact.

The solution to the problem lies in what is already happening; mainly, a stronger look into

Cont. on page 7