

THE STING

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SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Marietta, Georgia

What is a polytechnic summit all about?

By Judy Garrard

For most of last semester, I had been hearing about the Polytechnic Summit coming to our campus June 8-10. Despite all the hype, I still really wasn't sure what it was all about, so I knew I would need to see it for myself.

To get things started, I went to the introduction by our president, Lisa A. Rossbacher, Ph.D. She asked each of us to write down what would make this summit a success. I wrote down that it would be a success if I learned more about my school.

I attended a workshop for our upcoming online journal. I primarily picked this workshop because one of the presenters is one of my favorite professors, Dr. Mark Stevens, and I wanted to know more about what he's working on. Southern Poly is going to have an online journal called "International Polytechnic Studies Journal." The first issue will be in September, but I'll tell you more about that in our next issue.

Next, I attended the session conducted by several English, Technical Communications, and Media Arts department (ETCMA) professors; they talked about how the processes for creating art is ac-

tually similar to the processes that engineers follow and also how they teach their classes so that they will be more appealing to engineering students.

In the corridor there was a poster presentation that allowed students, primarily, to present projects that they have worked on. Students from the ETCMA department were presenting their senior portfolios. Students from other disciplines were speaking on a variety of subjects such as biomass, calculus, organic chemistry, and even the facebook page created for this summit.

One of the most interesting items I saw was demonstrated by Professor Tango of the architecture department. It is called a heliodon and is a device that architecture students use to record the angle of light entering a model of a building. This is very important when designing a building to take advantage of the sun or to make accommodations to shield the inside from the sun.

My Thursday adventure began with a session about online teaching. Leslie Hankey talked about how she used technology to take her graphics class on a virtual fieldtrip to an advertising agency

in Brazil. Adeel Khalid talked about the pros and cons associated with online classes and Gregory Wiles talked about the demands of non-traditional students and the different styles of classes (traditional, hybrid, and online).

Several representatives from University of Wisconsin - Stout explained about their ethics program and the challenges of having a general ethics class, but also needing classes specific to each major. This is a very important subject in the business world today. My personal experience has involved taking a basic ethics class at two corporations I have worked for.

My adventure ended with Betty Oliver's talk about how important it is to restore the art (right brain) to the science (left brain). I completely agree, and it's been a big part of my mission here at SPSU. But I also think we have more middle-brain students here than we realized. I have been so pleased to discover so many talented writers coming out of the most unexpected majors here.

I did not have time to attend all day each day, but it would still be impossible to observe it all as many sessions were held concurrently. If it were possible for next year's sum-

mit not to be concurrent, that would be great, but I would suggest that there be more specific times listed for each presenter versus just being lumped into a time block. I also think more time for questions and comments after each speaker would be very beneficial to all concerned.

I did learn several things about our school, so I would say that the summit was a success. Did Dr. Rossbacher find the summit to be a success? Yes, she felt that it was a "great success." She also added these thoughts about the experience:

"We welcomed colleagues from a number of other polytechnic institutions to SPSU, and we were able to showcase our new facilities in the Engineering Technology Center and 'Stingers' restaurant. The presentations and panel discussions covered a broad range of topics, which illustrated the interdisciplinary interpretations of what it means to be a "polytechnic." The participants shared ideas about teaching, research, and service, as well as issues like diversity, ethnics, academic integrity, sustainability, and global per-

spectives. The receptions at the High Museum of Art and the Atlanta architectural firm Perkins + Will gave everyone an opportunity to socialize, to see some interesting exhibits, and enjoy the sunset and the Atlanta skyline. The demonstration of the "oil well cap" was a great example of how students and faculty apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems.

I was particularly pleased to meet people from other places that share our polytechnic mission. Reconnecting with the president of the University of Wisconsin - Stout (which hosted the first two summits) and meeting the president of Wentworth Institute of Technology (which will host the summit in 2013) were also highlights of the meeting for me."

The 2012 Polytechnic Summit will be held again on our campus. I highly recommend attending even if all it does is make you think more about what you've seen and heard.



Tornado tragedy

By Erin Reno

This tornado season has been one of the busiest on record. According to the NOAA's National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center (SPC), it has also been the deadliest year for tornadoes in the United States since 1936.

These gruesome statistics are due mostly to the 322 deaths during the April 25-28 tornadoes which devastated the south, as well as the May 22 tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri. The average number of people killed every year by tornadoes in the United States is only about 60.

CNN reported that the Joplin tornado is the single deadliest tornado since the 1950s when record-keeping began. This devastating storm received the highest ranking

of EF 5 on the enhanced Fujita scale. This scale classifies damage from EF0-EF5. Engineers and meteorologist compile data including 28 different types of damage indicators to provide a more precise storm score than was previously possible.

The April Tornadoes ranked in the top 10 deadliest tornado storms according to the SPC. During these storms, Alabama also experienced two EF5 tornadoes. This storm system also affected Georgia. Though comparatively Georgia was relatively unscathed, 14 Georgian's died due to tornados according to the SPC. They report that at least 5 tornadoes touched down in the state that morning, including an EF3 in Bartow County.

All-told there have been 536 deaths in the United States due to

tornado activity this year. According to the SPC, all but one of these deaths occurred during tornado watches/warnings. But what is a tornado watch? What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning? Nothing ever seems to happen. Should we still take them seriously?

According to the SPC, a tornado watch is an area, usually parallelogram in shape, where tornadoes are possible for the next several hours. During this time, the SPC recommends being alert and prepare to seek shelter. On the other hand, a tornado warning means that a tornado has been spotted (either physically or by Doppler radar). At this time you should proceed with immediate safety precautions.

For many Georgians, fatigue

has set in when it comes to these safety warnings. However, if these recent tornadoes have taught us anything, it is that tornadoes are deadly and need to be taken seriously.

Victim Rachel Neff reported on CNN, "It all happened so fast... We had a few minutes' warning. I've never taken any of the warnings seriously but something snapped in me and I put blankets and pillows in the bathroom. We were running to the bathroom. You could hear the house shaking, everything busting out." For Neff and millions of others these warning have meant the difference between life and death.

College is a wonderful time in a person's life. For many, it is the first time living away from home. In new surroundings it can be easy

to overlook something like having a safety plan in place in case of a weather emergency. The SPC recommends that every home have a tornado plan in place. This includes knowing where to take shelter, having safety supplies such as battery operated radio, flashlight, and protective coverings. If you live with others, it may also be helpful to set up a predetermined meeting place for after the storm.

For more helpful tips, check out the preparedness guide offered online by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Weather Service.



Section	Page
News	1-2
Opinion	3
Reviews	4
Features	5-7
Sports	7-8

JOB FRONT NEWS

Victoria Allen continues her series and tells us about internships.com.

Page 2

DID THE WORLD END?

Dominic Fredo and Brandon Woods both provide their opinion.

Page 3

SUMMER PLANS?

Girl on Campus, Ronald Ellerbee and Andrew Hurd give us some options for summer fun.

Page 5-6

ATLANTA THRASHERS

Robert Barnard informs us about what happened to the Thrashers.

Page 8

Polytechnic summit

By Ronald Ellerbee

I had a chance to attend the first session of the Polytechnic Summit on June 8 in the Engineering Technology Center and hear a panel of students from Africa and China talk about their polytechnic experience. They were asked questions about why they chose to go to a polytechnic university and their experiences traveling far away from home. The panel consisted of five students. Three students were from Cameroon, Africa and the other two were from Beijing China.

One of the questions asked was "what are some of the problems your country is facing dealing with university education?" The students from China answered that they felt more like a number with so many students in the classroom; making it close to impossible for the professor to give everyone individual attention. Also they were not involved in group projects because class sizes could number in the

hundreds and that would be too difficult for students and teachers to manage. They said coming to SPSU gave them a more hands-on experience dealing with students and teachers. They became more of a student and less of a number. Teachers were more hands on and group projects were very fun.

Another question asked was "How can a polytechnic university strengthen education technology in your countries?" The students said the polytechnic experience is more practical than theory-based learning. Instead of students learning theories and not knowing what to do when they enter the workplace the polytechnic university prepared them for the workplace and gave them in-class training similar to a workplace environment. The reason a polytechnic university is so special is because they have partnerships with different companies that enable students to get

internships and possibly have a job before they graduate.

When asked about their experience in the U.S., some of the students on the panel said they miss their home countries. Some wish students in the U.S. would be more social and others felt they got the love they needed from them. The students from China also felt the students from the U.S. were lucky because they do not have as much pressure on them as students from China do. They cannot change their majors in China so once you've chosen your major that's it. Power goes out in their dorm rooms from 11 p.m. – 6 a.m. which includes internet.

Overall, the panel of students said their polytechnic experiences were good and that they plan on taking the knowledge they learned here back to their countries to either start their own business or help their countries become better.

Increase your experience with internships.com

By Victoria Allen

Here at SPSU, the student body is presented with an opportunity to participate in a co-op or an internship program. With that in mind, finding either of the two can be complicated. Even though department faculty members look for internships and co-op programs for us to participate in, the programs don't always fit the students' criteria. In some situations, if the student has a desire to participate in either of the programs and the resources that the faculty has to offer don't fit the students' availability, the student will be required to find their own resources. If that is your situation, I have a good resource for you.

How I found this site: Before I tell you about the resource, let me tell you how I found it. I am a senior at Southern Poly, and I am in the TCOM degree program. I really wanted to gain more hands-on experience in my field so I decided to look for a company to work with.

At first, I applied for a position that was advertised through the school. I submitted my resume, received an email reply, submitted additional info as they requested, but I didn't get an interview or a message saying I didn't meet the requirements. So, I put that disappointment behind me and started my own search, which brought me to the Internships.com website.

The Website is: Since I am a determined individual, as I know many of you are, I found another resource on the net. I chose to explore <http://www.internships.com/> when I found it on Google and I was pleasantly surprised.

This site has many helpful tools to guide the current or soon to be working professional or graduating student on the right road to finding a company to do an intern-

ship with. According to the site Internships.com is, "The World's Largest Internship Marketplace. It has 41,274 internship positions from 19,066 companies located in 1,820 cities across all 50 states."

Even though I didn't get a chance to explore other sites for intern positions, I must say that this site totally exceeded my expectations. Within the first two weeks of being a member, I received a couple of promising offers, and all under the FREE membership. Try it free first and read the fine print before paying for anything. In the near future, I hope to update you on my internship company selection and the progress of my experience.

What the site has to offer: Internships.com offers its basic members a variety of company choices, informative resources, and guidance on the best way to use the site to find internships. Internships.com provides its users with the most current positions available in a city near you, and allows you to bookmark the positions you are most interested in so you can revisit the link without starting a brand new search.

It helps you evaluate your personal preferences with options like Viral Jobs, which are jobs that have Online Working Capabilities and it helps you narrow down the right position for you. I especially like this option of working from home through the Viral Job option because I am a very busy person and I know this is something that may interest others like me. It provides an internal email inbox where you can receive notifications from interested companies and it allows you to communicate with the company of your choice.

To look at available internships doesn't require enrollment, but

to apply you will need to sign up. You have to become a member of the site and fill out the profile and resume information so the companies associated with the site can see what you have to offer. The basic enrollment is free and it has some of the best features that I have ever used on a job search resource. It has icons that inform you if a specific internship has a paid position or if it has time specific requirements. It can send you notifications that a company is interested in you by email or to your cell phone. You can look forward to receiving a better chance at getting an internship by using this site.

Premium Advantage: If you want premium advantage with your enrollment, you can pay a small fee of \$20 for a one-year subscription and get special preference that the free subscribers do not get. Those features should make you stand out above the competition, and get you hired faster.

Along with the basic features mentioned above, you will have access to the Intern Certification Program which discloses ten key skills employers are looking for in a candidate,

give you access to a video introduction which will accompany your resume and profile, and it gives you access to the Career Navigator which has four easy assessment tools to help you get focused and discover your professional capabilities.

Lastly, you will receive Featured Placement which places your profile at the top of the employee search match, it provide you with an exclusive Company Directory that has data on over 5 million companies, and the premium service places your resume at the Top of the Pile, no matter when you apply for the internship. Get started today, and start your internship in the near future.

Internships.com can move you

into the right direction of completing your spring, summer, or fall educational internship fulfillment. When SPSU's internship resources don't fit your schedule, step out on faith and venture down other avenues. Take a moment to fill out the profile and resume information, and take advantage of the basic or advance features this site has to offer.

Posting your resume, predicting your job match, and bookmarking a company that interests you can lead you on your way to success. Great opportunity is at your fingertips, just reach out and click away!

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 Editor, The Sting

Southern Polytechnic State University
 1100 South Marietta Parkway
 Marietta, GA 30060-2896

Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editor.

Contact 678-915-7310 to advertise or for other information.

August issue articles are due
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CRISPIES
by smithicus

James, we'll miss you. Good luck!

It soon became apparent to management at the street department that Candy's qualifications as a "striper" was actually a typo.

Our cartoonist had to move away, so we are looking for a replacement (big shoes to fill here).
 If you're interested, email sting@spsu.edu.

Gimme some of that old-time religion

By Dominic Fredo

I find it appalling that Harold Camping hasn't been hunted down by an angry mob wielding torches and pitchforks yet. Aside from his heretical teachings that contradict the Bible, the man has made *THREE* incorrect predictions of Judgment Day in the past 25 years!

The possibility of any of his future predictions actually being correct is so small that you would have a better chance of winning the lottery, because the Bible verse Matthew 25:13 states: "*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*"

Harold Camping must have been a terrible paper writer in college, because he never reads the sources he claims to use.

After reading about the so-called formula he devised, I couldn't help but laugh because this theory is rotten to the core. Similar to some literary critics, Camping "reads" absolutely too far into things, claiming that not only does the Bible give a system relating numbers and concepts like "purity" and "salvation," but also that a specific equation was given as well as its application to the Gregorian calendar, which was mandated in 1582. Seriously?!

Are people really gullible enough to put even the slightest amount of faith in this guy's predictions, especially after being wrong twice before?! If a doomsday prediction ever comes true, I hope I'm alive to see it, because there is no way I'd ever believe it otherwise.

Back in the Bible days, Harold Camping would have been stoned as a false prophet, possibly before he ever made his first prediction of Judgment Day due to his false teachings. In this day and age, however, the death penalty is largely frowned upon and is only

applied to extreme circumstances, and being a general public nuisance is unfortunately not a crime, much less one punishable by death.

In Soviet Russia, he would've been exiled to a gulag in Siberia after "questioning" by the KGB, the fact that he was preaching any kind of religion notwithstanding. Oh, how I long for the good ol' days.

In more recent news, Camping also made a statement on Memorial Day to further bolster his beliefs that the universe will be destroyed on October 21, 2011, which was part of his original May 21 prediction as a safety net, saying that "the corpses of the 'unsaved,' including those in the U.S. Armed Forces, will be flung out of their graves ... on October 21." Show a little respect, Harold. There's no reason to mention any specific group in such a statement, and especially don't dare to make specific mention of our troops if you want any supporters in this country. The American people always favor the troops.

Also, Memorial Day exists as a reminder to the sacrifices made by these noble men and women who died to protect the First Amendment, which gives the right to free speech, allowing inconsiderate morons like Camping to spout off insulting propaganda as he or she sees fit.

To make a long story short, Harold Camping doesn't know what he's talking about, but doesn't know when to give up. Strike Three is fast approaching, and something needs to be done to ensure that he takes the walk of shame back to the dugout. Legally, he has done nothing wrong, but his mother needs to give him a spanking so good he won't be able to sit down in front of a recording device for a long time.

I overslept and missed the end of the world

By Brandon Woods

That's what I thought on May 21, 2011 when I woke up at 7:00 p.m. So I checked outside - nobody was floating up to the sky. I looked at the news - nothing happened. I saw all my Christian roommates were here, and there hadn't been an earthquake.

Now this means either one of two things. God decided no one goes to heaven, or the rapture didn't happen, and I am going to take a wild guess and go with the latter.

Now this is great for those who haven't gotten themselves "spiritually prepared" to go to heaven, and plus you get to read another exciting issue of *The Sting*, but for those who were so sure about Harold Camping's prediction, things aren't too great. Some people blew their savings, others quit their jobs, and some sold all of their worldly belongings.

Now when the predicted event didn't happen, Harold Camping's followers were a little bit more than just confused. But Camping (whom I am assuming whipped out his big book of "101 ways to get out of a sticky situation") explained the situation to everyone by saying something perhaps along the lines of:

"Whoa whoa whoa, I am not wrong, obviously God changed his mind and what happened was the invisible rapture (which I think means the only person who went to heaven was the invisible man). Don't worry, the world will still end in October, but now you won't live a life of hell on earth."

In response to his words, all of those who still followed him dropped their pitch forks and torches and went back to the lives they abandoned. I have read a lot of articles on how Camping's predictions have affected people, and they have had some really positive and negative effects.

For instance, on the negative side, two parents were constantly telling their children how they are going to hell and it's so sad. While on the positive side, from now on those children can constantly remind their parents of how wrong they were about the rapture. The end of the world has been predicted since the year 100 A.D. and yet no one has been right, and someday someone may be correct, but of course they will be.

If the world ended tomorrow there would be some guy in Australia going, "Yep, I knew it, and no one believed me." Does that mean that guy was a divine prophet sent to tell us of the second coming? Probably not, it could easily be dumb luck.

In the Bible, when people preached, listeners actually got up, went to the scriptures, and made sure what the preacher was saying actually matched what was in the text. In today's world, we take whatever people say for face value.

If Camping taught us one thing, besides the fact that God totally wants to give us a second chance for about 5 months, it's that make sure you check someone's facts before you sell all your stuff. On the bright side, this may have helped stimulate our economy a bit.

Remember, there will always be a Camping out there, someone forewarning you of the end, but no man knows the day, nor hour. Here is a bit of advice if you are that worried about the end of the world: Maybe you should turn your life around today, just in case it comes tomorrow.

Laughing at ourselves

By Kyle Carney

Commercials are intended to make a buyer want a product. The layout for commercials has been the same for years; basically presenting all the good a product could do for a person. And yet, looking at commercials now, they seem to be poking fun at the people they want to buy their product.

It is insulting to the intelligence of the mass public that these companies are so blatantly creating commercials which make fun of the very people who pay their salaries. It is even more absurd to think that after seeing these commercials, we

continue to buy the products.

I noticed this trend when I saw a Sprint commercial. The commercial has a couple sitting across from each other at a diner. The girl goes on to send the man a multitude of messages through a variety of mediums to tell him they were broken up.

Now, why would Sprint use such a sad gimmick as this to sell their product? Isn't it insulting that they would make fun of addiction to technology to sell a product? Worst of all, why would a person buy the product after seeing the

commercial?

It is no secret that people communicate much differently in the world today. There is much less face-to-face talking and much more media communication. Sprint has a right to flaunt this and should. But what they shouldn't do is rub it in the face of the people who buy their products. There is no dignity in breaking up with a person over the Internet or even over the phone.

Sprint puts these people face to face and still has them sending each other messages. People may find it amusing, but Sprint is in

fact making fun of our addiction to their technology; showing people looking directly at each other and still sending messages to get their points across.

Our loss of voice is apparent in the sense that we can hide behind our machines and allow them to tell people how we feel rather than facing the reality that no matter how the message gets out, it is still us who are creating the message.

Not only is it bad for those buying the product, but it is sending a terrible message to the young people who will be using the tech-

nology soon enough. Rather than trying to fix the problem, these companies are making it worse. Are we really to the point where we text a person while we're sitting across from them? And if we are at that point, isn't it our responsibility to stop it?

Instead, we continue to buy the products and sink back into our little virtual worlds where we are safe. The commercials are there to show us where we are headed and all we see is a new product and a quick laugh. The problem is, we are laughing at ourselves.

America works

By Yves Saint-Louis

America works. Americans have the freedom to earn the lifestyle they choose. It takes plenty of hard work and no excuses. Excuses encourage slackers. The way America works is by a system of checks and balances. The wealthy top percent of our nation, our wonderful elected officials, and the citizens of this wonderful country should be our check and balance each other.

I hear comments all the time

about how this country doesn't work, or how our government has too much control, and Americans are too greedy. Some statements might have a little truth to them. Others show just how unappreciative some people are of the freedoms this country gave us and gives us daily.

But, is our system really failing the USA? No. As our nation crawls slowly out of the economic

sinkhole, the wealthiest people are building a world-changing charity group. Elected officials are bickering about minute issues that could be solved by fifth graders without egos. And the citizens of America are demonstrating resiliency more than ever in my lifetime through giving and brotherhood.

The philanthropy group led by Bill Gates and Warren Buffet is gathering billionaires to pledge

half of their net worth to charity over the rest of their lifetime or at death. Not only could this amount of power and resources change philanthropy as most know of, this could potentially change the world through medical breakthroughs, technological advances, and hopefully change the quality of life for many human beings in dire need.

What have you pledged? If this isn't America working, what

is? How about the political atmosphere? The last presidential election sparked a well overdue chance for America to glance in the mirror. Such as, politicians were forced to rethink working for lobbyists over their constituents, race relations being truly discussed, and the opportunity to prove to the world that we are a superpower for a reason.

Continued on Page 5

Did you watch that TV show?

Stargate SG-1

By Corey Jones

When many of us think science fiction television, we think of Star Trek, Star Wars, and all those horrible, awful, no-good, very-bad Sci-Fi Channel (since changed to Syfy Channel) “specials.” In fact, should we be unfortunate enough to turn to the Syfy channel on a Saturday morning, we get scarred for life by utterly regrettable special effects.

But, those poorly-constructed horror flicks on Saturday mornings are not the only thing that Syfy airs. Many of us at Southern Poly have heard of the television series Stargate SG-1, a series commonly shown on the Syfy channel. You might have seen an episode here or there, but as someone who has watched the entire Stargate franchise (to date), I would say that many of the episodes contain information that builds across the series, so watching one episode out of the blue is not an accurate representation of the entire series. Some episodes are amazingly good, while others are clearly filler. It’s the luck of the draw.

Stargate SG-1 is an overall amazing series. For how many hours of play that exist (214 45-minute episodes, that’s about 9600 minutes of entertainment) and when the series started airing (1997), the series has surprisingly good special effects. Despite the reputation of the Syfy channel as being limited to horror films and the oddities of the movie industry, Stargate SG-1 proves otherwise. Though Stargate SG-1’s effects are not at the same level as Avatar, they do not distract or detract from the show. However, the effects are not the only reason to watch Stargate SG-1.

Stargate SG-1 explores many things as a science fiction series that could not normally be explored, such as situations and predicaments that humanity will not see for another millennium, if at all. Its plot is sound. There’s enough plot to keep the plot-mongers interested, and yet it doesn’t swamp the viewers who just want to have a good time.

So, what is Stargate SG-1 about? The story revolves around the adventures of a team of soldiers known as SG-1. They travel through a portal found in Egypt capable of near-instantaneous interstellar travel. As the series opens, SG-1 battles an evil race of beings known as the Goa’uld who are parasites that inhabit humans and take control of their actions, reigning as gods across their respective planets.



Pulling from Egyptian mythology, the enemies have a distinctive Egyptian theme for the first seven seasons, while the teams from Earth have a McGyver-like premise. This comparison does come as a surprise when the star of the first several seasons is Richard Dean Anderson, the actor who played McGyver in the series with the same name. As the series moves on, the bad guys are defeated; not just at the end of every episode, but as a whole, and there are other evils that move in, creating even more harrowing experiences for the characters (and deaths for Daniel Jackson).

Stargate SG-1 is an easy series to follow, if you start at the beginning. Though many of the episodes have plots that are independent from the rest of the series, many of the episodes build on previous episodes. Most importantly, the jokes and references the characters use as the series progresses lose their meaning if you don’t know what they are referring to, such as the “and deaths for Daniel Jackson” in the last paragraph. The easiest way to start at the beginning is Netflix. Netflix has the entire franchise available on instant play, so you don’t even need to sign up to get DVDs. Netflix charges a small fee of \$7.99 per month for unlimited instant play. The reason I recommend Netflix is because it is user-friendly, there are no commercials, and you can watch a series (or franchise in this case) from beginning to end in order.

I give Stargate SG-1 five stars (out of five stars), and I recommend it to anyone with an open mind and an open schedule.

The Hangover: Part II

By Neisha Holliday

On May 26th Warner Bros. Pictures released *The Hangover* starring...Wait, excuse me, *The Hangover Part II*, or as I like to call it, the original *Hangover* movie just set in Thailand. Nearly everything about this movie is the same, including the marketing that preceded the movie’s release (if you have time, watch both movie trailers on Youtube as they were cut in the same fashion).

The only difference: Part II isn’t as funny. In this reincarnation of the original, there are only minor cast changes, like the addition of Mason Lee who plays Stu’s soon-to-be brother in law, Teddy, while the other three leads (Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms) remain the same. There wasn’t any growth in their characters. Well, let me backtrack on that point. Alan had a very noticeable change: He progressed from the man-child Galifianakis has become typecast to play, to an all out psychopath.

The other two leads (we are not going to count Justin Bartha who plays Doug because, honestly,



who cares about Doug? Thankfully, he was left behind again for the majority of this movie just as he was in the last) recognize how unstable and potentially dangerous Alan is, and as such, they are reluctant to invite him on to Stu’s wedding in Thailand. But as fate would have it, he is allowed to join the rest of his “wolf pack” and thus the second round of amnesia and hilarity begins.

Regarding the film’s notewor-

thy moments, the hype over the guest stars (remember how it was announced that Mel Gibson would be briefly in it until his career took a nosedive?) is completely overrated. I’m not going to spoil anything, but to say the least, I cringed when one of the “guest stars” was presented at the end of the film.

Despite its flaws, I still let out a few hearty guffaws largely due to Galifianakis, Helms, (Cooper was too busy making sure he was handsome) and a very cute monkey. God, that monkey - It was one of the highlights, I enjoyed it better than the guest stars and Mr. Chow (played by *Community*’s Ken Jeong, who was one neck and eye roll away from driving me nuts).

Anyway, I give this film a B-, and only because of the monkey. This film is better enjoyed with a group of friends and/or a large audience. Huge fans of the first may be slightly disappointed if they were counting on a better version of the original, but I highly doubt they’ll give up on the franchise which will no doubt continue on after the box office numbers roll in.

From the game lab

L.A. Noire

By Jared Sanchez

A man sits across from you. Smoke billows from him as he nervously drags from his cigarette. The room is dark, dimly lit by the small lamp on the table. Your partner’s silhouette looms in the corner behind the nervous, fidgeting man. This chump is nervous for a reason: the three of you sit in one of the interrogation rooms of the LAPD’s Wilshire Precinct.

Not five minutes ago you pinched this thug in a nice suit behind a speakeasy on 6th and Broadway. Not before finding the stiff he left behind a couple of blocks down of course. The bluenose that gave you the high-hat earlier has now come down with the heebie-jeebies after you colored him to be the perp. After composing himself to be real spiffy and smooth, he asks if you have any proof to back the accusation. Matter of fact, you do.

You show this wise-guy that not only do you have the gun that he stowed in a trash bin but also an eye-witness from a dame on the corner. He snaps his cap. Preaching about how the sap was asking for it. How the guy was being a real anti-Semite and ruining his business. He hits the brakes, realizing it’s out of the bag now. Your partner chuckles and cuffs him. You got your confession. Case Closed. And that is only a fraction of what you can expect with L.A. Noire.

The RockStar/Team Bondi production is a solid detective game set in 1940s L.A. Unlike Rockstar’s previous franchises, this game tips the hat more towards the point-and-click adventure games of old instead of the crime-ridden sandboxes that you are more accustomed to playing.

This game is heavily adapted from the works of James Ellory, a well-known noir fiction writer. You can often find a few winks and nods here and there that pay homage to some of his well-known work like *The Black Dahlia* and *L.A. Confidential*. While you may be getting the expected cop vs. robbers’ quality shootouts and car chases, you will be spending most of your time being a detective.

The game progresses in an episodic way in which you go from case-to-case. In the game, you assume the role of Cole Phelps, a war hero turned cop, and you go through his career working cases for the LAPD. All of the cases are divided up among four main desks: Traffic, Homicide, Vice and Arson. Each case starts off with the crime scene, which you must comb through to

find evidence.

The game does a good job in assisting you in finding evidence, using musical cues and vibration to alert you that evidence is nearby. You can then manipulate the evidence, using the analog, to inspect and find even more subtle clues. These clues and any other information you gather becomes crucial to the second part of the investigation, i.e. questioning suspects. This is where the impressive, if not jaw-dropping, facial animation becomes an important part of the game play.

I absolutely enjoyed the level of detail of the faces and the expressions that the characters make; it is often jarringly realistic. However the downside is that the facial animation doesn’t mesh that well with the body animations and it makes the characters appear awkward at times. As you question them, you need to read the suspects face for subtle tells and make the judgment of whether to accuse them of lying, to push further, or to accept their statements as truth.

You have to heavily rely on the facts and your own hunches on each case in order to successfully solve it. Outside of cases is where you will find plenty to do in the open-world of 1940s L.A. Often, there will be street crimes which you have the option of preventing. These crimes vary from talking a jumper down to preventing a large scale bank heist.

As a whole, the game sticks to the procedural process of being a detective investigating a crime in episodic chunks while still presenting a solid narrative over the duration of Phelps’s career. The 1940s theme in this game is well researched in that it touches upon the societal contexts of the era. It comes out to being a gorgeous setting filled with memorable characters and themes.

The maturity of the game is also worth noting. It is a rare thing in games to have a mature theme/storyline that treats the player like an adult as opposed to using its maturity to make it entertaining. In fact, in some of the cases the mature themes of this game can be disturbing but all the more motivating to arrest the one responsible. This game takes its sophistication to a classy level; it takes it seriously and suspects that you will do the same. It is refreshing to have a mainstream game bring a dark, straight-faced mature theme to the player. I highly recommend this game and thus give it a 9.5/10.

ADS ARE
FREE
FOR SPSU ORGANIZATIONS
Contact:  sting@spsu.edu

Invisible

By Victoria Allen

You can see nothing
It's just a figment of your imagination
It isn't what it seems
You can see nothing
It is invisible to your eyes
See thru, not capable of seeing the truth
Blind, can't see the forest for the trees
You can see nothing
Don't understand what's really happening
Don't know why it keeps happening
Don't care if it gets fixed, clueless
You can see nothing
Opaque, cloudy overcast in the sky
Headlights not bright enough to shine thru
Darkness for the rest of your life
You can see nothing
Unless you stop being invisible
Show yourself; take off the mask of deception
Put on the face of intelligence



Open your eyes

By Victoria Allen

Take off the blindfold and put on the bifocals
The eye is in the beholder, as the old saying goes

Dream a new vision for your future
Open your eyes to the past and enhance your potential

For the present is the only thing that counts
Neither the past nor the future

For if you don't change what's happening now
There will be no other opportunity

Meet Stinger

By Judy Garrard

I announced a contest in the March issue that we were looking for a new mascot. There were no entries received—zero, zip, nada. I can't express enough how shocked I was about that.

In the meantime, our former assistant editor (who graduated in the spring), Yang Jiao, drew up this version of a hornet based on an idea I had.

His name is Stinger—he's Sting's (SPSU's mascot) cousin and loves to read *The Sting*.

He's not officially our mascot and technically the contest hasn't ended; but we will use him to represent us unless something better comes along.

Contest entries can be submitted to sting@spsu.edu



Fun with accounting

By Alexander Hartel

Unfortunately, many accounting textbooks include very complicated definitions of common accounting terms. I have provided a list of more straightforward explanations of various terms you might find in financial statements or accounting literature. I hope you find it helpful.

1. Net income: a synonym for operating income in the fishing industry.
2. Gross profit: the type of income earned by sewage plants.
3. Liquid assets: what Coca-Cola has a lot of.
4. Current assets: electrical equipment.
5. Cash equivalents: counterfeit money.
6. Work in progress: an incompetent CEO.
7. Accumulated depreciation: junk that has piled up in the corners of the factory; a potential fire hazard.
8. Operating income: common to hospitals, reflects earnings from surgeries.
9. Par value: a term used in the sporting goods industry; refers to the quality of golf-club inventories.
10. Accounts receivable turnover: a type of pastry.
11. Operating cycle: another name for Harley-Davidson's finished goods inventory account.
12. Book value: another name for Barnes & Noble's merchandise inventory account.
13. Long-term liabilities: incompetent executives.
14. Intangibles: love, happiness, courage, creativity, etc.
15. Fair value: popular under IFRS; assuming convergence, it would replace the use of unfair value under U.S. GAAP.
16. Restricted cash: common among small businesses; this account is created when the proprietor stores money in a safe and then forgets the lock combination.
17. Stock appreciation expenses: expenditures made by the HR department for the purchase of cake, confetti, banners, etc., for use on Stock Appreciation Day.
18. Engagement planning: a lot easier than wedding planning.
19. Noncurrent assets: antiques
20. Dual-dating: when two guys and two girls go out to eat together.
21. Internal auditor: another name for an internal control freak.

America works

Continued from Page 3

Did you vote? Is this America at work?

Last but not least, the tragic natural disasters covering our country have been bittersweet. On a global scale, America has attempted to help with our military, charitable networks, and individual volunteer-

ing groups. People have lost lives, family, history, everything they own, and are being forced to get up by their bootstraps to keep living. If you lost everything, who would be the first person you help?

Well, across America we have witnessed people helping people.

People who pull together as a community, tribe, family, nation, brothers and sisters, as Americans to help give familiar and unfamiliar faces an attempt rebuild. Brick by brick, we rebuild. Rebuilding has always seemed to work for America. America works.

The girl on campus

Advice from one girl's perspective

If you're reading this it means you are stuck on campus this summer. So this month's column is dedicated to Staycation Fun! Just because you are being a responsible, studious scholar doesn't mean you can't have fun this summer. A staycation is a vacation in your own backyard. You treat your hometown like a vacation spot, enjoying all the city has to offer. So here is my top 10 list of staycation fun!

10. The High Museum of Art. Whether you are interested in art or are looking for a cheap date idea, the High is a great staycation idea. Did you know that SPSU has formed an alliance with the High? Now SPSU students can go to the art museum FREE of charge! All you have to do is show your current student ID.

9. Hit the pool. Nothing says summer quite like soaking up the rays (with sun block of course) and splashing in cool water. Get your friends together, pack a cooler, and make a day of it. Or go solo and bring a captivating book.

8. Hike up Kennesaw Mountain. Pick a cooler day, or go early in the morning. After, play with a ball or frisbee in the nearby park grounds.

7. Beat the heat and head indoors. Recapture your youth and go to a roller rink or a bowling alley. Bonus: Now, you might be over 21 and can have a beer while you knock down the pins.

6. Explore your favorite downtown neighborhood. For me, it's Little Five Points. I love the shopping and dining.



5. Check out Six Flags! It can be fun to go ride all the roller coasters, eat junk food, and play carnival games. They even have a brand new roller coaster.

4. Be a tourist for the day! Head downtown and check out all the touristy sights: The Aquarium, World of Coke, and Centennial Park. This is a great idea if you have out of town friends or family visiting you. Hint: Kids love the zoo!

3. Catch a sports game. Go down to the ball park and pick up a couple of nosebleed seats really cheap. With the money you save treat yourself to a meal at the Varsity. Bonus: You guessed it; if you're over 21, this is another opportunity for an ice cold beer.

2. Tube down the Chattahoochee. What can be more vacation-like than just sitting back and watching the world float by?

1. Go on a mini vacation. Atlanta is within driving distance of many fun excursions including Savannah, Tybee Island, and Hilton Head Island. It's amazing how indulgent a 3 day vacation can feel after you've been hitting the books.

If you want the Girl on Campus's advice, you may email me at SPSUGirlonCampus@gmail.com, or you can slip it under the door of The Sting office (located in the Student Center).

Whatcha doin' this summer?

By Ronald Ellerbee

If you have been wondering what to do this summer, you're not alone. I went around campus to see what plans people have for the summer. If you don't have a clue about what to do, maybe some of these student's comments will help you decide. Personally, I have summer school; but that's not going to stop me from doing anything. I purchased game tickets for the Atlanta Braves and also plan to use my student ID card to go to the High Museum a couple of times.

Lorie Byrd says she's taking summer classes. She has a six-year old son and plans on taking him to the park and to the Renaissance Festival in Fairburn, Georgia. And she also plans on taking him to the Fernbank museum to see the dinosaurs.



Cedric Tchabat is new to the Georgia area. He's from Cameroon, Africa and plans on going to Six Flags and taking summer classes. He has been here five months and has seven more months to complete his degree.



Richie Spencer is a junior at Georgia Highlands. He plans on looking for a summer job, going to raves, hanging out and mixing as a DJ.



Gregg Van Duren plans on hanging out with his sisters and brothers, playing golf and basketball, finding a job and finishing up getting his degree.



Photos by Ronald Ellerbee

Summertime is here, so now what?

By Andrew Hurd

Ahhh, summer. For many of us here at SPSU the changing of the seasons coincides with the finishing of finals and the introduction of some relaxation time. So the question is raised, what is there to do during the summer for students who have few or no classes, especially those living on campus without cars? Luckily there is plenty to do in the great area around our campus, even if you are limited to the bus line and the shoe-leather express.

White Water Atlanta: This Six Flags owned and operated

waterpark is right down the street from our campus on 41 North. The park can be reached via a 10 minute drive, a 30 minute walk or a 15 minute bus trip on CCT route 45. Tickets are \$29.99 each, but a season pass only costs \$59.99, making it the best option. Parking can be a bit pricey at \$12 per day, or \$75 for the season, but the season pass can be used at Six Flags as well.

Marietta Square: Located just down South Marietta Pkwy about 7 minutes via car, 30 minutes on foot or 15 minutes via CCT

Route 15, the Square is packed with good stuff. Loaded with ice cream shops, bakeries, a movie theatre and a green suitable for picnics, the Square frequently hosts live music and festivities, and even features a Gone With the Wind museum. Also, the all-day 4th of July celebrations held at the Square are not to be missed! Show up early to get a good spot for the fireworks. Visit <http://www.mariettasquare.com/> for more information.

AMF Bowling Lanes: Off Hwy 41, not even a mile from cam-

pus, the bowling alley makes for a great source of local entertainment. Specials vary by day and time and can land you some great discounts, such as unlimited bowling and shoes for a fixed price. Call them at 770-427-4696 to find out what specials are being offered.

Also, don't forget how close we are to the great city of Atlanta! For students without cars, CCT runs a bus (#10) which heads down I-75 to the MARTA station at the Arts Center downtown. From here it is easy to utilize MARTA to get

anywhere in the city. There is an endless supply of things to do downtown and places to explore. From Braves games, Centennial Park, The Georgia Aquarium, The World of Coke, Historic Oakland Cemetery, or concerts at The Tabernacle or The Masquerade, the city holds an exciting array of entertainment options. So get out there, enjoy your summer and we look forward to hearing your adventure stories in the fall!



Summer sun

By Elizabeth Garner

Happy summer SPSU students! Maybe you're a lucky soul who isn't taking summer classes – or maybe you are taking summer classes but are making plenty of time for fun in the sun. I, too, began this summer with the sun in mind – but for an entirely different reason.

You should know that I have always been pale. You could say that my legs glow in the winter. I have always worn sunscreen and rarely ever get sunburned. As I've gotten older, I just realized I don't tan well. At 21 years old I have accepted my milky white skin as my own.

About six months ago, the tiniest clear bump appeared on my nose. About this size: (). It was perfectly round and since it was clear, it didn't bother me in

the slightest. My mother told me I should go to the dermatologist, but I brushed it off. Fast forward to May. I'm getting married in August of this year so I officially decided the clear bump was a nuisance. I made the dermatologist appointment. "Oh, we'll take that right off," he said. Two minutes later, the doctor jammed numbing shots into said bump and lopped it off. And I thought that was the end of it.

A week later, I got an unexpected call. "Elizabeth, we got the results back from the biopsy we did on your nose last week. There were some basal cells present. You need to come back for a second appointment."

I thought only people who constantly tanned were at risk; as for me, I usually avoid the sun. I

immediately went to the Internet to do some research. My skin cancer diagnosis was basal cell carcinoma. Sometimes starts as a clear or pinkish bump. Apparently, unknown to me, it is common in light-skinned people. The least scary type of skin cancer as far as they go, but still skin cancer nonetheless. Did I mention it was smack dab on the middle of my nose? And I'm getting married in August?

At my appointment the following week, we discussed surgery options. This was getting scary, fast. At most I thought they would give some pills or some cream to rub in there. But we were talking open-nose surgery here. I chose a procedure called Mohs to be preformed ASAP. Apparently it's better to get the cancer out sooner

rather than later. The bump on top that they cut off had just been the tip of the iceberg—there were little cancerous roots still down in my nose.

The next week, a week before my 21st birthday, I went under the knife. We were in the doctor's office a total of four hours. My doctor did a lot of nose numbing, some gross cancer removing and then stitched me up.

All of this happened in the short course of a month. I found out I had skin cancer, I had it removed, and now I have this little pink cut across my nose that is beginning to heal. At this point in the story, you may be wondering if I have a point—expect the unexpected. At the beach I wore sunscreen, sunglasses and sunhats—and still

ended up with skin cancer. You can't be too careful.

I would like to end with a few sun safety tips from WebMD:

1. Sunscreen is important! Apply before you go out in the sun and then periodically throughout the day. Don't forget sensitive areas like ears and feet.
2. Get weird freckles or spots checked out regularly.
3. A study showed that people who drink coffee tend to have a less chance of developing non-melanoma skin cancer later in life.
4. Avoid the tanning bed. Yeah, it makes you tan, but it can be dangerous.
5. Use a high SPF with UVA and UVB protection.
6. Wear a cool sun hat!

My forty-something Southern Poly adventure

By: Sharon L. Roberts

I sat in a classroom full of fellow students looking around to see what has changed since I last sat in a college classroom. I had changed! I seemed to be *the oldest person in the room*, even older than the teacher!

How did I end up here? Well it was shortly after my 42nd birthday. It was an evening of reflecting and reconstructing my life feeling that I was not totally complete. I was having nightmares about not getting my degree and was waking up really perplexed as to what those dreams meant.

For years I had been telling family members and my children that I was going to go back to college to get my degree. It would be excuse after excuse that served as roadblocks in that decision. The last time I darkened the halls of a college campus the year was 1989. I have since founded two companies, worked for two fortune 500 companies and added to the world's population by embracing motherhood; still missing something.

It was the day my 16 year old brought home his report card with a note from the teacher that he was not focused, not challenging

himself enough and the bottom line was he could do much better. I sat him down and explained to him the importance of education. I gave him the speech on success and never giving up and I could see all he was hearing was, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah!

I became frustrated. He did not understand the importance of his education and the necessary tools he needed to get from high school in order to get into college. My frame of mind changed within an instant of him reciting his next line: "Mom, you just don't know how it is in school today." After that I heard nothing else he said. It was all blah, blah, blah, blah. I had to show him what I was telling him. I had to show myself that I was right. I was going back to school.

It was a company layoff that allowed me the time to step back and reevaluate where I was, where I wanted to be and where my next journey was going. Gone are the days when hard work and long hours can afford you advancement up the corporate ladder.

Life happens and it was happening all around me. This was the chance to enrich my mind, change

my profession and add on life experience number 999.

I have lived half a lifetime and still was feeling like I was not completely fulfilled. It was the nagging feeling that something in my life was missing and I knew what it was. I needed to get my degree.

The process was more difficult in my mind than it actually was. My first step was to get my transcripts. No problems there. Apply to Southern Polytechnic State University and hope to get an acceptance letter. No problems there either.

I followed everything and checked off all my tasks until the day came to go to class and I did not follow through. I called the Registrar's office to inform them that I was still interested but that I needed more time. I was kindly informed to just change my semester from fall to spring and be prepared to start classes in January.

I was scared, but of what?

The majority of seasoned students are growing in numbers. Whether it is the job market that is calling for updated skill sets or the mind needing a refresher course, colleges are experiencing an increase in a population of students

that are 40-years young and above.

I felt like the opening credits of the Mary Tyler Moore Show when she stands on a street corner and tosses her hat in the air (most of you are too young to get this). I made it.

My first days at Southern Poly were sobering. I was walking across the campus with a tear or two at the fact that I had made it. The books that were loading down my bag did not seem to slow down my steps and the homework assignments I had embraced like it was a paycheck. I had arrived and the sheer fact that I was in class thinking was a high that no manufactured drug could produce. There is something about knowledge that fuels the chemicals in the brain to euphoria.

In one of my classes we had to go around the room and tell the class a little about who we are. I thought to myself, tell the class a little about myself, oh no! They still do that? I began to ponder on what I wanted to disclose. I have had a lifetime of things I can share and the filter of what I wanted to say was at that point a bit clogged.

I faintly heard my cue, "Sharon it's your turn." I stood up and I said, "The last time I sat in a classroom



The art of parkour

By Brandon Woods

There are many physical activities people do these days; some people do yoga, some do martial arts, others play disc golf, soccer, football, and the list goes on and on. Recently though, a new physical discipline has been added to the ranks, and that discipline is Parkour.

Parkour is all about getting from one building to another as quickly and efficiently as possible. Sure, walking from one building to another may require just a few steps, no Parkour necessary, but getting to the top of a building several stories high, that is when Parkour becomes quite the phenomenon.

Parkour is not freerunning - to those of you who don't know what freerunning is, it is using the terrain to perform tricks and flips across the area. Parkour does not utilize this because it is inefficient and it slows you down, which is bad because Parkour is all about momentum. Seriously, a 20-foot jump can quickly turn into a 20-foot drop, without the right amount of momentum.

Parkour started with a man named Georges Herbert, a naval officer who, while in Africa, noticed the amazing athletic abilities of those in indigenous tribes whose only gym was living in nature itself. He eventually developed a motto that said "be strong in order to be useful".

Herbert, being inspired by the indigenous tribes, became a physical education instructor at Reims College in France, where he developed his "natural method," a

form of training that was broken down into ten groups: walking, running, jumping, moving on all fours, climbing, balancing, throwing, lifting, self-defense, and swimming. This "natural method" would soon evolve into what we know of today as Parkour.

David Belle's father Raymond raised David on the "natural method" and in 1997, David Belle, along with eight other colleagues, created the art of Parkour, though one colleague, Sebastien Foucan, left the ground to create what was later

How a Traceur goes to class



Photos by Brandon Woods

to be known as freerunning. The others have since then been growing and working towards teaching others about the philosophies of Parkour and expanding the physical discipline across the world.

David Belle has become well known in Europe and even parts of the U.S. where there are videos

people don't get injured by it.

It is believed that since traceurs are simply using their own bodies

Jumping is fundamental in the natural method



there is a lot less room to lose control than those who use skateboards or rollerblades. Still, with its dangers, Parkour has received a large following in Europe, especially France where it originated. Even in the U.S., Parkour is growing more and more popular. There are even gyms designed specifically for the discipline. There are websites dedicated to it, organizations, online tutorials, YouTube videos, and more.

One SPSU student, who chose to remain anonymous, seems determined to use SPSU as a Parkour training area. You may have seen this person, running or jumping

around campus, climbing a wall, or walking along a rail. He is always dedicating his time and energy towards improving his abilities in Parkour. He believes, "Parkour is an extension on our natural abilities, it requires nothing to learn except your own determination."

That's what makes Parkour so amazing. It helps you use your body to its fullest potential. Parkour is meant to help people overcome mental, emotional, and physical barriers. Constantly improving oneself to become more useful.

It may only be a few years old now, but Parkour is starting to become more and more mainstream and has almost reached a point of commonality in some parts of the world. Architects are even designing new "Parkour-Accessible" buildings and areas. Pretty soon, the anonymous SPSU student won't be the only person climbing around our campus. There may even be a day where SPSU has its own gym dedicated to the discipline.

Parkour can have a profound effect on the future. There may even be a day when people will go out and travel, and not using your car would be the norm. People could Parkour to work, school, even Parkour to areas where they can practice Parkour. If the philosophies are held true, and it is accepted, Parkour could turn out to help a lot of people across the world.



HIGH historical architecture in Atlanta

By Jessika Nelson

Starting as a household collection of art in 1926, many of the first pieces to the High Museum's permanent collection were donated by the Haverty and High family. From then on, the museum began to flourish, and eventually needed two architectural revolutionists. The Richard Meier building and Renzo Piano expansion make what many today know as the High Museum of Art.

Richard Meier's innovative

modern design in 1983 brought people from all over the world to admire his architectural design, while viewing the High Museum's exhibits. Meier constructed a steel frame structure, concrete slabs for each level, and white enameled steel cladding on the exterior. He intended to let light into the museum in a way that would not damage the artwork.

To him, the light inside the museum symbolized the "illumina-

tion" of art in architecture and society. Meier believed this museum had a "role as a place of aesthetic illumination and enlightened cultural values" which binds society and architecture.

With the growing exhibitions and funding at the High Museum in 2005, an addition was commissioned by Renzo Piano. The High Museum Expansion included a courtyard piazza, small eatery and many additional exhibition build-

ings in order to form more of an "art campus."

Piano used Meier's inspiration of letting in light and continuing the flow of cultural connection throughout his additions. Piano designed in hopes of making the experience inside the museum like small interconnecting, flowing pockets of exhibition space. This intention leads us to experience the High Museum without ever realizing it was not completed all

at the same time.

Now understanding the architects' intentions, viewing the architectural success might appear as an artwork on its own. As many students already know, the High Museum of Art is free to SPSU students. Making a trip to Midtown in the upcoming months will land you on a wide range of art work, from the Radcliffe Bailey exhibit to the John Marin's Watercolors exhibit, both beginning June 26, 2011.

Hockey no more!

By Robert Barnard

The Atlanta Thrashers are packing to head up north after the announcement that they will start the next NHL season in Winnipeg, Manitoba after spending 12 seasons in Atlanta. This is the second time that the city of Atlanta has lost a NHL franchise. The first franchise to be lost was the Flames that moved to Calgary after spending 8 seasons in Atlanta.

What may have led to the sale of the Thrashers? We will take a look at the history of the franchise to analyze the sale of the team.

In 1997 the city of Atlanta is awarded an expansion franchise

to begin play two years later to coincide with the opening of Philips Arena. This happens 17 years after the loss of the first franchise. The team stems its name from the state bird of Georgia.

In 1999 the Thrashers lost their first game to the New Jersey Devils; this was a sign of things to come for the rest of the 1999-2000 season with the Thrashers finishing a meager 14-61-7.

In 2002-2003, the team fires original head coach Curt Fraser after a dismal 8-25 start to their fourth season. The team would eventually hire Bob Hartley to be

the new head coach.

Dany Heatley, an emerging star for the team, is involved in a high-speed car crash that kills teammate Dan Snyder. Struggling to cope with the memory of the crash, Heatley would ask for a trade, and is sent to Ottawa in 2005.

The Atlanta Spirit group buys the team in 2004, as well as operating rights to Philips Arena. In 2006 the team had a glimmer of hope after winning the Southeast Division and making the playoffs for the first time.

In 2007 the Thrashers lose the first six games and fire Hartley as

their coach. Don Waddell would serve the rest of the season as interim head coach.

Ilya Kovalchuk is sent to New Jersey in 2009 over contract disputes. This move by the ownership enraged the fans who did not believe the ownership was doing enough financial backing to produce a winning team.

This past year the Atlanta Spirit group conceded that due to high losses of revenue, the team must find another owner to avoid a move. Upon missing the playoffs for the tenth time in 11 seasons, the owners begin negotiations with True North

Sports and Entertainment. The deal is complete on May 31, 2011 moving the Thrashers to Winnipeg pending the leagues approval.

This is difficult to grasp having three other thriving sports franchises in the city. Maybe hockey is just not a good fit for Atlanta. This is also difficult to believe with the current influx of northerners moving south to Georgia. Whatever the reason may be behind the move of the Thrashers it is a safe bet that Atlanta may never host another NHL team in the future.



2011 college football preview

By Robert Barnard

Now that all the college football spring practices and scrimmages are in the books, it is time to take a look at the 2011 college football season. Whether you are a fan of the SEC, BIG TEN, BIG 12, ACC, BIG EAST, or the all new PAC 12 we will let you know who is favored to win each conference before play even starts.

Let's start off with a look at the Atlantic Coast Conference. After the spring, the Florida State Seminoles are number one in the power rankings. This ranking is because QB - EJ Manuel is set to become the unquestioned leader of the Florida State offense. The Seminoles are also returning 18 starters from last year's team.

We now move to the South Eastern Conference. The Louisiana State University Tigers have rebounded to the top of the conference again. Even with the loss of some of their major players, Les Miles has plenty of talent to choose from on his depth chart. Jordan Jefferson looks to be the play caller for the Tigers after a good spring. The offense should be a good complement this year to the LSU defense.

The BIG TEN that is now comprised of 12 teams has had a major shake up with the departure of Jim Tressel from the Ohio State Buckeyes. The Buckeyes were favored to win the conference for the

eight time. Wisconsin or Nebraska now looks to be at the top of the Big Ten. Michigan also could have a very good season with Brady Hoke at the helm.

Next, a preview out west of the PAC 12. Oregon appears to be poised for a third conference championship in as many years. The Ducks have returned the majority of their high powered offense that led them to the BCS championship game last year. Stanford can still pose a threat to the Ducks' chances for the PAC12 title.

As for the BIG EAST, where we find the West Virginia Mountaineers on top of their conference, Quarterback Geno Smith excelled in the spring to settle in to the new spread offense of West Virginia. We need to see if the Mountaineers can avoid losing in conference play like they have in the past to pose a threat to win this conference.

Lastly, the BIG 12 has the Oklahoma Sooners on top once again. The Sooners are led by quarterback Landry Jones and receiver Ryan Broyles. Even with the loss of their former offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson, the Sooners with be tough on the offensive side of the ball. The defense will be stout with their outstanding line backing core.

Now, let's get local. We will start with the University of Georgia. This is a pivotal year for the

Bulldogs who have lost 12 games over the last two seasons. Quarterback Aaron Murray is entering his second season under center and has a new addition in the backfield of freshman running back Isaiah Crowell. The defense needs to improve in its second year under Todd Grantham to get back to a winning season.

Georgia Tech has a little uncertainty under center with the departure of Josh Nesbitt. Tevin Washington is at the top of the depth chart but had a less than satisfactory performance in the spring game. Even with the addition of Synjyn Days in the Yellow Jacket back field, the fortunes of this year's team lies with Al Groh's 3-4 defense. The defense needs to play better to help support the growing offense.

Lastly, we will look at the Georgia State Panthers. Georgia State is entering their second season of college football. They have improved this spring and Kelton Hill has the advantage for the starting quarterback position. The Panthers have also elected the permanent team captains for the 2011 season. Arthur Williams will be the offensive captain, Christo Bilukidi will lead as defensive captain, and Akeem Felder will be the special team's captain for the Panthers.

Write for The Sting
Send to: sting@spsu.edu

Clutch hitting pulls the Braves through in extras

By Kyle Carney

While the Braves' bats have not been lighting up the world, they got off to a hot start to begin the game on June 8. Schafer led off the game with a single to right, bringing up Alex Gonzalez. Gonzalez smashed a ball to deep center and it looked like the Braves beginning a strong first inning; Chris Coghlan had other plans when he ran down the fly ball and made a spectacular diving catch to save a run. The Braves didn't allow it to stall them, however.

Schafer found another way to get himself into scoring position by snagging second base. After Chipper flied out to center, McCann came up and singled up the middle to bring home Schafer and give the Braves a one nothing lead in the 1st. The Braves tacked on another run in the 5th.

Yet again, Schafer played a major role in starting the rally. With 2 outs, he smashed a triple to center. Gonzalez came to bat and sat on a low outside pitch to drive it into center field. It was Gonzalez's first hit with 2 outs and a runner in scoring position this season. Hitting with 2 outs would be a recurring theme for the Braves this game.

Derek Lowe started for the Braves, putting together a stellar performance over 6.2 innings of work, giving up only 2 hits and no runs. The only threat the Marlins managed against Lowe was in the bottom of the 7th, when Greg Dobbs singled on a ball that just alluded a diving Gonzalez up the middle to break up the no hitter. Gaby Sanchez followed with a single of

his own. Lowe walked John Buck next to end his night. Eric O'Flaherty came in and struck out Mike Stanton with the bases loaded to end the threat.

After striking out the first 2 batters in the bottom of the 9th, it looked as if Craig Kimbrel was going to cruise to his 19th save this season. Instead, he walked Logan Morrison and then gave up a double to John Buck. Mike Stanton stepped to the plate and went down 0-2 on 2 straight fastballs. Stanton sat on the 0-2 pitch, hitting a ground ball past the diving Freddie Freeman and scoring both runner to tie the game. Kimbrel struck out the next hitter, sending the game into extras.

It didn't take long for the Braves to get it going in the 10th. After Chipper Jones walked, McCann and Freeman hit back to back singles up the middle to plate Jones and retake the lead. Scott Proctor came in to start the bottom of the 10th, but after a double and a walk, George Sherrill was put in. Sherrill pitched to one batter, striking him out, then handed the ball off to Scott Linebrink.

With a 2-2 count, Linebrink stuck Gaby Sanchez out looking on an 82 mph slider. McCann seemed to come out of his stance before the pitch crossed the plate, but it was a called strike nonetheless, much to the dismay of Sanchez and the Marlins.

A win is a win though, no matter how it comes.



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Kickin' it old school

By Kyle Carney

In a time when fans want to see fastbreak basketball and tape measure home runs, sports seem to be heading in the opposite direction. Sports are beginning to look more like a few decades ago.

NBA point totals are down and MLB pitching is dominating. Fans are no longer earnestly waiting for a home run to break the game open or an up and down basketball game where points come a dime a dozen. Instead, defense is dominating the NBA Finals and pitching has come back to fruition in the MLB.

So far, neither team has managed to break 100 points in the NBA Finals. Whereas most fans are looking to see non-stop scoring, it has instead been a methodical defensive series.

Both LeBron James and Dwayne Wade have attributed the success of the Miami Heat to their defense. All season long, the Heat have managed to gain their advantage by utilizing their defense. It is no surprise then, that they have taken that mindset into the playoffs.

The Mavericks, on the other hand, come from the run and gun Western Conference where games are won, not by playing defense, but by scoring. And yet here they are in the NBA Finals going toe to toe with the best athletes in the world. Not to mention scoring against one of the best defensive teams in the league.

It is reminiscent of the basketball of yore, where hard fouls were considered part of the game and not dirty play. There is a lot of banging going on in these playoffs and it is refreshing. No more ticky tack fouls where good defense is punished with trip to the foul line. This new brand of basketball is making teams earn what they get. Every point in these Finals has been earned.

Dirk Nowitzki is fighting for every shot with a hand in his face. The Mavericks are scheming against the athleticism of the Heat with a zone defense, rather than conserving their energy for more offense.

Lebron gave a speech before a Finals game in which he remarked

that if the players weren't exhausted they weren't playing hard enough. Maybe the Mavericks players overheard him too, because every player out there is playing with a full head of steam on both ends.

Baseball has also seen a shift in the guard, going from offensive powerhouses to pitching. Many critics cite this shift as the result of steroids being gone from baseball. That would mean that pitchers were not taking steroids during that era like the hitters were. One look at the Mitchell Report will show you otherwise. It is hard to explain, but for real sports fans it is a welcome sight.

Not only are pitchers dominating, but teams are not referring back to basic baseball principles like base running and bunting. All it takes is watching one game to see the difference.

Teams are now being forced to make things happen rather than wait for them to happen. This means more action on the base paths. Players are attempting more stolen bases and coaches are playing for one run instead of waiting for the three run homers. The player's true abilities are being showcased with hitting behind runners to move them over and bunting to get them in scoring position. While it may not be as exciting for the casual fan, those who truly understand the game are thrilled to see the shift.

Sports are looking better everyday. For a while there, it seemed that the technical abilities of the players were being overshadowed by their sheer athletic ability. Whereas in times past, teams were forced to create game plans that won them games, the games had become a show of athletic feats, with the credibility of the sport at the back burner.

The athletes have not lost their athletic abilities, but with the addition of the more technical aspects of the sports being implemented, a perfect medium has been reached. Sports are now as graceful to sports enthusiasts as they are entertaining for casual fans.