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THE STING

March 28, 2011

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 64, Issue 2

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Changes to HOPE: an update

Erin Reno
Assistant Editor

Tough and dramatic changes are in store for the HOPE scholarship. By the time this article is published, Gov. Nathan Deal will have signed House Bill 326 into law. The law is scheduled to go into effect this fall and could be a real game changer for many Georgia college hopefuls.

As expected, the new bill eliminates money for books and fees. However, according to The Atlanta Journal Constitution, the biggest change is that money received will no longer be tied to tuition. Instead, money will be paid out according to lottery revenue. Meaning that this fall the scholarship will pay out about 90% of what it does now.

Last year, tuition costs increased in Georgia about 16%. For the average Georgia college student, if tuition increases the same amount, HOPE will cover about 78% of tuition next year. Other

changes include more rigorous class requirements for high school students and no longer covering remedial classes for University students. However, the required GPA of 3.0 will not change.

The bill also creates the new Zell Miller Scholarship. This scholarship will cover full tuition for a select group of students. To qualify, high school students must graduate with a 3.7 GPA and have a minimum ATC score of 26 or a combined SAT score of 1200. Valedictorians and salutatorians will be eligible regardless of GPA or test scores. To maintain the Zell Miller Scholarship, college students must maintain a 3.3 GPA.

Concerns over the fairness of the new HOPE scholarship are still raging. Emory professor Devin Fergus and Georgia State professor Vincent Lloyd argue that the changes will disproportionately

affect students from rural Georgia, working class students, and black students

Senate democrats are clamoring for HOPE to become a tuition assistance program based on family income in order to eliminate these concerns. But, more changes seem unlikely since the bill has already passed both chambers. Deal has proposed a solution of \$10 million for low-interest loans to go to high school students with at least a 2.5 GPA and maintain a 2.0 in college.

HOPE is still a wonderful opportunity for many Georgia students. It still offers bright students who work hard the opportunity to go to college for free. Many states do not offer such an opportunity and it is something to be proud of. However, change was inevitable. Now that it is here we have to be prepared to deal with the consequences, good and bad.

Where did our mascot go?

Judy Garrard
Executive Editor

You may not know this, but *The Sting* has a mascot – The Squirrel. I received an interesting letter from him, and I want to share part of it with you.

I went to Cabo San Lucas for spring break. I just really needed to get away from the cold weather, and I had the best week of my life. It is the most beautiful place I've ever seen and it is so warm on my old fur.

An opportunity presented itself to me by way of a tie-dye t-shirt business that is located directly on the beach. I could not pass this up, so I am offering you my resignation. I am sorry that I was not able to give you a reasonable notice, but please feel free to replace me immediately.

I can't say that I am totally shocked. After all, the squirrel has been very hard to find lately. So this brings me to our dilemma and we could really use your help with this.

The Sting needs a new mascot, and we would like the entire student body to help us with this task. Please submit your rendition of who/what our new mascot should be. You may draw this by hand or by computer, but it must be your work. No clip art or other school logos allowed.

Please submit the following to stingeditor@gmail.com:

- Your original drawing as a jpeg or tiff file.
- A name for the mascot.
- A couple of sentences explaining the reason we should pick this mascot.
- A couple of sentences telling us what this mascot can do for us.

The winner of this contest will receive an iPod shuffle (or a comparable prize valued at \$50). *The Sting* will then own the rights to the mascot and can use this mascot in any way we feel appropriate for perpetuity.

Submissions are due by Monday, April 11, 2011, and the winner will be announced in the April issue. Please be prepared to pose for a photograph to also be included in this issue. If we do not receive entries that we feel will properly represent *The Sting*, the contest will need to be extended.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at stingeditor@gmail.com



Sketch made of The Squirrel in Cabo San Lucas by our own Lea Newlin. He is wearing one of his tie-dye t-shirt creations.

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Brandon Woods visits SPSU over spring break to watch the filming of *Four Fifteen*.

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Revolutions in the Arab World Part I

Erin Reno
Staff Writer

The Middle East has recently been a powder keg for political unrest, civil war, and political revolution. While turmoil is not new for this region, recent events seemed to have been sparked by the success of the Tunisian Revolution in which the long time president was overthrown. Egypt was soon to follow.

What is being referred to as the 2011 Egyptian Revolution by many news outlets began in late January when protesters started a campaign of civil resistance. Millions of activists from varying social, economic, and religious backgrounds participated in demonstrations, marches, acts of civil disobedience, and labor strikes. They were focused on police brutality, free elections, government corruption and economic issues including rampant unemployment and inflation. Perhaps most ardently, there was a demand for the end of "emergency law," an edict that allows police to curb constitutional rights and limit activities that are deemed anti-government. Protestors have also been calling for the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak all throughout the process.

Hosni Mubarak came to power after the assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat in 1981. His 30-year reign marked the longest in Egyptian history. Mubarak's reign has been characterized by the invariable continuation of emergency law and the presence of secret police.

Though first enacted before Mubarak's coming to power, the emergency law seriously impairs political and personal freedoms in Egypt. Under the law, censorship is legalized, constitutional rights are suspended, police power is extended, and the government has the right to imprison people indefinitely and without cause. The emergency law also severely limits anti-government organizations, demonstrations, and has led to the imprisonment, without trial, of activists in secret detention centers. MSNBC reported that President Mubarak claims that the extension of the emergency law is due to the threat of terrorism.

The West, including the United States, has supported President Mubarak's government. In fact, the United States has provided annual aid to Mubarak's government for continuance of peace with Israel and Egypt's assistance in maintaining policies that suppress Islamic militants.

On January 17, inspired by similar acts that sparked the Tunisia uprising one month earlier, a man set himself on fire in front of the Egyptian parliament as an act of protest against the poor living conditions and rising discontent in Egypt. According to the BBC, five similar incidents have been reported since the revolution has begun.

However, Al Jazeera has reported that the revolt planned for

National Police Day on January 25 truly marks the beginning of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. The purpose of the demonstration was to protest against police brutality but the focus has expanded to encompass additional issues including the end of emergency law and term limits for the president. Video blogging and social media were instrumental in spreading the word about the upcoming protest. While scheduled to take place in front of the Ministry of the Interior, according to NPR, the demonstration was considered illegal because required permission had not been acquired from the government.

According to ABC News, tens of thousands of demonstrators showed up in Cairo for the protest and thousands more gathered in cities throughout Egypt. Despite being mostly non-violent, there were reports of civilian and police casualties. Two days later the number of protesters in Cairo swelled. Government opposition leader and negotiator Mohamed ElBaradei joined the crowd in front of the Ministry. The New York Times reported that a prison break was orchestrated to terrorize the protesters. With reports of violence and looting, the military was dispatched to aid the police. Despite the rise in conflict, no major casualties were reported. In his first national address since the uprising, President Hosni Mubarak vowed to form a new government. The following day a curfew was declared which did little to squelch the activists.

On February 1, yielding to mounting pressure, Mubarak pledged political reforms and he promised that he would not be running for another term in the upcoming September elections. The following day violence escalated in Cairo when Mubarak supporters clashed with anti-government protesters. The military tried to limit the violence but there were hundreds of casualties. President Mubarak continued his refusal to step down; however a few days later negotiations began with the Egyptian Vice President Omar Suleiman and representatives of the revolutionaries.

It was announced on February 10 that Mubarak would hand over some of his power to Vice President Suleiman but that he would continue as head of state. According to BBC News, revolutionaries throughout the country who had expected Mubarak to formally resign were furious and demonstrations increased in intensity and number. Egyptians refused to accept the

terms that had been announced by Mubarak. Finally on February 11, amid massive protests Suleiman announced at 6:00pm local time that President Mubarak was stepping down and that the Supreme Council of Egyptian Armed Forces would be assigned the leadership of the country.

Two days later the Supreme Council disbanded Egypt's parliament and suspended the Constitution in response to revolutionaries' demands. In a gesture of new beginnings, the protestors cleaned up the major center of their demonstrations. While major protest subsided, according to Al Jazeera, many pledged continued protests until all demands were met.

The Supreme Council has recently selected a committee to amend the constitution and appointed Prime Minister Essam Sharaf amid threats from protestors to reoccupy central Cairo. Sharaf, an engineer, is wildly popular amongst the young people of Egypt. The BBC reports that people are drawn to him because he comes across as a civil servant ready to serve the people.

The news is not all good however. According to ABC News, Egypt has experienced an increase in criminal activity since the revolution. Distrust of the security forces since the revolution could be complicating matters. Many believe restoring law and order to the country should be a top priority for the Supreme Council. Still, others believe that the council is moving too slowly on political reform issues such as the releasing of political prisoners.

According to Fox News, while excited about their victory, activists understand that they must maintain pressure on the new intermediate government in order to maintain the implementation of reforms. Activist leader Mohamed ElBaradei publically thanked the Supreme Council for "listening to the people." Rumored to be a likely Presidential candidate, ElBaradei calls for protestors to "get down to work and start rebuilding our country."

According to Al Jazeera, the 2011 Egyptian Revolution has inspired similar demonstrations in other Arab countries including Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Libya. Next month I will break down the conflict raging in Libya. Till then, I would love to hear your feedback. If you have any strong opinions one way or another, I would love an interview.

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Letters to the editor may be brought to our office (slid under the door) in the student center, emailed to stingeditor@gmail.com, or mailed to:
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Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editor.

February Issue Corrections

Page 6: We regret that the name was spelled incorrectly on photo by Victoria Allen.

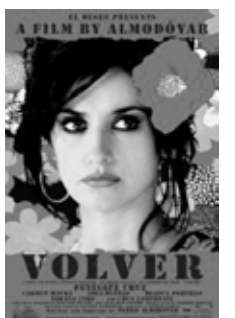
April issue articles are due Monday, April 11, 2011

International film series

Title: *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*
Description: A lonely housewife and a roving photographer form a bond when they are thrown together on a bus trip; they are threatened by religious fundamentalists and become stranded in the middle of a communal riot.
Thursday, March 31, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Student Center
Admission: FREE
Hosted by: Rajnish Singh
Released: 2002
Genre: Drama
Language: Indian and English
Country: India
Running Time: 120 Minutes



Title: *Volver*
Description: After her death, a mother returns to her home town in order to fix the situations she couldn't resolve during her life.
Thursday, April 28, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Student Center
Admission: FREE
Hosted by: Bernice Nuhfer-Halten
Starring: Penélope Cruz
Released: 2006
Genre: Comedy/Crime/Drama
Language: Spanish
Country: Spain
Running Time: 121 Minutes



Earn SPSU credit in Madrid

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 \$3,995, 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.

For questions, email Dr. Nuhfer-Halten: bnuhferh@spsu.edu.

From hopeful to hopeless?

Brandon Woods
Contributing Writer

Let's face it: if you are in college and you live in Georgia, then you automatically know the importance of the HOPE scholarship. For years it has given millions of students a chance to go to college when they otherwise might drop out, but with its recent changes, it would seem that only a very small percentage will have any hope of receiving HOPE.

For those who feel you will completely be, well, for lack of a better term, *screwed* with the new HOPE scholarship being implemented, you should not worry. Students maintaining a 3.0 will still receive a certain amount of money to cover their tuition, but being that it is now reliant on lottery revenue, the coverage will drastically change; but in all honesty it can still cover 90 percent of tuition. A ten percent drop in tuition coverage may sound drastic, but in all honesty, things could be a lot worse.

If you really need the full coverage, The Zell Miller Scholarships, a part of HOPE, covers full tuition with a 3.3 GPA. Yes, there is a great deal of change that this new HOPE scholarship will bring to the table, but for those of us who have settled in to the comfortable status that HOPE gives us when it comes to financial stability should have nothing to fear.

What's truly frightening is that full coverage is almost impossible for a returning college student who doesn't meet the Zell Miller's 3.7 GPA, and 1200 SAT requirement. College students believing they will get a fresh start and finally snatch that HOPE scholarship requirement that they have been working towards since they started college have another thing coming. Those are the people who should be upset! Talk about a letdown.

In all honesty, the HOPE scholarship is still doing what it has been doing for years: helping students get through college and making things a lot easier than they were. If anyone feels that HOPE is treating them unfairly, all that can be said to them is go buy a lottery ticket and raise revenue.

Do we still have faces?

Kyle Carney
Sports Editor

Social media and cell phones are supposed to connect people. We are supposed to be able to stay in touch with everyone we want, whenever we want.

It's supposed to be a good thing. And yet, what Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, cell phones, etc. have done, is turned us from people to simply names.

Looking at pictures on Facebook, you see all these fond memories. Times past that you spent with your friends and family. Pictures that are supposed to tell your story.

Look a little closer, though, and you see on the bottom the names or "tags" of those people in the pictures. Now, I'm sure whoever profile those pictures are in knows every one of those people.

Why then are there "tags" on these pictures? It's so everyone else can know who's in the pictures. All those people out there trying to connect need to be able to put a name to that face; mainly so they can send them a "friend request."

It used to be that trying to put a face to a name was so that we could remember who people were.

But now we're really not trying to meet people. Facebook is not about staying close with people you know or trying to connect with people, it's about giving yourself a name that you can control.

We like this idea of having control over our name because then we never have to back it up with actual ideas. It is easy to update a "status" or put up a "tweet" behind the shield of that name.

People can't attack a name, so rather than go out and show our faces and risk putting ourselves out there, we slink behind our computers and hide behind our names.

Just think of all the names you have and how easy it is to say whatever you want on them? Between e-mail addresses, usernames, social media accounts and contact lists, we have a lot of different names.

The best part about using these mediums for us is we have time to construct our thoughts. No matter how poorly we may be at actual communication, on the web there is time to make us sound perfect. The awkwardness of people has taken a back seat in this day of instant

messaging. Or has it?

I have noticed that more and more conversations are turning to these same social media sites. Even when people are not talking to each other through them, they are talking about them; critiquing new pictures and statuses.

We cannot escape the easiness of never having to have your own thoughts. When your name is out there, fully perfected by months and years of updating, what is the point of talking to someone face to face? Then there might be the chance of finding a fault in a person and no one has faults on the Internet.

I am not saying that these mediums are the problem. The sites had good intentions and can be used for doing great things.

We are the problem. In our drive for perfection, we have found that while we may not be able to change ourselves physically, the Internet allows us to create ourselves.

We can sculpt our names to make ourselves perfect. Instead, we should work more on our real, living selves. Behind every name, there is still a person.

2011 graduating students for hire!

Victoria Allen
Staff Writer

"Today is your lucky day, we are hiring!" That is a sentence from the past. It is the twenty-first century and we are experiencing a recession. I never thought that I would put these words, two-thousand eleven and recession into the same sentence.

I'm in my thirties and there are thousands of people across the nation being laid off, suspended, and terminated. Now that the baby boomers have reached the age of retirement, and we have reached our peak season of students graduating from college with bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees, we can't even get an interview with the company of our dreams.

It is my civic duty to help the graduating class of two-thousand eleven stay informed of the latest and greatest companies looking for interns and the next generation of retiring employees.

We, all college students in the world, are getting education from these very expensive, higher-learning institutions and are being hung out to dry with the rest of the unemployed population. This is just part of the reason why it is very important to participate in an internship or co-op programs.

Here are a few companies who are looking for people like you and me. They are willing to train you and you can get paid to learn your craft. In most cases, these companies will hire you after you complete the intern or co-op program. If you are hired, it will be based on your level of comprehension, going above and beyond their expectations, taking

the initiative, your willingness to get the job done, how you get along with the other employees, and your skill level. If you participate in one of these programs, take advantage of the opportunity, learn all that you can, and ask plenty of questions.

Companies looking for you:

AT&T (<http://connect.att.job>) Looking for people with and without college degrees. Many of the jobs require a degree and other positions do not require a degree at all. AT&T is a versatile, nationally-known company with employees from all walks of life. **Job titles:** Administrative Support, Advertising, Sales, Call Center, Corporate Support, eCommerce, Marketing, Internships, Bilingual positions and a large number of other types of positions.

Time Warner (<http://www.timewarner.com/careers/>) This company has been around for decades and is in need of new employees. It has a lot of position categories; both full-time careers and summer internships. Time Warner needs fresh ideas and they have a desire to train. Anyone who applies and gets accepted for a position will have an experience that will stay with them for years to come.

Summer Internship Positions: Specific television shows that they broadcast, Public Relations, News, Advertising, and many other technical positions. **Full/Part-Time Positions:** Media coordinator, video journalist, writer, associate producer, editor, quality assurance, database administrator, and a huge number of other open positions.

Monster College (<http://college.monster.com/careers>) The Monster College website is focused on pre-graduating and recent college graduates. It provides a resource of companies who are looking for people stepping into the work force for the first time after graduating from college.

This site provides many resources like career advice, resume and interview tips, news on current economic and financial status, and forums that provide information on any topic you can think of. **Entry Level:** Contractor, Test Technician, Journeyman DBA, Customer Support, Analyst, and many more. **Internship:** Product Development, Project Management, Engineering, Enterprise & Telephony, Marketing/Advertising, and several other internships.

Google Search (<http://google.com>) I listed Google Search because I was helping my 15-year old daughter look for a summer job. I typed in "Summer Youth Jobs in Georgia," and it provided me with a list of state wide websites that are posting jobs for the upcoming summer. On this Google page I found all of the companies mentioned in this article and many more.

Searching for jobs is getting easier every day. The key is thinking outside the box. When you use non-traditional sources to find employment it is necessary to be smarter than the competition. Being familiar with your job search options makes finding a job simple. Happy Career Hunting!

Would you like to have a SPSU license tag?



Visit <http://go.spsu.edu/> for more information

Spring career expo

Getting yourself ahead of the crowd

Andrew Hurd
Marketing Manager

Do you like the idea of applying the ideas from your classes in the real world in order to make good money? If so, you should have been at the Spring Career Expo. Hosted on March 2, 2011 in the Recreation and Wellness Center, the Expo presented many career options and starting points for virtually all SPSU students and graduates. Over 40 companies were in attendance hiring positions for all majors.

Not only were companies hiring alumni and graduating students, but also were looking for motivated students for part time positions, internships, and co-ops. Any student who is registered full time, has completed at least 24 hours of class, and holds a GPA of at 2.0 is eligible for an internship.

I spoke with a few companies regarding the positions they had available and what they are looking for in potential employees. The most common qualification was 1-3 years of work experience.

Many of the employers that I spoke with regarding internships made sure to stress that the internships are paid and usually lead to full time positions after graduation.

Career Expos are not only a great way to find leads on full time positions if you are approaching graduation, but a great way to get your career on the right track if you are an underclassman.

Want to start getting extra money in your pocket, some real world experience, and a jumpstart on a career? Attend the next Career Expo!

Raw fingertips and aching bones

Haki Atalov
Contributing Writer

You don't think about going down, until you get to the top. It's hard to even think about falling when your bare hands are gripping onto rough stone and you're dangling 10 feet in the air. Below you, a 4 by 4 foot foam pad that's supposed to keep you from cracking your head on the edges of rocks protruding from the ground. All in all, the only way to get down safely is to climb to the top.

This is a scene frequently viewed when watching climbers bouldering. Bouldering is a sport that falls under the umbrella term of rock climbing. Although there are a few different variations of rock climbing, the most basic distinction is climbing with, or without, a harness and rope.

Bouldering doesn't require a harness and rope because the height of the route rarely goes above 20 feet. What keeps you from seriously injuring yourself in the event of a fall is a foam pad labeled as a "crash pad." Although these pads come in various sizes, the ones my group brought along didn't make me imagine a soft "crash" from a 15-foot drop.

There is a strange peace that comes over you as you sit in front of a boulder, reminiscing about the day. Your arms are throbbing and a pleasant sense of fatigue sweeps through the body. No one is talking much; what started as a day full of excitement and joking has turned into an afternoon of lounging and contemplation.

"Can I have a tortilla?" asks Danny.

"Yea, sure." replies Brad, throwing him the bag without looking up from the guide book. Most of us are hungry, the will to climb is not gone, but our strengths are depleted, and few of us brought anything along into the park.

The park is Horse Pens 40—a patch of land which houses many natural rock formations that attract climbers from all over the south. In my case, it was a three-hour drive to get a taste of the outdoors.

"You're like me. You get there 15 minutes before everyone else," says Brad as we stand in his climbing gym at 7 a.m. waiting for the others to arrive.

I'm drowsily flipping through the guide book, looking at all the different routes and thinking about how I would complete the climbs. The routes are mapped out and rated by V-grades. VB is the easiest—it stands for beginner. The routes go up from there—V0 to V16.

Getting into the van, Danny begins to explain some of the routes he wants to attempt. He is now flipping through the guidebook and showing me pictures and pointing out people he's met.

"Start off at the big jug and move on to the crimp," explaining one of the routes to me. A jug is described as the easiest hold in bouldering. It is a big section of rock that can be easily held onto. On the other hand, a crimp is a

difficult hold. Where a person can fully grip a jug, a crimp can only be held onto by your finger tips.

Danny also describes a move called a dyno. To dyno is to launch yourself up to a hold you couldn't normally reach. It is basically jumping up the rock, instead of merely climbing it. It is an impressive display of strength to see someone propelling their entire body up the rock and grabbing onto a crimp.

The group is full of energy, making jokes and laughing, as we begin to climb the boulders. Despite the strain of holding onto the rock, it is a peaceful experience. On the surface, climbing may look like just a couple of people trying to reach the top of a rock. So what's on the top? Probably nothing.

What's the goal? Why do people climb rocks? Trey, co-owner of Adrenaline Climbing, described, through teary eyes, the feeling of reaching the top of a climb. She illustrates a breathtaking view and a close connection to nature as we sit together in her gym. In the end, that's what it's all about—nature.

While climbing, you are literally trying to overcome nature. You are trying to reach the top; to signify that you are strong, stronger than the boulder, but then the peace comes. Being away from all the noise of "modern civilization" really helps to clear the head. While the others were climbing, we could just sit and talk. With that much free time, the mind begins to wander, for the better. Conversations ranged from the Civil War to the legalization of cannabis.

When dealing with nature for so long, you naturally develop some kind of respect for it. The rock will beat you. You have to climb with a strategy. Where do I put my foot? Which way do I shift my weight? Which hand do I use? These are all questions that are racing through your mind when you're trying to hold yourself onto the boulder. Back at the gym, Trey explained how climbing works.

"It's like a game of chess," explaining how something as seemingly simple as climbing a rock can be a great challenge for the mind. Climbing often develops problem solving skills. You really have to think fast as your arms start to burn from pinching tiny holds 15 feet off the ground.

People also tend to map out their routes a bit. People rarely go in blind. You mentally watch yourself climb the rock before physically trying.

Respecting nature tends to create respect in general. It is important to note how many of the values of climbers tend to be interlaced. Respect nature. Well, then, respect your fellow man.

We stumbled upon a boulder that was a fun problem. Danny attempted it first, and completed the climb. He shouted excitedly from the top how much fun it was and how we need to try it. When he came down, a fellow climber noticed some torn tape around

a nearby tree. The tape said "no climbing." A quick look in the guidebook revealed that the owners of the park didn't want people attempting the climb as they did not want to be held liable for any possible injuries.

The climb was an overhang. This means that it started out with the climber moving across a ceiling of a small cave and then up the side of the boulder. The nearby ground was covered in protruding rocks, most of which had sharp corners. Slightly missing the crash pad could lead to a severe injury. After taking a look at the setting, it made sense why the owners didn't want people to climb there.

"You are in someone's home," explains Brad to the climbers of our group. He is referencing the park. After Danny completed the climb, the group members were lining up to attempt it. But respect got in the way—owners' park, owners' rules. We were on their land and had to follow their rules.

The other significance of such a dangerous landscape is that it did not stop Danny. He didn't even hesitate to attempt the climb.

People that climb boulders, and those that go even higher, really don't have a lot of room for fear in their lives. I do not think they

can be labeled as thrill seekers; the sport is just too peaceful. There is just a general lack of fear, but a great respect for nature. They know what can happen. They know that they can fall and crack open their head, that's the respect. That's also the lack of fear. Although it could happen, they are going to do everything in their power to keep it from happening, and the easiest way is to make it to the top.

Tray tells me that children, who start climbing early on in life, get a sense of responsibility rooted in their minds. Although she says "The gym is only plastic, it is only for training," she doesn't undermine the importance of climbing indoors.

When climbing higher than bouldering regulations, climbers are required to wear a harness and be attached to a rope. One end of the rope is attached to the climber and the other end is attached to a person on the ground, called the belay. The belay's sole responsibility is to make sure that climbers don't fall and injure themselves. Giving that responsibility to a kid in his early teens has a great impact on his life, explains Trey. This also tends to form a community.

Although we arrived at the park in our own little group, the

boulders were covered with other climbers. It was actually an extremely busy park. In a sense, the life of climbing does follow the rules of normal life. People tend to divide into different cliques and group community is evident. But the beauty of being outside is that people are generally nice.

Although we were in our own little group, people didn't hesitate to mingle. Total strangers would let you have some chalk to keep your hands from sweating, or borrow a crash pad, even give you advice on the route. It is extremely easy to build relationships with almost anyone climbing around you.

Now we're sitting in front of the boulder; that pleasant tired feeling sweeping through my entire body. Everyone is thinking about food. Everyone wants to go home, but no one wants to speak up. It's a shame to leave. The landscape is just so inviting, and the connection to Mother Nature unmatched.

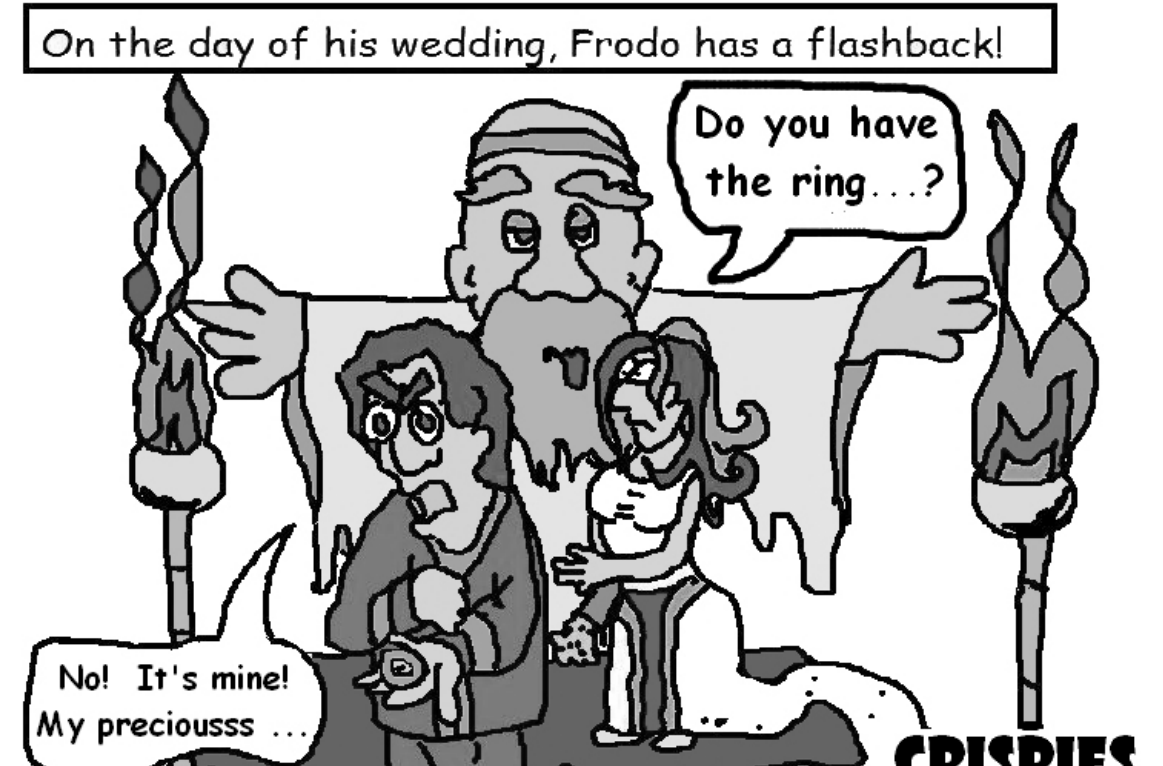
Many climbers stay the night and camp, hitting the boulders first thing in the morning. We decide to leave, the drive back isn't quite as exciting, I feel like I've left something behind. It's not every day you get to climb unrestricted, anywhere you physically can, and it's something to be cherished.



April 2, 2011

Bathtub Races

On the day of his wedding, Frodo has a flashback!



CRISPIES

The girl on campus

Advice from one girl's perspective

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).

Dear Girl on Campus, I have been dating this great guy for a couple of weeks. His birthday is coming up and I don't know what to get him. I want to let him know that I am really into him, but I don't want to scare him off. What should I do? ~Bashful Betty

Dear Bashful Betty, This is always a difficult situation. At this stage in your relationship, I would recommend an activity as a gift. Activities are low-pressure situations. As always, it is the thought that counts. Go to the midnight showing of the summer block buster he is dying to see or go to a car show if he loves cars. Pick an activity that shows that you have



been paying attention to him. If he collected comic books as a kid, take him to Comic Con. If he loves a nice glass of wine, head up to Chateau Elan for a tour and wine tasting. The key is to have a good time. Good Luck!

Dear Girl on Campus, I want to ask this girl out, but I don't know where we should go for our first date. I don't have a lot of money, but I really want make a good impression. Do you have any suggestions? ~Q

Dear Q, My best suggestion is to do something where you two can talk the night away. This means avoiding the movies—at least until the third date. In a movie you generally don't do a lot of talking and talking is how you get to know someone. Some fun things you can do are pack a picnic and head up to Kennesaw Mountain, go to dinner and a game of miniature golf, or head to Six Flags and ride only the rides she loves. As long as it is fun and light and you talk, it will be a good first date!

SPSU & NENU dual-degree program

Yang Jiao

Assistant Editor

The SPSU-NENU Dual Degree Program is unique to Georgia.

The Ministry of Education of the Central Government gave approval for this program in March 2004. On September 24, 2004, NENU (Northeast Normal University) in the city of Chang Chun, China and SPSU signed a Memo of Understanding that formalizes the development of a unique Dual Degree Program between the universities.

According to the SPSU Faculty and Staff Newsletter "Around Campus," this program is one of only about 136 to have received such approval between Chinese universities and foreign universities worldwide. It is the only such approved program in the state of Georgia and one of only a few such approved programs with any university in the United States.

The program is a 2 + 2 model in which Chinese students will study at NENU for two years and then transfer to SPSU for the final two years of their B.S. degree program in technical and professional communication or in computer science.

The dual degree program provides Chinese students great opportunities to study in America, receipt of both a degree from China and from a U.S. university,

and the option of graduate study in the U.S.

Yuxin Guo, one of the NENU students who has been here for almost four years, said in his article, "SPSU offers professional, athletic, recreational and organizational activities to get international students involved, engaged and enjoying college to the fullest."

Besides Chinese Friendship Association and International Students Association on campus, there are other nonprofit organizations such as Friendship of Internationals and Atlanta Chinese Christian Church. Their regular activities help Chinese students be exposed to American culture.

"It is a big investment to go to another country for education. But the value is so great. If I'd stayed in China, I would only believe what I read or heard. You need to see the truth to know the truth," said Qianqian Wang, the first president of Chinese Friendship Association.

As one of the international students who benefits from the program, I could not deny that the program has helped many students. By joining in the dual-degree program, we have the opportunities to study in both Chinese and American cultures, which make us competitive in the global market in the future.

Your hand

Victoria Allen

Staff Writer

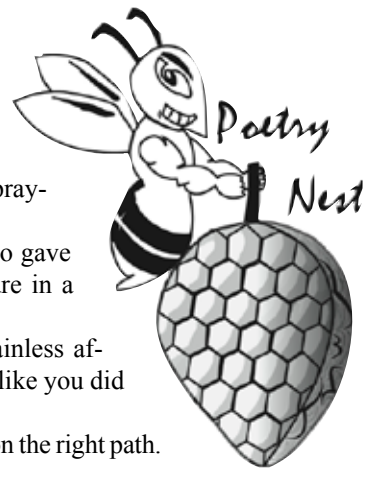
Holding on to the hands of time and praying that God will guide your spirit. Believing in faith for the woman who gave birth to me and knowing that you are in a better place.

Living worry and stress free in a painless afterlife; may the heavens nurture you like you did for all of us.

Take my hand in yours and guide me on the right path.

Heaven just received another angel.

Momma, you can now spread your wings and be free.



A table can be more than a table

Zach Baab

Staff Writer

Many people have come up and asked me and my friends exactly what the Table is. As a member of *The Sting*, I want to explain to everyone what the Table is.

Now for those who don't know what the Table is or even where it is located, let me start there. It is the set of three tables on the top floor of the Student Center in the corner near the lockers and outside the office of the Sting.

Many people may know what we do and where we are, but few know how we began. I was here near the beginning of it, unfortunately. It was a little over five years ago. We were new to SPSU, and found some people who shared similar interests. We just took a seat at the table near the billiards.

For those who are new, the Student Center looked completely different then. The tables were at the location where the new information desk is, while the downstairs area was the cafeteria.

So, these tables were good due to them being close to the billiards and the cafeteria, which is why we took them.

We just started playing games, and we never stopped.

At this time the Student Center was the only area on campus for games. The game lab was not added until two to three years later. It was the only other place on

campus, besides a small café in the J-building, to get food.

Now as for the what we do, our usual response is "many things". Let me elaborate for you now about what that entails.

We play many different types of games, different games of those different types, and even school-related activities. So the types of games we play are as follows: trading card games, board games, card games, card and board games, pen/paper games and computer games.

The trading card game that is most prominent is Magic: the Gathering. It is one in which even I play. Others are Yu-Gi-Oh!, Pokemon, and at one point Ultimate Fighting System. Board games are whatever people bring in—I have Settlers of Catan.

Card games can be anything from poker to euchre to speed. The card and board game is Munchkin.

Computer games are usually MMOs or Bioware games. The last is pen/paper games. This is usually DND—Dungeons and Dragons for those who don't know. It can also be White Wolf's World of Darkness game. At one point, we even played the Cthulu table top game.

As for the school activity, I am referring to homework, studying, or helping others with their classes. So, as you can tell, these tables are more than just tables.



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ASME hosts engineering day

Scott Gildemeyer
Contributing Writer

While most college students were enjoying time at the beach or away from school during their spring break, the dedicated members of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers spent their break preparing for one of the biggest events this organization has ever held—SPSU Engineering Day.

The event was sponsored by the SPSU chapter of the ASME, and it was held specifically for high school students and their parents. The participants included high school students from all over the state including Osborne, Lassiter, Kennesaw Mountain, North Cobb, Lovejoy, Woodland, and even CEC Newnan.

The event started off with a presentation from ASME, NSBE, and SHPE engineering societies and ended with a great speech from the Dean of Engineering Technology and Management, Jeff Ray. The guests were then treated to a tour of the new state of the art Engineering Technology Center, while seeing some of the hands on work that SPSU engineering students do.

The students and parents created real life parts on SolidWorks in the engineering graphics lab, tested the tensile strength of steel in the strength of materials lab, looked at crystalline structures in the engineering materials lab, and even tried on the proper safety uniform to weld in the new welding lab.

After lunch, the participants were treated to an "Engineering Jeopardy" sponsored by the NSBE, where the questions asked resembled basic math, science, and engineering fundamentals.

The most hyped part of the event was the design competition, in which the students were split into teams of eight and given kits with all the necessary materials to solve the problem. Their task was to design and build

a device to launch rags at a target at least twenty feet away in a specified amount of time.

They quickly began brainstorming and coming up with possible designs to achieve the goal of winning the competition. Even though these were only high school students, the teamwork, brainstorming, and designing resembled some of the fundamentals that are necessary of our college students in engineering.

The participants were given three hours to build their device, and with help from our ASME members with the power tools, the teams built an array of slingshots, catapults, and even a small trebuchet.

To make the competition even better, we invited three of our top professors in the Mechanical Engineering Technology Department, Dr. Mir Atiqullah (ASME Adviser), Dr. John Sweiggart, and Dr. Norman Russell, to judge their devices based on both functionality and design concepts.

The winning teams were given trophies to proudly display in their respective high school departments, and all of the participants were given a nice participation medal and special SPSU Engineering Day shirts.

At the end of the day, all of the organization's hard work paid off, and the students and parents were extremely pleased with everything and were even asking for pictures and to plan more engineering days throughout the year.

Earlier in the year, the SPSU chapter of ASME was awarded the prestigious Diversity Action Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to hold this event, and they utilized all of their time and money to make this one of the most fun and successful events that this campus has ever had!

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SPSU formula SAE

Dominic Fredo
Contributing Writer

The Formula SAE team is a student-run competition motorsports team that designs, builds, and tunes cars to compete in a national competition held yearly in Michigan. The cars are designed and assembled entirely by students. Cars are powered by 600cc motorcycle engines, with the Suzuki GSXR being the choice of Southern Poly for over five years. These engines are tuned to an output of around 90hp in naturally aspirated form, but in 2009 the team attempted a turbocharged variant, with a gain of 30hp. This turbo car, number 87, had such a high torque output that sheared axels were not uncommon. Even the naturally aspirated cars have this problem from time to time, but for the most part, these cars are much more reliable. Thanks in large part to their light weight, Formula SAE-spec race cars are very fast, despite the engine size limitations. Naturally aspirated cars have a top speed over 100 mph,

however, courses are configured so that such speeds are highly unattainable, with 60 mph rarely being reached, much less exceeded. Unlike races shown on television, Formula SAE competitions do not pit two cars on the course at the same time. Instead, the cars are tested based on driving dynamics (acceleration, braking, and lateral grip, for example) and run through a course marked by orange traffic cones in a time trial. In addition, team members must also make a detailed report of the design process of the car, such as cost breakdown, fundraising reports, and any design changes from the previous entry.

The Southern Poly team is currently finishing design on its entry to the 2012 competition, as well as maintaining a fleet of prior entries, and a side project to create a support vehicle by transplanting a four-wheeled ATV drive train into a gas-powered golf cart.

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General questions: 2011polytechnicsummit@spsu.edu

What's happening at the BSO?

Krista Surovec
Contributing Writer

The Biology Student Organization (BSO) was started by Chantelle McGinness in 2009. It has since been continued by Sarabelle Belaret, our current president, and several mostly tree-hugging future biologists and health professionals.

Our most recent project has been planting a garden for SPSU student use and we were very happy to get a spot set aside as we hope to make it a lasting and expanding contribution for the enjoyment of the SPSU community. You can check it out directly outside the E building on the side that faces the D building. We will be planting our growing seedlings as soon as they are ready and proceeding with our plan to find an adequate aesthetic

and functional location for a compost area.

If you're interested in volunteering for functions like the Science Olympiad or hanging out with Girl Scouts for Earth Day, April 23rd, come by and get some info! Later in the semester, we will also be hosting an information table in the student center on sustainable fishing and providing knowledge on healthy and safe seafood eating habits.

Or if you're the adventurous type, there's always a trip to the Tellus Museum, Fernbank, or GA Aquarium in the works. Scheming with our good friends, the Chemistry Club, our latest outing was to 5 Seasons Brewery (great food).

Beer in hand, the Brewmaster (and co-founder of Sweetwater), Kevin McNerney, gave us a tour of the beer brewing process. Of course we partook of their tasty malted beverage selection before and after the tour.

One last thing to look for is our bake sales! We make available anything from dirt pudding to Giardia lambia cookies (a Dr. Sugalski specialty). Opportunities to enjoy these fun goodies don't come often so stay alert and up to date on what's happening at the BSO! You can find everything you need to know about upcoming events and meeting times on our website at <http://www.spsu-bso.org/>.



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Still far behind

Kyle Carney
Assistant Editor

For all of America's advancement, we still are very far behind the rest of the world in one thing: Soccer. The biggest sport in the world and we could not care less. Not only do we not want to play the sport, we also think of it as a joke.

In a country where NASCAR and bowling are considered sports, I find it ironic to hear sports analysts taking shots at soccer. On more than one occasion, I have heard Sports Center commentators reference the fact that soccer players are not athletes.

I don't know if we don't understand the sport or if we are just bitter because it is the only thing we have not acceded at, but there is a lot in soccer that speaks to the ideals of America.

Unlike every other sport, soccer players remain the closest to the average-sized person. In football and basketball, we are watching super humans who are giants out on the field or court. The average NBA basketball player is 6'7" compared to 6'0" for the average Premier League soccer player.

It seems that soccer represents the every man. It surprises me that more Americans don't connect to soccer based on that fact.

We are a country that tells us

everybody has the chance, no matter how small, to make something of themselves. Soccer is living that dream out. The players are normal size humans performing extraordinary athletic feats, not giants with superhuman abilities. These normal size humans are also enduring a grueling season of games.

A soccer season is long. Most players play for their club team as well as their country throughout the year. The biggest teams even play in more than one league at a time. For instance, one of the top teams in Europe will play in their club league and the European Champions League.

In addition to these leagues, there are also a multitude of tournaments that take place throughout the season as well. They play all year long with more than one team. There is no waiting and off season like other sports. These players are playing virtually all year. These leagues also have a strikingly American characteristic: being demoted for poor performance.

The bottom three teams in the top league are sent down to the lower league and the top three teams in the lower league are brought up to the top league. So, whereas the worst teams in the NFL can continue to play poorly and have no

worries, the worst teams in soccer are penalized.

It gives every team in the league something to play for. Rather than having a "rebuilding year," where a team just goes through the motions and plays for next year, every team is forced to play to win in order to stay in the league. It makes every game exciting.

Watching the NBA these last few weeks has proven that the system in soccer is what is needed. The bottom teams have nothing to play for anymore and are sending out their second string players, making the games terrible to watch. Now, if those teams were worried about getting sent down to a lesser league, they might play a little harder.

I'm not saying soccer should become our national sport, but I do think it is time for America to start taking it seriously.

We like to think that soccer is full of flopping and faking, but just look at what the NBA and NFL have become. They have both become a game of faking fouls and exaggerating injuries.

Now that that argument is out, I just don't understand the mocking of soccer. They are athletes just the same, whether we like the sport or not.

Tournament bound

Kyle Carney
Assistant Editor

Both the men's and women's basketball teams will be headed to the National Tournament this year. The men finished the season 23-9 and have been matched up against #2 Concordia in the first round. Concordia boasted a 30-3 record this season and will be a tough match-up for the Hornets.

The Hornets, however, are no stranger to tough opening-round match ups. In last year's tournament, the Hornets managed to get by Oklahoma City in the first round. The Hornets went on to reach the

Final Four, but were finally defeated by Azusa Pacific.

This year's team has what it takes to get back to the Final Four. The team has outscored their opponents by almost 10 points this season and has excelled on the defensive side of the ball. The National Tournament is held in Kansas City, MO and starts March 22.

For the second straight season, the women's team triumphed in the Conference Tournament and ended up with an overall record of 29-4.

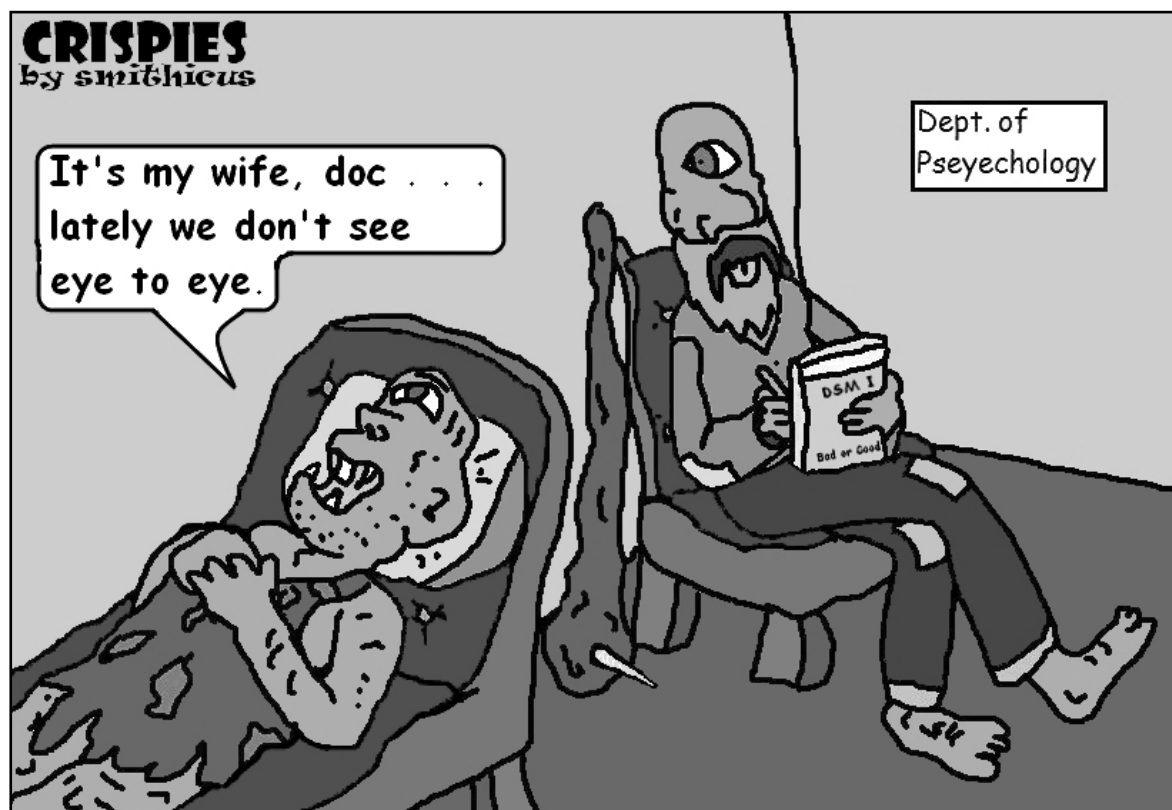
Marisa Stotler was named the

tournament's Most Valuable Player, averaging 19.0 points and 15.7 rebounds over the three games.

The Lady Hornets finished the season ranked 19th and hope to bring the momentum to the National Tournament in Jackson, TN.

After going to the Sweet 16 in their first trip to the tournament last season, all things are looking up for the Lady Hornets this year.

The National Tournament begins on March 16 and the champion will be named on March 28.



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Hornets drop first series of season

Kyle Carney
Assistant Editor

After putting together 11 straight wins, the Hornets dropped their first series this past week to William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS. The Hornets took the first game 4-3, scoring all 4 runs in the top half of the 3rd inning. Chad Hunter started the rally with a lead-off single and proceeded to score on a 2 out single by Devon Thaut.

The Hornets continued with clutch 2 out hitting by Blake Parrot who drove in Jeremy Boyd with a single up the middle. The 4 runs in the 3rd inning were all Will Rankin needed, who pitched all 9 innings, giving up 3 earned runs on 5 hits. Rankin improved his record to 5-0 this season with an astonishing 1.55 ERA with the complete game victory in the first game of the series.

The second game was a pitching duel. Neither the Hornets' Josh Strawn nor Scotty Reese from William Carey gave up a run through the first 4 innings.

In the bottom of the 5th, however, the drought finally ended. With runners on second and third with no outs, Tyler Adams got mixed up on a fastball and let it get by him, allowing the runner to score from third.

Strawn settled down and got two consecutive outs, but Carlos Castro managed to squeak one through the second base hole and plated the second run of the inning for the Crusaders. That was all it took and the game ended with the Hornets managing only 5 hits and no runs.

The Crusaders jumped ahead again in the third game of the series in the bottom of the 2nd after another costly ball reaching the backstop. The Hornets showed their resilience, however, and put up 2 in the top of the 3rd and tacked on another run in the 4th on account of some sloppy play by the Crusaders.

After adding a run in the bottom of the 4th, the Crusaders came up to bat in the bottom of the 9th trailing by a run. Then, after getting allowing two runners to reach base, starting pitcher Brad Hutson was replaced by closer Tucker Stone with 2 outs in the 9th. Stone gave up a single to the first batter he faced, sending the game into extra innings.

The Hornets went down 1-2-3 in the top half of the 10th. Stone came back out for the bottom of the 10th and managed to get the first batter out.

Ronnie Camacho, the second batter, however, reached on an infield single to the second baseman and advanced to second on the wild throw. A ground out to the shortstop allowed Camacho to advance to third base.

With 2 outs in the bottom of the 10th, pinch hitter Chantse Edwards hit a ground ball to third baseman Jarrett Northcutt. Northcutt made a bad throw to first, allowing Camacho to score the winning run.

The Hornets will persevere and look ahead to March 18, when Brewton Parker comes to town. It will be the second conference series and should prove to be very exciting.

Baseball Diamond Reunion
Saturday, April 23, 2011

Noon: Cookout
1pm: Double Header vs. Lee University



Help us celebrate baseball at SPSU
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and their families.