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Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL `http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html` ISSN 0081-0304
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COMET C/2005 S2 (SKIFF)

B. Skiff, Lowell Observatory, reports his discovery of a comet (discovery observation tabulated below) on CCD images taken with the LONEOS 0.59-m Schmidt telescope, the object showing a moderately condensed 6″ coma and a fan-shaped tail extending perhaps 15″ toward the southwest (in the direction of motion). A 5-min exposure taken by Skiff with the Perkins 1.8-m telescope (+ PRISM camera + 'VR' filter) shows the coma diameter as ∼ 5″ and the tail extending at least 36″ in p.a. ∼ 240°. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', J. Young reports that six stacked CCD images taken on Sept. 30.23–30.28 UT with the 0.6-m Cassegrain reflector at Table Mountain show the comet to have a 4″ coma with a 12″ tail in p.a. 260°, and E. J. Christensen reports that four 45-s co-added frames taken with the 1.5-m Catalina reflector on Sept. 30.3 show an 8″ coma and a 20″ tail in p.a. 230°–240°.

2005	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept.	29.27649	$0^{h}55^{m}25^{s}.73$	$+3^{\circ}48'39''.9$	19.1

The available astrometry (including Sept. 25 prediscovery Spacewatch observations), the following very indeterminate parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-S78.

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} T = \text{2010 Feb. 12.081 TT} & \omega = 306^{\circ}.165 \\ & \Omega = 201.227 \\ q = \text{3.29967 AU} & i = 166.711 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

SUPERNOVA 2005ee IN PGC 73054

M. Modjaz, R. Kirshner, and P. Challis, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, report that a spectrogram (range 340–740 nm) of SN 2005ee (cf. *IAUC* 8603), obtained by N. Martimbeau on Sept. 25.32 UT with the F. L. Whipple Observatory 1.5-m telescope (+ FAST), shows it to be a type-II supernova. The spectrum consists of a flat continuum, a P-Cyg profile of Hα, and absorption troughs of Hβ and other lines. Adopting the recession velocity of 9730 km/s for the host galaxy, as measured from Hα emission of an H II region in the host galaxy, the supernova expansion velocity derived from the minimum of the Hβ line is ∼ 11000 km/s.

