

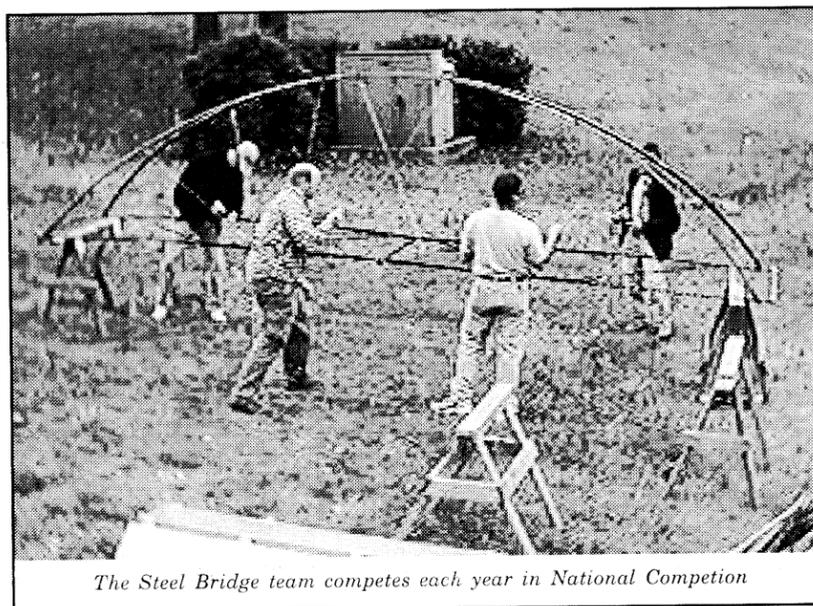
Steel Bridge team promotes SPSU

Bryan Garmon
News

"It's the fastest growing collegiate

event ever!", stated one American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Official. The Steel Bridge Competition began in 1986 with only three schools competing regionally and at last years competition, just twelve years later, almost two hundred universities nationwide were competing. The history of SPSU's Steel Bridge Team is a testament of the excellent leadership and talent that exist here on campus.

Beginning in 1986, a few guys from the Civil Engineering Department came together and discussed the possibility of building a bridge made out of steel for competition. The point: break the laws of physics and show the world that it could be done. The reward: recognition that Southern Poly has the best Civil Engineering Department in the country. A few of the students bought into the idea and along with Professor Orlandella, they pulled together the money and began laying out their bridge. "From the beginning, the money was one of the hardest parts. For the first year or two I ended up paying for most



The Steel Bridge team competes each year in National Competition

of it out of pocket," said Professor Orlandella. Over the years, the Southern Poly Steel Bridge team earned the trust of INCO Services in Alpharetta who gives them complete control of their fabrication shop on the weekends complete with tools, power equipment, forklifts, and everything else they need to work. As more publicity was brought to the Steel Bridge team through

national magazines, CNN's Science & Technology show, as well as through promotional films by the AISC, the money has slowly found it's way to the organization through corporate sponsors as well as through a student activity budget from the SGA.

The competition began locally with a few schools in Georgia competing and in 1989 it went national. Hosted by

various schools, the national competition is comprised of the first and second place winners of each region for a total of 40 schools. Some of the schools competing include the University of Florida, Michigan State University, California Polytechnic, Princeton University, University of Alaska, John Hopkins University, Cal. State University, Penn. State, North Carolina State, University of Arizona, Cal. Poly State.

The competition is fairly simple. Each school must build a bridge using steel that is efficient in yielding low deflection, being lightweight, and be aesthetically pleasing to look at. The teams use the latest structural engineering software and whatever else it takes to build a bridge that can survive a 2500 payload after being built in under five minutes. To be competitive the construction time needs to fall below three minutes and Southern Poly has traditionally constructed the bridges just over two minutes.

The department is always looking for interested students to help out with the project. Contact the Civil Engineering Technology department for more information.

Mathew Banks to lead R/C helicopter project

The aerial robotics team is one of the little known gems at Southern Poly. What is it? What are you hoping to accomplish and many other questions were asked of CEO Mathew Banks. The following is a brief history of the team and Mathew's predictions for the future.

The start-up of this project initiated on the campus in February of 1997. Prior to the start-up the Electrical Engineering (EE) department had initiated an interest in resurrecting the project that had been on campus two years prior. Southern Tech actually placed second in that competition. As the time moved forward the advisor from EE left Southern Tech for other employment, leaving the project still dormant and without an advisor. Dr. Fisher from the Mechanical Department had been approached previously by the EE department to assist on the project

due to his experience in related areas. On his own initiative Dr. Fisher approached the EE department to request control of the project, they relinquished their control over the project to the MET department,



and DR. Fisher's competent direction. Soon after Matt Banks was approached by Dr. Fisher to head up the group. Matt's maturity, mechanical experience, and most of all experience in the area of Remote Controlled Helicopters made him a good choice for project leader.

Right now we have eight students

from Computer Science, two students from Electrical Engineering Technology, three students from Computer Engineering Technology and six students from Mechanical Engineering Technology. Some of these students have graduated, some are grad students and some have just signed on for a portion of the overall project. All students are welcomed regardless of their major if they have something to contribute. The areas of contribution can be as diverse as business and marketing as well as technical. Specifically, the team is looking for creative, talented and primarily self motivated individuals that are team oriented. The project requires a great deal of creativity and motivation. This being a student project, we have to rely on an

See Helicopter on pg 5

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Letters to the Editor. **The STING** welcomes letters on any topic. Letters should be typed and submitted on a 3.5 diskette. All Letters must include a name. Unsigned letters will not be printed. **The STING** reserves the right to edit letters for style, content or size. Please send all letters to **The STING**, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060-2896, or you can e-mail Vortex0007@mindspring.com, or drop them off at **The STING** office, Room 252 in the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center. All letters must be in before 5:00 P.M. on the deadline printed below.



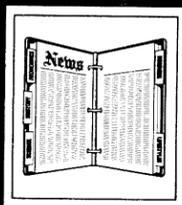
Submissions. Articles must be submitted by the deadline printed below and typed on a 3.5 inch IBM-Compatible computer disc. Please limit articles to two hundred words. All such articles are subject to editing for style or content, and are run on a space-available basis.



Joining The STING. Any student paying activity fees is eligible to join the newspaper. Interested parties should come by our office (Room 252 in the Student Center), and pick up an information packet.



The Next Deadline. Everything must be turned in by April 22, 1998 to be considered for the next issue.



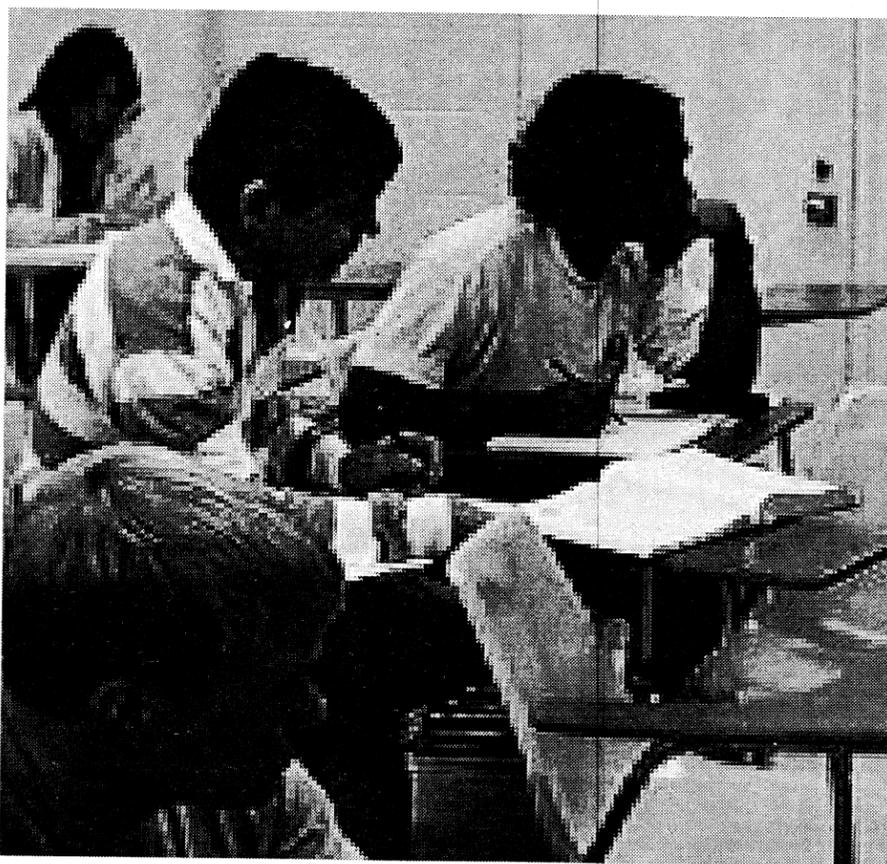
President for a Day, a Success



On March 6th, Southern Poly student Dux Sy took the role of the President as Dr. Papp got an opportunity to go back to school. The event began with a breakfast meeting where the two meet and exchanged "hats" for the day. Dr. Papp headed to a Physics 222 lab at 8:00 that morning where he took notes and actively participated like a regular student. As a side note, none of Sy's professors were told Dr. Papp would be substituting for Sy in class and as Sy said in an earlier interview, "I would love to see the look on their faces when they find out."

Dux Sy took the role of the president and began meeting with higher officials over areas of student concern. "One of the things we're facing is the conversion to a semester system this coming fall, and some transition problems with summer classes. I'll be able to talk about how I'd handle that for students from the president's perspective."

After Dr. Papp went back to Physics, he became a student assistant at the Learning Resource Center and then headed to off to Math 356. After class, Dr. Papp returned to the president's office for a meeting with Dux Sy for a discussion about their day.



The SGA arranged this event in hopes that both individuals would gain a better understanding of the two most important roles at the university, the student and the president. The event was a great success and the SGA would like to make this a continuing venture.



Do you want to get more
involved on campus while
having fun?

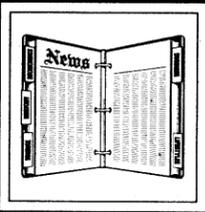
Then join C.A.B.!

C.A.B. is the Campus Activities Board. C.A.B. members, who are all students, coordinate entertainment events for the campus such as “Bash in the Grass”, movies in the Student Center, coffeehouse musical performances, tickets to events off campus, and many other fun entertaining opportunities the members choose!

C.A.B. is going through a reorganization process so now is your chance to join, become involved immediately—including opportunities for leadership positions, and have a voice in what events you want on campus as an SPSU student!

The *first meeting* of the term is **Tuesday, April 14 at 4 p.m.** in the **Student Activities Office** in the Student Center—all students are welcome. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact the C.A.B. Advisor, Jackie Gilpin, at 528-7374.

C.A.B. C.A.B. C.A.B. C.A.B. C.A.B. C.A.B. C.A.B.



Art Appreciation class creates the Dinner Party, Part II

- Jeff Combs



For the past three quarters, the Dinner Party, Part II, a unique art exhibit made by students in Dr. Betty Seabolt's Art Appreciation class, has been on display in the Student Center. In this exhibit, students work in pairs and first research and then create a place-setting complete with eating utensils and other objects representing the work of an artist of their choosing. Students also come up with a menu and guest list based on the culture and time period of the artist.

The reason the exhibit is called the Dinner Party, Part II is that it's based on the work of Judy Chicago, who created the original Dinner Party in the 1970s to portray important women throughout history. After meeting Judy Chicago, Dr. Seabolt decided to use the dinner party concept for her class. "I really wanted them to get to know one artist really well and understand his style and understand the relationship of that artist to his culture and time," said Seabolt.

After he and his partner completed their project on Jacob Lawrence, he became Christopher Coleman's favorite artist. "My favorite thing that

he did is The Barber Shop," said Coleman. "In his painting, he shows the atmosphere of people hanging out in the Barber Shop, laughing and joking around. To me it is so real. Like where I grew up."

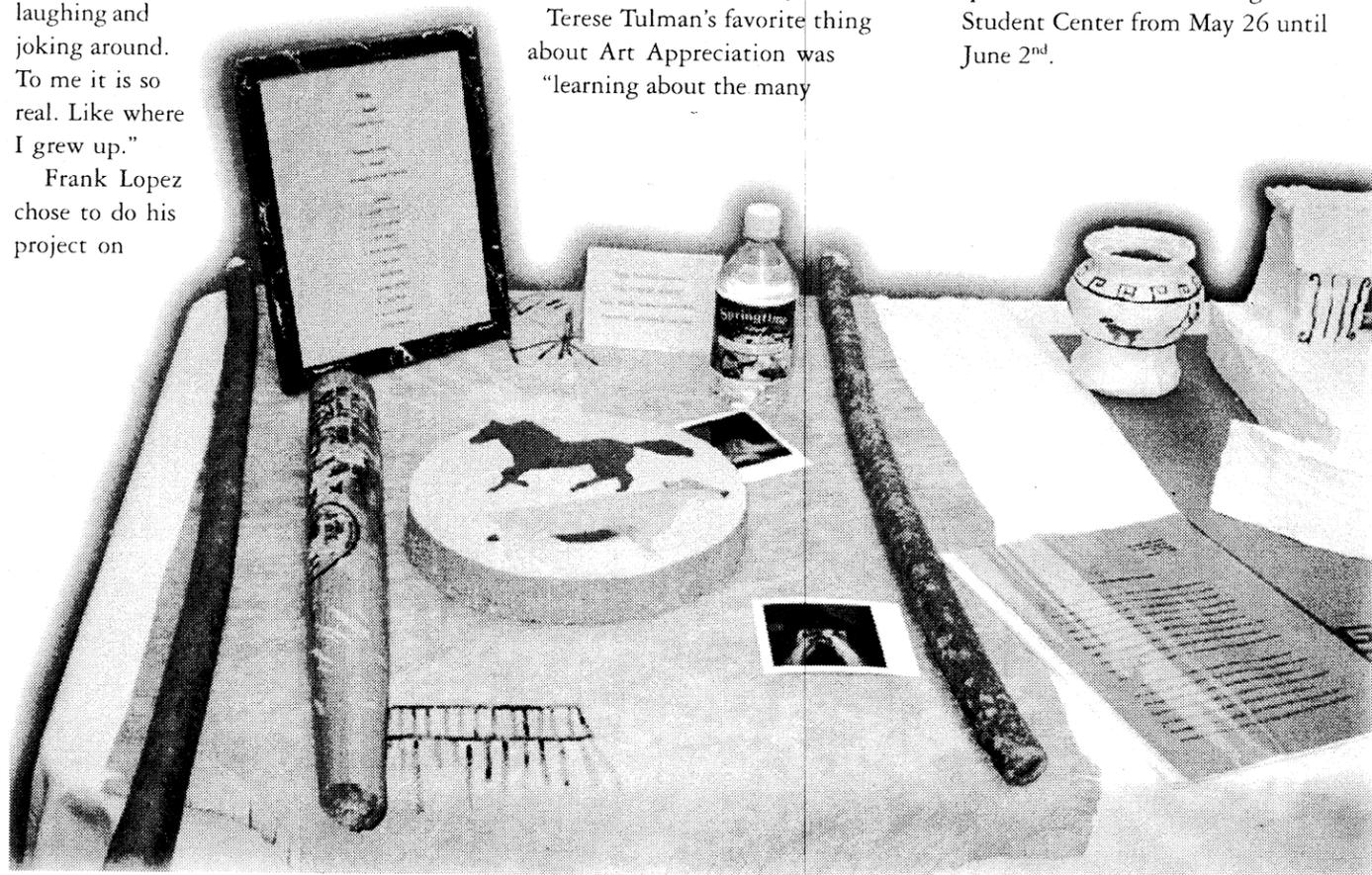
Frank Lopez chose to do his project on

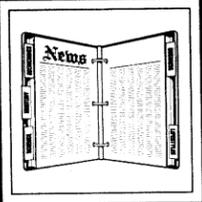
Roman art because he likes its realism. Almost all Roman artists remain unknown, so Lopez created the fictional Lucius Magnus Illustris to represent a generic Roman artist. Although Roman Art is based on Greek art, "Greek sculptures looked human but were too perfect, whereas the Romans would sculpt the fat ugly guy next door," said Lopez. Although Lopez was familiar with Roman art before taking Art Appreciation, while taking the class he learned that "a lot of the [Roman] politicians would have body doubles stand in to model for their sculptures, and some of the statues had interchangeable hairstyles."

Terese Tulman's favorite thing about Art Appreciation was "learning about the many

different styles of art." Her place-setting depicting Japanese artist Kitagawa Utamaro (top-right) incorporates both Japanese art in general and Utamaro's wood-block prints. Matt Brown and Keith Miller's project on M. C. Escher (center-left) has the tools Escher used to create his drawings as utensils. Shawn McCloskey's representation of the art of Paleolithic cavemen (lower-right) includes a bottle of water because that's what the cavemen drank: clean pure water.

So far, the Dinner Party, Part II exhibit has been shown for three quarters. It will be shown again in the Student Center from May 26 until June 2nd.





Campus News

Helicopters

Cont'd from front page
Contributed

individual's own desire to participate, learn and progress. The competition is designed to incorporate many schools into a team from any one given campus. As an example the Textile school has a certain amount of points to contribute to our overall scores in the competition if they could design and manufacture a Team T-Shirt.

We see a great opportunity for students to show-off their talents. Many of the people involved in this project have experience that goes way beyond their formal educations. This is a great chance for them to put their abilities to work while gaining even more experience in the types of cutting edge technologies required for the success of the project. The project is also a great place for the inexperienced to learn

about things that they might never be exposed to otherwise. I find that participants are constantly having to research and learn about new things, wether its something technical or just learning how to communicate professionally or get along with conflicting personalities, this is all of great benefit to them and their future employers. We hope everyone walks away from this project with knowledge and skills that will benefit them in the future in some way, wether it be in their personal or professional lives.

It's interesting to note that challenges are a daily thing for this project. One of the most notable is the organization of some 15 members scattered throughout campus. This is still a challenge but has been helped through the use of regular progress meeting, work days, and team leaders who are responsible for overseeing the progress of their individual groups. A much needed

solution to having the project in different areas would be securing a large enough work area for us to combine the various parts of the project, rather than them be spread about campus as they now are. The location of the work area is not important, it is however important that we obtain enough space to include all of our equipment and allow for a number of team members to work in tandem. The benefits of having the entire group co-located are obvious.

Another of the many other challenges has been procuring financing for our project. We have been fortunate (through heavy PR and begging) to gain the support of many companies through loans of equipment and products. But we have also been fortunate to gain the support of our own alumni assn. and student government. The quest for financial backing has definitely been a challenge and will undoubtedly continue to be.

This project is probably the most costly on campus due to the extreme high cost of the technologies required to accomplish our task. We are continually in search of support both monetarily and through product loans and donations.

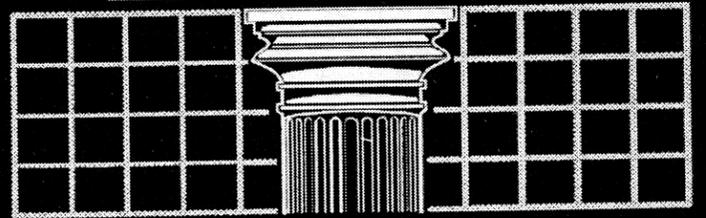
For Southern Poly to begin with absolutely nothing but a desire to compete in the aerial robotics competition, and then rise to become a truly competitive team, is really saying something. Most people can not even begin to imagine the kind of dedication, work and money that it takes to be a respectable contender in this competition. We are extremely proud of the progress that we have made thus far, but to actually compete and possibly beat some of the premier universities in the world, after starting with nothing, that would be the legacy I would hope to leave.

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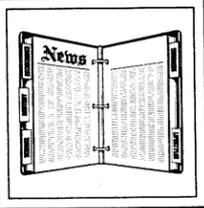
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Special Features

BRAIN-TAMPERING (For those who wish to workout the brain)

MATH STINGER

by Dr. Joel C. Fowler
Associate Professor of Mathematics

Two puzzles remained from last issue. The first was to find the cheapest way to make a circular 90 link chain out of ten 9 link sections of chain if it costs \$1 to open a link and \$2 to close a link. The answer is \$27, accomplished by opening every link in one of the 9 link sections, and then using these to link up (in a circle) the remaining nine 9 link sections. Correct answers were received from Mark Van Zant, John Blanchard, and Daniel Gaither. The second puzzle was to find the six digit number N, having all different digits, for which 2N, 3N, 4N, 5N, and 6N all have the same set of digits as N (in a different order). The answer is 142857. Correct answers were received from Gary Pritchett, John Blanchard, and John-Claude Martin.

The new puzzle for this issue is as follows. Suppose that the numbers 1,2,3,4,... are written in the standard coordinate plane on integer coordinates in a counter-clockwise "square spiral" outward from the origin. Thus the beginning of the spiral would be:

17	16	15	14	13
18	5	4	3	12
19	6	1	2	11
20	7	8	9	10
21	22			

1 lands on (0,0), 8 lands on (0,-1), and 18 lands on (-2,1), for example. The puzzle is to determine the coordinates of the point that 11223344 would land on.

MATH STINGER IS NOW ON THE WEB. The current Stinger as well as many past Stingers are on the Mathematics Department page on the Southern Polytechnic State University page. Check it out!!

Answers should be sent, via conventional methods or e-mail (jfowler@spsu.edu), to Joel Fowler in the Mathematics Department. Correct answers and the names of the first to find them will be printed in the next issue of the Sting.

BRAIN BUSTERS

by Louis Phillips

1.) There are two volumes of a dictionary standing side by side on a library shelf. Each volume is two inches thick, with each of its covers one-eighth of an inch thick. A bookworm start crawling, in a straight line, from the first page of the Volume I to the last page of Volume II. How far will the bookworm travel?

2.) The rhyme below is quite old, but it is still quite tricky. Can you figure it out?

*Ten fish I caught without an eye,
And nine without a tail;
Six had no head, and half of eight
I weighed upon a scale.
Now who can tell me as I ask it,
How many fish were in my basket?*

3.) A man carrying three croquet balls comes to a swinging bridge. The bridge is not very sturdy. A sign by the bridge states that it cannot hold more than 175 pounds. The man weighs 171 pounds, and each of the croquet balls weighs two pounds. The man merely shrugs and carries the three croquet balls across the bridge. Why doesn't the bridge collapse?

Submit your answers to cstanfor@spsu.edu or on a sheet of paper that should be placed in The STING box. Winners will receive a mystery prize! Don't forget to leave a way to be contacted!

INCREASE YOUR AWARENESS (For those who want to know)

The Beetle Has Returned

After 21 years, the infamous beetle has returned! It is priced at \$15,200 (base) and its engine is a 2-liter, 115-hp in-line four. The Beetle has been popular for many years and will remain popular for many years to come. Go check out the new beetle and give it a test drive!!!!



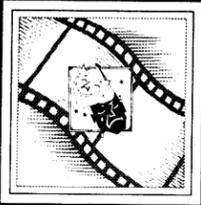
Surf the Web on your Cellular Phone

The Pocketnet has hit the market! AT&T has developed a new type of cellular phone that allows you to surf the internet on its tiny screen. It receives e-mail, has its own

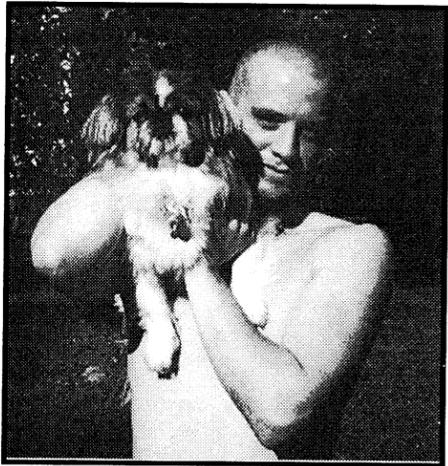


BRAIN BUSTER DISCLAIMER

I would like to apologize to all of the people who have e-mailed me and sent letters to me with brain buster answers. I had to leave to go out of town. I will be getting in touch with you so be on the look out!!!! Corey J. Stanford



The Matt Column by Matt Thomas



I recently did a live, over the air interview on my radio show (Tuesday nights at 8:00 on WGHR 102.5 fm) with Brian Fair, the vocalist for the Boston band OVERCAST. I recently did a write up on these guys in a past issue of the Sting and I must say that this band is one of the most talented bands that I have ever heard. I thought I would give those people who missed the live interview another opportunity to hear what is going on with Brian and OVERCAST so check it out....

Matt: Mike (*bass player*) told me you guys recently played a show in the bedroom of an abandoned house in Atlanta, you fit yourselves, your equipment, and 40-50 crazy kids in there, how was that show?

Brian: It was completely insane, we got there and found out that we were the only band playing so we were kinda nervous about that, we ended up playing two sets where one set we did AC/DC for the crowd and we tried to put on a little fireworks display that wasn't too impressive. Then we played another full set, we pretty much played every song all five of us knew, it was unbelievable and it was definitely close quarters, being in a tiny bedroom, everyone slammed against each other, it was awesome, it was one of the highlights of the tour definitely.

Matt: Hey man, if you guys ever come back to Atlanta and you try to fit 100 kids in a bathroom, I don't care dude, I want to be there, you gotta let me know man. (*laughs*)

Brian: I definitely will. We definitely plan on coming back soon, we had a great time both times we played Atlanta.

Matt: You guys have just released the new album "Fight Ambition to Kill", which I think is the best release of the year so far, honestly I really do think that. What progressions have you guys made since "Begging For Indifference"

and "Expectational Dilution?"

Brian:before we were trying to just throw every riff that we came up with in practice that sounded good and was trying to fit it into the song somehow, now we are just concentrating on things that work and are fluid, our songs have gotten shorter but there are more parts to them, it's kinda weird, we somehow managed to fit more stuff in a five minute song, before, our songs were getting to six and seven minutes long, big metal epics (*laughs*), and now it seems like we are more about just going more in your face you know, just straight forward but still with the technical side.

Matt: You mentioned something that, in fact, was a question I wanted to ask you, you talked about that you have a lot more parts to it and everything, when you guys get together, how do you write songs? I mean your music seems so complex yet the lyrics fit right in, I mean it seems like it would be nerve racking to try to get all of that to work, it seems like you guys would have to be perfectionists.

Brian: It really is, if it wasn't for Mike, our bass player..... we would have probably given up a lot sooner but he keeps pushing us, it takes about 3 or 4 months sometimes to write a song, and we'll write it, record it, and play it back, and then fix that part and fix that part



until it is just fluid and perfect, I usually don't write the lyrics until almost the entire song is created and I usually don't even think about the songs when I'm

writing them, it just works out in the end. We are at that point where we rewrite and rewrite until its perfect, if it is not we just dump it, shelve the song and just forget about it.

Matt: I've got to say that the musical aspect of OVERCAST is pure genius, but so is the vocals. You have one of the most incredible vocal ranges I have ever heard, I mean you go from that low end death growl to a melodic singing voice and it is the best I have ever heard at doing that, when did you realize this is the way you wanted to do vocals for OVERCAST?

Brian: It just kinda evolved. We started off as a band that sounded very much like METALLICA way back, and I sang a lot like James Hetfield....I listened to a lot of BAD BRAINS, and H.R. is a huge inspiration vocally, as well as Rennie from STARKWEATHER and things like that. It all just started working where not all of the riffs really demanded a full on death metal scream, it just worked better to build it up and add some tension to it where you come with something soft and then explode into some huge SLAYER rip-off, it's great (*laughs*). It just kinda evolved as the music got a little more technical and a little more brutal, it had that light

and that dark to it, so the vocals just followed that, adding that light and dark, all the shades of grey.

Matt: Alright, I've got to get a

plug for the label, you guys are on Edison Records.

Brian: Edison is the greatest label we have ever worked with, John Dudeck is just amazing and has been nothing but a positive experience. Everyone always talks about being screwed by this and being screwed by that but John is doing nothing but lookin' out, he is just totally supportive and he decided to just keep a few bands like us and COALESCE and he was working with STARKWEATHER for awhile. Instead of signing any new bands, he focused on a few that he had a lot of interest in and a lot of faith in and it has been wonderful.

Matt: That is the way a label should be run.

Brian: Exactly, he's doing it D.I.Y. and he's doing it for the kids and he's doing it for the music he loves....

Matt: Honestly I've never been to the Northeast area, how would you describe what is going on in the Boston area right now, the whole scene and everything that's just going on up there?

Brian: The Boston scene is a lot of kids really trying to make it happen but there is a lot of problems they are trying to deal with, I mean there has been tons of violence at shows for years, the clubs are very afraid of all of these hard-core shows, there is a real bad stigma for violence and near riots and such. But there are kids in bands like DIECAST who are trying to get things going again, Jeremy has been amazing, booking shows here and there. Right now, finding venues is the problem, the kids are still into it, but there are problems like violence sometimes but it has mellowed out a lot, kids are really focusing more on the music....if we had places to play, it would definitely be huge right now, unfortunately it's in a rented out hall with no PA or in a club that has such tight security, no one can move without getting beat up or thrown out. Besides that, a lot of great bands, a lot of great music coming up, a lot of bands to watch for from Boston, definitely DIECAST and REACH THE SKY.....

Matt: I know that Mike mentioned earlier that you guys would like to make OVERCAST a full time thing, how close are you really into making that a reality?

Brian: We are all still working, we all finally graduated from school. I just graduated from college in August and Pete (*guitar*) just finished up in October so now we are at that point where we can make that full time commitment, I'm ready to quit my job and go on the road and I know everyone else pretty much is, right now all we need is a little tour support and hopefully the album sells will help a little bit, I never got a



check from being in OVERCAST you know. We don't lose money, we can do whatever we want, drive to Erie, PA. for a weekend and play shows.....as far as living, we all need to have part time jobs, that's definitely our goal is to try to get a house so we can pay rent with the band and really focus on it 100% and not really have to worry about having to be back whenever, worrying about the 9 to 5 thing or whatever on Monday. There is not a lot of money to be made in hard-core (laughs). We knew that from the beginning.but it would be great to live the rock star life (laughs).

Matt: You mentioned tours, what are your plans right now, I mean is there a tour in the works?

Brian: We are always trying to work something, right now we are just trying to find a band to go with. There has been a lot of talk about this band and that band but nothing has gotten really solid, if we are not out by Spring will probably be going crazy. We just need to get on the road and I envy bands like BLOODLET who can just tour year after year and play everywhere, its like the best life, living out of a van....we are definitely going to be touring as much of the Spring and Summer as we can.

Matt: I heard about this, I don't

know if it is a rumor or not, did you guys recently play a show with SIX FEET UNDER?

Brian: There was something in the works, I don't know if it is coming up or if it got canceled, but it was definitely scheduled.....we were suppose to play a show with ENTOMBED but we got bounced off that bill, it was suppose to be a monster show, like BLOODLET, ENTOMBED, HATEBREED, and us and a few other bands.....and of course it all fell through (laughs), because its hard-core.

Matt: Wow, and I thought I got my ass kicked, you see BLOODLET and ENTOMBED just came through here but HATEBREED had to cancel because Jamie's (vocals for Hatebreed) mom died and they had to jet down to Florida real quick..... and you know how much my ass would have been kicked if I would have seen you guys, HATEBREED, BLOODLET, and ENTOMBED all in one night....

Brian: Yeah, it would have been a monster show and everyone was so excited, but it ended up falling through of course (laughs). We've gotten to play with some great bands this past Summer, we were on the reunion tour, we played with AGNOSTIC FRONT when they got back together, we played

with S.O.D. when they got back together, two shows with the MISFITS, it was just crazy, we were just playing with all the old guys, it was awesome.

Matt: This is a question I have got to ask everybody man, what is your favorite hockey team?

Brian: Right now the Czechoslovakia gold medal team (laughs), I work with a kid from the Czech Republic and he's really been on my sh*t like making me watch the games at 4:00 in the morning, so he's been my inspiration behind that, so I've been following them. He's also a huge Bruins fan who moved from L.A., he had never been to Boston before in his life, but he was a huge Bruins fan and he moved out here just to be closer to the Bruins. He's been my hockey inspiration. But right now, the Czechs, their kicking ass (laughs).

Matt: You're going with a winner man, I like that, they got the gold medal and that's who I'm going with (laughs).

Brian: Yep, exactly, I watched the games so I was there until the end.

Matt: I really appreciate you talking with me.

Brian: Hey, anytime.

Matt: And when you guys come back to Atlanta, I'd like to get in touch with you guys on a personal tip.

Brain: Yeah definitely, we'll definitely have to get together, we'll try to make it to Atlanta as soon as possible....

Matt: I appreciate it man, take care...

Brian: Alright, later on bro.

If you want more information on getting some OVERCAST material, you can email me at mattwghr@mindspring.com or you can check out OVERCAST's website, <http://www.overcast.com>....

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Final Fantasy Tactics: New Legend in the Making

Frank Lopez
Video Game Reviews

A short time ago, Final Fantasy 7

became the first Role Playing Game (RPG) to sweep the American video game market.

Final Fantasy 7 won gamers over with its beautiful graphics, enthralling story, and intuitive play. Just recently, Final Fantasy Tactics was released on this side of the Pacific. While the appeal to Tactics is not as broad as its higher budget brother, it is nevertheless one of the most gripping video game experiences that I have ever played.

Final Fantasy Tactics finely straddles the line between RPG and strategy. The game

sets you as the leader of a small band of traditional fantasy warriors. You must move knights, wizards, ninjas, and lancers on a 3d grid map and defeat your enemies while protecting your allies. Your troops use a variety of spells, attacks, and

from a party of up to sixteen and pit them against a similar team of enemies. As your characters fight, they gain experience, which makes them stronger; gold, which lets you buy items and battle gear; and ability, which allows characters to learn new skills. If your party leader (you) ever dies, the game ends; all the other units may be replaced if they fall in battle, but the loss of the unit's acquired skills and power is severe.

The graphics are simple, but quite good; many of the special effects are very impressive. The story is excellent, but it is extremely dark. The storyline focuses more on war and politics than magic and adventure. The story can become confusing but, fortunately, the game contains an option to review the many twists of the plot.

Tactics is completely menu driven, but effective use of shortcuts makes it easier to play. The game itself, however, is tremendously difficult. Most of the challenge is derived from deciding what skills to equip to your characters for individual fights. Your enemies are just as strong as your team and you are usually outnumbered.

The challenge is actually set by the method that the player uses to advance through the game. If you wander the map

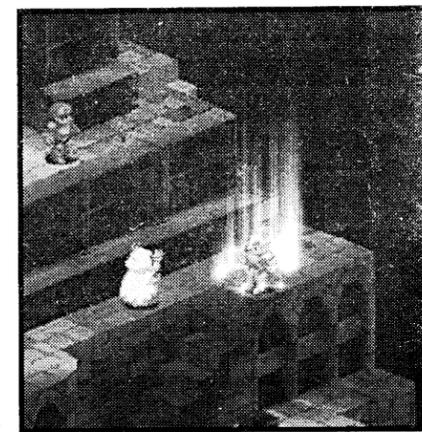
and engage in random fights, your characters will be much more powerful than if you merely attempt to advance from one fight to the next. Likewise, the game can be very long or only mildly so.

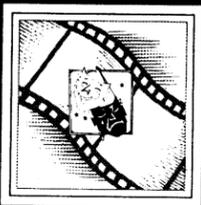
Final Fantasy Tactics will appeal most strongly to die-hard fans of the Final Fantasy series. A familiar setting and game mechanics coupled with countless cameos and references to previous Final Fantasy make Tactics a new look at a beloved series. RPGers who want a fresh game idea and strategy gamers who are looking for more depth should likewise enjoy the game.



items to accomplish your mission.

Where the game diverges from most strategy games is the focus on individual units. Instead of invading with swarms of cannon fodder, you pit up to five units





Arts & Entertainment

Warner Brothers Spring & Summer Movies

Bryan Garmon Movies

Warner Brothers is taking no shortcuts this Spring and Summer for its scheduled movie releases.

First on the list is Chris Farley's last movie called *Almost Heroes*. This is the story of the two real conquerors of the American frontier: Leslie Edward and Bartholomew

Hunt. According to this interpretation they discovered the American West before Lewis and Clark. This one's sure to be a big hit for Chris Farley fans. Also starring are Matthew Perry and Eugene Levy.

For comic book fans everywhere, *The Avengers* are making their way to the big screen. It's 1990 and London is

a hotbed of activity signaling the world to make way for the millennium. Post-nuclear punk alongside revisionist spiritualism, old-guard capitalism clashing with global-concern idealism, a nostalgia for the past rethought to serve the present. Time once again for John Steed and Emma Peel played by Ralph

Fiennes and Uma Thurman. Sure to draw crowds to the movie, Sean Connery will pick up the role as Sir August De Wynter.

The

Butcher

Boy stars Eamonn Owens and Alan Boyle as Francis Brady and his best friend Joe. The story is about the hard life lived by Francis as his father is the town drunk and his mother is drifting into madness. Shunned and scorned by the people of the town and ultimately estranged from Joe, his only friend, Francis's frustration at the cruelty of the

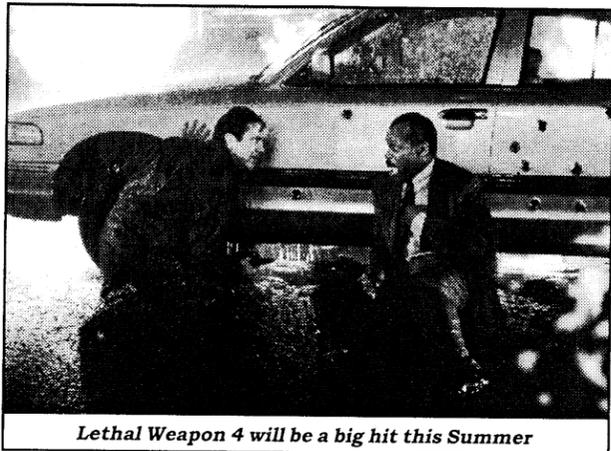
world finally explodes with shocking and violent consequences.

Another blockbuster in the wings, Mel Gibson and Danny Glover return with Joe Pesci and Rene Russo for *Lethal Weapon 4*. New to the cast is Chris Rock who will play a junior detective named Lee Butters. The team struggles to unravel a series of events involving an Asian crime overlord bent on a complex and deadly mission of revenge. Richard Donner will be resuming the directors chair.

Police choppers circle the 20th floor of the downtown office building that houses the Chicago Internal Affairs Bureau. S.W.A.T. marksmen stand ready on nearby rooftops, their high-powered weapons target on Danny Roman (Samuel L. Jackson), the man holding the chief of the I.A.B. and his staff at gunpoint. The catch -- he's a police officer and an expert hostage negotiator. With the tables turned, Roman asks that

another respected negotiator from an outside precinct Chris Sabian (Kevin Spacey) be brought in. and the action begins.

Finally *A Perfect Murder* starring Michael Douglas, is about Steven Tayler, a millionaire douglas who has everything



Lethal Weapon 4 will be a big hit this Summer



Michael Douglas stars with Gwyneth Paltrow in A Perfect Murder

but what he craves most -- the love and fidelity of his wife (Gwyneth Paltrow). His wife, Emily is having an affair with David Shaw (Viggo Mortensen) who provides the emotional fulfillment she needs. It's only a matter of time before Steven learns the truth and when he does, it sets the game for the perfect murder.

Dear Trish



Dear Trish,

I need to find more ways to spend time with my fiancée. I enjoy playing golf and become very competitive. She has expressed interest in learning to play golf and I want to teach her, but I don't want to turn her off by my competitive nature.

-The Golfer

Dear Golfer,

Let's look at the golf aspect of this situation. This could be a perfect opportunity to spend time with your fiancée. First, we need to work on your competitive urges though. I completely feel your pain in this area because I am competitive myself. The key thing is to find ways to channel your competitive self into positive means, whether this be hitting an extra bucket of balls at the driving range or doing something that would best channel your urges, you need to get a hold of yourself. Together, before you hit the fairway spend time at the driving range, the putting green, and even at the sporting good store to learn about the different drivers, irons, and putters. This would be quality time spent with your fiancée that would benefit you both. Hints: be patient and relax, she knows that you are competitive just be aware of your actions, words, and expressions. Good Luck and have fun on the green!!!

-Trish

Dear Trish,

I am very active in music and like talking about music to my girlfriend, but she isn't interested. Is there a way to work out the difference there?

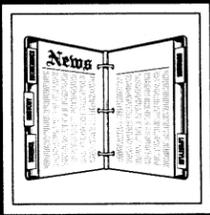
-Musically Inclined

Dear Musically Inclined,

Of course!!!! The main thing to do is keep an open mind. She may not like music as much as you, but I'm sure that she isn't to the point of pulling out her hair, if she was surely she would tell you. In case she hasn't told you ask her opinion. Take her feelings into consideration and compromise. An open mind must be kept in this situation on both sides, small things such as this can ALWAYS be worked out in a healthy relationship. Good Luck!!!

-Trish

*****Trish is in her third year of school. On campus her activities include being a member of professional and social Greek organizations, and a writer for numerous campus newsletters. She is also active in various music departments on other campuses as well as intramural activities. (See, I'm a well rounded student). Please send your questions c/o The STING - don't worry, you don't have to include your name.



Campus Announcements

How would you like to study abroad and experience Germany!!

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Wernigerode, Sachsen-Anhalt
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Summer 1998 (5 Weeks)

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Charlotte Janis or Dorothy Savoy International Programs & Services 770-528-7226

*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*

Do you enjoy telling other people about SPSU? Do you want the opportunity to interact with other enthusiastic students, staff & faculty? Do you want to commit to something that is fun and also a resume enhancer? Do you have and want others to have more school spirit?

Yes? Then consider becoming a **SPSU AMBASSADOR!**

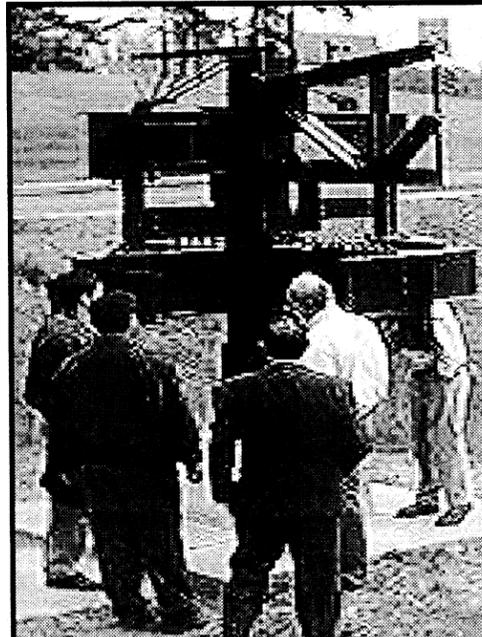
SPSU Ambassadors program began last fall. Get involved now! All interested students will participate in a selection process. You may also recommend other students who would answer "yes" to the above questions.

Informational Meeting:

Wednesday, April 8 at noon
Dogwood Room, Student Center room 216
Refreshments will be served

Questions? Or to receive an application (also available at the Student Center Info Desk): Call Jackie in Student Activities, x7374 or Steven in Admissions, x5549.

*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*SPSU*



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404-733-6773 Phone • 404-733-6774 Fax

120-Announcements

Volunteers needed for ASTHMA RESEARCH studies of an investigational asthma medication at Peachtree Allergy & Asthma Clinic, 1938 Peachtree Rd. NW. Participants must be non-smokers at least 12 years old, and use an asthma inhaler. Qualified participants will receive compensation up to \$1000 depending on study requirements. Call 404-350-7995 Debeeh Jewett, R.N. 01775c

420-Sell: Autos

SEIZED CARS from \$175. Porches, Cadillacs, Chevy's BMW's, Corvettes. Also Jeeps, 4WD's. Your area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. A-3851 for current listings. 01631c

630-Jobs: Part time

\$30,000 A Reality.

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FLEXIBLE HOURS/GREAT PAY! Corporate Sports Unlimited, Inc., is now looking for staff to work corp. picnics, team bldg., and sports production events. Comfortable attire! Very flexible schedule! Earn \$7-\$10/hr. Call April Anderson at 770-432-0100 x626. 01851c

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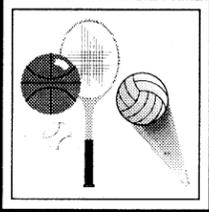
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Sports

The BOMB SQUAD has detained the EXPLOSIVE

On Tuesday March 10th the University called in the BOMB SQUAD led by T. Elson Garnet and Conley Laford to obtain the fast league intramural championship. Referees Haran, Ken, and Brandon had to witness this annihilation unbiased and make sure the game was played clean. The game started early in the first half with the bomb squad getting an early jump start on the Running Rebels sporting the green jerseys giving the Bomb squad the go ahead to annihilate them. Michael Wilder and Coleman Oglesbee along with brothers Shaunta and Carlisle Hall tried to keep the legend alive for the running rebels evening up the score whenever possible.

Rob Pollard had three fouls and early in the first half letting the opposition know whose court it was. He finished up the game with two from the field and thirteen points. For a while it seemed like the squad got tired, yet they persisted on knowing how important this last

game would be. T. Elson Garnett just brought the ball inside as Conley Laford put up the three point shot. They ran the floor well and turned the ball giving the defense no chance to get settled. Then when that did not work they would draw a foul and get the points at the free throw line. This is how they got 10 of their 72 points. Dana Atkinson and Kenny worked the perimeter with great timing and

finesse for a combined effort of 18 points. Conley ended up with 14 for the night while Mr. Garnett finished up with an amazing 28 points. Ashley Car and Reggie Williams both finished up with 6 with Sheldon dishing the ball to the inside for the Rebels. The game was pulsating from beginning to end and by the time 9 o'clock came around the Bomb Squad

had the championship and Kenny, Rob, Dana, Conley, and T. Elson rejoiced in sweet success. The final score was 72-60. The game was EXPLOSIVE and both teams played well and exemplified good sportsmanship. Good luck to the Bomb Squad in their future endeavors. GLORY COMES TO MARIETTA

Winter 1998 Intramural Champions

BASKETBALL
3 vs 3 **Puppy Stompers**
Rec League **Mixed-Up**
Advanced **Bomb Squad**

POLAR BEAR SOFTBALL
ELB's

RACQUETBALL
Singles
Beginner Female **Melanie Wood**
Intermediate **Jay Owens**
Advanced **Barry Birkhead**
Doubles
Beginner **Taylor/Tweedle**
Intermediate **McLain/Moss**

WEIGHT-LIFTING
Jason Schmidt
Drew Burdette
Scott Frederick

WHIFFLEBALL
Marietta Walchucks

Official of the Quarter
Joey Cochran, Basketball

GLORY COMES TO MARIETTA

That's the all women's basketball intramural team at Southern Polytechnic State University. For the second year in a row the women have played in the vigorous and competitive intramural league. This year the team play has had several players come back from last years team. Co-captain Angela

Sanford, Theresa Turman and Nicole Phillips have played well from last years team as well as played host to several new comers like Dede Alexander, Kim Jink and Cristy Plumley. Guards Monica Senior, Jennifer Hackney, and Stephanie Grogan run the floor well while forwards Almaz "Al" Kerr and

Kim Walker play down low as the strong post players. The ladies have played together four games and they are excited about the future of the team. This year the team won one game and felt confident in having played with the gentleman and the seasons outcome. Most of the players are just excited to have an opportunity to

play in a competitive aspect on campus and feel that we are did quite well. Look for a lot from Marietta Glory in future competitive aspects on campus and thanks for your support.

American Assoc. Of Univ Women

Offers scholarships to non-traditional students Over 13 years, Cobb country branch of AAUW has awarded sc to women enrolling at Southern Poly and Kennesaw after significant laspe in education.

Reps of the AAUW commite will be on campus April 6th at student center. Deadline is April 15th - visit finance aid office or call barbara Fligg at 770-971-1952 AAUW national org, dedicated to creating opportunites to women

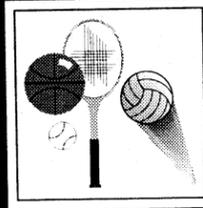
Membership is open to women with degrees and those currently working toward a degree. The local Cobb county branch meets monthly, 2nd wed, 7:30 at east Cobb govt center at 4400 Lower Roswell Rd.

895 Fawn Way
Marietta, GA 30068

Intramural Schedule

Single Player's Meeting	April 7 5:00pm	Rec Center
Mandatory Captain's Meeting	April 7 5:30pm	Rec Center

Sports	Sign-Ups	Play Starts
Softball	4/6 - 4/12	April 13
Soccer 7 vs 7	4/13 - 4/19	April 20
Spring Racquetball Tourn.	4/20 - 4/27	April 28-29
Tennis- Doubles and Singles League	4/27 - 5/4	May 5
Volleyball League	5/11 - 5/18	May 19
Floor Hockey Tournament	5/13 - 5/20	May 21
Ultimate Frisbee Tournament	5/20 - 5/27	May 28
Porky's All-Nighter Sports Event		June 8



Up Close and Personal with Jordan

That would be Wilbur Jordan of course. For those of you who need an introduction Will is a six-foot tall basketball student athlete at Southern Polytechnic State University. Not only is he an excellent player; Will is a cool person to talk to. We had a little sit down and talked about where he was from, how he came to be such a player, and how he felt about his last year on the basketball team.

Wilbur comes to the University all the way from Daytona Beach, Florida. He graduated high school in 1994 and attended college close to home enrolling Daytona Beach Community College. While there Will started on the basketball during his two years and received his Associates degree.

He was recruited from the Daytona Beach Community College after completion of his final quarter and decided to further his education at our illustrious University and pursue a Management Technology degree.

When we talked about what he contributed his dramatic performance improvements from (9 points per game) last year statistically to this years (23 points per game). He responded "I felt my game was limited last year due

to the coaching style and this year I was able to open up and play to my fullest potential." We discussed why he felt the team performed well in the beginning of the season and then finished up 16-16 Will explained that " Players they had

in the beginning of the season no longer played with the team as the season came to a close. This was not a burden on the team, yet earlier expectations of the years outcome seemed slightly dismal." The players left had to play harder now and with much more intensity. The starting line up changed and now players who had previously played 3-5 minutes a game were now playing 15-20 minutes. This season has been his best year playing basketball and his game high was 41 points. He also has had several games scoring well over thirty points.

Wilbur seemed grateful from all of the support the team received from the faculty, staff, and students at the University as well as the coaching staff of basketball team. He will finish up his last year at the University and expects to graduate in the early part of next year. Expect big things from Wilbur JORDAN in the future both athletically and academically.

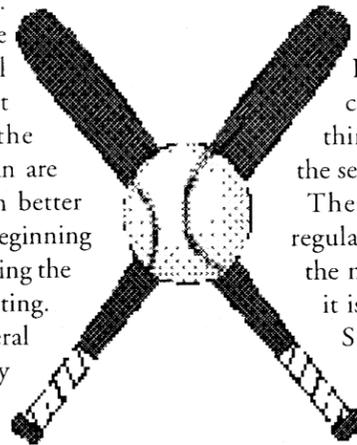


THE BATS CONTINUE TO CONNECT

The Southern Polytechnic State University baseball team is still at it knocking out the competition and overcoming all odds. Prior to spring break the team was 7-4, which is still in the running to get good position in the playoffs. The gentlemen are working together much better and are continuing the beginning of the season action making the games eventful and exciting. As usual there are several batters hitting extremely well and knocking the

ball out of the park. Since the break is over and the team is back in the field the players are excited about the outcome of this years underestimated team. Practice is essential and the coaches are expecting big things for the later part of the season.

The team has four more regular season games left and the next game is April 8th and it is a double header against Southern Wesleyan University. The team and coaching staff expect to see you there.



Crack Head
Shoplifter
Prostitute
...all thrown out
with the help
of kids like me.
-Ana, age 16

Everybody loves to trash teenagers, right? Maybe they don't realize that we do care. That we can make a difference. Get involved in Crime Prevention. Clean up parks. Teach younger kids. Start a school or neighborhood watch. And help make your community safer and better for everyone. Together, we can prove them wrong by doing something right.

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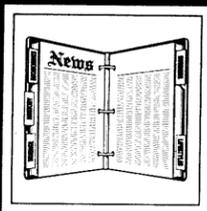
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1998 Baseball Schedule

April				
11	Sat	*Georgia Southwestern (2)	away	1:00 pm
15	Wed	*Brewton-Parker College (2)	HOME	2:00 pm
18	Sat	*Piedmont College (2)	HOME	1:00 pm
22	Wed	*Shorter College (2)	away	2:00 pm
25	Sat	*Emmanuel College (2)	away	1:00 pm
28	Tues	Kennesaw State University (1)	HOME	2:30 pm
May				
2-5		GAC Conference Tournament - Albany, GA		TBA
9-12		NAIA Southeast Regional Tournament - Albany, GA		TBA
18-23		NAIA World Series - Tulsa, OK		TBA

*Conference Games



Words from the editor

Bryan Garmon
Editor

I love technology and the people that embrace it to enhance their daily lives, but sometimes it just really drives me crazy.

Beeper are one of the best ways to get in touch with somebody. It fits right on your waist for easy access and can pretty much be used anywhere in the world. A person no longer has to sit at home by the telephone when they are expecting a call, just give a person your beeper number and whenever they call, that little black box on your waist goes off to tell you to call them. Now it's got two settings and this is the part that really drives me crazy. As the name would imply it beeps when a call comes in but you can also set it to vibrate. This setting allows you to still get the page without distracting others around you. Some people prefer the beeping which is fine but if you're one of these people you need to understand a few things. First of all it's not appropriate for classrooms, movie theaters, or seminars! Almost everyday in one of my classes, someone's beeper goes off. It wouldn't be so bad

if it was once in a while but the kicker is that it takes these people at least four beeps before they even realize it's theirs. It disrupts class time and drives everyone else crazy and at this stage of your education you should be able to figure out that it's very disrespectful. If you need to bring it to class, put it on vibrate and save the rest of the class the disruption.

The Movie Theater is another pet peeve of mine. It's gotten so bad that the theaters have adjusted their introductions to tell people not only to visit the concession stand, be quiet, and don't smoke, but to also turn off their beepers. Nothing is worse than being caught up in the action and having the guy next to you start beeping. There's a vibration setting for a reason people!

Cell phones are another great invention. When people started wearing beepers they discovered they could get paged wherever they go, but often a phone is not readily available. Someone thought that it would be great if we had wireless phones that could be brought along with us and solve that problem, if not eliminate beepers all together. Technological advancements have brought about phones that can now fit

either on your waist or even in your pocket. The only reason it hasn't replaced beepers completely is that it's very expensive to get airtime on cell phones. So now you can get paged and then call people back regardless of where you are. But just like beepers, there are certain places that should be off limits to cell phones. Again, classrooms, movie-theaters, and seminars come to mind. Unlike beepers, cell phones don't have a silent setting so there isn't much you can do to silence them short of turning them off. I remember I was seeing Titanic for the second time when a cell phone started ringing just before Jack dies at the end. A scene that at one minute was very emotional was destroyed by the presence of a cell phone and judging by the reactions of some of the others in the theater, this guy could possibly have gotten mobbed after the movie.

Technology seminars are the most interesting though. I attended one last week at the Galleria and every two minutes, someone's cell phone or pager went off. In a room of about 400 people, I really don't see how the speaker talked through it all without

making a comment about it. The room was filled with network administrators and computer support technicians so it was understandable that they were needed. When a companies network goes down and 400 employees can't work, it's understandable that the guy in charge who's listening to someone talk needs to be interrupted but here at school and in theaters, I don't think the same situation applies. Regardless though, half of them could have been less distracting if they had set the beepers to vibrate.

What's my point in all this? Start using your brains. If you're wearing a pager and you're coming to class, click the button to change it to vibrate. If you've got a cell phone and you're going to a movie, turn it off and let the rest of us enjoy the movie. It sounds simple, but most people don't stop to think about it. Staying in touch is always a great thing and technology keeps making it easier to do, but you've got to understand that while that message or that phone call might be important to you, the twenty other people around you that are going to be distracted by it really don't care.

The blight of Spring

Dave Eskridge
Commentary

It's spring. The weather is warming, the birds are singing, and spring showers cool the land around us. It's spring. Kill me. I hate this time of the year with a deep, dark passion. Oh, I know you'll say that I have no romance in my soul. I know you'll stare in mild shock at my statement before categorizing the rest of this as the mindless prattle of an Evil Seasonal Scrooge. You'd be right on all accounts, but I'll assume you're reading on anyway.

Warm weather is nice they say. Oh, yes. I love breathing the hot fetid air of this city in spring. I love the high constant lethargy that the heat induces. Oh yes, I truly worship the sun. That ball of carcinogenic flaming gas that hovers over the planet glaring into windshields and off of skyscrapers. Oh, haven't you heard? Brown spots of skin cancer are all the rage. Perhaps you like the boiled lobster look?

Well, despite the heat the earth is green again. Well perhaps not so much grass green as pollen yellow. Everything is in bloom with a vengeance. Oh you'll feel right up to smelling the roses, strung out as you are on antihistamines and decongestants. Yes the wonders of allergies are with us again. The yellow plague sweeps the state. Our green brothers reap their revenge for any injustice, real or imagined, that we have committed against them. Oh and I

— as I sit here strung out on drugs to keep me breathing — know that they know what they are doing to us! I don't trust anything that can sit there as quiet as plants do. The only reason to be that quiet is when one is plotting.

Those leafy green bastards have got us by the sports equipment. I'll tell you that!

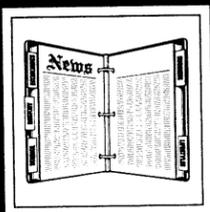
Well, at least the rain cools us and pulls the pollen out of the air. Oh how picturesque is the spring shower! We sing its praises in song and poem. Oh I love the spring shower. It's those spring tornadoes that bug me. Yes those wonderful funnels of noisy property damage are the truest sign of the ever

so mercurial weather of spring. Sure your cooler you just happen to be in the hospital. Yes I can hear it even now. The incessant wowl of the air-raid sirens, screeching like a cat in an acid bath. Oh they do make a wonderful harmony with the howling wind and staccato beat of hail.

Yes, oh ye faithful who have read this far, I love spring. As I sit here — stoned

on allergy medications, listening to the storm sirens, and sweltering in the heat— I contemplate how much I love this season. I sit here trying to breath, one nostril wheezing pitifully, the other clogged beyond use. I sit here in the damp heat like a fat swamp-dwelling lizard. I sit here listening for the train-like roar of a funneling storm. I sit here and think about spring. Kill me.

The opinions expressed on these pages are the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the newspaper. Please do not confuse opinions with facts.



Editorials

The Rambler

Shaidu Kiven
Contributing Writer

... Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. So, do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the tress & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore, be at peace with God, or whatever you may conceive Him to be; and whatever your aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, & broken dreams, it is a beautiful world. Be careful, strive to be happy."

As promised, the Rambler will keep on with the relentless effort to nurture

the community both spiritually and intellectually. Things have been sort of hectic for the last couple of weeks, or better still, since the last time we corresponded via our paper— The Sting. Last time we were all warned to be very careful with the unpredictable attitude of El Nino. As posterity would have it, El Nino has become quite unbearable. There is hardly any good news to the ears from the east to the west as well as from north to south.

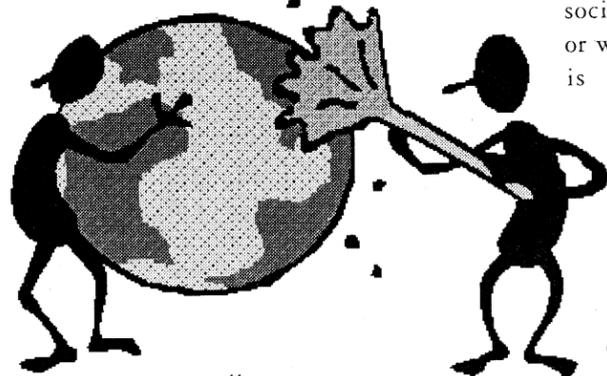
Beyond all these disturbances, there is a silver lining on the horizon. Thanks to the United Nations' Secretary General, neither a child nor a mother will be slaughtered by the deadly weapons in which mankind has invested quite its fortune. Whether our destruction, I mean the destruction of

the planet as we know it, is to be by the help of some natural disasters or by the volition of those who manufacture and stock pile weapons of mass destruction, is left to be seen. The Rambler believes that prejudice is the cause of all these sufferings on the planet. Prejudice of all

kinds; class, racial, patriotic, social, religious or whatever kind is one of the baneful crimes against humanity. It should be condemned by any civilized society and

treated as poison would be treated. Weapons of mass destruction, whether amassed by the western or eastern governments, or by democratic or dictatorial regimes, they are intended for the destruction of the human race and should be condemned by any conscientious individuals. These weapons resulted in two great wars with

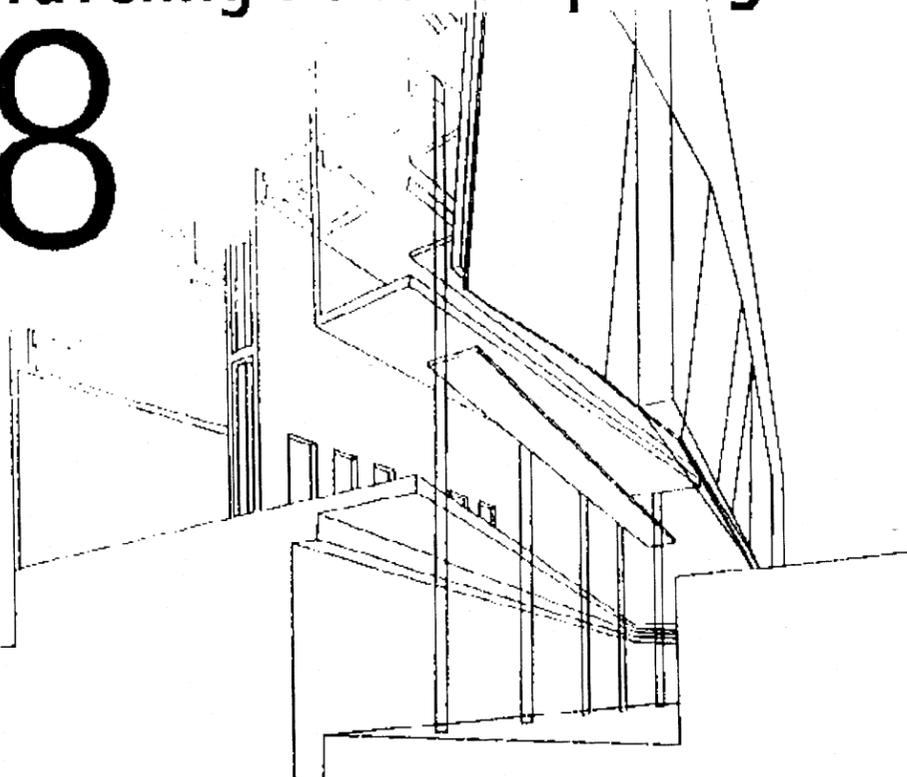
unimaginable ruin to the human race. Isn't it time for those who care for the well-being of this planet to raise their voices and call on the world community to ban the production and use of anti-personnel land mines (the highest killer of children in this day)? To ban the production and storage of bombs, biological weapons or in short, all the weapons of mass destruction? The game with Saddam looks to me like child's-play because all his weapons were provided by the Western Nations to be used against the people of Iran (children included)! All the nations spend more on ammunition than on education. The question is; could the world channel 50% of the investments on weapons to be used on means to establish a universal peace? Think about it!



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PEACE!**

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