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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 2

Chancellor Portch launches new agenda for SPSU *Portch further outlines statewide engineering proposal*

By Arlethia Johnson,
Contributing Writer

ATLANTA—University System Chancellor Stephen R. Portch released the details of the final component of his proposal to address statewide engineering needs during a visit today (Aug. 31) to Southern Polytechnic State University, citing the role that the unique Atlanta-area institution will play.

During a campus visit to the University, Portch outlined the graduate degree program he has proposed that will be offered through Georgia Tech in collaboration with Southern Polytechnic. Portch said that he will recommend to the regents at their monthly meeting on September 9, a Georgia Tech master of science in systems engineering degree, collaboratively offered by the two institutions. Portch also

indicated that he expected Southern Poly to play an increasingly important role in responding to needs for computer and information technology graduates.

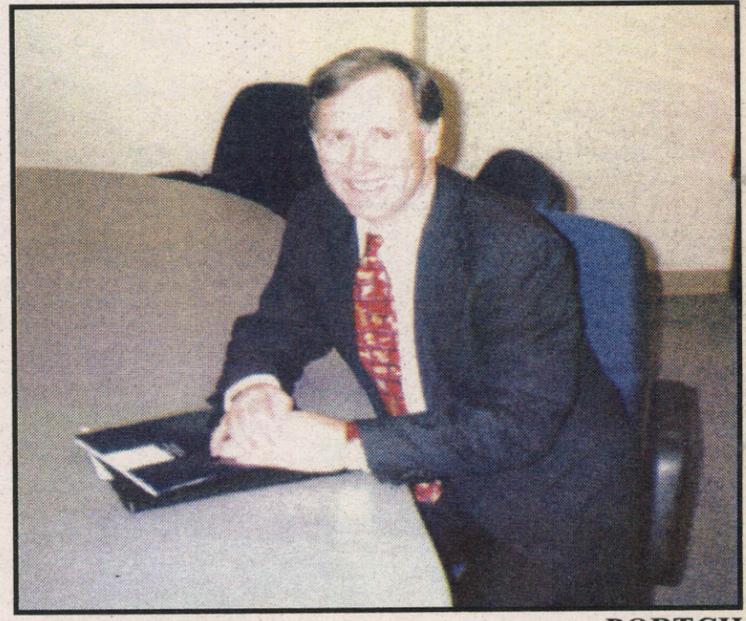
Portch announced earlier this month that he plans to propose to the Board of Regents a comprehensive plan to respond to engineering education needs throughout the state. He said collaborative programs to educate additional engineers in high-demand fields could begin as early as the Fall semester of 1999, if approved by the board and contingent upon legislative funding. According to Portch, planning and design by University System officials could start immediately.

"This new master's program will be quickly rolled out statewide via distance learning," Portch stated. "It will capitalize on the

experience that Southern Polytechnic has garnered as the first university in our system to offer a complete degree on the Internet, the very successful M.S. in Quality Assurance program. It also could provide an excellent capstone master's for many working professionals."

Portch added that he is "very pleased with the University System's response to engineering needs identified earlier this summer. His proposal includes two undergraduate degrees and two graduate degrees in the Statesboro/Savannah region, plus the statewide master's originating from Southern Poly. All degrees will be granted under the auspices of Georgia Tech.

"The models that we are creating should be 'transportable' elsewhere in the state if they prove successful—which will be



PORTCH

useful in addressing issues of need, location, and the employment of graduates in meeting immediate demands," Portch noted.

"I believe we are doing the right thing, the right way—a needs driven, Georgia Tech-based, highly innovative

response," he said. "I am thrilled with the responsiveness of Wayne Clough at Georgia Tech, and with the immediate involvement of new president Lisa Rossbacher at Southern Poly."

Harris and Amastha receive AAUW scholarship

By Barbara Fligg,
Contributing Writer

Marilyn Harris and Ruby Amastha are the recipients of the American Association of University Women Scholarship for Fall 1998. Marilyn and Ruby both attend Southern Polytechnic State University where they are Seniors. Marilyn is majoring in Technical Communications and Ruby is majoring in Computer Science. Ruby is a repeat recipient having been selected in the Fall of 1997. Both Marilyn and Ruby excel scholastically as well as involving themselves in their communities.

The Cobb County American Association of University Women provides scholarships to women who enroll at Southern Polytechnic State University or Kennesaw



Harris and Amastha stand proudly.

State University after a lapse in their education. Applications for the Fall 1999 Scholarship are available on or about March 1, 1999 at Southern Polytechnic State University and Kennesaw State University.

The Cobb County branch of AAUW invites

SPSU and KSU women who have a four-year degree, or are working toward one, to attend its meetings. AAUW meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday at 7:30pm in the East Cobb Government Services Center. For information, call Barbara Fligg at (770) 971-1952.

SPSU experience with first Internet master's degree program

By Ann Watson/Denise Jones,
Contributing Writers

In the fall of 1997, Southern Polytechnic State University kicked off a new education endeavor in the state of Georgia—the first master's degree program offered over the Internet. The degree, a Master of Science in Quality Assurance, offered the same courses via the Internet as are taken by on-campus students.

This pilot program for the University System of Georgia has been closely monitored to determine the effectiveness of distance education at this level.

According to Southern Polytechnic Prof. Lawrence Aft, PE, it was believed that the benefits of a master's program via the Internet would include availability and

flexibility, and broaden access to students throughout the state of Georgia and beyond. As of this fall, those beliefs seem well justified. Seventy-three people are enrolled in the master's via the Internet for the start of fall semester, 30 of whom are new students. Approximately 80 to 85 percent of the students are located in the state of Georgia. The balance are spread throughout the United States from Washington, D.C. to the north, and from the southern

Continued on page 3

The STING
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Professor Weeks visits Croatia

In June, 1998 Professor Charlie Weeks of the Social and International Studies Department visited

Dubrovnik, Croatia for two weeks to attend a seminar entitled "Reconstruction in Post-War Dubrovnik." He has submitted an essay and photos to the Sting telling of his impressions.

As my bus carefully wound its way around a narrow mountain road, I caught my first glimpse of the beautiful city of Dubrovnik. Located in Croatia, a nation created in 1991 when Yugoslavia began its descent into disintegration, Dubrovnik is without a doubt one of the loveliest historic cities in the world. Founded in the seventh century by Roman refugees fleeing barbarian invasions of their native city of Epidarus, Dubrovnik drew inspiration from both Rome and Byzantium. By the Middle Ages, it had become a great commercial power in the region of the Adriatic Sea rivaling Venice, and by the sixteenth century, it was engaging in trade with areas as distant as the newly discovered Americas.

Throughout its long history as a republican city-state, it established an enviable reputation for granting asylum to refugees uprooted by the periodic upheavals and natural disasters in the region.

As I looked down on the brilliantly white buildings with reddish orange tile roofs, it was difficult to believe that for nine months between 1991 and 1992, the city had been under siege and brutal bombardment by the Yugoslav military forces. Filled with refugees, Dubrovnik suffered daily artillery pounding and frequent small arms fire from land, sea, and air. During the siege, the Yugoslavian armed forces senselessly lobbed thousands of shells over the medieval walls of this historic town that is listed as a world class historic treasure by the United Nations. The siege ended in mid-1993 and most of the physical damage has since been repaired. Today Dubrovnik is working hard to rebuild its image as a vacation center and is now a great place to visit at a bargain price. It is virtually crime free, surrounded by crystal clear water, and the food,

particularly the seafood, is superb. Unfortunately, there are psychological scars that will take much longer to heal.

Although in Dubrovnik one has to look closely to find evidence of the war, in nearby Bosnia it is an altogether different story. Not long after you cross the border and move inland toward Mostar, wartime destruction is much more apparent. As our



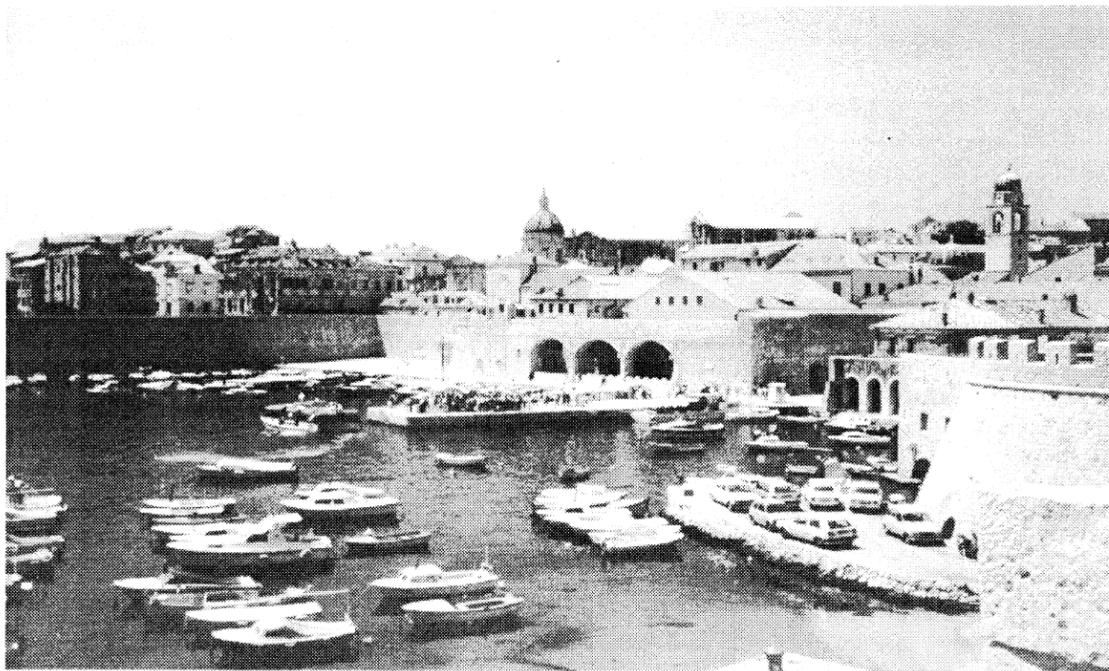
bus moved closer to Mostar, the scene of another siege - this one between Croats and Muslims - evidence of fighting and ethnic cleansing increasingly obvious. Eerily silent

demons of ethnic, religious, and economic bigotry escaped from their cages, no one could contain them. Once rational neighbors turned on each other, stereotyping their former friends as fascists, Stalinists, or Islamic fundamentalists. Anyone who continued to urge toleration was branded as a traitor to his or her own ethnic group and not trusted by the others. Thus developed a

terrible, self-generating process in with most people were eventually forced to take sides. Perhaps there is a great lesson in all this for Americans, a land where there are also forces

lecturers, a university economics professor, what would happen in the region if the Americans pulled out of Bosnia. He was an impressive man in his late forties with short steel gray hair and translucently blue eyes who was recognized as a hero during the siege. "It would be a total disaster if you left," he answered. Then, glancing toward me with a look of

sadness and pleading, he added "You have often heard 'Yankee Go Home;' I say 'Yankee Please Stay.' PLEASE DON'T GO!"



abandoned villages with roofless, windowless houses splattered with shrapnel and bullet holes stood in mute testimony to the ultimate results of intolerance. It was not difficult to imagine scenes from the days before the war, when these were small communities where everyone knew each other by name. Once the

working for and against tolerance. We should always remember that devastation and chaos are never too far below the surface and that the demons are still there. The line between civilization and barbarism is really quite thin and tenuous.

In Dubrovnik, I ask one of our

Charles J. Weeks, PH.D
Professor/Department Head
Social and International Studies

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Aerial Robotics Team takes fourth in international competition

SPSU Evening & Weekend Newsletter,
Inserted Article

SPSU took fourth place in the International Aerial Robotics Competition held recently in Richland, Washington. The competition is sponsored by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems, and is designed to encourage groups of university students to advance the technologies required for useful autonomous air vehicles. In the competition, autonomous robots attempted to fly over the scene of a simulated disaster and identify containers of hazardous chemicals and simulated live and dead victims, while avoiding such obstacles as light poles and flames. The flight control, obstacle avoidance, image recognition, etc. are to be performed without human assistance, i.e. autonomously. The SPSU Aerial robotics Team was represented at the competition by students Matt Banks (MET), Walter Burleson (ECET), Jason Owens (MET), Chris Pergantis (CS), recent graduate David den Haring (CS), and Professor John Sweigart (MET). Matt Banks is the student leader of the Aerial Robotics Team and Dr. Mark Fisher (MET) is the faculty advisor.

SPSU master's degree on the Internet

Continued from front page

neighbors of Florida and Tennessee. Applications are also currently pending from as far away as Manila and South Africa.

Of the first group of students, 10 are ready for the required on-campus visit, which will take place Sept. 26. The first graduates of the program will come from this group with an anticipated graduation date of spring semester.

"It's an exciting time for education with new resources such as the Internet," says Aft. "Southern Polytechnic is proud to be in a pilot position at the forefront of these technological changes that enhance education for so many more people."

The Ultimate Software Support Job!

Full-time salaried position

High tech software company has immediate need for persons who have knowledge of DOS & Windows 95/NT. Responsibilities includes testing/debugging software, telephone support to customers, product development, learning the latest technology and more. Good communication skills are a must! Great benefits & excellent work environment.



Resumes:

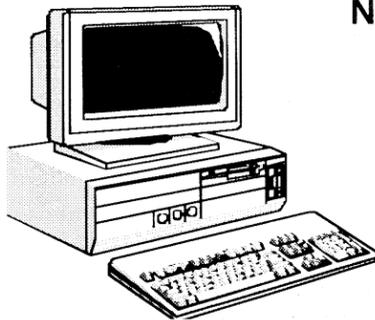
Support Services, P.O. Box 922058,
Norcross, GA 30010

or

fax to 770-263-0602

or

email: TSJobs@micromall.com



JOIN THE STING

The STING is looking for new members! There has been a delay in the paper being published due to the low number of workers! There are positions available in all categories **PAYING GREAT MONEY!!!!** If you would like the paper to continue, please join by contacting **Corey J. Stanford @ (770) 863-9517 or (770) 528-7310**. You may also send an e-mail to cstanfor@spsu.edu.

The STING Staff

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The STING is published biweekly for the students, faculty and staff of Southern Polytechnic State University. The STING is an official publication of Southern Polytechnic State University. The ideas expressed herein are those of the editor or the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty or staff of Southern Polytechnic State University or the University System of Georgia.

Advertising Information. The local advertising rate of The STING is three dollars per column inch for ads smaller than one quarter page. Other pages available upon request. Ads for service and professional organizations on campus are free, but no run date can be guaranteed. Classified ads are running \$5.00 for the first 30 words, and 15 cents for each additional word. Contact The STING to place an ad.

Letters to the Editor. The STING welcomes letters on any topic. Letters should be typed or neatly printed, double-spaced and should not exceed three hundred words. Letters must include a name. Unsigned letters will not be printed. The STING reserves the right to edit letters for style, content or size. All letters are run on a space-available basis. Please send all letters to The STING, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060-2896, or e-mail cstanfor@spsu.edu, or drop them off at The STING office, Room 252 in the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center. All letters must be in before the deadline printed below.

Organization Articles. Articles must be submitted by the deadline printed below and typed on a 3.5 inch PC 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.

Price. The STING offers to every student, faculty, staff member, alumni, and official visitor of Southern Polytechnic State University complimentary copies of each issue numbering up to 0.25% of the print run for the respective issue.

Joining The STING. Any student paying activity fees is eligible to join The STING. We prefer creative students who have passed English 110. Contact the Editor at (770) 528-7310 or stop by the office to pick-up an application.

The Next Deadline. All organization articles, letters to the editor, advertisement requests, and public service announcements must be turned in to The STING by Monday, October 5, 1998, to be considered for the October 9th issue.

BOOKSTORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please welcome the following to
the Southern Polytechnic Team!

Angela Pafford

University Bookstore Manager

Jennifer Loganbach

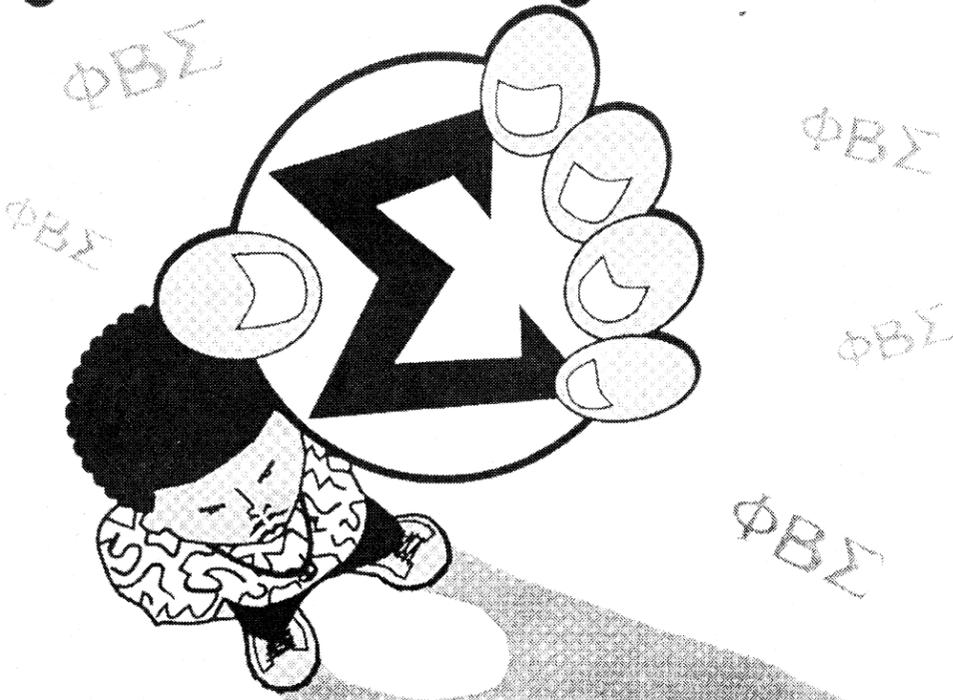
Assistant Bookstore Manager

DUST OFF THOSE INSTRUMENTS AND PLAY SOME MUSIC!!!!

If you are interested in joining
the SPSU Pep Band contact:
**Dr. Barry Flannery, (770) 528-
7337 or email:
bflanner@spsu.edu**

**Some instruments are
available. Only minimal
musical ability required.
Come out & have some fun
with the SPSU Pep Band at
Hornet basketball games!**

got sigma?



PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.
is now at Southern Poly Tech
We are recruiting members for the fall semester.

INTERESTED?

Call Bro. Al Franklin at (404) 289-2372
(please leave message)

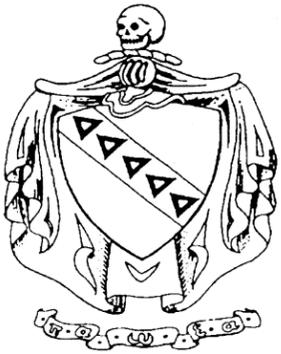
Lambda Chi Alpha

Welcome to Southern Poly all you
new students, and welcome back to all the
old ones. We hope you had a great
summer. We would like to welcome in our
newest brothers Albert Gramlin and Josh
Pack. They were initiated at the end of
spring quarter. Our summer was eventful.
We had a great retreat down on Lake
Jackson near McDonough. Plenty of
skiing, swimming, food, and "liquid
refreshments" to keep everyone in good
spirits.

Rush has gone well so far. I'm sure
everyone has seen the giant rocking chair.
Although we fell a little short of the 264
hours we planned on staying on the chair,
we are still raising some good money for
United Way.

Everyone take care and we will keep
you informed of any parties or camping
trips we will have over the course of the

COAT OF ARMS
OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA



Hey Guys, it's me V. Slayer! These past two weeks of rush have been a lot of fun. Everybody who attended the "TKE History" Sessions had a great time. What great learning experience that was. All who are interested in being on the "Stupid Squad" should see the Admiral ASAP. Training will begin soon.

The Rubber sheets are on order for Sawyer and Aaron. So if you still owe money please give them to Jeff, our sheet chairman. Pokey, still traveling the southeast looking for "Wheels", has come to terms that she is nowhere to be found. Well, at least you still have Winter. "That was easy wasn't it".

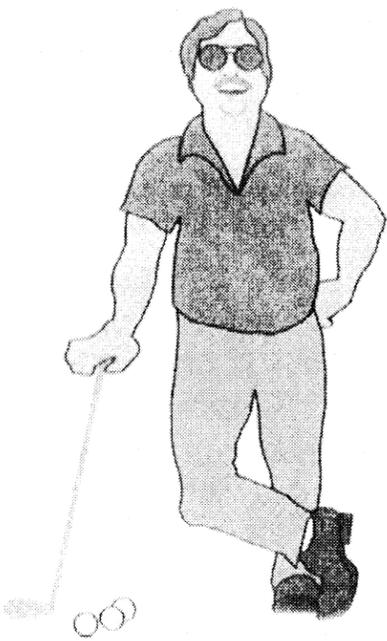
On Monday September 7th we went out in numbers to support the Run/Skate for Georgia's children. Participants were, Skating: Jeff Adcock, Scott Sawyer, and Benjie Brown, and Running: Roy Sanders, Doolittle Adcock, and Aaron Hunt. Thanks for the support of each and every brother who came out for this great charity event. We have another Cystic Fibrosis charity event coming up October 3rd and still need more volunteers. Also we have work projects that require our full attention. Thanks Dave for making this possible. Keep up the good work guys. This is why we are the BEST!

P.S. Don't forget that "Sea Turtle" is coming up! Get your tickets today!

YITB,
LEROY MAC

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!!

WIN A 1999 Chrysler Sebring Convertible and \$50,000.00!!!!



Registration is open for the Second Annual Southern PolyLinks Golf Tournament, which is set for Monday, October 19, at the Brookstone Golf and Country Club in Acworth. Individual and corporate sponsorships are also being accepted. Coordinated by the Southern Polytechnic State University Foundation, the golf tournament benefits the university's Walter Kelly Jr. Scholarship Fund. Golfers participating in the tournament will vie for two Hole-in-One prizes--a 1999 Chrysler Sebring Convertible and \$50,000

(\$25,000 to the golfer and \$25,000 to the SPSU Foundation). The Hole-in-One prizes are available courtesy of Ed Voyles Chrysler Plymouth and SPSU Foundation trustee Paul Martin of the Class of '53, respectively. First, second, and third place team prizes will also be awarded. For more information, contact Diana Gigantelli in SPSU's Development and University Relations Office at 1-800-341-4627 or (770) 528-7351.

MATH STINGER

by
Joel C. Fowler
Associate Professor of Mathematics

The puzzle for the last issue involved a park in the shape of a perfect 3 mile diameter circle with a long east-west wall. From the entrance to the park at the northernmost point one can reach the picnic area, which is north of the wall, by walking due south some distance. A playground, which is along the wall, can be reached by walking west from the picnic area until the edge of the park is reached and then walking south until the wall is reached.

The puzzle was to determine the straight line distance from the picnic area to the playground. The answer is 1.5 miles. Correct answers were received from Daniel Gaither, Kale Davis, John Blanchard, Chris Henrich, Tony Panzarella, Gary Pritchett, and Mark Murphy.

The puzzle for this issue is an unusual counting problem. Arrange 9 points in the plane in a 3x3 grid pattern with mesh size 1. For example, they could be located at the points (0,0), (0,1), (0,2), (1,0), (1,1), (1,2), (2,0), (2,1), (2,2). Now draw all possible lines through pairs of the points. The puzzle is to really a warm up for the second and third parts of the puzzle. They are to determine the number of lines formed when 16 points (in a 4x4 grid), and 25 points (in a 5x5 grid) are similarly placed.

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 published in The STING.

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The City of Alpharetta is looking for a part-time intern to perform basic Civil Engineering duties, CADD Work, Field Construction Inspections and Erosion Control Enforcement. Salary \$12.00/hour.
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In private condo, off of Powers Ferry Rd. Private bath. Non-smoker. \$350.00/month + % of utilities (negotiable).
Call (770) 953-8801. Leave message or e-mail maruxi24@hotmail.com

Southern Polytechnic State University presents the First Annual
POLY WOOLLY DOODLE ALL NIGHT
5K Run and Relay

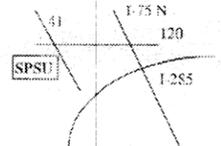


7:30 PM, Friday, September 25, 1998
Proceeds to be used to enhance SPSU scholarship programs.



Registration begins at 6:00 PM at the Student Center Mall. Runners can either individually run the full 5k course or each competitor on two-person teams will run one loop of about 1.55 miles through the beautiful Southern Polytechnic State University campus. Awards and award categories are shown to the right. Team results will be based on the total of the finishing times of the two competitors on each team. **Teams must pre-register and send both (2) applications together. Team participants are not eligible for age-group awards.**

Where: Southern Polytechnic State University is located west of I-75 on the South Marietta Parkway (Hwy 120) in Marietta, Georgia. It is near the intersection of Highway 41 and the S. Marietta Parkway. Parking at the Recreation and Wellness Center.



Entry Fees:
\$12 if postmarked by September 22
\$15 race day or after September 22
Make checks payable to and mail to: The Poly Woolly Doodle 5K Run and Relay, c/o Puzosetti's P.R., P.O. Box 371, Ultra Springs, GA 30122

Team Competition-Awards (Relay Only)	Code
First Middle School Male Student Team – Trophy	M1
First Middle School Female Student Team – Trophy	M2
First High School Male Student Team – Trophy	H1
First High School Female Student Team – Trophy	H2
First College Male Student Team – Trophy	C1
First College Female Student Team – Trophy	C2
First College Faculty/Staff Male Team – Trophy	C3
First College Faculty/Staff Female Team – Trophy	C4
First Running Club Male Team – Trophy	D1
First Running Club Female Team – Trophy	D2

Individual Competition Awards
Awards in the following age divisions (top 3 M/F):
0-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75 and over

Questions ?? – Call (770) 920-2861 or (770) 528-3292

Poly Woolly Doodle 5k Run and Relay, September 25, 1998

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Team Name _____

Individual Competitor
 Team Competitor
 Team Category Code: _____
 T-Shirt Size: S M L XL

In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound hereby for myself, heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release all rights and claims for losses or damages I may have against the Chattahoochee Road Runners, their officers, directors, members, volunteers, Southern Polytechnic State University, any and all sponsors and other parties, successors and assigns for all and any injuries suffered by me in this event, including pre- and post-race activities. I further state that I have trained for this event and I am in excellent health.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
 (Signature of Parent if Under 18)

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TO BE A LEADER IN OUR COMPANY,
THIS COULD BE YOUR OFFICE.**



Not just anyone can be responsible for territory like this. Then again, not just anyone can be one of us. But if you're exceptionally smart, tough and determined, then Officer Candidates School (OCS) will be the place you can prove whether or not you're a leader of Marines. It's a career that's filled

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The Manga

Don't let the word "comic" fool you; **Ghost in the Shell** is nothing like the drivel that Marvel, DC, and Image vomit into the newsstands monthly. Originating in Japan, a country where the sequential art medium of story telling is truly appreciated, Masamune Shirow's story of man and technology bears little resemblance to the superheroes-in-tights of mainstream American comics.

Japanese comics, called 'manga', are published in weekly collections of ten or twenty stories for under the equivalent of five dollars. Later, the stories are compiled by series into graphic novels for the collectors.

Ghost in the Shell was released a few years ago (1993 or 94 I think) in eight parts in Kodansha's **Weekly Young Magazine**, one of the leading weekly comic anthologies. A year or two later, Studio Proteus translated **Ghost in the Shell** into English for Dark Horse Comics' American release. While the comic was successful, a rarity for manga in the US, it was the animated film that became best known.

Ghost in the Shell is the story of Major Motoko Kusanagi and Section 9, the anti terrorist team to which she belongs. Kusanagi lives in a world that is similar to ours, but populated with man-machine hybrids made possible by a biological chip discovered at the end of the twentieth century. Most humans have improved brains, many have other body parts replaced by machines as well. The Major is a cyborg herself, a robot body with a human brain.

Kusanagi and those under her command pilot spider-like robo-tanks called fuchikoma, which provide much of the comic relief in the series. The team becomes involved in a number of seemingly unrelated cases, but several of them lead into an ongoing conspiracy. The first and last few issues also deal with the super hacker called "Puppet Master," who is found in the movie.

The unifying theme of the series is the question: what does it mean to be truly alive. The word 'ghost' is used to

mean soul and 'shell' refers to the physical body. The technology available to the populace allows for hacking into a ghost and altering it. With the built in

engrossing as a novel, **Ghost in the Shell** is a masterpiece among it's genre.

film work. The package is completed with dubbing that is actually rather good. This movie could be watched without the dialog and still be engrossing.



internet connection found in the advanced brains and the ability to enter another's brain, the ghost is the only method of retaining individuality. This merging of man and machine causes the line between actual and artificial life to blur.

Every page of **Ghost in the Shell** is filled with Shirow's beautiful and intricate artwork. Backgrounds are so filled with detail, that it may take several minutes to look over a single panel. Shirow's very cute and sexy females stand out against the high tech setting. The color artwork on the first few pages of each issue is especially impressive.

Ghost in the Shell's blend of action, philosophy, and technological humor make it one of my favorite manga. As

The Movie

This film stands out as one of the best in the genre, and requisite viewing for anyone who has any interest at all in anime. Technically, it is superior to most, if not all, of its predecessors. Visually, it is a beautiful piece. The story is intelligent exciting, and very original for a genre known for it's mimicry.

The animation done for the film is a testament in itself to the high level of perfection that was demanded of the production team. The animation team used a nearly seamless hybrid of computer animation and classic cell work. The art is both realistic and highly detailed. The animation is so well done that you quickly forget that what you are watching is not live action

made a wise choice was the change in pace that the movie was forced to take. In the original manga the story had a far greater amount of time to develop. The overall philosophy was sprinkled across a series of unrelated adventures. The Arch-story involving the Puppet Master was softened by lighter moments that these unrelated story lines could provide. The movie, on the other hand, had to cut any non-essential moments out of the original story. The philosophy takes center stage, making the story heavier and more intense. If the original look and style had been kept, the movie would have seemed silly.

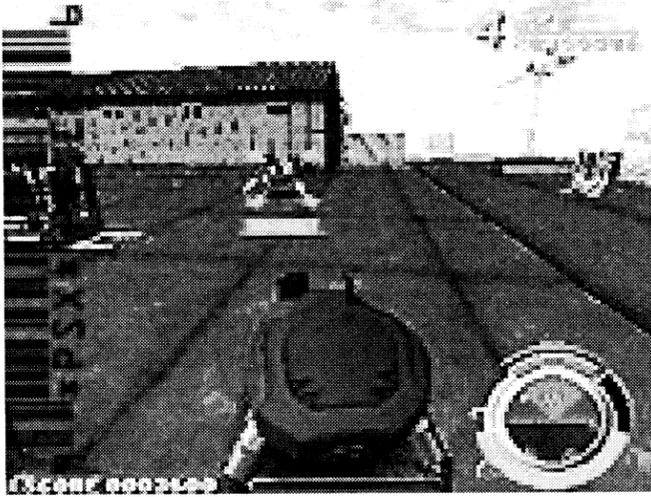
Overall, this is a top-notch piece of work, but I would like to point out some of the flaws. The philosophical nature of the film is a bit heavy handed. In the original manga, the arguments on what constitute the soul were spread out. They appear naturally in conversation. The shortened story that makes up the film seems to beat you over the head with the debate. It can feel like you're being preached to at points.

There are also flaws that seem to sprout from the genre itself. The heroine has a penchant for nudity or skintight clothing. This can be annoying when it seems forced. The violence can be a bit much as well. I like the **Bladerunner** feel (a popular one in anime), but sometimes it's a little too close to that Harrison Ford classic for comfort.

Putting the few errors aside, the movie really is a must see. It really is no surprise that this film is one of the defining films of its genre.

The character design is more mature. The characters appear more hard-bitten. The heroine, for example, originally appeared to be eighteen. Now she looks to be in her mid-to-late twenties. The AI tanks called fuchikoma, who were mostly comic relief where removed. The tone change from the original manga was an intelligent choice.

The reason that Oshi



The Soundtrack

I didn't mention the soundtrack in the movie section because I felt it deserved to be looked at on its own. It does play an important role in setting the mood for the movie, but it really is good enough to stand alone.

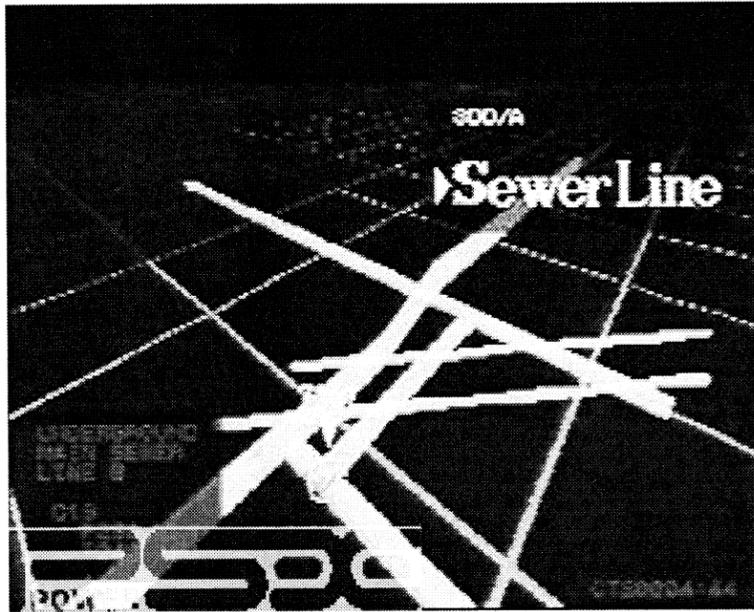
The first thing you hear when you start the CD is a group chanting in Yamato (a precursor to the Japanese language). It is simply stunning. The mournful chorus, which sounds almost Middle Eastern, is backed by tribal drumming. This sad mystic chant will be repeated throughout the disc, then it will culminate with a solo by one of the singers. It puts me in mind of something you might hear from **The Dead Can**

beautifully. It can climb walls, jump, and has easy to use weapons—big, mean, weapons. You barrel down sewers and alleys gunning down cyborg terrorists or armored mecha. Every mission is noticeably different. In some boards, you search open areas for targets to destroy or other objectives. Other scenarios will set you to driving down a highway, or making your way through the corridors of a skyscraper. While none of the levels are exceedingly difficult, they are all fun and engaging. Unfortunately, the game has one major flaw: its too short. Most levels are of adequate length, but a dozen missions is not enough. The space on the CD that could have gone to more

option. Aside from movie sequences used to advance the plot and an awesome opening demo, the game also rewards you with video clips in the training mode. When you choose to train, you are sent to a complex divided into six areas. Each area has electronic targets

design, and some of the best control ever seen in a 3D game; the game is at least a must for rental. It is an excellent addition to the **Ghost in the Shell** universe. All we need now is **Ghost in the Shell 2 : Man Machine Interface**.

Suggested for: anime fans and



that pop up out of the walls and floor. After shooting a set minimum of the targets, you can proceed to the next area or finish off all the targets in you r current area for more points. Points are awarded according to your kills, areas completed,

action gamers
Features: combination of action with driving elements
Is it fun?: yes!
Next time: Parasite Eve PSX
Pictures from Dark Horse online and PSMonline



The Game

Toy Headquarters (THQ) recently released a video game for the Sony Playstation based on the smash hit anime, **Ghost in the Shell**. The game is a fast and fun 3D action platformer. It is actually based on the original manga (comic) by Masamune Shirow, as opposed to the movie. The story is set apart from the main plot-line and instead chronicles a minor case faced by the team from the movie and comics. Sound and graphics are excellent, with large explosions and an intense soundtrack.

Ghost in the Shell sets you as a member of the elite The fuchikoma controls

gameplay went instead to full motion video clips. These animated clips were created by the same studio that animated the stunning **Ghost in the Shell** movie, but personally, I would have preferred less video and more game or a multi-player

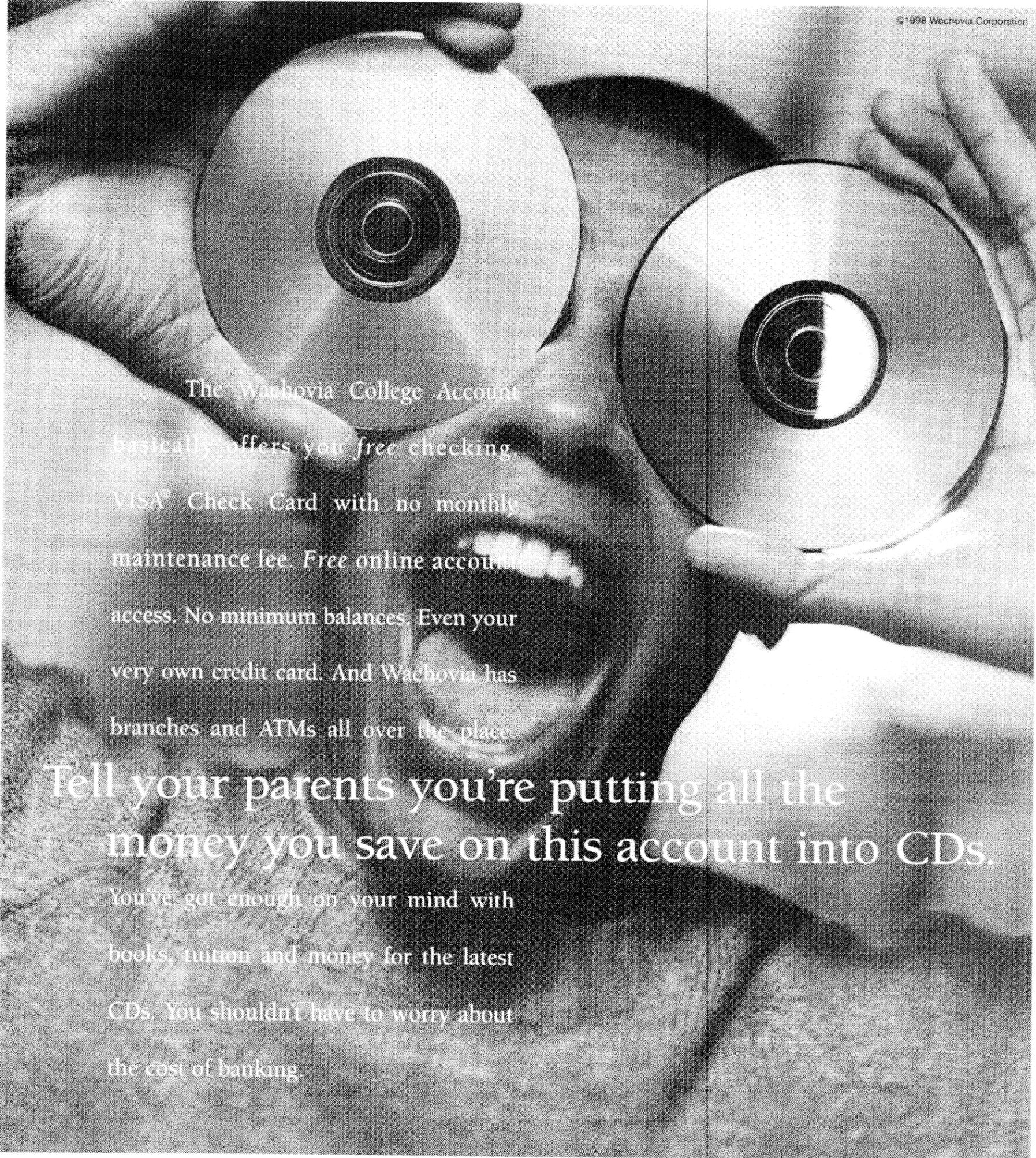
whether or not you finished the training mode, and defeated the enemy fuchikoma.

Overall, **Ghost in the Shell** is a very good game that could have been a great game, if it had been a little longer. With top notch graphics, sound, level

BY
DAVID ESKRIDGE
and
FRANK LOPEZ

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Changing class schedules without permission - *unlawful*

Life is full of expectations and aspirations, the agenda of some people to divert certain individuals from their goals. I recently had a very disturbing and violent verbal confrontation with an instructor in the presence of another student, the department head, and the department secretary. This confrontation was not the first I have had in the department, but it has renewed my perspective on this university. As a senior with three classes left to obtain the B.S. IET degree in May 1999, I had planned on graduating in December 1998; however my plans have been railroaded to the other semester. This confrontation was not only a re-education for me as to how certain people feel that they can control you, it was also a personal thing for this person.

Since this altercation I have not spoken to this instructor and neither has he said a word to me, but it seems that since I pay to attend this university and I am a customer of this university - I am due an

apology. The shouting match was something that I did not want to take place, but I was drawn into the fiasco by the instructor. Customers expect a good service or product for their money and many times expectations are higher than what can be conceived from the service or product that is provided; however customers should always be treated as such. Is paying to attend this university any different than going to a department store and purchasing a product that is defective?

I have had many good experiences while attending this university, but this altercation is one that is very negative and I do not feel that I was treated as I should have been. You see, the previous quarter (Spring 1998) I was also in this person's class in which during the entire quarter this person bad-mouthed another instructor - within the same department mind you, this university's administration, and the accreditation boards of this university. As a person with many years of work

experience and worldly knowledge, I have never seen a person with such a negative attitude and disregard for other people. Not only do I feel that I was a party to his personal vendetta, I believe that it reflects the grades that I received in his class the previous quarter.

I am sure that it is not the policy of this university to employ people who have no regard for students and their educational pursuits. I have discussed this event with many people on and off campus and I received a consensus that this is an event that should not have taken place. I am considering filing a formal complaint with the university and the board of regents concerning this matter as I see it as an immediate threat to my educational pursuits considering the fact that I have to enroll in at least one other class with this instructor before graduating. Coincidentally, on Tuesday August 18, 1998, someone illegally went into my file and changed my class schedule without my permission - which

is unlawful. It is very disgusting to know that some people are not concerned with the success of certain individuals, they are more concerned with their failure. As an adult who is fully responsible, respectable, and commendable, I feel that this institution is not a place for people to take out their frustrations or personal feelings on anyone.

Attending this university is not about the dropout rate, it is about the success of its customers - the students that attend. People do not normally spend money to be humiliated and belittled, nor do they spend money to hear about someone's personal beliefs or opinions. I am not a person to deal with the political aspects of this university and its historical problems between administration and faculty - I am not here to pay for that. I do not believe anyone is here for that; however, the problems of this university run far more deeper than this rhetorical spat. Attending this university is supposed to be an enlightening experience. This experience

should be incorporated with customer satisfaction, success, and retention rates of quality and customer satisfaction. Is that only for industries other than education? Are students not considered customers? Is it that we are taken for granted? Or is it merely the fact that certain individuals feel that their jobs are so secure that no other educational institution is a factor in recruiting students from this university? Has the Georgia Lottery provided enough money to this university to pay the salaries of instructors here?

Customer satisfaction, the success rate of students, technological resources, and alumni donations are all factors in determining whether or not a university or college is desirable. I do not feel that this university is any different. The administration and faculty battle has unfortunately spilled over into the classroom - which is not a good thing.

**Huey Thomas,
Columnist**

Welcome to our new and improved university

This is the first article of the Rambler in this academic year and as such, requires some few words of introduction. The Rambler wishes to dedicate this article to the new students, staff and every other new thing that this institution is endowed with. The Rambler is the lowest point or better still, the humblest attribute of this institution. This means that everything that happens at PSU and may otherwise disappear without the recognition, acknowledgment and appreciation of the student body, filters to that low point and is then collected and disseminated by the Rambler. It is the ardent desire of this writer to make it clear to those who are new to this section of the Sting that the Rambler is a philosopher and can not be impersonated.

And to all new students, you are all most welcome to the family of the Southern Polytech. It is a wonderful institution and you could be proud of being part of it. Let's clear a few points that you can be well

integrated into the family with little or no obstacles. First of all, lots of things are new to this school at this point in time. Fall begins a new school year as you may know. So, you are new in a new school year. The second thing is the appellation of the school itself - Southern Polytechnic State University. It was just sometimes last year that this institution was ordained as a state university. Furthermore, this is the first semester which entails a new system as opposed to the famous quarter system. You must have all seen the new apartments at the campus - these are all new and privately managed which is equally a new practice in the University System of Georgia. And to crown it all, Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher is our new president. As you can now appreciate, the list of new things in this new system of this new academic year can not be exhausted here. So, all of you new students are just part of a history making era and you should comfortably be an active participant rather than being passive.

You should all remember that a college is quite different from a high school. In your high school, your classmates - nay your school mates, might have all been people you know in one way or the other. The university is quite different from that. You will come across people who do not speak the way you do and who, probably, look very strange to all you have been exposed to prior to coming here. Some of them will mention names of their countries which may sound weird to you, but that's all right. All you should remember is that the world is a global village and that all these peoples are your brothers and sisters that constitute the human family of which you are a proud member. In fact, your stay in this institution and the education you acquire is far more than just listening to your teachers and making an "A" or otherwise in a test. The greater component of your education will be to appreciate the diversity of the human race, appreciate and interact with

diverse peoples who inhabit this village of the planet earth. Seize the opportunity, therefore, to show some kindness and understanding to

library staff has made the promise to be at your disposal. Even ask some fellow students to help explain something you had not understood well.

... the Rambler is a philosopher and cannot be impersonated.

those who cross your path. If you play it fair on this journey you have embarked upon, rest assured that it will be smooth, successful and adventurous.

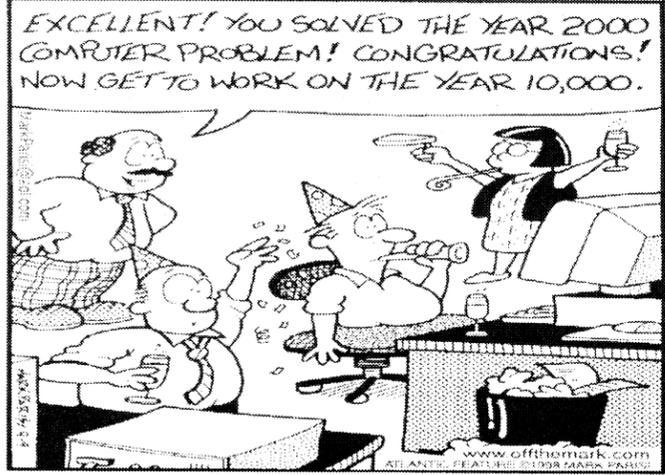
Dear freshmen, remember that the professors here are available to help you in and out of their classes. You will find a professor's office hours posted at his or her door and should it not be possible for you to get the professor at the posted time, do not hesitate to make an appointment for a convenient time. That is a clear characteristic of this school that you can be assured of. Should you feel lonely or lost with any of your projects, another place you can be assured of an unlimited assistance is at the library - the

Should you have any comments, suggestions, questions or concerns, do well to channel them to the Rambler via The Sting. Anything will be highly appreciated by the Rambler and Sting. Stay well, do good work, enjoy the diversity at Southern Polytech., and stay in touch.

**Shaidu Kiven
(The Rambler),**

Columnist

off the mark by Mark Parisi



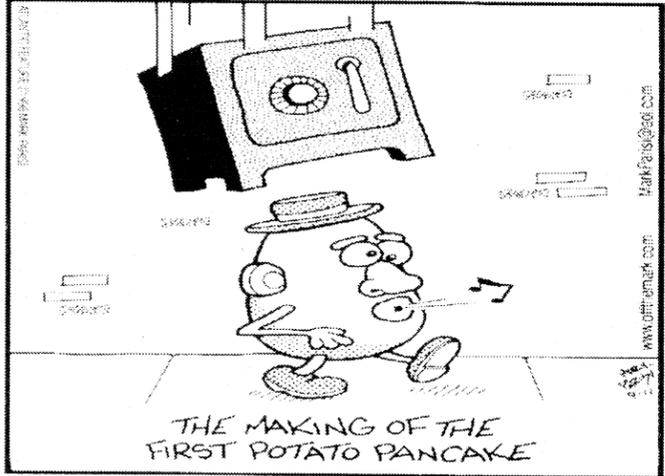
Wednesday

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Thursday

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Friday

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Saturday

