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## Southern Polytechnic goes to Birmingham

By Shaidu Kiven

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is the oldest national engineering society in the United States. Founded in 1852 with 12 members, it now has more than 110,000 members in 135 countries.

Its objective is to enhance the welfare of mankind through the advancement of the science and profession of engineering. It is, therefore, with this objective that ASCE organizes conferences as a forum for students to get together.  
 ASCE Southeast

Regional Conference took place in Birmingham, Alabama from March 25-27, 1999. Southern Polytechnic State University was well represented in this year's competitions. A convoy, consisting of some 35 students and five professors from the Civil Engineering Technology (CET) department converged in Birmingham for the competitions on the campus of the University of Alabama. The convoy, of course, had other items of interest besides the happy students and their professors. These items included, though not limited to, some lab equipment and hazardous chemicals for water treatment, surveying

equipment, pieces of iron for a steel bridge, concrete cylinders and above all, a trailer with a concrete canoe measuring 18 feet - 9 inches and weighing over 400lbs.  
 Let me make a few points clear for those who may not be aware of what this conference is all about. According to 1997 ASCE Official Register, "the ASCE student chapters and clubs assemble according to geographical regions for Spring conferences each year." Out of some 20 conferences, the Southeastern of which SPSU belongs is the largest. This conference consists of universities Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Puerto Rico.

Events that featured in this year's competition and of which were Balsa Bride, Concrete Canoe, Concrete Cylinder, Environmental, Geotechnical, Mystery, Steel Bridge, Surveying and T-shirt design. The winners of the steel bridge and concrete canoe competitions advance to the national competitions each year. These conferences provide a challenge for the civil engineering students, nationwide and beyond, to practically demonstrate the knowledge assimilated in their various



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## SPSU's NSBE Sets the Standard for National Leadership

SPSU Students elected to the highest position down

By Derick Davis

The SPSU chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers attended a momentous Silver Anniversary Convention in Kansas City, MO from March 24 - 28, 1999. At this convention, over 10,000 students, alumni, and technical professionals were in attendance. Notwithstanding the 100+ workshops, two day Corporate Career Fair with over 300 recruiting companies, and the second annual Golden Torch Awards, the national and regional elections for NSBE were held. These elections place into office the leaders of the society for the next academic year. Most notably,

the national chairperson position, the highest ranking position within NSBE, was held for a second consecutive term by SPSU's very own, Andre' Willis a Senior in Electrical Engineering. Ironically, the past 5 terms for National Chairperson have been from Region III where SPSU resides.  
 As National Chairperson, Willis is directly responsible for setting the National Directives of the society for the next year. In the past his National Directives included:

- Operational Excellence
- Academic and Technical Excellence
- Cultural and Community Awareness

• Leadership Development

Willis lives by the idea, "it's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit." Willis hopes that through his second term he will be able to significantly increase the membership numbers strengthening the claim to be the largest student-managed organization in the country. He also wishes to continue the unofficial region within NSBE - Region VH. Region VII has been the temporary designation for NSBE's international chapter chartered in Ghana, West Africa last August during the 1st International Conference. The 2nd Annual Conference will occur this August as well.

In addition to the National Chairperson position, SPSU students were elected and appointed to three national and one regional positions:

- Adrian Baskin - National Alumni Membership Chair (SPSU Alumni)
- Dewayne Thomas - National Alumni Region I Chairperson (SPSU Alumni)
- Kim Thomas - National Alumni Finance Chairperson (SPSU Alumni)
- Derick Davis - Region III Fall Regional Conference Planning Chairperson

As Region III has been

affectionately regarded as the "mother region of leadership" within NSBE, SPSU-NSBE could be regarded as the "father of the society".



NSBE National Chair and Southern Polytechnic Student, Andre Willis.

# Semesters: Taking Its Toll

By Kelleen D. Williams

Professors may begin to wonder what has happened to their students. Some may account their behavior to "Spring Fever." Although the symptoms are very apparent, professors have a new enemy this year-SE-**MESTERS**. Most of the students here at Southern Polytechnic are accustomed to a two week break around this time because Winter quarter would have just ended. Instead, the long semester has yet to wind down. Students are complaining that they are burned out and some professors are just

issuing final projects.

What are students to do about this sluggish feeling and reluctance to attend class? Suffer through the remaining weeks and take the summer off if you're smart. Unfortunately, the university has no control over the semester conversion. Subsequently, there may be nothing we can do about semesters except learn to deal with them. Spring Break only offers a 'lease' of a relaxation period, for the next week classes were back in full swing. The weather is also a culprit in this plot to encourage students to take a day or two off. Most students find it hard to concen-

trate during Spring with all the distractions.

Most of the organizations on campus will start to sponsor that activity that only comes around once a year and a student's attitude may be "Oh yeah, we're just going over the test I failed the other day" or "I'm not feeling motivated to go to class today, so I'm taking a me day."

Fear not professors, although some students fall for their lack of motivation most of them consider the following before missing a class.

1. It's too late to drop this class.
2. My HOPE is at stake!

3. I can't miss Professor Patterson's extra credit pop quiz. (10 points added to that last test)

4. I'll treat myself to a day off tomorrow.

5. My mom will pack my bags for me if my grades aren't satisfactory. (No C's)

6. I'll have to work to pay my tuition, if I have to take this class over.

7. Who can I get the notes from? (He never goes to class either)

8. Do absences count as a part of my grade? (The syllabus says 10%)

9. Was that test this week or next?

10. I have to miss class on Friday for that concert, so I have to go today.

These are some suggestions to keep students motivated to go to class:

1. Take time out of your schedule to do something for yourself.
2. Take a nap.
3. Take a day off from work.
4. Plan a weekend get-away.
5. Exercise.
6. Visit a motivated friend.
7. Give yourself an IOU
8. Check your schedule for the activities you can attend without missing class.
9. Tell yourself the summer is all mine.
10. Take it one day at a time.

# ASCE Competition

Continued From... Page 1

those students and professors engaged in civil engineering an opportunity to interact with one another and appreciate the creativity of others in different aspects of their trade.

The students and professors of the CET department got to work in preparations for these events as early as January 1999. They spent most of their weekend hours rehearsing on various aspects of their projects. Since these technical projects are quite costly, the student chapter of the ASCE enlisted the support of over 50 companies and individuals in the metro-Atlanta that sponsored one aspect of the project or the other. If nothing else, this association, or better still partnership, between the students and the private sector has been so rewarding for the CET students as these companies are always looking forward to hiring students that were involved in these conferences. Another important

facet of the adventures in these competitions is the degree to which the spirit of togetherness, understanding and cooperation is developed among those involved – undoubtedly, a true sense of education for the students.

The participation of SPSU in the Southeastern Conference this year was very significant for a number of reasons. It was not surprising that SPSU was the only school participating from the state of Georgia. Well, as to why only Southern Polytech from this state, the answer is left for the pursuit of those interested in finding out why things happen the way they do. Another interesting fact is that we were the only engineering technology school taking part in the competitions. One of the professors who have been involved in this conference for decades recalled that Southern Tech (as it was known then) was never respected for the reason of being an engineering technology institution. However, ardent efforts by stu-

dents and professors earned us a lot of respect in the conference. Since then, SPSU has been an institution to be reckoned with during these competitions. Prior to that time of fame, it is even related that once there was an act of vandalism at which the tires of a bus from one of the universities were sliced during the events, and Southern Tech was considered a prime suspect just for being Southern Tech. Another rumor among the CET students is that Georgia Tech (one of the universities in the conference with us) had petitioned to participate in a different conference since 1996 because they were always far below SPSU in the overall placing.

In the various competitions SPSU did quite well though punctuated by lots of exciting incidences from our teams as well as those from other institutions. Let me share with you just a handful of the results and observances of interest during the events. For the past couple of years, our

steel bridge team had been in the second place. However, this year we dropped to the fourth place though our bridge attracted a crowd of on-lookers both during construction and loading. The bridge, by the way, is constructed by a maximum of six students on each side of an imaginary river. They have a path to follow and the rapidity of construction is awarded points. So, the construction process is very fast and dramatic. Our bridge was constructed in 4 minutes 20

seconds and carried a load of 2500 lbs. with a deflection of 0.269 inches. Not a bad bridge, indeed! An interesting incident was that of the Vanderbilt University that finished a bridge in 56 seconds. But as fate would have it, the bridge crashed upon loading with only 500 lbs.

Saturday March 27 will always be remembered by all those who gathered at the beautiful lake at the outskirts of Birmingham. The occasion

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## ASCE Competition

Continued From...Page 2

was the concrete canoe races for 21 universities. As already mentioned, the SPSU canoe weighed over 400 lbs. while some schools had canoes that weigh as little as 60 lbs. First of all, our canoe had a name, which, probably, had a lot to do with the outcome of the events that day. The name of the canoe is "Conundrum". The origin of the word is not known and one of the meanings is "a riddle based on some fanciful or fantastic resemblance between things quite unlike and forming a puzzling question whose answer is or involves a pun." And in reality, the definition best describes our

concrete canoe. Well, it did fare well in the competitions and placed overall 5th. What was fascinating about our "Conundrum" was not only its weight vis a vis the other canoes. To best appreciate the riddle here, lets look at another canoe of interest. The canoe in question was that of the University of Miami that sank with two male students in one of the races. This canoe was designed for two or may be three people. But the roles required each school to sail with four students in the canoe for one of the races. So, there was the excitement of everyone to see how the two female students sandwiched between to male students who were

paddling would sink in the lake. Everybody was set for the race and the trumpet sounded. There was the Conundrum on the lead to the opposite end of the lake. And as fate would have it, the turn for backward sailing to the shore was very dramatic. And with a slow motion, we all recalled the famous events of the Titanic as our canoe disappeared into the lake with its voyagers. Thanks to the rescue teams that were not so far away from the scene of the sinking canoe, its four students and their vessel were fished from the lake. Interesting, the slow-moving canoe from Miami made it back to the shore to the cheering and jubilation of all

present.

SPSU fared well in the competitions taking the first trophy in Surveying, placed fourth in the Steel Bridge, sixth in Concrete Canoe, ninth in Balsa Bridge, sixth in Concrete Cylinder, seventh in Environmental, fourth in Geotechnical, nineteenth in Mystery, eighth in T-shirt and overall fifth. Once more, the students came back with their heads high and gaining more respect for Southern Polytechnic State University and to a lesser extent, for the State of Georgia. As for those who are interested in seeing some aspects of the events, there are displays at the CET department at your disposal.

The Sting will like to extend words of appreciation to all those students and professors who, through lots of personal sacrifices, made a name for our institution during the Southeastern conference. However, you must all be aware of what one great thinker said as it fits well here: "Words of appreciation are usually a request for greater favors to come." We expect greater efforts from the CET department come next year.



### The STING Staff LeVar Gilford, Editor in Chief

#### News

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## Do You Know

Being a part for the Student Government Association at Southern Polytechnic State University, is a very essential function. SGA members get the opportunity to allocate Student Activity fees to recognized Organizations, approve organizations that seek to be recognized on campus, as well as serving as the voice of the students on countless University-wide committees. This is a big deal. It saddens me that for the top two positions students are running unopposed. What does this say about us? We are supposed to be leaders of the next century, pioneers in technology and engineering, yet we refuse to step up to represent our fellow students where it counts the most.

All candidates were asked the same three questions. Below the name of the candidate and the position he/she is running for, as well as the answers to the questions are listed. As voters, it is our duty to be educated on the views and attitudes of those who seek to serve us. Remember that these are the people who will be viewed as experts on the needs of all students on the committees in which they will serve.

The questions asked are as follows:

- Why do you wish to run for a position within the SGA?
- What qualities do you possess that make you suitable for this position?
- What do you think is the biggest problem facing students at this University, and what would you do as an SGA member to help solve the problem?

### Candidate for President Derick Davis

Over the past four years at Southern Polytechnic State University, I have become an effective advocate for student and university issues on campus. Hence, I have become an effective leader on campus, in SGA and several other organiza-

tions- National Society of Black Engineers, German Foreign Exchange, and Southern Polytechnic State University Student Ambassador to name a few. I hope to be elected to a third term in SGA, this time as your President. In short, I just can't keep my big mouth shut. What is a more efficient way to continue using it than as your President.

My past experience within SGA as a council member and Vice-President qualifies me for the position. I am an outspoken person for all issues-popular and unpopular. Additionally, the faculty and administrators at SPSU are quite familiar with me through SGA and various other organizations. Additionally, I was awarded the Southern Polytechnic State University Hays Award for Most Outstanding Student not only for my academics but also because of my leadership involvement on campus. As well as being outspoken and a leader, I am an initiator and implementer of ideas on campus. Examples include:

- Revitalization of the STING
  - Support for the CyberCafe in the Student Center
  - Advocate for an upgrade for technology related issues
  - Support of the international exchange programs
  - Initiator of an accountability plan for budgeted monies to student organizations
- As your president, I hope to strongly continue this involvement among other unchallenged frontiers.

Apathy is probably the biggest problem facing students on campus. Students appear to be unconcerned about issues that directly or indirectly affect them. As unfortunate as this seems, it is reality at our non-traditional university. As a student not unlike yourselves, I share your perspective on matters. For those students who do care about matters and how these matters affect them, I am open to your suggestions and

strongly encourage them. Please support me as I am already committed to supporting you as the SGA President.

### Candidate for Vice-President

#### Roy A. Miller

I wish to run for a position within the SGA because I would like to be actively involved in the decision-making process on issues that affect a; students on campus. In addition to gaining knowledge about the different policies and procedures of our school, I hope that serving on SGA will give me an opportunity to further develop my leadership skills.

I believe that I would make a good Vice-President of the SGA because of my relationship with people. I believe that my character allows me to effectively communicate with students and this could aid in bringing the concerns of all students on this campus to the forefront. I believe that I have enough determination and insight for different issues that I could follow through completely on any situation that is brought before the SGA Board.

I think the biggest problem facing students at Southern Polytechnic State University is the lack of technology available to students. We, as aspiring engineers at this school lack some of the new technologies that would aid us in better preparing ourselves for the work environment. As a member of SGA I would try to inquire with the staff of the school as to why our school is not up-to-date, and try to find an effective way to bring this new technology to our school, with little cost to students.

### Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

#### 1. Ebony L. McCants

To contribute my position on the general population of student's needs and concerns. To ensure that the decisions SGA makes will benefit all of the students at SPSU. To ensure that Greek

organizations which gear their efforts toward programs which will benefit the Southern Polytechnic State University campus may receive SGA assistance.

Steadfastness-strong in will Committed- always willing to serve

Creative- an array of perspectives

Open-minded-welcome to new suggestions

Not enough access to university technology. Propose a plan to implement more computers in the student center, library and computer lab and computer access to the campus network. Not enough student parking. Propose a plan to extend dorm parking as well as the old theatre lot.

#### 2. Jeremy Dean

I wish to run for secretary/treasurer so that my organizations and others can be equally represented by SGA.

The qualities that I possess that will make me suitable for this position are that I am easy to get along with. I can organize my money and I am capable of adapting to just about any situation.

I think that students at this University feel like it is a fight between us, the students and them, the faculty. I think I can help put the two together.

### Candidates for Council Member

#### 1. Catherine Armstrong

I would like to represent the CET students interests on campus, as well as students who live on campus or are considered "non-traditional students."

I have been a student at Southern Polytechnic State University for two and a half years and believe I understand the needs of the CET Students. I am also currently in a part-time management position and believe I could utilize my leadership skills to help the CET students and Student Government.

I believe the biggest problem is a lack of communi-

cation within the departments. I've known many students who belong to organizations within the department, but have no knowledge of the SGA. I would attend as many organizations concerning or related to Civil Engineering Department and help communicate the Student Government's philosophies and issues.

#### 2. Aubrey Bailey

I would like to be more involved in campus life. I feel that I could accurately represent student opinions.

I'm not afraid to voice my opinion. I reserve judgement on a situation until I know all of the facts.

I do not feel that the degrees from Southern Polytechnic State University are respected by the public and employers. I would like to work to show the general public and employers that Engineering Technology is a worthwhile degree.

#### 3. Belinda Carroll

I would like to become a member of SGA so I can become part of the decision-making process. I would also like to help inform students about what is occurring on campus.

I'm a team-oriented person. I believe that I work well with others, and I have ideas to share. I also have previous experience in student government and other leadership roles. During my junior and senior year of High School, I was a member of Student Council. I believe my qualities and ideas would contribute to the SGA.

I think a major problem at this University is that students are uninformed about what happens on campus. Most students don't know about the administration's decisions, how their tuition is used, or the services available to them. Hopefully, as an SGA member, I could help to find ways to have an informed student body.

#### 4. Willie Doyle

I would like to be

## Who Your Candidates Are?

involved in making decisions that affect the whole university. There are so many things going on within our school that most people do not know about, and I would like to get into the middle of it and provide my opinion.

- I am a very patient person. I get along well with others. I consider myself to be a wise, open-minded person that is willing to listen to and understand the opinions and beliefs of others, although they may be different from my own. This is the type of attitude that is needed when working with people of different cultures and backgrounds.

- The biggest problem facing our students is our lack of school spirit. There are not enough people getting involved in school activities. This is the main reason we do not have a yearbook and the school newspaper may be next. As an SGA member, I will help find a way to build school spirit in SPSU students.

### 5. Levar Gilford

- I have been a member of SGA since the Fall of 1997, and I know how SGA works. I know the issues that SGA faces and I know how to deal with them. I have knowledge of parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.

- I am a leader that involves himself in many campus organizations. I know many of the students on campus and I hear their concerns about what happens. Due to my ease in speaking to others and relaying those concerns.

- I feel one of the biggest problems facing the students is the knowledge of what is going on around them. Many students attend this university, and few are knowledgeable about the inner workings of the university. I feel as an SGA member, it is my duty to relay the changes in the University to students.

### 6. Jarmon Gray

- As a member of the current SGA, I helped implement programs and changes

that have never been done on this campus in the past. I hope to follow through with the programs and implement other ideas I have specifically dealing with improving campus life here at SPSU. This is why I wish to run for SGA.

- I am very people oriented. I like to interact with people and get to know as many people as possible. I am a positive thinking person who looks at the bright or up side of things instead of the dark or downside. I am also a person who will not settle for something unless I feel it is best for everyone.

- The biggest problem I see is that the technology on campus is not up to the level it should be for a university such as SPSU. Things such as a campus network, internet capability for Student Center offices, faster internet connections, better lab equipment in the laboratories on campus, and call waiting for the dorms are a few of problems that come to mind. These problems should be top priority for the university to improve.

### 7. Kenwin M. Hayes

- I desire to be on SGA because I want to help turn this campus around. There are many issues on this campus as well as any other college campus. I want to get rid of this greed, lust and confusion among the college students that attend SPSU. It is time for a REVOLUTION!!

- This previous year, I was voted Public Relations Chairman as a freshman. Presently, I am the President of the SPSU Track and Field Club. So I know how to lead and how to follow. As a man of God, my thinking and morals are the same of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- Social Interaction! It is natural to spend time with people close to you or have common interests, just as you do BUT we are limiting ourselves from growing! Your job after college might require you to go to Brazil and stay for two years. If you do not know to interact with people you do not know or have a common interest with, those two years will be horrible. All

because in college and High School I will only talked to people close to me. You can learn so much and understand more if you only get out of your comfort zone. I want to get organizations together and do mixed social activities. This will be a start!

### 8. Aaron Jaynes

- I want to be involved in campus activities. I feel that taking part in SGA will allow me to make a difference on campus and assist other organizations.

- I possess leadership skills and communication skills. I am diplomatic but not afraid to voice my opinion.

- I believe that Student Organizations that represent our school in competition should receive more funding. By receiving more money, I feel that these organizations can better represent our school.

### 9. Charles Kamaal Marshall

- I was actively involved in the Student Government Association for three years in High School as a class officer for the senior class and school representative. I feel that it is important to remain active in school activities because this will open up many avenues to helping achieve success.

- I possess a good vocal ability. I am a people person. I bring the SGA previous background experience and knowledge of various companies and contacts that could help to make SPSU more successful.

- The biggest problem is the social atmosphere. The students are so consumed with their schoolwork that they have no other time or interest in campus activities. As an SGA member, I would like to see more activities and political speakers brought to SPSU. I will do my best to see this happen.

### 10. Nathan McFarland

- To become more involved with my fellow classmates and to learn leadership skills and broaden my college experience with the student government.

- I have experience with dealing with large groups of

people and making decisions. I also listen to all sides of a story before making a verdict.

- Lack of student unity. More on-campus housing to establish unity and more support for organizations, fraternities, sororities, intramural and school sports.

### 11. Tony Russell

- I wish to run for a position within the SGA because I come into contact with a lot of students and hear their views on a lot of issues here at Southern Polytechnic State University. By being on SGA, I could relate those problems to the government so that more students would be heard instead of a small amount.

- The qualities that I possess that make me suitable for this position are my ability to get along with others. I have the ability also to let it be known if I disagree with someone or something. I am a hard worker and willing to do anything to help the students as a whole. I am very easy to get along with and like to have fun at the proper time.

- I think the biggest problem facing students at this campus is that most of them complain that there is nothing to do here. As an SGA member, I would try to find out some of the things that students would like to see here. After doing that, I would come up with ideas, along with the rest of the SGA, to try to have some more activities on campus especially during weekends that cater to all nationalities of students. This will allow more students to stay here during weekends.

### 12. Kristie Kawana Todd

- I wish to run for a position within the SGA because I want to continue giving my services to the organization that is going to help better the school.

- The qualities that I possess are dedication, determination and dependability. I feel that I am dedicated because I don't want other people to be ashamed of what school they attend, and I'm determined to put the school on the map via academics or athletics, and I'm dependable

because I know that I can get the job done.

- The biggest problem facing students at this university is the lack of participation from the students. As an SGA member, I would help solve the problem by implementing school spirit weeks or even sponsoring more activities on campus.

### 13. Mark Tomblin

- I would like to involve more students with the decisions made that concern them. I feel that I have a valuable opinion that can help to better the institution. I would also like to be more involved with students so that I can relay their views to the board.

- I have already been an officer in a society and a member of the steel bridge team, which I feel, have given me valuable team and leadership experience.

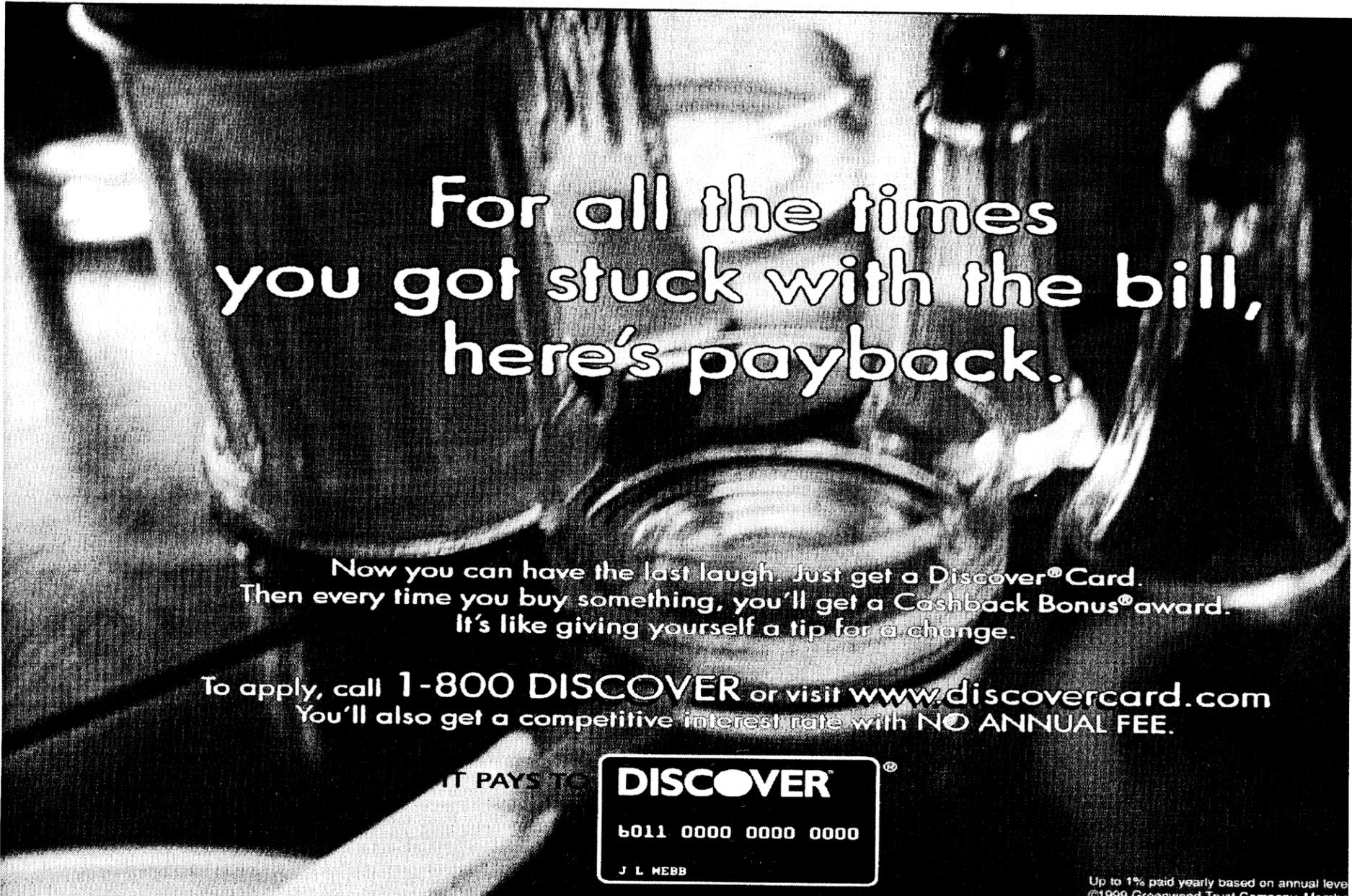
- The biggest problem is the lack of support for student organizations. Academic organizations do not get the recognition that they deserve and the students involved need to know that they will get their needed support.

### 14. Kelleen Williams

- I am currently a council member of SGA. This year my eyes were open to the impact that SGA has for the students. I believe that it is very important that the student voice continue to be heard and taken seriously.

- I am an individual who is not afraid to stand up for what is right and fair. SGA is the tool for which this is done for the students. I am also an individual who will do something to implement the change instead of just talking about it.

- The biggest obstacle facing students on SPSU's campus is being taken seriously. Our opinion needs to be valued just as if we are faculty or administration. We are the individuals who are using and experiencing every change and every piece of equipment on campus. Our voice needs to be heard and changes need to be implemented. As an SGA member, it would be my duty to remain proactive and not reactive.



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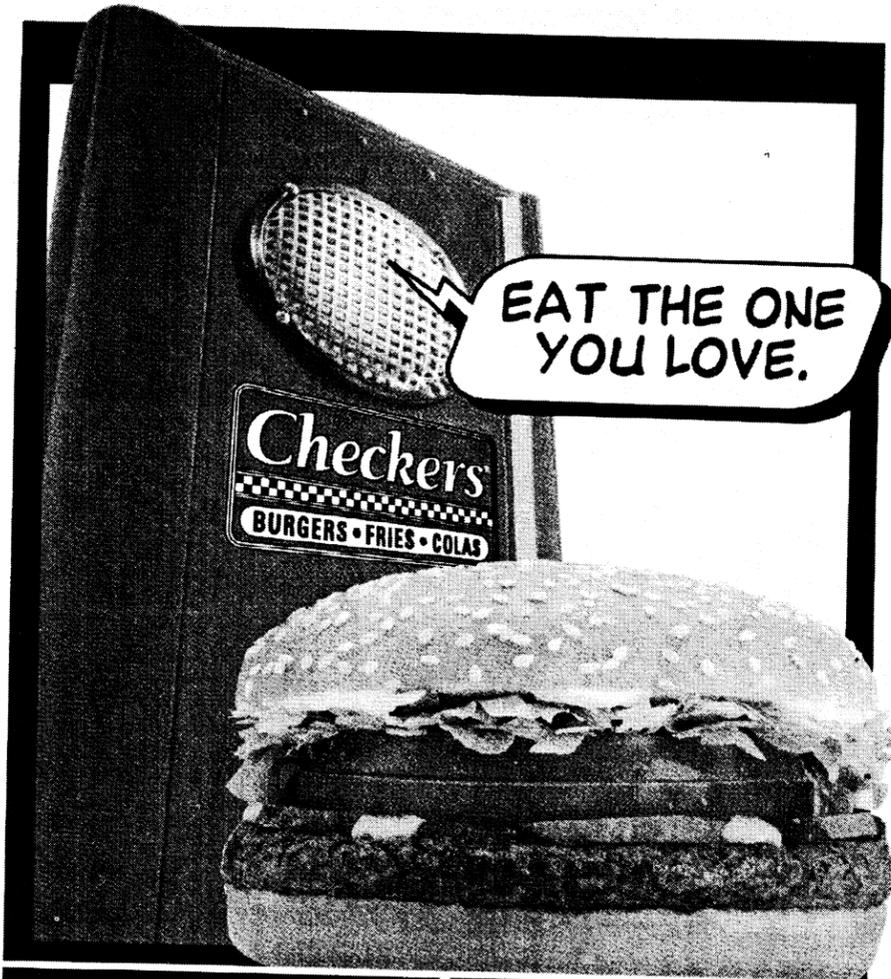


*April 24*

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Southern Polytechnic State University



*Inauguration of  
President*

*Lisa A. Rossbacher*

*April 30, 1999*

*... Save this date*

## The Rambler

By Shaidu Kiven

Lots of things have come to pass since our last encounter. One of those things of interest is the change in the weather, which seems to me as an indication that everything in life must change. So, it is clear from nature that things have to change from time to time – from Winter to Spring to Fall and so on and so forth. That is the law of nature and anything that does not change is void of life. In like manner, we will think that Southern Tech needs to get out of its winter into spring. Somebody has to take charge and make sure that everything is done right and at the right time before these nice buildings become void of students. The other day one of the students remarked that there are, probably, more students in Chatahoochee Tech than they are in SPSU. Though such a

thought may easily be brushed aside as nonsensical, it does portray the frustration of those who care about this school.

We have, time and again in this column, call to the attention of those who have been charged with the custody of this institution to take some steps in redressing the alarming situation of low enrollment. However, it is undeniable that less student and fee increment would not solve the problems. Those concerned should cut down the amount of money the students have to pay (isn't it right to discount services when the demand is less than expected!), increase the rate of advertisement in the right direction and do something about the plight of the international students. The school should devise a straightforward policy for recruiting and retaining her students. For example, the international students to could be given a

number of credits to be acquired after which the fee would be waved. One would expect those in charge to consult or research as to what other institutions do. There must be a reason for SPSU to keep shrinking in student population year in year out.

The events in the world at this juncture necessitate us to share with you a few things about the global community. Here is Something To Think About from the 1985 United Nations Data:

"If we could, at this very moment, shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100, but all existing human ratios remained the same, it would look like this:

- There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 Western Hemisphere (North and South Americans) and 8 Africans.

- 70 of the 100 would be non-white; 30 would be

white.

- 70 of the 100 would be non-Christian; 30 would be Christian.

- 50 per cent of the world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people – and all six would be citizens of the United States.

- 70 would be unable to read; 50 would suffer from malnutrition; 80 would live in sub-standard housing, and only 1 would have a university education.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for both tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent."

May everyone ponders about the above data and make it a point of treating those who cross his/her path with some dignity and respect. And since the path on our campus has been drastically reduced by the con-

struction work, the need for treating those with him we may cross paths can not be over emphasized. Whatever we do or aspire to do, let each of us keep in mind that we are just one in a crowd. One thing undeniable is that once a day, "each one of us sets aside his part, frees himself, and places his body in a bed, a den, or a nest, and abandoning the earth, we travel towards other landscapes and experiences." Even at this very instant, million of people are travelling through the vastness of dreams. Remember that "only half of us have been awake on earth" at each given time. Had it not be so, we might have destroyed the planet earth completely.

# This Article May Be on Emulation

## Introduction

### Hello

As promised, this is the second part of the article that appeared in the last episode of *The Sting*. When we last left our heroes they had painted themselves into a corner. They took two full pages to list dry, slightly cryptic facts on predominantly outdated video-gaming hardware. How will they sustain their audience (all ten of you) after such boring trivia? Why, by spewing two full pages of opinionated, and almost illegal trivia! Picture us as that annoying unshaven weirdo who starts talking to you at length about all the video games he's loved while you're looking for a hockey game in the video rental store. Watch as we bore you to death with the world of emulation.

## What is Emulation?

### We Had No Sub-Header

What is emulation? Well first you must understand that the games that are burned into the chips in your old game cartridges (or CDs if you got one of them newfangled systems) started out as files on computers. Now, I need you to understand that those cartridges (or CDs) can be read and

better fans of the system he is trying to emulate receive his work.

## Is That Legal?

*Or is my next experience with handcuffs not going to be as much fun?*

So you're asking: "Hey that's great, Geeky Entertainment Guys. I can play all those games I used to play when I was a social outcast in middle and/or high school. But gee, isn't that piracy?" and we're laughing at you because the paper is a unidirectional communication system and we can't hear a thing you're saying. You're right though, it can be piracy. The emulation software itself isn't illegal; it's original work. And if you own the cartridges (or CDs, damned snobs) it's legal to get the ROMs (the files that contain the game data), but if you don't own the original cartridge it is piracy. You can keep ROMs you don't have hard copies to for twenty-four hours, but once that period is over, steel clawed miniature water buffalo will knock down your front door and eat your dog. What I can't give you definite answer for is downloading foreign games. We would never recommend that you to break the law. That would be bad. We know that you never do. You shouldn't start now.

staff. This system is just full of memories for lots of you out there. Those memories are nice and fuzzy, but when you get a chance to play this old system again they'll come into sharp relief. So maybe it's not as good as you remember it. What it does have is the primitive ideas that became the game genres you might love now, if you lack social graces and a healthy respect for life (Who us?). What's really fun about this is that the games are so small that you download them in packs, you get dozens in about thirty-seconds. Deleting the ones you don't have cartridges for, of course. You shouldn't break the law and we don't advocate it in any way. This is also the only system that had adult games produced for it. This should appeal to the 12-year-old in all of us. That they made the attempt is absolutely laughable.

## Nintendo

### Nesticle (snicker)

Bored yet? Good, we've only just started. The Atari plague failed in '84. The world thought it was safe. The cities began to repopulate and people walked the streets freely. They were fools. One year later the worst of the gamer-plagues fell like a never-ending night. The 8-bit Nintendo Entertainment System was brutal compared to its predecessor. This one should be a fresh wound in the memories of many of our humble readers. The scourge of Mario started on this system. I can hear the music now... Oh, god it won't stop. This is the system that ended any chance your anti-social authors had of gaining the acceptance of peers and the respect of elders. Oh, the memories like bad acid flashbacks are coursing freely through the badly wired neurons of mind now. As I play each of the old favorites I weep for my misspent youth in that nostalgic way I shouldn't do until I'm an old man. Damn. I promised myself I wouldn't do this. The best emulator for this system is called Nesticle (snicker). It'll give you a wide range of games. Plus it's stable.

## Genesis

### Genecyst (snicker)

While I dry my eyes, we'll discuss the other emulator with a dirty name, Genecyst (snicker). I would like to write line after line about this system, but I never owned it. I have no memories of it. I couldn't break the law by download games for it. That would be bad. So I'll just say that I tested it long enough to know that the dweebs who brought you Nesticle (snicker) kept up the good work.

## Super Nintendo

### ZSNES

Ah, my favorite emulator for my favorite classic system. Programmed by the insurgent duo of ZSKnight and \_DEMO\_, this little emulator comes closer to an actual Super Nintendo than any other emulator out there. It requires a low end Pentium for most games, but a few of the later games, especially Super Mario World 2:

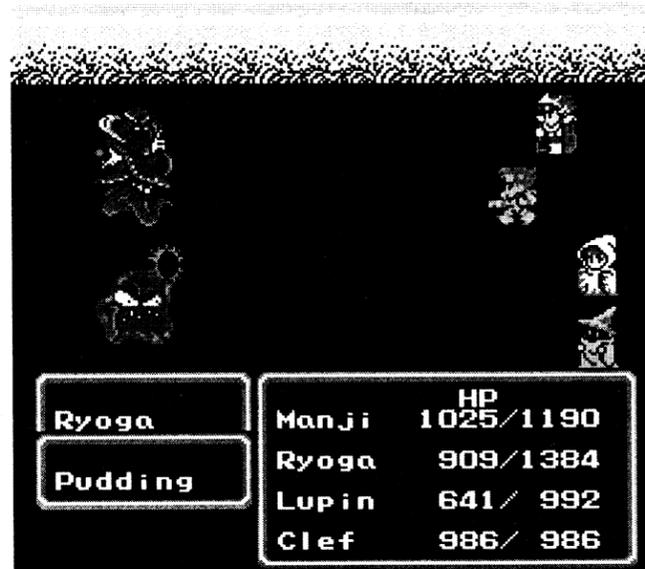
Nintendo was behind for several years, until Donkey Kong Country was released in 1994. What many video game archaeologists miss is that Nintendo succeeded not because of Donkey Kong Country, but because they switched to commercials with an exploding fat guy. Well no, I'm lying. I just can't make myself care.

The SNES was loaded with great games in its day. Who can forget playing as Nintendo's celebrated fairy boy in green in *The Legend of Zelda: a Link to the Past*, or pulping the largest brain in the galaxy in *Super Metroid*. There was once even a time when *Super Mario World* was impressive. Capcom had *Street Fighter 2* (3 versions) and *Mega Man X* (*Mega Man + angst*), Konami made *Super Castlevania IV* and *Contra III*, and Midway had the *Mortal Kombat* series (which doubled as an anatomy lesson). Good lord, I wish I didn't remember these things.

Of course, I would be less of a man (You measure manhood your way, I'll measure it mine) if I had not played

Squaresoft's offerings for the console. *Secret of Mana* allowed three of us to terrorize harmless woodland creatures/demons; *Chrono Trigger* let me wreak havoc across a span of sixty-five million years; and *Final Fantasy 3* (6 in Japan) taught me never to fall in love, because the target of my affection would die a horrible death at the hands of the evil Empire. I am also eagerly awaiting the experience in my own character development that *Legend of Mana*, *Final Fantasy VIII* (for Playstation), and *Chrono Trigger 2* (probably for Playstation 2) will cause. Addiction sucks.

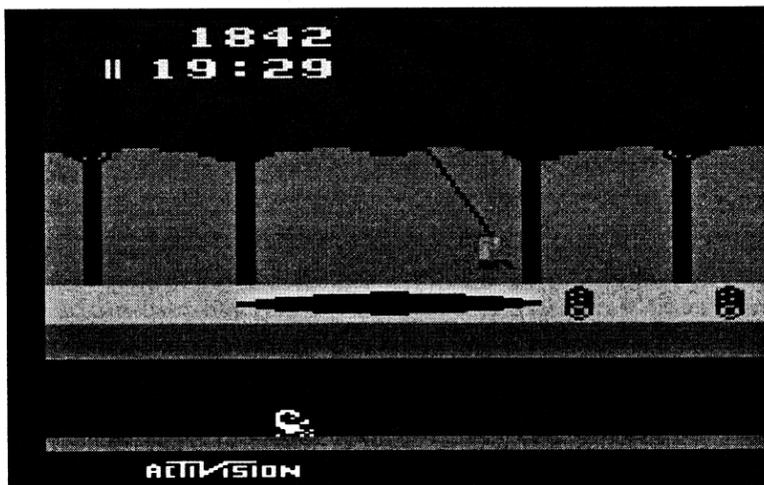
The fact that I could (in theory of course) have played all twenty Squaresoft



*Yoshi's Island*, require considerably more advanced systems to run at full speed. Hey it only takes a 200 Mhz system to emulate a 3.5 Mhz system.

This is the fastest, easiest to use SNES emulator on the internet. It may not run quite as many games as SNES9X (another emulator that we should have used in a comprehensive compare and contrast...but that's work), but it runs games much better. It is the only emulator that can play *Yoshi's Island*, *Super Mario RPG*, and *Tales of Phantasia*. Ah... how wonderful, more things to eat up social life.

The Super Nintendo was released in 1991 to combat the Sega Genesis. Sega's one foray into the market that didn't cause the average gamer to scream silently and subconsciously in complete disinterest. Sega fought back with commercials where lazy elves and crushed flies made fun of Nintendo.



converted back into files on a computer if you have the hardware to do so. Now take a computer programmer who has too much time. This computer programmer says to himself, "Hey here are these files out on the net. I wonder if I can make software that uses them?" And so are monk-like programmer works tirelessly fed on a diet of pre-processed junk food, yoo-hoo, and college radio. After long months of esoteric coding he comes up with a small program which almost emulates the machines that ran the cartridges (or CDs, highfalutin bastards). The closer that programmer got to perfect emulation, the

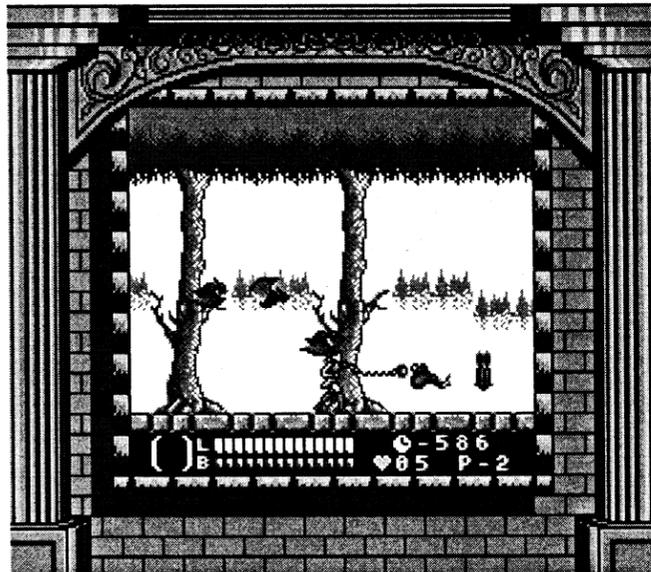
## Atari

### Z26

Okay you crazy readers, the intro is done, now we get to the serious Chinese water torture with the system which swept the world like a dark plague (and, oddly enough, was also delivered by rats), Atari. The emulator that we recommend for this is called Z26. We should offer comparative reviews, but it's, like, a little after midnight the night before this gets sent out. If you want serious reviews get a better entertainment

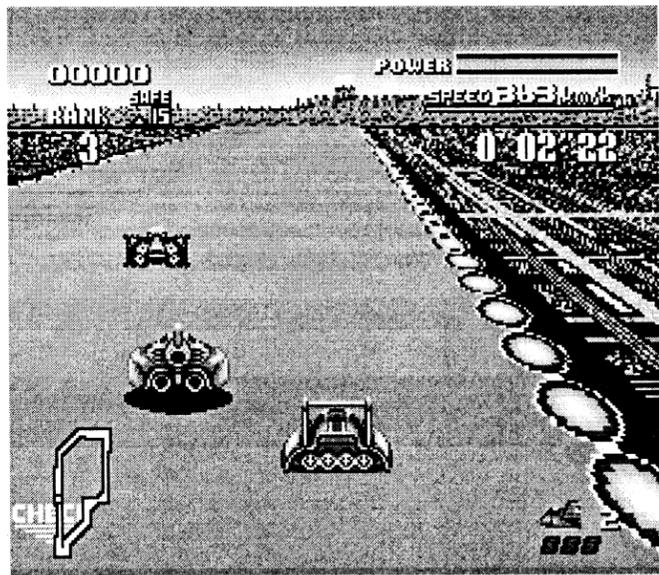
SNES games when only six saw American release is another point of emulation. You shouldn't do this, dear reader, because it is not completely legal, (and we would never encourage illegal activity) but if you are an adventurous little felon, you can find ROMs of games that were only released in Japan. Thus, you can play Seiken Densetsu 3 (Secret of Mana 2), Dragon Quest 6 (Dragon Warrior 6), and Rockman & Forte (Megaman 9) without having to spend the money for imported cartridges and a converter. Of course, you aren't supposed to use the ROMs without owning the cartridge, but Nintendo also frowns on importing games. So you can't win.

Furthermore, because these games are computer files, many of them have been translated into English by fans. The entire Final Fantasy series has been hacked into English and is



easily available. We don't want you to look for it though, that would be wrong. You can look at the file links online, if you want.

You may notice that this article devotes a disproportionate amount of space to the Super Nintendo. I like the Super Nintendo more, so there. Oh, all right, I'll cover something else now.



### Game Boy No Cash Gameboy DBoy

Nintendo's Game Boy is like a cockroach infestation. It's shiny, crunchy, and not something you want inside your ... Ahem... I mean it's small, out there in huge numbers, and just won't go away. Even after repeat sprayings. It began with the ability to display four shades of spinach, and has now mutated into color. Nothing kills good nostalgia like color.

Emulators have kept up, and two are capable of playing Game Boy Color games.

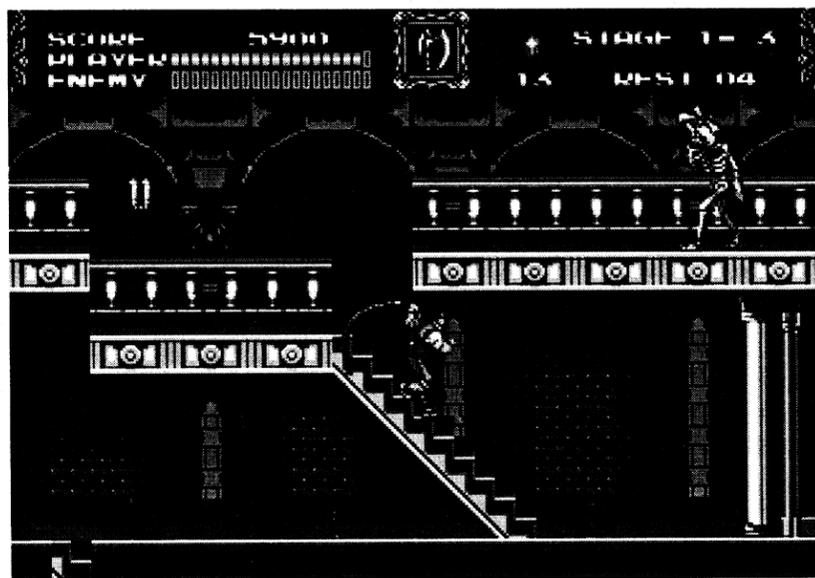
No Cash Gameboy is a great program that provides you with the full experience of playing a Game Boy, that is, you can use a ten year old 8-bit system with a two-inch screen on a stationary computer that presumably cost over a thousand dollars. If you don't mind a little occasional slowdown. And you're deaf. This is because the sound is

the one bit that is emulated less than perfectly: it is enhanced with wonderful grating sounds. Ah, the joys of emulation.

DBoy lacks the extras of No Cash, but it works well and has reasonably good sound. It also lets you practice your Chinese.

Game Boy did have its moments: Zelda, the Super Mario Land series, and the Final Fantasy Legend games were worth playing. Pokemon, the viral infection that is ailing the world, also had the Game Boy as its birthplace. There are also hundreds of Game Boy cartridges that make effective tiling. Granted, when you are playing a blurry screen on a bumpy road, most games are about equal.

### Turbo Grafx 16 Magic Engine



This system is supposed to have a few cool games and there are apparently some good emulators out for it. I don't care. Pay for the emulator and play the games yourself.

### The End Finis

There you have it. You can play nearly any video game out there on your computer. You can even play games for the current systems like the Sony Playstation and Nintendo 64, which have about the same system requirements as some of the 8-bit system emulators. Of course, you face the threat of the International Digital Software Association (IDSA) sending their SS troops to make you vanish as a pixelized blip. Not that we would suggest any course of action that would set the IDSA death squads after your head, because that would be bad.

Probably not written by A&E writers Frank Lopez and David Eskridge

## Disclaimer:

This article is not necessarily the opinion of SPSU, The Sting, or the authors. SPSU, The Sting, and the authors do not condone the piracy of intellectual property. Users should not store or transfer ROMs to games they do not own. We're serious, don't even think about it. All grammatical errors were committed on purpose. No writers were hurt in the production of this article. No editors were used in the production of this article. All social outcasts were returned to their natural habitat after the completion of this article. Poisonous. Do Not Swallow. Store in a Cold Dry Place. Not available in Ohio. Caution: Contents Under Pressure. Do Not Lunge Happily Into Ball.

AmericanLuSwing11/22/8 - Composite

## Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

Hello to all the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon. O Hell Yeah, we're over the hump and the semester is closer to being over with. Congrats go out to Buck and Jeremy for doing a great job on the Steel Bridge Team, though politics truly suck sometimes and so do Alabamians. Softball is here and we're kicking butt and taking names just like we always do. Greek Week is coming up, but that is something I'd rather not address. I've never seen such a sorry bunch of events for college students in my life. Feels like I'm back in elementary school on field day. Though, there's the politics of life again.

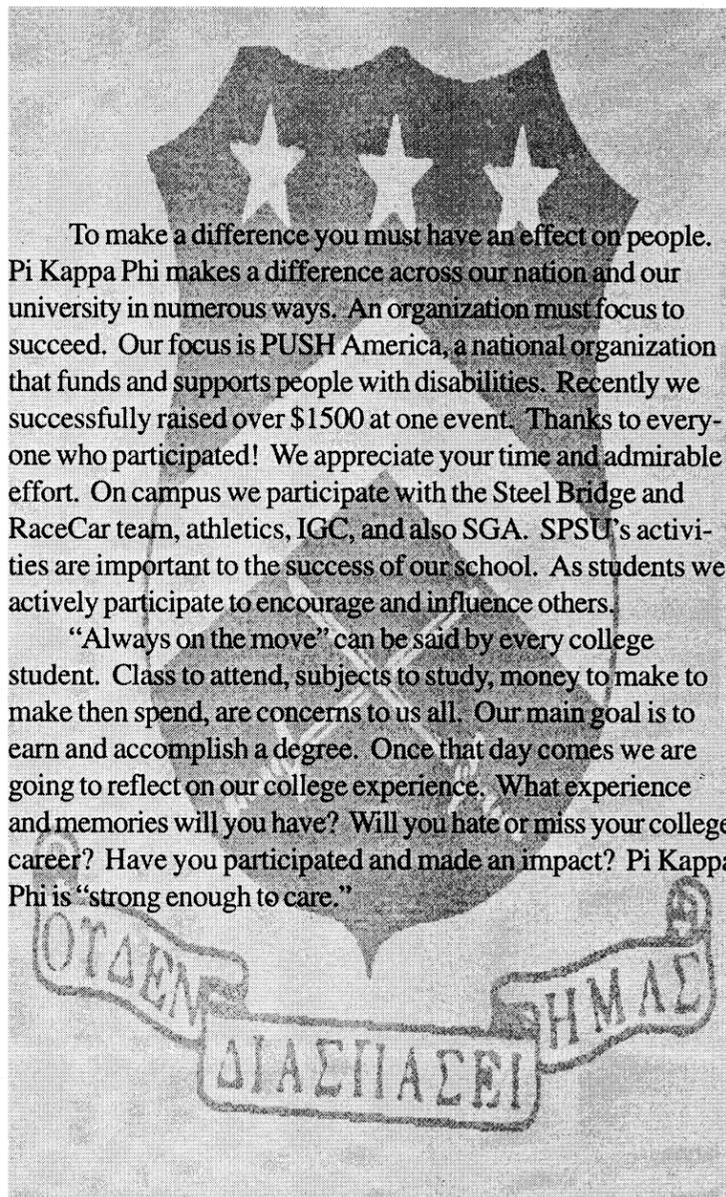
On a different note, just like college students and just like TKE, we're having another party. **SKULL ISLAND PARTY** is coming up on April 16<sup>th</sup> after the amazing *Greek Week*. Look for flyers around campus for details on price, location, and time. It's one of the biggest parties of the year and it's only hosted by the hell raisers themselves, TKE. Looking a little forward into the future, Beach Trip will be here before you know it. Everybody needs to get their cash into Wally for that one. I don't think anybody wants to miss the Annual Beach Trip after this extensive semester. There is a new addition to the house, the wild and non-crazy Buzzard. That's all for now my brothers. Here's a little clip of what goes on at a TKE party. The Lone Wolf shall see y'all around the sausage factory, known as SPSU, doing what we do best, RAISIN' HELL!!!



## Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity

To make a difference you must have an effect on people. Pi Kappa Phi makes a difference across our nation and our university in numerous ways. An organization must focus to succeed. Our focus is PUSH America, a national organization that funds and supports people with disabilities. Recently we successfully raised over \$1500 at one event. Thanks to everyone who participated! We appreciate your time and admirable effort. On campus we participate with the Steel Bridge and RaceCar team, athletics, IGC, and also SGA. SPSU's activities are important to the success of our school. As students we actively participate to encourage and influence others.

"Always on the move" can be said by every college student. Class to attend, subjects to study, money to make to earn and accomplish a degree. Once that day comes we are going to reflect on our college experience. What experience and memories will you have? Will you hate or miss your college career? Have you participated and made an impact? Pi Kappa Phi is "strong enough to care."



## Sigma Pi Fraternity

Hello everybody! Sigma Pi has had a pretty good semester this spring. Sigma Pi had its 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on February 26. The brothers and dates went out to dinner and all had a good time. Some went bowling after the dinner. Congratulations to "the intimidator" for killing everyone in bowling!

This semester also marked our first social with the sisters of Gamma Phi Beta in quite some time. Everyone who attended had a great time swinging the night away. We would enjoy doing it again. This semester also marks the beginning of many road trips. March 26-28 was the Dixie Province Workshop. Thanks to the brothers of Alpha Phi chapter at the University of Georgia. During our spring break, we spent some time with the Zeta Beta chapter at Embry Riddle in Daytona. The brothers were great to us. They let us stay at the chapter house and showed us around town. Later this semester, we are planning to attend the

annual Pig Roast and softball tournament at Eastern Kentucky University. And a possible rafting trip with the Gamma Xi chapter at West Virginia Tech is in the works.

Later this month is the annual Orchid Ball formal. We are expecting quite a showing. The Mercer interest group will be joining us as will the brothers and dates of our Eastern Kentucky chapter. At the formal the Alumnus and the brother of the year award will be given out. Good luck to everyone nominated!

We had a good spring rush in which we acquired two pledges, Andrew Hixson and Mark Obershain. We also elected new officers in February which are as follows: President- Kevin Fordham, Vice-President- Ben Garret, Treasurer- Seth Peters, Secretary- Matt Griffin, 1<sup>st</sup> Counselor- Ben Curry, and Herald- Shannon Roper. That's all for now. Good luck on your finals and have a great summer.

## AFRICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (ASA)

ASA is a recently formed organization on SPSU campus. The purpose of the organization is to aid international students coming from the continent of Africa in adjusting to their new environment in which they intend to reside until their various hopes and dreams are attained. The organization also intends to educate the SPSU community about the culture and ways of life of the African people through various events and social gatherings.

The thought about forming ASA came first on the soccer field where the African United soccer team was being trashed mercilessly by another team in a soccer tournament. In an effort to get our minds off the loss, we diverted our thoughts somewhere else, and thus, ASA was born.

African students coming to America for the first time have a preset notion that America is 'primus-interparis' (another heaven on earth).

When they alight from the plane and go through immigration, they are awestruck by the true reality of their new environment, and at times this reality can be very devastating. They realize that one still has to work hard to earn a living, and credit cards can be dangerous to keep. ASA will assist these students in adjusting, and provide companionship and assistance wherever necessary. One of our future goals is to organize committees, which will provide room and board for these students until they settle in.

ASA, through events and social gatherings will provide accurate information, newsletters, and literatures, free of bias to the SPSU community about Africa. We believe that this will help educate students about what the true Africa is all about, and not what is perpetuated by the media.

"A toad does not run in the daytime for nothing" goes an old adage. The ASA

organization has set out to achieve various objectives, and we intend to follow them through. Membership in ASA is open to all and sundry of SPSU, hence we encourage every student to come join us in our meetings and sign up for membership in the organization. Meeting dates and times will be posted on the various CAB notice boards around the campus.

*Swing Into Spring!!*

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## Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Greetings from the "*Ladies of the Dove*". After a year of hard work, we can proudly say that we have come a long way. During this past year, we have grown not only as individuals, but also as an organization. At this time, we would like to say congratulations to our newest members:

### Spring 1999:

1. Marketta Bledsoe
2. Kristie Todd
3. Andrea Haynes

Presently, the Southern Polytechnic State University members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated are working diligently to charter a chapter. This semester has been both busy and exciting. This past January marked Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated's 79th founder's day, February and March followed with our Finer Womanhood Week activities and a Valentine fundraiser, and April has blessed us with three new members. The goal of chartering a chapter is an upcoming objective and a chance for us to write our own Zeta Phi Beta history on Southern Polytechnic's campus.

We would like to send our support with Soror Michelle Mason as she moves forward in her academic career at Georgia State University. Thank you for helping us build the foundation for a successful chapter and the time and effort you spent helping our new members. Without the support of our sponsoring graduate chapter, Rho Epsilon Zeta and our Advisor, Quen Robinson, we would not be where we are today. The newly chartered graduate chapter of Marietta has been a constant support system and a major financial contributor to our efforts to expand our membership and implement our ideas. For your time, effort, and support, we thank you.

As the charter members of a new legacy, we take on the responsibility of a campus, a community, a nation of sorors, and each other. As five sisters hand in hand, we will strive to promote **service**, while demonstrating **scholarship**, uplifting and perfecting **finer womanhood**, and always devoting ourselves to **sisterly love**.

## SPSU Ambassadors

It's that time of year, again. It's time for the selection of some more new SPSU Ambassadors. For those of you who aren't aware, the Ambassadors have become a very important entity of the University.

The two faculty advisors of this important organization are Jackie Gilpin and Steven Morton. These two individuals conceived the idea approximately two years ago. Since the conception of the Southern Polytechnic State University Ambassadors, there have been praises heard from both the administration, as well as, the student body. At present there are 19 Ambassadors serving SPSU as best they can. These individuals are as follows: Doolittle Adcock, Dion Cantrell, Melissa Cherry, Derick Davis, Alejandra Garcia-Castro, Lakeisha Hall, Will Johnson, Carine Kroko, Justin Little, Quintina Owens, Rex Powell, Keli Rice, Andre Riley, Julie Seymour, Solanda Slaughter, Luke Thorton, Ann Marie Tyson, Kimberly Walker, and Kelleen D. Williams.

Some of the activities that the Ambassadors have participated in are working concessions at the Running Hornets Basketball games, Polly Wolly Doodle 10k run, Science Olympiad, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SPSU, the dedication of the library, and many administrative lunches. These are just a few of the activities that the Ambassadors volunteer for. The Ambassadors are given many opportunities to mix and mingle with the administration and faculty. Not to mention, you are given the opportunity to meet and work with students from all types of disciplines.

The deadline for the applications for the '99-'00 school term is April 10<sup>th</sup>. So come apply and get more involved with SPSU.

## SPSU's NSBE to be the Fall Regional Conference Host This Fall

The Southern Polytechnic Society of Black Engineers will be the host of the Fall Regional Conference (FRC) this October in metro Atlanta with approximately 500 students and alumni in attendance. The conference theme is "**Leadership, Innovation, and Excellence From an Engineering Perspective - Setting the Foundation for The Next Millennium.**"

In collaboration with the Regional Executive Board, the chapter is directly responsible for all planning and arrangements to make the conference successful for all of NSBE Region III members including:

- Selecting and Arranging Conference Site Facilities
- Highlighting the Southern Polytechnic State University NSBE chapter
- Determining Speaker Selection and Arrangements
- Establishing Workshop Presenters and Topics
- Establishing Transportation Options from Airport and Conference Event Sites
- Planning the Membership Awards Banquet
- Maintaining appropriate

Public Relations Measures in the Community and with members

- Allocating Proper Use of the Conference Budget

Additionally, this will be a '**tri-conference**' event since there will be a joint Alumni Regional Conference and Pre-College Initiative Conference.

As the SPSU chapter is no stranger to planning conferences within NSBE before, this conference will be largest planned by far. Due to the size of the event, the conference could not be held on SPSU's campus. In the past the chapter hosted the Regional Leadership Conference (RCL) last August on campus and is a strong contender to host it again this early Fall under the direction of Melissa Cherry, the outgoing Academic Excellence Chairperson within NSBE. The RLC is attended by all elected chapter officials to obtain a proper foundation prior to the academic year beginning.

Home of the National Chairperson for the past two years and a past Regional Chairperson and other Regional Executive Board

Members, the SPSU chapter is determined to host the best conference yet.

Under the guidance of Derick Davis, the Conference Planning Chairperson, the Conference Planning Committee will be meeting extensively throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall Semesters to coordinate the massive activities required for the conference. Since this conference is taking on the approach of applied technology and awareness, Southern Polytechnic was a prime contender to host the event.

Southern Polytechnic professors and administrators are ecstatic to be a part of the Fall Regional Conference too. Several professors within the ECET and Arts & Science department have already committed to being workshop facilitators. Other chapters within the region including Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta University Center, Mercer University did not submit a competitive bid.

## MATH STINGER

By Dr. Joel C. Fowler  
Associate Professor of Mathematics

The last puzzle was to determine those values of  $n$  for which an  $n \times n$  checkerboard can be covered with "S" tiles. The answer is that no checkerboard can be covered with these tiles. The only correct answer was received from Alan Gabrielli.

Two new puzzles involve a circle of radius 1 inscribed in an isosceles triangle. The first puzzle (for which some knowledge of trigonometry is useful) is to determine, rounded to three places after the decimal point, the angle in radians between the two equal sides of the isosceles triangle, if the area of the triangle is 12. The second part of the puzzle, for which some calculus is useful, is to determine the exact angle (between the two equal sides) in radians that makes the area of the triangle a minimum.

**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.

# IN THE MEMORY OF

**KEVIN LEE CURTISS**



**FEBRUARY 21, 1980 -  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1997**

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