

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2001

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VOLUME 54, NUMBER 2

Finance Commission Security Breach

By: Mark Campbell and Kamie Harkins

Confidential information about thousands of students throughout Georgia was available on the internet for three weeks in June through Google™, a popular search engine. The information had been gleaned from the computers of the Georgia Student Finance Commission during a lapse in security. The GSFC is a state agency responsible for dispensing financial aid, such as the Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant and the HOPE Scholarship programs.

HOPE – Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally – is Georgia's nationally recognized model for scholarship that directly ties the financial assistance a student receives to his or her academic performance. The HOPE Scholarship program is funded by the Georgia Lottery and was initiated under former Governor and now U.S. Senator Zell Miller (D-GA).

The breach involved at least 194 institutions of higher education throughout the nation.



Helen Spivac (seated), Edna Silver (standing)

Of the 102 HOPE eligible institutions in Georgia, ninety-four were affected, many with information from hundreds of students exposed. These included thirty-two of the 34 universities and colleges in the University System of Georgia, twenty-nine of Georgia's 33 public technical colleges and

institutes, and thirty-three of 35 private HOPE eligible universities and colleges in the state.

For most of the students attending Georgia universities and colleges, the privileged information was limited to the students' names, social security numbers, the

institution they are attending, their scholarship status, and

References Lists:

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German Exchange Program In Jeopardy

By Kamie Harkins

The SPSU Foreign Exchange Program with Germany is currently in jeopardy. This year is the first since 1995 that no students have gone to Germany.

Contract negotiations were unsuccessful during the 2000-2001 school year due to differences of opinion in funding. Regarding the urgency to continue the relationship between the two schools without break, Markus Seewald, German School System Vice Chancellor, stated, "International relationships have to go on; any interruptions can cause problems."

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Goizueta Foundation Expands Language Lab

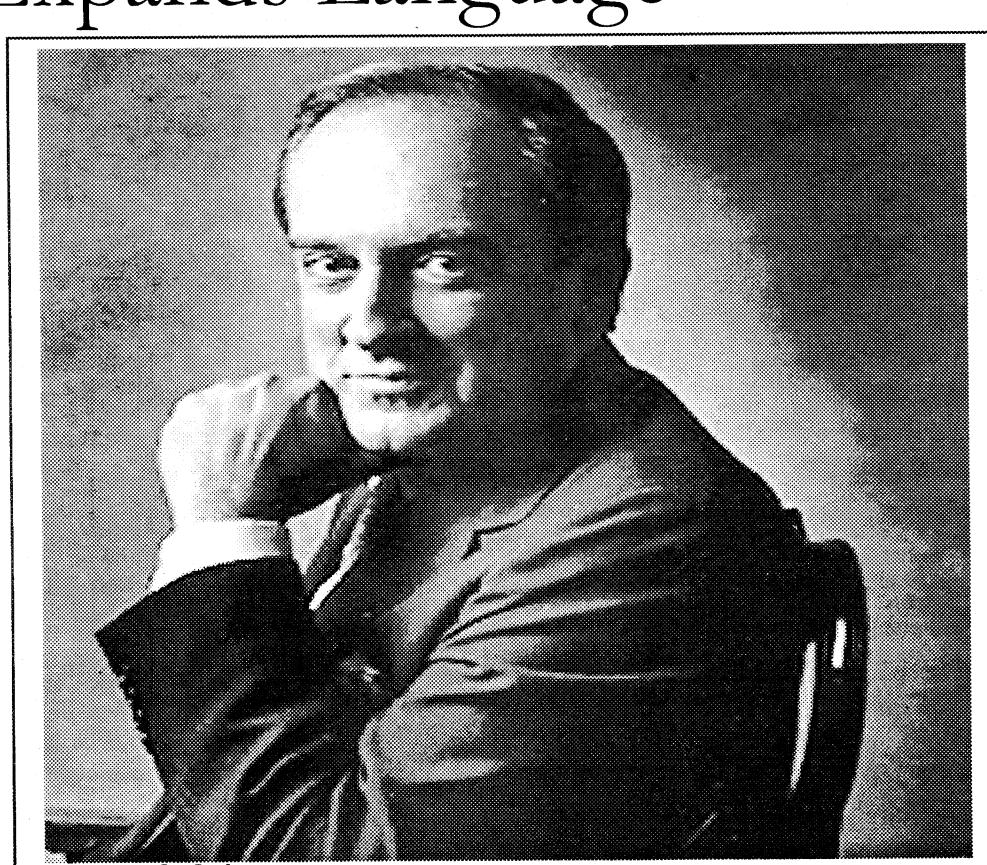
By Ann Bartone

The Goizueta Foundation approved SPSU's request for a grant of \$223,620 to improve the language lab in the J building and gave an additional half million dollars for recruiting Hispanic students.

The grant will be used to purchase new equipment and for a salary to run the language lab for four years. Professor Nufer-Halten applied for the grant earlier in the year. "Most students come here from high school with better equipment than we have in our lab," exclaimed

Bernice Nufer-Halten, Southern Polytechnic's Spanish professor.

The \$526,380 will become the funds for an annually, need-based scholarship for Hispanic students. Roberto C. Goizueta, a native of Cuba, established the Goizueta Foundation in 1992. The purpose of the foundation is to assist organizations through educational opportunities.



Roberto C. Goizueta

Finance Commission Security Breach *Continued*

the amount disbursed in the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th.

In other instances, files containing GSFC database information also contained students' addresses, telephone numbers, birth dates, race, gender and in a small number of cases, even parents' social security numbers. For Georgia's most recent high school graduates, those records that were available also included their final grade point average or other measures of academic performance. At least a dozen and a half high schools were affected, most in the metropoli-

tan Atlanta area.

Breach Found and Fixed

The breach was discovered on Monday, June 4th, by a student at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia. The student had run a Google™ search on their name, and discovered that Georgia HOPE Scholarship reconciliation reports for SPSU and Savannah Technical College in Savannah, Georgia were available through Google™'s cache. A HOPE reconciliation report is a document that the Georgia Student Finance Commission requires of each

HOPE eligible institution. The document is used to verify that the amount that the GSFC has provided to an institution's financial aid office and the amount disbursed to that institution's students match.

The Sting, the student newspaper of Southern Polytechnic State University, received a news tip from the student that afternoon. In a subsequent analysis of the cached files, Sting staff were able to determine that the most recent file from the GSFC site was generated for Cedar Grove High School in Ellenwood, Georgia, and dated June 2, 2001. As of press time, enquiries to a number of personnel at the Georgia Student Finance Commission about the timing and circumstances of the breakdown in computer security have gone unanswered. However, according to Cindy McCaffrey, Vice President of Corporate

Communications at Google™, it is likely that Google™ visited the site sometime between June 2nd and June 4th.

SPSU's Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, Helen Spivak, and HOPE Coordinator, Edna Silver, were notified by STING reporters on Tuesday, June 5th. In a concerted effort over the next two weeks, they worked with Mary Harris, Charlene McGrath and Robert Lahl, all of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, and Rob Rakove of Google™ to have the information removed. This was completed by Sunday, June 24th. Daily checks by the Sting through July fourth have shown that only five documents from the site remain, none of which contain confidential information.

According to McCaffrey, it is very unlikely that the information will ever appear again on the Google™

search engine. "Once the original content is removed [from access via the internet],

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German Exchange Program In Jeopardy

Seewald stated as the reason for the failed contract negotiations, "SPSU is not ready to sign." Later, however, he conceded that the German school is unsure if it will pay for the housing and meal costs of the foreign exchange students coming to SPSU in Fall 2001, stating, "We were ready to host the American Summer students, [yet] SPSU is not sending any."

Many benefits may be lost because of the failed negotiations. The previous contract for the international student exchange program allowed for all the Fachhochschulen in Sachsen-Anhalt to be SPSU's partner, creating what Seewald described as "a very successful program, for all partners, especially for the students." Moreover, each university benefitted from an exchange of professors, filling the need as Seewald put it "as a modern university to have international input." Participating with the German school, SPSU is only one of many partner schools, including over 60 representative countries at such universities as San Diego State University, Harvard University, Univ. of Minnesota, and Univ. of New York.

Furthermore, the SGA voted against a proposal by Dr. Richard Bennett, Director of International Programs, to take the \$4,000 that was originally used for scholarships for SPSU students who wanted to study abroad and instead give it to four German students he says want to come to SPSU on the SPSU German exchange program.

SPSU Supermileage Team Takes Fourth

By Mark Campbell

In only its second year of competition, Southern Polytechnic State University's Supermileage Vehicle team placed fourth amongst collegiate teams in Marshall, Michigan. The competition, held at the Eaton Corporation Proving Grounds, is held annually under the auspices of the Society of Automotive Engineers. This year saw SPSU facing 24 teams during the June 1st and 2nd competition, of which twenty actually competed.

The challenge facing each team was to gain the most miles per gallon in a one-person vehicle powered by a small single-cylinder engine. Briggs and Stratton provided each team with a 3½ horsepower four cycle engine. The competition required that the original block and piston be used by each team.

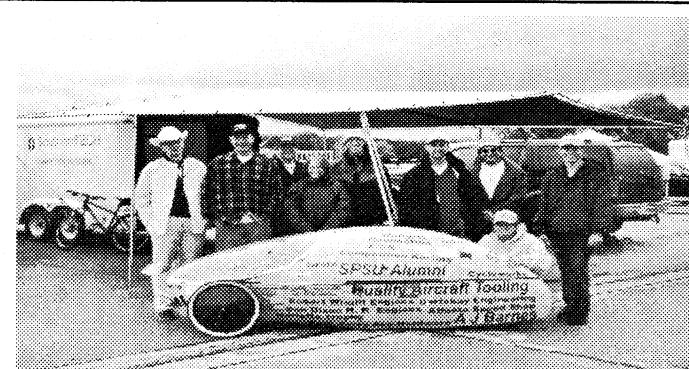
Success was measured in both miles per gallon achieved during one of six test trials, and the best Design Proposal award. The SPSU team took the top honors for their design for the second time, making a clean sweep in that category since their inaugural appearance.

Team members were very proud that they were the only team that successfully completed all six test trials. Each trial consisted of six timed laps around the proving grounds' 1.6 mile track. Teams that failed to maintain a minimum speed during their trials would be disqualified.

In their second trial, held on Saturday June 2nd, the team attained 472.23 miles per gallon in raw, windy conditions with intermittent rain. The winning team, California State University at Chico, achieved 640.30 miles per gallon in their fifth trial.

The team leader was Lee Childers, and the vehicle was driven by Sandra Wooten. Chris Higgins, Jin Lee, Billy Rice, Robert Scheitlin and Carl Weber all worked together in designing and building the car. They were advised by professors Orren Williams and Millard Davis. All are from the Mechanical Engineering Technology department.

According to next year's team leader, Billy Rice, there is a lot to be gained in such applied engineering competitions. "I learned that it comes



Southern Tech's Supermileage Team. Featured left to right: Prof. Orren Williams, Billy Rice, Leader Lee Childers, Driver Sandra Wooten, Carl Weber, Chris Higgins, Prof. Millard Davis, Jin Lee and Robert Scheitlin. The team placed fourth amongst collegiate teams.

down to small factors when it comes to super mileage," he said. "Small variables make large differences, because it comes down to rolling resistance, wind drag, and obviously fuel consumption."

"A motor is just an air pump," Rice added. "The more air you put into it, the more fuel you've got to put into it. Fuel is energy. To overcome these factors [rolling resistance and wind drag] you've got to supply just enough energy. It is all a very delicate balance."

The engine used by the SPSU team is a marvel to behold to many. Although the original Briggs and Stratton engine block and piston were used as the rules required, almost everything else was reworked. The cylinder bore

was sleeved down to fifty cubic centimeters, and a Honda overhead valve hemispherical type head was substituted. Chain drive for the valve was kept taut by a chain tensioner from a 3.8 liter V6 engine used in Ford Taurus sedans. The air intake was manufactured on the lathes at SPSU, and features a conic taper both inside and out.

Team leader Lee Childers also made the connecting rod out of 7075 aluminum. The material had been donated by Ken Rice (no relation), of Quality Aircraft Tooling in Marietta. Fuel and air was mixed using a carburetor, which most of the teams use.

According to Billy Rice, the fuel that the teams use in the competition is dispensed at

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Finance Commission Security Breach *Continued*

there should be no problem." Sting staff have determined that the five pages related to the GSFC site in question do indeed run into a firewall or require a password to access further information. A firewall is a computer program that checks a user's internet address to see whether access should be permitted or denied.

Extent of the Problem

At Southern Polytechnic, 995 students received HOPE scholarships for the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year. The cached copy of SPSU's HOPE Scholarship reconciliation report contained the names, social security numbers, status and awards of 627 SPSU students. The report had been submitted electronically on May fourth to the GSFC by SPSU's Hope Coordinator Edna Silver.

"I feel terrible that pulling in that report exposed the social security numbers of that many people, since I wouldn't want my own number out there on the internet," Silver said. In discussing how the breach may have occurred, she added, "I don't know what

caused that, so I don't have any hard feelings towards them," referring to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Google™. "I'm sure they're concerned as anyone else."

Helen Spivak, SPSU's Financial Aid Director, had just started her new job the previous day when the Sting approached her about the problem on June 5th. "When it was first brought to my attention, and I saw it on the screen, I was shocked. It never occurred to me that a state-secured site could be penetrated."

Spivak continued, "A number of years ago, the university I attended just after high school used a phrase 'in loco parentis' to explain the university's concept of nurturing students. While the students are away from their families, we are responsible to look out for them as though they were our own children." Spivak's own daughter Katy, age 22, recently graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, while her son David, age 18, is currently attending Georgia State University. "Because of this concern for our students, I took seriously

this threat to their sense of well-being and protection at the university."

But Southern Polytechnic's Financial Aid personnel were not prepared for the scope of the problem throughout the state and the nation. "I was surprised at the extent of the problem," Spivak said, "Especially as we found more and more the longer we researched it."

One hundred and ninety four institutions throughout the nation were affected, including 94 of the 102 HOPE Scholarship eligible universities and colleges in Georgia. The list includes 32 of 34 public universities and colleges in the University System of Georgia, 33 of 35 private HOPE eligible colleges, and 29 of Georgia's 33 public technical colleges and institutes. For most schools outside of Georgia, only handfuls of students were affected. But at many Georgian institutions, the lists frequently ran into the hundreds of students, and high schools were not immune.

Those impacted included Georgia's big guns, namely the University of Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State

University, Emory University, Kennesaw State University and Georgia Southern University. Specialized institutions, such as the Medical College of Georgia, North Georgia College and State University, and Southern Polytechnic State University were also affected.

Reflecting on this, SPSU's Edna Silver asserted, "I think this shows the extent to which this affects students across the state, that using social security numbers is a statewide and a nationwide problem. We need to use a number that is not attached to that individual permanently."

Ironically, the Hope Scholarship reconciliation report that was required from SPSU by the GSFC balanced to the penny, or more precisely \$1,760,571.32. The report matches the funds disbursed through the BANNER database at SPSU with amount that the Georgia Student Finance Commission's SURFER database says should have been awarded to each student. "It is unusual to reconcile these records to the penny," Silver noted. "When something isn't balanced, I keep

pursuing it as if my own checking account were out of balance."

Confidentiality and SPSU

As to the breach of confidentiality, Silver stated, "We place the highest importance on keeping confidential information secure. I can't help that my name is on the reconciliation report [as the author]. Whoever was responsible for reconciling the HOPE account would have had his or her name appear on the reconciliation report." The names of the HOPE Scholarship Coordinator at the various institutions are specified in the file names of the reports found on Google™ from the GSFC site.

Spivak concurs, "We place a very high importance on maintaining confidentiality. In fact, part of the training done at the Georgia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (GASFAA) deals directly with confidentiality issues. These include which situations are appropriate for disclosing information in a limited manner, and what those limits are."

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SPSU Supermileage Team Takes Fourth

Continued

the last minute under watchful eyes. "You're given a weighed fuel bottle. You can top off the [fuel] line with an eye-stopper while they watch. You attach the bottle, then you run six laps, and then they weigh the bottle again to determine your fuel consumption." SPSU's best run saw the team use 54.02 grams of fuel.

Next year's powerplant leader, Joseph 'Kevin' Johnson, explained why fuel injection isn't used. "The smallest injector I've been able to find is nine pounds [of fuel] per hour. It's from a Honda outboard motor. We need an injector that flows in grams per hour." The second trial the team ran lasted a little more than 36 minutes.

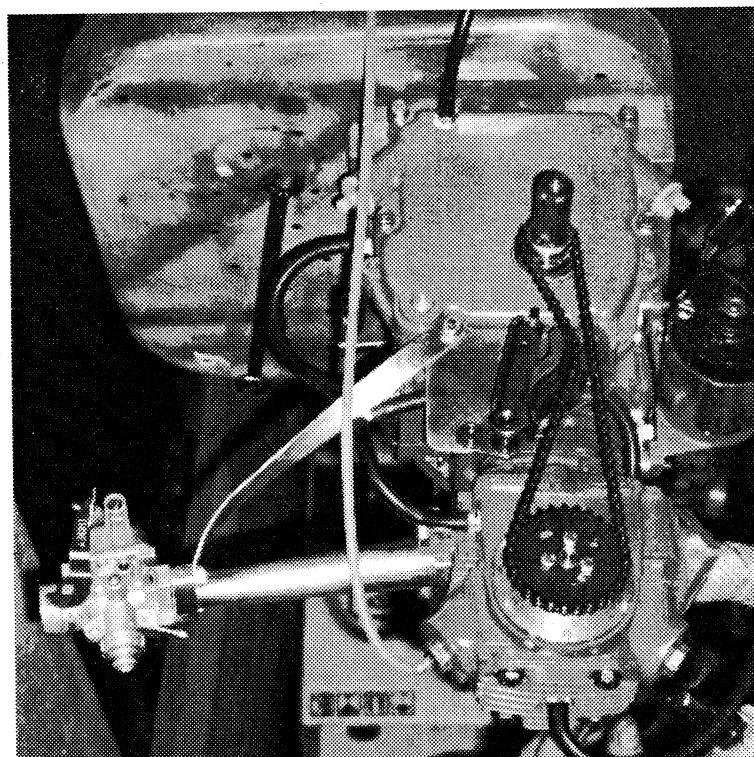
Billy Rice found that Lee Childers did an excellent job in providing a framework for the team to flourish. "Lee persuaded local businesses to help us with the vehicle by donating materials and offering

discounts on parts. The Alumni Association really helped us out, and A. J. Barnes Bicycle of Marietta provided five hundred dollars for bicycle parts."

"The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers, usually provide donations," Rice added.

Rice also 'fessed up to how tolerant sponsors may be. "Grant Anglin at GrafX of Marietta did all the lettering for our sponsor decals in a very timely and professional manner. To be honest, he did it all for us the night before we left. The team finished decaling the car at 3:00 AM, and we left for Michigan at six."

Rice invites those students who are interested in working on a team to join them in the Mechanical Engineering Department. The team also offers sponsorship opportunities for any interested businesses.



Winning first in design proposal, the SPSU team uses an unusual engine. The block is by Briggs and Stratton, the head is by Honda, the chain tensioner is by Ford, and the air intake and connecting rod is by Southern Polytechnic students.

Visit
<http://sting.spsu.edu>

SGA President with High Hopes

By Kamie Harkins

SGA President Kenwin Hayes expressed high hopes for SGA actions during Fall 2001 in a recent interview with the STING.

"I feel as though the SGA this year will accomplish great things!" he stated. "I have never witnessed the passion that the current members have in comparison to others. The combination of diversity, passion, and determination will ensure a successful and unique year for SGA at SPSU!"

Though the "great things" planned as collective goals of the SGA for the student body of SPSU have not yet been set officially, Hayes assured press that such

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Finance Commission Security Breach *Continued*

"For instance, in matters of public health such as the outbreak of a communicable disease, we are authorized to give out the names of family and other close associates of infected students or students at risk," Spivak stated. "This information is limited to those names and addresses and may only be released to officials with proper credentials."

But Spivak particularly emphasized the means her office uses to protect confidential information. "One of the ways that we ensure students' information is not retrieved by inappropriate persons is by shredding documents that are no longer needed," she said. "We have two shredders, one inside the Financial Aid Office and a larger one that we share with Fiscal Affairs." Fiscal Affairs is Southern Polytechnic's business office.

"An example of another way that we are required to protect students is to not divulge student information to other family members, including parents," Spivak added. "We assume that students are adults and are therefore capable of handling their own affairs." But there are also other reasons to keep

such information secure. "With the breakdown of the nuclear family, there are more instances of legal difficulties and confidentiality issues between students and their families."

Randall Ware, the Student Government Association Vice President at SPSU, couldn't agree more. The father of three young girls who has separated from his first spouse, he knows first-hand the necessity of maintaining confidentiality. Asked about the possibility of having his own information available through the Google search engine, he replied, "I would not have been comfortable. What really concerns me about the breach in financial aid security is my family's safety. Had my information been divulged, it could have possibly led to my ex-spouse finding out where we live and where the children go to school. This isn't good for their security."

Spivak explained that she sometimes finds herself in difficult situations between parents and students. "Last week, a parent called and wanted to know about her son's grades in relation to his financial aid. I explained to her that this was confidential information and that she would

have to find out from her son."

"However, I did offer to answer general questions about the procedures required to rectify any hypothetical situation she cared to ask me about," Spivak continued. "She said she understood and proceeded to ask questions relating to our appeal policies, which I answered. By the time we got off the phone, I think she was satisfied, because she was really looking for the information on what to do."

What Students Can Do

As to students' concerns about what to do next, Spivak stated, "Since the information was from the files of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, it would seem that the most effective thing for students to do would be to contact them. We had no control over the problem," Spivak continued, "And therefore none over the solution except to try and get the information removed from the web as soon as possible. This we did."

Silver also had advice for concerned students. "I would recommend that they contact the credit bureaus and run a credit report on themselves to assure that their

identity has not been stolen. When they come in individually, we have to be honest and open with them, and tell them what happened."

"And I think we need to emphasize that this office did nothing to cause the problem," Silver said. "We did everything we did to alleviate the problem once we became aware of it." But Silver insists that she played only a small role in resolving the situation.

"Helen and the Sting kept pursuing this issue with Google," Silver added, "In the beginning Google had told personnel at the finance commission that it would take two weeks to remove this information from the site. And subsequently Helen Spivak sent them an email reminding them that this was confidential information and that they did not want to wait to clean their files out to remove these."

Spivak conceded that this was true. She added, "I found that Rob Rakove of Google was very responsive after he received the first email. He was very quick to act on subsequent emails also. I got the sense that once Google understood the problem, they wanted to resolve it as quickly as possible."

First Fix Fails

When all 720 pages were discovered by Spivak's office on Friday, June 15th, she immediately contacted Google directly while keeping the Georgia Student Finance Commission informed. Rob Rakove of Google responded on Monday, June 18th, when he returned to his office. Working with Spivak, and Charlene McGrath of the GSFC, he made the first effort to remove the information from Google's search engine that night.

By Tuesday morning, only 117 of the documents were available through Google. Unfortunately, SPSU's Hope Scholarship reconciliation report was still in this subset of documents. Spivak directly contacted Rakove, and again he made an effort to remove the information. Unfortunately, all 720 pages were again available that Wednesday.

Cindy McCaffrey, Vice President of Corporate Communications at Google, explains, "We have thousands of computers located around the company in multiple data

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Identity Theft

By Charity Langley

Identity theft has been a growing problem in the United States since the early 90's, the same time the e-revolution began. But the internet isn't entirely to blame, thieves still make a pretty good living on stealing credit cards, social security numbers, checks, and anything else that includes the victim's name, address, phone number and of course social security number.

According to U.S. government's central website for information about identity theft (<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>) there are many ways a thief can destroy the life of an unsuspecting consumer by ruining good credit, such as:

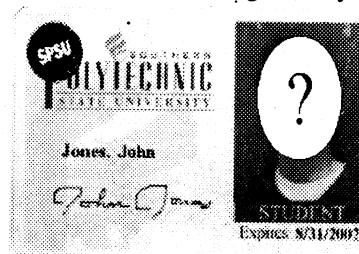
1. Stealing purses and wallets
2. Taking mail, such as bills, credit offers and anything else that has personal information

in it.

3. Complete a change of address form and divert information to a place of their choice, or they call a company-such as a credit card company or bank and pretend to be the victim and change the address.
4. They rummage through the trash for information pre-approved credit cards, discount cards, etc.
5. They pose as a landlord, or employer, posing as someone who has a legitimate need for the victim's credit report.
6. They can get personal records from the victim's workplace.
7. They could rummage through homes, rob homes and steal important information.
8. They can acquire information shared on the Internet.
9. Buy from or bribe people for a particular person's credit information.

By obtaining personal information, an identity thief can open credit card accounts, establish wireless communications (such as cell phones, pagers etc.), open bank accounts (write bad checks, drain the accounts you already have) and last but definitely not least, they obtain loans for houses, cars, and anything else they desire.

To minimize the risk of being hit by an identity thief, it is always a good idea to keep important information in a safe, reasonably hidden location within the home and any other information that contains personal information should be destroyed (tore into small pieces, use a shredder etc.) before throwing it away.



SGA President with High Hopes

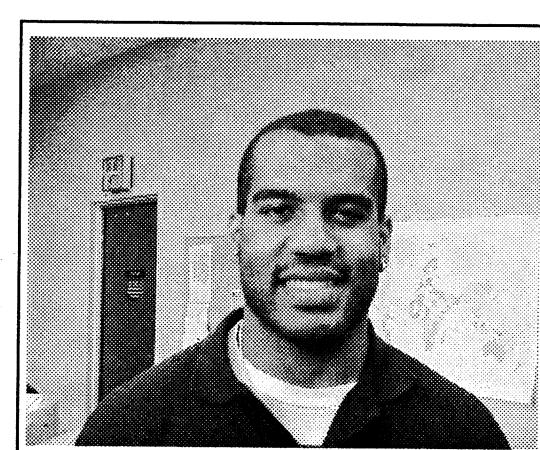
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goals would be available after the next meeting. "I will be sure to supply a copy of this aggregate goal list!" stated Hayes. Such meetings will take place off-campus to cause "council members to feel more open and less uptight in an informal setting," yet may be attended by anyone.

A few of the issues already revealed by Hayes on which the SPSU SGA will be working in the Student Advisory Council (SAC) include "co-curricular transcripts, common course numbers, alternative SAC funding, contract negotiations with vendors, changing

student IDs, and online voting for SGA." "I believe that SGA Involvement in contract negotiations with vendors, changing student IDs, and online services will affect SPSU students the most," he explained.

SGA may always be contacted via phone with questions, comments, and concerns at 770-528-7250.



Kenwin Hayes

Finance Commission Security Breach *Continued*

centers. Any time we make a change, it takes time for that information to reach all of our computers and data centers. It's possible that you may have been seeing results from different data centers, some of which had deleted the cached pages and some of which had not yet deleted the cached pages."

Response Considered Slow

Still, some students feel the response to the problem was slow. Jason 'Skittle' Leatherwood, Public Relations Chair of SPSU's Student Government Association was willing to speak about the issue. "I think the response from a well-known site like Google™ could have been much quicker. I'm glad my information is off the internet, but I know the situation is far from over. I think some legal actions should be put into place to help prevent this from happening in the future."

McCaffrey points out that there are some things that sites can do to prevent search engines such as Google™

from indexing confidential information. "For both students and webmasters, we recommend asking and ensuring that protected information is guarded by *robots.txt*. We have lots of detailed information about this on our site at the following URL: <http://www.google.com/help/faq.html#nocrawl>." The *robots.txt* file contains instructions telling crawlers such as Google™'s GoogleBot what they may or may not gather and index from a site. The file is usually located in the root directory of a site. Sting staff found no *robots.txt* file in the cached copies of the Georgia Student Finance Commission's site. Questions to the GSFC about whether they have installed such a file remained unanswered as of press time.

But Leatherwood feels that a more proactive approach is necessary. "For instance, if this happens again, the institution that leaked this information and the company that made the information available should notify all parties involved within a set time period via certified letter,

e-mail or telephone. Nothing has happened yet, but if it did, the party responsible for leaking the information should be held responsible."

Legacy System A Problem

Bob Tilton, SPSU's Banner database administrator, points out that the Banner does not require the use of social security numbers as student identification numbers. But an older legacy system used by the University System of Georgia, the Student Information Reporting System (SIRS), does. As a result, institutions in the university system are compelled to use social security numbers in their Banner systems.

The Human Resources office at Southern Polytechnic is amongst the first in the university system to use a new payroll and human resources software system. Called PeopleSoft™, it does not require social security numbers to index employee records. But Tilton adds that the key used to index employee records is still a nine-digit number and that in

converting from the old system, in most cases employee's social security numbers were simply transferred to the PeopleSoft™ system. Faculty and staff, however, could have their employee numbers changed if they request.

Tilton even addressed the issue of using social security numbers with the university system's Student Information System Committee in a formal request two years ago. "I see no reason why we couldn't have had a translation table [in Banner]. Banner supports generated identification numbers. To report to the Board of Regents [and their Student Information Record System], we could use a translation table." A translation table is a protected file that matches a generated identification number with a social security number when necessary for reporting purposes.

Silver thinks this would be a good idea. Speaking about the state's use of social security numbers, she said, "I wish they could stop. If an alternative can be found – I don't

know what that alternative is, but it is worth seeking for that alternative."

Spivak points out there are pros and cons to using social security numbers. "It is the one number that is consistent for each student, and there is less possibility of error. For example, for proof of identity, we can photocopy a Social Security card."

"On the other hand, I know many people are concerned about the issue of identity theft, especially now that there are so many ways of getting information on the web."

What you can do about potential misuse of your Social Security number?

By Kamie Harkins

How dangerous is identity theft? Well, the Federal Trade Commission summed it up best when they said in their statement to Committee on Judiciary of the United States Senate, "The fear of identity theft has gripped the public as few consumer issues have. This is in part because it seems to be widespread and in part because the consequences can be devastating. Consumers feel particularly vulnerable knowing that no matter how careful they are, they may nonetheless become identity theft victims." The main things that are necessary for identity theft are your name, social security number, date of birth, and sometimes your mother's maiden name. There have been many horror stories about identity theft including these:

"Someone is using my name and Social Security number to open credit card

accounts. All the accounts are in collections. I had no idea this was happening until I applied for a mortgage. Because these "bad" accounts showed up on my credit report, I didn't get the mortgage." From a consumer complaint to the FTC, July 13, 1999

"Help! Someone is using my Social Security number to get a job." From a consumer complaint to the FTC, September 20, 1999

Ok, so what do you do if you think your identity has been stolen? Well, if you suspect that your identity has been tampered with, the Federal Trade Commission suggests that you **first contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus**. Tell them to flag your file with a fraud alert including a statement that creditors should get your permission before opening any new accounts in your name. At the same time, ask the credit bureaus for copies of

your credit reports. Credit bureaus must give you a free copy of your report if it is inaccurate because of fraud. Review your reports carefully to make sure no additional fraudulent accounts have been opened in your name or unauthorized changes made to your existing accounts. In a few months, order new copies of your reports to verify your corrections and changes, and to make sure no new fraudulent activity has occurred. **Second, contact the creditors for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.** Ask to speak with someone in the security or fraud department, and follow up in writing. Following up with a letter is one of the procedures spelled out in the Fair Credit Billing Act for resolving errors on credit billing statements, including charges that you have not made. **Third, file a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft**

took place. Keep a copy in case your creditors need proof of the crime." You can try to get a new Social Security Number, but you have to contact their offices and jump through a lot of hoops. The Social Security office has stated on their web pages that "under certain circumstances, Social Security may assign you a new Social Security number if, after making all efforts to resolve the problems caused by someone else's misuse of your Social Security number, you are still being disadvantaged by the misuse. There is no guarantee that a new number will resolve your problem." Also, they have stated "a new Social Security number will NOT be assigned to you if you are trying to avoid the law or your legal responsibility, if they determine you intend to avoid disclosure of a poor credit or criminal record when you are at fault, if you have no proof that someone else caused the problem, or if you have lost your Social Security card or it was stolen but there is no

evidence that your Social Security number is being misused **and** you are being disadvantaged. If you can document that you are being disadvantaged because of the misuse of your Social Security number, visit your local Social Security field office to request a new Social Security number. The Social Security Administration is the only agency authorized to issue a Social Security number and if you are eligible no fee is charged. Any private company that offers to obtain a new Social Security number for a fee is most likely bogus and will provide no real service. In addition the number they supply may be fraudulent and your use of such a number could constitute a crime. Under certain circumstances, Social Security may assign you a new Social Security number if, after making all efforts to resolve the problems caused by someone else's misuse of your Social Security number, you are still being disadvantaged by the misuse. There is no

Social Security Number

Continued

guarantee that a new number will resolve your problem." The Federal Trade Commission states, "a new SSN may not resolve your identity theft problems, and may actually create new problems. For example, a new SSN does not necessarily ensure a new credit record because credit bureaus may combine the credit records from your old SSN with those from your new SSN. Even when the old credit information is not associated with your new SSN, the absence of any credit history under your new SSN may make it more difficult for you to get credit. And finally, there's no guarantee that a new SSN wouldn't also be misused by an identity thief" as well.

There are many resources for information on identity theft.

The Federal Trade Commission has an excellent website at <http://www.ftc.gov>, or you can the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline by telephone: toll-free 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); TDD: 202-326-2502. Furthermore, you can check out the Social Security Administration's website at <http://www.ssa.gov>. The Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs can be reached at 404-656-3790. The Georgia Office of Attorney General can be reached at 404-656-3345. If you are from out of this state, check out <http://www.bordwell.com/DesktopReference/index49.html> for a listing of all the agencies in all 50 states plus the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa that can help with consumer protection.

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Q & A With Financial Aid

By Kamie Harkins

In light of the changes in the office of financial aid, many students have numerous questions and concern about the status of their financial aid packages. I have had the opportunity to interview Helen Spivak, the director of the financial aid office in hopes that the most common questions may be answered.

Q: What is your role in the financial aid office and how long have you been there?

A: My official title is "Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid." My official start date was June 1, 2001, but I have been in a process of transition for almost a year. Previously, I worked for the Dean of Students (formerly the Vice President for Student Affairs) for three years.

Q: What are the strengths of the SPSU financial aid office?

A: The strengths are the people who work here...they truly want to be of assistance to students.

Q: What are the weaknesses of the SPSU financial aid office?

A: The weaknesses of the office are really externally generated. Regulations change at least yearly with both the federal government and the state of Georgia and it is hard to do the day-to-day work and implement new procedures for the new regulations. The education bill just passed by the congress will mean several changes.

Q: What is your goal in your new position in the office of financial aid to help the students of SPSU?

A: My goal is to get input from students about their concerns and try to make appropriate changes where possible.

Q: How do you plan to go about accomplishing that goal?

A: Listening and

making logical changes.

Q: What changes can students expect to find in the financial aid office in the fall?

A: There are new HOPE rules and new loan processes to name a couple, but most of these were effective this summer. We expect to have financial aid packages complete for all students who have submitted the required documents in a timely manner. Any student who applied after the priority deadline date (March 15) or who has not applied for aid by now will probably have a problem having aid available by the time school starts. It takes the federal government about 6 to 8 weeks to process a FAFSA, plus they require we verify 30% of all applications and any applications which contain conflicting

data, which means we must ask you to provide documents to prove all the information you put on your application is correct. That can add another month depending on how fast the student can get the documents.

Q: What should students do if they have a problem with financial aid, and how do you plan on helping them?

A: If a student has a problem they should either call the office or email me so I can research the issue before they come in to see me. The financial aid telephone number is 770-528-7290 and my email is hspivak@spsu.edu.

Routine questions can be answered quickly if the student gives a brief explanation to the receptionist who can then transfer them

to the correct person.

Q: Is there anything you would like the students of SPSU to know about the office of financial aid that I have not already asked you?

A: We are working to provide more information to students so you will know the process and will not have surprises later. The Sting, will be doing a series of articles to help students with financial aid information.

Again, if you have any questions about financial aid, contact Helen Spivak at hspivak@spsu.edu or call the financial aid phone number at 770-528-7290.

SPSU Students Affected

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Nicholas Adair | Kristine Boykin | Brad Crofts | Rustavius Ford | Brenda Harris |
| David Adams | Jason Boyll | Joshua Cronan | Kevin Kordham | Robert Harris |
| Olanrewaju Adeogun | Joseph Breitback | Wesley Crowe | Christoph Fortune | Jennifer Hart |
| Fariah Ahmed | William Brindle | Celeste Cruz | Brian Foster | Jeremy Hart |
| Christopher Aiken | Joshua Brisband | Carlos Cubides | Donald Foster | Shalind Hartfield |
| Jennifer Aldred | Andrew Brislin | Marcus Curry | Michael Fox | Naim Hasan |
| David Aldrich | Kai Brickington | Tam Dang | Adam Francisco | Brian Haun |
| Aaron Alexander | Natasha Brooks | Clifford Daniel | Brandon Franklin-Kearns | Brian Hawkins |
| Jason Allen | Zachery Brookshire | Jeremian Daniel | Brandon Fraser | Timothy Haxton |
| Trevor Allen | Jeramie Brown | Mark Daniel | Daniel Free | Bruce Hayes |
| Adam Ambrecht | Jessica Brown | Charles Daniels | Andrew Freeman | Tonya Hayes |
| Bruce Andermann | Nicholas Brown | Andrew Darnell | Cara Freeman | Rodney Haywood |
| Adam Anderson | Edward Brundidge | Christopher Davis | Daniel Frizzell | James Hebert |
| Edward Anderson | Barry Braynt | Kevin Davis | Daniel Funaki | Kevin Heffernan |
| Justen Anderson | Michael Buckner | Shannon Davis | Gary Furnish | Nathan Heinlein |
| Matthew Andrews | Terry Bunch | Timothy Davis | Gavin Gallino | Blake Hembree |
| Luke Antonacci | Samuel Burchfield | Geoffery Dawson | Justin Gallucci | Robert Hembree |
| Donald Asbell | Richard Burdett | Allan Day | Tevarras Garcia | Daniel Henry |
| Mark Ashley | William Burke | Gualberto De La Cruz | Alejandra Garcia-Castro | Brent Henson |
| Henry Ashton | Mark Burkhalter | Traymone Deudwyler | Edward Gatlin | Brandy Herlinger |
| Rhett Atkins | Grant Buro | Donald Dehart | Shane Gazaway | Santiago Herrera |
| Sara Atkison | Jonathan Burrell | Allison Dempsey | Mark Geiger | Bryan Hieber |
| Thomas Avery | Roger Butts | Jonathan Denalsky | Joseph Gelblat | Jason Hill |
| William Ayers | Joshua Caithaml | Carlos Denson | Craig Gentry | Justin Hill |
| Nada Ayyad | Jason Calandruccio | James Denton | Timothy Gentry | Ryan Hill |
| Robert Bahurinsky | Charles Campanelli | Harley Derrett | Elizabeth Gilbert | Daniel Hitchcock |
| Shana Bailey | Jerry Cantrell | Garrett Dewulf | Adam Glenn | William Hochradel |
| Jane Baines | Adrian Cantly | Wayne Doecl | Joseph Goff | Daniel Hoge |
| Kenneth Baldwin | Justin Card | Hung Do | Christopher Golder | Ernest Holbert |
| Whitney Baldwin | Joshua Carper | Trac Do | Rafael Gonzalez | Joshua Holbert |
| Donnie Balenger | Bradford Carr | Edgar Dollar | Anthony Goolsby | Joni Holbrooks |
| Berry Bales | Milton Carroll | Jason Donnelly | Joshua Gordon | Daniel Holcomb |
| Jason Ball | Christie Carson | Michael Dookie | James Graham | Charles Holcombe |
| Matthew Banahan | Joseph Cassidy | Samuel Dover | Alan Granger | Matthew Holcombe |
| Don Barbour | Justin Caudell | William Doyal | Dustin Grau | Elliott Hollis |
| Brian Barkwell | Mary Causey | Christopher Braudt | Jason Green | Michael Hollman |
| Kenneth Barnett | James chao | Clark Driggs | Roger Greenway | James Holt |
| Matthew Barr | Christopher Chapman | Derek Dubois | Michael Greever | Michael Holt |
| Francheska Barreto | Clinton Chastain | Coby Dukes | Joshua Gregory | Peter Holubz |
| Josh Barrett | Dara Chatman | Matthew Dunkle | Laura Griesser | Matthew Horne |
| Jay Barron | Tarun Chaudhary | Kenneth Durham | Vaughan Griffiths | Marilyn Horton |
| Ann Bartone | Albert Chen | Rudolf Duvnjak | Aaron Grunden | Dennis Howard |
| John Bass | Lang Chen | Joshua Dyer | Brent Guay | Vickie Huffman |
| Andrew Batchelor | Caroline Chester | Charles Edgar | Brandon Guledge | Michael Humphries |
| Seth Bates | Emma Chocho | Andrew Edwards | Jesse Gunnin | Christopher Hunter |
| Nicholas Bauer | Thomas Christian | Carlos Edwards | Thomas Gurley | Kevin Hyde |
| Lance Bays | Anthony Cipolla | Darrell Edwards | Jason Guthrie | Reena Ibanez |
| Jason Beach | Christopher Clark | Candy Ekangaki | Jonathan Gwinn | Michael Iezzi |
| Joshua Beasley | Terrance Clark | Keith Ellis | Kristin Haas | Christopher Jackson |
| Erin Beck | William Clark | Teresa Ellison | Octave Hackett | Eric Jackson |
| David Beckstine | Emmanuel Clay | Matthew Elrod | Abdul Halabi | Miecha Jackson |
| Elias Benn | Jessica Clements | Peter Emmanuel | Christi Halaschek-Wiener | Japhia Jacobo |
| Brandon Bennett | Roderic Clinkscales | Scott Enzweiler | Nadia Halaweh | Michael Jacobs |
| Brian Benson | Andrew Clody | Jennifer Eppers | Craig Hall | Stephen Jacobs |
| Gerson Berdugo | Joseph Cochran | Mary Eubanks | Joshua Hall | Amit Jain |
| Rahn Beyer | Maurice Coelho | Matthew Eubanks | Kenna Hall | Mohini Jain |
| Zachary Biles | Jennifer Coggins | Jason Evans | Lakeisha Hall | Tamica Jamerson |
| John Bird | Adam Coker | Stanley Evans | Shawn Hall | Arthur James |
| Adam Bishop | Aaron Cole | Arthur Evans, III | William Hall | Angela Jarman |
| Daniel Bishop | Chris Cole | Helen Everett | Tiffany Hamilton | Jamie Jefferies |
| Robert Black | Candace Coleman | Alexis Fairweather | Kamisha Hammond | Amanda Jennings |
| Neta Blackwell | Nicholas constable | Acie Farrey, III | Ji Han | Justin Jennings |
| Melissa Blanchard | Benjamin Cook | Linda Faulkner | Dawn Handley | Stephen Jennings |
| Megan Bland | Brian Cook | Stanley Feaster | Joshua Handyside | David Jentink |
| Conrad Bluhm | Eric Cook | Amy Ferguson-Williams | Douglas Hannah | Ayron Johnson |
| Brian Blumenfeld | Thodore Cooper | Kevin Fielder | Nicholas Hanratty | Benjamin Johnson |
| Baniel Boardman | Yvette Cordero | Javier Figueroa | Ryan Harchar | Brandi Johnson |
| David Boggs | Anthony Cory | Jonathan Finley | Russell Hardeman | Christopher Johnson |
| Seth Bogo | Erin Cotter | Steven Finnell | Michael Hardin | Christy Johnson |
| Diederik Boltong | Albert Cousins | Rolf Fischer | Jose Hardy | Elizabeth Johnson |
| Victoria Bonilla | Shannon Cox | Brandon Fitch | Kevin Hardy | Heyward Johnson |
| Christopher Bonine | John Crapps | Christina Fleming | Brandon Harkins | Joseph Johnson |
| Leo Bosarge | Justin Crick | Jonathan Floyd | Katie Harkins | Kevin Johnson |
| Maurisha Bowers | Mitchell Crocker | Tyson Flugstad | Emily Harmon | Kierstin Johnson |

Jeremy Johnston
 Adam Jones
 Christopher Jones
 Ervin Jones
 Kendrick Jones
 Nicholas Jones
 Zachary Jones
 Rodney Jordan
 William Juras
 Justus Kahiga
 Jordan Karraker
 David Kasilus
 Paul Kathmann
 Gabriel Katz
 Brian Kay
 Christopher Keller
 Deanna Kellet
 Leroysha Kemp
 James Kennedy
 William Kenyon
 Samuel Khano
 Michael Killian
 Jerome King
 Shawn King
 William King
 Samuel Kirkland
 Christopher Kitchens
 Gregory Knight
 Adam Kohl
 Timothy Kohler
 Joseph Kolwick
 Thomas Kotlowski
 Brian Krupp
 Joseph Kulick
 Sherrie Kunerth
 Jonathan Kyle
 Javier Labiosa
 Micah Laborde
 James Lake
 Amanullah Lakhani
 Angelo Lakra
 William Lambewt
 Archie Lampkin
 Monica Landrau
 Charity Langley
 Devin Lawson
 Corey Layton
 Chau Le Nguyen
 Fredrick Leatherwood
 Andrew Leblanc
 Adam Lee
 Christopher Lee
 Nathaniel Lenyszyn
 Benjamin Leonard
 Kortney Lewis
 Ronnie Lewis
 Dusty Loden
 Casey Loudermilk
 Brenden Love
 Justin Low
 Randal Lowe
 Derrick Lowery
 Karma Lundy
 Scott Lusted
 Marvin Mace
 Anton MacFarlane
 Matthew Macy
 Willis Magee
 Janet Makori
 Miguel Maldonado
 Christopher Mann
 Kevin Mann
 Benjamin Marshall
 Courtney Martin
 David martin

Kim Martin
 Laura Martin
 Thomas Mason
 John Mastin
 John Maupin
 Brian Maxwell
 Charles Mays
 Joshua McbLemore
 James McBee
 Ryan McCarthy
 Julia McClure
 Timothy McCrory
 Lori McCutcheon
 Jeremy McDaniel
 Johnny McElreath
 Christopher McGee
 Chantelle McGinness
 Timothy McGukin
 Michael McMillan
 Aaron McPherson
 Stephen McPherson
 Ramona McQueen
 Charles McStotts
 Amber Melton
 Thomas Mercer
 Albert Meyer
 Robert Meyers
 Andrew Middleton
 Bradley Miller
 Erica Miller
 Jennifer Miller
 Michael Miller
 Rachel Miller
 Roy Miller
 Stephen Miller
 Randy Milligan
 Stephen Milton
 Layne Minor
 Arash Mirdamadi
 Benjamin Mishoe
 Brandon Mollere
 Michael Monk
 Dusty Montford
 Timothy Montgomery
 Eric Mooney
 David Moore
 Jonathan Moore
 Patrick Moore
 Joseph Morgan
 Thomas Morley
 Joshua Morstad
 Brent Moseley
 Daniel Moseley
 Joel Moss
 Delci Motta
 Nicholas Mulkey
 Thomas Muller
 Brian Mulligan
 Jason Mullikin
 Mark Mullinax
 Randal Mullins
 Christopher Munn
 Carl Neal
 Lloyd Nelson
 Matthew Nelson
 Nicholas Newkirk
 Wesley Newsome
 Rosalind Newton
 Donghai Nguyen
 Tai Nguyen
 Tuyen Nguyen
 Avery Nisbet
 David Norris
 William Norris
 Matthew North
 Harry Norwood
 Corey Nunnally
 Mia Nunnally
 Daniel O'Connor
 Lane Obrecht
 Hideki Omori
 Brandon Ording
 Bree Orr
 Melanie Orr
 Meather Ott
 Matthew Overstreet
 Joe Pack
 Reinaldo Padilla
 Sean Painter
 Patrick Palmer
 Jason Pamplin
 Robert Parher
 Anthony Parise
 Devon Parker
 William Parrott
 Ovin Parris
 Brian Parsons
 Vishal Patel
 Nathan Pater
 Amanda Patterson
 Laura Payan
 John Payne
 Jonas Pearson
 Keisha Pearson
 Samuel Pearson
 Brian Pelham
 Da Pellerito-Corvington
 Roger Pendley
 Michael Percy
 Adam Perry
 Briam Perry
 Jason Perry
 Joshua Perry
 Vick Persaud
 Andrew Peters
 Tram-Anh Pham
 Matthew Phelps
 Herbert Phillips
 Jeremiah Phillips
 Timothy Phillips
 William Pickens
 Chad Pierce
 Jerry Pilgrim, Jr.
 Eva Pledger
 Michael Plott
 Christina Plumley
 Anthony Poole
 John Pope, Jr.
 Christopher Posey
 Laura-Victoria Posey
 Farrah Pourmehr
 Matthew Prater
 Jamison Presley
 Stephen Preston
 Jason Price
 Nathaniel Price
 Nikia Price
 Christina Prince
 Stacy Putz
 Marc Rader
 Aditya Raina
 Donny Raines
 Tammila Ramsey
 Constance Randolph
 Lisa Rasch
 Daniel Raskind
 Jason Raville
 Bobby Ray
 Julia Raykin
 Shaun Reade
 Susan Reddig
 Jeffrey Reece

Matthew Reece
 Robert Reece
 Jason Reich
 Victor Renteria-Vald
 Michael Respeto
 Michael Richardson
 Robert Richardson
 Chad Ricks
 Adam Riles
 Erin Riley
 Christopher Ritchie
 Andre Rivers
 David Roberts
 Kelly Roberts
 Darryl Robinson
 Dennis Rogers
 James Rogers
 Kevin Rogers
 Shannon Romano
 Matthew Roper
 Nicholas Roper
 Daniel Roughen

Medical College of Georgia
 Middle Georgia College
 North Georgia College and State University
 Savannah State University
 South Georgia College
 Southern Polytechnic State University
 State University of West Georgia
 University of Georgia
 Valdosta State University
 Private Georgia Universities and Colleges

Thirty-three of the thirty-five eligible Georgia HOPE Scholarship Program private universities and colleges in the state of Georgia had some confidential information about their students available through the Google search engine. In many instances, substantial numbers of students at each institution were affected.

Hope Eligible Universities

Thirty-two of the thirty-four universities and colleges in the University System of Georgia had some confidential information about their students available through the Google search engine. In many instances, substantial numbers of students at each institution were affected.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
 Albany State University
 Armstrong Atlantic State University
 Atlanta Metropolitan College
 Augusta State University
 Bainbridge College
 Clayton College and State University
 Coastal Georgia Community College
 Columbus State University
 Dalton State College
 Darton College
 East Georgia College
 Floyd College
 Fort Valley State University
 Gainesville College
 Georgia College and State University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Georgia Perimeter College
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia State University
 Gordon College
 Kennesaw State University
 Macon State College

Agnes Scott College
 American Intercontinental University
 Andrew College
 Art Institute of Atlanta
 Atlanta Christian College
 Berry Collège
 Brenau University
 Brewton-Parker College
 Clark Atlanta University
 Covenant College
 DeVry Institute of Technology
 Emmanuel College
 Emory University
 Georgia Military College
 LaGrange College
 Life University
 Mercer University
 Morehouse College
 Morris Brown College
 Oglethorpe University
 Oxford College of Emory University
 Paine College
 Piedmont College
 Reinhardt College
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Shorter College
 South College
 Spelman College
 Thomas University
 Toccoa Falls College
 Truett-McConnell College
 Wesleyan College
 Young Harris College

Georgia Technical Colleges and Institutes

Twenty-nine of the thirty-three technical colleges and institutes in the state of Georgia that are eligible for the Georgia HOPE Scholarship Program had some confidential information about

their students available through the Google search engine. In many instances, substantial numbers of students at each institution were affected.

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Coosa Valley Technical College
DeKalb Technical College
East Central Technical Institute
Flint River Technical College
Griffin Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical Institute
Middle Georgia Technical College
Moultrie Area Technical Institute
North Georgia Technical Institute
Northwestern Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical Institute
Sandersville Regional Technical Institute
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical Institute
Southeastern Technical Institute
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Swainsboro Technical Institute
Valdosta Technical Institute
West Central Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| GA | AR | Central, SC |
| Asher School of Business, Norcross, GA | Howard University, Washington, DC | Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee, FL |
| The Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA | Hutchinson Community College and Area Vocational School, Hutchinson, KS | Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN |
| Atlanta School of Massage, Atlanta, GA | Illinois State University, Normal, IL | Texas Southern University, Houston, TX |
| Auburn University, Opelika, AL | Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN | Tri-County Community College, Murphy, NC |
| Baker College of Port Huron, Port Huron, MI | Interactive College of Tech- nology, Athens, GA | Troy State University, Troy, AL |
| Barry University, Miami Shores, FL | Interactive College of Tech- nology, College Park, GA | Tusculum College, Greeneville, NC |
| Bauder College, Atlanta, GA | Interactive Learning Systems, Chamblee, GA | Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL |
| Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC | Interactive Learning Systems, Morrow, GA | Ultrasound Diagnostic School, Atlanta, GA |
| Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, FL | International School of Skin and Nail Care, Atlanta, GA | Union College, Schenectady, NY |
| Brevard College, Brevard, NC | Itawamba Community Col- lege, Fulton, MS | University of the Arts, Phila- delphia, PA |
| Broward Community College, Fort Lauderdale, FL | ITT Technical Institute, Nashville, GA | University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL |
| Capella University, Minneapo- lis, MN | Jefferson Medical College - Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA | University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO |
| Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN | Johnson and Wales University, Providence, RI | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC |
| Central Christian College of Kansas, McPherson, KS | Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC | University of Phoenix, 014593 |
| Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC | Kerr Business College, Augusta, GA | University of Virginia College at Wise, Wise, VA |
| Central Texas College, Killeen, TX | Lacarm School of Cosmetol- ogy, Stone Mountain, GA | Virginia College of Birming- ham, Birmingham, AL |
| Chattahoochee Valley Com- munity College, Phenix, AL | Lincoln College, Lincoln, IL | Wesley College, Dover, DE |
| City University of New York (CUNY) - Medgar W. Evers College, Brooklyn, New York, NY | Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, NC | Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL |
| Clark State Community College, Springfield, OH | MEDIX School, Smyrna, GA | Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH |
| Clinton Technical Institute, Orlando, FL | Mercer University-School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA | Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC |
| Converse College, Spartanburg, SC | Metropolitain School of Hair Design, Stone Mountain, GA | |
| Cumberland College, Williamsburg, KY | Miles College, Fairfield, AL | |
| Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD | National Education Center dba National Institute of Technology, Cross Lanes, WV | |
| Denmark Technical College, Orangeburg, SC | New York Law School, Manhattan, New York, NY | |
| Faulkner University, Mont- gomery, AL | New York University, New York, NY | |
| Flight Safety Academy, Vero Beach, FL | North Florida Community College, Madison, FL | |
| Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL | Northern Illinois University, Chicago or De Kalb, IL | |
| Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, FL | Portland State University, Portland, OR | |
| Florida College, Temple Terrace, FL | Ranger College, Ranger, TX | |
| Florida Memorial College, Miami, FL | Rivertown School of Beauty, Columbus, GA | |
| Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL | Ross Medical Education Center, Decatur, GA | |
| Freed Hardeman University, Henderson, TN | Saint Leo University, Atlanta, GA | |
| George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC | St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN | |
| Georgia Medical Institute Education Preparation Center, Atlanta, GA | Samford University, Birming- ham, AL | |
| Golf Academy of the South, Casselberry, FL | South Carolina State Univer- sity, Columbia, SC | |
| Grambling State University, Grambling, LA | Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, AR | |
| Harding University, Searcy, | Southern University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA | |
| | Southern Wesleyan University, | |

Other Universi- ties and Colleges

Advanced Career Training, Atlanta, GA
Advanced Career Training, Riverdale, GA
Aiken Technical College, Aiken, SC
Allen University, Columbia, SC
American Film Institute, Los Angeles, CA
Arnold/Padricks University of Cosmetology, Forest Park,

Gamma Phi Summers!

By Christy Fleming, DO 196

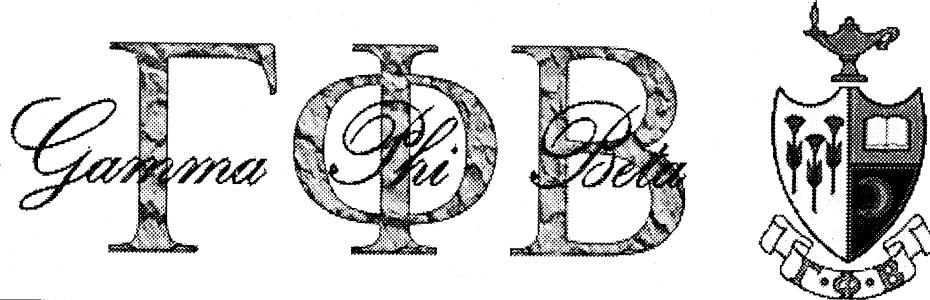
The girls of Gamma Phi Beta have had a busy summer. Most have full time jobs as well as classes and other activities. Although they have been busy, a small group did manage to get out to the Hands on Atlanta orientation program and will soon start volunteering to help with many different organizations around Atlanta. Some of the women have not only taken full time jobs, but they have

also left the state of Georgia. Nicole Bereczki is working in New York with the Fisher Price Corporation. She was able to live in the dorms at Colombia University while she is working up there, so she now knows what real dorms are like.

The girls that decided to stay around Atlanta are having an interesting summer also. Christy Fleming, Christy Plumley, Ann Bartone, and

Melissa Jacobo have decided to learn to belly dance. The girls will be teaching themselves with the help of videos.

Other than belly dancing and living in New York, the girls keep busy. The ladies are working hard on rush already. There is a rush retreat in early August as the girls plan to get sixteen new members this fall.



New GAMES organization at SPSU

By Kamie Harkins

Do you like playing video games? Do you want to learn how to make them? Well, if you do, then you will be interested to know that there is a new organization on campus called GAMES. Its name basically describes what the organization is all about.

The president of this new organization is Josh Dyer. He decided to start this organization because there is a lot of interest on campus for game development, yet there are no classes dealing with this subject, but Josh is trying to change that. This will give members the chance to earn some of the experience required in this work field.

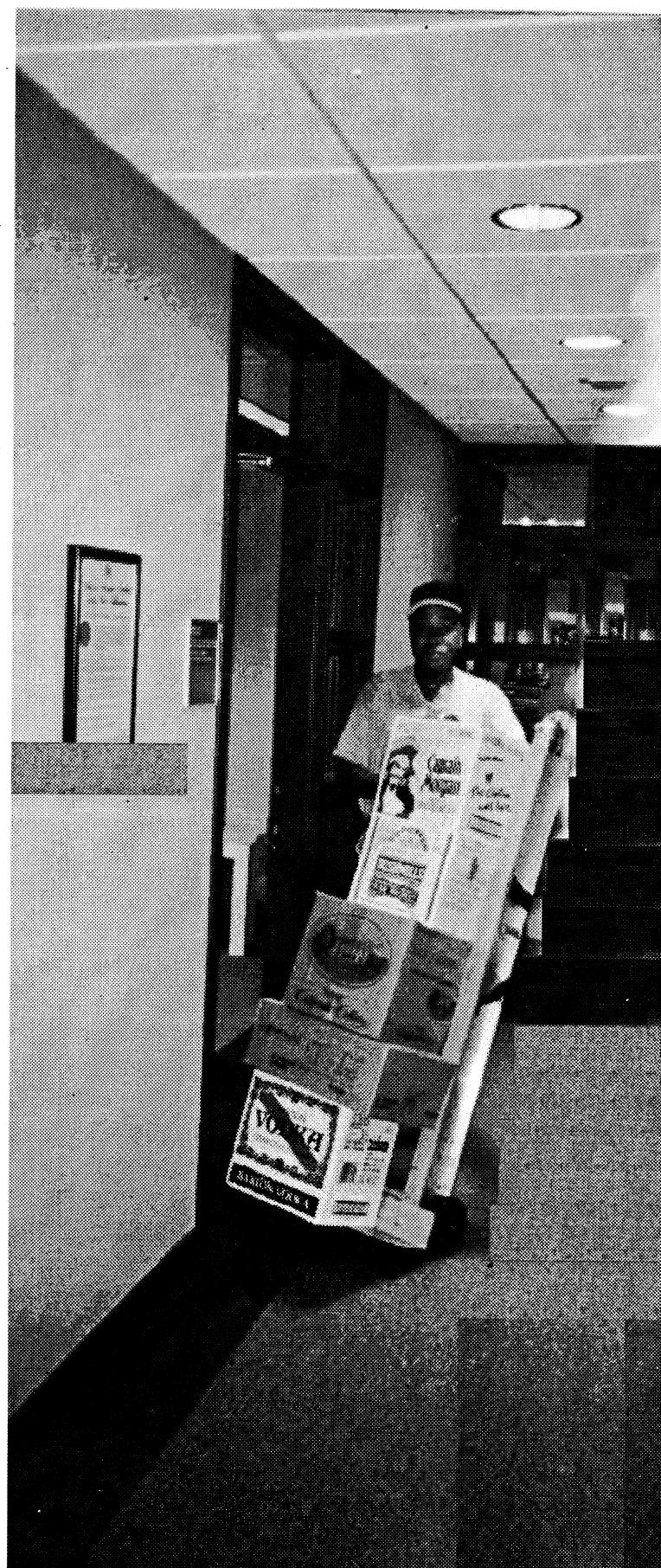
GAMES stands for Game Application Modeling and Engineering Society. The purpose of Games is to provide a place for anyone who is interested in learning how to create electronic games. This is not just limited to computer games, but extends as well to console and handheld electronic video games. It is an organization that strives to enable its members to learn the skills

needed for employment in the game development industry.

Anyone who is interested can join. Members are expected to participate in projects the organization chooses to embark on as well as maintaining their academic standing with the school. On top of this, members will take on roles in the organization as though it were a true business. There will be people who are the project leaders, the main programmers, the special effects team as well as other roles as needed for the given tasks. This will help them get used to the structure of current game developing companies.

There are currently 17 people that have told me they were interested in joining such an organization. If anyone else wishes to join, they can call Josh at 678-797-9359 or email me at jdyer@spsu.edu and leave their name and email address and I will add them to the list of current members. There are no membership fees for the summer, to give members a chance to see if they are interested. Starting in the fall there will be a mem-

bership fee. This fee will help pay for miscellaneous expenses during each semester. Josh Dyer anticipates "a large volume of support and I hope to see this organization achieve its goals."



And I thought this was a dry campus Administration!!!

On the Bricks, A Real Mixed Bag

By Kamie Harkins

So far, the On The Bricks concert series at Centennial Olympic Park has been a mixed bag of good and bad performances. For example, PH Balance's performance on June 29th was excruciatingly awful. My ears were writhing in pain during their performance so badly that I wanted to gouge my eardrums out with an ice pick because the lead singer's brain was on such a far off galaxy that I was perplexed as to whether or not the lead singer was on some psycho-tropic drug while performing. I personally think that the selection of the local bands for this event was quite poor. For example, I know many local bands who are far better than the locals who have performed so far, with the exception of Modern Hero. I am further perplexed as to what were the people who booked this event thinking when they put a band like Brand New Immortals on the same night that Cold and Staind performed. Did they want the members of Brand New



Our Lady Peace at On The Bricks

Immortals to die? If you were not at the performance, I will clue you into what happened. Basically, Brand New Immortals are a jam band that does not fit the same genre as Cold or Staind. The crowd disliked Brand New Immortals so much that middle fingers were waving in the air along with pants, beer bottles, cd's, and anything else the crowd could throw that could cause damage. I was disappointed that Brand New Immortals were treated like this, and that the booking company could not see that there would be a

problem with the scheduling. Also, the rain gods have decided to bless this concert series with bounties and bounties of rain. Along with supplying all the mud and wet clothes, one sudden thunderstorm shut down the June 15th Vertical Horizon performance. But don't get me wrong! There have been some really great moments with the On the Bricks Concert series.

The June 22nd Our Lady Peace performance was really groovy. The lead singer climbed the scaffolding of the stage and sang one of their most popular songs. Also, the

May 25th On The Bricks was amazingly good. Tantric, Powderfinger, and Poe all gave butt-kicking performances. The lead singer of Poe went crowd surfing, and the crowd went nuts! Obviously, Tantric made everyone excited about the potential of On the Bricks. Staind was the most intense performance on June 1st. Drawing the largest crowd so far, everyone was excited about them. Even the beer vendors sold out of beer in less than 2 hours. I was so happy to be able to see them in concert, and they did not

disappoint at all. And I cannot forget to mention that They Might Be Giants gave a great performance. Personally, I had a great time. Their live performances were just as good, if not better, than their recordings. Also, they interact with the audience, tell jokes, and make the whole show even more enjoyable. I loved it. I hope the upcoming performances lack the bad moments from the past like PH Balance and live up to the standard that Staind, They Might Be Giants, and Tantric have set. On July 20, Sister Hazel, Dexter Freebird, Marathon, and Christina Lloree will perform. July 27th will have performances by Cake, Josh Joplin Group, and Drive-By Truckers. We will get to see Marvelous 3 and Mars Needs Women on August 3rd. Finally, the series will be summed up by Ben Folds. The park opens at 6pm and the first band usually goes on stage at 7pm.

A.I.: Flawed Epic or Not?

By Rich Merritt

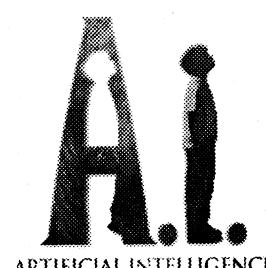
Do you like movies? Do you like to have your mind blown? Then you need to go see this movie. It is well worth the price of admission, even if you do happen to have to pay even ten dollars to see it. Again, go see this movie. What Steven Spielberg and Stanley Kubrick, R.I.P., have attempted to realize in two hours is to rival Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey. This movie is simply that massive in scope. I entered the theatre not knowing what really to expect and was blown away. Wow. This is a movie that attempts to redefine the common definition of life, and even possibly redefine the word we call LOVE.

A.I. was first brought into the realm of possibility back in 1969, when Brian Aldiss's short story Super-Toys Last All Summer Long was read by the director named Stanley Kubrick. This story was about a little boy who lived his life not knowing he was a robot. If you wish to read the short story online,

you can read it at http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/5.01/fifsupertoys_pr.html. After many years of deliberation and frustration at the lack of technology to see his vision fulfilled, Kubrick watched Jurassic Park by in 1993. The special effects within its tale of dinosaurs convinced Kubrick that now is the time to start working on his pet project, A.I. He contacted one of his friends, Steven Spielberg, and the plan seemed to be for Spielberg to direct and Kubrick to produce. Alas, Kubrick died near the end of production of Eyes Wide Shut. A.I. almost was lost, but Spielberg saved it by making an end product that is a VERY complex and ambitious movie.

However, I must admit A.I. is not for everyone. The subject matter itself downplays the importance of us as human beings in the grand scheme of things. Also the plot itself is rather spotty in places. Remember that it is the

ideas, not the plot, that is of importance here. Frankly, it is of my opinion that this should have been made into a real trilogy, instead of the few hours of time Spielberg put to film. If you go into the theatre with a slightly higher suspension of disbelief than the average bear, concentrate on the ideas being presented, you should have a rewarding night at the movies.



Atlantis Music Conference

By Tara Murphy

The 3-day showcase wristbands for the 4th annual Atlantis Music Conference go on sale Friday, July 6th through the Atlantis offices. Wristbands will enable music fans to hear some of the best unsigned talent from across the country. Known as the greatest platform of discovery for new talent in the nation, since the conference's inaugural year, 1998, more than 30 bands have been signed including; Marvelous 3 (Elektra), Billionaire (London), Peter Searcy (Time Bomb/Arista), Lackey (Capital), Sol (Jive), Brand New Immortals (Elektra) and Double Drive (MCA). Purchase a 3-day wristband by calling 770-499-8600.

New venue additions include, The Library, The Red Light Café, Earthlink Live and On the Bricks - A Concert Series in Centennial Olympic Park. The Marvelous 3 will

headline On the Bricks during Atlantis with 4 showcasing artists opening the bill.

Bands include: Aerial, Adom, Five Eight, Five For Fighting, Greta Lee, Impulse Ride, Injected, King Konga, Left Front Tire, Marvelous 3, Miller's Tale, Sick Speed, The El Caminos, The Tom Collins Band and many more. Tickets are good for showcases only; patrons interested in a full conference registration can contact the Atlantis office at 770-499-8600 or visit www.atlantismusic.com for an application and full artist line-up. A full conference registration, including access to the panels, showcase, parties and more is \$165 in advance and \$200 walk-up at the Hilton Hotel - Downtown.

Upcoming Concerts and Movie Releases for July 16th – August 15th, 2001

By Rich Merritt

Who says that the music scene in Atlanta is pitiful? They must have been living under a rock or have never visited <http://www.pollstar.com> because there are a lot of events happening in the music world. Here is a list of the biggest concerts happenings this month:

For ticket information, check out <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. There are many smaller concerts happening this month too. There is also a 4 day concert event on August 1, 2, 3, and 4 at venues like The Star Bar, Dark Horse Tavern, The Library, 9 Lives Saloon, Echo Lounge, Smith's Olde Bar, Hard Rock CafÃ©, Earthlink Live, Karma, Red Light CafÃ©, The Cotton Club and On the

Musician or Band

Goldfinger, HomeGrown, Reel Big Fish, RX Bandits
Barenaked Ladies
Ben Folds
Blink 182 and New Found Glory
Cake
Diffuser and Toadies
Marvelous 3
MTV's TRL Tour
Mystikal
Sister Hazel
Uncle Kracker
Van's Warped Tour
Godsmack

Start Date

7/19/01
 8/3/01
 8/10/01
 8/4/01
 7/27/01
 7/18/01
 8/3/01
 7/28/01
 7/17/01
 7/20/01
 8/15/01
 7/25/01
 7/07/01

Location

Coca Cola Roxy Theatre
 HiFi Buys Amphitheatre
 Centennial Olympic Park
 HiFi Buys Amphitheatre
 Centennial Olympic Park
 Cotton Club
 Centennial Olympic Park
 Philip's Arena
 Fox Theater
 Centennial Olympic Park
 Tabernacle
 HiFi Buys Amphitheatre
 Philip's Arena

Bricks. Bands include: Aerial, Adom, Five Eight, Five For Fighting, Greta Lee, Impulse Ride, Injected, King Konga, Left Front Tire, Marvelous 3, Miller's Tale, Sick Speed, The El Caminos, The Tom Collins Band and many more. The 3-day showcase wristbands for the 4th annual Atlantis Music Conference go on sale Friday, July 6th through the Atlantis offices at www.atlantismusic.com or

call 770-499-8600.

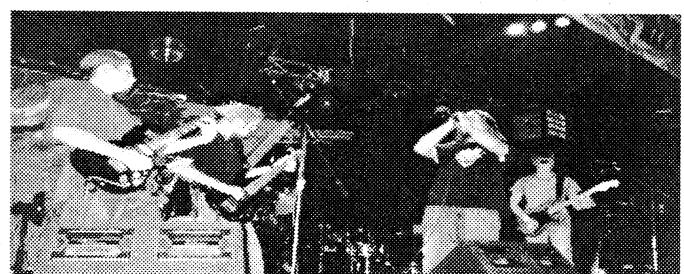
If you like movies, you will be happy with the movies coming out this month. On June 29th, Pootie Tang and A.I. were released. Scary Movie 2 and Cats and Dogs was released on July 4th. Also, Kiss of the Dragon came out on July 6th. The much anticipated Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within was released on July 11th. Legally Blonde came out on July 13th.

Following in the line of two other great movies, Jurassic Park 3 will be released on July 18th. American Sweethearts will be released on July 20th. Finally, the sequel to the cult classic, American Pie, will be released on August 10th. So basically if you like concerts or movies, you cannot really say that there is not much to do this summer.

SPSU students and Alumni to perform at Van's Warped Tour

By Kamie Harkins

Vocalist Kevin Todd, guitarist Josh McLemore, bassist Nate Fuller, drummer John Pope and guitarist Dan Gross are Tragically Undecided. All the members of Tragically Undecided are either current SPSU students or Alumni. Tragically Undecided plays progressive rock with its roots planted firmly in the Rock 'n Roll movement of the 1990's. Bringing together elements of Seattle's Grunge Rock and Alternative Rock, they play both light-hearted and more serious pieces. Playing mostly small venues and parties, Tragically Undecided recently won the Battle of the Bands held at Southern Polytechnic State University in April; which



Tragically Undecided performing at the Somber Reptile on June 23rd 2001

is where the band's name was first coined. Originally known as No oNe, they changed their name when it was learned that another band was touring as part of Ozzfest with that name. Not having any ideas, vocalist Kevin Todd told the crowd they were tragically undecided about their name. After the performance they received such positive feedback about the moniker that

it stuck. Due to their incredible amount of talent, stage presence, well written music, and energetic performances, they will have the opportunity to compete for their big break at Van's Warped Tour. Yes, that is correct. There will be SPSU students and alumni playing at the Van's Warped tour. Thanks to Ernie Ball, Tragically Undecided will be playing at the Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheater (formerly

Lakewood) at 6:15pm on the 25th of July. They will be battling against three other bands on the Ernie Ball Battle of the Bands 5 stage. The Van's Warped tour will also include performances from other well known bands like AFI, Fenix TX, Good Charlotte, H2O, Less Than Jake, Me First and the Gimme Gimmes, Rancid, 311, Bouncing Souls, Jimmy Eat World, Kool Keith, Morgan Heritage, The Ataris, The Vandals, Alien Ant Farm, 3rd Strike, Midtown, River City High, Showoff, Sum 41, The Explosion, Madcap, Pepper, Esham, Sloppy Meateaters, The Line, and others. Tickets are still on sale and available

Bridget Jones's Diary

By Daniel Henry

At the start of the New Year, 32-year-old Bridget decides it's time to take control of her life — and start keeping a diary. Now, the most provocative, erotic and hysterical book on her bedside table is the one she's writing. With a taste for adventure, and an opinion on every subject —

from exercise to men to food to sex and everything in between — she's turning the page on a whole new life.

This movie gave me a bit of insight into the concerns of women. Something I can say I still have much to learn about, but I feel now that I am somewhat more informed.

This movie, unlike most this summer, actually did surprise me a few times. The story was light-hearted and funny, like romantic comedies always are. But there was something about Bridget's struggle to find someone that made me really feel for her.

Renée Zellweger's performance as Bridget Jones

was awesome. Some of you may remember her from *Jerry Maguire* and *Me, Myself and Irene*. Hugh Grant starred as Daniel Cleaver — good job, but didn't really leave an impression on me. Colin Firth was someone I had never seen before. He played Mark Darcy, the weird looking guy

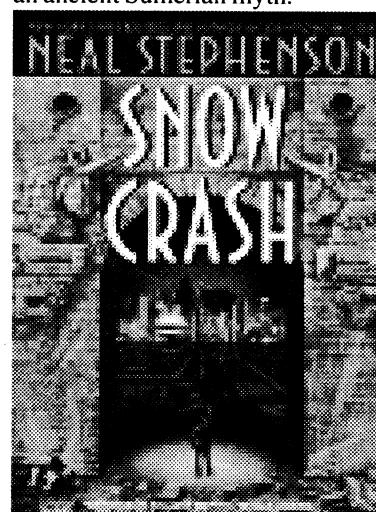
Neil Stephenson's Snow Crash

By Ann Bartone

In a world where the United States has become the size of a state and the mafia runs the most successful business around, Hiro Protagonist has to save the world from a new, yet ancient virus. Hiro, a freelance hacker, is the greatest swords fighter in the word, both in the physical world and in the virtual world. His best friend comes in contact with a powerful drug, snow crash, that acts both as a virus and a drug.

Y.T. is a fifteen-year-old courier who by chance meets Hiro after "pooning" his pizza delivery car. She is a chick with an attitude and carries enough protection to take out a Federal building. Among the protection she carries includes: liquid knuckles, a spray can that can knock a man on his feet, and a dentata, which is a modern chastity belt.

Together they are trying to stop snow crash from spreading, and it seems as though the only way to do this is to uncover an ancient Sumerian myth.



The Cover of *Snow Crash*

at Ticketmaster. If you want more information about Tragically Undecided, check out their web page at <http://www.tragicallyundecided.com>

who freaks you out during most of the movie. His performance was good; it must be difficult to play that kind of role. I recommend this movie to anyone. I thought it was really thought provoking and exciting. I give it a B+.

Kamie's Mystically Fabricated Horoscopes:

Aquarius (January 21 – February 18):

Your past will finally catch up with you. Everyone will discover the truth about your deepest, darkest secrets. This could be a good thing or a bad thing for you depending on your attitude. Make the best of the situation, and you may be pleasantly surprised.

Pisces (February 18 – March 21):

You feel like you are losing your mind. Insanity seems to be at your doorstep. Chill out and try to have a good attitude about the whole thing. Going crazy could actually be a fun trip. Just sit back and enjoy the ride. Things are not as bad as they seem to be, and you may find some interesting friends along the way.

Aries (March 21 – April 20): Dude, I am sorry. I wish I had good news for you, but your life is awful. I would hate to be you right now. Try to do something to make your crappy life a little more bearable. And if that does not work, do yourself and the world a favor and hide in a cave for a while.

Taurus (April 21 – May 20): Gullible is your middle name. You believe everything you see, hear, and read. Try not to take everything as the hard, solid truth. Now is the time to start doing some investigation on your own to try and find the real truth.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21): You have way too much on your plate right now. It is time

to do some proactive time management.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22): As the moon enters a new phase, you need to remember that you are the master of your life. You are the only one who can change things in your life. So be proactive instead of passive for once. You will be so glad that you did.

Leo (July 23 – August 22): You have a lot to be thankful for right now. However, you haven't shown anyone your appreciation. Now would be a good time to start doing that.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22): This is an extremely taxing phase in your life. Many choices present themselves to you, and you are very confused about everything. Try to

keep it all in perspective as you make these decisions. Remember that you also need to take care of yourself too.

Libra (September 23 – October 23): Every action has an opposite and equal reaction. It looks like the thing you did last month will catch up with you. And try to make productive use of your spare time.

Scorpio (October 24 – November 22): Your bold ways may be comfortable to you, but you are scaring the people in your life who really care about you. Do them all a favor and check to see if your safety net is still there before doing any more dangerous leaps. Security is a psychological need, even when nothing else changes.

Sagittarius (November 23 – December 21):

Your compassionate nature gives you the desire to help save the world. However, this is impossible because you have not even saved yourself. Things in your life are way out of sorts. Stop trying to fix the problems of everyone else until you finally look at yourself and fix your own messy situation.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 20):

Currently, you are under a lot of scrutiny. Stress levels for you are running high. Be sure to take care of yourself before you go nuts. The local asylum is already filled to capacity. Moreover, if you thought your current roommate was scary, try sharing a room with someone in a nut house

Tomb Raider

By Daniel Henry

Five thousand years have passed and all nine planets are about to align. The triangle of ages can open the doors of space and time, giving its holder unlimited power over the past, the present and subsequently, the future. Now, a countless old secret society scours the globe for the pieces of this ancient artifact so that they can control planet. With the planetary alignment just days away, only the brave and beautiful Lara Croft can save the world.

This film has all the classic workings of an action movie: the seemingly invulner-

able and perfect hero, the bad guy that's power hungry and mean, and the stupid sidekick and hapless techno-weenies. This movie is actually pretty ordinary. There are some good action scenes, neat special effects and some interesting sets, but nothing should surprise you if you've seen enough of this genre. There's only really one reason to see this one...

If you ever played Tomb Raider (the game), this movie kicks a**. It reminds you so much of the game, you'll find yourself lost in the ancient temples, jungles and monster fights. Angelina Jolie's fantas-

tic "form" is very reminiscent of good 'ole Lara from the game. The whole concept and plot doesn't seem too far off from what you'd expect in one of the games either. My critic's brain gives this movie a C+, but my gamer's heart gives it an A.

Pearl Harbor

By Daniel Henry

The first time you see this film, it's devastating. If your theatre's sound is good you'll get a sucked in. During the scene that we all know happens (the Bombing), I could believe the horror of it all. The screaming and explosions captivated me; the

making it look like we're still in 2001.

One other thing: this isn't quite another *Titanic*. I thought this was going to be another, "It's a horrible tragedy – some people fell in love but one dies – awww boo-hoo, the end." Pearl



Harbor offers what felt like a full hour after the bombing of intense payback. All I will tell you is that the Japs aren't the only ones that do any bombing.

I'm no World War II expert, but I would have to say that usually in movies you could tell what is real and what isn't. This movie made it hard. Instead having all the awesome effects in one sequence, they properly sprinkle them throughout the movie. This greatly enhances the visual aesthetic without



Drinking and Driving: The real consequences.

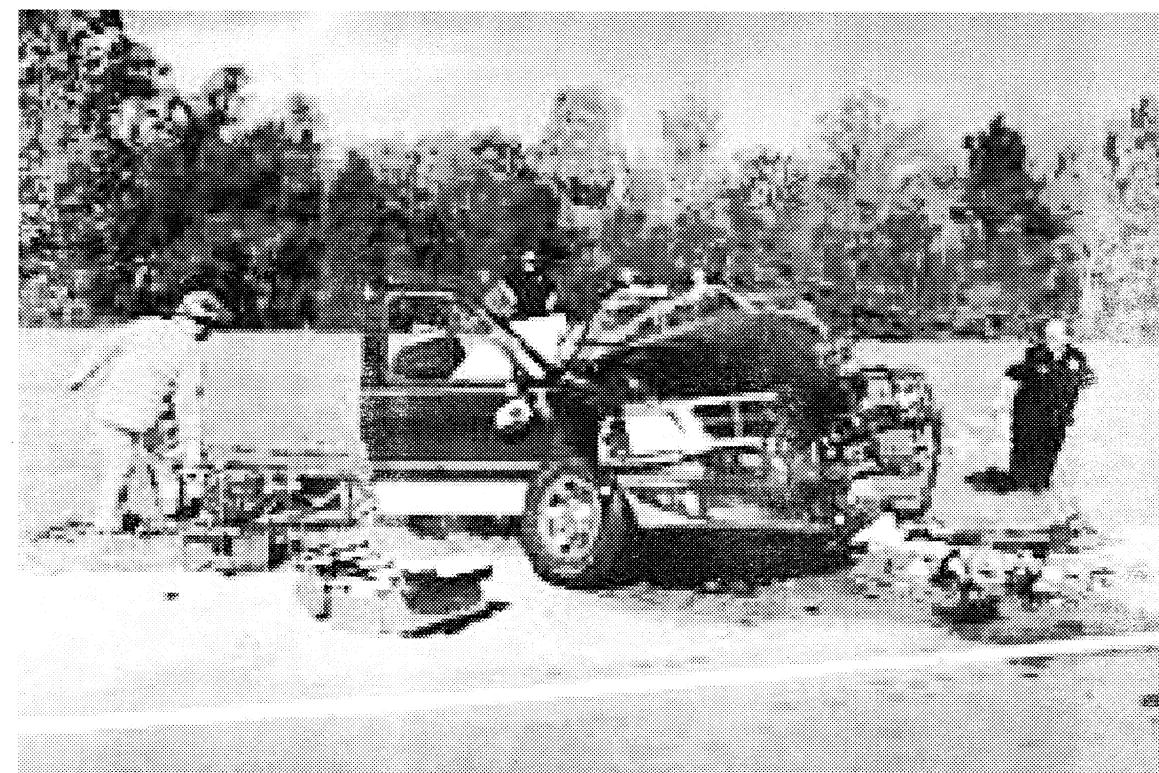
By Christy Fleming

When I asked to write this article, I had a million different ideas about how to approach it. However, when it came time to sit down and write, I was at a loss for words. How can you make people see something that they do not want to see? How can you make something affect someone that does not want to be affected by it? So I decided to tell a story about a real person and real situation. The person telling the story is a sixteen-year-old child who had to deal with the death of her best friend, because her best friend made a bad decision. One that not only affected her life, but the lives of hundreds of people who knew and loved her. Here is Jenny's story:

The Greatest Loss

By Jenny Fleming

I met Kirby Cruce in middle school, but before the end of ninth grade we were not really close. Then we



started to become better friends. During the summer after our freshman year, we were best friends. Mary-Melyssa Smith, Christy Varalla, Kirby and I were together almost every single day of the summer. When I was around Kirby, there was always something to do and I

was never bored. My mom did not like Kirby much because she thought she was a bad influence. It was true because I would have never done some of the stuff I did if it was not for Kirby. They are not such great things, but I do not regret doing them. Such as, sneaking out of my

house or spending the night at places that I was not supposed to be. She was not a bad kid or anything, she just always wanted to have fun and live her life to the fullest. She had many good qualities though. If I ever had any type of problem in my life, she would always be there. It was

as if she could feel what I felt and she knew exactly what to tell me. She was such a good friend to everybody and always went out of her way to make everyone feel included. After that summer Kirby and I drifted apart a little bit. It was not a fight or anything; we merely stopped hanging out as much. At the beginning of tenth grade we still did stuff together, but by second semester it was rare. This was mainly because my mom told me not to hang out with her. I still considered her my best friend and she felt the same way. I did miss being so close to her, but it was probably for the best and I stopped getting in trouble as much.

On August 11, 2000 one of my friends was having a party. It was on the Friday before we had to go back to school. That party I would not have missed for the world; I had been looking forward to it for the longest time. Christy

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Les Quebecois, the Faroese, and a Dublin campus

By Mark Campbell

One need only look at the month of July to realize the significance of the first, the fourth, and the fourteenth. These are the national holidays of Canada, the United States, and France, respectively, that celebrate federalism and the modern republic. And citizens of each country celebrate the rule of the majority, by consent, while respecting and protecting the rights of the minority. It is a month in which it is appropriate to speak of governance and democratic ideals.

It was on July 1st of 1979 that Southern Tech became a separate institution within the University System of Georgia, a process that took some thirty-one years. Spearheading that effort was then-Student Government Association President Tom Samford. He's grown older, of course, and serves as the Vice President of Engineering at AutomatedLogic® Corporation, which he founded. He's also the President of the Executive Committee of the Southern Polytechnic State University Foundation, Inc. When I had the privilege of serving on your SGA last year,

I was in awe of the accomplishments he achieved when he was a student here. I especially admired his willingness to stand up to the powers that be when it proved necessary.

Many students aren't aware of it, but all of the student governments in the University System of Georgia participate in a congress every semester. It is called the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, and in short form is known as "SAC." The past successes of this body include lobbying Governor Barnes to have the HOPE Scholarship continue paying for books and mandatory fees, a burden the governor had suggested should be borne solely by students. Part of the compromise worked out with the governor was to have all mandatory fees and their budgets overseen by a committee at each institution that comprised at least fifty percent students. The rationale is that students, who are notoriously poor, would play a major role in watching that administrations do not use the fees to generate income when

tuition increases are not forthcoming. Currently, one of the issues SAC is tackling is contract compliance; I suspect the reason is much more of the same. Regardless, SAC has played a major role in keeping your money in your pocket.

The Student Advisory Council purports to speak for the 200,000 plus student body of the entire university system here in Georgia, and the SGA delegation of every institution recognized by the Board of Regents is permitted one vote. Yet consistently, a number of the delegations do not attend, and the largest institution, the University of Georgia, is amongst them. It's a tough sell to argue to the BOR that one represents the students across the state with turnouts that threaten quorum on a regular basis. Fortunately the next meeting to be held this summer is in Athens, August 3rd through 5th.

That's ironic because there are a number of SGA's within the university system that don't have a vote, and desperately want one. During a month in which we Americans sent a missive to old King George of England some

225 years ago, explaining our views about taxation without representation, they are quietly preparing their arguments for a vote within SAC. The campuses in question are the four of Georgia Perimeter College, and the Dublin campus of Middle Georgia College, whose main campus is in Cochran. At least three of GPC's campuses have more students than SPSU, and Dublin's rapidly growing student population of a thousand almost equals the twelve hundred of the Cochran student body. At present, the four SGA's of Georgia Perimeter College, each representing very different student bodies, must negotiate on how they wish to cast their one vote. Dublin's SGA President, Melissa Seeker, finds her campus at the mercy Cochran's SGA, who often have their own interests in mind when casting the vote that ought to be shared between them.

And this brings to mind the Quebecois and the Faroese. Both are, in terms of culture, history and customs, societies that can be considered to have the attributes that

define nations, large or small. Personally, I think there is only one Canadian culture, and it is French. To me, it seems that English Canadians spend an inordinate amount of effort in trying to explain precisely how they are different from Americans, as we in the United States are wont to call ourselves. A book written by a journalist, for journalists, goes a long way towards explaining how North America really works. It is called *The Nine Nations of North America*, and although dated, it still provides an insightful world view. But whether part of the Canadian confederation or not, I personally recognize Quebec as a country. In their hearts, so do many Quebecois.

More recently, the Faroese, some 46,000 souls on eighteen small islands located between Scotland and Iceland, are negotiating with Denmark over their sovereignty. The Faroese are

CONTINUED on Pg. 15

Drinking and Driving: The real consequences.

Continued

and I went to the party together and we did not leave her house until 9:30. This is because Christy was in a fight with Shannon Withers and Kirby kept calling trying to get them to work it out. When we got to the party, I was waiting for Kirby to get there so I could talk to her. She did not seem too happy with me, but I did not worry about it because I know Kirby's personality and she would get over it soon.

Later on, inside I was sitting on a couch talking to someone. Kirby walked by me and flicked me off. I asked her what that was for and if she was being serious. The last words she ever said to me were, "do you see any remorse on my face?" I then cursed at her because I did not feel that I deserved that and she walked away. I did not see Kirby again for the rest of the night. Actually, I did not see her again at all. I went on with the party and enjoyed myself.

Most of the time, at parties, everyone knows when the cops show up. Someone yells, "the cops are here" and everyone has time to run. This was completely different. I was in the living room having a good time when all of a sudden there were three police officers in the room all at once; they were already surrounding the house. They searched the house looking for people and got everyone in the living room. The police were extremely mean. They yelled at us and called us stupid. They finally had everyone in the same room and quiet.

One cop screamed, "does anyone have any idea why we are here tonight?"

Someone said, "no, tell us."

One police officer told him not to say any names. Then a friend of ours stood up.

He said, "Someone we all know, one of our friends, that was here tonight tried to drive

home. She lost control of her car, then she flipped it and she died."

I did not know what to think; I immediately began to cry a little. Then I saw some friends across the room crying really hard. I figured they had to know something, so I made my way through the crowd to talk to one of them.

One of my best friends Matt Mowell went up to a cop and pleaded, "Please tell me it's not my sister. She left here tonight. I really don't want it to be her. Please say it's not her."

The policeman only said, "I can't say."

The thought that it was Kirby did not even cross my mind. My heart was broken when Davey Pollack told me who it was. I was in complete shock. I fell to the floor crying harder than I have ever cried. All the emotions and feelings that were going through my body all at one time were unexplainable; I was mad, sad and confused. The only thing

I knew to do was cry. So that is what I did. I cried until I did not think I could cry at all. Then I cried some more.

After a short while, it was not so chaotic. The cops began to speak up and separated us by age. Everyone at the party was to get a ticket for possession of alcohol. It took a long time. After we got our ticket we were done and could leave.

I went over to the Hutto's house. Matt was there and I went up to him and gave him the biggest hug. I do not remember who all was with us, I just remember sitting on the back porch crying and holding each other for what seemed like hours. We talked trying to make sense of this tragedy. My heart was aching and I felt as if the whole world was cruel and unjust. It was nice having the comfort of my friends though. When I left, I told Matt that I would call him the next day. Hannah Margaret Smith's mom took me home.

Not wanting to wake my parents, I went into my house and sat on the couch for a while. I did not want to wake my parents because I would not know what to say to them. I was getting really tired and did not want to be alone, so I went to my older sister's room and lay in her bed. When Christina woke up I told her what had happened. We both started crying and we talked for a little while. Then I fell asleep and Christina went to tell my parents; I was glad she told them and I did not have to. My only hope was that no other night in my life would compare to the heartbreak and trauma of this one.

I would never get to talk to Kirby again. I would never use any of her nicknames: Fatso, GP, or Phil. She would never help me

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Les Quebecois, the Faroese, and a Dublin campus

descendants of the Vikings, and their culture is more similar to the Icelandic people than to the Danes, who claim sovereignty over the Faroe Islands. Although small, they had approached the United Nations about recognition and membership amongst the league of nations. They were rebuffed when informed that only member nations may bring such matters before the body, and informed that they must ask the Danes to do so.

The situations facing the Quebecois and the Faroese are very similar to the situations facing the student governments of Georgia Perimeter and Dublin. Georgia Perimeter's delegations are asking for recognition in a fair and equitable manner, as partners commanding mutual respect, much as Quebec seeks with the rest of Canada. Dublin is asking the league of student governments to recognize their independence and sovereignty much like the Faroese have asked the UN, and have so far been rebuffed. And like the Quebecois and the Faroese, the student

bodies these student governments represent are distinct, with their own campuses, values, and concerns unique to themselves.

There are some delegations in SAC that have argued that admitting these disenfranchised student governments as voting members will dilute the original members' power or make it even more difficult to make quorum as the number of delegations increases. These are both false arguments.

First, the legitimate basis for rule is the consent of the governed. These student governments at Georgia Perimeter and in Dublin are arguing for equal representation in a body that purports to rule on their behalf. Deny them this right, and SAC forfeits its claim to represent the students of Georgia, a circumstance which damages the power of every student government, at home and with the Board of Regents.

Second, the campuses involved are active attendees of SAC, and wish to actively participate in the proceedings.

It would be one matter if some other delegation were arguing to include other student governments who choose not to participate on a regular basis. But SAC needs more student governments to participate. For positive rational numbers less than or equal to one, adding the same value to both numerator and denominator leads to a larger number. In other words, $17/34$ is less than $21/38$. Try it on your calculator.

Perhaps the most absurd argument is that campus administrators and the Board of Regents would see recognition of student governments, and not just BOR institutions, as a method to stymie the Student Advisory Council. The argument goes that the administrators and the BOR would create a plethora of student governments, or even entire colleges, just to increase the numbers so that quorum can't possibly be met. In what is going to seem like a perverse compliment to the SPSU administrators whom I

Can't we all just get Along ?!?

By Kamie Harkins

I have been thinking about something. And yes, I know that it is quite a dangerous thing for someone like me to do. But, something bothers me about the doctrines of some faiths. Why is it that some religions try so hard to make other people change their beliefs in order to conform to them? Does it mean that I have a problem with those religions or their faith? Absolutely not! Infact, I have no problem with religions. I have no problem with people sticking to their moral beliefs. Infact, I highly respect it. However, I do not like people trying to impose their beliefs upon me and assume something about me that I have not discussed openly. My beliefs, in my opinion, are personal, private, and do not influence how I write for this newspaper. However without divulging exactly what religion I hold to, I will try to tell you my beliefs. I have a moral code that I stand by, and I try my hardest not to cause harm to others but to try to do the best thing for those around me. When I die, I basically want at least one person to be better off because I existed. Some people know this as the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule belief is not only held by Christians, but also by Bahá'í, Brahmanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Native American Spirituality, Roman Pagans, Shinto, Sikhism, Sufism, Taoism, Unitarian, Wicca, Yoruba, Zoroastrianism, and many others. Furthermore, my beliefs on how the world came to into being, who I am accountable to when I die, and the after-life are nice and enlightening things to think about, but they do not make me a better or worse person than anyone else. I find it saddening that some religious groups find other faiths, musicians, philosophers, scientists, artists, and anyone else who disagrees with them to be wrong in their beliefs, a threat, black list them, and classify them as either evil or a cult. I do not understand this logic.

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Drinking and Driving: The real consequences.

Continued

through my problems or even call me again. She would never get on my nerves or make me mad. I will miss Kirby more than I have ever missed anyone. We would all give anything take back that night. I would go after Kirby and tell her that I was sorry for cussing at her and give her a big hug. That will always be one thing that I will regret not doing. I should not have let her walk away.

My attitude towards most things is that I will always get another chance. My lesson has been learned though; I need to start to consider all possibilities: hurtful and upright. I am still optimistic, but I know now that I should never end anything on a bad note. While I have the chance, I need to get everything off my chest. Even if I am mad at someone, I have to remember how I left Kirby. I might not get another chance to make up with them and tell them that I love them. It is the worst feeling to know that you did not get to say what you

needed to and that it is no longer possible.

Kirby Celeste Cruce was only 16 when she decided to drive her mother's car home after she had been drinking. She got behind the wheel and tore off towards her house. A concerned friend followed her home; unfortunately he did not know that she had been drinking. That friend saw Kirby driving at almost twice the speed limit on a very curvy road. When Kirby hit the edge of the road with her right front tire, she turned the wheel to get back on the road, overcompensated and ended up hitting an embankment on the other side of the road. She flipped the car three times and when everything had stopped, Kirby was hanging out of the driver's side window. Dead. The friend that had been following her had to see Kirby like this, an image that can never be erased from his mind. After calling the police, this young man then had to go

back the party that he and Kirby had left just minutes before her death. The police gathered everyone in the room and told them that someone who had been at that party was now dead. The young man had been told he could not say who it was because Kirby's parents had not yet been contacted. Everyone started to panic, as they knew it was one of their friends. Once the word spread who it was, everyone was heartbroken and angry.

The people who were at that party that night learned a valuable lesson. It took one of their own dying before they realized what it meant to drink and drive. Of the forty people at that party and the people that were close to Kirby, not one of them has even thought to drive after they have been drinking. In fact, a large portion of those people chose to stop drinking all together. A lesson was learned, but it took the death of a child to learn that lesson. Kirby's death not only affected her friends and

family, but it also but a great deal of heartache and pain for one mother. The girl who threw the party did so without her mother knowing. When her mother came home for the night she found her house full of police and forty crying teenagers, she also found herself being charged with vehicular homicide. Because Kirby made the decision to get behind the wheel of a car, many people suffered not just her.

So here is a reminder to all: THINK before you get behind the wheel. Who will be affected if you hurt yourself, or someone else? Call a friend, call a parent, call a cab, but please do not get behind the wheel of a vehicle when you have been drinking. It is really not worth the consequences.

Can't we all just get Along ?!?

Continued

Furthermore, I do not comprehend why many wars have been started between highly intelligent people based on religion. There have been many innocent people who have died because they would not convert to another belief or denounce their own. I do not grasp why there would be so much carnage in the name of a creator or belief if these beliefs are so enlightening and great and a cure all for life. Why is there so much blood and agony in the name of salvation and a new life? What is the point of all the pain, venomous words, and hatred between those who disagree on one thing? Why should it matter in different parts of the world if you are Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, or Buddhist? If we were all put here by a creator or god, then that means that we all have the same origin. If we have the same origin, we have something in common. So I guess if everyone in the world has something in common, then we should try to learn from each other and not bicker about who is right and who is wrong because we will miss out on what is important in life. And besides, no one can be hurt by respecting others.

Les Quebecois, the Faroese, and a Dublin campus

Continued

come to know, and vice-versa, I must confess that our administration is one of the most student-friendly in the entire University System of Georgia. And I happen to think that our administrators need to take some of SPSU's own quality assurance courses. It is hard to fathom the idea of other administrators actually wanting to encourage more student government and participation in any form.

Had the Student Advisory Council existed when Samford was Southern Tech's student government president, I believe he would be arguing just as strongly as Georgia College's Dublin campus SGA president, Melissa Seeker. After all, how fair would it have been if Georgia Tech's student government cast the one vote they were supposed

to share with this campus? It is merely timing and circumstance that has permitted Southern Polytechnic a vote, and denied one to the student body in Dublin.

My own hope is that when the matter is brought to a head this August, that SPSU's delegation will stand and be counted as favoring the inclusion of the disenfranchised as full voting members of the Student Advisory Council. To do so would not only hold up the democratic ideals we all cherish as Americans, but it is also just plain right. And perhaps then, when a student from Georgia Perimeter or the Dublin campus of Middle Georgia College transfers to SPSU, we can look them squarely in the eye and say, "Welcome."

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