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On Tuesday, October 9th, the Student Government Association hosted a town hall meeting at 12:00 PM in the Student Center Ballroom in order to address student concerns. These included items such as problems that the Business and Financial Aid Departments have in disbursing checks, better ways of announcing upcoming activities, and class loads for certain programs.

In addition to the question and answer session, Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, President of Southern Polytechnic State University, gave statistics about the entering freshmen class. Rossbacher also explained how the school is trying to comply with Governor Roy Barnes' request that state institutions cut budgets. She also had representatives from the Administrative departments speak for three to five minutes about what is new for each

## Town Hall Meeting Held

*Written by Joshua Shannon*



As the audience looks on, Dr. Rossbacher addresses issues facing the student body. Photo by Rich Merritt

department. The first person to speak was Kenwin Hayes, the president of the Student Government Association. He told the

audience about how he was trying to change the SGA by having every member of the SGA to be a liaison to three to five organizations so that

every organization would be represented in the SGA. After he discussed his plans for the SGA, he introduced Dr. Rossbacher. Rossbacher told the

audience that this year's enrollment was up five percent, which reverses a five-year trend. In addition to enrollment being up, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for entering freshmen were up twenty-eight points on average. Rossbacher also announced that SPSU's SAT scores were still the third highest in the University System of Georgia.

The first representative to speak was Dr. Sandy Pfeiffer, Vice-President of Academic Affairs. He announced that starting next year, there will be a software engineering degree. He also announced that the Advising, Tutoring, Testing, International Student Center (ATTIC) will now be open from 5-8 PM Monday through Thursday, in addition to its previous hours.

After Pfeiffer was through, Patricia Garrett, the Executive Director of

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## Construction Awards Scholarships

*Written by Mark Campbell*

Eleven students in Southern Polytechnic State University's Construction program have been awarded scholarships by a variety of professional societies. The scholars are Tyler Brislin, Johnny Czura, Mohammed Fathy, Andrew Jones, William Jones, Salsawit Ketema, Khaidu Kiven, Carol Lively, James McGee, Pouria Mohammadian, and Matthew Schell. Brislin received two thousand dollars, while others received one thousand.

The scholarships were based on a combination of academic merit and active participation in



Salsawit Ketema, an undergraduate majoring in Construction at SPSU, is one of eleven merit-based scholarship recipients from the program this Fall semester. Photo supplied by SPSU Construction Program

professional societies and competitions related to the construction industry.

SPSU's Construction Program Head, Dr.

Khalid Siddiqi, said, "We are extremely grateful to the Association of General Contractors, the Associated Builders and

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## Attack Stops Greyhound

*Written by Mark Campbell*

On Wednesday, October 3, 2001, a Croatian man slit the neck of a Greyhound driver on an Atlanta-bound bus. The bus overturned on Interstate 24, just west of Manchester, Tennessee. Six persons were killed in the accident and 34 were injured.

Garfield Sands of Marietta, Georgia, a 24-year veteran driver of Greyhound, was treated for a five-inch laceration at Manchester Medical Center in Manchester, Tennessee. He told police that the attacker had used a box cutter knife. Terrorists used similar knives to hijack jetliners flown into the World Trade Center and the Pen-

tagon. The assailant, Damir Igric of Croatia, age 29, was pronounced dead at the scene. He had been thrown through the front windshield during the accident. The bus had crossed the opposing westbound lanes before hitting a ditch and overturning.

"We have managers at the scene and at hospitals to do everything we can for our passengers," Lyn Brown stated. Brown is the Vice-President of Corporate Communications at Greyhound.

The bus, which left Chicago at 5:15 PM on **Continued on Page 2**

## Town Hall Meeting, Continued From Page 1

Advancement spoke. She announced that she wants her department to raise \$500,000, which would go to scholarships and athletic departments.

Next, Patrick McCord, Vice-President of Business and Finance, announced that the new architecture building will be opening in the fall of 2002, and that soon, tuition fees will be payable online with a credit card. McCord also said that there will be a switch to new accounting software that will allow budget planners access to up-to-date budgets over the internet.

William Gruszka, the university's new Chief

Information Officer, announced plans to make the e-mail system more efficient.

The last person to speak was Barry Birckhead, the Dean of Students. Birckhead announced that the school was in the process of hiring a women's basketball coach and that he expected to have one soon. The coach would then have one year for recruitment.

In addition to the basketball coach, Birckhead also announced that a new counselor secretary will be hired, that there is currently a waiting list for the residence halls, and that this year is the twentieth year anniversary of the radio station, WGHR.

After she had the representatives speak, Rossbacher mentioned to the audience that, in light of the recent economic downturn in Georgia, Governor Barnes had requested that all state institutions reduce the remainder of this year's budget by two percent and next year's budget by five percent. However, she said that those in charge of the budget were trying to make the cuts as invisible as possible.

Following this, Hayes told the audience that the SGA has formed a Food Service Committee in order to address issues regarding the food service. In addition, he said that management is trying to work out the problems with the food, and asked

that the students "try to be understanding" and to "just be patient."

When Hayes was through with his announcements, he opened the floor to questions. The audience asked numerous questions, including better ways to disburse the financial aid reimbursement checks, better ways to announce upcoming activities, and ways to decrease the class loads for programs.

Regarding questions about financial aid checks, McCord said that they had looked into other ways to disburse them, including having the checks made ready on a last name schedule. However, he said that they were reluctant to use that particular method.

To answer the question on announcements, Garrett said that there is an ongoing communications plan, that there will be a calendar of announcements on the website. Garrett added that there are several big A signs available for rent by organizations.

When a question about class loads came up, instead of one of the representatives answering, Randall Ware, Vice-President of the SGA said that he was working to get more open labs. He stated that this would increase the time available for doing class work and might help with the class loads.

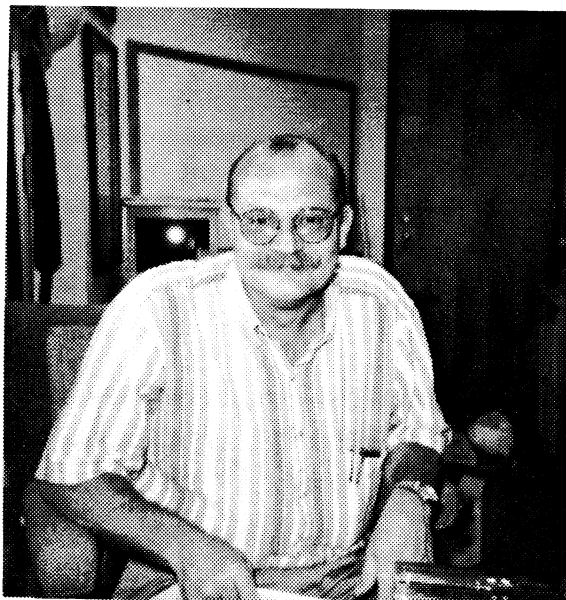
## Construction Awards Scholarships, Continued From Page 1

Contractors of Georgia, the Georgia Utility Contractors Association, and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Georgia for their generous contributions."

"The faculty and the students have expressed their gratitude for these associations because these scholarships serve as motivation for the students to actively take part in the activities of these professional associations," Siddiqi continued.

"Mr. Tyler Brislin is a recipient of a \$2000 award given by the Georgia Utility Contractors Association," Siddiqi added. "Each of these [other] ten students will receive a reward of one thousand dollars, for which we will arrange a ceremony this month [October] in the construction lobby. The awards will be given by Dean Dr. Wilson Barnes and Dr. Ron Koger."

Siddiqi explained how the scholarships were awarded. "The criteria was essentially a combination of academic performance and participation in extra-curricular activities which support the construction profession. The academic requirement was to have a



SPSU Construction undergraduate James McGee was one of eleven such students to receive a merit-based scholarship this Fall semester. Photo supplied by SPSU Construction Program

minimum [grade point average] of 3.0. The other requirement was that the candidate must have participated, or plans to participate, in one of the construction organization chapters or competitions." "We had appointed a two-person faculty committee for the award of these ten scholarships," Siddiqi said. "They included Dr. Brian Moore and Dr. Zuhair El-Itr. They examined about a dozen applications."

Siddiqi stated, "We are very proud of our scholarship recipients because they have done well in the academic areas. And they find time to participate in professional association activities which provides them an edge over those who do not."

"Salsawit Ketama hails from Ethiopia," Siddiqi added, "And she is an outstanding student and is completing the undergraduate program with Development Concentration in a record time. She had applied for this scholarship and met all the requirements successfully."

"In the Development Concentration," Siddiqi explained, "We provide knowledge and skills which are needed to take up any land development project. For instance, it could be an apartment complex development, or individual houses development, or simply creating a fully serviced subdivision where lots could be sold off to individuals."

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## Attack Stops Greyhound, Continued From Page 1

Tuesday, was scheduled to arrive in Atlanta at 8:00 AM. The crash occurred at about 5:15 AM Central Daylight time. The bus was scheduled as number 1115 continuing on to Orlando.

The bus usually arrives in Manchester at 3:15 AM Central time and departs fifteen minutes later. The next stop for the bus is downtown Atlanta.

Igric had boarded the bus at Greyhound's Louisville, Kentucky station near midnight.

A call by Sting staff to the Manchester station manager indicated that it had been the southbound bus from there that was involved. The manager declined to release his name or provide further

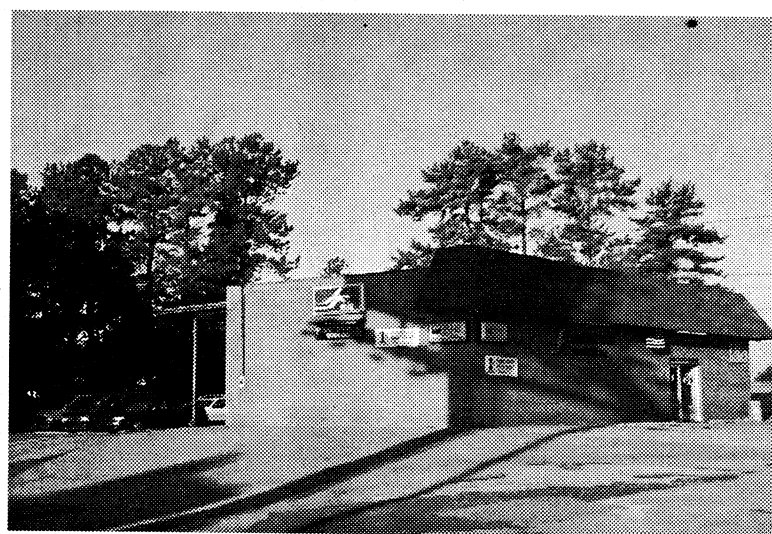
details.

The bus involved in the accident was not scheduled to stop in Marietta. However, buses scheduled as 1334 and 1157 were expected to stop in Marietta at 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM respectively. Neither 1334 nor 1157 stopped in Manchester, about 50 miles southeast of Nashville.

People at the Greyhound station next to Southern Polytechnic were not aware of the accident. Most were waiting for the bus scheduled as 1334, from Nashville and also continuing on to Orlando. That bus started from Portland, Oregon.

The bus arrived at Marietta at 9:01 AM and passengers were permit-

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Service stops at Greyhound stations like this one next to SPSU on Wednesday, October 3rd, after a Croatia national attacks the driver of an Atlanta-bound bus. Photo by Rich Merritt, Sting Staff

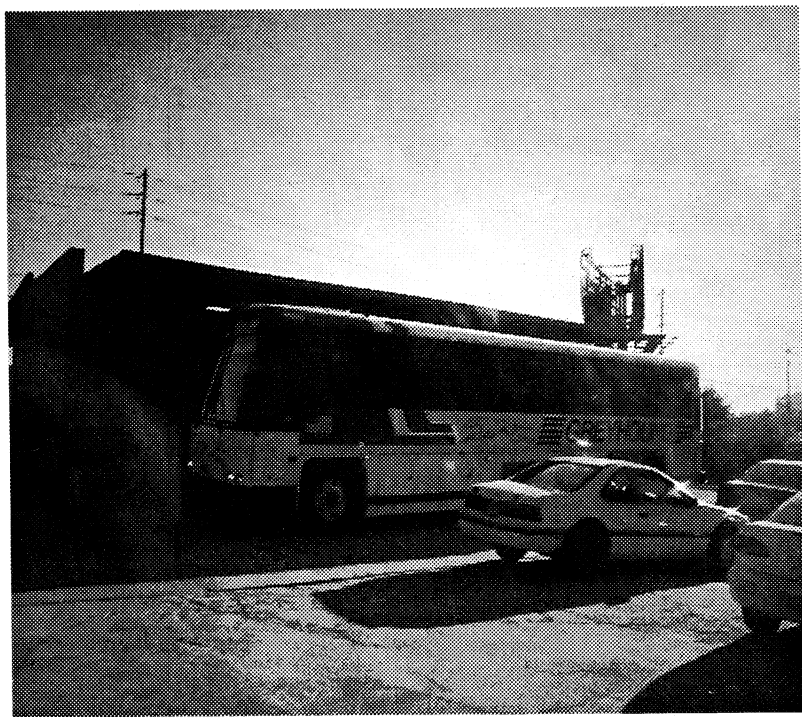
**Attack Stops Greyhound,**  
Continued From Page 2

ted to board. The bus continued on to Atlanta's downtown station, where it was held as Greyhound suspended all service nationwide.

According to a bulletin on Greyhound's corporate network, a message was sent out at 7:23 AM informing station managers of the accident. The bulletin stated that Greyhound Chief Executive Officer Craig Lentzsch

had decided to shut down all bus service nationwide that Wednesday until 12:00 PM Central Daylight time. The suspension of service was ordered due to the nature of the accident and in light of recent events.

Greyhound made a public announcement on their website at 10:00 AM. At the Marietta station, a sign was posted on the door before 11:15. Only one passenger, waiting on bus 1157 from Nashville scheduled to arrive at that time, was in the lobby. Bobby



Greyhound Bus 1334 arrives as scheduled at the Marietta Station adjacent to SPSU at 9:01 AM on Wednesday, October 3rd. Photo by Rich Merritt, Sting Staff

Lane, Customer Service Representative for Greyhound, said he expected service to resume after 1:00 PM.

### Construction Awards Scholarships,

Continued From Page 2

Siddiqi continued, "Carol Lively is another example who I would like to mention because of her interest and dedication in the construction program and extracurricular activities. I would like to mention here that Carol was also awarded travel and expense money to participate in the meeting during September 2001 at Kansas City."

"It was a Mechanical Contractors National Association meeting which was about improving specialty construction programs offered by institutions granting construction degrees," explained Siddiqi.

"Our proposal for a new certificate program in specialty construction was approved recently by the Board of Regents," Siddiqi added. "Our program deals with electrical, mechanical, plumbing and air conditioning components mainly, which are a part of general construction for any project."

The Construction Program at SPSU has about thirty-five graduate students and 185 undergraduates enrolled. Four other individuals are in the new certificate program offered through the Extended University's Continuing Education office.

"Dean Wilson Barnes has congratulated every single student who received these scholarships," Siddiqi stated, "And is providing the leadership to the construc-

tion program to enhance the amount and number of these scholarships."

Barnes is the Dean of the School of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and Construction.

Siddiqi added, "Dr. Ron Koger helped us by providing information about leftover funds from the Association of General Contractors which could be used for scholarship purposes. We are grateful to him." Koger is the Vice-President for Student Services and Enrollment.

Students from a variety of disciplines could participate in the construction program's professional associations and competition teams, Siddiqi said. "We currently have a student chapter of the Association of General Contractors, National Homebuilders, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Georgia, the National Electrical Contractors Association, and the American Institute of Constructors."

"Our students also participate in competitions, which include estimating competitions organized by the Associated Schools of Construction." Siddiqi explained that construction projects have two main phases. The first is estimating the cost of a project and submitting a bid. The second phase is managing the project once the bid is accepted. Both phases involve attention to finances and resource management.

"We have fielded teams in all the three types of competitions, mainly

commercial construction competition, heavy civil competition, and design/build competition." Siddiqi added. "And we are sending these teams again to Birmingham, Alabama October 31st to November 4th in these ASC competitions."

Siddiqi explained the team dynamics, "We have an average of six persons per team. This is a competition requirement. It could be less than six, but six is a maximum. The only requirement is that they must be in any of the undergraduate programs at the university."

"And therefore students from Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and others can participate," Siddiqi continued. "We would welcome participation by other majors to get the firsthand experience of how a project bid is prepared and presented before the client."

Siddiqi added, "Our competition teams have won these competitions in the past and they always compete against the best teams. We did not earn the top three slots in the last competition, but all those who participated are gainfully employed at the top construction companies."

"I believe the competition participants gain an edge over those who miss the opportunity," Siddiqi concluded.

## Finalists for Chancellor Announced

Written by Mark Campbell



Dr. Stephen R. Portch, University System of Georgia Chancellor

Hilton H. Howell, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Regents announced Wednesday, October 10th, at the Board's offices in downtown Atlanta that three finalists have been selected as candidates to replace Chancellor Stephen R. Portch. The finalists are Drs. William C. Gordon, Richard S. Jarvis, and Thomas C. Meredith. Last May, Portch announced that he would step down from the position of Chancellor of the University System of Georgia upon naming of a replacement.

Gordon is currently President of the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque. Jarvis is Chancellor of the United States Open University, based in Aurora, Colorado. Meredith is currently the Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, in

Tuscaloosa.

All three have been in their present positions less than five years. Meredith has served as Chancellor of the University of Alabama since June of 1997. Jarvis joined the U. S. Open University as its founding chancellor in September 1999. Previously Jarvis had served as Chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada since 1994. Gordon has been President of his institution since March of 1999; he had served as the interim president since August 1998.

The University of Alabama System is comprised of three doctorate-granting institutions. These are the University of Alabama's main campus in Tuscaloosa, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of Alabama at Huntsville. The UAB Health System is also a part of the University of Alabama System. The combined enrollment is 40,000 students, 17,000 employees and an annual budget of \$1.8 billion.

The United States Open University was recently established to provide distance and virtual learning throughout the nation. The university is modeled after The Open University, which was founded in 1971 at Walton

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## ATTENTION DECEMBER GRADS!

Caps and Gowns are in and may be picked up at the bookstore.

The last day for ordering graduation invitations is 10/31/01. A representative will be here on October 31st to take orders. Orders may be placed at the bookstore any time between now and October 31st.

### Finalists for Chancellor Announced, Continued From Page 3

Hall in Milton Keynes, England. The Open University services over 200,000 students and customers in Europe and is the United Kingdom's largest university system. Undergraduate level courses have no entry-level requirements, and about a third of the applicants starting courses have qualifications below conventional university standards. The U. S. Open University offers a subset of the coursework available at the older British sister institution.

The University of New Mexico occupies 600 acres in downtown Albuquerque, with branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, and Valencia. The University has approximately 24,000 students in Albuquerque and 6,000 at other campuses. The U. S. News and World Report ranks the School of Engineering among the top fifty in the nation. Research and contracts topped \$200 million in 1999.

Gordon was appointed as the University of New Mexico's 16th President on March 29, 1999. In August 1998, he had been called upon to serve as the interim President of the university. Appointed Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs at the research university in 1996, he put into place the institution's first comprehensive research overhead budget. Gordon also

reallocates a ninety-three million dollar academic affairs budget, creating 30 new graduate assistantships and funding new library acquisitions.

Jarvis served as Chancellor to the University and Community College System of Nevada from 1994 until his resignation on July 1st, 1999. The chancellor of one of the fastest growing higher education systems in the United States, Jarvis had faced criticism from several Southern Nevada regents concerned with funding disparities within the Nevada system.

From 1990 to 1994, Jarvis had served as Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Research at the State University of New York Central Offices. In 1994, he had been called upon to serve as Acting Provost and Vice chancellor of Academic Affairs.

Meredith had previously served nine years, from 1988 to 1997, as Western Kentucky University's eighth president before becoming the University of Alabama System's fourth chancellor on February 5, 1997. Western Kentucky University's Bowling Green campus honored Meredith by renaming a sorority residence hall in his honor on August 2, 2001. Meredith was also inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2001.

Gordon, a native of Georgia, earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a Master of Arts in experimental psychology

from Wake Forest University. He earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in experimental psychology from Rutgers University. He started teaching as an assistant professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1973, before joining the University of New Mexico in 1978.

Jarvis holds a B.A., M.A., and a Ph.D from Cambridge University in England. He first started teaching in 1974 at the State University of New York in Buffalo as an assistant professor of geography. By 1986 he had become an assistant to the president before taking a position as Vice President of Academic Affairs and professor of geosciences at SUNY in Fredonia from 1987-90.

Meredith earned a Bachelor of Arts in social studies and history from Kentucky Wesleyan College, and a Master of Arts in education administration and supervision from Western Kentucky University. Meredith earned a Doctorate in Education in administration and supervision with an emphasis on secondary and higher education from the University of Mississippi. Between 1974 and 1981, Meredith served as an academic programs officer and as an associate director for programs and planning for the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in Jackson, Mississippi. Between 1984 and 1988, Meredith rose from the ranks of executive assistant to the chancellor to Vice Chancellor for executive affairs at The University of Mississippi.

## Counseling Available...

Written by Susan Denman-Briones

You may ask yourself, "Why would I need counseling?" Or you may wonder, "What sort of person goes to counseling?" Or you may think, "Can I afford counseling?"

Society has changed and so has any stigma that is attached to seeking help from others. People that go to counseling are no longer seen as "sick" or "ill" or going to see a "shrink" because counseling/psychology/psychiatry/psychotherapy has become more accepted as a means to assist you with dealing with many of life's challenges.

Counseling is for anyone and everyone. In fact, everyone can benefit from counseling at one

point or another in their lives. Things can be worked on from a preventive standpoint or perspective meaning that we wish to prevent an occurrence of an event or feeling. An example is wishing to lower anxiety so that you can perform better on an upcoming exam or releasing anger in a healthy manner to prevent acting out inappropriately. Counseling can also deal with issues from a remediation standpoint, meaning that something is wrong and needs to be fixed. Some examples of this are relationship difficulties, falling grades, and depression. Counseling can also enhance well being by

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## SGA Update

Written by Kamie Harkins

The Student Government Association of Southern Polytechnic State University has approved the Japanese Friendship Society and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers as two new student organizations. The SGA helped them get started so that they can be active members of the SPSU community.

Also, the SGA worked with the campus organization Men of Distinction and held a voter registration drive that got approximately 150 newly registered voters. What's more is that the SGA is working on start a recycling program and self-defense courses for SPSU students.

In addition to the main SGA, there are also committees that specialize in specific concerns of SPSU students. For example, the Food Service Committee is currently working on improving the quality of the food served for the meal plan. They have heard complaints from students about limited hours of operation that conflict with students' class schedules.

Other complaints

have mentioned that there is nothing posted about the nutritional content of food, that there is a lack of variety, that the meats are not cooked to a proper temperature, and that the level of cleanliness leaves much to be desired.

The Student Life Committee is working on and investigating inquiries about harassment of Islamic Students. The committee is looking into the possibility of getting Greek housing on campus.

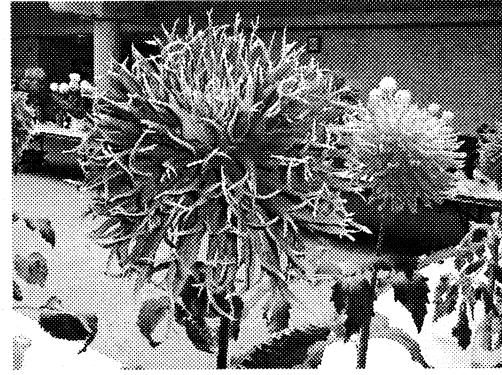
Safety issues about lighting on campus at night and more handicapped spaces in the J-Building are also concerns of the committee as well as hiring a new counselor and women's basketball coach.

According to SGA President Kenwin Hayes, "The SGA is here for the students. Our job is to serve them and help them." He encourages any student who has concerns, questions, or comments to email him at <a href="mailto:khayes@spsu.edu">khayes@spsu.edu</a>.



## Dahlias Blossom On Campus

Written by Rich Merritt



On September 29, Southern Polytechnic was fortunate enough to hold the Georgia Dahlia Society Flower Show. The Dahlia, which is the national flower of Mexico, is very popular with plant breeders due to the many colors, forms and sizes of the flower. The show represented growers from the whole southeast. These flowers were judged by such traits as Best Form of Bloom and Best Colors.

For more information, check out the following sites:

[www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org)

[www.dahlias.net](http://www.dahlias.net)

## Information Technology Happenings

Written by Dustin Grau

Ron Skopitz, Director of Southern Polytechnic State University's Information Technology Technical Services, answered some questions about recent issues concerning the campus network. Many campus residents have asked about the recent high bandwidth usage (available for view at [monitor.peach.net](http://monitor.peach.net)), the effects of the recent e-mail virus attacks, and future plans for the campus network. Skopitz advised students to note that most information about any future plans is tentative and unofficial at this time.

According to the PeachNet monitoring site, SPSU's bandwidth usage often exceeds peaks of 90% capacity. Frequently, bandwidth usage on campus during the day approaches 100% capacity.

Skopitz addressed concerns that the latest e-mail viruses might be to blame. "I think that infected machines are probably a major contributor. But, according to PeachNet, a large portion of the traffic is coming from users in the dorms using file-sharing web sites."

"At one point the PeachNet shut down our access to 'kazza.com', and they claim there was an immediate 30% drop in Internet utilization!" Skopitz exclaimed. He said that this also accounts for the high volume

of outgoing traffic. "This seems to be a USG-wide [University System of Georgia] issue."

"There are also things we plan to do internally to help," Skopitz said. "We are possibly going to be gaining a bigger internet pipe soon. I don't know how much, or even 'if.'"

"We will be turning on web caching again. We lost our firewall machine to hardware failure a while ago. We have installed a more robust system, but we do not have caching turned on yet. This should help out considerably," stated Skopitz.

He added, "We are investigating the cost of installing virus scanning at the firewall, and also of distributing antivirus software to on-campus student users. I plan to ask dorm users to be more responsible and "self-policing" about their Internet usage. Hopefully these items will prevent our needing to implement more drastic measures such as content filtering."

Skopitz also answered questions about Technology Fee improvements that had already been approved for funding. These included a new SPSU Cluster and a campus information system. Likewise, Tech Fee funds had been allocated for the wiring of additional network ports in the J (Atrium) Building on campus.

"If some of these

items seem to be behind schedule, they probably are." Skopitz said. "We have been non-stop. This is, by far, the busiest we've ever been in my 8 years with IT, and it doesn't look like it's about to get easier any time soon."

Skopitz continued, "Since June 1st we have worked on the following projects: Building our new suite and the subsequent move; the hiring of our new CIO; massive Banner updates; building and implementing the cluster (9 servers and counting); the rollout of 10+ new additional servers including systems for Banner, PeopleSoft, University Police, IT, CIT, the campus security system, virus scanning, a Linux/VMWare-based multi-domain NT/2000 backup domain controller, and others; the installation of 60+ new PCs campus-wide bought with year-end funds; massive virus attacks; major cabling projects in building 'E', the new Architecture building, the new Facilities buildings, the Wellness Center, and the Gymnasium; etcetera, etcetera."

"The cluster - it is physically complete. We are in the testing stage. We hope to roll it out some time in October," Skopitz said. "E-mail and EMUmail, -hopefully a more robust and reliable version - only at first. We will probably look into adding new services later into the Spring."

As for the Campus Information System, Skopitz stated, "The approval of this request did not include funding. We will only implement if

there are unused and/or unanticipated funds available at year-end. The additional network ports in 'J' have long been installed."

Concerning settling into the new IT spaces in the bottom of H Building, Skopitz said, "Settling in - this is, of course, a low priority. However, once the cluster is completed and a few other things are settled I do plan to have an 'open house'."

"I plan to file a Tech Fee request this year to see if students are interested in implementing a site-license for Microsoft products for student use at home starting next July 1st," Skopitz stated. "The proposal will include student assistant monies for helpdesk support and CD-ROM creation/distribution, and a CD-ROM duplicator. It won't be cheap (\$65K+/-), but it might get you free XP - no, not server - and Office Pro, and possibly even Visio."

Skopitz cautioned, "If a student leaves the school they will have to uninstall the products, but if they graduate from SPSU they would be granted a perpetual license to use the products which were part of the agreement at the time of graduation - perpetual as in licensed for life- but no upgrades."

"[It] should be fun to try, regardless!" Skopitz concluded.

## Spring 2002 Bulletin Available

Submitted by Steve Hamrick

The Spring 2002 bulletin is available on line at:

<http://www2.spsu.edu/registrar/recordshp.html>

Registration times have not yet been assigned. The printed copy of the bulletin won't be out for about another ten days. But you can see what will be offered by clicking on the above link.

### Counseling Available, Continued From Page 4

exploring ourselves to enable further growth and development. This may involve deciding on your career or academic goals, determining your values, thinking of your interests, increasing communication skills, or other areas that you would like to improve.

Many students at SPSU could benefit from the free counseling services available on campus. The counselor also has referral sources for students that may wish to go off campus for services. The Career & Counseling Center has one (soon to have one other) counselor on site to assist you. All you have to do is stop by or call (770) 528-7391 or e-mail at [sdenman@spsu.edu](mailto:sdenman@spsu.edu).

## Vinings at Risk

Written by Mark Campbell and Rich Merritt

Two weeks after terrorists hijacked commercial jets and destroyed the World Trade Center, security in the Cobb County area has increased at some facilities. Dobbins Air Reserve Base, and the Lockheed-Martin Plant, have seen the perimeter beefed up with concrete barriers, armed check posts at the entrances, and camouflaged bunkers.

Cobb County Police were present and guarding the Colonial Pipeline petroleum tank facility in Austell. Called the Atlanta Junction, the facility also serves as a crossing point of two major pipelines. The mainline runs from refineries in Texas and Louisiana to the Northeast. A secondary line runs south to Bainbridge, Georgia, and

north to Nashville. Other smaller lines serve facilities in the Atlanta area.

About eighty million gallons of refined petroleum products run through the main pipelines daily. The products run the gamut of military grade jet fuels, aviation kerosene, gasolines, diesel fuels and heating oils. Cities served by the mainline include Birmingham, Atlanta, Charlotte, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York City. Secondary lines serve Nashville, Raleigh-Durham, Richmond and Norfolk.

Atlanta is served primarily by Colonial Pipeline's delivery facility in Doraville, Georgia. Through a secondary pipe connected to the mainline, Colonial also serves jet fuel farms at Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport.

Colonial's mainline features both a forty inch and a thirty-six inch diameter pipeline running side by side through the north Atlanta suburbs.

According to a document from Colonial dated January 2000, the two main lines have a discharge capacity of 2,210,000 barrels per day. In the petroleum business, the standard barrel, usually of crude oil, is 42 gallons per barrel. Both parallel main lines, running from Pasadena, Texas to Linden, New Jersey, cover a little over 1,050 miles.

At Spring Road and Cumberland Parkway, Colonial Pipeline's Smyrna Pumping Station sat unguarded as of Thursday, September 27, 2001. The station is about 2000 feet from Cumberland Mall, with I-285 between the two. The CSX railroad line from Atlanta through Marietta to Chattanooga runs just south of the station. A



Four Westinghouse pumps help power over fifty thousand gallons per minute of gasoline and other distillates at Colonial Pipeline's Smyrna Pump Station, just 2000 feet from Cumberland Mall. Photo by Kea Vongchanh, Sting Staff

Georgia Power substation is its nearest neighbor. Across Spring Road, a bit further up Cumberland Parkway, lies an AT&T communications switching station.

The Smyrna Pumping station provides power as needed to move petro-

leum underneath Vinings, through North Atlanta, to a petroleum terminal in Doraville. Four Westinghouse pumps, powered by electricity from a Georgia Power transformer on the site,

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## How Fraternities Came to Be

Written by Rich Merritt

Once upon a time, Pre-Revolutionary America had 15 colleges. However, unlike many colleges that exist today, faculty lived and ate with the students. Not only that, but they were strict in a way that is hard for us to understand in today's society. In 1776, one hundred fifty-five Harvard students were expelled for foregoing breakfast one day and eating in Boston town because "the butter stinketh".

Privacy did not really exist to the student either. Eventually something had to give. What happened was the establishment of secret societies to give students a venue for discussion, thought, and social activities.

The first of these secret societies was called the Flat Hat Club, formed at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia on November 11th, 1750. Thomas Jefferson was a member

of the Flat Hat Club. The first society to use letters was called the P.D.A. Society, which had a social focus, rather than a scholarship or academic focus. Both of these do not exist today.

The society that started the whole Greek letter tradition, Phi Beta Kappa, also was founded in 1776 at William and Mary College. What they did three years after their foundation is something that the other literary societies didn't do... expand. These expansions are called chapters. PBK is now an honor society.

In 1825 the Kappa Alpha society was formed at Union College in Schenectady, New York. This society was different due the emphasis on brotherhood, friendship, and tight bonds. Other students at Union then decided to form their own fraternities, namely Sigma Phi Society and Delta Phi. These two and Kappa

Alpha are what Greek historians call the Union Triad.

More information on fraternities and their history can be found at the following sites:

<http://www.unl.edu/greek/alumni/history.htm>  
<http://www.unl.edu/greek/alumni/history.htm>  
<http://mcrae.ca/greek/docs/fratrit0.htm>  
<http://mcrae.ca/greek/docs/fratrit0.htm>  
<http://www.greekzone.com/frames/history/history1.html>  
<http://www.greekzone.com/frames/history/history1.html>

## Janis Attends German Conference

Written by Kamie Harkins

Charlotte Janis, Coordinator of International Student Services, was selected to participate in the Baden-Wurtemberg Seminar. The Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Germany sponsored the seminar. Janis attended the September 25th to October 3rd conference held in Tübingen, Germany.

The National Association of Foreign Student Advisors/Association of International Educators, which has over 10,000 members nationwide, searched amongst and selected from those members who applied to be participants in the seminar.

Janis was one of twelve chosen and joined the ranks of educators from schools such as University of Missouri, Georgetown University, University of Wisconsin, Montana State University, Drake University, and Louisiana State University. According to Janis, being selected to attend this seminar is a "high honor that many US coun-

terparts would love to have."

While at the seminar, Janis learned about the education system in Germany and how people in Germany felt about German-American relations. She visited German vocational schools and universities. In addition to experiencing German culture, Janis also gained insight and advice from U.S. and German college colleagues who do the same job she does at SPSU.

According to Janis, SPSU international students will benefit from her attending the Baden-Wurtemberg Seminar because she got the chance to further "understand international students who have been education in the German educational system or systems similar to it, and how our counterparts go about business abroad and in the US."

## Vinings at Risk, Continued From Page 6

stand next to the pipes as they rise from the ground.

Similar pumps at Colonial's Lake Charles, Louisiana station are capable of providing a 30,000 horsepower boost downstream in both of the company's main pipelines.

Georgia Power's Plant McDonough/Atkinson in Smyrna supplies the electrical power for the substation at Colonial's Smyrna Pumping Station. The Georgia Power plant receives liquid fuel via a Colonial pipeline from the Atlanta Junction facility.

Although a video camera was trained on the access gate to the main Georgia Power substation, no camera was observed at the pump station. The station is surrounded by chain link fence topped with three straight strands of barbed wire. Chain link gates, each secured by a chain and padlock, blocked both driveways.

Traffic cameras monitor the intersections along Cumberland Park-

way near the mall. But on the other side of the Perimeter Highway, the intersections at Spring Hill Parkway and Spring Road have no such surveillance. Spring Hill Road, which parallels I-285, curls uphill and back on itself before meeting with Cumberland Parkway. Across the intersection, and downhill, is the main driveway to the pump station.

Drivers into and out of Dobbins Air Reserve Base were confronted with cement barriers. Every driver had to turn three times to navigate their way, slowing their vehicle on approach to checkpoints.

No concrete barriers were in place at either Colonial's Austell facility or the Smyrna Pump station as of Thursday, September 27th.

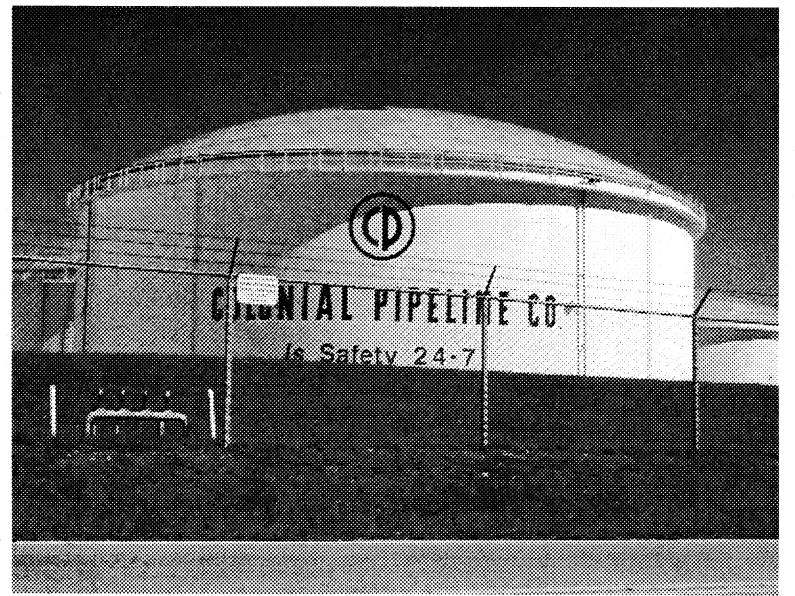
On an initial visit to the Smyrna pump station, Sting staff observed that the barbed wire was damaged at some points along the perimeter. Brush had grown up and through the fence. And pedestrian gates behind the pump station nearest the power substation were missing, having been replaced by

wooden posts sunk into the ground. The posts were not topped by barbed wire.

Colonial Pipeline is based in the Atlanta area, with headquarters listed on East Paces Ferry Road. The company operates a pipeline control center at Sanctuary Park in Alpharetta that remotely controls flow throughout their 5500 mile network of pipes. The company owns pipelines, storage tanks, and delivery facilities in the Southeast and the Eastern seaboard. Over twenty percent of the ton-miles of liquid petroleum products in the United States are transported by the company.

The company is planning to build a twenty-inch diameter pipeline that runs from Talladega, Alabama to Nashville. A tank farm of seven to ten tanks and a delivery terminal are planned for the Huntsville, Alabama area.

Colonial Pipeline, founded in 1962, is owned by Unocal, British Petroleum, Equilon, CITGO Petroleum, Conoco, Phillips Petroleum, Koch Industries and Marathon



A flow control stand lies about a dozen feet beyond the perimeter fence at Colonial Pipeline's Atlanta Junction tank farm in south Cobb County. Photo by rich Merritt, Sting Staff

Oil Company. Customers include American Airlines, Chevron, the Department of Defense, Duke Energy Merchants, Exxon and United Airlines. Further information about the company can be found at [www.colpipe.com](http://www.colpipe.com).

Plantation Pipe Line Company, also of Atlanta, operates a 3100-mile petroleum pipeline network in the Southeast. The company's first pipeline was completed in 1942 to provide refined petroleum products from Louisiana to Greensboro, North Carolina. The original pipeline was extended

to Washington, and runs through the Atlanta area.

According to Colonial documents, a direct connection with Plantation Pipe Line is available at Colonial's Collins, Mississippi facility. The cross-connection permits the two systems to transfer petroleum products.

Plantation Pipe Line is owned by Kinder Morgan company of Houston, Texas. More information on the company can be found at [www.plantation-ppl.com](http://www.plantation-ppl.com) or [www.kindermorgan.com](http://www.kindermorgan.com).

## SPSU Participates in Career Fair

Written by Mark Campbell

Southern Polytechnic State University students will have the opportunity to participate in a career fair in Cobb County on November 1st. 'Career Opportunities 2001' will be held from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm that Thursday at the Cobb Galleria Center.

Twenty-five colleges and universities in Georgia, including SPSU, sponsor the career fair. Every participating institution has less than ten thousand students.

A professional development seminar for students will be held during the first hour of the

career fair. SPSU students will have a further opportunity to refine their job seeking skills.

Susan Denman of the Career and Counseling Center will conduct a workshop titled "How to Work a Career Fair" on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at noon. The workshop will be held in Room 214 of the Student Center on the SPSU campus.

Some of the companies already scheduled to attend include Anteon Corporation, Cingular Wireless, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Habif, Arogetti & Wynn, LLP, Internal Rev-

enue Service, Julian LeCraw & Company, Inc., Milliken & Company, Quad/Graphics, Inc., Race Trac Petroleum, Shaw Industries, The Weather Channel, and Worldspan.

The Career and Counseling Center encourages SPSU students and alumni to attend. Those interested should visit the Center to obtain a name tag. However, students who just wish to attend may participate provided that they have a valid student identification card, as the fair is limited to the participating universities.

## Windows XP On the Horizon

Written by Daniel Henry

Windows XP, the latest Microsoft Operating System, is scheduled to launch on October 25th. Built on the foundation of Microsoft's previous Windows NT-based operating system Windows 2000, Microsoft boasts a combination of NT stability with ease of use and increased productivity. The local XP launch event will be held at the Cobb Galleria Center from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on October 25th.

The STING will be

covering the event; however, we encourage any students interested in these types of affairs to attend. Registration is free and many offers and demonstrations will be on display to the registered attendees.

If you would like to register for this event, go to <http://www.windowsrsvp.com/overview.asp?uid=78506,37159.495589351849> >[www.windowsrsvp.com/overview.asp?uid=78506,37159.495589351849](http://www.windowsrsvp.com/overview.asp?uid=78506,37159.495589351849)</a>.

## The STING's Private Jet is available for rent.

Fly with a class and sophistication unknown to most crustaceans or mollusks. With enough 10' leg room for editorial temporantrums, and in-flight meals from Allstar and China Kitchen, you're sure to enjoy the flight despite the rancid bathrooms. Call (770) 528 - 7230 immediately for a ticket out of here now!



WASHINGTON (September 18, 2001) - In response to media inquiries concerning the security and safety of oil pipelines, Ben Cooper, Executive Director of the Association Of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) released the following statement today:

The American public should rest assured that oil pipeline operators nationwide have heightened security measures and increased surveillance of sensitive locations for the purpose of ensuring the security and safe operation of this nation's oil pipeline system. Because oil pipelines carry more than two-thirds of our nation's oil supply, this network is critical to our nation's economy. The security of this system is

our industry's top priority. In some cases, pipelines have been temporarily shut down while operators reviewed security risks. None have been detected, but operators are fully prepared to act if shutdowns are necessary in the future. Currently, all oil pipelines are operating under normal conditions.

The oil pipeline industry is in close contact with DOT Secretary Norman Mineta and the US DOT Office of Pipeline Safety. Pipeline operators will be complying with DOT directives to protect pipelines and to develop longer-term plans for protecting this vital trans-

portation system. While oil pipelines have emergency security measures to address natural disasters or other catastrophic events such as terrorism, these measures are being reviewed in light of recent tragic events. As part of this process, we are surveying our members to gather information on specific steps they are taking to enhance protection against possible terrorist activities.

**The Importance of Oil Pipeline Security**

The nation's economic growth and lower energy costs depend upon a network of approxi-

mately 200,000 miles of oil pipelines. Oil pipelines deliver approximately 14.4 billion barrels annually (a barrel holds 42 gallons) of crude (6.9 billion) and refined (7.5 billion) products to their destinations. Compared to other modes of transport (truck, barge or rail), pipelines carry approximately 67 percent of the ton-miles annually, 17 percent of all U.S. freight and cost only two percent of our nation's freight bill.

Ninety-seven percent of all transportation energy is supplied by petroleum, and petroleum fuels power virtually all modes of transportation.

The U.S. Defense Department purchases \$3.6 billion of fuel annually, which makes it the single most significant purchaser of refined oil products in the world.

**About the Association of Oil Pipe Lines**

As the leading industry association, the AOPL acts as an information clearinghouse for the public, the media and the pipeline industry; provides coordination and leadership for the industry's ongoing Joint Environmental Safety Initiative; and represents common carrier crude and product petroleum pipelines in Congress, before regulatory agencies, and in the federal courts.

## Hispanic Day Labor Discussed

Written by Rich Merritt

Local citizens and community leaders met at Southern Polytechnic's Student Center on Friday, September 7th, to discuss concerns and comments on the Hispanic day labor in the Marietta area. The area of concern was the Powder Springs Corridor, where many Hispanic migrant workers await work, in whatever form it comes to them.

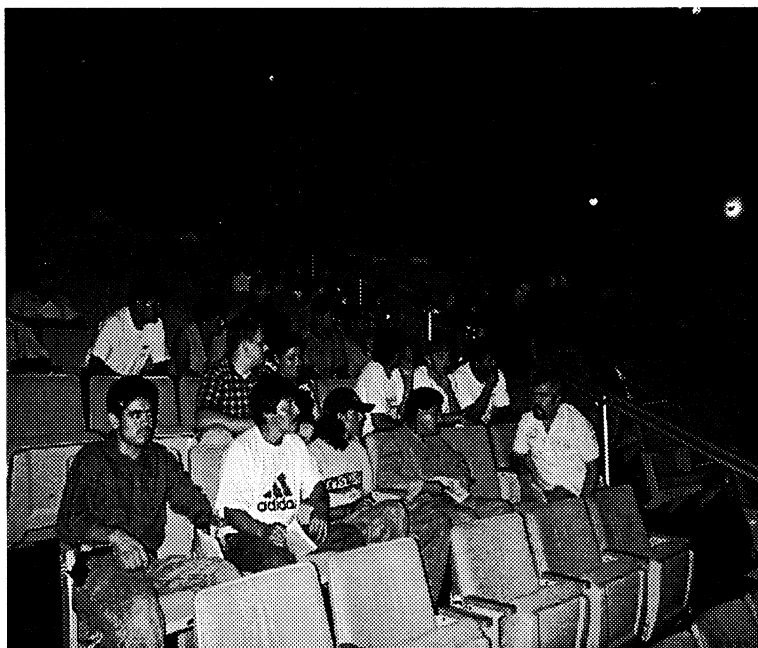
These people work for many industries, including construction, landscaping, factory work and agriculture, just to name a few.

The panel consisted of Marietta officials, the Consulate General of Mexico, Immigration and Naturalization Services, the Latin American Association, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union. Sizemore Floyd, an Atlanta-based architectural firm, and the Mettler Merderson company also participated.

However, these

new Marietta residents cause something some people do not want - change. For those who have lived in Marietta most of their lives, the accommodation of new neighbors from other countries is something new. The current Hispanic population total of Marietta is over ten thousand people.

In Cobb County, there are over seventy-five thousand Hispanics. About half of these are undocumented with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Many undocumented persons do pay income, property and sales taxes, in the hope of gaining amnesty in the future.



Hispanics listen as politicians, bureaucrats and local citizens discuss the presence of Hispanic day laborers in the Powers Ferry Corridor of Marietta. Photo by Rich Merritt, Sting Staff

## Faculty Receive Theft Warning

Written by Mark Campbell

Faculty members received an e-mail from campus police chief Gary Chasteen on Friday, September 28th, warning about theft from offices on campus. According to the e-mail, several purses and wallets have been stolen since the semester began.

The thefts occurred in several areas, including interior offices spaces. Faculty in the Atrium (J) Building were amongst those receiving the advisory.

The email advised

Faculty to guard or secure their valuables. In particular, the e-mail stressed that offices should be locked if left unattended.

Chasteen stated that faculty would receive more details that afternoon. He also asked faculty to report any suspicious persons to the campus police at (770) 528-5555.

"Editors may think of themselves as dignified headwaiters in a well-run restaurant but more often [they] operate a snack bar ... and expect you to be grateful that at least they got the food to the table warm."

— Thomas Griffith



## Men Prodded to Check Prostate

Written by Mark Campbell

On Wednesday, September 19th, the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity hosted a prostate cancer seminar in the lounge of Norton dormitory at Southern Polytechnic State University. Mr. Robert Carey, a prostate cancer survivor, spoke to the crowd of two dozen about the cancer. Carey addressed questions concerning risk factors, screening, early detection, treatments, and after-effects from treatments.

Prostate cancer tends to occur in older men. African-American men are at higher risk for the disease. The prostate is a gland that secretes seminal fluid during ejaculation. The American Cancer Society recommends yearly testing for men over the age of fifty. African-American men, or men who have a family history of prostate cancer, should start yearly screening at the age of forty-five.

"This year, last month, I celebrated five years without cancer," Carey stated. His sister had thyroid cancer. "If someone in your family has cancer, then you're at risk for any other form of cancer."

Carey spoke of his initial thoughts about

cancer. "The only people who got cancer were old people, and mostly white people," he stated. "I've since found out that that isn't true."

"Most men don't know anything about prostate cancer," Carey continued. "A lot of times, most men don't even want to talk about it."

Carey explained, "The prostate is about the size of a walnut, and is behind the bladder. It secretes fluid when you have ejaculation."

"It is at epidemic proportions within the African-American community. It gets us at higher rates than with other races," Carey added.

"The Chinese men have very low rates of prostate cancer," Carey said. "The Italian men - outside of this country - have a very low rate of prostate cancer. African-American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer."

According to the American Cancer Society, about 195,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer annually. Each year approximately 32,000 die from the disease. Early

stages of prostate cancer have no symptoms, so screening is important for early diagnosis and effective treatment.

"For some reason, they're finding that prostate cancer is occurring in men that are younger, and younger, and younger," Carey added.

Speaking about detection, Carey said, "When it is detected within us, it is usually past the stage at which something could be done. There are some men who aren't going to go to a doctor unless they can't go to work."

"The PSA [prostate-specific antigen test] is one of the ways that you can tell if you have cancer," Carey continued. "It's done through blood work." The test produces a number, usually around 3 to 5, that is unique to each individual. A significant rise in the PSA number from one year to the next is a strong indicator for prostate cancer.

But that isn't the only screening test

that should be performed, Carey added.

"Do you know what a D. R. E. is? Do you know what a finger wave is?" Carey asked. When several people shook their heads no, he explained, "That's when a doctor does a finger search of the prostate through the rectum." D. R. E. is an acronym for the digital rectal examination. By feeling the prostate on the backside of the bladder, a doctor can detect unusual hardness or softness on all or part of the prostate.

Doctors do not always screen for prostate cancer automatically when a man becomes fifty, or forty-five for African-American men. Carey stressed that older men should ask for both a PSA and a DRE.

But not everyone requests a DRE. Carey said, "As one guy told me, 'No guy is going to pump me.'"

"Some doctors will

let 'em do that," Carey continued, speaking of men who refuse a DRE, "Half of something is better than nothing. Others won't let them off the hook."

Once he was diagnosed as possibly having prostate cancer, Carey said he went to see a specialist. "They put a tube with a camera on it in you," Carey continued. "You lay there, looking at it [the prostate on a television monitor]. He was able to show me that on one part of the prostate there was a dark spot on it."

"When he went to do a biopsy on it - with a needle - he went right for the dark spot, which isn't supposed to be there," Carey added.

"Surgery seemed like the best route, since if they've got the prostate, and the cancer hasn't spread, then there is nothing," Carey said.

But prostate cancer can also be treated by radiation. External beam

Continued on Page 10



## Tech Fee Buys Tools

Written by Rich Merritt

The \$38 technology fee that students are paying this fall, and again in the spring, is being used to support development of a technology-rich learning environment. Basically, that means new tools for student use. Labs, software, classrooms, and a communications services system have all been funded by the technology fee.

### Laboratories

Civil Engineering Technology installed two new computers in the CET Student Resources Room. A computer, data collection box, and a software upgrade were added to

the CET Fluids lab, as well as new equipment for the CET environmental engineering lab. CET also received funds for five video recorders and five traffic data collectors.

The Center For Instructional Technology Video/Sound Editing Studio in J building received hardware and software additions. The Mechanical Engineering Technology lab in K Building received network and internet access for all of its computers.

### Software

SPSU is now a subscriber of the EI Compendex\*Plus data-

base. This provides students with 5 million abstracts of articles from 5,000 engineering and science journals as well as conference proceedings. The database is in the Lawrence V. Johnson Library.

World Language Software was purchased for the Social and International Studies Language Learning Lab. The languages covered in this software include French, Spanish, and German.

The General Student Computing Lab in H Building received new software. Adobe Pagemaker, Macromedia Dreamweaver, and

Microsoft Visio were included in this purchase.

### Classrooms

The Computer Science department enhanced three classrooms with instructors' computers, LCD projectors, and white boards. The Math Department received 16 computers to establish a computer classroom. The Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology program received a portable multi-purpose oscilloscope.

### Communications Services System

This is a campus wide communications

services system that will provide enhanced services and access to these services by one password. This system is in a cluster configuration, or it is in various pieces. In laymen's terms, if one piece fails, the system still operates.

For more information, visit the Technology Fee website at <a href="http://www.spsu.edu/techfee/">www.spsu.edu/techfee/</a>.

## Men Prodded to Check Prostate, Continued From Page 9

radiation focuses radiation on the affected areas of the prostate, killing off cancer cells. Seed implant radiation uses a small capsule placed internally near the affected part of the prostate. The capsule then emits beta radiation which also kills off cancer cells.

"There's more data on the effectiveness of surgery," Carey said, "But the radiation is coming up rapidly."

Some of the listeners were concerned about after effects, including incontinence

and impotence. Carey explained that with surgery, there usually is some short term incontinence, which usually lasts six months. But there are cases where incontinence has been a long term problem.

Carey explained how some men think about prostate cancer surgery. "If I have this operation, if I have something done, I might not ever have an erection."

But there are methods to address impotence. Carey said, "There are devices, implants. Implants run from two thousand to several thousand dollars." Implants can be as simple as a semi-rigid polymer stiffener or as complex as an

inflatable bladder, surgically inserted within the penis.

Carey also addressed questions about Viagra, a popular drug used to treat impotence. While effective in a number of cases, it is not without side effects.

"They've had men who've died from taking Viagra," Carey said, and in other instances, "Some men said they've taken Viagra and gotten a headache. It's done nothing for them."

One of the factors believed to put men at risk for prostate cancer is their diet. Carey pointed out that one hypothesis for explaining why native Italian men have such a low cancer rate is in their high consumption of

tomatoes and tomato products.

"In most men, what they find is that there is too much fat in their diet - animal fat - and not enough vegetables," Carey stated.

Carey is a member of the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Review Panel. As a consumer reviewer, he helps the DOD evaluate and approve 150 research programs twice each year. As a member of the National Institute's of Health Prostate Cancer Outreach, he serves as a public speaker on the topic. Carey is also a member of the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition, which is an advocacy group.

Carey also speaks on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Danielle Holbrook, the Community Cancer Control Manager, says that guest speakers talk about cancer 8 to 10 times a month. The American Cancer Society provides speakers to hospitals, churches, community groups and universities.

The brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi, under the leadership of Polemarch Tony Russell, had booked Mr. Carey as part of Prostate Cancer Awareness Week. The Kappa Alpha Psi national philanthropy is to battle prostate cancer.

# Visit The Sting At <http://www.thesting.org/>

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**Deadline.** Next online edition deadline; October 26. Next print edition deadline; November 8.

## Lady Hornets Will Fly

Written by Trae D. Johnson

The rumors and the petitions are over; there will be a lady hornet's basketball team in the Fall 2002. S.G.A President Kenwin Hayes, he seems very excited to have the lady hornets coming to SPSU. "Yes, there will be a women basketball team at SPSU. Right now, we are still looking for that right coach! There is a search committee composed of students and staff that will interview the applicants and then they will recommend that this person be hired. The idea is to have the coach hired soon so that he/she can recruit for the upcoming season. Competitive play will begin Fall 2002 in the same division as the men's team (NAIA)."

Athletic fees increased last year in preparation for the women basketball team; so there will not be a need to raise athletic fees any more. SPSU has wanted women sports in the past; however, it was a matter of support and money. "As everyone knows, President Rossbacher wants to increase the number of

female students hear at SPSU and sports is a means of accomplishing that. I think the petition solidified the staff/administration that students wanted women sports and were willing to pay for it with increasing athletic fees," said President Hayes.

Joking and laughing with President Hayes, I asked him, will cheerleaders return back to SPSU? "I have not heard anything officially, but I would like for they're to be some type of entertainment at the basketball games. Cheerleaders would be great at SPSU, but in the past I think there was a lack of organization and cohesiveness amongst the various groups. It is hard to get athletes to do something in college if they are not being compensated in any matter," commented President Hayes.

Tryouts for students for who attend SPSU have not been announced officially. Look out for volleyball or soccer as the next sport program in the years to come!!

## Captain "D.C" Is Ready to Start Season

Written by Trae Johnson

"Trae DiGGie" Last season the Hornet Basketball team suffered a heartbreaking loss of the national tournament to Oklahoma State. However, the Fall 2001 season is right around the corner and number 30, senior point guard Duriel "D.C" Coleman is ready to help lead the Hornets back to the playoffs and hopefully another conference title as well as a win over Life University. Even with the loss of Antwan Shellman and Shuron Washington, the season still looks like it is off to a great start.

Duriel "D.C" Coleman; one of the captains of the 2001-2002 SPSU Basketball team is a 6'2 guard from Austin, Texas; however, he was raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. His dream after college is to continue playing basketball as a career or become a coach. In regards to the upcoming season, Coleman says "Well, the difference between this year team and last years team is that we lost some truly talented, battle tested veteran players in Shuron

and Antwan. But we replaced them with talent and now they have to prove themselves."

There are three new players that the Hornets have on the line up for the upcoming season. Anthony Oglesby a 6'2", 185-pound sophomore from Brooklyn, New York. Oglesby transferred from the University of New Hampshire and from Colorado Springs, Colorado a 6'6, 210 pound Junior from Truett-McConnell College, Cannon Brown. Also, the Hornets pick up Nic "Sweet Ice" Wright; 6'5, 185 pound, Senior, from Austin, Texas that transferred from Southwest Missouri State.

D.C is a great leader because he is tough when he needs to be and a friend to all on the team. The older hornets are also great leaders for the newer players. After this season when I retire my collegiate basketball years, I want to be remembered as a tough, team orientated player, who only cared about winning and helped put

Southern Poly on the map. And for all the Bling, Bling Championship rings me and my teammates got here," said D.C jokingly, smiling while tying up his shoes while watching Sports Center.

D.C's hobbies include watching old basketball games of star players playing at their highest level, listen to music; especially his favorite artist like U.G.K and Cash Money Millionaires, and try to beat Trae DiGGie on Tecmo Football.

The first game for the Hornets is November 7 at home, playing against Allen University. Teams that Hornets will play are Webber University, Reinhardt College, North Georgia, Shorter College, Georgia Southwestern, and rivals Life University. Come out and support the Hornets as they make their drive to win the National Championship. The games are free and very exciting, so check out the schedules on the school website.

## Gamma Phi's Big Little

Written by Christy Fleming

In the past, the ladies of Gamma Phi have had string all throughout the student center, or pumpkins filled with shaving cream, or even an Easter egg hunt for their Big/Little Celebration. This year, however; the tone was much different. The new members found themselves playing "The Big Sister Game" which is very much like "The Dating Game."

The stage was set with 4 chairs (one was separated by a screen), three alumnae and one announcer as the new members came in one at a time. As the new mem-



ber took her seat on the isolated chair, three active sisters who had been hiding behind stage joined the alumnae. Active sisters took the seat of alum, while the alum stood behind them to do a voice over, so that the new members wouldn't recognize voices. Then announcer Christy Fleming would explain the rules of the game to the new member as the new

member drew their first question. Each new member asked a total of nine questions, three to each contestant. From the responses she received, the new member was asked to guess which contestant was her big sister. The game sounded easy enough, until one read the questions. Questions ranged from "Would you rather walk on fire or swim through sewage," or

New member Nicole Price plays a rendition of "The Dating Game" to figure out who her big sister is at the Big/Little Celebration held on September 28, 2001. Sisters, New members and alum were all very excited to find out who was each new members big sister!

"Would you rather kiss Marilyn Manson or get bitten by a snake," to "Sing the chorus of your favorite song" or "Why would I want you as a big sister?" From the responses she received, most of which were completely crazy answers from the sisters that were not actually the new members big sister, she had to take a guess as to which contestant was her big sister.

After each new member had come through and guessed at their big sister, everyone headed up to the student

center where the big sisters were revealed. Only one new member guessed incorrectly and named someone else as her big sister. After all the little sisters met their big sisters, the whole group took pictures and then went to the Atlanta Bread Company where the big sisters bought their newest little sisters dinner.

**CONGRATUALIONS TO ALL BIG SISTERS AND LITTLE SISTERS!**

Little Big Melanie Bogart, Amy Jalutkewicz, Margie Glau, Stephanie Wright, Kathy Hammond, Nicole Bereczki, Nicole Price, Nicole Bereczki, Stephanie Warner, and Christy Plumley.

## Education without Taxation — SGA

Submitted by Kenwin M. Hayes

The Student Advisory Council to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia is seeking to abolish tax on textbooks! This has been an objective of SAC for two years now, but not until recently have conditions been favorable for this to pass State Legislature.

The External Affairs chair, Ashley D. Bell, from Valdosta State University, along with the committee devised an action plan during the summer SAC conference to guarantee that the Text Book Exempt Tax Bill will go into effect next academic year. Not only will students save money, but also parents that pay for books as well.

Below is a schedule of events to happen in the next five months concerning the Text Book Exempt Tax Bill:

\* AUGUST - Book-

store petition: Each university/college within the University System of Georgia will have a petition headed by the school's respected SGA in order to get signatures. It is the committee's goal to have 25,000 signatures to present to legislature at a later date.

\* SEPTEMBER - An official resolution will be written at the fall SAC conference so they can present it to the Board of Regents.

\* OCTOBER - Townhall meetings across the various campuses will be held. It will give students the opportunity to ask questions and get more details about the bill.

\* NOVEMBER - A typical letter will be sent out to various organizations and students telling them to support the bill.

\* JANUARY - Rally

at the capital building. Students from across the state will rally at the capital building so State Legislature can see that students are serious about this subject and they want the TextBook Exempt Tax abolished. (14 January 2002 - tentative)

Student involvement and participation is imperative in order for this bill to pass legislature because Governor Barnes is not in favor of it. So, if you are in support of abolishing the Text Book Tax, support your school's SGA by signing the petition and participate in the rally at the capital building scheduled for 14 January 2002.

For more information, go to:  
<a href="http://www.usg.edu/sac">www.usg.edu/sac</a>

## Sigma and Zeta Meet and Greet

Submitted by Trae Johnson

"The blue and white family is a beautiful organization, whenever I need help, I know the blue and white family will have my back," said emotionally by Tony Harris, who was the M.C of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated mixer at 8pm, Thursday, September 27.

The mixer was established to introduce the Sigmas and Zetas who attends SPSU to many people who may have questions, concerns, or to hear about future plans for both organizations. This is a first annual event for both organizations, which was quite a success, and you can rest assured knowing that it can only be better. Speakers include Bro. Perry Mattis; who was magnificent and motiva-

tional with his speech and Soror Kelleen Williams who was getting the ladies focus and inspired by Zeta Phi Beta and their principles.

Guests included members of the graduate chapter for both organizations, collegiate members of SPSU, Kennesaw State University, and Chattahoochee Technical Institute.

After the meeting, there was a post step exhibition that showed off the Sigma skills and intricate technique in stepping and stomping. (WE DON'T STEP, WE STOMP!!!!)

## NOMAS

Written by Jestein Futrell

National Organization of Minority Architects Students, NOMAS, provides a resource for information, and a consortium for future designers to resort to and build upon. This year the SPNOMAS chapter will attend the National Organization of Minority Architects Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Minority architects and students from all over the country gather to network, share experiences, and focus on important issues through workshops and lectures. It is a great time for networking, obtaining internships, and sharing experiences with professionals who have had similar experiences in their education.

This school year our chapter will focus on community service, fundraising, and other special events to bring attention to and resolve the problems minority architecture students may face in the classroom and professional world. Our organization is only as strong as its members, who are held to a high academic standards and responsibility. We are united in the cause that formed the organization. We invite to you join our organization. If you have any questions please feel free to contact DeMaurio Starks, President at <a href="http://dmarks@spued">dmarks@spued</a>.

## Building on Excellence — NSBE

Written by Ovin Parris

To increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact their communities. This is the mission statement of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Southern Polytechnic State University chapter of NSBE is committed to making that statement a reality. With renewed enthusiasm and the first full Executive Board in three years, the 2001-2002 SPSU chapter of NSBE embarking upon a mission to give more to its members, SPSU, and the Atlanta community more than ever before. To help the SPSU chapter of NSBE in its efforts to uphold the chapter mission of "Turning today's

aspiring engineers into tomorrow's leaders," the 2001-2002 Executive Board has planned numerous events that will foster creativity and learning in its members and emphasize the importance of volunteerism. Some of these events include: Hand's on Atlanta Volunteer kickoff day and technical workshops relating to computer hardware and software. The academic success of the members of NSBE is foremost in the minds of every Executive Board member. A resource library and workshops on Study Skills are just a few of the tools that will help to ensure the academic vitality of NSBE members.

Although the name of the organization is the National Society of Black

Engineers, anyone who wants to join the organization can and are encouraged to do so. The benefits of developing a winning resume, networking with professional engineers, and attending career fairs with hundreds of company's eager to give jobs, co-ops, and internships to students extend far beyond race. All of the events and workshops that SPSU members of NSBE participate in are tools for preparing them to become successful engineers. With an ever-present dedication to excellence, the Southern Polytechnic State University Society of Black Engineers is committed to turning today's aspiring engineers into tomorrow's leaders.

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## Sigma Nu - What we are all about

Submitted by Lonnie Blanton

Since December 4, 1976, the Iota Pi Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, at Southern Polytechnic has been developing candidates into brothers of principle. We have guided many into their best college careers possible with every brotherly event. For fall 2001, we gained 16 candidates from RUSH. Unfortunately, all will not succeed in becoming a brother of Sigma Nu, but we feel any attempt will give that individual an edge over someone who does not get involved at all. This semester, like other semesters, Sigma Nu will instill the ideals of Love, Truth, and Honor into our candidates. Through these ideals, we, the Brothers of Sigma Nu Fraternity will aid our members in their academic, business and social lives.

All Fraternities are built around brotherhood, and Sigma Nu is no different. Brotherhood is one of our founding principles. Our brotherhood chairman is in charge of setting up all events to benefit the chapter's closeness and unity. Some Brotherhood events are Brother's night out and the Brotherhood retreat every semester.

Since school is the reason we are all here, Sigma Nu, Iota Pi, is trying to take the Scholarship Committee to new levels. Brothers get together in study groups and candidates are required to maintain study hours. In Sigma Nu, you have an infinite pool of knowledge; therefore, candidates and brothers alike are the best resources we have.

Community Service can be very rewarding, and every year Sigma Nu does its part for the community. Each year, the brotherhood can be seen during the fall season at the Marietta Square giving out candy and prizes to the children of Marietta at the annual Halloween Carnival. Also, in the spring, the brotherhood donates time to help with an Easter Egg Hunt at Laurel Park in Marietta, with one of the brothers even wearing an Easter bunny costume. One of the more special times of the year for the brotherhood is when they place flags at the graves of the Veterans at the Memorial Cemetery in Marietta on certain patriotic holidays.

Even though all organizations cost money, Sigma Nu provides ample ways to generate money

for the members' fees and dues. Our fundraising chairman keeps in contact with businesses that need our support and that support the fraternity; this is the best way to keep all of our costs down to a minimum. Not only does Sigma Nu raise money for its members, but they also donate part of the proceeds from every fundraising event to the local philanthropy Egleston and Scottish Rite Children's Hospitals, as well as the SPSU enrollment fund.

Sigma Nu uses athletics and social activities to relax and kick back after a long week of hitting the books. Each year, Sigma Nu has two very special events for the Iota Pi chapter, Anniversary Party in the fall and White Star in the spring. Anniversary party celebrates the founding of the Iota Pi chapter, and White Star is the annual weekend long formal that celebrates the fraternity's founding. On a less formal note, Sigma Nu has many annual and semi annual parties and events, such as, Hawaiian Luau and Back to School Party. Sigma Nu also takes sports very seriously... of course, its all about having fun.

## WGHR 20th Anniversary Wrap-Up & Upcoming Events

Written by Amy Jalutkewicz

The 20th anniversary of WGHR was a success. On Tuesday, October 2, CAB and WGHR sponsored a "Musical Jeopardy" event for SPSU students. Students were invited to come and answer music trivia questions in order to win prizes, such as t-shirts, stickers, and CDs. On Thursday, October 4, WGHR held a DJ exhibition in the Student Center Ballroom from 9 pm until 11 pm. DJs Matt Womack (DJ Jolly Mateo) and Farhan Rabbi (DJ Farhan

Solo), Emmanuel Clay (DJ Toto), and Winston Huey, a former WGHR DJ.

Finally, to wrap up the week, WGHR held an open house on October 5, with Dustin Grau (General Manager and DJ Justin), Amy Jalutkewicz (Promotions Director and DJ Muffy), and Rich Merritt (Alternative Music Director and DJ Rich Rock). Students and faculty were welcome to come by the station, listen to the music, or sit on the couches in the lobby to just hang out. DJ Muffy, Justin Caratzas, and

Bobby Stevens provided music for the open house.

What is in store next for WGHR? WGHR will begin an advertising push coming up in the next two weeks. We invite all campus departments and organizations to advertise on the station. Advertising space is free at WGHR for all campus departments and organizations. WGHR is also looking to get full fall schedules out around campus as soon as possible so our can listeners can tune in with ease to their favorite shows.

## Silent Hill 2: A Spookhouse on a Disk

Written by Rich Merritt



Like scary movies? Like haunted houses? Like games? Then you have been waiting for a game like this for the Playstation 2 since it's release. Welcome to the world of Silent Hill 2. James Sunderland, the character you control in the game, has been heartbroken over the death of his wife three years ago. One day he receives a letter signed by his wife, asking him to come to Silent Hill. With nothing left to lose, he goes.

Upon arrival, which is where the game starts, the first thing you will notice is the amount of suffocating fog within this game. The fog itself twists and turns within the wind. You can't see very well beyond around 10 feet most of the time. Thankfully, you have a map that can tell you which way you should go and where you are. The map is also dynamic in that if you find something important or a dead end your character will scribble changes onto it. Konami really did a nice job on interiors of buildings too. One of the first items you receive is a flashlight, and when you

turn it on anything that should cast a shadow does so very well. The flashlight is not overpowered either, and thus even with it on most of the screen is still darkened.

The monsters remind me of The Call of Cthulhu by H.P. Lovecraft. None of these monsters appear to have faces, and are usually the color of rusty blood. Be advised that this game is NOT for children, and that children should not be in the same room when this game is on. The game has multiple sexual references in the monster's behavior, even if the only thing still resembling human on some of the monsters is their buttocks. The first monster you meet appears to have legs like a man, but the head, torso and arms appear to be in some sort of body bag. Whatever or whoever is inside is constantly trying to get out of the bag or writhing in pain, but the legs appear to be under something else's control. That's just the first monster. The second will change your views of marionettes

forever.

As far as game play goes, this is an adventure/survival horror game. That means James explores a vast area in search of objects to get to the next area, while dealing with surprises by the monsters, all done from a movie style perspective. Some of the puzzles in this game take a while to understand, but most are not that difficult. Ammo and health pickups are available for pickup in abundance in normal mode. There is no reason really to run out of ammo on normal mode. Health is not quite as plentiful, but there is plenty available. I still have hard mode to run through though, which should be a challenge. HINT: You can't kill the first boss. Just avoid for 4 minutes or so and he'll go away.

If you want a scary game, there is no real alternative with the selection of games available at the moment. The game is a trip into the insane, the unknown, and the shadows. There is no cheesy Hollywood-like fakeness to the experience. I haven't been scared by a game since Resident Evil, which was the game that started the whole survival horror concept on the Playstation 1. I actually had to cut it off after a while just to relax. Enjoy, I'm going back to get scared again.

## Review of Tori Amos' Strange Little Girls

Written by Amy Jalutkewicz



Tori Amos' newest cd, *Strange Little Girls*, is a collection of remakes of male focused songs from a female viewpoint. Amos covers artists such as Depeche Mode, Velvet Underground, Eminem, Neil Young, Tom Waits, Slayer, and The Boomtown Rats. Songs like "I Don't Like Mondays" (The Boomtown Rats) and "Enjoy the Silence" (Depeche Mode) take on old favorites with a new twist. Amos uses her years of classical piano training to transform the old songs into new and exciting tunes to whet the listener's appetite.

The premise of this cd is that a different "personality" performed each song. The cd liner has a differently dressed Tori Amos for each song. For the picture for "97 Bonnie & Clyde," Amos is dressed as a suburban-looking wife. For "I Don't Like Mondays," Amos is dressed as a police officer and for Slayer's "Rattle-snakes," Amos is dressed as an 80's metal head. Each of the visual "personalities" is supposed to represent the tone in which each remade song is performed.

Amos' remake of Eminem's "97 Bonnie & Clyde" carries a chilling view of the song. Her low, almost frightening voice for the song creates the feeling of impending doom

without ever coming near to mimicking the original delivery of Eminem's version. Eminem's version is merely disturbing, whereas Amos gives the listener the impression of a woman who is about to snap. I remember as a child being much more frightened of my mother when she was speaking in a quiet voice as opposed to yelling at me. This song invokes the same feeling within me.

Another song that is redone by Amos is "Happiness is a Warm Gun" that was originally done by John Lennon. Amos gives it an eerie quality by including media sound bites about Lennon's death in 1980. The way that the sound bites mingle with the song can't help but make the listener marvel at the foreshadowing that is implied by Amos' rendition of the song.

Amos provides a cd worth having. When I first heard her newest cd was a collection of remakes, I was wary of it. Generally, remakes do not capture the essence of originals. Nevertheless, Amos successfully pulls off this cd of remakes by branding each song with her unique style, in turn making the song her own. This style can be found in her early remake of "Smells like Teen Spirit," originally done by Nirvana. Nirvana's rendition was fast and dark, while Amos' rendition was slow and haunting. Both renditions achieve the same effect for the listener in different styles that can be appreciated by any connoisseur of music.

## Getting Spooky on Howell 4th East

Written by Amy Jalutkewicz

The Ladies of Howell Hall, 4th floor, eastside, spent the hours of 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm on October 9, 2001 making their hall a Halloween and Fall haven. The first hall social of the year was the first in college life for many of the women, and they were certain to make it one of the best hall socials that anyone had seen.

The women worked on decorating their doors early in the evening while listening to music and talking with their neighbors. They snacked on

popcorn, candy, coffee, hot chocolate, and hot cider provided by the RLT, Amy Jalutkewicz. As the doors were finished, the women were caught up in the decorating spirit and finished decorating the rest of the hall. While decorating the hall, somebody (and it wasn't Cory Valentine, we swear!) cranked up Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and the women gave their best moonwalks down the hall.

The women had the option of decorating their doors for either Halloween or Fall. They worked with

their roommates to decorate the best door possible. The doors were judged at the end of the social by R.A.s Dustin Grau and Jason Allen and by R.L. Michael Dendy. Winners were chosen on the most creativity exhibited for both the Halloween and Fall category. The winners for the Halloween Category were Makarios Sampson and Melanie Bogart. The winners for the Fall Category were Natalie Jakimenko and Meg Mbugua.

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## Disasters in Macking 2 – Nerd Style

Written by Kamie Harkins and Abe Abu-Madi

Hmmm...are these real pick up lines or are they made up? Hopefully, no one has ever said these lines in an attempt to pick up a chick. And if you have, do the world a favor and DO NOT reproduce!

10. "Want to help me erect something?" – our poor construction majors need to get out a little more often.

9. "Hey Baby! I have a massive hard drive. Want to explore it?" – and they wonder why there are so many single computer science majors.

8. "Add me. Subtract your clothes. Divide your legs. And then multiply." – and math majors wonder why they can't get dates.

7. "Wow! I swear that I designed a program like you before! How much virtual memory do you take

up?" - Looks like some Software Engineering majors don't get out much.

6. "I'm designing the perfect love suite. Care to experiment with me until I find the right angle?" – time to wonder what exactly those architecture majors are doing up there late at night in those studios...

5. "Want to see my monkey wrench?" – someone need to teach the mechanical majors that some things need to stay in the toolbox.

4. "I've heard you can handle transfers better and smother than any T-3 out there." – for all you telecommunication major, this is when you know you have spent too much time studying network connections.

3. "My professor told me

how to measure friction. Want me to show you how much friction is generated when our bodies collide?" – there are some physics majors who spend way too much time in lab.

2. "Baby, watch out because you are about to have a fire in the whole." – sounds like someone has been playing a few too many rounds of Counter Strike.

1. "Hey baby! You rank number one on my server." – again, sounds like someone has been a gamer for far too long.

## Theater or Video Store? - October 15

Written by Willis Smith



Shannon Elizabeth stars in "13 Ghosts," a remake of a 1960 horror flick, to be released October 26th.

For those in the mood for a horror Halloween movie, "13 Ghosts," a state-of-art remake of William Castle's film is debuting October 26. A family inherits a large old house from an eccentric uncle. Soon after living there, the family discovers the house has a complex riddle written within its walls and ghost residents. Now the family must race

to save themselves from shifting walls, vengeful spirits and a rogue ghost hunter determined to release the trapped spirits into the world. The only way to escape from the house is for the family to solve the riddle that may hold the key to their freedom or destruction.

A family inherits a large old mansion with a buried fortune in the

original "13 Ghosts" (1960). As the family searches for the treasure, they discover family secrets and poltergeists seeking a new ghost. The family must now run and hide from twelve ghosts and the sinister housekeeper played by Margaret Hamilton whose best-known role is the "Wicked Witch of the West. The movie is also well known for Castle's three-dimension glasses. Theater audiences were given Illusi-O glasses to 'see' ghosts on the screen. In homage to William Castle, the family of the remake needs to wear these glasses to watch out for poltergeists.

Disney's "Monsters Inc." debuting on November 2 reveals the truth about monsters in children's bedroom closets. The monsters live in Monsteropolis and work night jobs scaring little kids. Billy Crystal, John Goodman and others provide their voices to monsters from one-eyeball

creatures to large furry horned beasts. The monsters believe children are toxic to their touch. So when a little girl stumbles onto Monsteropolis, its citizens panic and wonder what to do with the child.

What if a person could only see a lady's inner beauty instead the physical body? That question is put to the test in "Shallow Hal" opening November 9th. A son (Jack Black) takes his dying father's advice to date only beautiful women, not caring about the inner quantities. After suffering many rejections, a friend hypnotizes Hal into seeing a woman's inner beauty as her beauty outside. Hal soon notices hefty Rosemary as her inner beauty Gwyneth Paltrow. The couple is having the time of their lives while the rest of the world wonders what Hal sees in a three hundred pound woman. The audience is let on the jokes by watching Gwyneth Paltrow both as herself and in an obese

suit.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone", the most eagerly awaited children's movie of the year will be opening November 16. Harry Potter lives in the cupboard under the stairs and is ignored by his only living relatives, even on his birthdays. All that changes when he receives a mysterious invitation and learns the truth about his parents, his celebrity fame and the magical school, Hogwarts. The film will take you to the school where mischievous ghosts roam hallways, magic is taught in every classroom and flying broomsticks are used for school sports. However, somebody is searching for the Sorcerer's Stone. Now Harry and his new friends must discover the purpose of the mysterious object and race to find it before its power falls into the wrong hands.

## Zach's Band Spotlight - Jump, Little Children Subculture

Written by Zachary Jones

For this installment, I tackle a subject unbeknownst to many a common individual — the Jump, Little Children Subculture. Perhaps, such an idea may sound absurd. "A whole subculture based around a band I have heard of only a few times?!" you may ask. Don't be surprised. This is not a new occurrence. In fact, the J,LC (Jump, Little Children) subculture has existed for nearly ten years, though I have just recently stumbled upon it. The culture has even existed long enough for their to be "multiple generations," from "old-schoolers" to the "post-Magazine generation."

For all of you not in the loop, the band Jump, Little Children is made up of Jay (full name, James Major Clifford), lead vocals and guitar, Matt (Matthew MacNabb Bivins), harmonica, electric mandolin, tin whistle, accordion, Jonny (Jonathan Grey), upright bass, Evan (Evan Harper Bivins), percussion, Ward (James Edward Williams III, for a story behind that, go back three generations to James Edward Williams, who was called James), cello and electric guitar. Though the band is extremely talented, such talent is not the subject of this band spotlight. The subject centers around the subculture lying behind the band, behind the talent.

Recently I attended an in-store appearance and a concert of Jump, Little Children with a beautiful young woman named Betsy, better known to most "Jump people" as loveJLC115 in her internet presence. Though I expected nothing more than perhaps a concert experience similar to the many other I have attended, I was astonished by a completely different feeling. Immediately I knew that I was not one of them. Let me expound on that feeling. Everyone who I met or talked with seemed to have a vocabu-

lary and knowledge completely foreign to my own. It was immediately obvious to both them and I that we were different in some fundamental way. Later, in explanation of such a feeling, Betsy simply explained to me that I was a "Jump virgin."

"Jump virgin?!!!" you may ask. Imagine a complete subculture based around the band Jump, Little Children centered around an online uniting force. The uniting force calls itself "Opium," a listserve named after a Jump, Little Children song. Here "opiates," or "Jump people," unite, in a way only online-based cultures can do. The best way I can perhaps explain the feeling experienced is as if a little white boy from the suburbs walked up into the ghetto. Immediately I knew that I was different somehow. They knew something I did not. Let me describe to you what I have come to know of such culture.

"It is easy to be a 'jump person'," Betsy explained. However, some "ground rules and understanding" must happen first. For instance, one drunken acquaintance of mine violated one such code of conduct at a recent show by talking during a heartfelt tender song, showing his insensitivity to the "Jump people". Another such rule of conduct is never grab Matt's butt, as made blatantly clear in the last show I attended; and no, he is not gay, for a discussion of such heated topic, sign up for Opium at [www.jumplittlechildren.com](http://www.jumplittlechildren.com) and make a post claiming he is.

On Opium, main cultural figures, as well as many other "opiates," post anywhere from 20 messages a day to 80+

in peak season. Band members post occasionally, as well as write regular (though posted sporadically) journal entries describing the band's activities. Central celebrities such as JumpingAnne and Naked Dave (for a description of either of these characters, attend a Jump concert and ask any "Jump person" in attendance; they will immediately be able to describe them, as the thesis of this article attempts to explain), post regularly to Opium. With a strong online presence guiding

two couple have met, dated, and married all because of the J,LC subculture. Pool parties have been hosted, with "jump people" coming from miles to attend. Their posts to Opium regularly remind "opiates" of the power which has shown itself manifest in the J,LC culture.

Betsy further explained, "If you are a girl (or even guy on occasion), you must eventually make a life alternating decision as to 'whose girl' you are." Betsy said that "after much deliberation," she decided she "was a Wardgirl," adding as a side note after such declaration that "Wardgirls tend to be more intelligent."

The culture, as I have seen, has even approached religious proportions. In an online journal posted October 14, 2001, Matt of the band said, "Thank you for dragging your friends to these record in-stores and shows. I've lost count of how many people have introduced someone as a 'Jump Virgin' these last few weeks, and that's great. As we finish up our southeastern leg of the tour and start to head north, we need more and more of this evangelizing to take place...and in return we promise some fantastic shows." The term "evangelizing" caught my attention. Surprisingly, I perhaps could be described as having been "converted."

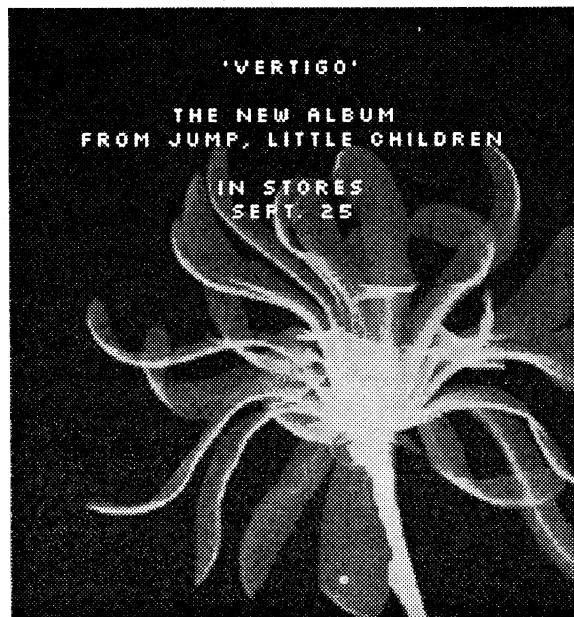
The "Mecca" of the the J,LC culture is surely Charleston, South Carolina. Betsy further explained, "All 'Jump people' have to go once

in your life to see all the Jump important landmarks, such as their house on Coming St., North Charleston Center for Performing Arts, where all bands members attended, as well as many others." Moreover, annually in Charleston, a sit-down, formal show called the "Dock St. Show" is held in late December, joining "jump people" in a presence beautiful to them all. Here new material is released, and old material performed with stunning talent.

As referred to earlier, a new vocabulary is sure to be learned as one becomes a "Jump person." It put me at ease to find out from Betsy that an "Opiate dictionary" was being compiled as we speak, so clearly I was not the only one with much to learn. Phrases such as "Jay's head," "Ward's tongue," and "sketchy" were assured to me to explained in full detail.

The new album, entitled "Vertigo," is currently a hot discussion topic on Opium. The new album, released devoid of a major record label independently, has brought much pleasure to "Jump people." The band has worked to promote its album with a series of in-store appearances, as well as shows featuring the new songs, both of which I have been privileged to attend with a "jump person."

How great it has been to learn about the Jump, Little Children subculture! However, clearly I have much to learn, as perhaps you, the reader, do too. Hence, please check out [www.jumplittlechildren.com](http://www.jumplittlechildren.com) in search of enlightenment, and buy the new album "Vertigo" for a perhaps religious experience.



this subculture, figures such as JumpingAnne (with her website at [www.seven-days.org](http://www.seven-days.org)) guide her fellow "Jump people" with the content of her site.

Moreover, as many J,LC fans regularly make long road trips while following the band, "opiates" nation-wide can post to the listserve asking their fellow "jump people" to help them with rooming while they are in another town, with responses given freely. One recent girl interviewed claimed to have traveled over a thousand miles to attend a Jump concert.

Not only is hospitality rampant in the J,LC culture, but love has even rooted! At least

## Zach's Band Spotlight – 9 From 10

Written by Zachary Jones

9 From 10, surely one of the most powerful and promising Atlanta rock bands on the scene opens this installment of "Zach's Band Spotlight." With talent in every level, a great stage presence and performance, and an EP due out within a month, 9 From 10 surely is making an impression on the local music scene.

The guys, Jeremy Sutton (vocals), Brian McDonald (guitar), Wes

Allen (guitar), Jake Kitchens (bass), and Rodney Beaubouef (drums), brought together in 1996 as a band "on a bet," "by fate," or "as previous friends," depending on which band member you ask, pride themselves on unity. With favorite albums of the band members ranging from Incubus "SCIENCE" to REO Speedwagon "Hi Infidelity," the band carries a heavy but melodic sound, which

has been compared to Deftones and Live.

Moreover, the stage presence of 9 From 10 is sure to please. With a dynamic performance and lots of audience involvement, one show is never the same as another. Though the band highlights the songs off the to-be-released EP, entitled "Paper Cut," they still mix it up with audience favorites as well as incredible interpretations of different

covers, such as "Your Love" by The Outfield and "Get Up, Stand Up" by Bob Marley. Each show has a personal feel which I hope will not be lost with the popularity this band is sure to receive when it receives a record deal.

Currently, the band is working with producer Huston Singletary at Tree Sound Studios. Playing the Club La Vela US Battle of the Bands on October 13th, 9 From 10 holds

hope for a possible record deal. The band as a whole is currently working to "produce good music," "have fun," and "not have to work a real job." For more information on the band, check out the band's official site at [www.9from10.com](http://www.9from10.com).

Check back in the next installment for highlights on the underground subculture of Jump, Little Children.



## Legalization of Prostitution

Written by Daniel Raskind

Since the beginning of history almost all societies have looked down upon prostitution; in most cases it is illegal. Why is this? Certainly not because of the risks of STD's, this is more of a recent problem. Maybe it has something to do with the impact upon families. No, not at all, the reason prostitution is looked down upon so much is that prostitution is the most threatening thing to women in the world. I remember the piece of wisdom my uncle gave to me when I turned 13; just remember this one thing, he said. "You ALWAYS end up paying for it. Whether you know it or not, one way or another you ARE paying for it." He was right.

Sex is such an unfair proposition. Men have a need that is on the same level as food, water, and shelter being held over our heads. At the moment there is an unspoken bartering system in place where every buyer coming into the market is looking for the same thing. The problem is that the suppliers all have pretty much the same terms. And they suck. The

prices depend on several things, for example the quality of the product, the funds / status of the purchaser, and to some degree the bartering skills of the purchaser. But even after the purchase has been negotiated and finalized, things are still erratic. With women, much like a mutual fund, past performance is no guarantee of future returns. And that is the way it goes in relationships. Why do men put up with these poor terms? We have no other choice (well, not a very attractive one anyway). For the lack of prostitutes in our society, ugly women often occupy this position. Though not as desirable, the price is much lower.

History has shown that a monopoly is not good for buyers. Although, for the seller, it's great. Under the current system, it is forbidden to make any sort of spoken deal or legal contract involving sex in exchange for anything else. Even in marriage, which is essentially a contract where sex is exchanged for freedom and other things, like being supported for ex-

ample, there is no enforcement. Once a woman gets her hooks into a man, she can cut him off, and there is nothing he can do. What if a man could sue for sex rather than divorce or money? The legal term for this is suing for a specific performance, verses suing for monetary damages. Alternatively, he could at least go elsewhere for it.

The reason that in the Bible, Victorian society, and even modern America prostitution is forbidden is because women demand it. The same goes for the "family". Who do you think came up with this arrangement? Men? I think not. The convention of marriage is a massive conspiracy for women to control men. Well men, it is time to fight back, by making prostitution legal today so we can regain control of our lives. If we could just drive down to Cheshire Bridge and get some elsewhere, then maybe she'll think twice the next time she gets ready to cut you off until you agree with her.

## The American Flag: A Sign of Oppression?

Written by Michael Rickman

In light of the recent tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001 the American spirit has soared. Flags are flying high on vehicles, everybody is saying "God Bless America," and lots of contributions are being made for the people of New York, as they should. But amidst all the unity and pride, morons persist.

-Two black Muslim fireman stationed in Opa-Locka, Florida. They refused to ride in the fire truck decorated with the red, white, and blue and argued that the American flag was a sign of oppression. The men were given scheduled vacation and the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Director ordered that the flag remain on the truck in memory of the firefighters of New York. The men are now suing for defamation of character.

-At Florida Gulf Coast University a library services head has ordered that employees stop all American Flag displays. She said that "it might be offensive" to some foreign students.

-In a school system in Pasadena, Texas children were sent home with American Flags on their shirts due to.... "inappropriate attire."

-An employee of John Elway Ford in Boulder, Colorado, arrived at work on a Friday afternoon wearing an American Flag bandana tied around his head. The manager told the employee that the bandana was "unprofessional" and violated the dealership's dress code. He told the employee he could wear the bandana all day if he wanted...at home.

-AT & T, which stands for American Telephone & Telegraph I might add, of Atlanta wouldn't allow an employee to display his 3'x 5' American Flag in his office. She said that it might be offensive to some of the other foreign employees.

-ABC, the American Broadcast Company, has prohibited all on air anchors from displaying

American Flag pins. Sam Donaldson, a Canadian, said that all the other anchors were wearing them and he

Continued on Page 18

## A Clarification of Issues in "A Note to the Frats"

Written by Dustin Grau

some reason.

Now, for those of you wanting to stand up for yourselves or argue the points I made, think before you speak. If you really read and understood my article, you would realize that any counterpoints would mean you support heavy drinking and improper behavior of your fellow fraternity brothers. And instead of properly representing your chapter and organization as you should, you prefer to let some individuals drag the name of your fraternity make a bad impression to the fraternity, which is witnessed by the rest of the student body. That, my dear readers, was the point I was trying to make in my article.

I have also heard the argument that non-Greek students exhibit this behavior as well, so it's not that bad. Need I remind you that you represent a national (or international) organization, and your reflection on them is of more importance?

3.) Disagreed with the article and author.

Now, for those of you upset or just wishing to argue the points raised, you can either 1.) Write an article to The Sting; 2.) Talk to me directly; or 3.) Harass my fiancé and berate her with questions about why I wrote the article. Unfortunately, many of you have chosen the last option. If you think you were upset over my article, you better believe I'm even more pissed by those of you dragging my fiancé into this. This shows the level of immaturity being displayed over the whole issue. You should realize that she has no bearing on my opinions in this matter, nor does she fully know my thoughts. I was speaking my mind, and my mind only—that's why the byline on the article only had my name, not hers. My name and email are all over the campus, so you can find me pretty easily, but many of you just failed to do that for

those of you who recognize the problem members and are willing to do something about it).

Finally, I have talked with Lynn Whitlock of Tau Kappa Epsilon this past week, and I think we got a few issues out of the way. The biggest of which was the cause of many of irate readers—my threat of harm if I were to be in an auto accident with you. I apologize for that remark, as it was not part of the issue I wanted to present, but more of a personal feeling as I was writing the article. However, I want to make it clear to some of you, that if you thought that was the worst part of the article, then you better go back and read it again to get the main point.

Web Manager's Note: Points made in this article are in reference to another article published previously. You can read Dustin Grau's "A Note to the Frats - Drop the Stereotype and Grow Up" by <a href="http://sting.spsu.edu/archives/default.asp?issue=20010917&catid=5Opinion&artid=b.txt" target="\_blank">clicking here</a>.

Well, I figure there's going to be some feedback on my last article, but there are a few new issues I need to clear up as well as some apologies to make. First, I'd like to thank a certain member of The Sting for printing my article in the first place, despite his own personal opinions and ties to the Greek community—you know who you are, and I thank you. Next, I'd like to thank those fraternities that have chosen not to say anything about me or the article, because they know it does not apply to them in anyway. I know who you are, and I believe you already know that you were not the target of my article.

Now, I'm betting that some of you have already written responses to my article, and you're going to make some points against my issues. But I'm going to make a few more of my own, based on the actions I've heard from many of you so far. Many of you either: 1.) Ignored the article because you knew it didn't pertain to you or your fraternity; 2.) Agreed that it raises some valid points; or

### The American Flag: A Sign of Oppression, Continued From Page 3

wasn't. So it made him look as if he didn't care about the tragedy. And so, all pins were banned.

These are only a few stories of many. Can you believe what is going on here? It's now considered offensive to some people in this country to fly the American Flag? Let me get this straight. Foreigners come to this great nation, enjoy our educational system, our wonderful freedom, and then turn around and complain that the flag is offensive! If someone invites you over for dinner at their house, do you complain that the food sucked or that you don't like the color of their carpet? As far as I am

concerned those foreigners can go right back to the country they came from. That doesn't go for all foreigners though, good law abiding ones who come to this country to prosper are welcomed. But if you are one of these retards who insist on opposing the flag of one of the greatest countries in the world, then please get into contact with me and I will personally buy you a one-way plane ticket back to the piece of crap country you came from.

Now lets go turn Afghanistan into Lake USA.

Do you share a different opinion? Want to talk to me personally? Email me or tune in to WGHR 100.7 fm every Wednesday night from 6-8 pm. Give me a call at 770-528-7300 and we can debate LIVE on the air.

## Letter to the Editor — A Note to the Frats Response

Submitted by Tamica Jamerson

In the article titled: A Note to the Frats - Drop the Stereotype and Grow Up, Dustin Grau makes a very general stereotype that was without research and knowledge on his part. He associated ALL "frats" with drinking and bragging and continued to dwell on the many encounters that led to this narrow-minded opinion. Well, I'd just like to say that: YOU SOUND LIKE AN AFTERSCHOOL PBS SPECIAL!!! Although most, if not all, of the campus know the organizations you are referring to, I feel a need to educate you on a few facts. There are more fraternities on this campus than Sigma Nu, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Sigma Pi. There are students on this campus that represent Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. These are fraternities predomi-

nately consisting of African American men. I know that when they wear paraphernalia, they wear it to represent their respective fraternities with pride and honor. In reference to the content of your article, it does NOT represent the black fraternities aforementioned. AND on behalf of the fraternities that you were referring to, I really do not feel that they wanted you to take their mother's place when you arrived at SPSU. Furthermore you sound like you have some issues, or need to make new friends. I sensed some bitterness in your words, are you not 21 yet? Anyway, the next time you want to make such generalizations, make sure you do just a little research first, in case there are certain people/organizations you want to exclude. In the event that your article was all-inclusive, not only do you not have a life, you don't have a clue either.

The university is no longer a quiet place to teach and do scholarly work at a measured pace and contemplate the universe. It is big, complex, demanding, competitive, bureaucratic, and chronically short of money.

—Phyllis Dain

## Letter to the Editor — Opinions Are Cheap

Submitted by Kimberly Walker

I am a recent grad of SPSU and more importantly an alumnus of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. I was very disappointed when I read the letter(s) to the Editor entitled "A Note to the Frats - Drop the Stereotype and Grow Up" and the follow up article. As a sorority sister, I had to endure many criticisms about being in a Sorority. I heard things like "you pay for your friends"; "you must be an alcoholic because everyone knows sorority girls drink a lot"; "why would you want to be in a sorority, all they do is party". These "stereotypes" were handed to me by people who had watched "Animal House" or "Revenge of the Nerds" and were too ignorant to realize that sorority life was not as the movies depicted. They never found out that Gamma Phi Beta represented Camp Schelt, a camp for underprivileged girls.

Dustin tried to prove that ALL fraternities are bad because their members chose to participate in a right afforded to American citizens (over 21 of course). But, did he mention all of the GOOD and philanthropic activities that these organizations do? For instance, did Dustin talk about the work Tau Kappa Epsilon does for cystic fibrosis? Or what about Pi Kappa Phi's "Push America" ([www.pushamerica.org](http://www.pushamerica.org))? Did Dustin mention Phi Beta Sigma's "Sigma's Waging War Against Cancer"? No, he failed

to give praise where praise is due.

Dustin also failed to mention the other activities and organizations that fraternity members are a part of on campus. He didn't mention that "frat" guys are part of the SPSU Ambassador program, CAB, SGA, NSBE, ASCE. (American Society of Civil Engineers, ASME (Mechanical) and many, many more.

Dustin did make a valid point. Binge drinking is dangerous. Drinking and driving is dangerous. Dustin also pointed out that people not in fraternities binge drink, drink and drive, and brag. But, to Dustin, this is inconsequential because they do not represent an organization. So by his logic, this means the Ambassador program, CAB, SGA, etc. approves of drinking and erratic behavior since some of their members are in fraternities. I know the heads of some of these organizations and know they do not support this behavior.

Dustin, my counterpoints do not mean that I condone heavy drinking and improper behavior. It means that opinions are cheap and that doesn't exclude yours. If you do not like what individuals do, than don't partake; no one is forcing you. Each of these fraternity members is an individual. They have parents who did not ask you to be a surrogate.

## Letter to the Editor — The official period of mourning has come to an end

Submitted by Joti Chakraborty-Sengupta

Yet, we continue to feel the loss of family and friends.

My grandparents home in 1945.

The World Trade Center in 2001.

Stolen are our homes, gardens, offices, and shops.

Loved people and places taken from us in such a senseless way.

Brings a new purpose to this day

*From this point*

They look down upon us from heaven

The stars shine and we remember their smiles

We also feel their brightness pierce and warn

This is no longer the time to mourn

*we must do things differently, but how?*

We must move forward with courage and live each day

Be kind to others, be tolerant, think, learn, show respect, yet remain careful of those who may

Not share our morals and try to destroy

*Our freedom, our peace, our pride and joy—we must protect*

There is no need to go to extremes. America welcomes all to achieve their dreams

Yet we are vigilant and ever shall be. We learn from our mistakes, as the world can see

Each individual can do his/her part with pride and joy and hope

in their heart for

*our country by being true, by giving what we can, time, resources, ideas, and hope.*

Amid all the loss, there is Hope. Our peace of mind shaken, not taken away. Changes made.

Some will say unfair, drastic, overt, too much — No! It is not!

It is better than any other place. Our goals and our dreams will never again be placed in the hands of thieves. They will try to rob us of freedom.

*We pray and feel strong as we prepare to right the wrong. We can find a balance and preserve our dreams.*

All America needs is intelligence, understanding, and prayer. The blessings of God - whatever one believes. What's in a name? Nothing. The concept should be the same. God will protect us from the dangers of this world and teach us how to make it a better place. We will enjoy peace and prosperity again.

*Changes will happen and standards will rise. New inventions will cleanse the skies, the waters, the earth, and the air.*

The American spirit, they can never destroy. The blood of one color, every girl, every boy brings wisdom from many a past. The future, we are one — one nation under God: United We Stand!

Courage will move us forward. Never again will such nightmares appear, in these United States, which we hold dear.

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

*God Bless America!*

## Letter to the Editor — Heroes All

Submitted by Jim Brown, Environmental Health and Safety Office

Since September 11, 2001 we have heard and read many stories of heroic acts from New York City's public safety personnel, police, fire and emergency medical technicians. Heroes they are one and all. The list of heroic acts just goes on and on.

I suggest to you that all across our great country all the Public Safety People are the same as their counter parts in New York. Every single day they put themselves in harms way to protect us, sometimes from ourselves.

We here at Southern Polytechnic State University are very fortunate. Chief Chasteen is a professional and has built a very professional public safety department to protect us... and they will without hesitation.

Also, the city of Marietta has a nationally recognized Police department. The Marietta Fire department and the Cobb County Fire department have two of the best HAZ-MAT units in the State. (Hazardous Materials response teams) to protect us.

So you see here on campus we are surrounded by professional public safety personnel who will do whatever it takes to protect us as we go about our daily routines.

When you next see one of these people, shake their hand and let them know we appreciate what they do for us daily. Heaven knows we don't pay them enough...

# What to expect: Windows XP

Written by Daniel Henry, Technical Director

The highly anticipated upgrade to Microsoft's Windows 2000 and ME operating systems is coming on October 25th, according to Microsoft. A lot of critics have stated that XP is Microsoft's response to Apple's launch of Mac OS X, the new Unix-based operating system available for the Macintosh platform.

## Comparing Apples to Apples

The Mac OS X user interface sports a new "Window Manager" (as 'Nix buffs call it) called Quartz, under which the new theme for the Operating System, called Aqua, runs. The interface uses a PDF based imaging format to render fully scalable icons and windows on the Mac Desktop as vector graphics. The interface itself is much cleaner and brighter than even the previous versions of Mac OS, already carrying the reputation for being quite pleasant and aesthetically pleasing.

In many ways Windows XP resembles and reflects the smooth graphics and bright colors of Mac OS X; Aqua and Luna are very similar in feel if not in basic color. XP is based off of Microsoft's Networking Operating System (Windows NT), and OS X is based off of FreeBSD UNIX, or more specifically, Darwin (a modified Mach one micro kernel). This means that both operating systems sport some serious networking power, as well as tight security features.

Apple has just finished catching up from the blunderous initial release of Mac OS X from February, during which Mac users were confronted with a totally alien OS that didn't support Home essentials like DVD playback and CD burning. Now Mac OS X (10.1) has been released with these features and more, just in

time to go head to head with the brand new Windows XP.

## New and Neglected

The new Windows OS will bring many new features (such as Internet Connection Firewall, Remote Assistant, and the Files and Settings Transfer Wizard) that will seriously compete with some products that are already available for previous versions. The ICF does a good job of keeping your PC safe from hacking attack, with little or no configuration required. The Remote Assistant allows others to remotely connect to your computer to offer help or fix things themselves. To hold onto your settings from your previous OS, utilize the brand new Files and Settings Transfer Wizard. These features and more add a lot to Windows that will make it much easier to use.

With all good news, there's some bad. Windows XP (so far in Beta Releases) does not come with support for USB 2.0 or Bluetooth. Microsoft did reverse their decision not to include USB 2.0 support in the final version of XP; however, the final release will include only beta drivers. Microsoft said earlier this year that XP will not support Bluetooth until after it's final release on October 25th, and "the method for releasing that support" has not yet been determined. Also, XP will not include support for Java applications. After the recent court loss to Sun Microsystems (after Sun claimed that Microsoft had "violated the terms of the license agreement") over Java Runtime distributions, Microsoft decided to remove any support for Java that was to be included in the next version of their operating system, saying that Java, "represents a lot of code that the vast majority of users don't need."

As for the peculiari-

ties, Windows Media Player for Windows XP will allow you to rip CD's. But the only format it will encode to be WMA (The Windows Media Audio format), and not the expected and highly controversial MP3 audio format. C|Net's Windows XP SuperGuide said the missing support for MP3 ripping "isn't a huge loss for XP users - only a sort of xenophobic irritant."

## Learning the ropes of Luna

Microsoft has said that XP is the most major change to the Windows operating system since Windows 95. The part most responsible for that change (visually at least) is Luna, the new interface for the Desktop of Windows XP. The Start Menu has been re-designed, showing you the most recently run programs and direct access to Internet and Email clients and browsers. However, most all of the original features of the Start Menu aren't far from where they used to be. Windows is now sinkable, so Microsoft also included a "skin" that looks very similar to Windows 2000's appearance, so those users that can't stand the change don't really have to.

## The Smart Tags Controversy

Microsoft came up with a new feature for Internet Explorer that would highlight keywords on web pages automatically. Users could click on them to find out more information that Microsoft had available on those keywords. Many critics found this to be outrageous, claiming that Microsoft had taken too much liberty in the design of its browser by actually rewriting parts of web pages that you visit. After all the hype and angry beta testers, Microsoft decided to remove the default installation of Smart Tags

in Internet Explorer.

## Raw Sockets

Just like the other versions of Windows NT that came before it, Windows XP includes something called Full or "Raw" socket support. This means that developers do not have to write additional code into their applications to provide connectivity to the Internet. Previous versions of Windows for home use (Windows 95, 98 and ME) did not include raw socket support.

The problem is that PC's with operating systems that support raw sockets are very useful in use for hacking attacks. These operating systems make it easier for Internet assailants to mask or falsify their IP (Internet Protocol) address, the unique number that identifies a computer on the Internet. This can be used in everything from launching Trojans (programs that can take control of your computer) and Denial of Service attacks, which is when someone makes an attempt to bring down a website by requesting too much information too quickly. However, other notably stable operating systems like Linux and Solaris also provide full socket support.

## Product Activation

If a single-copy version of Windows XP (the only kind available for home use) is installed on a computer, the user is given thirty (30) days to activate it before it will stop working. This is part of Microsoft's attempt to prevent large-scale piracy of its operating system products.

However, activation is more quick and painless than you might expect. Windows will collect information about ten (10) of your hardware devices. These components are: the volume serial number of the boot disk (created by formatting); the MAC

address (a unique number embedded in the hardware) of an installed network adapter; the PCI hardware identification data from an installed CD-ROM drive, video card, IDE adapter, SCSI adapter and hard drive; the CPU model and serial numbers; the amount of RAM, and whether the system is dockable (laptop) or not (desktop). Then, it hashes out a 25-character-long serial number than you must send to Microsoft. Sending the code is not difficult at all if you can connect to the Internet; if not, you will have to use a telephone. Microsoft will reply with a 44-character-long activation code. Again, if you use the Internet to complete this process, the activation code is retrieved automatically. Otherwise you will have to type it in yourself.

Unlike Product Registration, Product Activation does not require any personal information about you. You'll have to reactivate your copy of XP if you exceed the maximum number of hardware changes or make too many too soon, install your copy on a different PC, forget to activate before the post-installation grace period expires, or, for some reason, do not get a Confirmation ID back from the server. If you need to do this, call Microsoft. They are not supposed to challenge you or ask for any detailed explanations.

For the official Microsoft explanation regarding Product Activation, visit the Microsoft Press Pass website via the following address: <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/newsroom/piracy/productactivationfs.asp>><http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/newsroom/piracy/productactivationfs.asp></a>

# COMICS

## DILBERT

## GET FUZZY

