

# The STING

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## Saxby Chambliss Speaks on Terrorism

By Mark Campbell

On Friday, February 8th, U. S. Representative Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) spoke to students, faculty and staff at Southern Polytechnic State University about terrorism and America's response. Chambliss, a four-term Congressman representing south Georgia's eighth district, is the Chairman of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security.

The speech was one in a series of International Speakers' Forums, hosted by Southern Polytechnic. The four-year state university, located in Marietta, Georgia, offers undergraduate degrees in engineering technologies, architecture, software engineering and social and international studies with an emphasis on global technology. About 3400 students attend the institution.

Chambliss addressed intelligence deficiencies, his most recent visit to the Middle East, bioterrorism and infrastructure security. The congressman also spoke of a public hearing on preparedness held in New York City on October 29th.

Representative Chambliss is a member of the House Agriculture Committee and founder of the Congressional Air Power Caucus.



U. S. Representative Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) spoke to students, faculty and staff at Southern Polytechnic State University

Chambliss is also a member of the House Intelligence Committee. The Congressman is campaigning for the U. S. Senate seat once held by Paul Coverdell and now filled by former Georgia Governor Zell Miller.

The House Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security has three areas of responsibility. "First of all, we were charged with the responsibility of assessing the threat of terrorism against the United States," stated Chambliss. "Secondly,

we were charged with the responsibility of determining whether or not America is prepared for an act of terrorism to occur. And thirdly, what is the ability of America to respond to an act of terrorism."

**CONTINUED ON PG. 2**

## A New Internet Connection

by Dustin Grau

On February 1st, PeachNet and the SPSU IT department switched the campus over to a new Internet connection. This new connection has been in the works for the past several years, and essentially joins SPSU to Georgia Tech via a high-speed optical fiber. In addition, the new fiber connection extends beyond SPSU, as it connects

to the campus of Kennesaw State University. The connection between SPSU and GA Tech is classified as an OC-12, a connection capable of 622.080Mbps transfer speeds. The connection between SPSU and Kennesaw is classified as an OC-3, capable of 155.520Mbps transfers. By comparison, the top speed of

our local campus network is 100Mbps!

Unfortunately, neither our campus nor Kennesaw will see the top speed of these connections any time soon. Currently, Kennesaw is still preparing for their connection, and SPSU only uses 1 OC-3 connection (out of 4\* from the OC-12), which is currently limited to 10-12Mbps by PeachNet. However, this is at

least a 30% increase from our former speed of 7.68Mbps, as provided by 5 T1 connections (at 1.544Mbps each).

So, what do all these speeds and numbers have to do with SPSU? The old T1 connections were provided by BellSouth, with PeachNet

**CONTINUED ON PG. 2**

# Saxby Chambliss Speaks on Terrorism *Continued...*

## Intelligence Needs

Chambliss spoke of two deficiencies in the intelligence community. The congressman pointed out that information sharing and communication between federal agencies was one area needing improvement. Chambliss also addressed human resource needs in intelligence, emphasizing that America did not have sufficient human assets to penetrate terrorist groups and the communities within which they operate.

"For example, of the nineteen terrorists who participated in the September eleven event, all of them came into the United States on a legal visa," Chambliss said. "If we had done our job at the federal level and strictly enforced our visa law, then we would have seen that eleven of those folks went home before September the eleventh occurred."

Chambliss continued, "First of all, there was no ability on the part of INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service] to police it - there are just too many people who come in here on an annual basis on a legal visa to police them staying here no longer than what their legal

visa says they can stay."

"Secondly, there was basically no communication between INS, CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] and FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] with respect to any of these eleven people who were here, and in particular, three of these individuals who were on an INS watch list," Chambliss added. "That watch list is made up of people who are known terrorists or suspected terrorists who apply for and obtain a legal visa to come into the United States."

"So this information sharing issue is one of the deficiencies that we've had in our intelligence community," Chambliss said, "And an issue that we, as federal legislators, have got to address from a policy standpoint, and we're in the process of doing it right now. It's one of the positive things that comes out of a very tragic incident like September eleventh."

Chambliss also addressed a human resources need in the intelligence community. "We have Humint," the congressman explained, "Which is where we send human individuals, or human assets as they're referred to, into a

terrorist group to infiltrate that terrorist group, to become a part of that terrorist group, and provide information back to the CIA, the FBI, whatever the organization may be that hires and sends that person in there."

"A real deficiency- we have a real deficiency in the Humint area," said Chambliss. "We have a deficiency, number one, from a language standpoint. We have a deficiency from being able to take an individual who looks, acts and talks like an Arab, for example, to go into the Arab community."

Chambliss continued, "It's kind of tough for one of you white guys from Marietta, Georgia, to infiltrate into an Arab community and them not know that you're from Marietta, Georgia. You don't exactly talk like them, or have the same background and customs. But it doesn't make any difference whether it's an Arab country, or whether it's in south-east Asia, or wherever it may be."

It was unclear as to whether Chambliss meant the Arab communities overseas or within the United States.

John Walker Lindh, a 21-year old Caucasian

American from Sausalito, CA, was indicted in federal court in Washington, D.C., on ten counts on February 13th. Lindh is accused of conspiring to aid al-Qaeda in killing American citizens. Lindh was captured and present in a detainee camp in Mazar e-Sharif, Afghanistan the day that CIA officer Michael Spann was killed in an uprising. Lindh is also alleged to have met with Usama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda.

A number of organizations in the Arab community have taken exception to remarks Chambliss made at a meeting of local officials in Valdosta on November 19th. Chambliss had said "... just turn [the sheriff] loose and have him arrest every Muslim that crosses the state line." Chambliss has since apologized for the remarks.

According to a November 21st article in the Washington Post, Chambliss personally asked Valdosta Daily Times' reporter Bill Roberts to kill the story. Chambliss also allegedly asked the sheriff to block publication.

Hard Line Taken in the Middle East

Congressman Chambliss also spoke of a recent trip to the Middle East, where he met with the heads of state in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Syria and Palestine. In particular, Chambliss spoke of the messages he delivered to both Syria and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

"We don't have any diplomatic relationship with Syria," Chambliss explained. "In fact, Syria is one of seven countries that is on a terrorist list that the United States maintains. They're a country that we know harbors and allows terrorists to live within their country, and they know that there are active terrorists within Syria."

CONTINUED ON PG. 3

# A New Internet Connection for SPSU *Continued...*

acting as our ISP (internet service provider) as they still do. PeachNet decides how the connections are configured and used, but having the connections provided by BellSouth was rather costly. Marietta FiberNet set up the new connection, but as noted by Ron Skopitz, Director of IT, "The company that provides the [new] connection to PeachNet is likely to change soon due to a new contract. We're hearing that the new contract is more economical, which may very well lead to more bandwidth for the same cost."

Essentially, this all means more bandwidth, for less cost. The situation is best summed up by Mr. Skopitz: "The PeachNet folks determine backbone capacity needs and negotiate contracts with bandwidth providers (i.e. companies that own fiber) to get the lowest price per bit. ...

The USG\*\* does their best to provide the best service to each school based on needs and costs. ... Of course, if we feel that we require more bandwidth than we are allotted, we can always pay an additional amount to the PeachNet to cover it. ... And the neat thing is that, in an "emergency", the PeachNet can increase our bandwidth allotment in a matter of minutes, rather than the weeks/months it takes to get a new T1!"

This also means good news for students living in the University Commons. If the cost of bandwidth is reduced as significantly as IT hopes, it may finally be possible to offer Internet connectivity to the University Commons, without installation charges. "The stumbling block in the past has always been the high cost-to-bandwidth ratio associated with using T1s. I think we can

now provide several Mb/s for the same price. Hopefully we can soon start talks with them about this", adds Skopitz.

In addition, IT is currently working on a fair method of sharing the new connection. They plan to break the campus network up into groups, such as administration, labs, classrooms, residence halls, etc. Each group will be allotted a minimum amount of bandwidth, but each will have a priority assigned to it. For example, labs would be granted a higher priority, and will receive more bandwidth, as they need it, up to a certain point. At night, as usage in the labs decreases, bandwidth will automatically return to areas of the campus that are more active, such as the residence halls.

Notes:

\*Kennesaw uses 1 OC-3 from the OC-12 for their

connection to SPSU.

\*\*USG = University System of Georgia

1Mb/s = 1,000,000 bits/sec =

125,000 bytes/sec = 125

Kbytes/sec

(For reference, a 56K con-

nection can only reach up to 7 Kbytes/sec)



The New OC-3 Router for SPSU

## Saxby Chambliss Speaks on Terrorism *Continued...*

Speaking of the new Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Chambliss said, "About three weeks before we got there, he made a decision to share some intelligence information with the United States with respect to the al-Qaeda operation. After they shared that information with us, we shared some information back with Syria. As a result of that, they have arrested and they're going to prosecute ... three individuals who are known to be al-Qaeda operatives within Syria."

"I was instructed to deliver a message from the State Department, from the White House," Chambliss added, "To the effect that 'We want to thank you for providing us that information.'"

"'But,' I said, 'Mr. President, you've got a tough decision that you're going to have to make,'" said Chambliss. "'We know that Hezbollah is headquartered in Syria. We know that Hamas is extremely active and has a large presence in your country. We know that there are a number of other jihad groups that are operatives [sic] in your country.'"

Chambliss continued, "'And we're going to ask you to make a tough decision down the road because we're going to win this war on terrorism, and you can help us

do it. But you're going to have to provide us with information not just with respect to al-Qaeda, but with respect to Hezbollah and Hamas and a number of other groups that operate within your country.'"

"He [al-Assad] got a little defensive about that," Chambliss added, "Because Hezbollah is a political party in Syria."

After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, Chambliss spoke of the adventure in meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at his compound in Ramallah, a Palestinian suburb of Jerusalem.

"Arafat is under house arrest," Chambliss told the audience. "He lives within a compound, and the Israelis will not let him go out of that compound. They had encircled him with tanks at that point in time. Those tanks were about a hundred fifty yards away from his compound."

"Today I'm sure that if you've been reading the papers, you know and understand those tanks have closed in because of the violence that has continued over there," said Chambliss. "And those tanks are about thirty yards away from his compound."

Just a couple of days before Chambliss met with Arafat, Israeli forces intercepted a ship called the Kirin A. The freighter, loaded in

Iran, was found to be carrying fifty tons and weapons. Israeli authorities claim that the munitions were bound for Palestine.

"We were instructed to deliver a message that had three components to it," said Chambliss, speaking of the White House. "Number one, 'Chairman Arafat, as chairman of the Palestinian Authority, if he truly wants to see peace in the Middle East, we've got to stop the violence over there. He needs to move in the direction of stopping the violence.' That was the first message."

Chambliss continued, "Secondly, we have given him a list of thirty-three terrorists that are known to be living within the Palestinian region. 'You must arrest and prosecute those individuals,' was our second message."

"Third message was, 'With respect to the Kirin A, you must have a full and complete investigation of that ship and all facts surrounding that ship, and if you find that any Palestinians participated in the organization and purchase of those weapons, you must arrest and prosecute them,'" stated Chambliss.

"It got a little tense with Mr. Arafat," Chambliss remarked. "But the guy kept saying that he did want to see peace in the Middle East, he made that very plain to us."

"Unfortunately, two days later, at a bathmizvah in Jerusalem the Palestinian group went in and shot and killed a number of Israelis," Chambliss explained, "And the violence has continued since then. We have seen some positive signs from Chairman Arafat since then, at least he's made some statements about wanting to see peace."

"But as I told him in my last comment to him, we've got to see action. We don't want statements, we want action," said Chambliss.

Security a Private Sector Concern

Chambliss also addressed a question relating to America's energy infrastructure following the lecture.

Both Colonial Pipeline, Inc., and Plantation Pipe Line Company serve the eastern seaboard with two petroleum pipeline systems running through Atlanta. Pumping stations at Colonial Pipeline are protected by a simple chain link fence topped by barb wire strands. Neither cameras nor concrete barriers to guard against intruders are present at these sites.

Asked why such security had not been beefed up since September eleventh, Chambliss said, "Well, a couple of reasons. Number one, there are a number of targets out there, or potential targets, for a terrorist group to

go after, in all parts of the country. There's no way we can provide twenty-four hour protection around every single potential target that exists."

Chambliss added, "Secondly, those pipelines are operated by the private sector and not the public sector. And one thing that I am a firm believer in is that the federal business has no business dictating to the private sector how they operate their company. We're not going to tell them you must have twenty-four guards on that pipeline at every segment of the line."

The same day as Chambliss spoke, Federal Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge told CNN news that further improvements in airport security include making baggage screeners federal employees, screening checked baggage, using more high-tech equipment and adding more air marshals on flights. Airport security, which has been handled in the United States by private security firms, is scheduled to be federalized.

CONTINUED ON PG. 4

## Explosion Rocks Lagos- SPSU Students Seek Aid

By Mark Campbell

An explosion at the Ikeja Military Cantonment near the city of Lagos in Nigeria has resulted in the death of over a thousand people. The disaster, which occurred on Sunday, January 27th, leveled blocks of housing and other structures. Thirty-three secondary and twenty-one primary schools were destroyed in the immediate area.

Corpses from the explosion littered the Oke-Afa Canal. The morgue at the Ikeja General Hospital was filled to capacity, with bodies being stacked nearby. Officials in the state of Lagos said that it was fortunate that the explosion occurred on the weekend, and did not impact nearby oil storage facilities.

The American Red

Cross has joined other international relief agencies in coping with the disaster. A special fund, the 'Ikeja-Nigeria Disaster Relief Fund,' has been established by the Red Cross.

At a meeting of the International Student Association at Southern Polytechnic State University, Mohammed Anjorin, a graduate student in Computer Science, appealed to fellow students and staff for relief aid. Southern Polytechnic is a four year residential state university in Marietta Georgia. About seventeen percent of the student body are international students.

Anjorin, born in Brooklyn in New York City, is an American holding dual citizenship in Nigeria. Having moved

to Lagos at the age of four, Anjorin returned to Atlanta in 1998. Anjorin enrolled in SPSU's Computer Science program in 2000.

"Ikeja is a suburb of Lagos in Lagos state, Nigeria. Lagos is the commercial capitol of Nigeria, which was the former political capitol," explained Anjorin. "Ikeja was the location of the military ammunition depot, which was engulfed in a bomb explosion on the twenty-seventh of January, 2002."

"This unfortunate incident has led to the death of over a thousand individuals," Anjorin added. "The majority of the population was largely underprivileged. The surrounding area also had some affluent members of society

who were affected."

"The explosions were heard and felt throughout the entire state of Lagos. Parallels have been drawn between September eleventh and this incident. It has sent shocks through Lagos and its effects are felt throughout the entire country," Anjorin stated. "The entire country is united in its empathy for the victims and their families."

Nigeria is a nation of one hundred million in West Africa north of the Bight of Africa. Geographically, Nigeria is about the same size as the state of Texas. Although the country has significant oil reserves, much of the population is poor.

Anjorin explained the need for international aid,

saying, "The attempts to help within Nigeria, though highly commendable, cannot match the material needs of the actual situation created by the explosion. Nigeria's socio-economic condition leaves the majority of the people poor, and unable to make much financial contributions to the recovery effort."

"So, that is why some Nigerians in diaspora have taken it upon themselves to raise funds to help those in need," added Anjorin.

CONTINUED ON PG. 4

# Explosion Rocks Lagos- SPSU

## Students Seek Aid *Continued...*

"We hope that Americans will be willingly to raise funds for this effort to help the masses of the Nigerian poor that have been affected by this explosion," said Anjorin. "It is on the same scale as the September eleventh attacks on the World Trade Center. It's in some instance worse because Nigerians cannot make the same level of financial contributions to this effort that Americans could to the September eleventh recovery effort."

"The American Red Cross, with its widespread appeal for disaster efforts all

over the world, has set up a special donation relief fund for this explosion," Anjorin explained. "People can make donations to the American Red Cross designated for the 'Ikeja-Nigeria Disaster Relief Fund.'"

Contributions, which are tax-deductible, may be sent to the American Red Cross at P. O. Box 97809, Washington, D. C. Checks sent to the Red Cross should be made out to the American Red Cross with the memo line designating the Ikeja-Nigeria Disaster Relief Fund.

Anjorin said, "The efforts at

SPSU will go a long way towards aiding the victims of the disaster. At SPSU, we have a large community which is aware of world events. The large international student body helps to achieve this awareness. We hope our recovery efforts at SPSU will spearhead efforts in the larger community to help with this humanitarian tragedy."

"Whatever efforts the public decides to contribute will be immensely appreciated by the people of Nigeria in their time of dire need, to recover from this catastrophic event. There is no contribution too small," concluded Anjorin.

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

### Yes? Then consider becoming an SPSU AMBASSADOR!

The SPSU Ambassadors program began in 1997 and has been very successful. Get involved now! All interested students will participate in a selection process. Faculty, staff and students: please recommend your friends and students who would answer "yes" to the above questions!

#### Informational Meetings: Sign up for an Interview here!

Thursday, February 28 at 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m.  
 Student Center Dogwood Dining Room  
 (Lower level, past the post office)  
 Refreshments will be served

Interviews will take place on March 20, 21, and 22  
 Applications are due by March 6

Questions? Or to receive an application (also available at the Student Center Information Desk): Call Jackie Gilpin in the Student Activities Office, x7374.

# Saxby Chambliss Speaks on Terrorism

*Continued...*

President George Bush, in a budget submitted to Congress, has included \$98 million to equip a new Colombian military brigade as part of the war on terrorism. One of the first missions of the new brigade would be to defend the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in northern Columbia. Attacked by guerrillas 170 times last year, the pipeline is operated by Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

The president's budget also calls for increasing the budget for bioterrorism security by \$5.9 billion while reducing the Centers for Disease Control's construction budget in Atlanta. Asked if he was going to ask the White House to restore roughly one hundred million cut from the construction budget, Chambliss said "Well, actually we've already done that."

"Now, it's not a matter of pulling money away from the CDC at the Atlanta campus and moving it to Fort Collins, Colorado," Chambliss added. "They've got a very important function that the CDC performs at Fort Collins. We need additional facilities at Fort Collins."

Speaking of CDC Construction in Atlanta, Chambliss stated "Under the President's budget, it would not be fully funded this year.

But the budget that the President submitted is just like every other budget that's submitted; it's a road map. It's not an appropriation. It's a road map of the direction in which we want to go."

"In this particular case, the whole [Georgia] delegation is going to be fighting hard to ensure that we get the appropriate funding at CDC," Chambliss added.

A transcript of U. S. Representative Saxby Chambliss' speech is available on line at the Sting at [www.thesting.org](http://www.thesting.org). An audio file is available from WGHR 100.7 FM at [wghr.spsu.edu/news.asp](http://wghr.spsu.edu/news.asp). The Sting is the student-run newspaper of Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia. WGHR is the student-run radio station of SPSU.

Select The Students to Lead You Into the Future VOTE For Your Next SGA

# Computer Science Considering Accreditation

By Mark Campbell

Speaking to student members of Southern Polytechnic's chapter of the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers, Dr. Juan Guzman stated that the Computer Science undergraduate program at the university is looking into attaining accreditation.

Guzman spoke at the February 7th meeting about the test for the Certified Software Development Professional. In addition, Guzman addressed the recent trends towards structuring software engineering as an engineering discipline.

Computer Science programs are accredited by the Computing Accreditation Committee of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The committee was formerly the independent Computing Sciences Accreditation Board before merging with ABET.

Most computer science programs are not accredited. In Georgia, Bachelors of Science degrees in Computer Science are accredited at Georgia Tech, Armstrong Atlantic States University, Georgia Southern University and Mercer University.

At a February 5th meeting, the undergraduate curriculum committee at SPSU considered some minor changes to the software engineering program. Software engineering is not accredited in the United States, although some pro-

grams have been accredited in New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

Draft proposals for accrediting software engineering are under review by the Engineering Accreditation Committee of ABET. The EAC is responsible for accrediting engineering programs in North America.

Changes in the drafts have necessitated changes in SPSU's undergraduate Software Engineering program. It is anticipated that when the accreditation committee of ABET is ready to begin accrediting programs, SPSU's program will be amongst the first considered.

Engineering Technology programs at SPSU are accredited by the Technology Accreditation Committee of ABET. None of the engineering technology programs at SPSU are recognized as engineering by the academic community.

Southern Polytechnic is the first university in the University System of Georgia authorized to offer an undergraduate degree in software engineering.

Georgia Tech achieved accreditation for their undergraduate computer science degree in 1986. Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah achieved accreditation in 1991, and Georgia Southern University achieved accreditation in 1993. Mercer University, a private institution in Macon, achieved computer

science accreditation in 1998.

Southern Polytechnic State University is accredited as a university by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET has accredited SPSU's undergraduate degrees in Apparel/Textile, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Industrial and Mechanical Engineering Technologies.

The Bachelor of Architecture program is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. The Bachelor of Science program in Construction is accredited by the American Council for Construction Education. SPSU's Master of Science program in Management is accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs.

Some programs are not eligible for individual accreditation; in many instances, degrees in the social sciences and arts are not accredited. Instead, accreditation for the university as a whole serves as a blanket accreditation for such programs.

Professional degrees, such as law, medicine, business, engineering and engineering technology often are accredited by distinct boards. Accreditation serves as a stamp of approval certifying that a common body of knowledge is covered in instruction in these disciplines.

## “GEARing Up”

By Angelo Lakra

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to incorporate “smarts” into a physical and mobile object? Sure, robotic autonomy sounds like a great idea, but the word itself fails to describe the effort and brilliance often needed to create such useful and somewhat entertaining devices. No, this isn’t an article about how great AI research is or a warning against a possible coup d’etat by intelligent machines, but a simple reminder that robotic autonomy, whether mobile or stationary, is a useful part of engineering and science which students at SPSU have the opportunity to learn.

In this series, part of parts, or whatever you wish to call it, the four student organizations that will be covered in the next few issues are the following:

General Engineering of Autonomous Robots (GEAR)  
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)  
Aerial Robotics Team (ART)  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

Each organization has a variety of resources that will help interested students learn about robotics. Yet, how does

one know which one to join? Why not join all of them? Though highly possible, it would probably not be prudent to join all these organizations at once for time and focus reasons. Each tend to be geared toward certain majors that will help students in practical applications of their field of study. Having explained a general sense of these robotic clubs, an explanation of each organization begins in this issue with the newest one: GEAR.

GEAR is a robotic organization that seeks to encourage novices and advanced students alike to learn about the subject by personal research as well as collaborative projects with fellow members and other organizations. While being a very open organization to the campus, it doesn’t have the strong mechanical and electrical specialities that ART or IEEE boast, but being a new kid on the block (founded in the Spring of 2000) it does have much room to grow and mature. GEAR accepts mechanical, electrical, and computer science students to the organization through an interview process that finds

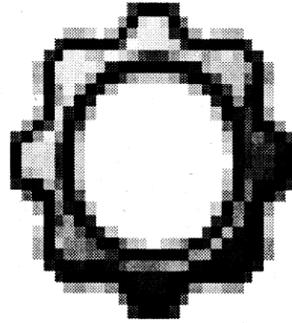
those who are willing to put in the effort to actually contribute to themselves, the other members, and the club itself.

Located in the G-Building, the primary GEAR room (G173) is equipped with computers and electrical equipment necessary to do research and studies of robotic engineering as well as for their academic studies on campus. A media room is also available to the GEAR members in the student center.

Current activities of GEAR are mainly serving the students as an academic resource as well as a center for the current joint project between GEAR and ACM for the ART’s annual competition this spring. Although not given a title yet, this robot will be shot out of cannon (aimed at the window of a house) attached to an airborne helicopter. The robot must then navigate the house looking for “terrorists.” Past projects of GEAR have been the Fire Fighting Robot Competition at Trinity College in Connecticut.

As one can see, GEAR has potential, but that possible reality of recognition is up to its current members since the

club really has no past legacy to rely on. For novices interested in robotics, this is a great place to begin. Advanced students will find GEAR a great place to share and implement their ideas also, but should not limit themselves to this one robotic organization if it does not suit their interests or needs.



## WGHR's New Frequency

By Dustin Grau

At 4:30pm on November 20th, 2001, Osborne & Craig P.L.C. electronically submitted a request for a frequency change on behalf of WGHR. The newly filed FCC Form 301 requests a construction permit on 101.1 FM. This marks the beginning of the 3-4 month waiting period as the FCC reviews and hopefully approves the change requested. Once the construction permit is granted, WGHR will be able to file for the final license to allow full, unrestricted broadcasting from 101.1 FM. This frequency change is needed in order to comply with FCC regulations, due to the close proximity of WGHR’s 100.7 FM to Q100’s 100.5 FM. Also, moving to the newly proposed frequency will prevent any future problems of large commercial radio stations bumping WGHR around on the radio dial. Notice from the FCC about our permit will be given within the next 3-5 months. (See the Sting’s article on WGHR’s recent change from 102.5 FM back to 100.7 FM.)

## What is ACM

By Angelo Lakra

In this next section of “What’s up with Robotics?” series a definition and explanation of ACM is given. I was lucky enough to get an interview with the current president of ACM, Bryce Tate, and he was happy to answer my questions below. And so we begin...

AL (Angelo Lakra): What does ACM stand for?

BT (Bryce Tate): The Association for Computing Machinery.

AL: What does ACM do?

BT: ACM brings together students interested in the field of computing and provides facilities, and resources to expand their education beyond the conventional classroom setting.

AL: How big is ACM?

BT: Currently ACM consists of 21 members, from different

cultural and academic backgrounds including Computer Science, Information Technology, Software Engineering, and Management. We are expanding the size of our organization and are actively recruiting new members.

AL: Is ACM open to students of all majors?

BT: The ACM is a professional organization, which brings students of all majors interested in the field of computing together. The majority of our members are CS, IT, and SWE, but students with other majors are encouraged to enhance their computing skill set by joining ACM.

AL: What are some specific examples of how ACM helps it’s members?

BT: ACM helps its members by providing them with

resources and services like: books on topics of their interests, advanced hardware, hands on experience, and organizing study groups for professional certifications.

AL: How did you become a part of ACM?

BT: I had been at the school for about a year and not very involved with any campus activities when I heard ACM had a student chapter here. I already knew what ACM was because it’s such a large national organization. I met some people in the student chapter here and I was interested in working on one of their projects and I wanted to get involved in school so it was a perfect fit.

AL: What are ACM’s latest projects?

BT: We are currently involved in a joint project with GEAR

to make a fully autonomous robot. The controls are being written by two ACM subgroups, focused on artificial intelligence and computing hardware. Our web development group is starting to design a new dynamic ACM website, located at [acm.spsu.edu](http://acm.spsu.edu)

AL: What are ACM’s past projects?

BT: In the past ACM has worked with GEAR on a firefighting robot, have helped new students register, and provided tutoring services for students.

AL: What is ACM’s future plans?

BT: We are working with the School of Computing and Software Engineering to allocate funds for a new lab dedicated to students for research. It will provide heterogeneous systems, which

students will have full control over. This will allow students to program at the system level and work on different architectures.

We are also planning on attending conferences and events all over the country, ranging from product education, ACM symposiums, and research presentations. Proposed subgroups for ACM include artificial intelligence, web design, hardware systems, networking/systems administration, and graphics/multimedia. Within these groups members can decide to start new projects and participate in national programming competitions.

AL: How do I join ACM?

BT: You can print the application found online at our website, [acm.spsu.edu](http://acm.spsu.edu), or fill one out located at our office in the students center room 264.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 6**

## What is ACM *Continued...*

AL: Does ACM work with any other organization in particular?

BT: ACM has worked with GEAR previously on a fire-fighting robot, and currently is working on an autonomous robot, which explores and broadcasts video of a previously unknown and dynamic environment.

AL: Is ACM to a CS student as IEEE is to an electrical engineer?

BT: For a CS student, ACM covers every computing interest. Its broad scope includes all computing related areas, from programming to management of applications.

AL: What kind of people does this organization need?

BT: ACM is looking for all people interested in the field of

computing. From seniors to freshman, there is a place for everyone in ACM.

AL: Are there any philanthropic motives within ACM's plans?

BT: In the past we have provided tutoring sessions, and will continue helping new students register. We also plan on bringing guest speakers to talk to the student body.

AL: In twenty words or less tell me why I should join ACM?

BT: Through ACM you can meet new people, learn new technologies, gain work related experience, make professional contacts, and have fun.

## The Illustrious History of Ultimate Frisbee at SPSU

By **Crafty Bernardo**

You have seen them, tossing around their disks with their bleached yellow hair. You have heard them, with their potty-mouths and stupid cheers. But what do you really know about the Ultimate Frisbee players at Southern Polytechnic State University? Not as much as you wish you knew. So please, sit back, relax and let me inform you about the history of the greatest club sport on earth.

The first seeds for the Ultimate club first started somewhere in the depths of the Architecture building late, late one night. A young, jaunty fellow by the name of Will Juras called upon a couple of his classmates and said something that will forever be remembered in the minds of those present. He said, "Hey,



SPSU's Ultimate Frisbee Team

you guys wanna go toss a disc (Frisbee) around?" The guys of course accepted and the seeds of Ultimate at SPSU began to grow. Eventually word of mouth spread through out the Architecture building

and the campus as well and more and more people found their way into our games. What first began as just tossing a disc became four on four games of back-yard

**CONTINUED ON PG. 7**

## SPSU Hosts Regional Step Show

By **Meg Mbugua**

The step show was a wonderful experience, especially for those who had never been to one before (myself included). We have to give up to The Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. for putting on such a wonderful event. The theatre was packed to the brim, and people were sitting and standing wherever there was space. We were all waiting eagerly for the show to start and were a little bit disappointed when we had to wait for over an hour before the performance began. That did not say much about the organization of the show, but when it finally started it was well worth the wait!

It started with an introduction by Kenwin Hayes, the Fraternity Historian, and the SGA president, who gave a brief history of the Greek Fraternities and their impact on black history. Next to grace the stage were the beautiful women of the Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity for Women, who sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing". The whole crowd rose to their feet in honor of the song, which is the Black National Anthem and is sung at the opening of various public gatherings.

The first step performance to come up was by the

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from Clark Atlanta University. They were supposed to be "crazy" girls and got on the stage in straightjackets, heightening the curiosity of the crowd. They ripped their jackets off and started dancing, driving the crowd into a frenzy. In their stunning red outfits, they swung and stepped their bodies in full motion, capturing the attention of the audience from the get-go. They put the "A" in "Attitude" and showed the crowd what stepping was all about. From that point on it was obvious that the competition was going to be very stiff! The crowd was ecstatic and gave them a standing ovation!

The audience was looking forward to the next group but their hopes were dashed when they were told that they were going to have a ten-minute intermission. The audience was not too happy about that and decided to stay in their seats. An Alpha brother tried to give a brief history of stepping but the audience was not interested in hearing it. They booed and jeered and demanded for the next performance to come up. This was a shame because not all the people who attended the show were African-

Americans, and therefore would have loved to know about the history of stepping.

When the show finally continued, we had to hand it to the high school children from Spray Berry High School who came and stepped for us. In their white t-shirts and blue overalls, they showed us what their young vibrant bodies could do, and were a force to reckon with! They stepped and danced like their lives depended on it!

The next performance that came on was by the Fort Valley Alphas. Sporting their Egyptian-style outfits, they danced for their "queen", whom they had carried onto the stage. The headpieces that they wore were a little humorous, but that added to the overall effect, making the act an enjoyable sensation. Two young ladies, also known as Endure, then treated us to some food for the soul. They sang a wonderful Christian song that touched the hearts of most, if not all, members of the audience. Mt. Zion Middle School then marched onto the stage and took over like they were in their own backyard. They danced and moved, stepping all the way.

The last group to perform (Georgia State Alphas)

was definitely a wild bunch! They rocked the room and were absolute crowd-pleasers. They came onto the stage looking as nerdy as can be, in their beige trousers, shirts, ties and pullovers. But looks were very deceiving. They almost literally broke the stage floor - we all know they tried to! They also did a small "Boyz II Men" dance, where they were using the chairs to dance, and that is when their true nature came out. They swung those chairs like they were dancing with fair maidens, and rocked the entire room. That was a brilliant climax to a much-anticipated show!

Before announcing the winners, recognition had to be given to all the people who helped make this event mesmerizing and unforgettable. Many thanks went to the Tau Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. especially to Elijah Whitfield, the President, Carlos Neal, the Vice President, Calvin J. Whitaker, the Director of Educational Activities, William Sherman, the Secretary, Lloyd Nelson II, the Treasurer and Kenwin Hayes, the Historian. A special thanks was also given to the proud sponsor of this event, Deborah Wingate,

the Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

It was then time for the judges to decide who had proved their worth and deserved to win. The second runner-ups were the Fort Valley Alphas who took us to the mysterious land of Egypt. The first runner-ups were the Georgia State Alphas and their "fair-maiden chairs". No one proved a match for the astounding red-dressed, talented Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. who stole the evening's limelight. They managed to walk away with the Grand Prize of 1000 dollars!

The time had come for all ladies and gentlemen to call it a night, but not after rocking it in the Student Center Ballroom for the After-Party, that was free for all. It was a time to mingle and mix, to let loose and do a little stepping of our own. All in all, the event was a huge success, an opportunity not to be missed again!

# WGHR Rocks Another Open House

By Dustin Grau

SPSU's campus radio station, WGHR, was out in the open air again with the other student organizations for the open house on Saturday, November 17th. Unlike previous open houses over the summer, WGHR had live DJ's giving a demonstration of their abilities on the new portable turntables. Matt Womack (DJ Mateo) started off the day from the DJ booth in the station, as the live DJ's prepared outside. Chris Walker (DJ Cossix), Dan Funaki (DJ Noodles), and Jeff Ling (DJ Crazyazn) let loose with energetic spins of disco-house and other electronic flavors. Sound system support for the portable setup was given by chief engineer William Burke and general manager Dustin Grau. Promotions director Amy Jalutkewicz also gave a friendly smile to those with interests in the radio station. All DJ's present answered questions about the station, and passed out stickers and fall semester radio schedules to everyone passing by the table. Look for WGHR at the next open house on February 23, 2002.



WGHR Playing What the Students Want for SPSU

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# The Illustrious History of Ultimate Frisbee at SPSU

*Continued...*

(before the rules were known to the founding players) Ultimate. Then a funny thing happened, more and more people started coming. A natural phenomenon on campus occurred and full games of seven on seven were being played. The Ultimate club was no longer just an idea in the far reaches of Will Juras's mind, it was a tangible reality.

The paper work was being written, the planets had all lined up, it was time, time for the SPSU Ultimate club to become official. A president was chosen, the club founder, Will Juras. From his newfound position of esteem, Will collected his officers. He selected one of his oldest Ultimate advocates as his vice-president, a one Chandler Avery. For his secretary

Will chose his architecture buddy Kenji Tillman. Will selected one of his oldest friends, Amir Aryaamir as his treasure. Will's final selecting, and probably most crucial, was Jason Sando as the Grand Chancellor of Sector Five. Will had his core crew of commanders selected; all that was left was a name for the team, a very arduous and difficult decision to make. It was late, even for an architecture student, and Will receives a knock at his door. Will, blurry and red-eyed, opens the door to find his Chancellor of Sector Five, Jason, at his door. "I have it!" shouted Jason. "Insomnia?" Will asked. "No, our team's name" informed Jason. At this point there was an expectant pause from Will,

which was immediately filled with Jason's reply. "Pure Bliss" Jason said slightly above a whisper. At this point Will paused, thought, and smiled inwardly and out. "Perfect", he said.

That night sleep did not evade Jason and Will, they evaded sleep. They spent all night working on a logo for their team that now had a name. As the sun rose Jason and Will dropped their pencils and relaxed, the logo was complete. But still, sleep did not come. They immediately went to Wal-Mart to get spray paint and t-shirts, with some not-so-careful stenciling and spraying SPSU's own "Pure Bliss" now had uniforms. Fast forward now to the present day. It is the first

official year of SPSU's Ultimate club. This year's team is named "Rufio and the Lost Boys." (Again a late-night idea via Jason.) Will is leading the team strong. Douglass Hannah is the Vice-president, Kenji is still the secretary, and Amir is still the treasurer. The team has competed in tournaments as close as Atlanta and as far away as North Carolina. SPSU has played against schools such as Georgia Tech, Appalachian State, University of North Carolina, Clemson, Virginia tech, Emory, UGA, and Duke. A recent high point was the blowout victory SPSU had against Emory's Ultimate team in a scrimmage game with a final score of 15-4. The team has gained exponential momentum and is still going strong.

In closing all I want to say is that "Rufio and the Lost Boys" is always looking for more players. No one will be turned away because of skill or sex. All we want is a drive to do your best. So please, please, please come out and play! We want you to! Peace.

## Book Review Non Campus Mentis

By Joshua Shannon

Have you ever just had your mind go completely blank during a history exam, or you didn't study enough for the exam, and you just put down whatever sounded correct? If so, *Non Campus Mentis* is the book for you. It is a collection of answers that college students gave on tests given by Prof. Anders Henriksson at Shepherd College, the author, and professors from various other colleges and universities.

It is amazing how drastically students can rewrite history. For example, "Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Truman were known as the 'Big Three'." Other gems from students include "Rasputin was a pheasant by birth," "Judyism had one big God named 'Yahoo'," "Marie

Curie won the Noel Prize for inventing the radiator," "The Civil Rights movement turned around the corner with Martin Luther Junior's 'If I Had a Hammer' speech'," "Socrates was accused of sophomorphism and sentenced to die of hemroids," and "Israel was founded despite the protests of local Arabs known as Zionists."

While this book is very funny, it can get very boring if you read it all at once. On that basis, I highly recommend it, but only in small doses at a time.

## Book Review - Bias

By Joshua Shannon

*Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News* is the new book by Bernard Goldberg. Throughout the book, he shows how the media unintentionally make the news have a liberal slant in the news reports. While he mainly tells how it occurs at CBS News, he does inform us that the same types of things happen over at ABC News, NBC News, and CNN.

Goldberg's premise is that the news is Liberal because that is how the reporters think; if the reporters want to have a female comment on the latest news from the abortion debate, they go to the National Organization for Women because, in their eyes, NOW is the logical choice. While that type of

thinking is biased, it is unconscious and not conscious; because of this, the bias is tough to correct.

While this book is very informative about what goes on inside of the network news, it can be difficult to read at times. For example, on more than a few occasions, Goldberg had a fragment instead of a sentence. Sometimes this happened for emphasis, which is understandable and excusable, and sometimes it just seemed that it was overlooked. At other times, the wording was very awkward in places. When this happened, I had to read the sentence or paragraph again in order to understand what was said.

This book is a very good

book to read. While it does have its faults, they in no way diminish the value of the book. While Libertarians and Conservatives have been telling us for years that the media are biased, this is the first time that someone on the inside has written about how and why the bias occurs. Because of this and the usually easy to read nature of the book, I highly recommend that you read it.

## Erin Foley Helps SPSU Laugh a Little

By Willis Smith

Erin Foley, a comedian who appeared in 'Almost Famous' flew from New York City to come to the Student Center Theater on February 7th to entertain the audience. She began by asking students questions about themselves since "the first twenty minutes is just meeting and greeting people." She began her comedic routine by talking about how few people has arrived to hear her, the problems of sleeping on airline flights, and going through customs where the first question officers always ask is "Have you purchased any products that can be derived from an endangered species?"

She then talked about problems with parents driving on roads, especially her mother who "would drive with the steering wheel against her chest and the rear mirror behind her head." She talked about her experiences with college, her 'creative' attempt to write a screenplay and the craziness people go through to run a marathon from smearing Vaseline all over their bodies for the race to pushing their babies in baby strollers 26 miles at 10 miles per hour.

She talked about Twisters candy as the perfect midnight munchies and revealed the hilarious simple secret to why one brand is the biggest selling beer in America. She commented on the troubles with big shopping malls like Cumberland Mall in Marietta,

"You go in trying to find a white soap bar. That's not going to happen. They suck you in. . . I brought 75 products in 17 minutes and I went in to buy one white soap bar. . . It was the most relaxing bath I ever had (using the 75 bath products) but when I got in the bathtub, it was a complete oil spill. . . My roommate is pounding on the (bathroom) door shouting 'Valdez, Valdez, Valdez!'"

She talked about getting caught up in the moment at concerts, cremations at retirement homes, outdoor sports on cable sport channels, and how hard it is to talk to people with a bandage on the side of their face. "Bandages become homing devices for the person to glance at. I may seem to be looking him where I am actually focused on that stretching bandage that

moves as he talks."

She would not even go to a party she received an email invitation with seven explanation points, on the ground of explanation points abuse. One explanation points means important, two means you're really excited about it, three explanation points means you are going little overboard with the party but seven points is a sign of explanation points is abuse and a warning the party is going to be so boring.

She questioned the purpose of a library's 24 hours emergency hotline, "Why do they need a hotline for, like two o'clock in the morning, I'm gonna to call, 'Help, I lost my book!'" She ended the show pondering the bizarre world of the National Spelling Bee competition. It was a wonderful, laughing night Erin Foley provided and I wish more people came to hear her.

## I'm Back!

By Mercedes

The day before school started, I flew from London to Atlanta. I was not sure what to expect but it became quite apparent when I stepped off the plane to greet bitter custom agents with ridiculous questions. I felt the coldness of America greet me. I was not so sure about this; England was pleasant and everyone seemed cheery. The beginnings of irritation began with finding a ride from the airport to my house. After a dozen or so phone calls, my good friend Rock Star Rick picked me up. It took him an hour. That entire hour I was kicking myself. The trip to London is much easier- as I have never had any issues getting into the country. The customs officials are pleasant and I can get onto a clean train from the airport, buy a newspaper and

snack on the train, and then get off to walk to my destination. Life is simple in England.

I was so preoccupied with the journey back that I did not realize it had snowed in Atlanta. All I knew was my stomach was flopping and school started the next day. I had yet to register, so I knew the next day was going to be a nightmare.

After many years of not being on campus, I noted it had not changed (with the exceptions of new buildings and a few more females). I spent my day at admissions sorting out registering and still feeling ill about my own country, not to mention being nervous about being back.

CONTINUED ON PG. 9



# A Hostel in the Forest

By Mercedes

I've always been a fan of camping, but sometimes it becomes too dirty for me. For a more sanitized camping experience, I suggest you to try Brunswick, Georgia's A Hostel in the Forest ([www.foresthostel.com](http://www.foresthostel.com)). It cost \$15 a night per person and while that may seem like a hefty fee, know that dinner is provided and you will stay in a tree house.

The tree houses are beautiful- most of them are 15-20 feet off the ground and overlook a lake or the forest. They are enclosed by screens, have mattresses and lack electricity (however, candles are provided). That's right, you will have to leave your laptop at home and say goodbye to your dear old cell phone.

On arrival, you will park your car in a lot and then walk down the path to the office. This is where you will pay and find which tree house you will be staying in. You also will get



a tour and a brief history about a Hostel in the Forest. Dinner is always a treat. Generally 5-10 people help make it (and it's actually really good); most diets are considered except they do not have any kosher food. Before dinner, everyone gathers around to introduce himself and to tell what he is thankful for.

In the evenings, most people take part in the planned activity. The last time I was there it was a talent show. It ranged from poetry

readings, group songs and guitar playing to a Mexican dancing dog. After the activity, most people either play pool or chess, or they may start a campfire, or go skinny-dipping in the lake. If you wish to be alone, you can go to the meditation house where you can hang in a comfortable swing.

In the morning when you are ready for a shower, you have 2 choices: a shower that is closed in on two sides or one suspended from a tree in the open (this one is the better

choice). At first it may seem strange to take a shower in the open, but no one is looking and chances are you will not see anyone anyway. Both shower facilities provide a pleasant bonus: hot running water that never runs out. The hostel also provides shampoo, conditioner and body wash.

After your shower, chances are you will want to use the kitchen to cook breakfast or use the library for reading time. Or maybe you will want to sit on the porch and feed the ducks. If you're feeling adventurous, you can canoeing or go swimming in the nude (or clothed). No one cares what you do or what you are wearing.

Regardless you will be in the middle of the forest, without the smells of the city and the honking of horns. Here you can gather your thoughts in comfort and enjoy the quiet. You can even study. In fact this place is probably great during exam time

because people respect you enough to not bother you. Also, the people here will not judge you, nor will they make fun of you. These people do not have preconceived notions about you and are more than willing to extend a helping hand.

The only warnings I have are to make sure you label your food or else it becomes apart of the community. When you leave, donate all extra food to the community so they can use it for dinner. Also, you must do one chore a day (I swept off the deck to my tree house). Oh yeah, you may want to bring some bug spray!

Directions: take I-95 to exit 29. Go West on highway 82 for 1.5 miles. Hostel will be on the left around the 11 mile marker. You must do a U-turn around the divided highway. Hostel entrance will be on the right.

## I'm Back! *Continued...*

I was miserable walking from building to building, meeting with this person and that person in order to get this form signed and that form signed. It was a hassle. I have no patience for form filling and signatures. I wanted to hop on the next plane leaving this country and I really did not care where it went. Obviously, I forced myself to stay.

I started to feel better about my circumstances when I met a gentleman from Bosnia in the admissions office. He made me laugh and after I talked to him I felt guilty about being unhappy in America. After all, he came from Bosnia and I imagine it was not too pleasant over there. I then ran into my old flat mate who threw a plant at me when she moved out. Despite our bitter past it was nice to see her; we are even getting together this week. Next I ran into a friend who lived across from me in the dorms. She was in disbelief that I was around, for I had only sent a brief e-mail in 3 years. Since the first day, I have run into more people than I imagined who actually remember me. They all have the same questions: where

have you been and what have you been doing?

So now I'm feeling much better about school and my social life. Nothing of significance has changed with my friends. They wear the same clothes; they go to the same places; they eat the same foods. I on the other hand have changed. I think I forgot who I am.

Traveler. Wanderer. Bird. I can not commit to an apartment, a city, a job, a pair of shoes, to a person or even my own name (thought I'd change it). I have an addiction: traveling. This world has so much to offer; it has a lot to experience. I thrive for new places; I seek new foods. Is it wrong that I feel more comfort in a hostel than in my own house? I have problems committing to friendships because I wake up some days and decide "I'm going there." I create wakes of all kinds (for those who know me that part won't change). So this year I've decided to stop making rash decisions.

This year may be an epiphany for me. I do not make New Year's resolutions for I feel setting a date to

change one's self is a silly idea. I feel 2002 will be about learning. I feel the need to educate myself further. I also probably need to settle down and start building strong friendships with people that stay in one spot. I need to stop floating to each idea that passes in front of me. So this semester, I'm putting the effort into staying in one place. I probably will see you on campus. I may even see you in the gym (that is if I ever go there). I'm actually committing myself to the paper! This semester if you pick up this publication, you have the option to read my bits on travel and listen to my outlandish ideas. Be assured lots of jibberish will be coming your way.

## A Day In the Life of a Shot Clock Referee

By Joshua Waid

It was a Saturday afternoon. I was just opening my eyes and getting ready to take a shower to go to the SPSU vs. Brewton Parker game, when someone began banging on my dorm room door. All I could think of was who or what would be crazy enough to be banging on my door on an early Saturday morning? At 1:00 in the afternoon, only the elite few who have no fear of death would even attempt to rouse me from my slumber. When I opened the door, I was surprised to be greeted by Rocky the RA from down the hall.

He asked if I wanted to be referees at the game because they were short a shot clock referee. I said ok and followed Rocky. After walking to the gym I saw all the regular people I am used to seeing at the game and said hello to them. He then introduced me to the coach who I already knew from a previous interview for the Sting. Then the coach then showed me how to work the shot clock. I practiced a couple of times

until I got the hang of starting and stopping it. Then it was time for the game to start. One of the refs then gave me a pin stripe jersey and I was ready to go.

I started off kind of bad because I never really realized how fast the game went until I sat on the floor at eye level at with the players, but eventually I caught up and began to do well. The main referees scolded me a couple of times because I was not setting the clock right or I that I had missed the ball hitting the rim or something, but it wasn't that bad. I never will forget the experience and I hope I can repeat it again sometime.

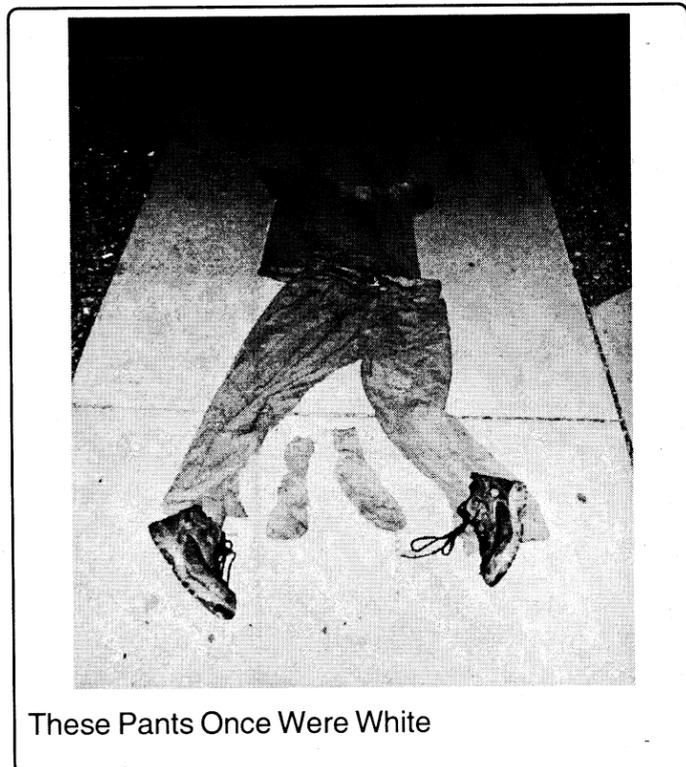
# Spelunking Makes You Dirty

By Dave Bachtel

At 7 AM last Saturday my alarm went off. Out of instinct, I slammed my fist on snooze and rolled over. It was a cold, February morning (only because I had been stupid enough to fall asleep with my dorm room window open) and my roommate was out of town. As I sat up in bed, I realized that the 1AM trip to the "Casa De Waffles" the night before had been a bad idea. Today was the day I was supposed to go caving in North Georgia with my friend Stephen from church serving as a guide.

I had never been spelunking before, so I really didn't have a clue as to what to expect. When I hear the word "spelunking", images of caves with bottomless pits and of people being pulled out of holes in the ground on stretchers come to mind. Spelunking is actually a safe sport in comparison to sky diving or Russian roulette.

I got showered, suited up, and got my gear together. Two mini-mag flashlights and a \$4 trip to Goodwill took care of gear and old clothes that I needed. We arrived at the park at around 9:30. The group I was with consisted of three other people and a guide. Two of them had never been Spelunking before either. Helmets were passed out and we were instructed to securely fasten both mini-mag flash-



These Pants Once Were White

lights to the helmet with duct tape. The hole in the earth was nothing special, and a lot smaller than I had expected it to be, maybe 3' x 5'. This in turn, opened up into a much larger cavern. One interesting thing about caves is that despite the temperature outside, the temperature inside remains constant year round. On this particular morning, it was around fifty degrees outside the cave and a constant sixty five degrees inside the cave.

The first part of the decent was fairly easy, only hindered by the occasional slippery rock. The first challenge came from a tight pancake squeeze. The ceiling descended to meet the floor

and form two parallel pieces of rock, separated by 1.5' at the center. The only way beyond this point was to crawl in, belly down then lay flat and pull across the floor. This was the hardest part of the decent for one of our group who was claustrophobic, but with a little coaxing, he made it through fine.

A few more caverns and short climbs led into a bigger cavern with two ropes descending down a tiny hole. We then followed a small amount of water upstream and then took a break for a quick lunch consisting of nasty tasting protein bars and some gummy bears. As we stopped to eat, the voices in another group of people could be heard laugh-

ing and carrying on, although we couldn't tell what direction they were coming from.

We bumped into this group around the corner. These three were first people we had encountered since entering the cave two hours earlier, and they were covered from head to toe in red mud. I didn't understand how they had gotten so dirty but I found out soon enough. They said they had just come from the waterfall, and that parts of the tunnel ahead were a little flooded.

This leg of the trip was the most fun yet fatiguing. Everything was completely covered in mud and slippery. After hitting my head an uncountable number of times on the low ceiling, I came to the conclusion that I would have been a mental patient with severe brain damage if not for the sake of the helmet that I was wearing.

As we approached the waterfall, I thought I heard what sounded like a diesel engine. It turned out to be the waterfall flowing at full force, we climbed up the side of the waterfall and had reached the end our little expedition. It had taken four hours but it only seemed like two. The return to the surface was nearly uneventful. One of my mini-mag lights fell out of the wet duct tape on my helmet so I slipped it into my pocket and contin-

ued with half the light. By now, the damp clothes and the cold water we were wading through was getting to most of our group, and everyone had already began thinking of the warm shower that would await each of us back in our homes.

Back at the pancake squeeze we encountered a road block of a group of about sixteen people, mostly teens or middle school age, without helmets or flashlights. I smiled as I looked down at myself, shivering and completely covered from head to toe in mud. I sincerely hoped that these people were not going to attempt to get down to the bottom of the cave as unprepared as they were. We waited our turn, shuffled through and were back on the surface at 4:30, seven hours after entering the cave's mouth.

A near-perfect day was finished off with a stop at a local BBQ joint, a quiet drive home, and a shower with unlimited hot water back in the dorm. It seemed as if the alarm clock going off that morning had been two days ago. I was completely exhausted. As I climbed into bed I knew that I would definitely have to do this again, soon.

## Future CAB and Cultural Series Events

By Willis Smith

February 20, The Student Center will host art exhibits from Fine Arts Gallery of Marietta that feature outstanding artworks of African-American artists in the Ballroom from 11 am to 2 pm.

Thursday February 21, is the time to support the Hornets and have dinner. CAB will be sponsoring a free meal to all fans supporting the school team play against Faulkner University at 7:30 pm at the gym. There will be free mini-Sub and a soda individually for all SPSU fans. Go support our basketball team!

Tuesday February 26 at the Student Center Dogwood Center (Lower Level), it is German Culture Day! The Cultural Series is saluting Germany this semester with a lecture, some music and even eine kleine schnitzel. Come to a lecture on post-war Germany by Dr. Michael Menturch, director of Goethe Institute. Jacob Herzog, accordionist, will play some German music and there will be Deutschland food samples. Refreshments will be provided at this free event for the SPSU community.

Thursday February 28, "Black as a Culture, Not a

Color" discussion panel with SPSU faculty and students will be held at Howell Hall Conference Room from 6 pm to 7:30. This seminar is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Wednesday March 6, CAB will host the annual Casino Night. From 7 to 10 pm at the Student Center, play with fake money Las Vegas style! The more money you win, the greater odds you have to win over \$1,000 of prizes: a boom box, restaurant gifts certificates, DVD players, SPSU items, CDs music and more! Play and see if Lady Luck is with you that night!

Friday March 22, *The Importance of Being Earnest* will play at Marietta Theater in the Square at 8:00 pm. One of Oscar Wilde's wittiest Victorian farces, Jack Worthington tries to avoid certain social responsibilities and invents a younger brother, Earnest, setting off a string of mistaken identities. A Wilde ride parodying stuffy society and manner. Student tickets \$5 on sale 3/18 at the Student Center Information Desk, if tickets remain, \$10 for faculty/staff beginning 3/21.

Thursday March 28 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, the International Student Associa-

tion will host CulturalFest 2002 in the Student Center Ballroom. CultureFest is a celebration of culture featuring a fashion show, international music and dance, ethnic food samplings, and exhibits. The International Students Association is sponsoring the 13<sup>th</sup> annual international festival, so come eat, play and learn about the world!

## A Dark Valentine's

by Willis Smith

Many think of Valentine's Day as one of the most romantic days of the year but there are problems with that. With Valentine's Day focusing on the happiness and benefits of couples celebrating their love, the singles are left out and feel frustrated that they don't have a partner to celebrate with on that day.

Specials for couples or Valentine theme dances or events really make singles feel even more lonely, especially those who have loved someone in the past, but are single this year. Men and women as well all spend their money on roses, flowers, and candies some women may not want to eat for that one day of the year to show their love for their partner. One day out of 365 days a year, we shower our sweethearts with flowers, heart-shaped balloons, and candies on St. Valentine Day. Instead of putting all that efforts into one day, why not surprise your love one with simple cards, candies, flowers once a month throughout the

year to keep her off guard with your generosity, concern and love. That is the best way to keep alive the romance in a relationship - spontaneous handmade or bought gifts and loving care.

Valentine's Day was never a conspiracy by Hallmark Card and candy companies. They decided to exploit it to their advantage to cash in on the poor suckers shelling out money for apologies after fights or Valentine's Day. Why not pick out wild flowers by yourself or make homemade sweets in the kitchen. It's free, you know how healthy the food is, your sweetheart won't think you are a sucker for not parting with your dollars, and she will be impressed you can actually cook instead ordering out!

The only thing worse than being alone on Valentine Day would be getting dumped on February 14th, as that would be depressing enough without this special day. Second worst thing would be receiving a marriage proposal. Being proposed to on

## A Hopeful Valentine's Day

by Rich Merritt

I am single, and I have no real plans for Valentine's Day. It's highly likely that I'll be here on campus all day Thursday. So why do I have a reason to feel good about this "Day of Love" and not in some sort of emotional angst over this day? Well, it certainly helps that my cousin, Kelly has her birthday today and I can call her and wish her the best. I also can't hurt that I'm alive. But even that is kind of a joke for some, as some people wish to die so they don't feel the pain of living. So

Valentine's Day is the least original idea of giving marriage proposals to women. Some of my friends have birthdays on February 14th and are used to family and friends forgetting their birthdays due to the hype spinning around Valentine Day.

But what do I know about Valentine Day and all its heartache troubles, romance and relationships? After all, I am just a single college student looking forward to a stressful heartfelt couple-celebrating day.

what is it that makes this day not suck? It's a four letter word that anyone can appreciate. This word is hope.

No, I'm not talking about the scholarship, I'm talking about hope. Faith. Belief. Optimism. Hope. You do a search on the internet for "hope" and you get associations, companies, foundations, a few cities, and a college. None of these really symbolize correctly what hope is. I find it surprising that [www.hope.com](http://www.hope.com) hasn't been taken. In reality, to hope is simply to wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment.

The only way that you can really appreciate this day is if you stop trying to outperform other people, relax, and hope for the best. Hope that tomorrow will make today worth the time you put into it from the sunrise to the sunset. This year I hope that next year I may be able to celebrate Valentine's Day in the normal sense of the word. This year I guess you could say I am counting my blessings and am

happy simply to be free from my past.

Hope and regret are opposites it seems. Regret is an unchangeable unreasonable burden many people tend to bear... And after seeing others bound and controlled by their burdens, I feel sort of sad for them, but now I realize it's their choice. You can't change people. I've learned that lesson painfully. What's harder to accept as true is that honestly you can't directly control the change that occurs within yourself, you just recognize the differences in who you are becoming and who you are now, and adjust, hoping who you think you will be will be you.

Also, for the most part hope tends to be a much better use of time than regret. I doubt there is anything that can stop someone from being happy more than this mild misery. Certainly there are lessons to be learned from regret, but if you let regret control your life, then you will find no happiness on Valentine's Day, single or not.

## An Empty Valentine's Day

By Mercedes

Last week, I got together with a friend and she asked the familiar question, "Are you seeing anyone?" I was not sure how to reply so I said, "I have a half-a-boyfriend." Let me explain- I was dating a gentleman who recently left to start a job in Korea. We left each other on good terms and the last time I saw him was at the airport in London. We are both practical people and we knew long distance relationships generally don't work, so we agreed to go our different ways. I guess most people in this situation have a bit more to add on, like I do. It feels this relationship is not quite over as he left me a few things...

He left his beloved car, a 1986 Lincoln town car. This was his dream American car and even though I was not fond of it in the beginning, I have come to love it. Perhaps it is the fact that each morning I walk out of my house to see this big blue tub sitting in my driveway and I think about the many great times we had in this car.

The car, like us, is a traveler. One of my most

memorable experiences was driving to Memphis and attempting to find the Mississippi river. At one A.M. we found ourselves lost in Arkansas, so we decided to get out and look at the moon. When we got back into the car, we realized the "NO OIL" light. We both remaining calm, we decided to pitch a tent in a cotton field and flag down a passerby the next morning. Rick is the only person I know who could remain so calm in the middle of nowhere with no oil.

On the same trip, on the way home, my dog vomited in his car and on his suit. Being the true gentleman he is, he would not let me pay for the car wash or for the dry cleaning bill - even when I pleaded with him. He also became fond of my dog, the fair Lady Beignet. He would spoil her, as he spoiled me, as she would get long walks and doggy treats. I always imagined their walks much more exciting than the ones I gave her, for he always came back with interesting stories to tell. And when we said goodbye, he made me promise that I

would give her two treats a day and two hours of quality play. He even called to make sure I was following through.

Rick's excitement went with the car. When on vacation in Toronto, he became excited to see the "one mile till empty" light. I imagined he enjoyed the adrenaline rush of possibly running out. He loved fitting six people in the car so he could torture us with Bob Marley. He loved watching movies at the Star Light Drive In. Rick would gleam after he had the town car washed, which always made me feel guilty, for I've never cared for my car the way he did. Rick bailed me out lots of times. I would lose my check card monthly often forcing him to pick everything up. I would lose my car keys or my driver's license; he never seemed to care. He always reassured me it would be okay. So when I lost Rick's car to the Atlanta Police Department my stomach flip-flopped. This was one parking mistake that could not be repaired over night. I also lost Rick's tag and title, which complicated things. So when I

told him about it he sent me an e-mail stating the car was just a car and it was nothing to worry about. I was amazed with his kindness; I only hope that I can return the favor in a crisis situation.

I'm not sure if Rick really wanted me to have his car or if he felt forced because he could not sell it on such short notice. So now I'm left with the responsibility of selling a part of him that I have grown to love.

In addition to his car, he left me his friends. He left his flat mate Rock Star Rick who has equally as many cobwebs as I do. I have seen Rock Star Rick once since we were in Scotland. Our conversations were always few and far in-between... I believe for both of us, Rick allowed our thoughts to flow freely. I miss hanging out with Rick for I sometimes feel that he avoids me and I wonder why? More than likely, times have changed and we are all going our different ways. He also left his chess-playing mate, Tim. I believe Tim has had one too many evenings dealing with my tears, but he's willing to listen

and we are quickly becoming good friends. We spend many of our evenings discussing our half-boy(girl)friends. These days Tim and I play chess or backgammon, which I guess is Tim's way of replacing Rick. Regardless, the compound in which we lived has changed and the air seems thicker now. No longer does the air seem light and musical; these days it seems stale and dull. Some of this is contributed to no one being the center of attention, no one walking through the door announcing his arrival, no one instantly making us smile...

Summer is around the corner, and I'm ready to get rid of the Town Car, even if it has air conditioning, fits 6 people and is fun at the drive in. It will be nice to drive my car, top down, hair flowing and being with my best friend (Lady Beignet). New trips will come my way, but they will not hold the enthusiasm and the excitement that the Lincoln once did.

# Presidential Candidate

# Council Member Candidates



**Randall Ware**  
 Phone: 770-365-2847  
 Email: rware242@aol.com  
 Major: Software Engineering  
 Class: Junior

Clubs/Organizations

SGA - Vice President  
 GEAR - President  
 GSPE - Board Member  
 Tau Alpha Pi - Honor Member

**Corey Layton**  
 Phone: 770-386-3230  
 Email: laytoncorey@hotmail.com  
 Major: CPET  
 Class: Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations

STING - Writer/Layout + Design Manager  
 SGA - Council Member  
 Sigma Pi - Brother

**Dianna Gill**  
 Phone: 770-493-6327  
 Email: dalexax22@aol.com  
 Major: CS  
 Class: Junior

Clubs/Organizations

ACM - Secretary  
 GEAR - Member

**William Norris**  
 Phone: 404-234-5290  
 Email: willnorris821@hotmail.com  
 Major: Architecture  
 Class: Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations

Beta Sigma Chi - Pledge Historian  
 Boy Scouts of America - Eagle Scout  
 Fayette Co. Liberation Party - Chair/Founder



**Nick Hanratty**  
 Phone: 770-429-8048  
 Email: spsuscily@yahoo.com  
 Major: Management + Spanish  
 Class: Junior

Clubs/Organizations

SPSU Ambassadors - Ambassador  
 SGA - Internal Affairs Chairman  
 Inter-Greek Council - Secretary/Treasurer(2001), President (2002)  
 SPSU Dept. of Residence Life - RA (1999-2001)  
 Beta Sigma Chi - President (1999-2000), New member educator (2001-2002)



**Laura Payán**  
 Phone: 770-965-9472  
 Email: jpajon00@hotmail.com  
 Major: Architecture  
 Class: Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations

AIAS - 2nd Year Representative  
 Campus Activities Board - Public Relations  
 Summer Orientation - Orientation Leader



**Christopher Ryan Kelley**  
 Phone: 770-926-2812  
 Email: ck72782@aol.com  
 Major: CPET  
 Class: Unknown

Clubs/Organizations

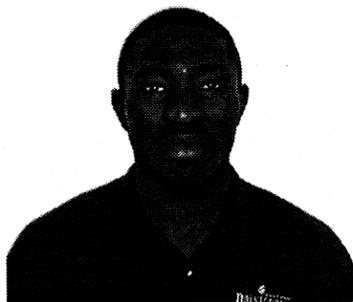
GEAR - Unknown

# Vice-Presidential Candidate

**Adefolarin Adeleye**  
 Phone: 770-991-5619  
 Email: aadeleye@bellsouth.net  
 Major: CPET and Management  
 Class: Junior

Clubs/Organizations

SPSU SGA - Election Committee co-chair, Business + Finance member  
 AMC SGA - Acting President  
 Board of Regents - ADR  
 Taskforce member  
 Student Advisory Council - Voting Delegate  
 AMC International Students - Coordinator, President  
 SPSC Soccer Club - Active member



**Kamisha Hammond**  
 Phone: 770-421-0581  
 Email: khammond30058@yahoo.com  
 Major: Mathematics  
 Class: Junior

Clubs/Organizations

SGA - Council Member  
 Student Ambassadors - Student Ambassador  
 ROTC - Recruit  
 Drill team - Member  
 Foreign Language Club - Member  
 Journey - Orientation leader



**Carl D. Neal**  
 Phone: 404-226-1217  
 Email: carlosneal@hotmail.com  
 Major: TCOM  
 Class: Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations

Alpha Phi Alpha - Vice President  
 SGA - Council Member  
 Men of Distinction - Treasurer



**Maxwell Odum**  
 Phone: 770-416-9894  
 Email: modum@spsu.edu  
 Major: CPET  
 Class: Freshman

Clubs/Organizations

Educational Students Philosophical Organization - Director General  
 SGA (Fed College of Education Tech - Nigeria) - General Secretary

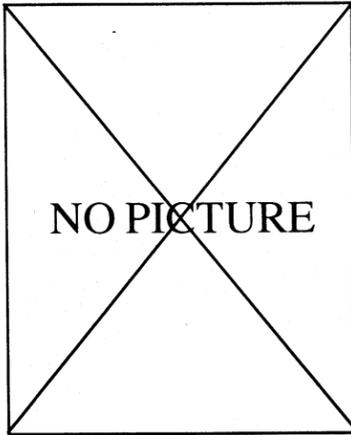


**Rosanna Rennie**  
 Phone: 615-429-4331  
 Email: rrennie@spsu.edu  
 Major: Architecture  
 Class: Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations

Japanese Friendship Society - General member  
 Architecture Student Advisory Council - Active student  
 Student Life Committee - Committee member  
 SGA - Council Member

# Secretarial Candidate



**Kamisha Hammond**  
 Phone: 770-421-0581  
 Email: khammond30058@yahoo.com  
 Major: Mathematics  
 Class: Junior

Clubs/Organizations

SGA - Council Member  
 Student Ambassadors - Student Ambassador  
 ROTC - Recruit  
 Drill team - Member  
 Foreign Language Club - Member  
 Journey - Orientation leader



**Kortney Lewis**  
 Phone: 770-426-1249  
 Email: korrun@hotmail.com  
 Major: Apparel  
 Class: Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations

National Society of Black Engineers - Academic Excellence Chair  
 SPSU Ambassadors - Ambassador  
 SGA - Council Member



**Marvin Linwood Broddus, Jr**  
 Phone: 770-499-2588  
 Email: mlbjr\_2001@hotmail.com  
 Major: TCET  
 Class: Freshman

Clubs/Organizations

Student Life Committee - Member  
 Campus Activities Board - Member  
 Food Service Committee - Member  
 SGA (High School) - Vice President  
 French Honor Society (H.S.) - Member  
 Beta Club (H.S.) - Member



# COMICS

