

The STING

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Victim's Father Speaks On Pipeline Safety

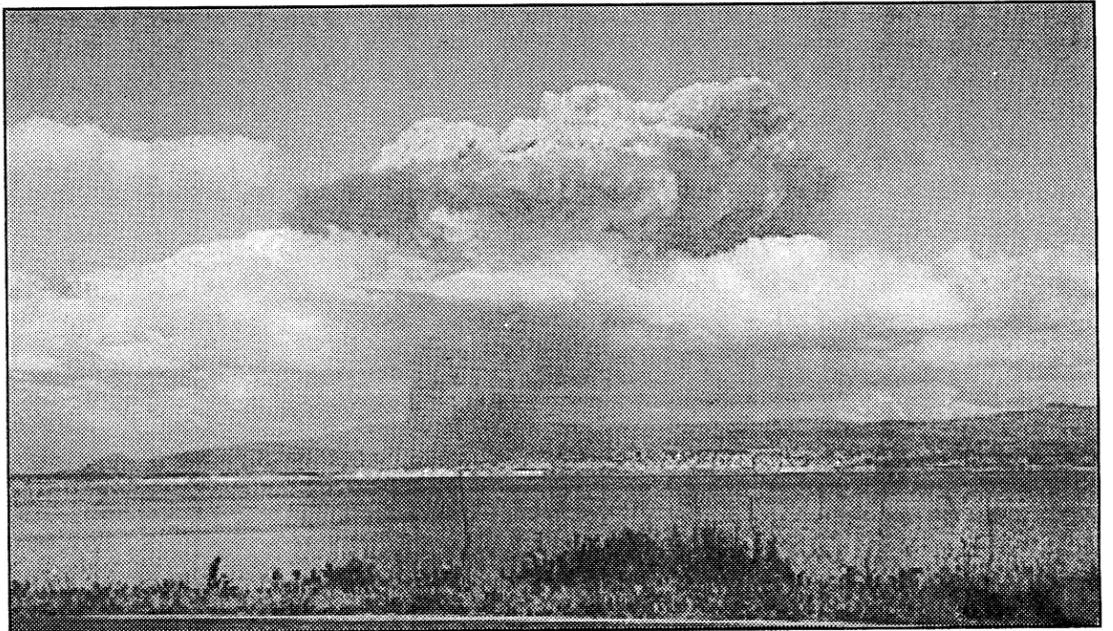
By Mark Campbell

Frank King lost his youngest son Ward in a pipeline fire in Bellingham, Washington. A sixteen-inch pipeline ruptured on June 10, 1999, spilling 235,000 gallons of gasoline into Whatcom Creek. The fire which followed burned along two miles of the creek. Killed were 18-year-old Liam Wood and 10-year-old boys Steve Tsiorvas and Ward King.

Olympic Pipeline Company, which operates the pipeline, settled with the King family and Tsiorvas' mother, Karen Dalen of Bellingham, on Wednesday, April 10th. The company will pay \$75 million to the two boys' families, but did not admit liability as part of the settlement. The company, its partner Equilon Pipeline of Houston and two company officials are awaiting trial in federal court on criminal charges.

The Wood family had settled previously with Olympic Pipeline Company.

King explained how important his son was to his family. "My wife and I had



Pipeline Fire in Bellingham, Washington

been married 33 years," King said, referring to when his son Ward was born. King, who had raised a daughter, now 30, and a son now in his twenties, added, "He was our second shot at being better parents. He was the light of our lives, and the light of our daughter's and son's lives as well."

"He loved to eat and loved to play baseball," King said. Father and son would pray together before bedtime. King recalled how his son ended one prayer with "God bless the teenagers at Colum-

bine," less than three weeks before the Bellingham fire that took his life.

Thirteen high school students and two student assailants died in a shooting rampage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20th, 1999.

King has since become a national advocate for pipeline safety. He has testified before Congress on the need to regulate and enforce the safety measures already passed, and has called for fines that hit pipeline operators hard for spills and leaks.

"I said that the perfect pipeline safety bill is to remove pipelines," King said. "But that's not practical. Pipelines are the cheapest way to transport energy, and we need cheap energy."

King said he believes that the best way to get companies to correct their behavior is by levying fines on a per barrel or per cubic foot basis. Liquid pipeline operators measure their quantities in barrels; a barrel is 42 gallons. Natural gas operators measure quantities in cubic feet of gas.

"I had some concerns about pipeline security prior to September eleventh," said King. "When I read about the OPS [Office of Pipeline Safety] having the pipeline companies map their pipelines, I thought that might be a real security nightmare."

"I don't think it's necessary for the public to know where these pipelines are, as long as the pipeline companies are doing their utmost on safety," King added. The Office of Pipeline Safety removed public access to the National Pipeline Mapping System within weeks of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

SGA Plans Inauguration

By Mark Campbell

An inauguration ceremony is being planned by the Student Government Association to be held in the Student Center Ballroom at noon on Thursday, April 25th, 2002. In a memorandum dated April 1st, 2002, the SGA had requested \$5109.85 from university officials. The memo called for \$2,174.43 from the University Roundtable account and \$2,935.42 from the university's Office of the President.

Invitations were sent in an electronic mail to students by Registrar Steve Hamrick on behalf of the SGA on

Thursday, April 11th. Similar invitations were sent electronically to faculty and staff.

The invitation stated that the inauguration ceremony will be a good time for the SGA, administration, faculty, student body, and student organization officers to get to know one another. Students were asked to RSVP at the Student Center Information Desk before April 23, 2002.

The SGA's memo to President Lisa Rossbacher and Ms. Jackie Gilpin, Assistant Director for Student Activities, recommended seating for 160 guests. The

cost for the banquet was estimated at \$2,174.43.

The meal was projected to cost \$10.25 per person. The menu would include a cheese display, fruit and veggie platters. Finger sandwiches and a punch fountain would also be available. The main course would be Chix Sate with peanut sauce. The banquet and service would be provided by ABL Management, which has the exclusive contract for food service at Southern Polytechnic.

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 SOUTHERN
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SGA Plans Inauguration *Continued...*

Rossbacher and Gilpin have both responded to the SGA memo, explaining the maximum that they might be able to contribute to the ceremony. The combined total was estimated to be at most \$1600.

In a memo dated April 12th, Gilpin wrote to Fola Adeleye, SGA Vice-President Elect, that the SGA "may use the remaining URT [University Roundtable] funds, \$776.34, for SPSU items or food at the SGA inauguration."

"Approximately three weeks ago, Fola [Adeleye] asked me about the possibility of University Roundtable funds being used for the inauguration meal," Gilpin explained in an interview on April 8th. "We talked about the event as a gathering of student leaders on campus and agreed that since that is a goal of roundtables, it would be an appropriate use of the budget."

Gilpin explained that previous student governments have tapped the University Roundtable account, which is provided out of student activity fees. "Two past, slightly unique roundtables have been, one, to discuss technology fee concerns and

two, to discuss how to get more students involved in campus organizations," she said.

"Fola [Adeleye] delivered this in person on April 1st," said Gilpin, referring to the memo. "There's a slight chance it was Tuesday, but I think it was Monday [April 1st]."

"I said that the Roundtable wouldn't have that much money, because of bills from the March 26th and April 10th Roundtables that had not been paid yet. This one [April 10th] hasn't even billed yet," Gilpin indicated in the April 8th interview.

Gilpin later explained that the memo sent to Adeleye on April 12th gave the remaining University Roundtable balance as \$776.34, after all outstanding bills were paid.

Rossbacher confirmed that she had communicated with SGA members about the inauguration.

"I have not committed any resources," Rossbacher stated. "The maximum I could pay is \$800 for catering services." Rossbacher said she informed the SGA of that amount, and asked for a proposal before deciding to commit.

"To date, I have yet to see a proposal," Rossbacher said just before 2:00 PM on Friday, April 12th. She emphasized that she would make a decision based on the merit of the proposal.

Other projected expenses included shirts and name badges for SGA members at \$436.42, giveaway items for students and guests at \$2005.00, and plaques and gavels for outgoing SGA members at \$494.00.

The giveaways recommended in the memo included 250 calendars, 300 pens and 300 t-shirts. The calendars were estimated to cost \$262.50, pens at \$168 and the t-shirts would cost \$1605.

The memo also called for plaques for every outgoing Student Government member. A bookmark clock and three gavels are also anticipated for purchase at a cost of \$230.00, accounting for almost half of the anticipated \$494.00 expenditure. Previous SGAs have allocated funds for a plaque to honor the Outstanding Student Government Association Member of the Year.

CONTINUED ON PG. 3

Victim's Father Speaks On Pipeline Safety *Continued...*

The Sting has since found dozens of instances where pipeline operators, internet business services, and even the contractor that developed the software for the NPMS have maps and other critical data readily available on the internet. In addition, pipeline routes are often prominently marked on the Terraserver, a joint venture between Microsoft and the federal government that makes U.S. Geodetic Survey maps available through the internet.

King pointed out, however, that pipelines are easily found without the internet. Pipeline rights of way are usually prominently marked where they cross roads and construction crews might damage them.

King also explained that pipelines are easy to repair. He cited an instance in Texas where an environmental engineering company was trying to clean up the aftermath of a pipeline spill. A construction crew working for the pipeline company forced the environmental company aside, repaired the pipe, and put the pipeline back in operation. Upon leaving, they just asked the environmental

engineering company to send them the bill.

King said that pipelines could be repaired in a day. The bigger threat from terrorists, he added, would be refineries. He pointed out that Japanese oil refineries were targeted in World War II.

"I think the bigger danger is to refineries. But they're a five billion dollar investment, and the oil companies are doing a lot to protect them," King added.

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Outstanding Southern Polytechnic Women

By Willis Smith

The Outstanding Southern Polytechnic Women ceremony was started to remember March as National Women Month. SPSU decided to start the annual Southern Polytechnic Women program to help fill-in important gaps of women history in the school's history. Thus the program's purpose is to remind people of the importance of women by filling in the gaps of history.

Many important women's lives are usually unknown or unsung. Queen Elizabeth is well remembered in the British Empire's history. Catherine the Great is well known for ruling Russia. Madam Curie is known for discovering radiation. They are known for their achievements but it's rarely known

how they lived. Some women are known only through legends and myths like Calamity Jane, one of the few known heroines of the Wild West or Betsy Ross who sewn the first American flag. Ross may have design the American flag, but what else is known about her life? Women have helped started revolutions and movements all though American history, from the little known female Revolutionary War spies to the 1960's women's movement. They were all brave women and yet the America public is not familiar with them or their roles in history. For every great and powerful leader, there is a strong lady standing behind him.

Dr. Ron Koger, Vice President of Student and

Enrollment Services was there to introduce the program for the first time. He began the ceremony with the comment, "To avoid any confusion, everybody is nominated by me." The confusion was that every audience member received a program featuring the list of women nominated and the people who nominated them. Many including myself could not figure which were receiving awards or which were responsible for getting the women honored today. "To be nominated, the lady in question must be considered outstanding and worthy enough through her works on campus and extra-curricular activities. These women have their own lives today, yet all of you here have pushed beyond

the boundaries of your chosen profession or life here on campus."

The only occupation a married woman could have was a housewife Koger remembered growing up. When Koger and her other children went off to college, his mother was able to start working. It was amazing how much change in women's civil rights had occurred in only a twenty years time-span. He remarked, "For the younger generation, you only need to ask your mother or grandmother how much has changed between then and now." Koger talked about the injustice women had to deal with the workplace, "When I started teaching, the single male earned \$400 more than the single female on their

salaries." Before giving out the awards, he spoke about how far women have come ahead, "We have changed but not enough, we have come a long way, but we are not there yet. Just keep doing your work."

The women honored in the program as Outstanding Southern Polytechnic Women of 2002 are:

Jessica Brown, Kim Brownlow-Bell, Susan Denman, Mousumi Dutta, Theresa Ellison, Jennifer Eppers, Christy Fleming, Jennifer Fleming, La Vietra Gardner, Jamilie Geerman, Carol Gibson, Jackie Gilpin, Kamisha Hammond, Gini Head, Kelly Heard, Melissa Jacobo, Amy Jalutkewicz, Tamica Jamerson, Korede Kalejaiye, Chanti Lawrence, Kortney Lewis, Julie Magee, Alma Manga, Sharon Manga, Ebony McCants, Mary Ellen McGee, Diann Moffett, Julie Newell, Bernice Nuhfer-Halten, Chisom Ohiagu, Kim Oliver, Ann Parker, Lydia Parsons, Sandra Patterson, Laura Payan, Loretta Person, Farad Pourmehr, Dawn Ramsey, Susan Randall, Becky Rutherford, Dorothy Savoy, Betty Seabolt, Tripti Sharma, Suzette Smith, Debbie Stanford, Denise Stover, Carol Tanner, Valerie Thomas, Kristie Todd, Terry Tripp, Judy Waits, Laura Wallace, Carol Ware, Shelby Weeks.

Each woman was awarded a certificate paper describing their acknowledgement of their efforts and a red, yellow or pink rose.

SGA Plans Inauguration *Continued...*

SGA President-Elect Randall Ware requested that press questions about the inauguration ceremony be provided in writing. Ware also requested that questions about the inauguration be directed to himself. Among the questions submitted to Ware were what the benefits might be to students, how expenses might be met, and which expenditures might be reduced if it proves necessary.

On Friday, April 12th, Ware said, "To all the questions, like I said, 'They're going to have a good time.' To each of these questions - I'm going to answer them - so if you're going to report something, you have to report exactly what I said."

"I'm going to answer them, but I'm not going to answer them right now." Asked when he might first be able to answer the questions, Ware said, "After this - after inauguration. Because I want to keep the element of surprise."

"Everybody's going to have a good time - that's exactly what I said," reiterated Ware.

Ware also declined to answer questions prior to the inauguration about give-away t-shirts; polo-style and dress shirts for council members and officers; as well as plaques,

gavels and a clock.

Student Government President Kenwin Hayes was asked on Friday, April 12th, if the expense for the plaques had been met. "Yeah, that was on the one I sent you on Wednesday morning - the first - on the 10th," Hayes said, referring to copies of the memo requested by the Sting.

A copy of one of the revised memos, supplied by the SGA and dated April 8th, was annotated with the words 'SPSU FOUNDATION' next to the \$494 total for plaques.

Lynn Murray of the Office of Advancement said that she didn't know of a commitment from the Foundation for the plaques. She did point out that the Foundation does provide some funds to Vice-President of Student Services and Enrollment, Dr. Ron Koger.

Koger was unavailable for comment on Friday, April 12th. According to his office staff, the Foundation funds are used to meet expenses for Orientation Days and other recruiting functions where regulations prohibit the use of state funds. Staff were unaware of any correspondence between the SGA and Dr. Koger on the matter.

Asked if the Foundation was paying for the plaques, Hayes said, "Yeah, the

Foundation." Hayes was questioned if the funds would be coming direct from the Foundation, or through Koger's office. "I don't know," he replied, "Talk to Randall [Ware] would be my guess. I guess the Foundation - he asked. He has to meet with them personally."

Ware was scheduled to meet with the Alumni Board at their regular meeting at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 15th. Maggie Gillespie, Director of Alumni and Corporate Relations, said, "I told them [the SGA] that they were welcome to approach the Board for funding."

"I told them to bring a written proposal to the Board," Gillespie continued. "The alumni board has historically supported student organizations, and there is a form for those." On Friday April 12th, Gillespie explained that the Board had not seen any proposal yet and that it would be up to the Board to decide whether to provide funds.

Questions were put to Ware as to whether any sponsors had come forward and made donations, what the donations would be used for, and the benefits that the sponsors might see.

In an e-mail sent to the Sting on Friday afternoon,

April 12th, Ware wrote, "I would like to thank you for your interest in the inaugural luncheon and how the money for this function is being raised. I am confidant [sic] that many of your unanswered questions you have will be answered at the banquet. I hope that all the work the SGA is doing will insure [sic] that everyone has a very good time."

"The objective of this inaugural luncheon is as stated in the email which was sent to everyone on the campus," Ware wrote. "The inauguration ceremony will be a good time for the SGA, administration, faculty, student body and student organization officers to get to know one another."

Outgoing SGA President Kenwin Hayes said that the polo-style shirts SGA members wear to meetings are traditionally paid for out of the SGA's general operations budget. Asked why they were included as an item for funding from President Rossbacher, Hayes said, "You know, when Fola [Adeleye] first put together the proposal, that went to the President via e-mail, he [Adeleye] was just shooting. You can ask - that doesn't mean they're going to do it. There's no problem in asking."

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Dorm Fire, No Alarm Activated. Why?

By Josh Waid and Dave Bachtel

Why, when the first real fire here in the dorms occurred, why was an evacuation not triggered? Why does it seem that the fire alarms always go off when there is no real danger and especially at annoying times like two in the morning?

To answer these questions, I spoke with Captain George Scott of the SPSU Police and Neal Butler of Butler Communications Corp., the company that installed and currently maintains the fire alarm system here in the Howell dorm. Thus I was given a tour and shown the different parts of the fire system and how they connect.

All rooms and hallways have smoke detectors in them. Each detector has two category 3 (CAT3) cables running to it (the second is for redundancy)

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SGA Plans Inauguration *Continued...*

According to Barry Birckhead, Dean of Students and advisor to the Student Government, he received a copy of the original memo from staff. "Jackie [Gilpin, Assistant Director for Student Activities] got a copy and shared it with me. I immediately thought while an inauguration activity or some sort of transition activity would be very beneficial, I thought the cost was exorbitant," Birckhead said.

Birckhead spoke up at the SGA meeting on April 2nd. "'You haven't asked for my opinion,' I said, 'but I'd like to share my thoughts on this proposal.' I essentially told them that I think they're planning to spend too much money," Birckhead stated.

As a citizen, Birckhead said that he has noted similar problems outside of college campuses. "I've seen elected officials really create some problems with their constituency with large expenditures that could be construed as self-serving." He emphasized that he was speaking of other local governments and not the Student Government Association.

tion.

Birckhead also privately expressed concerns that incoming SGA members might be unfairly held accountable for the actions of the current SGA in planning the inauguration. "While Randall [Ware] and Fola [Adeleye] made comments indicating that they were still in favor of the proposal," Birckhead said, "I sensed that there was clearly a mixed response from the SGA members at large."

Asked if he was aware as to how SGA might find funding for the event, Birckhead said, "I'm aware that the President [Dr. Lisa Rossbacher] has responded to Fola [Adeleye] that she only has about \$800 or so to spend on food. And Jackie [Gilpin] has only about the same amount in her University Roundtable budget."

Gilpin explained why an RSVP was required. "On March 28th or 29th, Fola [Adeleye] showed me a draft of his memo on a laptop," Gilpin said. "I recommended that the SGA get a firm RSVP from attendees to only pay for food that would be eaten."

Asked what she thought when she saw the first draft of the memo, Gilpin replied, "I thought it was rather high. That's why I recommended the RSVP requirement."

"Meals and serving costs for a Roundtable ranges from 300 to 900 dollars," Gilpin said. "Forty-five is about average attendance and that is including faculty, staff, and students." The Student Government's proposed inauguration would seat 160 people.

Although the e-mail invitation stated that students should RSVP at the Student Center Information desk before April 23d, no such list was provided by the SGA as of Saturday, April 13th.

"You're the first person to come up and personally ask," Student Center Building Manager Daniel Pintos told the Sting. "I had a phone call from a gentleman who asked for an RSVP list. I said there wasn't one up here, and he said there had been a message about Randall Ware bringing one up later in the day, and this was, I believe it was, Thursday [April 11th]. Noth-

ing has shown up since."

Pintos did manage to find a notice to students about the inauguration luncheon in pencil on the back of a red April 2002 SPSU Student Activities calendar sheet. The notice suggested that faculty and students could RSVP at the information desk.

Pintos explained what he could do if students asked about attending the inauguration ceremony. "I can take their names down and everything, and then - possibly - talk about it to Randall Ware when I see him in passing," said Pintos. "Other than that, there isn't anything I can do."

"Also, when the gentleman called, I offered to go ahead and take down his name and everything," Pintos continued. "Just record it, you know, just in case the list showed up later on in the afternoon, but, once again, it never did show."

Students Propose Rock Renovations

By Mark Campbell

Two students have put a proposal before the Student Government Association to restore the area around the Rock. A tradition at Southern Polytechnic, the Rock is regularly painted by fraternities and is featured in the university's seal.

William Burke, a junior studying Industrial Engineering Technology, and Dustin Grau, a graduating senior majoring in Computer Science, introduced the proposal to the Student Government Association at a meeting on Tuesday, April 2nd. The proposal requests approximately \$1100. The two students hope to be able to complete the project on Saturday, April 27th, with help from interested students.

Restoration of the area around the Rock calls for replacing the old plaque and the stone pavers that make up the walkway. The plaque stand would be repainted, and the tree next to the Rock would be removed.

In addition, the gravel surrounding the Rock would

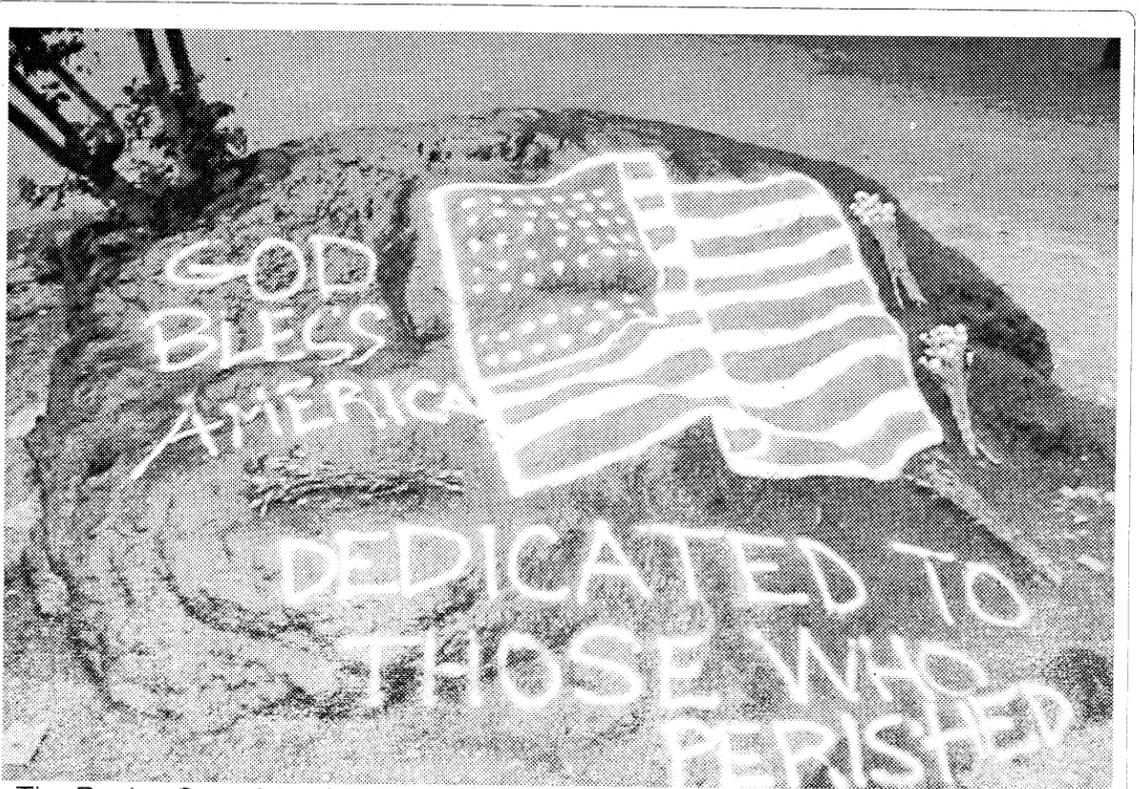
be removed. A deeper pit would be dug, and landscape fabric laid down to prevent weeds from sprouting. Three tons of new gravel would be trucked in to replace the old gravel.

The old plaque commemorating the Rock would be cleaned up and displayed in either the student center or the library rotunda.

The proposal is available for viewing at The Sting Online at www.thesting.org.

Burke and Grau have volunteered their own labor for the project. In addition, interested students, alumni and fraternity members are welcome to join them. If the proposal is funded by the Student Government Association, the proposal states that a notice will be sent to the alumni relations office to gather support for the endeavor.

With the exception of some changes to the plaque, the project has been endorsed by Dr. Lisa Rossbacher,



The Rock - One of the Great Symbols of SPSU

President of Southern Polytechnic, and Mr. Barry Birckhead, Dean of Students. Mr. Eddie McCracken, SPSU's Grounds Manager has also approved the restoration plan while recommending removal of the tree near the Rock. Ms. Ann Watson, the

university's Public Relations Director, reviewed and approved the new plaque.

Restoration of the area occurred several years ago, when the Rock was sand-blasted to clean it up. Over the past three years, the proposal notes, both the

Student Government Association and the Inter-Greek Council have discussed renovating the area around the Rock.

CONTINUED ON PG. 5

Students Propose Rock Renovations *Continued...*

Burke and Grau are neither members of the Student Government Association nor any fraternity on campus.

Asked what prompted the two to propose such restoration, Burke replied, "The original idea came up after the September 11th tragedy, and the candlelight vigil that was held at the Rock. As the candles were being set, Dustin Grau remarked how terrible the area looked."

"After that, it took a while for us to start work on the proposal because classes would not allow us the time to work on it," Burke said. "We actually started work on March 20th, the day after an SGA meeting where a student proposed allocating money for a student-faculty basketball game."

Burke continued, "Over the course of the next two weeks, Dustin Grau and I, in our spare time, visited all of the companies mentioned in the proposal." The pair visited Earth Products on Cobb Parkway, the West Cobb Home Depot store on Dallas Highway, and Sign-A-Rama on Atlanta Street, all in Marietta, Georgia.

The cost for three tons of brown pea gravel, delivered to the site by Earth Products, was estimated to cost \$185. The cost of a bronze plaque, thirteen by twelve inches, was negotiated with Sign-A-Rama at \$273.

From Home Depot, Burke and Grau proposed purchasing 92 pavers to replace the existing walkway and ring, landscape fabric, adhesive and a caulk gun. With shipping from Home Depot, the cost is projected to be \$389.

The two also have requested a \$250 reserve for unanticipated expenses. They intend to borrow tools to complete the project. However, such a reserve could be used to purchase wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes if necessary.

Burke and Grau intend to use any existing whole pavers as a base underlying the new ring around the Rock. Although the pair had also made plans for a second adjacent ring of pavers around the Rock, Burke and Grau recommended a single ring to the Student Government Association in order to reduce costs.

Both students, aiming to complete the project on April 27th, are concerned about the speed with which the proposal is being considered by the Student Government Association. "April 27th is the last Saturday before Finals," said Burke, "And would be the perfect time for everyone to get out and do something on campus."

Added Grau, "Will [Burke] and I would like to see something done before we leave for the summer. Will is going home to Savannah, and I'd like to do something for the college before I graduate."

Burke continued, "I would hope that they [the SGA] would approve funding at the next SGA meeting on the 16th, but with Finals week coming, we will be stressed for time to get everything done by April 27th."

Chancellor Tom Meredith of the University System of Georgia is also expected to visit the campus on or about Wednesday, May 1st. Meredith, previously chancellor at the University of Alabama, replaced former Chancellor Stephen Portch at the start of the year upon Portch's retirement. Meredith

visited the campus briefly in January to speak with a gathering of the university system's business officers at Southern Polytechnic.

According to Burke and Grau, the SGA is interested in cleaning up the area around the Rock. Grau said that SGA Vice-President Randall Ware and a council member he couldn't identify spoke at the April 2nd meeting. "They had just mentioned that they had talked to Anton Kashiri [Director of Facilities Management] about the same thing," said Grau.

"They had just started talks, in their own words," added Burke. "I had talked to Anton Kashiri on March 22nd, who immediately said that Eddie McCracken, the Director of Grounds, was the proper person to talk to."

Burke continued, "I felt as if they had interest, but had made no progress. If they had talked to Anton Kashiri, I know that they also would have been redirected to Eddie McCracken." The Sting was unable to reach Mr. Kashiri for comment as of press time.

Burke and Grau were asked what they might do if the proposal was further

delayed. "If they don't make a decision," Burke replied, "The proposal would have to be redone to account for different dates and to verify the prices are still correct."

Grau added, "That's because of the plaque. It is already approved by Ann Watson [of Public Relations] to say it was installed in Spring 2002."

Burke continued, "It would be very hard for someone to carry out this proposal without us being here. We are the contacts with the companies in the proposal. It could be done, but it is not going to be easy if you use this proposal."

"If the outgoing SGA chooses to turn down the proposal, I will look into raising the money privately," said Burke, "Or going to the alumni board to get money from the Foundation." The Southern Polytechnic Foundation has supplied funds to student projects, mainly for student engineering competitions, in the past.

"I don't care if they use my proposal," added Burke, "But something needs to be done with the area around the Rock."

Dorm Fire *Continued...*

that serve to tie the detectors in with the main box in the basement that has a backup battery that can last 24 hours. Whenever one of the detectors in the rooms goes off, a pre-alarm is triggered. According to Neal, a pre-alarm is like a heightened sense of alert for the system. If anything else happens after the pre-alarm, an evacuation is immediately triggered. The smoke detectors in the hall are a different story. If anything antagonizes them, they will trigger an evacuation.

In other words, if the alarm was triggered every time someone burned popcorn in a room, we would all be standing around outside at 2 AM a lot more often. To alert the dorm residence if a fire occurs in their rooms, smaller alarms have been placed in some rooms but will not trigger an entire evacuation of the dorms.

Fan Fries Freshie

By Dave Bachtel

At 9:34 PM, on Thursday, March 28, the fire alarm system in the dorms logged a "pre-alarm" in room 442 in Howell Hall. This pre-alarm was later determined to have been triggered by a fire caused by a box fan that had been placed in the window to provide the room with better air circulation.

Taylor Mickey (who occupies Howell 442 along with Mike O'Grady) was the first to notice something was wrong. "I was walking past my room, about to go the store, when I heard the little alarm go off. So I walked into my room and saw huge flames shooting out of the fan while it was still spinning." Taylor did his best to put the fire out but ended up receiving first and second degree burns on his hands.

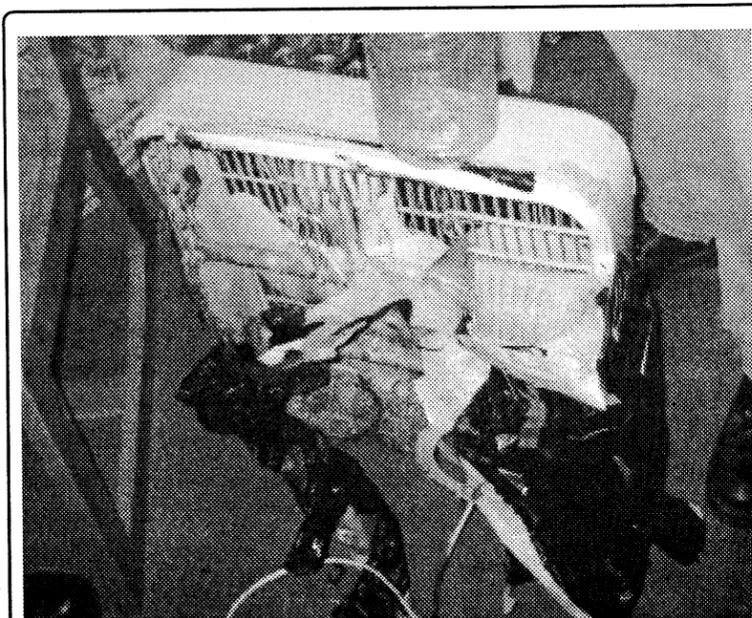
Meanwhile, a passerby on the sidewalk between

the dorms and the wooded area near the architecture building observed the fire and dialed 911. The Marietta FD received the call and responded to the fire. Shortly after, Mike arrived back at the room.

"Before the fireman got there, the police arrived, questioned us, and wandered around our room shining their flashings everywhere for twenty minutes. The fire inspector came into our room, and questioned both me and Mike separately, which was pointless, since neither one of us had been in the room for more than a half an hour before the fire started. I guess the fan just overheated, it had been running non-stop for a week because we didn't have any air conditioning in the dorms at the time." The firemen then checked the walls and

the neighboring rooms to ensure that the fire hadn't caused problems or spread past the walls.

After examining and administering first aid to Taylor's burns, the fireman advised him to go to the Emergency Room at nearby Kennestone Hospital.



This Fan is Destroyed!!!

Through the whole ordeal, Taylor feels he has learned a painful and valuable lesson. "No more cheap \$3 fans from Goodwill for me."

GSPE Hosts Events

By Mark Campbell, Co-Chairman, GSPE

The Georgia Society of Professional Engineers student chapter at Southern Polytechnic has hosted a variety of events over the semester. Members helped with Engineers' Week in February, with a luncheon and as hosts along with the University for the Cobb County MathCounts competition.

MathCounts is an annual competition amongst middle school students. Mathletes, as the students are called, compete in teams, and then the ten best students proceed to an elimination round.

GSPE chapter members served as proctors during the tests, as well as graders when the various rounds were finished. Although the MathCounts competition is intended for middle school students, the exposure it brings to Southern Polytechnic State University is positive. At least one student on campus has said that his first exposure to the university was through his participation in a previous competition.

Two student members of the chapter also attended the Georgia Society of

Professional Engineers' annual Legislative Reception. The student members were able to meet a number of legislators, although Governor Barnes chose not to attend.

The chapter also held a general meeting, in which Dr. Juan Guzman of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering spoke about the requirements to become a Certified Software Development Professional. Both the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology and the National Society of Professional Engineers are looking at methods to include software engineers in the engineering community.

Wrap up for the semester included the annual Spring GSPE barbecue. The barbecue featured hamburgers, hotdogs, soft drinks and music on the west side of the Atrium (J) Building. The event, scheduled for April 16th, was a success.

The last business meeting of the chapter for the spring semester was scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 18th. Both old members and new members were invited to participate. The main business

was the election of new officers.

As summer semester starts, the chapter intends to send a few members to the annual summer meeting of the GSPE. This year's meeting will be held from Thursday, June 13th through Sunday June 16th at Jekyll Island.

Some of the seminars will include presentations on financial trends in the design profession, creating visual presentations that sell, innovations in concrete technology, and the use of geographic information systems in engineering. The University of Georgia Comprehensive Engineering programs will also be discussed, as well as engineering licensure issues. Other topics include a leadership workshop and a presentation on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue Team.

The meeting is also expected to be an opportunity for members to network. These opportunities include a gala reception and dinner, a riverboat and land tour of the Georgia Ports Authority in

WGHR Presents Finals Coffee Nights

By Dustin Grau

In a response to Zach Jones' article about a student-run coffee house, WGHR is planning the first (hopefully) annual set of "Poly-Caffeinated" coffee nights. At the beginning of finals week, WGHR will open up the station to any faculty or students that would like a free cup of coffee before their final exam, or before they head for home after their exam. Making this event possible is a generous donation of coffee and pastries from the Cool Bean Coffee Roast, a local coffee shop in the Marietta Square. While guests fill up their cups, they can sit and jive with some selected jazz and acoustic tracks from WGHR's music library.

neighboring Brunswick, and a golf tournament.

Students interested in joining the GSPE should contact co-chair Mark Campbell at mcampbe2@spsu.edu, co-chair Desmond Hobson at sparkedmindz@yahoo.com, or advisor Professor Donald Horton at dhorton@spsu.edu.

Currently, the plan is to hold one coffee night after the CAB Finals Breakfast, in order to advertise the next coffee night to as many students as possible. The next night will be on the first "day" of finals, sometime after dinner and ending around 10pm or so. If the turnout for the first two nights is good, additional nights may be planned for the following week of finals.

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New Concert Equipment Available for Students

By Dustin Grau

For the past two semesters, SGA had mentioned numerous times that something must be done about the lighting situation at the amphitheater. During most events at the venue, students would drive their vehicles onto the grassy slopes and shine their headlights on the stage. Ideas presented to the SGA ranged from the economical, but not-so-useful-otherwise halogen spotlights—to a more expensive, theatrical-quality lighting solution. In the past, the main holdup was the procurement of funds for the equipment. But, with approval by Barry Birkhead, the SGA was able to reserve a portion of funds from the student activities rollover account, totaling approximately \$11,000.

Shortly after reserving the funds, a proposal for a lighting setup was presented, and an additional proposal for a sound system was recom-

mended. This was because of the meager offerings of WGHR, and the usual reliance on Jeff Wagner (TCET professor) for large-scale setups, was somewhat inconvenient for most students. (Jeff, who has his own collection of audio equipment, usually provides speakers and amplifiers for concerts on campus.) After debating the lifetime and use of the equipment, it was decided to spare no expense in providing a professional light and sound system that would stand up to heavy use by the student body for the next 5-10 years.

Discussions about the actual specifications were conducted with Jeff Wagner, based on his numerous years of experience as a sound technician at Georgia Tech. Two separate proposals, one each for the light and sound setups, were presented and approved by the SGA in early

March at a total cost of \$10,550. It was also proposed that WGHR be the organization to provide the maintenance and checkout of the equipment—since WGHR already has the engineering staff and policies in place for equipment rentals.

Parts and supplies for the sound system were purchased from Mars Music and Peach State Audio, and the lighting components were ordered from Norcostco. By the end of spring break, all equipment was delivered and accounted for. WGHR's chief engineer William Burke, and general manager Dustin Grau, assembled and tested the new equipment in the Student Center's theater during the final weekend of spring break. The first test of the new equipment was later that week at the Pi Kappa Phi's Hyperion concert in the gym, and was a relatively good success for the first use of the

systems. The next use of the equipment will be at CAB's Battle of the Bands, which was one of the events originally listed as a use of the equipment when first proposed to the SGA.

For those student organizations wishing to put on a concert, or any other event requiring a large music system, reservation forms are available at the WGHR studio or online at <http://wghr.spsu.edu/checkout.asp>. The light and sound systems may be reserved separately, or mixed with existing WGHR mobile sound equipment. For liability reasons, those students checking out the light and/or sound systems will be held to the policies and procedures stated on the checkout forms. Additionally, an hourly charge may be required for hiring a trained DJ for the larger concert setups. This was a suggestion presented as a means to prolong the life of

the equipment through proper care and operation.

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I.S.A. CultureFest 2002

By Willis Smith

The International Student Organization had its 13th annual culture festival in the Student Center Ballroom on March 29th. Numerous nations' flags hung in the Student Center Lobby. Inside the Ballroom, there was food and exhibits from many countries around the world. People wore native clothes from Japan to Nigeria to Ethiopia and showed off their clothes in the International Student Association Fashion Show. There were small displays of dolls, pictures, statues, money, banners and clothing from many countries such as Brazil, Pakistan, and Venezuela, just to name a few. People were able to show off their cultures by slide shows and dance styles. Others expressed their culture by showing off their music with bands from the USA, drums from the Ivory Coast, Traditional Japanese songs from - guess where? - Japan of course. There were delicious foods from many nations like Lebanon's hummus, Indonesia's green sticky rice, Japanese sushi, Kenya's special bread and kibehi, and Chinese egg rolls.

The audience responded wildly to the various dancers. First were the styles from the



Latin countries including the tango. Soon afterward, two glorious women in gypsy clothing danced, hypnotizing the audience. After a much needed break, dancers representing Kenya showed a slower and more rhythmic dance style. Next was the Lebanese dancers who proceeded to dance their hearts out. The last dancer of the program was a traditional belly dancer, much to the audience's pleasure.

The longest wait was the raffle drawing at the end of the program. Each audience participant wrote their names in the raffle ticket drawing but the association would not award the prize to a person

not in the room. However at the end of the Culturefest, the majority of the winners had already left, not realizing they could have won if they only had returned at 2 for the drawing to claim their prizes. As a result of the smaller audience, it took ten minutes and over twenty-five tickets before the fourth present winner received the prize. Overall thought, it was a wonderful day and very educational. I can't wait for next year's event. Perhaps there will be students from countries not exhibited this year like Switzerland or North Korea. Just please e-mail or deliver the prizes to the first winners next time, as I was a little late for my next class!

Last Spring Events of the Semester

By Willis Smith

April 23rd, the last International Forum Lecture 2002 speaker series of the spring semester will be on energy and terrorism. The lecture will be held at the Student Center Ballroom, noon to 1 pm. The speaker will be Dr. Adam N. Stulberg, from the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs Foundation of Georgia Tech. "Energy Security in the Caspian Basin: Moving Beyond the Great Game" will focus on United States' supply of oil. Most of the oil the United States exports comes from the Middle East and is transported through oil pipes in the deserts of Middle East. If those oil pipes, like the Alaskan pipeline, are seized or destroyed, then America will have an oil shortage similar to the 1970s shortage.

Later in the evening, there will be a Block Party between the Residence Halls dorms from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Free music and food will be there for all students, all sponsored by CAB. Come listen to the music and enjoy free snacks and enjoy the last

free days of the spring semester before study crunch time.

April 26th, The ELS will have its graduation ceremony and reception in the Student Center Ballroom and six hours later across the lobby, enjoy the show. Come watch many students display their hidden talents, some impressive and other downright embarrassing.

NSBE will hold their talent show at the Student Center Theater at 7 in the evening.

April 28th, the Girl Scouts will have their ceremony at the Student Center Theatre, 1 pm.

April 30, you know it is time to study hard and burn the midnight oil long into the evening. That night is Final's Breakfast. The SC Cafeteria area will have free breakfast, starting at 9 pm for those tired of studying and need a break for some brain food. Enjoy orange juice, milk, cereal and more. Make sure to stop by WGHR afterward for their "Poly-Caffeinated" event for free coffee and jazzy music!

Tau Alpha Pi Inducts Members

By Mark Campbell

The annual Spring Induction of the Tau Alpha Pi National Engineering Technology Society was held on Saturday, April 6th, 2002. A number of the twenty-seven inductees were honored at the banquet held in the Student Center Ballroom at Southern Polytechnic State University.

Southern Polytechnic's Alpha Alpha chapter was officially established on January 29th, 1953 as the society's first chapter. The society actually started at the university in the fall of 1948, and was established as a national honor society on January 15th, 1953.

Requirements to join include a junior standing with 30 or more hours at SPSU and an overall GPA of 3.50 or better in an engineering technology field. In addition, inductees must not have failing grades at Southern Polytech-

nic. Only the top 4% of all engineering technology students enrolled are accepted for membership nationally.

Shelby Weeks, President of the Tau Alpha Pi chapter at Southern Polytechnic, introduced the guest speaker, the Honorable Robert E. Flournoy, Jr. Judge Flournoy has also served the Cobb County area as a former mayor of the City of Marietta.

Flournoy spoke of leadership and followship. He pointed out that many leaders are actually followers that try to measure public sentiment and then adopt the favored posture as their own. He explained how those individuals are actually followers that like to appear to be leading the crowd.

Leadership, according to Flournoy, meant weighing an issue on its merits and taking a stand on one's convictions. He

pointed out that sticking with a decision may not prove popular, but it was what a leader is called upon to do.

The new members were inducted by President Shelby Weeks and Vice-President Ashley Smith. New members from the Fall semester were Matthew Allendorf, Sara Atkinson, Jay Graham, James Kennedy, William Kenyon, Damian McLaughlin, Miguel Maldonado, Neil Meyer, Ryan Morley, John Okeke, Jamesha Osborne, Christina Prince, Ricardo Rodriguez, Kerry Sherrill and Tara Tucker.

Spring Semester inductees included Bradley B. Clark, Samuel Foyoh, Ben Gasser, Adam Hayes, Jared Leeson, Sharon Manga, Chris Mann, Gabriel Martin, Ovin Parris, J. David Sanders, Brian Thurmond and Tammie Turley.



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Travelling College of Billiards Knowledge

By Willis Smith

Pool balls are knocking each other around with the sounds of cue sticks striking the white cue balls off echoing in the Game/Recreation room. Nearly every pool table there displays Scott Lee's pool skills and academic program. It is the annual student billiard tournament.

Scott Lee is an international known billiards teacher who played professional for 13 years before turning to teach people how to play pool. He has traveled to other countries and taught people from age 5 to age 80 lessons in how to play pool. Seven years ago he started a program, the Travelling College of Billiards Knowledge to teach college students the joys of playing pool.

"I've always been a teacher, I taught my friends how to play tennis in my childhood and I am teaching something I love. I started the program, The Travelling College of Billiards Knowledge seven years ago and I started coming to SPSU six years ago." Scott Lee joked,

"I'll keep coming here until someone graduates because I keep seeing the same students year after year."

April 4th was a day of students playing against each other in a round robin competition. The round robin competition, as Scott Lee explained, is a contest where every person plays against each other. It is not a regular tournament where the first game winner moves on to the next stage. In this tournament, when player one wins the first game set, he or she plays the next person in line.

Everyone plays ten game sets, one game set per person. A game set is a match where whoever first wins three billiards games, wins. The billiards game was played by eight-ball rules. An eight-ball game is played where one person tries to shoot either all blocks or all stripes into the holes and then ends the game by shooting the eight ball in. The student champion is declared as whoever



Scott Lee and The Champs

wins the most game sets out of ten. As a student nearby bent down to aim his cue stick shot, Scott explained that the student champion would play against him the next day.

On April 5th, as Lee shot the eight ball into the far-left corner hole, he shook each student's hand and congratulated on a great game played. He even offers pointers and suggestions to help students play better against him. Scott Lee said he has yet to meet a

student who can really beat him, but he lets students win occasionally to help them learn about the game. "I don't play like a competitor, I play as a teacher. Sometimes I let students win to help them learn about the game."

Each winner received a trophy and the first place winner of each division also won cue sticks. After the award ceremony, Lee offered tips and suggestions on how to make pool trick shots includ-

ing "rolling the ball" and the white handkerchief trick.

CAB which sponsored the event said that the student billiard pool tournament has been held here for six years and that the event is very popular with the students. CAB also provided the T-shirts to participating students with the name Scott Lee, Professor of Poolology on the front and the logo of the Traveling College of Billiards Knowledge on the back.

Congrats to the following winners of the SPSU College of Billiards Knowledge 2002: Melanie Barclay, a junior in electrical engineering, 2nd place in the women division. David Kasilus, a sophomore in CPET, 2nd place. Alma Manga, a junior in civil engineering, 1st place in the women division. Scott Moore, a Math and Physics junior, first place overall by winning all ten games and Scott Lee by one ball.

Travels In Time

By Mark Campbell

Many people travel to be with friends, or be one with nature, or observe the oddities and customs of different cultures. Some tend to travel for the history of a place.

We're not talking about the grand cathedrals and palaces of Europe, or recreations like Colonial Williamsburg. There are all sorts of small places with small histories that didn't change the outcome of the world.

St. Simons Island has five such places.

The most prominent is Fort Frederica, a national monument managed by the National Park Service. The good news is that it is accessible, and there is plenty of information to tell you about the history of the place.

The bad news is that it is accessible, and there is plenty of information to tell you about the history of the place.

The problem is that the park is too clean, too neatly laid out for the tourist. It's hard to get a sense of history

with a Visitor's Center visible through a screen of trees. The paths and the brown signs, as discreet as brown can be, just let you know that you're in the here and now. It's hard to imagine what life was like in the 18th century when you know exactly where flushing toilets can be found.

But if you want to see the town that James Edward Oglethorpe built, then you must visit Fort Frederica. The best view you'll get is from a bastion that overlooks a bend on the Frederica River. One can almost sense the mind of the person who designed the fort, as it controlled traffic moving past.

Bloody Marsh, much closer to the town of St. Simons, is also a good spot to visit for a bit of early English history. Here Oglethorpe's redcoats, shooting from the woods at which the trail ends, ambushed a file of Spanish soldiers who had set out for Fort Frederica from Fort St. Simons (long since gone).

If you ignore the background of houses across the Marsh, you can imagine the surprise and confusion. Back then, soldiers met in formations and fought in a set-piece manner. To have shots ring out from an enemy unseen in the woods must have been very confusing.

But not all the history of the small coastal island is so easily discovered.

Legend has it that people from the Igbos tribe followed their chieftain, manacled, into Dunbar Creek on the west side of St. Simons Island above Fort Frederica. The location, known as Ebo's Landing, is difficult to find. But here it is said that they all chose to drown rather than submit to slavery.

I've often wondered if the story is true. In 1798, the state of Georgia prohibited the importation of slaves directly from Africa. That didn't stop the trade (much less slavery), as the fast yacht *The Wanderer* brought the last slaves

Showtime! Review

By Willis Smith

Robert DeNiro is Mitch, a veteran detective cop and Eddie Murphy is Trey, a street patrol officer and part-time professional actor. Trey is a uniformed street cop who accidentally stumbled onto a gun-smuggling sting. Mitch is an undercover cop, trying to track down the leader of the gun-smuggling operations. Trey requested backup and the news stations received the request over their police scanners. In the middle of exchanging money for weapons, the news choppers filmed the meeting live, breaking up the operation. Upset the undercover sting is aired alive on television, Mitch and his partner watch their sting fall apart, losing months of work. While they are chasing the suspect, a news cameraman recording the action stumbles into their way. Watching his

directly from Africa to the United States at neighboring Jekyll Island in 1858.

partner get wounded, Mitch is outraged with the cameraman's interference and shoots the camera out of the cameraman's hand.

The veteran's action lands him onto the front page and caught the attention of television producer played by Rene Russo. She sells a new idea of cop reality series to the network executive. The LA department, desperate for good PR and to avoid a potential network lawsuit from the network, agrees to help with the series. The department even helped install a self-contained office with running cameras and an isolation booth for people to talk privately for five minutes like MTV's *Real World* did with its roommates. All the television series producer needs now is a partner with a different personality from the veteran cop and Trey comes in with a dramatic entrance.

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Showtime! Review *Continued...*

Russo's character tries everything to spice up their image for the series from buying new fancy Hollywood style cars to redesigning their apartments to make them appear more like Hollywood cops. Their police cars are equipped with mini-cameras to monitor their actions. It's a joy to watch William Shatner play himself as the acting coach to teach how to enforce law Hollywood style. It is a riot to watch Shatner try to teach the partners how to jump onto cars, using his experience from the 1980's television series, "T.J. Hooker."

Mitch only agrees to star in the series to avoid suspension and track down the gun dealer who has acquired the "the gun." Known to everyone as the "the gun", it is the gun everyone knows exists but nobody know how to get hold of it; its bullets go through bulletproof vests like tissue. Trey's lack of detective experience frustrates Mitch to end during his gun investigation. Mitch would rather

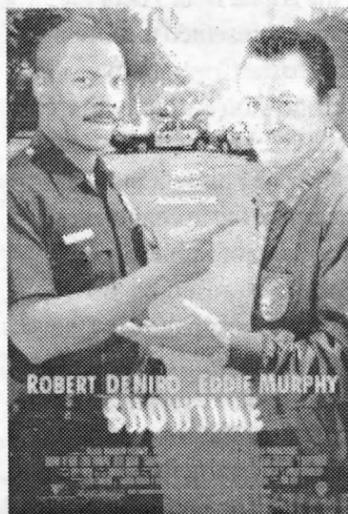
push the cameraman out of his way while Trey once let his suspect escape while posing his good side for the camera. Mitch hates everything about the television series from the intruding cameras to the persistent producer covering every move he make. Trey, on the other hand, is taking in all the glory of the stardom, even contributing ideas for the series for he hopes this series is the big ticket to a successful professional acting career.

Eventually, the two unlikely partners respect each other and even put the cameras to use with their gun case with hilarious results. Watching Trey persuading an inmate to reveal the villain and his regular locations made me laugh several times. "Who should the children turn around and run away when they see this guy?" "Say it to the camera for the children, where in Los Angeles should they stay away from the bad guy?" Those quotes with the combination of the camera focusing on the inmate are hysterical.

Trey becomes more grounded in police work and Mitch mellows out to his partner.

The final showdown episode takes place at a gun convention of all places for a predictable shootout. The plot is believable with the COPS television series' longitude and reality television becoming a part of American culture and there are some unexpected jokes with surprising cameos.

If you want to see a parody of the reality television genre or Murphy and DeNiro as a comedy team, then go watch Showtime!



Travels In Time *Continued...*

Perhaps, instead, the captain of the vessel carrying that fated tribe just tossed the cargo" overboard rather than caught red-handed importing slaves. In quiet places on the bend of a marshy creek, it's easy to imagine either error.

St. Simons Island's marsh side, on the western shore of the island, is for the historian. Just north of the causeway bridge that connects to the mainland is a United Methodist Church conference and retreat center. The open land fronting the marsh before arriving at the conference center is actually historic.

This was where Mill town was located. It's hard to imagine, but between 1875 and 1905 this empty park was bustling center of commerce, with ships calling from Europe and residents visiting such exotic places as India long before air travel existed.

The town was established by the Dodge-Meigs company, a lumber outfit. It is here that one of the world's largest lumber mills was built. Five hundred square miles of yellow pine timber

was floated down the Altamaha River to this facility, and blacks and whites worked together cutting lumber.

The complex eventually included saw mills, a cypress mill, a planing mill, holding basins, an anchorage and wharf, and a railroad. Over three hundred people worked at the mill itself. With a capacity of 125,000 board-feet per day, the town supplied most of the timbers for the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Ironically, while the pay was good and blacks and whites worked together, they didn't live together. Whites lived in St. Simons Mill adjacent to the complex. Both the complex and the town are gone.

Blacks lived in Jewtown, on both sides of the road that led to the St. Simons lighthouse (built in 1872). Jewtown isn't marked, and the houses in the area are certainly not historic. They aren't fancy, either, for this area is in the central part of the island and away from today's desired beach front property.

The locals called it

Jewtown, because this was where the Levison brothers opened a store to serve blacks. The Levisons were Jews from nearby Brunswick, on the mainland.

The locals tend to have heard about Jewtown. But it's even money that they can help you find it. So if you stop on the main road from the causeway, maybe two hundred yards or so once you're on the island, you're there. Regretfully, there isn't much to see, just the knowledge that the spot in the road was once something more substantial.

It's fine to visit a place to relax on the beach, see some alligators, and party with friends. But a little bit of history might make your next vacation a little more memorable.

Game Review:

Dungeon Siege

By Joshua Shannon

Dungeon Siege is the first game developed by Gas Powered Games, and is published by Microsoft. It is the brainchild of *Total Annihilation* creator Chris Taylor. When starting to develop the game, Taylor set out to make a *Diablo*-style game, only with no loading once the player got in the game, no backtracking, and no stereotypical role-playing game (RPG, for short) limitations, such as a mage not being able to use a sword or heavy armor, or a swordsman not being able to cast a spell. He largely succeeds, but there are still a few problems I had with the game, which I will list shortly.

The graphics are very good. Some of my favorite places in the game are the area around the ice-covered town of Glacern, the Alpine Caves, and the Crypt of the Sacred Blood. Each of these places has some feature, such as the snowfall near Glacern, which added something special for players to appreciate. In addition to these sights, the waterfalls in the game are beautifully drawn and rendered.

The sound and music in the game is another strong point. There is a nice "zzz" when one monster is attacking the party; a clear "thwap" when bows are used and staves hit their targets; and a "schink" when metal weapons are used. The music is some of the best for atmospheric effect in a game that I have heard in a while, especially in the dungeons and caves.

The controls took some getting used to. Instead

of having to constantly *click-click-click* when fighting enemies, I only had to click once when targeting, and then let the artificial intelligence (AI) take over. Sometimes, I didn't even have to re-target after the enemy died; the AI would just retarget. While this was very handy, I had to get used to it after the click-fest of *Diablo* and *Diablo II*. The camera controls took the longest time for me to get used to. Instead of just using the keyboard, moving the mouse to the edge of the screen also moves the camera. While I eventually got used to it, it took quite a few hours for it. Fortunately, if the player does not like this feature, he can turn it off in the options menu.

The weakest point in the game is the plot. The only reason the starting character decides to take up arms is because, as the back of the game box puts it, "As something inside you dies, something else awakens—a warrior with a burning need for revenge." It is hard to keep track of the overall story because there really is no sense of what the end objective is. If you are looking to find a deep back-story and a rich plot, keep looking; it definitely is not here.

Overall, I enjoyed the game. While I was only able to get through roughly fifteen hours before I wrote this review, I liked what I saw. However, due to the virtual lack of a good plot, I can only recommend the game instead of highly recommending it. However, if you the reader are only looking for some basic fun, pick the game up; you will not be disappointed.



Phi Beta Sigma Community Service

By Willis Smith

The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, in conjunction with Color of Public Safety, held a Bicycle Rodeo event on the morning of March 30th with the help of The Safe American Foundation. This foundation usually targets low-income children and tries to get as much safety in the community as possible. They were giving away free Youth Helmets for children riding bicycles. They also gave away car seat boosters supplied by Ford Motor Company.

If children don't take the proper care of their equipment or the parents are not aware of the proper type car seat to use, the helmets and seat belts can do more injury than safety. For example, if a bike helmet is too large for the child's head, the helmet can cause serious neck injury in an accident. If the helmet is too small, there will not be adequate protection for the head in case of a head injury. Bicycle helmets must be just the right size for a child's head.

For car seats, if a child who is too small for regular seat belt insists on wearing the belt, the seat belt strap can actually choke a child's neck. That is the purpose of the car booster seats C.O.P.S. were offering. They elevate the child up to a position the seat belt strap can't harm him or her.

Infant seats are used for children from birth to at least 1 year old and weigh at least 20 pounds. Convertible seats are for children who weigh 40 pounds. Booster seats are for children who have outgrown convertible seats. Children are supposed to use booster seats when they have outgrown convertible seats but are not yet 80 pounds or 4' 9" high. Booster seats are ideal to prevent children from getting injured by car seatbelt. Georgia is trying to educate parents about booster seats since some parents are not even aware of booster seats.

There were brochures about transportation safety from car to bus to bike and environmental safety rules from fire safety to 9-1-1

safety. The fraternity provided free hotdogs and hamburgers for the parents and children who drove distances for free bicycle helmets and car booster seats. Later near noon, the clouds darkened and it started raining rather hard, thus ending the community service. However I talked to the fraternity and they said that they might do this event again later in the year.

Later in the evening, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. of the Alpha Beta Theta Chapter presented the Giving Back to the Community Stepshow on Saturday March 30, 2002, held at the Gymnasium. The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc in conjunction with Color of Public Safety (C.O.P.S.) presented the "Giving Back to the Community Stepshow." The first place winner received \$1250 and for second place, \$800. During the show, the C.O.P.S. gave away prizes and child safety giveaways.

Correction of the "Alcohol Awareness Day" Article

The article "Alcohol Awareness Day" from the April 12th issue of The STING mistakenly credited Marietta Police as being involved in the events on March 7th. Indeed, the Marietta Fire Department was an active participant, but the Southern Polytechnic State University Police Department was the only police force at this Alcohol Awareness Day. The STING apologizes for the confusion.

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Student life sucks... Who's to blame? Your SGA

By Dustin Grau

I can't say I've ever been in more agreement with someone, than when I read Amy Jalutkewicz's opinion article about her view of student life at SPSU. I'm not going to hide the fact that she's my fiancée, so don't accuse me of simply taking sides here—I fully agree with her. Student life already sucks, and I know a lot of people are trying to fix that problem. But if you think your new SGA president is going to lead the charge, you're SO wrong.

First off, Randall Ware, current VP and President Elect asked me to write a positive article on what the SGA has done for this campus. I'm sorry Randall, but I can't do that. Why? Because I really can't think of a single thing that SGA has done on their own this past year that has benefited the students of SPSU. I've personally attended 90% of the SGA meetings this school year, and I've seen the committee in "action". For two semesters, I've seen some truly awesome ideas presented, and never acted on.

In case you don't remember, last year's SGA enacted the smoking ban in the dorms, but the current

SGA failed to follow-up by helping those student residents that smoke. Where do they go when it rains? Well, they could smoke under the special pavilion that was suggested at several meetings this year, but no such thing has been built or even planned to be built. And what about the volleyball court in front of Norton that was supposed to be re-done? Well, just another idea presented and never acted upon. The only thing that looks remotely like a possibility is the rebuilding of the BBQ pit between the dorms—but that won't be constructed until summer or fall.

Does anyone remember the food service committee meetings that were supposed to be the outlet for constructive criticism for the ABL Management? Well, I remember the one, that's 1, meeting that was held because I was one of two people who constantly asked SGA to schedule a meeting. The same goes for the Town Hall meetings that we usually have every spring. Although there was a meeting back in October, there was no attempt to set up a meeting this semester. So basically, all major outlets of communication between

students and administration have been killed by the current SGA—again living up to their grand plans to make communication a top priority.

Finally, I gotta say something that nobody else has said yet. Randall Ware, you are a FAKE! You do not deserve the position you've been given. You don't want to help the students of this campus—you want to rule them, and influence every decision they make. Your words and speeches are completely meaningless. All you do is blow smoke up everyone's ass, praising people for doing nothing, and speaking about things that you'll never take action on. You say you want more involvement on campus—how the hell do you do that when you nearly kill the organizations that provide any form of activities on campus? Why don't you participate in any campus events? You'd rather spend most of your time on campus interrupting and talking to people that would rather have you walk away and leave them alone. By the way, I haven't seen any solid numbers from the SGA election that confirm or deny your election to president (or

any other SGA member for that matter). For all I know, there could have been a winning write-in vote. Since you like quotes so much, I have one for you: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts, absolutely."

Now, I apologize to those few SGA members that I still call friends—you should know who you are. I think some committee members have actually started to see what has happened to this campus, and they aren't very happy either—but who's going to speak up? I know I'm going to catch hell for blasting the SGA in this article, but they can kiss my first-amendment totting ass. At least I have balls enough to say something even when other people would just be content to stay quiet and nod their heads in absent-minded agreement. I don't know why the students of this university don't take action, but if they don't care what happens, then

I suppose they deserve what they get. It's too bad that our biggest enemy isn't ABL or the administration anymore—it's the group of people that are supposed to be supporting the students.

By the way, if this article upsets you, then maybe you should look and see what's happening around you. Or you can take a break, read the article again later, and if it still upsets you, write an article back to the Sting.

12 required credits summer semester?

By Willis Smith

The summer season is crawling upon us students. Soon students will make a decision regarding their summer plans. Should they work full time in the summer, take internships, take a break from college or take classes for the next three months? The fall and spring semesters are 15 weeks long and the summer semester is only 10 weeks long. Most teachers I talk to say that taking nine credits during the summer semester will be more than enough for full-time students. More students I talked to think that it is nine credit hours instead the normal 12 credits. Professor Mark Stevens told me "one credit hour feels like 1 1/2 credit hour in the summer."

Using Steven's math, if a student is be registered as a full-time student in the summer, he or she will need to sign up for 12 credit hours according to SPSU admission office. 1 1/2 times 12 is actually 18 credit hours in the summer time. A student registering six credits in the summer to fulfill the federal student aid requirement during the summer will

seem like taking nine hours for 1 1/2 times six is nine.

Would it realistically be possible for a student not in computer science or engineering to actually register as a full-time student? In the summer, only 45- 55% of classes normally offered in fall and spring are offered in the summer because fall and spring are 15 weeks long and the summer semester is only 10 weeks long. Fewer teachers are available or willing to teach either 10 or 5 week courses. Over a year ago, SPSU was changing from quarter terms to the semester system to accommodate the Georgia System. Even now, some teachers are still adjusting to the semester system. A few of them are still teaching many lessons the first ten weeks and then slow their teaching to a crawl the last five weeks of the semester. It is strange to me that while teachers are still adjusting to the change from quarter term to semester system, the summer semester is the only timeframe where the quarter period is still in existence for teachers and students.

Status of Software Engineering

By Mike Murphy, Dean and Professor CSE

I am writing to clarify two of the issues raised in The STING on Friday, April 12, 2002.

The School of Computing and Software Engineering has over one-fourth of all the majors at SPSU in its 3 undergraduate and 3 graduate majors. That is the primary reason for having a School of CSE. There are always variations in enrollment, but the areas of CS, IT, and SWE are solid and a basis for future growth.

At the present time, it is not necessary for undergraduate CS programs to have special program accreditation and most do not. It has been my goal to achieve program accreditation in CS since I arrived in 1992. It has taken time to revise our curriculum, hire additional faculty, and acquire the necessary lab resources for

accreditation. In addition, only recently have I gotten the financial commitment to pay for the accreditation process. During 2002-2003, we will prepare a preliminary self-study and bring in a consultant to ensure we are on track for a positive initial accreditation decision. During 2003-2004, the formal self-study will be prepared and submitted to the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. During 2004-2005, there will be a campus visit and accreditation action.

Our BSSWE degree (one of only about 15 in the country) is not eligible for accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET until there are graduates who have completed the required curriculum. Since this degree just began in August 2001, it will be a while before there

are graduates, at which point we will be ready to seek accreditation. By the way, the first program in the country to seek this accreditation will be visited this coming fall.

Right now, there is no formal accreditation available for the BSIT degree, which also began in August 2001. We are looking at possible accreditation for it if we can identify an appropriate body that accredits such programs.

I encourage anyone who has questions on this to contact me. Regarding the role of "engineering" in software engineering, I will write to that in a future letter.

Regards,
Mike Murphy, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of CSE
mmurphy@spsu.edu

A Philosophic Brain Stretch

By Rich Merritt

In my continual observation of existence, I find myself searching for what exactly is Philosophy. It is an unusual course of personal study for one who goes to SPSU, but then again I am not exactly a traditional SPSU student. So, if you are still reading, here's a bit of what I've been wrestling with recently. Perhaps this won't make much sense to you, but maybe this will get you thinking about what philosophy is about. The words in quotes I want you as a reader to think of what other words could fit in the same spot, and achieve maybe a more "personal" meaning. (There's your first one. What word other than personal makes more sense to you personally? Intimate? Arous-

ing? Subjective? It's your choice.)

The idea of an individual and a group are at the same time both easily and difficultly able to be separated. We can see 1 person standing alone and say "individual", or see a group of several standing together and say "group". Psychology, philosophy, and life itself would be so very easy to understand if there were such solid "rules" that never "bend" or "break". However, since you are reading this article, then you live in a world of consistent "grays", with no absolute "black" or "white" anything, except within your "mind". "Everything" changes when you expect it the least.

As a "reader" you "exist" as a "duality" of sorts, as both

an individual, and as a "member" of groups. The individual within us is responsible for the maintaining some form of a personal identity. Everyone has their own morals, belief systems, habits, hobbies, goals, likes, dislikes, breaking points, and phobias. None of these are set in stone, and people can "change" dramatically within just three weeks. It is a mild impossibility to truly "know" oneself, much less anyone else.

In reading this, you are now a potential member of a group. I am communicating to you by piecing words together into sentences, and in a sense you now are "listening" to my "voice". Now, if you in turn email me a response to this article, what you write to me is

your "voice" in some sense of the word, and I listen to you. Groups are how we as humans exchange information and relate ideas to others.

What "changes" people? Well, the simple answer is peer pressure, but that phrase is overused and a bit ambiguous. A more personal and more accurate way to put it is a need to "belong" and be accepted. Whether it's friends, parents, support group, co-workers, or whoever, we all have that real and present need to fit somewhere in this world. Some of the results of such "fitting" of people include churches, clubs, political parties, and associations. These results themselves fit together to make a less concrete result.

These form the unspoken "rules" that make a "society". Whether one actively chooses or not to join groups we do. It is rather impossible to not be a part of a group. The "living" and the "dead" are two very different groups indeed...

So, I hope you find yourself "reflecting" for just a moment on this "pathetic" attempt to explain what is unexplainable. If none of this makes any sense to you, be glad, because dwelling on this stuff can make oneself feel a "shadowy" misery harder to describe than I can "frame" in any words.

COMICS

The comic strip section contains several panels from various series:

- Dilbert (Top Row):**
 - Panel 1: Dilbert says, "ASOK IS THE WINNER OF THE \$25 'CLEAN DESK AWARD.'" (Asok is a small character who always wins awards for being clean).
 - Panel 2: Dilbert says, "YESTERDAY THE FACILITIES PEOPLE TOOK MY DESK BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE UNUSED."
 - Panel 3: Dilbert says, "I HOPE THIS DOESN'T BUMP ME INTO A HIGHER TAX BRACKET." (He is talking about his desk being taken).
 - Panel 4: Dilbert says, "I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE ACROSS THE HALL IS DOING THE SAME THING WE ARE." (The committee is taking desks).
 - Panel 5: Dilbert says, "ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS HUM 'WEST SIDE STORY' AND HAVE A DANCE-FIGHT." (He is talking about the committee).
 - Panel 6: Dilbert says, "CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO HUM?" (He is asking for help with the dance-fight).
- Dilbert (Middle Row):**
 - Panel 1: Dilbert says, "WRITE ON ALICE'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW, 'NEEDS TOO MUCH SUPERVISION.'" (Alice is his boss).
 - Panel 2: Dilbert says, "WHEN SHE GOES TO YOUR OFFICE TO PROTEST, SAY, 'SEE WHAT I MEAN?'" (He is talking about Alice's review).
 - Panel 3: Dilbert says, "OOH! THAT WAS SO EVIL I NEED TO PURR WITH MY LIPS!" (He is purring).
 - Panel 4: Dilbert says, "MY REVIEW SAYS I 'NEED TOO MUCH SUPERVISION.' ARE YOU INSANE?!" (He is talking about his review).
 - Panel 5: Dilbert says, "MOST DAYS I CAN'T GET YOUR TIME-WASTING, LARD-FILLED SUIT OUT OF MY CUBICLE WITH A FREAKIN' CRANE!!" (He is talking about Alice's suit).
 - Panel 6: Dilbert says, "GAAA! IT'S A TRAP! YOU'RE SUPERVISING ME TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW!!" (He is talking about Alice's supervision).
- The Simpsons (Bottom Row):**
 - Panel 1: Bart says, "HEY!! THIS IS THE HOSPITAL WHERE I HAD MY ARM FIXED! MAYBE THE SAME DOCTOR WILL DO YOUR TOOTH!" (He is talking to Marge).
 - Panel 2: Marge says, "WHEN THEY FIXED YOU UP, DID IT HURT?" (She is talking to Bart).
 - Panel 3: Bart says, "OH-HO-HOHO YEAH! ROB TOLD ME IT WOULDN'T, BUT HE MUST HAVE BEEN LYING. 'CAUSE IT FELT LIKE THEY WERE RIPPING ME APART! HA HA HA!" (He is talking about his tooth).
 - Panel 4: Bart says, "OK, SATCH, WHERE'S THE MILK?" (Satch is a dog).
 - Panel 5: Bart says, "THE MILK, WHERE'S THE GLASS OF MILK WITH BUCKY'S TOOTH IN IT?" (Bucky is a dog).
 - Panel 6: Bart says, "YOU DRANK THE TOOTH?" (He is talking to Marge).
 - Panel 7: Marge says, "STACY, WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME IPECAC IN HERE." (Stacy is a dog).
 - Panel 8: Bart says, "DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE ABLE TO PUT BUCKY'S TOOTH BACK IN?" (He is talking to Marge).
 - Panel 9: Marge says, "WE'LL SEE." (She is talking to Bart).
 - Panel 10: Bart says, "EVEN IF THEY DO, THOUGH, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BITE ANYTHING FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?" (He is talking to Marge).
 - Panel 11: Marge says, "NO... NO, I WOULDN'T THINK SO..." (She is talking to Bart).
 - Panel 12: Bart says, "I HOPE THIS AT LEAST TEACHES BUCKY A LESSON... THE FIRST REAL FIGHT HE PICKS, HE ENDS UP IN THE HOSPITAL." (He is talking to Marge).
 - Panel 13: Marge says, "NO, NO, HE'S PICKED A FIGHT BEFORE. HE WON IT, TOO." (She is talking to Bart).
 - Panel 14: Bart says, "HE WON A FIGHT? BUCKY?" (He is talking to Marge).
 - Panel 15: Marge says, "WELL, TO BE FAIR, MITTENS WAS 20 YEARS OLD, DECLAWED, AND TOOTHLESS, AND SHE STILL MANAGED TO GET IN A FEW GOOD GUMMINGS ON BUCKY'S ARM. BUT YEAH... YEAH, I THINK TECHNICALLY BUCKY WON WHEN MITTENS FELL ASLEEP." (She is talking to Bart).