

The STING

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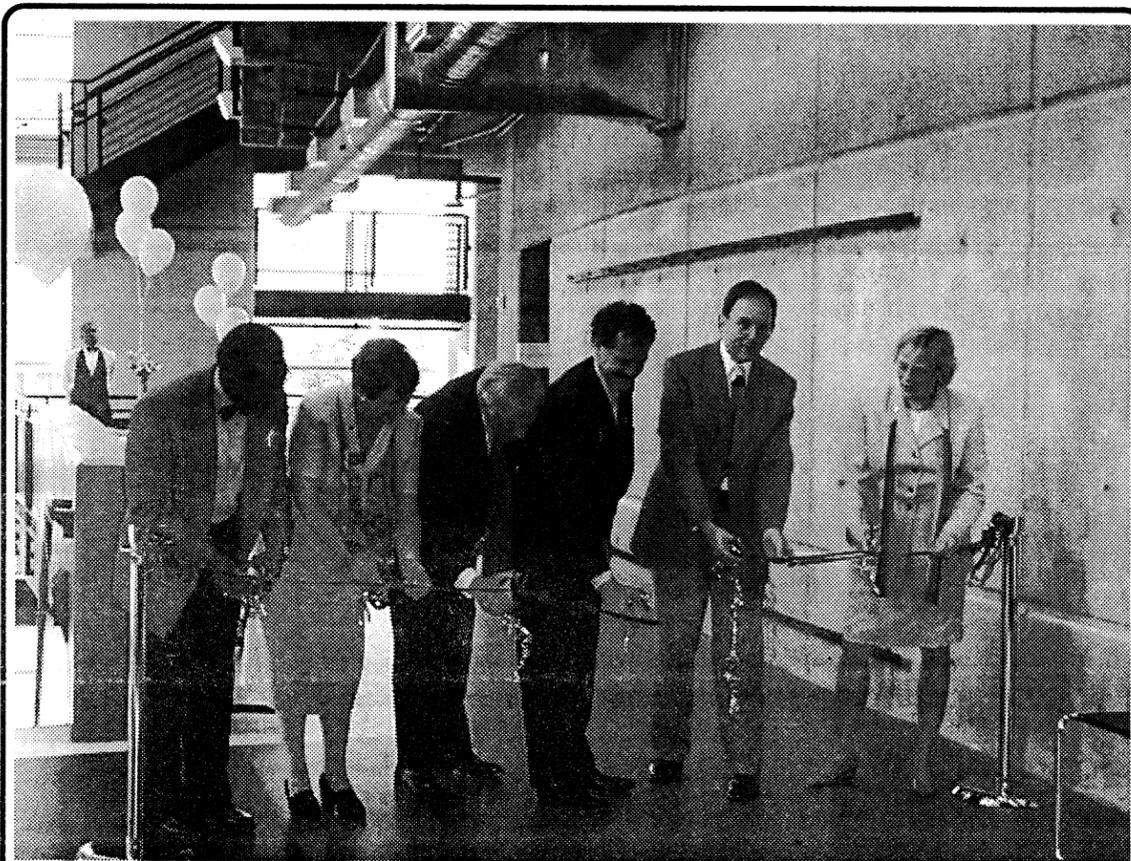
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Grand Opening Architecture Building

Will Smith
Staff Writer

On April 25, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place to open the Architecture Building to the SPSU community and the public. Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, President of SPSU opened the ceremony by welcoming the audience assembled of students, faculty and media. She joked when talking about preparation for the ribbon-cutting ceremony because there was only one question that was asked by the welcoming committee, "Will there be food?" As we all know people are more likely to come to events when free food and refreshments are available. She chuckled, "The answer was 'Yes.'" Then she introduced Dr. Bill Barnes, the Dean of the Architecture School, Civil Engineering Technology and Construction.

Dr. Bill Barnes was brief in his speech, reminding us that, "The new building serves as a teaching tool in the architecture program, as well as providing students with classrooms and lounges." He went on to say that in October, there would be a major international exhibition and symposium on the Bauhaus tradition. Also, later in the year, there will be a gala festival celebration. He



Dignitaries at Southern Polytechnic cut the ribbon opening the architecture building. From left to right:

Curtis Sartor, Head of the Architecture Program;
State Representative Judith Manning (R - 32, Marietta);
Bill Barnes, Dean of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and Construction;
State Senator Phil Gingrey (R - 37, Marietta);
Gordon Smith, Vice-President of Heery International, Inc.;
Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, President of Southern Polytechnic State University

introduced Curtis Sartor, Jr. as the head of the architecture program.

Curtis Sartor, Jr. reminded the audience that everyone could feel the definition of architecture as expressed by the very building

itself. This building reflects cutting edge technology and is a clear visual image of the vision and mission of the architecture program. We believe in creating beauty out of the hidden things that a building possesses. This is what

Sartor called a "technology expressive architecture." Heery International Inc, a full service global signature architectural firm has made this vision a reality.

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Theft Alleged in Facilities Management

Mercedes Bankston and Mark Campbell
Sting Staff

In September and October of 2001, two Southern Polytechnic State University employees were arrested and charged for Felony Theft by Conversion of Personal Property. On September 20, 2001 SPSU police swore out a warrant against Robert Goudelock for a Felony Theft by Conversion of Person Property above \$500. A second warrant was issued by

SPSU police, for Jimmy Samuel Hardy, Jr., for Theft by Receiving Stolen Property above \$500.00.

Goudelock was employed as an auto mechanic for Facility Services, while Hardy served as Manager of Facility Services.

The warrant, dated September 20, 2001, alleges that Goudelock purchased, with State monies, a carbure-

tor and a set of exhaust pipes valued at \$520.80. He then installed these auto parts on his friend's vehicle with no intention of returning the parts to SPSU. A second warrant, dated October 4, 2001 alleges that Hardy possessed stolen property (a set of exhaust pipes and a carburetor), and had no intention of returning the property to SPSU.

According to an SPSU Police report, on March 21, 2001, Goudelock bought a carburetor for the amount of \$367.69 at the NAPA Auto Parts Store located at 785 South Marietta Parkway. The report states that, according to the NAPA store manager, Goudelock later exchanged the carburetor for another one.

CONTINUED ON PG. 2

Theft Alleged in Facilities Management *Continued...*

Mercedes Bankston and Mark Campbell
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The report also alleges that on August 14th, 2001, Goudelock and another SPSU employee went to NAPA together. The SPSU employee is said to have asked Goudelock what was in the box bought at NAPA, and Goudelock allegedly replied, "A carburetor for Mr. Hardy's truck." Fifteen days later, on August 29th, 2001 Goudelock is purported to have gone back to NAPA and purchased a set of automobile exhaust pipes for \$153.11.

According to the SPSU Police report, the cost for the carburetor (\$367.69) and the set of automobile exhaust pipes (\$153.11) were charged to an SPSU State of Georgia Visa Purchasing Card. Goudelock is said to have then turned in receipts alleging he installed the parts pur-

chased on university owned vehicles, when in fact he installed them on Hardy's truck.

Anton Kashiri, Senior Director of Facilities Management, said "It was brought by either Steve Hogan, and also, I think, Eddie McCracken, for my attention. Eddie works – was working for – Mr. Hardy. Eddie's responsibility was the grounds [of the university], and he was the immediate supervisor for Mr. Goudelock. Mr. Hardy did not have direct supervision; Eddie McCracken was the one who had direct supervision over Mr. Goudelock."

Hogan is employed as a Work Control Clerk at Facilities Management; McCracken is employed as a Horticulturist.

"So when there were some things that they detected, it was brought to my attention," Kashiri stated.

"And as soon as I had that I took immediate action and I called in the university police to investigate. I called in the Chief of Police, Gary Chasteen."

According to university police, Goudelock admitted to purchasing the carburetor and exhaust pipes after being questioned. The police report states that when they questioned Hardy, he admitted that Goudelock installed parts on his pickup truck and that he knew the parts were paid for by the State. In addition, the report alleges that Hardy said he paid Goudelock \$200 for the favor. According to the report, Hardy's truck was

seized on September 20, 2001 to obtain the auto parts.

Goudelock was arrested on September 20, 2001. Court documents show that he was charged with four counts: Theft by Taking, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, Financial Transaction Card Fraud and Financial Transaction Card Fraud. The theft by taking charge alleges that Goudelock wrongfully took motor vehicle parts from SPSU that exceeded \$100.00. The theft by receiving charge alleges that Goudelock unlawfully received and retained stolen property and had no intention on returning it back to SPSU. The first Financial Transaction Card Fraud count charges that Goudelock presented the card to purchase goods without permission from SPSU to obtain parts, there-

fore defrauding NationsBank and SPSU on March 21, 2001. The second Financial Transaction Card Fraud count alleges that Goudelock is charged the same as the first count except defrauding occurred on August 29th, 2001.

According to court documents, Judge Ingram of the Superior Court of Cobb County ruled with recommendation of the District Attorney, that Goudelock be released from the second, third and fourth counts because the offenses resulted from the first charge, theft by taking. The case was then negotiated with a plea and without a jury on the one count.

Goudelock received "First Offender Treatment" which means he had never been previously convicted of a felony and qualified under the First Offender Act. He was sentenced to one year in prison with parole for three years.

As a stipulation of his probation, Goudelock was fined \$500.00 plus \$50, as well as ordered to pay restitution of \$520.80 to his victim, Southern Polytechnic State University. Goudelock was also ordered to pay up to \$600.00 for his court-appointed attorney.

Restitution to SPSU is to be jointly split with Hardy, named as a co-defendant, if Hardy is found guilty. Goudelock will be eligible to end probation after just two years if he pays all his fines, abides by all conditions while in probation, and testifies truthfully at Hardy's trial.

Kashiri spoke about how the alleged theft has impacted Facilities Management. "There's a sense of betrayal, because I cannot function without putting trust in my immediate supervisors," Kashiri said, "So I was hurt, I was really hurt."

"And I think there was a sense out there, because I hired Mr. Hardy, I was not going to – I was just going to look aside and don't do anything about it. Which, you know, that's not the way we do business," Kashiri added.

A pre-trial hearing for Hardy is scheduled for Friday, June 21st, and a jury trial is scheduled for Monday, June 24th. Hardy, currently free on bond, is charged with Theft by Taking and Theft by Receiving Stolen Property.

Grand Opening Architecture Building *Continued...*

Will Smith
Staff Writer

Gordon and his team were one of the major entities in designing this reality. He has been involved in the architectural program as a design review member and faculty search committee member. There was a moment of silence to honor the memory of James Goldgeier, an outstanding board member and the first graduate from the architecture program. Then after the moment of silence, Sartor introduced Gordon Smith, the vice-president of the Heery International, Inc.

Gordon explained how he felt about the project representing the joy of architecture. This building is a very powerful element. Gordon described in details about the project, "The exterior is a combination of brick on concrete block, metal panes and curtain wall. Interior walls are exposed concrete, ground face or painted concrete block, and gypsum wallboard on metal exposed studs. Ceiling systems are treated as fragments with visual access to the structure and building systems while finish systems are detailed to reveal their methods of support." These types of building detail often mislead people to think the

building is not finished. Even Judith Manning of Georgia House of Representative Marietta district 32 who was responsible for raising funding for the building construction thought it had run out of money. The building literally exposes its inner workings and uses a variety of finishes, materials and equipment to teach students what happens when design becomes reality in construction. Gordon explained that the Heery International, Inc., worked really hard to make an illustration of architecture.

Phil Gingrey, a Georgia Senate representative for Marietta spoke to the audience "I feel I know every nut and bolt in this building. I understand now why the architecture major is a five-year program." A cell phone's ringing interrupted Gingrey that he answered by approving four million dollars and telling the caller to wait for his call to the audience's laughter. He explained that there was a tremendous amount of money needed for a project. The building cost 12 million dollars. He thanked people for raising funds to make this project a success. He concluded his speech by warning that if you want an easy route in Cobb County for

students to take, do not take the South Marietta Parkway Loop. "The reason for not taking the South Marietta loop as an easy route is because the exit takes you right to SPSU."

Next was the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Afterwards there was the reception with snacks and refreshments. Tours were given of the new building. My tour guides were Safoua Alaouimhamdi and Angela Young. The lower level has wood and metal shops, a building systems lab and there are some student furniture designs as exhibits. The main floor has the Jury Room, which is the heart of the school. The Jury Room is similar to the Student Theater Auditorium without the walls and theater seats. There are also part time and full time faculty offices and classrooms on the first floor. Our tour looked into a full time faculty's office; the teacher explained that there is more space here in the teachers' offices. They used to be cramped in their offices but not in the new offices. He also described that the office chairs are designed based on architecture works.

The second floor has the Student Resources Library and the Foundations Studios

where two students share one desk for their works. On the third floor, I saw faculty offices, a student lounge, and computer lab and work studios where there was one desk per student. There are architecture artworks from blueprints to model designs on the second and third levels. The studios on both floors are designed to function very much like work environments for the students after they graduate to enter into the architecture world. On the third floor, the accessible building roof is available to students for photography and model studies. Also it is a wonderful sight to view the surrounding campus from atop the building.

As the guides ended the tour, they explained there is the possibility the outdoor design-build yard will be part of a memorial park for students and faculty members who passed away. Already there are a few small rock memorials with engraved names and dates. The only thing that was not part of the tour was a glass gallery that stands just outside the main entrance leading to a three-story glass atrium that features wrap-around ribbons of windows.

SGA Floats Office Renovations

Mark Campbell
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association has put a proposal to senior campus administrators to refurbish the SGA offices for approximately \$16,000. SGA President Randall Ware, in a meeting held on Friday, June 7th, pitched the idea. Campus officials at the meeting expressed concerns that there might be student backlash over the proposed expenditures.

Ware explained that the original proposal was higher. "You didn't get a copy of the original proposal of expenditures," Ware told the officials, "The amount was in the amount of \$22,000. What we were able to do, we were able to cut that down to \$9,661 from Office Images." Additional furnishings would be purchased from Office Depot at \$3299.94 and Arrow Office Products at \$3498.90, according to the SGA proposal.

Offices Images, a professional office design firm in Roswell, was consulted by the SGA for a proposal to renovate the student government offices sometime prior to May 17th. Office Images offered to refurbish the office for \$22,102.65 in a first proposal dated May 22nd. A second proposal, dated May

28th, was revised downward to \$9,661.06.

Funding for the renovations would come from the Reserve Student Development Fund. The fund, previously under the direct control of the Dean of Students, was a rollover account of unused student activity fee monies that student organizations had failed to spend by the end of the fiscal year. Under an agreement reached with the administration last year, the fund is now controlled by the student government within guidelines.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was suggested that the student government contact John Henderson of the Procurement office and get his estimation of actual costs through state purchasing. A second meeting was anticipated sometime later. As of June 14th, no such meeting had been called.

According to Ware, the main area to be improved is the SGA conference room. "What we're going to do in this main conference room, this will no longer be just for the student government," Ware said. "This room will be open to all student organizations."

Ware continued, "They will have a professional

conference room that they can come to, and when people come here – for instance like GEAR [General Engineering of Autonomous Robots] or Aerial Robotics – when they come here to give presentations, we can knock them out dead."

"Now, this is not only something that student organizations can benefit from," Ware added, "But the faculty, the administration, and staff, because there's no room in here [the student center] that you can do such a presentation style thing."

The proposal also calls for new desks for the Secretary/Treasurer and the Judiciary Chair. Desks are also specified for the SGA President and Vice-President on a layout included with the proposal. A computer workstation would be placed in the SGA conference room.

Ware, as the SGA President, pitched the proposal to Patrick McCord, Vice-President of Fiscal Affairs; Dr. Ron Koger, Vice-President of Student Services and Enrollment; Robert Whitaker, Director of Budgets, Grants and Procurement; and Barry Birkhead, Dean of Students.

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Financial Aid Switches

Lenders

Mark Campbell,
Sting Staff

Southern Polytechnic State University will be switching student loan lenders, according to Helen Spivak, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships. According to Spivak, the change should result in better service and faster processing for students receiving loans as part of their financial aid. The switch is expected to start this Fall semester.

Spivak explained the differences between the loan programs. "The one that we're leaving is run by the federal government- it's the Direct Loan system. There are no middlemen," said Spivak. "The one that we're going to is the FFELP system - Family Federal Education Loan Program. The loans that we are doing for summer [semester] are on the Direct Loan program, but the loans that we'll be doing for Fall semester and on will be with the FFELP program with Georgia Student Finance [Commission]."

"And what we're doing is working with the Georgia Student Finance Commission," Spivak added. "They're a state agency, just like we are - and they don't have any

other mission, except to serve students. They're not a for-profit company, like a bank would be, so what they're looking for is just to give students the best possible service and give them the lowest possible cost for their loan."

Spivak stated, "There are several advantages to the new loan system. If there is any kind of a question or a problem, the student can call a local number, and get information from somebody right here in town. It'll be easier to get hold of a live human being and ask your question directly instead of trying to leave a message and go back and forth."

Spivak also addressed the speed with which loans are processed. "We anticipate a much faster turn-around time. We went through a flow chart of the system this morning [June 11th], and it will take twenty-four hours to do the major part of the processing, for them [the Georgia Student Finance Commission]," Spivak said.

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Door Openers and Keycards

Will Smith
Staff Writer

"An [technologically expressive] architecture truly relies on science and technology for the benefit of its user. [It doesn't matter] whether the users are of the international community or from a special population such as the elderly or physically challenged." Those sentences were part of Curtis Sator's speech for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new architecture building. If you go to the Student Center or Library, there are round buttons for people to press, which electronically opens the door. According to the American Disability Act (ADA), any public building must have accessible access for the handicapped people, so I wondered why there was no door opener to the entrance of the new building.

I talked to a student who has multiple sclerosis, Jason Gallucci, about whether a person in a wheelchair can enter the new building. He said that he could tell right away that there is no way a person in a wheelchair could open without help the second door after the front entrance door. "There isn't a door opener in the door. They [door openers] should be there." He had no clue to why SPSU had not have identified the problem. I decided to investigate further. I interviewed Bill Barnes, the dean of the architecture and civil engineering program, a week before the new architecture building ribbon-cutting ceremony to discuss the new building's flawed designs.

Barnes addressed the issue by reminding me that not

everything can be 100% right on the first day. He commented saying "We are aware of what appear to be some inadequacies in door hardware. We are not sure why this is so. I am not going to speculate [on the door opener]." He was aware some things did not work correctly. He mentioned the architecture department would take care of disabled students. One must remember that constructing a building is very complex. The university does not have control of the building designs or construction process, according to Barnes. Many of the problems are found out weeks, months and sometimes years later because there are many variables to consider. The fact is several building officials can go through a building and check

everything to make sure the building meets certain building code specifications and still sometimes miss things. It is not a process that can be done in a day. If there is something wrong, it can take a long time to get it corrected. Anton Kashiri, Physical Plant Director, has responsibility to handle these problems.

I spoke with Anton Kashiri a few days later. He said, "The building commission people have already been through the building and noticed design problems. Almost all problems since have been corrected except for the door opener problem." He showed me a heavy book that the building commission people have submitted for necessary repairs. I discovered problems inspected by the building commission

officials as potential problems ranged from ceiling sprinklers to mislabeled fire exits to other problems. Kashiri addressed my concerns about disabilities access, "Specifically the right door at the west entrance of the building will need a door opener for people in wheelchairs to get into the building." He showed me a proposal addressed to the Citadel Security System Inc requesting a door opener for handicapped access. During a follow-up interview, he said that the school approved the door opener proposal and the new door opener will be installed by mid-July. He told me that right now, he was concerned about the campus security computer system.

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Door Openers and Keycards *Continued...*

Will Smith
Staff Writer

Kashiri informed me that buildings J, N and Campus Safety are all connected to a computer system that open and lock doors on a time basis without a key. At nighttime, the computer automatically locks the doors and only students with keycards can get in after ten. The school is trying to provide architecture students and teachers card keys allowing access to work late. The keycards identify the user to Campus Safety and tell which cardholder is in the building, in what room and takes time stamps. The cards are programmed to open specific doors according to the user's profile, regardless of a student or faculty. If the entrance door is open more

than thirty seconds, an alarm will trigger Campus Safety and the police will check the building. He also explained the computer system is fully operational and the school is waiting on faculty and students' key cards, which are expected to arrive mid July. Kashiri expressed his desire to connect the dorms, other buildings and the Student Center to the computer system. However he explained that the school has more priorities to focus on from repairing damaged roofs, replacing boilers and removing round doorknobs with C-shaped doorknobs in compliance with the ADA requirements. Therefore keycards to the dorms and

Endicott Speaks on Nuclear Weapons

Will Smith
Staff Writer

During the third week of May, Presidents Putin and Bush signed the Moscow Treaty, the largest nuclear arms weapon treaty between the two nations. The treaty is aiming to reduce Russian and American nuclear arsenals down by 2/3, roughly between 2,200 to 1,700 nuclear missiles by 2012. India and Pakistan are on the verge of war, which could turn into the first nuclear war with devastating consequences. Dr. John Endicott, director of the Center of International Strategy and Policy (CISTP) at

other buildings will wait for a long time before becoming a reality; in the meantime, the users of the architecture building can test the new keycards and hopefully one day the entire school will use this technology.

Georgia Institute of Technology foresaw almost all this on April 9th. He spoke in the Student Center Ballroom on the topic of 'Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century.' The issue was part of the International Forum 2002 Speakers Series on American national security in a new age of terrorism.

He explained briefly the history of our nuclear program and reviewed the current Bush administration policy with its implications. The Nuclear Weapons Reduction Policy Review reduces warheads and the amount of antimissile defense. In 1945 (after the second atomic bomb was dropped) the United States, Soviet Union and other nations all worked rapidly on versions of the atomic bomb. In 1940 the United States had

more nuclear weapons than other nations combined and continued to produce more than any other nation up to 1967. From 1967 (Cold War era) to 1991, the Soviet Union began outnumbering the United States in nuclear weapons. "At the end of 2000, Russia continues to possess more nuclear weapons than we do now," explained Endicott.

It cost more to destroy nuclear weapons than it takes to build them as Dr. Endicott explained. According to Endicott, New Mexico has the largest stock supply of United States nuclear weapons designated to be destroyed and Georgia has the largest stock supply with 2,000 nuclear weapons ready to move in a moment's notice.

CONTINUED ON PG. 5

SGA Floats Office Renovations *Continued...*

Mark Campbell
Staff Writer

The proposal was approved by an 8-0 vote of the Student Council, with four members absent, at the special meeting called by Ware on Tuesday, May 28th. Vice-President Adefolarin Adeleye and Secretary/Treasurer Kamisha Hammond voted in favor of the measure, as did Council Members Marvin L. Broaddus, Jr.; Diana Gill; Nick Hanratty; Christopher Kelly; Corey Layton; and Carlos D. Neal. Absent were Council Members Kourtney Lewis, William Norris, Laura Payan, and Rosanna Rennie.

SGA President Randall Ware approved the Student Council resolution endorsing the proposal.

Koger expressed concerns about a possible student backlash. "We have somewhere probably between forty and fifty percent of our student body are non-traditional," Koger explained. "Most of those students don't even want to pay student fees, and constantly complain about it."

"My concern is that if we spend \$16,000 or \$22,000, whatever it takes to do this, that we set ourselves up for some kind of backlash," Koger added. "That if we need to ask for more money, that we're not going to get that

kind of student support in the future."

"I think we need to be really careful. Maybe we need to do this, maybe we need to spend \$22,000, and maybe we need to have these chairs assembled, and not do it the cheap way," said Koger.

Koger continued, "But I think we got to be really careful that we don't end up with a backlash from the student body on how we're spending their money. For one, they don't want to spend it anyhow; they don't even want to pay fees."

Barry Birkhead, Dean of Students, advised, "I just think spending that kind of money on a student office - I think a lot of students will have a big problem with it. I think it should be spent for more projects that all students would benefit from, and I don't see that many students benefiting from this, but that's open to debate."

Ware addressed their concerns, saying, "This SGA will set the policies for things to be different - there won't be any backlash, because our focus is on the academics. You have a few students, you will always have students complaining about something; they've complained about the food services for years. If you go back and look in the

minutes, you will see they complain."

"But," Ware continued, "What we will do is, as far as our town hall meetings because, but in my opinion, those problems are problems not worth spending so much of SGA's time on. We have to represent the total school body."

Ware then said, "What we will be doing as far as our town hall meetings, we will be having town hall meetings on a department by department basis. What that will ensure is that we as SGA, and as SGA President, are getting the concerns of the students at large."

Ware pointed out that the proposal also includes services the SGA plans to make available to students. "As far as the student body, the services that we want to offer them, if you look on the proposal, at most three free copies per day. We'll have a multi-function machine in here, we'll have a phone without long distance, which Leigh Ann [Holton] said she could set up."

"That way the students, when we're in here - and we plan to have office hours, and set into policy, so future SGAs, they will have to have office hours, because in order to build continuity, in order to

strengthen SGA, the students who run for these positions need to know it comes with responsibilities, and those responsibilities will be rewarded," Ware added.

"We plan to offer one free fax per day, also two-minute local phone calls - two-minute minimum [sic]. We're not going to make somebody get off the phone during our office hours," Ware explained.

Kamisha Hammond, SGA Secretary/Treasurer, said, "Now I understand what he's [Koger's] saying. He's saying that he feels that the students are going to look at as, 'They spent all that money to refurbish the SGA office. What about this, or what about that?' Or, 'I didn't want this, you have to still look better [sic]. I liked it the way it was, and I don't want my money spent like that.' That's what I think he's [Koger's] saying."

"But also, I think we should look at the fact that there's really not a place on campus where you can use a fax, or use a telephone without having to pay," Hammond continued. "And I've been in situations where I've had to use a fax, or people who need to get a fax, or like, insurance or different things like that."

Hammond added, "I mean, students don't have those services available to them, because it's not publicly available because of the cost of phones, and faxes, and things like that."

"But you can get that for a lot less than \$16,000," countered Patrick McCord, Vice-President of Fiscal Affairs.

Hammond replied, "I'm not arguing and saying that you can't get it cheap. I'm just saying that those are some services that we should look into getting, for the students."

Koger agreed with Hammond, saying, "Oh, I think you're right; I don't disagree with that. I don't even disagree with making this [SGA conference room] a multi-media [room]."

"I was reminded yesterday - this was before everybody in the room's time except Barry's [Birkhead] - but the President [of the University, Stephen Cheshier], one year, back in the early nineties, decided he was going to take end-of-the-year money and refurbish his office," said Koger. "There are folks here that contend that that was the beginning, the start of his downfall. And I would think that was \$75,000 or something, I heard."

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Financial Aid Switches Lenders *Continued...*

Mark Campbell,
Staff Writer

"You should still allow at least two weeks from the time you apply for a loan to the time its actually in your account," Spivak cautioned. "But we anticipate being able to do it a little bit faster than that. It's been quite a bit longer with the federal loan program."

Spivak added, "We're suggesting Georgia Student Finance for most students for their lenders, but we realize that some students will have relationships with banks, or their parents will have a relationship with a bank. And if they are on the list of Single Source Partners with Georgia Student Finance, we would be happy to process those, too."

Although most students file for Financial Aid early in the calendar year, Spivak advised that it is never too late to start the process. "We suggest that all students, no matter what their income level, fill out the FAFSA, which is the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance," Spivak said. "You can go online at www.fafsa.ed.gov; you can also come to our office and get a hard copy as the worksheet, and then go online, and that makes it easier."

"You'll need to have a copy of your taxes, and your parents' taxes, in order to fill out the information," Spivak added. "We suggest that you do it online, because it's processed much more quickly. It takes about two weeks [online], instead of about six to eight weeks [otherwise]."

Spivak explained how to find SPSU's Financial Aid Office. "The Financial Aid office is located in V Building, which is Norton Dorm, which is next to the amphitheatre, slightly up the hill from Howell Dorm, where the Housing office is located," Spivak said. "And kind of down the hill and towards the street from the back corner of the Library. If you're standing at the front steps of the Student Center and look beyond the Administration building, we're the next building down the hill."

Spivak continued, "You go in through the basement level, just like you were going to the Business office. The Business office is on the left-hand side; we're on the right-hand side. There's a desk in the lobby on the right-hand side that will have a person from Financial Aid there. You can sign your name, and wait your turn if it's real busy, or

else just go up to the desk if it's not, and you can speak to the person at the desk."

Spivak also advised how students should plan for financial aid throughout their stay at SPSU. "The best thing to do is to start thinking about the next year on January 1st. As soon as you can, do your taxes, and encourage your parents to do their taxes as soon as possible, because the more quickly you have those done, then you can have your tax forms to do your FAFSA from," Spivak stated.

"Do your FAFSA between January 1st, or probably January third, because we won't be open right at the first, and March 15th," Spivak stated. "And also, if you're interested in scholarships, you need to fill out a scholarship application. We have one application that is for all scholarships. You can get that in the Financial Aid office or from the recruiters. And that needs to be done between January 3rd and March 15th."

Spivak added that there are scholarships that don't originate with the Financial Aid office. "There are a lot of scholarships from other

sources, and you can look on the web and find a scholarship there. Anything you find we're happy to process for you," said Spivak.

"There might be one through a school, a civic organization, your parents' work or maybe a company that you've worked for, or some of the community businesses," Spivak continued. "We encourage students to try and find whatever resources they can on their own."

Spivak, and SPSU's HOPE Scholarship Coordinator Edna Silver, were key players one year ago in efforts to protect the confidential data of thousands of Georgia HOPE scholars throughout the state. A popular internet search engine, Google, had indexed and cached copies of pages from the Georgia Student Finance Commission after the Commission had failed to install a firewall and other measures to keep search engines away from confidential data. Spivak worked directly with Rob Rakove of Google to have the data removed from the internet company's computers, while keeping the Commission informed.

A detailed investigative report on the information security breach was reported first in The Sting on July 16th, 2001. Additional reporting by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution and other media in late July and August led Governor Roy Barnes (D-GA) to call for an investigation into the causes.

Subsequent changes at the Commission have included the use of Secure Socket Layer internet protocols and the hiring of William Spernow as the Commission's Chief Information Officer. Spernow has extensive experience and expertise as a Chief Information Security Officer.

Spivak has found members of the Commission to be very helpful as Southern Polytechnic changes loan programs. "They've come in here and helped us quite a bit setting up the computer," Spivak said. "Ruth Rich, from the Commission, has come here for about three or four weeks now, consistently every week, to help us set up the system."

Endicott Speaks on Nuclear Weapons

Will Smith
Staff Writer

It is expected the total world nuclear arsenal by 2012 will be a total of 9,980 weapons. After the Moscow treaty is carried out, Presidents Putin and Bush hope the world's arsenal will be lower.

Endicott said that China has shown restraint from using nuclear weapons. Chinese, Iranian, Syrian and Indian military officers are in the business of planning for nuclear attacks. "It is not a reason for concern," explained Endicott. It is just part of military planning for them for either possible invasion or defense. Nuclear weapons are considered as last options but nevertheless an essential part of some countries' military planning.

Center of International Strategy and Policy's goal is to create a localized Asia limited nuclear weapons zone. Its seminars are held around

the world where delegates from North Korea to China and other countries come to talk about making Asia a limited nuclear weapon free zone. The seminars were held in Atlanta 1995 and in Beijing 2000 where the treaty was finally written. Endicott commented that the last seminar was in Seoul when the treaty was reviewed. The next seminar will be this summer.

Endicott showed an outline of the new nuclear weapons infrastructure policy for a new age and the 21st century. The new infrastructure of the nuclear weapon policy will be the following: building new forces of physicists, building modern weapon plants, developing new warheads, maintaining production capacity of weapons and preparing to conduct nuclear testing.

Dr. Endicott took two questions at the end of his lecture. A student asked, "What are you [as a country] doing to make sure that there are not any suicide bombers with nuclear bomb suitcases?" Endicott addressed the issue by saying it is a real threat in the next ten years. He mentioned the former Soviet Union has had a causal way of keeping track (of records) of missiles and the security of nuclear materials are exposed; Russian officials deny having losing track of nuclear weapons or material. Also, Russian military officers and scientists often have knowledge or access to nuclear weapons, materials and nuclear suitcases. This enables them to be vulnerable to money and bribery from rogue nations. He summed it up by remarking, "This is a

real threat, small nuclear suitcase bombers."

When asked who launches nuclear weapons, the response was that the President makes the ultimate decision. This is why the President carries a small box with him. History may be repeating itself when the Soviet Union and United States were at the brink of war during the Bay of Pigs crisis. That period tested the strength and morals of two superpower leaders and now once again two former enemies are working together to prevent a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

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SGA Floats Office Renovations *Continued...*

Mark Campbell
Staff Writer

Ware expressed that such a backlash was not a concern. "I have the confidence, I have the confidence that I've integrated myself, and this SGA, into the student body, to a point to where I know if there will be backlash, or not," Ware said. "And I know that for one true fact, is there will be a few people who, for one reason or another – because maybe they don't understand, and we'll make sure they understand why these things were done."

"But there won't be backlash to that extent to where you have the whole student body knocking your door down," Ware stated.

Ware added, "We spent money. We spent money; last year we spent \$11,000 on digital sound equipment. I will guarantee you that once this is done here, this will get more use from the student body, and from the faculty and administration, because I want to draw all of us together."

"If we're all working and coming to the same spot, we're going to be in contact with each other," Ware stated. "So, not only will the students be able to see the benefit, but the faculty and administration, when we open this up and they say 'Whoa! You know, the students really did good.'"

Hammond asked that students be consulted on the matter. "I don't know if you can do this or not – but instead of all the controversy and all the debate, why don't we ask the student body? Why don't we e-mail them and say, 'Hey, would you like these services added to the SGA office?' I mean, ask them how they want their money spent."

"You know, I talk about this all the time," Hammond added. "Ask the students what they want to see on campus – ask them, and see how they will feel. And go by the majority."

Koger countered that that would delay things. Ware agreed, saying, "Yeah. Kamisha [Hammond], we're the executive body; we have to make decisions."

"I think you have to decide how much static you want to put up with," said Koger.

Vice President of Fiscal Affairs, Patrick McCord, added, "Let me set for you a table of environment. Environment is – and you probably don't see these people – we have a rather large non-traditional population."

"The non-traditional population is people who work from eight to five, they

come out here at night," McCord stated. "And I hear from them a lot, because they don't want to pay any student activity fee; they don't have time to take advantage of it. And they don't see where they have to support it."

McCord continued, "Sooner or later, I will predict, that the fee being whether you take one [credit] hour, or twelve, it's going to be prorated. And when it is, in order to bring in the same revenue level, you're going to have to go way up on your fee."

"It's going to put the burden on the students that are coming here, and are taking a full load, and that kind of thing," McCord advised. "And when it does, you're going to have an adverse backlash, and things like this [the SGA proposal], could be sensitive at this time right now."

Ware replied, "Traditionally, our non-traditional students have been our McDonald's customers; they come in, get their hamburger, they leave. The majority of them don't know about all of the resources available to them. All they know is that they pay fees."

"That's why, when like I talk to Alberta [Cook, Administrative Assistant,

ECET Department], which houses almost several hundred students of the ECET Department [sic], we will get with the non-traditional students, have two town hall meetings in that department," Ware explained. "Some departments will require two, because we need to get at the root of what they do want."

"Because nobody's never [sic] taken the time out to find out what they want," Ware added. "I spoke to one guy, and he said, 'I'm a non-traditional student; I don't ask for much. Even if you guys could provide us with little backpacks, little sacks to carry around that has Southern Polytech on it – we can get those for little or nothing – I would appreciate that. Just something.'"

"There were ideas that you [Koger] brought up that were valid," Ware continued, "Like on the weekends, SGA sponsoring something like one or three hour type of Parents' Evening Out, where they drop off their children over here, and we plan some movie or something like that that they could watch and the parents could either go and study in the library or they go out to eat or something like that."

Ware added, "And that's something, as a parent myself, that's something valuable to

me, because I would love to have something like that. We need to start thinking outside the box."

Koger replied, "I don't think we're arguing about that. I don't want you to sink the ship before you get it afloat..."

McCord added, "What Dr. Koger's trying to say, is that if you're going to make an impression, and keep support up from the students, as SGA, and that their dollars provide them a valuable service, you're going to have to show them not impressive-looking furniture for the officers, you're going to have to show them services."

Ware responded, "These [the furnishings] are only tools. These are only the tools the SGA will use with the student organizations to make it more efficient and make it more professional. Talk is cheap; but implementation – I have a track record, for my implementation being excellent. And I will implement everything that I said from my mouth. And I have confidence that I will be able to achieve those goals that I set forth for myself, and my team."

TCOM Open House 2002

Will Smith
Staff Writer

In the J building on the second floor, there are students and teachers looking and commenting on each other works. It is the 2nd Annual Technical Communication (TCOM) Senior Portfolio Open House. Once a year in the spring semester, there are enough senior students who will take the senior portfolio course. After accumulating their TCOM works over their college years, the seniors will show off their best works in the annual open house. They show their writing and editing skills in two proposals, one electronic which is viewed on the students' web sites and another on paper.

Mark Stevens, the head of the TCOM department explained the purpose of the open house, "Last year's open

house was very good. This year's students were able to build on last year's students' works. They look at last year's student works and started from there. Before TCOM Open House, the Senior Portfolio course was a one-hour credit class where students just put together their works. Now students work harder on their portfolio work." The open house provides free access for the SPSU community, the students' families and potential business employers from IBM to various small companies.

The technical communicator role dates back as far as Ancient Rome and Egypt. Numerous blueprints of the Roman and Egyptian's buildings were created by technical communicators but were lost

over centuries. Technical communication first emerged as a modern career specialization during World War II when the typical manual was made of mostly words and technical communication was mostly editing and proofreading documents. The military used technical communication as a career specialization from mechanical transportation to code-breaking manuals to military strategies. The field mushroomed during the 70's and 80's when computers started becoming available to the public and instructions were needed to understand high tech computer materials. With the Information Age exploding, experts have much more to work with visual information by using graphics, sounds and even video clips, replying on skills

learned in Video Production, Visual Thinking and other technical communication courses.

Some students had gotten internships to CDC and Lockheed Martin. As I walked around examining students' works, I saw some interesting materials. Some students showed old documents and their editing revisions of them. Others promoted their artistic skills by creating business cards and graphics designs for small business companies like Brick Players and advertisements for fraternities and school events. Seniors also showed their power point presentations ranging from exotic cities to their own lives' history.

I asked a few students what they want to do when

they graduate in the spring. One student hopes to return to Center of Disease Control for a full-time career. Another senior wants to run her own interior design company. One of the seniors, Amy Jalutkewicz replied, "I don't care at this point, I just want a job." Some hope to do multimedia projects for website companies. Some wished to continue their education into graduate school. Who knows what potential the seniors will show off at the next open house?



SGA Hosts Inaugural Luncheon

Mark Campbell
Sting Staff

The first annual Inauguration Luncheon for the Student Government Association was held at noon, on Thursday, April 25th. The guest speaker was the 1995 SGA President, Mr. Bill Finnick, an engineer with Lucent Technologies. Both Kenwin Hayes and Randall Ware spoke as the reigns of the student government changed from the old to the new.

During the luncheon, the new members of the student council were sworn in. These included Randall Ware as President, Adefolarin O. Adeleye as Vice-President, and Kamisha Hammond as Secretary/Treasurer.

Nick Hanratty, Corey Layton, Kortney Lewis, Carlos D. Neal and Rosanna Rennie were presented as returning council members. The five new council members introduced were Marvin Broaddus, Diana Gill, Christopher Kelley, William Norris and Laura Payan.

Ware also appointed Rocky Myers as the Chief Judge of the Judiciary of SGA. Myers introduced Meg Mbugua, Alma Manga, John Heusinger, Wes Johnson, Maxwell Odum and Cecilia Bell as judges.

A number of students and staff outside of the Student Government Association were honored with certificates for service to the student body. Dustin Grau, the former General Manager of SPSU's student-run radio station, was recognized by the SGA as Student of the Year.

Kenwin Hayes spoke about leaving the university as the Student Government Association president. "It's truly been a learning experience. I'm going to miss being in SGA because it's what I've done my entire collegiate career. I'm going to miss Southern Poly – I'm graduating this semester, so I really learned some valuable experiences in SGA and being here at Southern Poly, and I'm truly going to miss it."

"Some of our goals this year have included short term, intermediate, and long term," added Hayes. "Our basic goal was to ensure that the students of Southern Poly are capable of exercising their lawful rights concerning their education, safety, and allocation of student generated funds."

Hayes said, "Also to help improve relationships between current students and alumni, to provide students with current information about

possible changes within Southern Poly, more student input into vendor services, and to increase the presence of SGA on campus."

"And one of the biggest things that we – SGA now has control over the student rollover balance which was over a hundred and fifty thousand dollars," Hayes stated.

In his keynote speech, past SGA President Bill Finnick said, "The challenges that these people will face will be, you will think- you will think they perceive them to be larger than they are. But in reality they are important."

"On Monday I had a meeting with my senior manager, and I told him that Derrick [Davis, 1999-2000 past SGA president] and I were coming here," said Finnick. "And this is a man with a thousand people reporting to him – it used to be two thousand a year ago, but there's a thousand of us left – and he told me, 'Yes, I did that. I was on the student government.'"

Finnick added, "He said, 'If I hadn't gotten four promotions, that would have been the only time I had ever spent looking at a big budget, and making decisions.'"

"This may be, for me – I know where I stand in the company – this was the greatest leadership experience I will ever have in my life," Finnick said. "And I hope you'll embrace it, and work with it."

Outgoing SGA President Kenwin Hayes spoke of the accomplishments achieved by under his tenure. "Of course, we had many other goals," Hayes stated. "And you can't accomplish all the goals that you set forth in the year, but we were able to accomplish a lot of goals this year. And student government is bashed a lot in – web pages, radio, newspaper – but, you know, that type of thing is going to happen."

"You know, maybe some of the things that you don't hear of, is that how we had Tech Fee workshops for student organizations; how we helped lower vending machine prices last summer," Hayes said. "How Southern Poly [sic] helped develop Southern Poly's alternate dispute resolution. How we implemented a liaison system for better communication between SGA, student organizations and academic departments."

"How we purchased some equipment for student

use, including studio speakers and lighting. How we had an alumni reception – alumni appreciation reception – this past November," Hayes added.

"We had voter registration drives. We had Town Hall meetings. As the Student Advisory Council which represents all thirty-four public universities in the state of Georgia, all of their SGA Presidents were here in January, on Southern Poly's campus," Hayes continued.

"So, it upsets us to hear when we hear that we haven't been doing our job, and we haven't did [sic] anything," Hayes said. "Maybe you all haven't heard where we did anything, but that's why we're having these, this first inauguration, for you to see what SGA is doing."

Finnick, the SGA's guest speaker, spoke about how the experience of serving in student government has proved useful in his career. "In 1997 they [Lucent Technologies] developed this team – it was called the Diversity Team at corporate level – and it was all the senior, senior managers," Finnick explained.

CONTINUED ON PG 8

New SGA President Speaks at Inaugural Luncheon

Mark Campbell
Sting Staff

On Thursday, April 25th, 2001, Randall Ware was sworn in as the 2002-2003 Student Government Association President. Near the conclusion of the first annual SGA Inaugural Luncheon, President Ware spoke.

An audio recording of the first annual SGA Inauguration Luncheon is available from SPSU's student-run radio station, WGHR FM 100.7, at wghr.spsu.edu. A transcript of the Inauguration Luncheon is available online at the Sting, www.thesting.org.

Ware's inaugural speech is provided below:

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your student government president."

"As I take into this office – step into this office, I'd like

to thank, and express, my overwhelming joy – and they've heard me express this joy all the time, but it's from the heart – to have the opportunity to have served with people who have been dedicated to working together as a team, and devoted to serving students, not their own interests. I applaud each and every one of you."

"Because it is their commitment to working, together, that SGA was able to make a transition, and to build a strong foundation – to build a strong foundation for Southern Polytech's future. And also, to make the voice of the students strong."

"As we move on into the next SGA term, our mission will be to promote even stronger teamwork amongst the student organizations, administration, faculty, staff and alumni."

"Over the past year many of us have seen the tides of change slowly sweep through our university. We're into the time of change, so let's embrace it. Oftentimes, it will not be easy to do so, for resistance is always the biggest obstacle to change."

"Change, however, can be an exciting and a rewarding, if we're willing to work together, and to be not be held back by traditions and standards that have been made by others."

"Which brings me to the end of what I had to say to everyone in this room. You all have made me realize that anything is possible, if you put your mind to it. Nothing is impossible, and people who feel that things are impossible, don't go to those people."

"Because anything, with a stronger team and a stronger

school that we have, and as much resources that we have, we can accomplish and push this school to one of the greatest applied engineering schools in this state and in this nation."

"And, which brings me to say, you know there was an old saying that I used to hear when I first came to school, that it was the students that made the school. But, whoever made that up, they lied, because it's not just the students that make up the school."

"It's the faculty, it's the staff that keeps this place looking very beautiful for us to go to, it's the administration, it's the alumni who continue to support the organizations and the student body – it's all of us that it takes to make this school. If one element, if one of the functionalities was

missing, the school would lose a functionality, and it would not function as a whole."

"So on that note, thank you again for letting me have the opportunity to serve as your Student Government Vice-President, and I look forward to having a strong team and team dynamic year with each and every last one of you all. Thank you."

SGA Hosts Inaugural Luncheon *Continued...*

Mark Campbell
Sting Staff

"And they decided that they wanted to have one line engineer," Finnick said. "There were five thousand of us. They wanted one line engineer be on the board to tell them what it was like as an engineer."

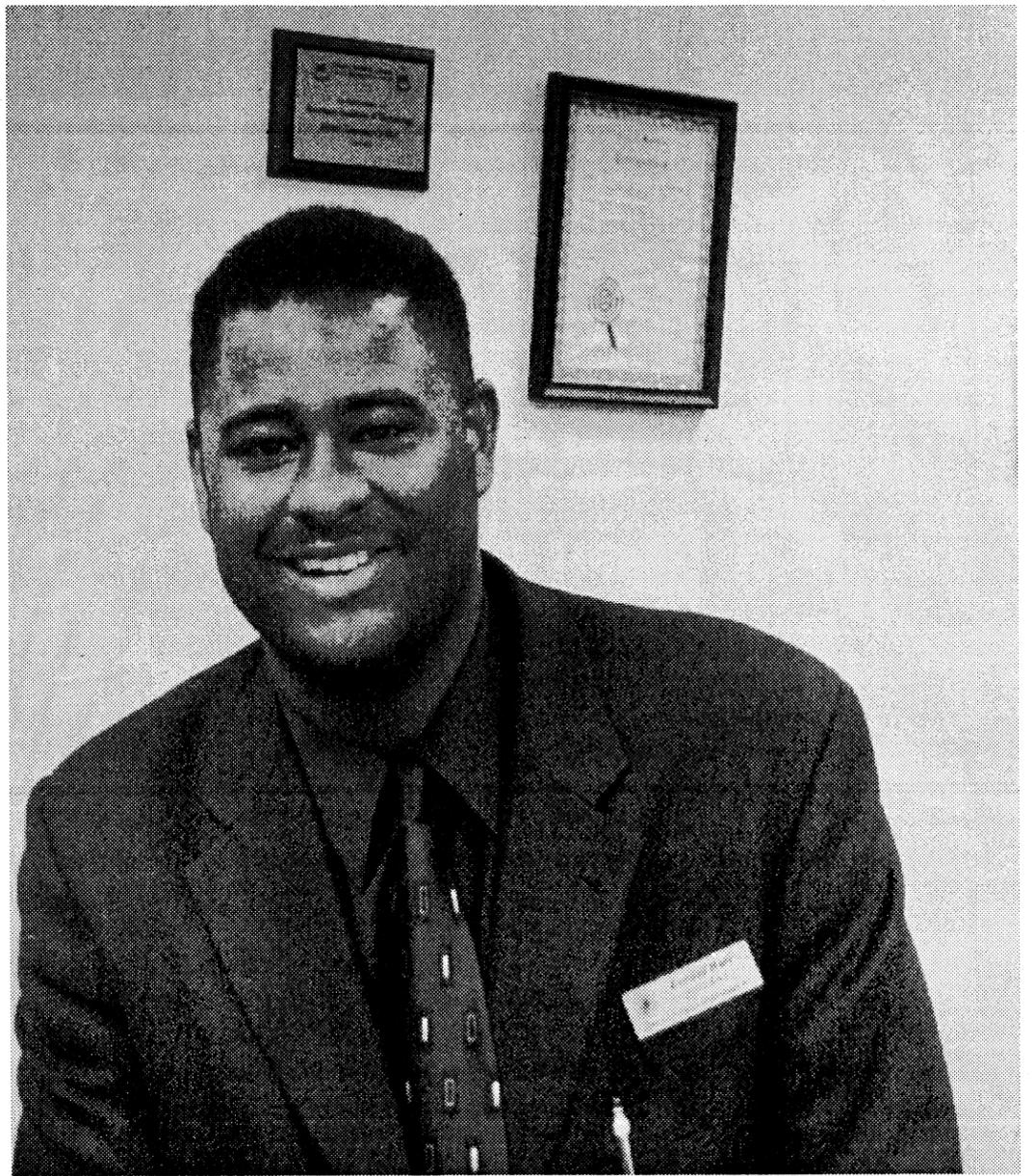
Finnick continued, "And for some reason - I still don't know still today why it was me other than, it said that Bill Finnick, and he had been the SGA President at Southern Tech. That was the only thing that distinguished me from anyone else. So, they put a lot of money into teaching me to be nice."

Hayes, who graduated at the end of Spring semester, also had advice for incoming SGA President Randall Ware. "I know, you know, Randall, I really don't talk too much, but I want to give you just a few pointers. I'm sure you know what I'm thinking. I talked with you, I told you this yesterday - pick your battles."

"You can't - every battle, every person, is not worth it. It's a waste of time," Hayes stated. "You focus on what you need to do, and not worry about these little other distractions, because you have a vision, you have a plan. Go forward with that; don't get off track by these other people."

Hayes added, "And let these haters be your motivators. Ok?"

"I'm sure you know what I'm talking about with that one," said Hayes. "I'm sure the rest of you all do, too."



The New SGA President, Randall Ware Smiles After Assuming His Office

10th Annual Science Olympiad

Will Smith
Staff Writer

On May 9, there was something unusual on campus. There were mostly children on campus, but don't worry. The college students had not reverted back into kids from all the exam studying. Today was the Tenth Annual Science Olympiad for Cobb Elementary Schools and Cobb County Public Schools. Our campus has hosted the event here for three years now. Various schools from near and far within Cobb County came to see which school had the best or brightest elementary students. More than thirty schools came to the Science Olympiad this year.

After the opening ceremonies, the science games began. Some events required advanced registration. Other events were drop-in events which students from any school can sign up as a team. Each school had selected third, fourth and fifth-grade students to participate as a team and the science teachers were the coaches.

Watching these children, I had a feeling that they were smart and motivated and that

some may become future SPSU students. Some children may enroll in the future Biology major currently being established here after excelling in events like "A is for Anatomy" and "Food for Thought & Energy." Both competitions require an intimate knowledge of the human body and nutrition. Future physics students may have won events like "Simple Machine" and "Aerodynamics," the study of gas forces on moving objects. "The Straw Egg Drop" is always a favorite event in which children predict how to drop an egg down to a floor safely by using gravity, air resistance and hand-made parachutes. Kids were challenged on their science history in "Name the Scientist" category and their math skills in the "Calculator Contest."

Other students may enroll in the architecture program if they were participating in the Mystery Architecture and Barge Building events. Some future students may enroll in the CET program after taking part in

the Map Reading and the Simple Machine events. Ten years later, some kids may join the space program using their knowledge from competing in the "Starry, Starry Night" challenge and launching their water rockets in the Water Rocket Event. After watching a few rockets blasted into the sky above the flagpole, I wondered if the best rockets were those rockets' parachutes caught in the surrounding trees.

In the Student Center Luncheon Lobby, the UCB Chemical Corporation had their scientists perform their "Cool Chemistry" demonstrations. Astounded children watched experiments with liquid nitrogen as the company scientists explained the gases' effect on rubber balls, roses and even balloons. They also showed how liquid turns purple in nine seconds after base is added into the container. Acids, bases, gases and chemical reactions were explained in detail. This was educational entertainment to relearn the fundamental scientific principles.

In the afternoon, judges were ready to declare the winners of the Science Olympiad. One of the judges thanked the teachers for bringing the children and parents. Medals were given out for first, second and third place winners of individual events. The schools with the most individual medals won the champion trophies. Sope Creek Elementary School won first place overall, Murdock School was runner-up with second place, Tritt Elementary School won third place and Sedalia Park School won fourth place.

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ASCE Regional 2002 Competition

Will Smith
Staff Writer

Southern Polytechnic State University competed in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Southeast Regional 2002 Competition April 4-6, 2002. SPSU ranked six place overall with 25 universities competing in the Southeast Conference located in Tallahassee, Florida. Our team won first place in the concrete bowling ball, which was designed and constructed to knock down pins. SPSU came in second place in Steel Bridge Construction. For the school to qualify a win in second place in a tough competition, the team had to win 1st place in two events: steel bridge economy and steel bridge construction speed. The Steel Bridge Construction team also won 2nd place in the following events: aesthetics (steel bridge art beauty) and steel bridge stiffness. Finally, the team



ASCE Bridge Building Team Showing Off Their New Design

won third place in the following events: steel bridge lightness and steel bridge structural efficiency. The Survey Team won third place in the surveying competition. SPSU also won sixth place in Concrete Canoe, a competition where teams need to design, construct and paddle in their canoes in a race. Various members of SPSU won in other competitions from Balsa Wood Bridge to Geotechnical to Cost Estimation.

The ASCE team has continued to put Southern Polytechnic State University's name among the best schools in the southeast region; they are traveling to the National American Society Civil Engineers Competition held in Madison, Wisconsin. The NASCE will celebrate its 150th Anniversary at the University of Wisconsin.

Tennis Team, Coach Honored

Mark Campbell
Staff Writer

Southern Polytechnic's men's tennis team wrapped up last year with a 3-8 record, in what the team's coach, Dr. Lee Tucker, called a tough conference. The six student members of the team were honored at an awards ceremony on Monday, May 6th. Jorge Altamirano, of Ecuador, was recognized as the team's Most Valuable Player.

Professor Tucker, who retires soon from the Physics department, was also recognized for his service to the team. "At the awards ceremony, I got an appreciation plaque for thirty-one years of being tennis coach at Southern Poly. This is my last year, and Carl Staber of the Athletic Department at Southern Polytechnic will soon, I imagine, hire somebody else to do the tennis team. I know he's looking at several prospects right now."

"We had a very good team this year, a very strong team," Tucker said. "Our conference, the GACC, the Georgia-Alabama-Carolina Conference, is the best conference in the nation. Our top three teams are ranked nationally, and they're like the

top five in the nation. And they go the national tournament every year. The other teams in the conference are strong, too."

Southern Polytechnic State University hosted the 2002 tennis tournament, finishing fifth of the seven intercollegiate teams that competed. The tournament was won by the team from Auburn University at Montgomery.

"The tennis team at Southern Polytechnic State University is a member of the NAIA [National association of Intercollegiate Athletics]," Tucker explained. "NAIA has two divisions; it has a scholarship division and a non-scholarship division. Southern Poly is a member of the scholarship division. The basketball, baseball and tennis [teams at SPSU] are a member of that group."

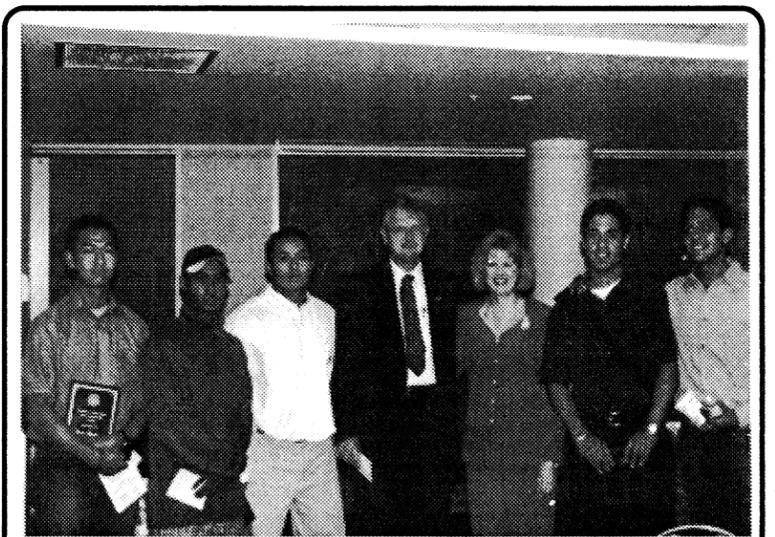
Speaking of the other top GACC tennis teams, Tucker stated, "The other teams are University of Auburn at Montgomery [in Alabama]; they were the number one team. They were ranked number one in the nation. Georgia Southwestern

[State University] in Americus was also, in fact they were ranked three in the nation. Shorter [College] was ranked four in the nation at one time—I don't know how they ended up the season, but you can be sure they ended up."

"Those three were in the top five last year," Tucker continued, "And they were in the top five this year. Also North Georgia [College and State University] is in our conference. Those were the competitors."

"Emmanuel College, in Franklin Springs, [Georgia] was in our conference. All of our conference is in Georgia," said Tucker. Southern Polytechnic also plays conference rival Reinhardt College, located in the town of Waleska in north Cherokee County.

Tucker explained how the tennis team was organized. "The number one player plays the number one players from the other schools; they're generally the best player," Tucker said. "Jorge Altamirano was a senior — this was his fourth year playing for Southern Poly — he played number one for us."



Awards Banquet May 2002

Left to Right: Ivan Chamdani (Indonesia) "Most Improved Player"; Award Yannick Bashizi (France) "Hustle"; Award Jason Jirasakhiran (Marietta) "Outstanding Senior"; Award Coach Tucker; Mrs. Tucker (Assistant Coach) Jorge Altamirano (Ecuador) "Most Valuable Player"; Award Jose Altamirano

"Number two was Ivan Chamdani. He played for us last year; this was his second season. I expect him back next year," added Tucker. "Number three was Yannick Bashizi. He was a transfer from Clayton [College and] State [University] — he's from France." Chamandi was recognized as 'Most Improved Player,' while Bashizi received the 'Hustle' award.

Tucker continued, "Jose Altamirano, Jorge's brother — they're from Ecuador — he played number four. John Hedberg, in his third season, played number five. Jason Jirasakhiran was number six, and it was his third season." Jirasakhiran was recognized as the 'Outstanding Senior' on the team.

CONTINUED ON PG. 10

SPSU Athletic Awards Banquet

Will Smith
Staff Writer

On May 6, Southern Polytechnic Athletic Association hosted the Athletic Awards Banquet. Lisa Rossbacher, SPSU President and Karl Staber, Athletic Director both led the ceremony. After the banquet meal, the athletic awards were handed out. Barry Birkhead, the SPSU Athletic Association President, concluded the banquet. Congratulations to all these students for being a part of Southern Polytechnic State University's athletic teams.

Mike Helfer, the basketball coach and Coach of the Year, contributed the athletic awards to the following basketball players: Mike Benson, Canaan Brown, Ruben Bush, Matt Cogbill, Duriel Coleman, Antonio Graham, Duwand Jackson,

Leho Kraav, D'Juan Neal, TJ Watson and Quentin Wilson.

Dr. Lee Tucker, the tennis coach, presented the awards to the following players on the tennis roster: Jorge Altamirano, Jose Altamirano, Yannick Bashizi, Michael Chamdani, John Hedberg and Jason Jirasakhiran.

Tommy Knight and Matt Griffin, the baseball coaches, donated the awards to the following baseball players: Chris Baker, Josh Blanton, Jeramie Brown, Brooks Cauley, Scott Creel, Lee Croteau, John Deems, Josh Forrester, Lee Foskey, Evan Goff, Brent Henson, Jared Humphries, Jamil Mamdani, Dusty McManus, Jeremiah Phillips, Micheal Percy, Preston Readdy, Alex Santiago, Brandon Smith, Jeremy Stiefel, Kevin

Thornton, Alfredo Warden and Kasey Wilson.

The basketball team ranked 15-3 in the GACC with overall 27 wins and 5 losses. The Running Hornets' outstanding regular season record leaves them as seventh place national ranking. They went to Kansas to participate in the National Association Intercollegiate Athletics tournament. The baseball team's season record was 28 wins -27 losses but had a team record of 61 stolen bases. Members of the baseball team have gone to both Freshman All-Conference and Academic All-Conference. The tennis team's score was three strong wins and eight losses. The team placed fifth place in the district tournament and also went to the regional tennis tournament.

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Student/Faculty Basketball Game

Will Smith
Staff Writer

If you pay attention to a little display on the wall by the Student Center Theatre, there is a large tall first place trophy with a score paper behind it. That trophy is from the first student/faculty basketball game held on Thursday April 25. The score paper however is incorrect for I was there at the game along with students, teachers, parents and children. The audience was stomping on the benches for another three point shot, cheering and clapping. More surprising, the idea of the student/faculty game came from students. The student team players were Judge Collier, Roy Miller, Kelly Herd, Kenwin Hayes, Adrian Canty, Jarmon Gray and Amos Williams. The faculty team players were Karl Staber, Matt Griffin, Tommy Knight, Jeff Timothy, Troy Youngs and Barry Birkhead. With thirteen minutes left in the first period, the score was tied 4-4. The action was very quick and swift but at the end of the first period, the score was 19-22 with the students winning the first period. The students went into halftime in high spirits as the audience waited for the prize drawings.

WGHR drew raffle tickets for the first halftime

prize, two movie tickets to see Spiderman on its opening weekend. Chauncey Ford won the raffle. Another raffle drawing drew six people for a chance to win fifty dollars. The halftime three-point contest required six people to shoot the most out of nine shots at the three-point line under in a minute. Sharon Washington won the grand prize with seven shots. As Washington sat down with his prize and a little trophy, the students and faculty players were warming up for the second half.

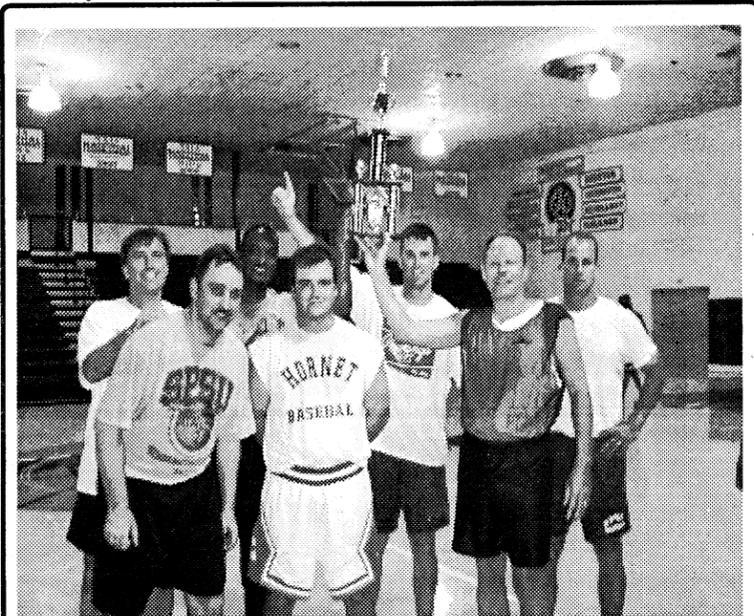
The second period was a different story. Eighteen minutes into the second period, the students were winning by one point. With fourteen minutes left in the game, the score was 27-24, the students beating the faculty. With six minutes remaining, the students were struggling for they were barely one point ahead. Twenty seconds later, the teachers finally took over when the score was 34-33. The students and faculty continued scoring against each other until the four minutes mark. With one minute left in the game, the teachers maintained their lead and won the game 41-

35. When I took the faculty team picture, a student asked me for a copy of the picture. Out of curious I asked why and was surprised by the response that she and three other students put together the faculty student basketball game.

Four students came up with this idea of students playing against teachers at the end of the semester before finals. I interviewed Christy Williams, Judge Collier, and Jarmon Gray and Miranda Bennett about the student/faculty game and their efforts in making an idea into a reality. Their opinions about the faculty winning the game were mixed. Jarmon Gray thought that the whole idea of having the game was for the students to beat the teachers. One of the student players hated to lose but was pleased with the audience turn-out. Williams did not care who won the game. The four students had to do a community service project for a technical communication course. It took them a month to get this project going. Student Government Association (SGA) gave funding for shirts, trophies and advertisement

flyers for the game. WGHR provided the refreshments and halftime prizes for the game. Williams explained, "We asked students from campus organizations and teachers to play basketball." They believe that the student/faculty game will continue next year with a larger turn-out since the game was well appreciated by the audience. If they or future students can get the game organized early and publicized it well, there may be another game next year. They are not sure if the game will continue next year as Gray said, "SGA

may or may not sponsor a game next year." Let us hope WGHR or SGA will sponsor another game in the future and maybe next time the students will win over the faculty.



Faculty Celebrating Their Win Over the Student's Team

Tennis Team, Coach Honored *Continued...*

"We were three [wins] and eight [losses]. They were a strong three and eight," said Tucker. "We also made the district conference. This tells you how strong our conference is – we were fifth place in our conference and we made the district [tournament]."

Tucker explained, "District takes the best six teams in the region. I guess they call it a region rather than a district."

"So we made the regional tournament," Tucker continued, "Which takes the best six players in that Georgia-Alabama-Carolina area. The other player was [from] Spring Hill, and Mobile, Alabama, was the sixth one."

Tucker explained how the team fared at the regional tournament, which was held at Marietta's Laurel Park. "We lost out the first round to Georgia Southwestern [State University]. Eight to one was the final score. The number six player, Jason Jirasakhiran, was the one that won the point."

Asked how Southern Polytechnic's team compared to larger universities, Tucker replied, "Oh, they're [the SPSU team] not as good as [the University of] Georgia. At one time we were about as

good as Georgia State [University], but Georgia State has improved their tennis team."

Tucker explained that the focus at Southern Polytechnic was different for student-athletes. "See, our teams – when I go to recruit a tennis player, I want somebody that's going to be able to pass at our school. So I have to look at not only how well he plays tennis, but whether he's going to be able to pass Southern Tech."

Tucker continued, "Whereas some of the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] schools, they don't care whether you pass or not, they get you as a player for one season. You'll play tennis, or you'll play football or basketball, but you might not learn much."

"I want somebody, like I had three of my guys graduating this year," Tucker said. "Every one of my players will graduate. It's in the high ninety percent, because I look for some people that are going to graduate, that are going to do well here."

Tucker pointed out that not all prospects make the cut. "I looked at one player one time, I think he was from Sprayberry [High School]. He said he was good with arithmetic, but when those num-

bers changed to letters, it gave him problems. I said, 'Well, this is not the school for you.'"

"That limits how good we can be," Tucker admits. As a physics professor, he put the team in perspective, saying, "We're trying to get our students – in essence, what we're trying to do with the tennis team, is give our students the opportunity to play intercollegiate sports. And I think it is important for the campus to do that."

"I know that we're going to give some of the female students a chance to play basketball next time. So I think that's really good, too," Tucker continued.

Tucker explained how student-athletes earn scholarships for tennis from the Athletic department. "In essence, what I've been doing the last few years is I play them, and depending on how well they do against me, they get a scholarship," he said. "What I've been doing lately is, for some of them that are a lot better than I am, I want them to play against some of the players that are on our team, and see how they compare with them."

"And if they compare well with the team members I have, I'll offer them a scholarship. We're talking about

the \$500 to \$1000 a semester range," said Tucker.

Tucker explained that walk-on students were also welcome to try out. "I take them. I treat them just like I do the scholarship players," he said. "If they make the team, they're eligible for the scholarship the next semester."

"And we'll have a tournament for position. The one who wins the tournament gets the top position, the one who comes in second gets the second position, and so on," said Tucker.

"Generally, what has happened is that people who are of scholarship caliber, they'll be down at the tennis courts wanting to play tennis," Tucker explained. "And they'll see us down there practicing, and they'll ask me about it. Or they'll see an article written in the Sting, or something."

"I've posted signs up [on campus.]," Tucker added. "A lot of times parents call in and they'll ask 'Do you have a tennis team?' And the people [in Admissions] that get that information send it to me, so I have people sending me information all the time about it."

Tucker added that he actively recruits players for the team. "Also, I know a lot of times the players – the good

players – in our area. Sometimes I will go to these tournaments and talk to people, and see how their interests lie."

The team practices at Southern Polytechnic's own tennis courts. "The tennis courts are right off of South Cobb Drive, on the side that's right next to the [Cobb] County School Bus Depot," Tucker said. "And there's a sign that says 'Southern Poly Entrance,' it's 'Southern Poly South Cobb Entrance.' As you come in that entrance, the tennis courts are on the right. You can't miss them. We've got nine tennis courts there."

Tucker added, "Our general practice is at two o'clock, on the days where it's clear. We're off for the summer. They practice on their own this summer, but I'd imagine this fall – what we generally do is the first of the semester we get everybody's schedule and we determine a time when the most people can practice so we don't miss any labs and so forth."

"Generally, that's around two o'clock in the afternoon. If anybody has labs at two, we'll practice maybe at five, or something," Tucker said.

The STING Staff Mercedes. Editor In Chief

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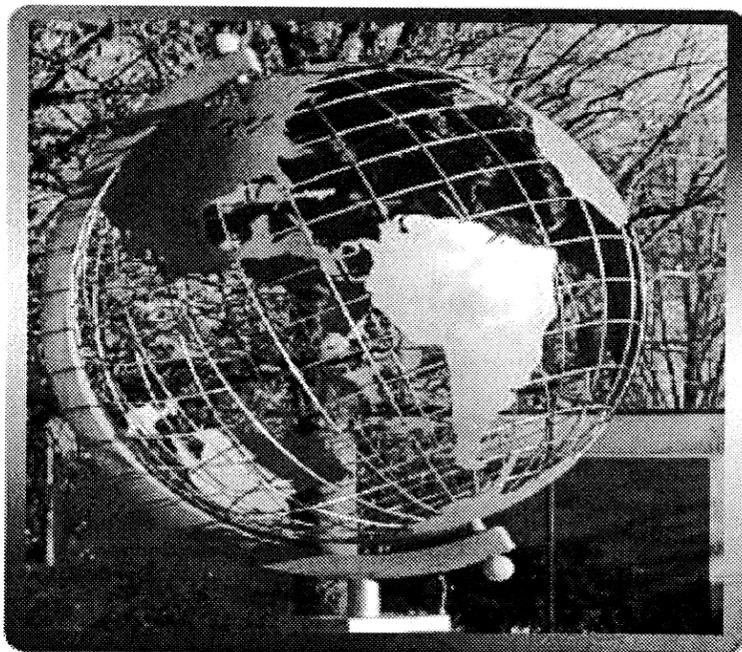
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Joining The STING: Any student paying activity fees is eligible to join The STING. We prefer creative students that love to write!

Deadline: August 9th



Book Review: Report From Ground Zero

Joshua Shannon
Staff Writer

Report From Ground Zero is Dennis Smith's account of what happened to him and a number of firefighters and police officers on that fateful September day, and a journal of sorts from him during the few months following 9-11. The first half of the book is accounts from many people who survived that day, and also stories of how some firefighters and police officers died, and the second half is Smith's journal. Through this book, the reader glimpses what can only be described as hell on earth.

When I first bought the book, I was concerned that it was just someone's attempt to capitalize on 9-11. Because of this, I was wary when I first started reading. However, my

concerns were quickly put to rest; the first few pages after the title page had nothing except the names of all of the firefighters, police officers, and Port Authority officers who died that day. After the names, come the stories. The stories are very well done; sometimes they are first hand accounts, sometimes narratives, sometimes a mix of the two. No matter the style, though, they are all moving. The main story that I remember is that of a husband, a firefighter, and wife, at work in the North Tower. For a number of hours, both were concerned that the other had died; eventually, though, they found each other alive.

In some respects, the second half of the book is the

weaker half. The journal, while interesting, is nowhere near as captivating as the survivors' stories. However, in other respects, it is stronger because it deals with the funerals of many of the fallen heroes, as well as telling how the cleanup happens, from the "Bucket Brigades" to what happens when a firefighter or police officer is found.

This book is very well written, and is very moving at times. It gave me a better sense of what the firefighters' jobs were that day, and gave me a better appreciation of what they did, and I highly recommend it.

Book Review: Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones

Joshua Shannon
Staff Writer

Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones is, not surprisingly, the novelization of the movie of the same name. Written by R.A. Salvatore, it tells the story of Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi trying to protect Senator Padme Amidala from an assassin. Rather than go further into the plot than that, I will just comment on the writing and give my opinion at the end.

This book was somewhat disappointing. Having heard a lot of good things about Salvatore, I was expecting to be captivated throughout the book; however, this was not the case. While it is by no means a difficult read, it does

slow down a lot. The book seemed to follow the pattern "extreme action-severe drop-off-extreme action-severe drop-off." While the action sequences were very well written, the parts in-between seemed to be a mix between mediocre and good.

Because of the nature of the book and the mixed bag of writing, I cautiously recommend this book. Had the writing been great throughout the book, it would have been easier to simply recommend it; as such, only extreme Star Wars fans will truly enjoy it.

Murder by Numbers Review

Will Smith
Staff Writer

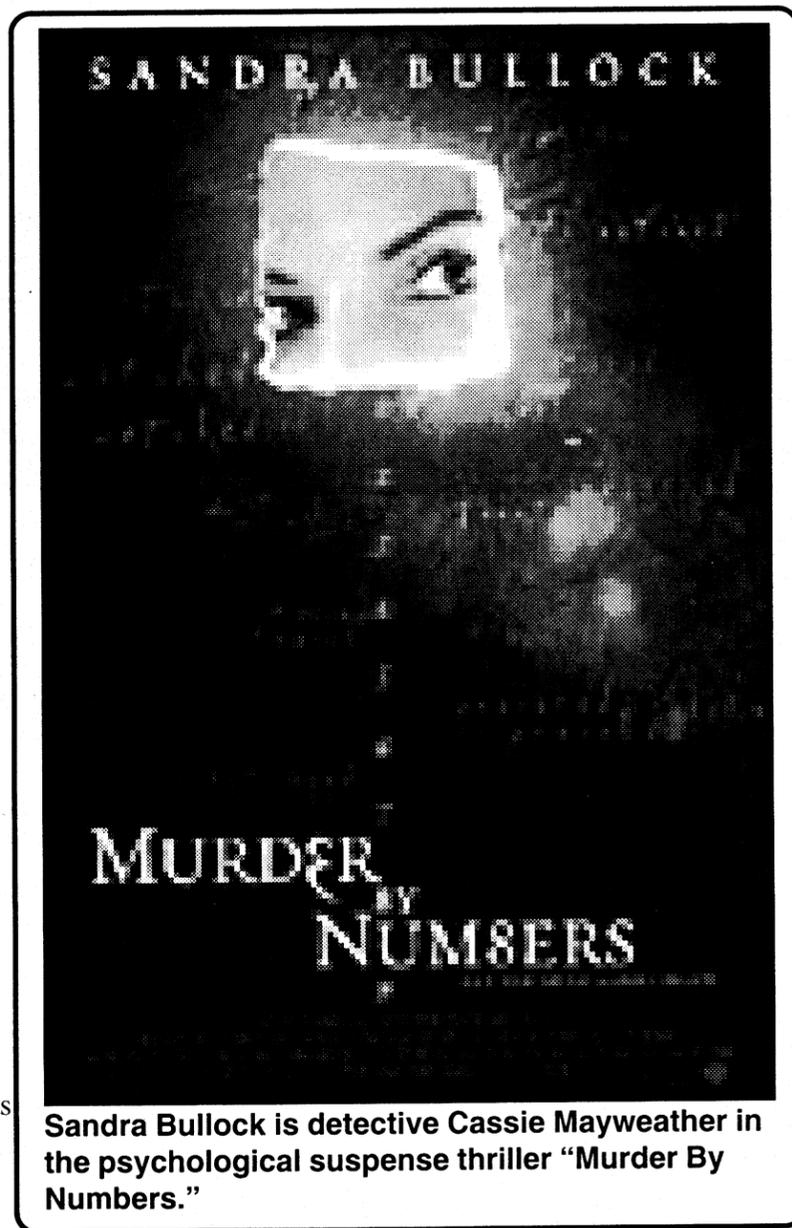
Sandra Bullock stars as homicide detective Cassie Mayweather, a crime scene specialist who takes little microscopic evidence at crime scenes and put together an idea of what happened before the murder. She is well known for solving crimes by relying on her instincts. The body of a young woman is found in the ditch in the woods of small California. Cassie and her new inexperienced partner, Sam Kennedy (Ben Chaplin) work from the latest crime scene where they traced a particular boot print to a high school student. Richard Haywood (Ryan Gosling) claimed his boots were stolen from his locker. She has problems believing the kid's story due to an innate feeling reminding her of a haunting case years ago. Periodically the movie reveals images of the haunting case explaining Cassie's feelings and her zeal to find the murderer.

Her instinct about Richard proves correct. He and another student, Justin Pendleton (Micheal Pitt) a prodigy loner have formed an unlikely alliance. From two different worlds, they are somehow secret best friends. They believe by combining

Richard's cunning nature and Justin's intellect, they have created the perfect criminal mind and elude the law at will. We are taken step by step through the planning and execution of the murder. The methods they use to commit a murder are quite chilling; the movie becomes a series of mind games and loyalty tests. Justin tries to shake Richard's confidence and meanwhile Richard manipulates his friend's emotions. It was a challenge to see how each teenager controls and manipulates the other. The mind games spill over to Cassie as Richard tries to provoke her to react to something that puts her job in jeopardy. Cassie at this point is risking her career to prove the two kids are murderers. Cassie and Sam must find a way to work together as they uncover a trail of shrewdly concealed evidence that links a murder to the boys.

There are moments where I wanted the movie to speed up like in the interrogation room scenes. There are confusing plot twists even at the end that left me confused to who really was the murderer. Murder By

Numbers is suspensefully written but it is better to rent it on video than watch it in the theater.



Sandra Bullock is detective Cassie Mayweather in the psychological suspense thriller "Murder By Numbers."

Look at the
SGA
online
<http://sga.spsu.edu>

Check Out
Our Police
at
<http://police.spsu.edu>

New Year: 3 new Proposals

Mercedes
Editor-In-Chief

A new fiscal year brings new budget cuts or raises (depending on the department), new ideas and a handful of proposals. This year, I'm broadcasting my suggestion to the SGA and other student bodies in hope students will feel the same way.

I've heard rumors the CAB will no longer have a "movie of the week," which I don't think will be missed by the majority of the student population. It's about time the SGA puts their heads together and started running this school as a business. I know most of us complain about the horrendous fees added to our tuition, but something can be done to curb the complaints and keep the fees at the same level. I have a few suggestions.

Drive-In Theater Parking

Lot: Most of us pass this parking lot and wonder why it has rows of bumps. It was once a drive-in theater. We all know drive-in's are outdated, but I visit Starlight Drive In by Little 5 Points frequently enough to know people of all ages and of all sizes enjoy the drive-in. The older people indulge in naughty thinking about what they used to do at the drive-in before bucket seats were made... and little children enjoy eating corn dogs and watching movies.

I've seen people have BBQ's in the back of their trucks or lay blankets on the concrete to have a picnic. The fact is we have a structure on our campus that's in good condition that will attract the masses. I think two things are needed for the drive-in: a screen and projector. I'm sure SGA has enough funds to find a screen and to rummage around to find a gently worn projector. Other questions: how do we solve logistical problems, parking problems, employment issues and what do we charge?

I think signs can be posted each Friday and Saturday reminding students to not park in the theater lot after 5 pm. If they park there, they will be towed. It's very clear and it's very simple. There is enough parking on campus to accommodate all festivities without parking in the theater lot. For those of you, who complain about walking to your class or your dorm, think again. 65% of Americans are overweight according to recent studies. Walking isn't going to hurt you; if anything, it will shed calories. If you attended GA Tech you couldn't drive as a freshman and when you get the "privilege of driving" you must walk 1-1 1/2 miles to attend class. So parking further away or in a different

spot isn't going to change your life for 2 days.

Secondly, for the first year, campus organizations will be responsible for staffing the movie. The first organizations should be Greek because they do get funds from the SGA even though they really shouldn't. The principle behind this is the organizations received something unexpected (money) and in return they return the favour by giving (time). This will allow Greek organizations to be seen and heard on campus; not to mention, doing a service for the school. At many schools across the country there are programs called "community service" which makes students do a number of service hours each year in order to get their transcripts and graduation. The reason I suggest campus organizations giving spare time is because SGA gives them some (money) and therefore, organizations should give some (time). Keep in mind YOU pay only 1/4th of your tuition and the State picks up the rest of the tab. Now that staff is covered, they can regulate the flow of traffic and put out those fancy orange cones to keep people in line. Students will be in charge. Those organizations that fail to show up will be docked financially the following year.

This way it puts pressure on the president of the organization and the members to help the Drive-In.

The other logistical issue is how do we hear the movie? We have WGHR 100.7 which frankly, to my knowledge doesn't do much except allow students to get free CD's and to put "radio station" under clubs on their resume. It has talk shows and plays music, but no one can hear it off campus. The frequency doesn't reach far, so why not give up the dreams of having a large radio station and keep it reserved on Friday and Saturday nights for the Drive-In. The 5 listeners of the radio station can booger off and save their complaints or watch the movie. Another question is how do we provide food? There are three ways to provide food. One is we have a cookout provided by student organizations consisting of hot dogs and burgers. Another is we could have food catered by any of the restaurants. Thirdly, we could convince a restaurant to donate food for our SGA in exchange for free advertisement. This way, it is a donation and tax write off for the restaurant and we can sell food to provide money to our SGA.

The next question is how much will we charge? I feel it

is necessary to charge members of the faculty, staff and student body. It will also be necessary to charge outside visitors. I'm sure this makes some of you outraged because this goes against your student activity fee. So why should you pay twice? Georgia State and Auburn both have their own theater. The theaters for both schools are funded by the budget, but it doesn't cover all the cost. They charge a minimal amount for students to see movies. Based on both schools' examples, to offset the cost, we charge \$1.50 for each person. At the end of the year, if the Drive-In has made money, then all the money should be divided evenly among all organizations as a "bonus." The fact is many of you already feel the fee is wasted. If we continue to expand student projects, the fee will continue to rise. Since a small portion of the school attends these SGA and CAB functions, it does not make sense to make the entire school pay for ongoing campus activities. Besides, having a Drive-In really isn't a student activity; it's more of an added bonus that you pay for.

CONTINUED ON PG. 14

The need of a new copier in the student center

Aakash Shah
Staff Writer

The copier in the student center has a really bad habit of going out of service every other week. The problem gets even worse when it takes about another week for it to be fixed. To understand the frustrations of students about this matter, we have to know the importance of this copier. The copier in the student center next to the ATM machine is the only copy machine that allows access to all students on this side of campus. The copier in the student activities office is only limited to student organizations. The other closest copy machine that allows all students an access is in the Library. As a student worker at the information

desk in the student center I have noticed that many students prefer to study in the student center rather than the Library. Especially during the finals, the student center is crowded with people trying to study. While they are studying they might need a quick copy but find the copier broken and have to run to the Library to get one. A student's overall grade might depend on just that one copy. In those cases it would be very useful to have access to a copy machine that works close to them.

Another reason we need a new copy machine in the student center is the quality of the copier we have now. First of all, it takes a long time to

warm up and on top of that it makes dirty copies. It does not always accept the copy card even though it has enough money value left on the card. Secondly, whenever it breaks down the maintenance people do not come quick enough to fix the machine. As a student worker here at the info desk I have to report to student activities director about the copier being out of service. The director will then call the company that owns the machine and their maintenance crew has to come and fix the problem. The maintenance usually does not arrive in time to come and fix the machine.

I believe I have a solution to this problem. A company provides us with this copier and makes money by charging for the copies. Why should we pay them when we can keep the money for ourselves? I think the student government should buy a copier, charge to make copies and maintain it properly as needed. The money received from the copier can help us with the cost to maintain the machine. As a result the money spent by students is used to help students with school. I don't know how tough it is to convince SPSU to let students have their own copy machine in the student center, but it should not be impossible. I think most of the

students would agree with the fact that we need a new copier, and I think the university will definitely take into consideration of our proposal. I am sure that the SGA would support me on this matter. This is just an opinion from a student, who knows the importance of this copier in the student center.

Letter to The STING

Hello,

I was surprised to read Mr. Grau's comments about Mr. Ware. While I do not approve of his methods, he does raise a few valid questions. Had Mr. Grau done his homework, he would have found that the SGA Constitution and Amendments address his questions concerning the recent elections.

The SGA Constitution and Amendments (listed on the SPSU website) states: 5.12.3.4 The Election Committee shall conduct the elections, count the ballots, and only after the voting is complete, prepare Teller's reports, for submission to the Dean of Students, listing, by position, the number of votes each candidate received. The Election Committee shall officially publish the election results in the next available issue of the school newspaper.

From this, we see that Mr. Grau's comments about the election results should have been directed towards the Sting, not Mr. Ware.

Next, Mr. Grau insinuates that Mr. Ware had a

hand in/influence over the election results. Again, I would suggest that Mr. Grau do his homework. The SGA Constitution and Amendments (listed on the SPSU website) states: 5.12.3.2 The Election Committee shall... insure that no member of the election Committee is a candidate

I would suggest that Mr. Grau approach the Sting and ask them to do a little investigative reporting. Who were the members of the Election Committee? Clearly the SGA Constitution and Amendments states that Mr. Ware could not be a member of the Election Committee and a candidate.

To Mr. Ware: As the President of the SGA, I hope you make yourself available to the Sting and the student body in general, for questions. As US citizens, we have the right to question our government. Southern Tech should not be any different.

Finally, I would like to pass along a comment to the Sting. Not to offend, but who cares about pipeline Safety? or a trip to Mexico. How does

this relate to your readers? As a commuter student who works 40 hours and has a family, I am more concerned why I'm paying [for fees in my tuition].

As a commuter student who works 40 hours and has a family, I am wondering why President Rossbacher made a request to the BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA that Southern Polytechnic State University ("SPSU") be authorized to establish the major in Biology. I would rather see President Rossbacher efforts directed towards having my BSEET "carry equal weight" to a BSEE so I could apply to RIT's College of Engineering MS program in microelectronic engineering "on equal footing."

I have been a student at Southern Tech off and on since 1984. It was a commuter school then, it's a commuter school now. I'm guessing a large percentage of the student body commutes and is non traditional. As the media of information for the

students, I suggest you understand your audience and provide them with the type of information they desire.

I am here for only one reason. A good education at a reasonable price. Regards, David Vulcano

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Response From Editor

Mercedes
Editor-In-Chief

Mr. Vulcano,

Mr. Grau is no longer with the STING (he graduated). In response to your criticism about Mr. Ware, allow me to inform you the election committee never sent us results of the election. IT posted the results and then SGA posted the results on their door. Rich Merrit, the former editor, on two separate occasions requested the official results. Since then two newspapers have come out and the results have not been "officially" published. This technically means, the "current" SGA is not official yet.

I am aware that Adefolarin Adeleye (VP) and Kamisha Hammond were both on the Election Committee. They turned in their paperwork by February 8th (the deadline to run for election) and resigned from the Election Committee on February 12th by noon. Is it legal? No, they clearly violated the constitution. The problem is ONLY SGA members can impeach each other.

In response to Pipeline Safety, I admit it should not be on the front page. The subject relates to our readers in MET and it is also a follow up from September 11, 2002. I suggest you to search through the archives (www.thesting.org) and read issues dated 10/22/01, 02/22/02 and 04/29/02. You will note that Cobb County guarded the cross point of the pipelines (located in Austell) as a safety measure against attack. If the cross point was attacked, Atlanta would not have any petroleum (not to mention would have another series of problems). Could

you live without gas? To continue, Saxby Chambliss spoke on campus addressing this issue. The last issue addressed consequences of a pipeline break. The reality is the majority of people will ignore these problems until a close family member gets killed.

A trip to Mexico... perhaps you should expand your mind and note the travel section tells students (and anyone else) how to travel for cheap. I write this section. I've spent hours speaking to students about their future trips. Also note, SPSU has a program in Mexico. Perhaps if you didn't have a family and a picket fence then you would be more concerned. The other reality is most families take a vacation at least once a year. As a "non-traditional student" are you going to tell me that you don't take vacations? This section is the most popular one for all readers. If you're not interested in travel, then maybe your children have some interest in an exchange program. Let me remind you that America is a new country and was greatly influenced by Europe (remember history?). Fact is, Americans are still influenced by fashion from Italy, perfume from France, architecture from everywhere and energy efficient technology used throughout Europe. Wouldn't it be nice to see these places and to take part in their technology? Traveling relates to our readers on many levels.

As you can see, there are many things that relate to our readers on different levels. I thank you for your comments.

Mercedes

CONTINUED ON PG. 15

New Year: 3 new Proposals *Continued...*

Mercedes
Editor-In-Chief

The Alumni Association:

One of the other suggestions is regarding alumni. After talking to Maggie Gillespie, I got the feeling the alumni campaign is weak. She mentioned younger students had less alumni involvement and were apart of the alumni association for the first year as a gift. Apparently, a "young alumni association" is needed but one has yet been put together. Who cares if you're young alumni or old alumni? If you are alumni then the alumni association needs to target you. The alumni association does not have phone drives; we need phone drives. My suggestion is to once again have organizations donate their time to find alumni and to call them. How will this benefit you? It will impact you greatly!

It's very simple. John Doe from 1987 would love to hear from students attending

SPSU, formerly known as Southern Tech. In fact, he loved what the school did for him and he would like to help the mechanical department buy new materials for their classroom or... he remembered spending so much time in the library that he would like to make a donation to help buy books for students. When John Doe hears your voice, you can always remind him that SGA opened up the Drive-In and perhaps he should check it out sometime.

I know phone drives sound hard, but if you fall at a suggestion you won't go anywhere in life. I do know that they work. My high school organized a strong alumni association one year and called alumni each night. They increased alumni donations so much that in five years the alumni built an 11 million dollar library. It's a true story; we can do this too!

We need the student body to come together and work as one, to tackle issues such as our budget and fundraising. The fact is as students we must sell ourselves. Sell ourselves to the alumni as poor deprived students that can no longer read the Wall Street Journal for free, because of budget cuts. Sell ourselves as a good school with a strong reputation that is at risk for losing accreditation in the long run because the library is having problems affording continuing subscriptions (which is a step to having an accredited institution). The SGA needs to stop discussing what to do and actually do something! Attack alumni! You want money? Attack alumni! What happens if you can't reach the alumni? Attack the parents! And find out where the former student is!

New Year: 3 new Proposals *Continued...*

Mercedes
Editor-In-Chief

The Overly Talked About Food Service: My Final suggestion on how SGA can work to improve things on this campus to make it more interesting is by getting rid of the food service. I know it's a radical suggestion, but read on and think about it. The general consensus of the school population is they hate the food service- it doesn't meet their expectations. I applaud the food service for adding a waffle iron, but so much more needs to be worked on. Let's get rid of the food service and bring in several contractors. This way it keeps the food interesting and we can give money to local businesses.

If we were able to get 20 restaurants to set up in our kitchen for one week each, we would be able to have 5 months of good food. Restaurants love the idea of catering because it gives them extra income without much overhead cost. We provide electricity, kitchen appliances and a cashier. Each restaurant comes up with a limited menu that must be approved in order to appeal to the vegetarian and non-vegetarians. Since we allow restaurants to use our facilities for free, we charge students a

cheaper price than what they would pay in a restaurant. The cost of maintaining the facility will be minimal because most restaurants will prepare their food in their location. We could have BBQ, Mexican, Soup and Salads, sandwiches, wings, slices of pizza, southern cooked meals, etc.

In order to entice restaurants to cater in our cafeteria, I suggest reworking the food plan. Charge all students a mandatory \$100 for the food service. Take that \$100 and make it run like a debit card. Students don't buy food from the food service because it is horrible. By bringing outside food service on a regular basis increases the chances someone will spend money at the cafeteria. It also makes the food much more desirable. Make \$100 debit food program mandatory; therefore, everyone will eat downstairs and support the program.

The question remains what happens to the on-campus students? When I lived in the dorm, we had to choose a meal plan or put \$400 on a debit food program. The debit worked for me because it subtracted exactly what I bought and at

the end of the semester I could get the remaining balance. This time, I suggest the on-campus students to have a meal plan or a debit program starting at \$400. Make it where they cannot get money back... this is better than the meal plan for it allows for an on-campus student to get a soda without it counting as a meal.

These are my suggestions and proposals for the SGA. I hope as a student body you guys will encourage the members of the SGA and CAB to look into a Drive-In theatre. We really only need a screen and a projector. Projectors are cheap and screens last a long time. A drive in theater is sexy, fun and appealing. Alumni can help our programs and increase funding for projects. The food service may be a lost cause, but it's worth some thought. The reality is we are students. If you are a student and you want to see things change, then go talk to your SGA or drop me a line. You do have the power to change things. You don't have time to wait for the school to change to you.

Letter from the Editor

Mercedes
Editor-In-Chief

Greetings and Salutations, Summer semester has started and more than anything I rather be frolicking among wild flowers in the mountains somewhere along the rocky's. Instead, it's 2:30 in the morning and I'm writing the students of SPSU.

You may have noticed something's have changed over the summer... the dorms are emptier, the weather here is sweltering and overall the student population has dropped as it often does during summer semester. Not to mention, the Sting has a new editor.

You may wonder why we bother to put out a summer edition and I am here to tell you that it is our duty to inform the student population on the latest school news. In addition to the clips of information that we provide, with a new editor the Sting will change more than ever.

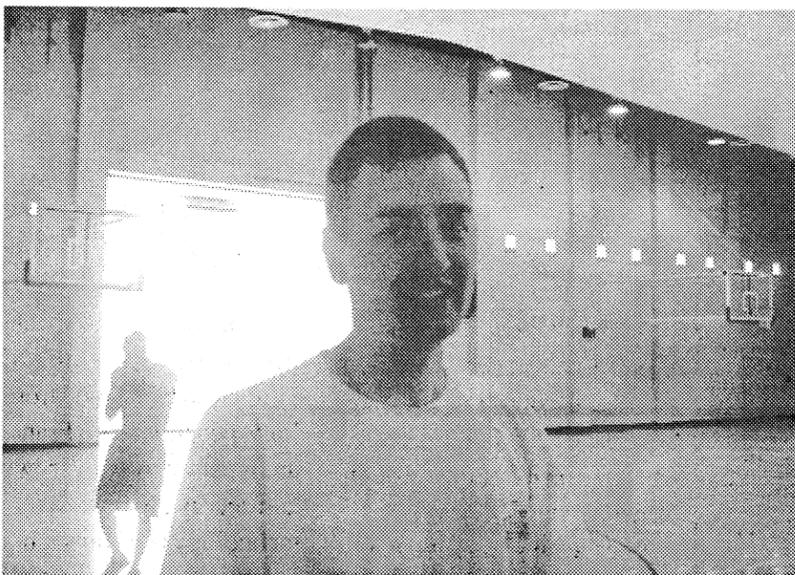
My goal as the editor is to transform this newspaper to cater to students of all demographics. This means it will get more technical and hopefully will appeal to young students as well as the aging ones. New sections will be introduced including financial information about student

loans, getting mortgages, paying off pesky debts and saving for the ultimate goal, retirement. The fact is after college we enter a world that shouldn't be unknown and we all need to move forward making the best decision financially about our future. I also hope to increase the advertising section to give SPSU students a reason to have a student ID in order to get discounts at local restaurants, bars, video stores, automotive facilities, laundry facilities and much more. As always, the paper will continue to provide news stories to inform us about where student funds are going, the issues surrounding student organizations and provide important news about hidden issues on campus. The fact is the possibilities are endless.

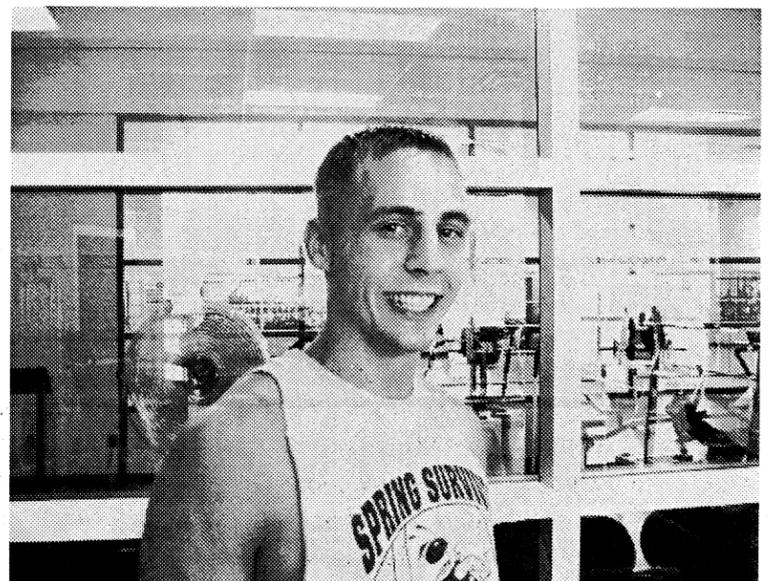
In addition to changes, we also will have a "letter to the newspaper" allowing students and faculty to voice their opinions. We encourage members of this campus to write and keep us on track. I hope you will enjoy the upcoming issues.

Mercedes

Question on Campus: What Do You Think of Your SGA?



Gabriele Martin "I Don't Know"



Jason Donnelly "My SGA? I think it's great. It does a lot of good things for us... They help us, I don't know. I don't know. What kind of stuff do they do? I figure they probably make decisions on academic things. I don't know."

Comics

