



QUICK NEWS

Carol Barnum took top honors for her presentation on usability testing in London (pg 2).

Architecture may soon be offering a Masters Degree in Community Design and Development (pg 2).

More on-campus housing is planned to be built. Four new dorm buildings may be added to the existing two. Read about the Pre-Proposal conference that took place recently (pg 3).

SGA will soon be hosting multiple town hall meetings for each of the schools on campus, starting October 15th (pg 3).

QUICK FEATURES

Did you attend the recent Health Fair on campus? *The STING* was there to get a check-up (pg 5).

Things go bad - really bad - with Teddy and TULSA. Is she really a man?! Break-up movies (pg 5).

Pay for stuff online? The Federal Trade Commission has some pointers you may want to know (pg 11).

Want to dance? You may not be alone. Read about efforts to get a dance machine here at SPSU (pg 7).

QUICK OPINION

Randall gets the cops called on him and promptly flees the scene. Find out why (pg 10).

Squirrel feedback and a beef against certain faculty from a reader (pg 9).

Section	Page
News	1
Entertainment	6
Editorial	10
Financial	11
Comics	11

Architecture Students Help Community

MARK CAMPBELL

The City of Marietta, the Marietta Redevelopment Task Force, and Southern Polytechnic's Architecture program announced a collaborative effort to redevelop Marietta. The joint effort was announced at a reception at SPSU's new Architecture building.

Mayor William B. Dunaway and City Manager William F. Bruton, Jr. were present to represent the City of Marietta. Brian Freese, Economic Development Director for Marietta was also present. Southern Polytechnic State University was represented by President Dr. Lisa Rossbacher and Dr. Wilson C. Barnes, Dean of the School of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and Construction.

A one semester course on urban redevelopment is being offered in the Architecture Program. Dr. Ameen Farooq is teaching the course. The partnership with the City of Marietta was established in part due to the new course offering. The public will have an opportunity to review the projects at "visionary sessions" to be held on campus after the coursework is completed.

Farooq stated, "It was very quick decisions which happened at the end of the summer semester, and we decided to go for this urban redevelopment course. Before that, in the summer, Professor James Fausett was teaching recycling building codes, which was

basically transformed into the urban redevelopment course."

"The City of Marietta is very much interested in establishing this public-academic partnership between us, in which President Lisa Rossbacher signed off," Farooq added.

"I'm offering this course now as an elective course; it's a very intensive course. Luckily, we do have enough [of the] student body which are showing tremendous interest," Farooq said, "To bring in the notions of urban design, and the notions of how we can better our communities."

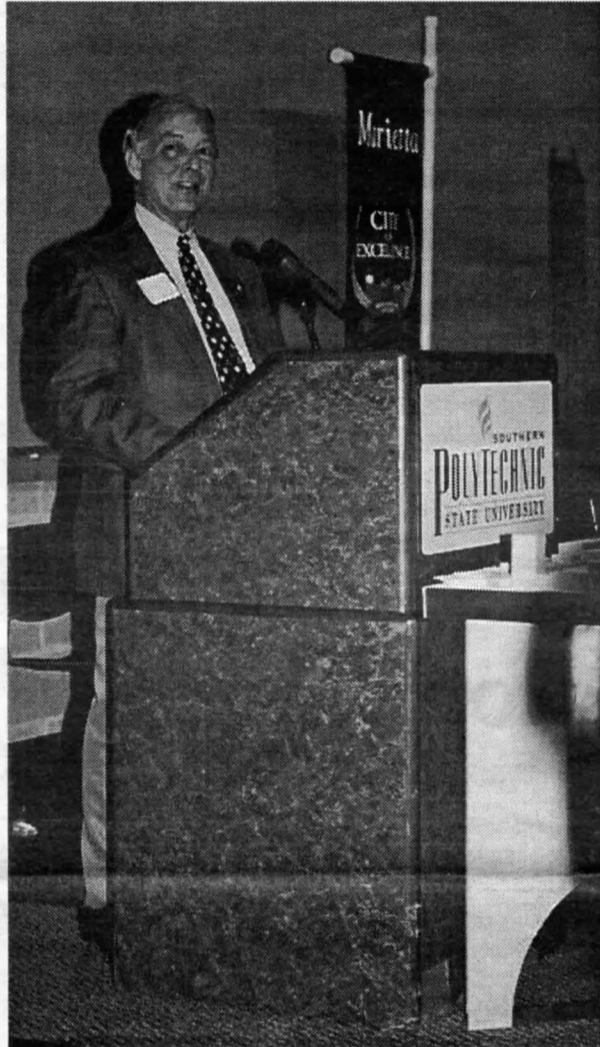
According to Farooq, interest in establishing partnerships with the Architecture program exist outside of Cobb County. "The City of Atlanta is showing tremendous interest, too; it is not only the City of Marietta. I think many of the private agencies have shown a tremendous interest, that [they] would like to have joint partnership."

"The only concern we have here, as a faculty, that we would like to keep that as an academic environment. It should not turn into, like, another office," stated Farooq. "Where the applicability of the projects is wonderful, as a case study, but if we start developing such studies which need in-depth analysis, which needs in-depth forecasting and unforeseen things, that one course would not be enough."

Farooq added, "And there, again, I'll probably advocate that program - the one that we are launching - and I think the proposal should be in the hand of the Board of Regents now." Farooq spoke of an SPSU proposal to be placed before the Board for a new Masters in Community Design and Development degree.

Speaking of SPSU's reorganization more than a year ago, Farooq commented on how it has helped the Architecture program. "And also the City of Marietta has

Continued on Page 5



New SPSU Women's Basketball

WILLIS SMITH

Players are hard at practicing, tossing basketballs back and forth. Various coaches are instructing them about defense strategies. Sound like an ordinary basketball team? Think again. This is the first SPSU women basketball team training for their first home basketball game on November 2nd.

Alisa Staude, Head Coach and graduate of Saginaw Valley University, is excited about coaching the new team. "I was very impressed with the academics of the institution. One of the first draws was that it was a new program, and that we would be able to start the very first program here," she commented.

Becki Wheatley, Assistant Coach and graduate of Grand Valley State University, expressed similar feelings. "I'm excited to be a part of starting the new program," she said.

Similarly, the players are eager to begin and passionate about the new program. "It's great to be a part of something big, something new. We get to set the standard for years to come," said Natasha

Taylor, Business Management Senior and Point Guard.

"Our first game is going to be history. It feels really good," said Tabitha Washington, Business Sophomore and Shooting Guard.

Rella Stresing, International Studies Freshman and Forward, said, "I love basketball, and I've played since I was very young. It was a great opportunity to come and play in the first year ever. I thought it was a chance to make history."

It's not all fun and games with the new team, though. "They work their tails off everyday. 'The best never rest,' that's what I want people to say about our team in the future," mentioned Staude. Stresing said she knew she was going to have to learn "how to prioritize, how to balance and tough academic schedule with tough practice."

All agreed that what made it all worth it, though, was the fans. "The staff and faculty so far has been tremendous! I can't complain about that a bit. The players feel as if they are

appreciated. I'm happy for them. It's nice that they get that reward also. It's not just the games, but the fact that they get to be a part of that first team," said Staude.

"We appreciate all the fans, and we hope many come out," said Stresing.

"I'd just like for everybody to come out and support us at the games," commented Taylor.

"I'd love to see this gym packed every single time we come out to play," said Wheatley. □



Wow! Three women in the same place on campus! A new record, one of many to be created by the new team. Photo: Willis Smith.

Baptists Plan Outings

MARK CAMPBELL

The Baptist Student Union is planning a spelunking expedition and a retreat for the Fall Semester. The BSU invites students to participate, and is comprised of members from both Southern Polytechnic and Kennesaw State universities.

The group is planning a trip to the Lost Sea, a cavern near Sweetwater, Tennessee, leaving early in the morning on Saturday, October 26th. The cost to participate is \$16, and interested students are asked to contact the BSU by October 17th.

A 2002 Winter Retreat will be held at Chapel Knoll, a retreat center on Lake Altoona on the November 15th-17th weekend. Called "Experiencing Love," the meeting is hosted in cooperation with the First Baptist Church of Marietta.

Those students attending the retreat will receive lodging, five meals, and a t-shirt. The

deadline for attending the winter retreat is November 7th, and those interested are asked to provide their t-shirt size.

Heather Southern, student leader of the BSU, can be contacted at hnsouth@bellsouth.net. She is handling requests to attend either outing. Students may also call the Baptist Student Union at (770) 428-0986, and speak to Southern or ask for Dave Stewart, BSU Minister. Walk-ins are also welcome at the BSU center, just off campus next to the Physics, Chemistry and Biology classroom building.

The BSU also hosts free luncheons on Tuesdays throughout the semester. An evening get-together is also hosted every Thursday night, starting at 8:00 PM. And the BSU also welcomes students during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 5 PM, and Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM. □

Architecture Seeks New Graduate Degree

MARK CAMPBELL

Southern Polytechnic's Architecture program is seeking permission to offer a Masters Degree in Community Design and Development. The new program would need the approval of the Board of Regents. The degree would combine learned in skills in architectural design, planning, and public policy.

Dr. Ameen Farooq, one of SPSU's Architecture professors, played a key role in putting together the proposed degree. He addressed the need for the program, stating, "Oh, I think [it would have] tremendous, tremendous benefit [for] the state of Georgia, because this particular program has its own unique characteristic to it. It has a design component to it, it has a public policy component to it, and then it is the only program which is offered in the state of Georgia with that kind of a combination."

"It would cover all those other areas that, one, Georgia Tech doesn't cover," Farooq added. "In other words, in terms of all those other students who cannot get to Georgia Tech, can come to this particular program, because this graduate program will be producing generalists. We'll be having a design background, and also a planning background, and also the social sciences - in other words the empirical side of the whole thing - will also be in it."

The program would permit professionals in other disciplines to seek a specialized graduate degree within the architectural and public policy spheres. "In other words, for example, you join the program, and you come with a management background," explained Farooq. "And you say, 'I would like to be a community designer and a developer, for that matter. What do I need to do? I do not have any design background.' So we will ask you, why not take a few design courses first? Let's build up your design background first."

"So you do that, and while you are doing it you are also picking up your graduate level courses, which are not design oriented. Given that, say a semester and half or two semesters of work, you are ready now for the studios, which are full-blown studios, which will be offering real-life projects," Farooq added.

"You can use your management skills, which is already with you, and then you are using your design skills, based on what the information is fed to you through those public agencies," said Farooq. "So you are doing a real life project."

Farooq explained that the new program would leave the degree candidate well-prepared for all aspects of community design and development. Speaking of the

program, he said, "Once you come out of that, because there are three studios in three semesters - that includes your thesis studio, as well. So you are also doing your thesis studio, which is your take on it, as to you will pick your project. You can have a joint project from somewhere from outside. And you can bring that in, and upon the approval of the faculty, you can carry on that project, from its inception all the way to its finality. So imagine the amount of learning that you will be gaining out of it."

"And then you're ready, not as a developer, but beyond a developer," stated Farooq. "You're ready to contribute your take as to what community should be. So you will be having an independent take which is community conscious. You are all not into developing for the sake of development like we are doing here in Atlanta, and so we are having so much problem in urban sprawl."

Explaining the outcome of such a program, Farooq concluded, "Your consciousness can come in, and so it's kind of like building a new generation of community developers who do have a generalized but strong background in design, public policy, and also into statistics." □

Barnum Brings Home The Bacon

MARK CAMPBELL

Southern Polytechnic's Dr. Carol Barnum took top honors for her presentation at the European Usability Professionals Association Conference in London. Barnum's presentation focused on the number of users required to adequately test web-based applications. The September 2nd-6th conference was held jointly with the British Human-Computer Interaction Group annual conference.

"She's really established herself as an expert in the field, and Southern Polytechnic and the Humanities and Technical Communications department look great," said Dr. Mark Stephens, TCOM program head.

"It was a very nice surprise," Barnum said. "Actually, getting onto the conference program was the most competitive experience I've had with regard to applying to be on a conference, and so I was pleased to be on the program."

"The subject of the paper is on usability testing," said Barnum, "Which is perhaps not known to a lot of people, although we do have a state-of-the-art Usability Lab here at Southern Polytechnic that we got through participation in an IBM million dollar Total Quality Management grant. It has continued to be upgraded - it's a great lab - and I teach a graduate course in usability testing in that lab."

Barnum stated, "In a nutshell, usability testing means bringing in users while a product is still in development, so that you can actually see what happens when they sit down in front of the computer working with software, or even hardware, or the web, and what happens when they try to perform the type of tasks that they would want to perform on it."

"When this is done during development you can learn from your users what their problems are, and you can continue to design it so that it becomes more usable for the users. So this is a real hot topic, especially with the increasing choice that the users have with the worldwide web," Barnum added.

Stephens explained that Professor Barnum has written extensively on the subject. "We're just delighted that Carol is one of our best, if not our best, producers of scholarship, especially with the publication of her quite wonderful book," Stephens stated. "She has really established herself as a national, and now international, expert in the field of usability."

"Her book, which came out last year, is called Usability Testing and Research," said Stephens. "I know that she was working on it for three or four years. She's really excellent at finding a worthwhile project, and then going after it with all her might."

"And she expended a great deal of her might in going after this one and has really come up with a wonderful resource for usability students and professors across the world. This has gotten her much-deserved fame, because there's nothing else like it in scope or up-to-datedness," Stephens added.

Barnum explained what she covered in her presentation. "My paper was on a very controversial new development in usability, which is how many users does it take for a web-

Continued on Page 5

Larry's Country Kitchen

Lunch \$5

Breakfast \$3

(includes drink and tax)

(Located Behind Arby's on S. Marietta)

2 minutes from campus

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

That's even **cheaper** than the school cafeteria!

6 meats / 9 veggies all made fresh daily

Show SPSU ID for discount!

SPSU

770-426-9522

South Marietta PKWY

Arbys

Larry's

Fairground Rd

SPSU To Study New Housing

MARK CAMPBELL

Southern Polytechnic's Office of Facilities Management has requested proposals from firms in Georgia to help the University develop a housing plan. A Pre-Proposal conference was held in the Student Center on Monday, September 30th, and seven companies were expected to attend.

The university has two state-owned dormitories east of the J-building. Additional privately-managed apartments are located inside the campus perimeter road near the Architecture building. According to the campus master plan, four additional multi-unit buildings would close off a quadrangle with the existing dorms.

Responses from the firms are due on Monday, October 14th, at 2:00 PM. At least two firms will be interviewed, and a contract to begin the housing study will be awarded on October 25th. Bids for the study are to be limited to \$50,000.

According to the Request for Proposal, the scope of the study includes architectural, engineering, legal and financial components as well as a market analysis. An assessment of current housing and utilities would be performed, and construction costs and access delineated. The winning firm would

be expected to organize any meetings about the project, prepare drawings and specifications, and provide a business plan including legal and financial implications.

The market analysis component of the study would look at the local off-campus housing market, including amenities and rents. Rents would also be compared with both peer institutions as well as other universities and colleges in the University System of Georgia. Enrollment projections at SPSU would be used to help determine housing needs.

Focus groups and student surveys of significant segments of the student body would also be used in the market analysis. Demographic data, including financial information and current housing, would be collected. Attitudinal factors, such as lifestyle, preferred unit sizes and amenities, and price sensitivity would be investigated. Focus groups would also be asked about transportation and parking issues.

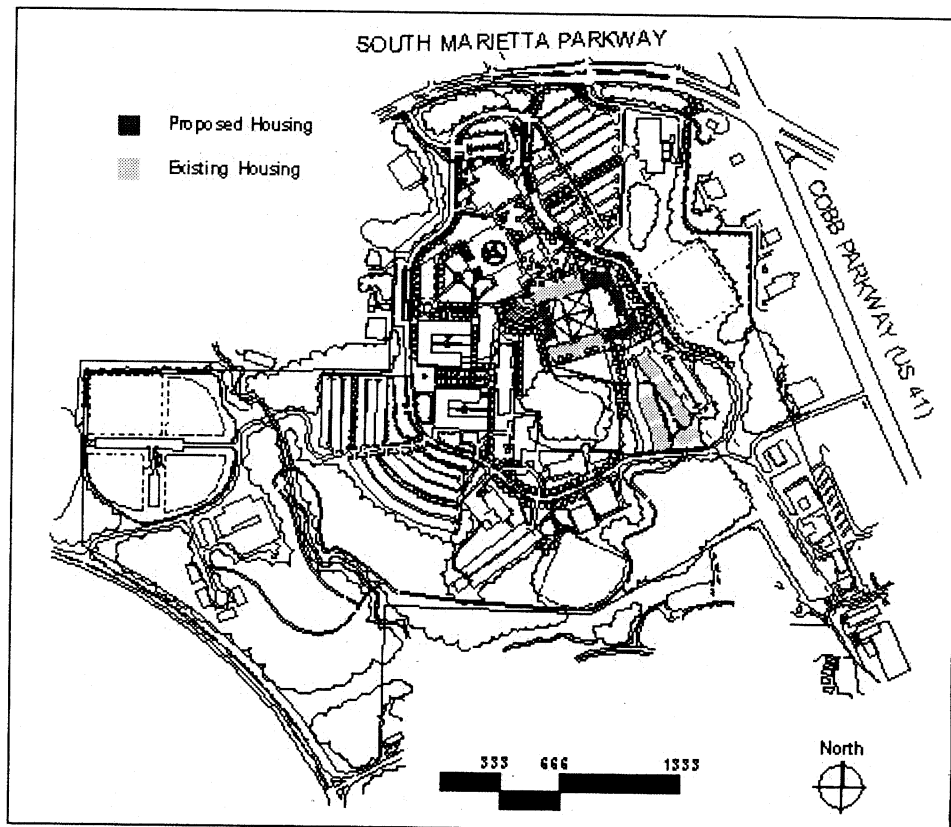
The study would analyze both the design/planning and financial feasibility of any new housing. Current environmental studies would be reviewed and updated as

necessary. A schedule would be developed, and plans for the site, buildings, and conceptual units also would be developed.

Proposals from submitting firms are to be reviewed by a

committee of five staff and faculty. Anton Kashiri, Senior Director of Facilities Management, serves as the University's contact person. Kashiri, Dr. Ron Koger, Mr. Patrick McCord, Mr. Ed Klein and Police

Chief Gary Chasteen are expected to review the proposals and produce a short list of firms to interview. □



SGA To Host Town Hall Meetings

MARK CAMPBELL

Starting on Tuesday, October 15th, the Student Government Association will begin hosting departmental Town Hall meetings. The first meeting will concentrate on the needs and concerns of students, faculty and staff in connection with the School of Arts and Sciences. The student government will be holding the meeting in room H-200. Lunch will be served.

Subsequent meetings will be held with the other schools. Those from the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering are invited to attend on Tuesday, October 29th. Engineering Technology and Management majors are invited to attend on Thursday, November 7th, while those in the School of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology and Construction should attend the last meeting on Tuesday, November

26th. As of press, each meeting is scheduled for noon in room H-200, but is subject to change.

According to a student government memorandum dated October 4th, the purpose of the meetings is to report, inform and solve the problems of SPSU students. All members of the student government are expected to be present, as well as relevant program heads and an administrative representative.

The student government intends to circulate a survey among attending students. Afterwards, the student government plans to generate a report from the results of each meeting. Copies of the report would be provided to university president Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, the various deans and program heads, and would be made available to students.

Feedback from students, including the survey and reports, would be used by the student government in making decisions, including allocation of funds for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. Some items may be acted upon immediately by the student government, while others may be postponed to the next fiscal year. The report also would be provided to the SPSU Technology Fee Committee, with recommendations for prioritizing various Technology Fee proposals.

Student Government Association Departmental Town Hall Meeting Committee Chair Kortney Lewis may be contacted at klewis@spsu.edu for further information. The Vice-President of the SGA, Adefolarin 'Fola' Adeleye, may also be contacted at aadeleye@spsu.edu. □

SGA Town Hall Meetings

School	Date
Arts and Sciences	Tuesday Oct. 15 th
Computing and Software Engineering	Tuesday Oct. 29 th
Engineering Technology and Management	Thursday Nov. 7 th
Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and Construction	Tuesday Nov. 26 th

Meetings are scheduled for noon in room 200 of the H-building.

The STING's Private Jet is available for rent.

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



CD vs. Floppy; Men vs. Women

STING STAFF

(NAPSI)-A recent survey is casting new light on the age-old debate about the differences between men and women. Turns out, there's a gender preference for which type of storage media people trust when it comes to backing up their personal computer files.

Imation, a leading developer and manufacturer of removable data storage media, including floppy diskettes, CDs and DVDs, recently surveyed more than 500 PC users regarding their preferences, habits and opinions about how they store their digital information. The results show a distinct difference between men and women:

- Women are more likely to view floppies vs. CDs as the safest backup medium (42 percent vs. 27 percent for men).

- On the other side of the breakfast table, 44 percent of men view CDs as the best backup medium. Only 29 percent of women feel the same way.

- Men are more likely than women to have household financial files (58 percent vs. 39 percent),

business documents (57 percent vs. 46 percent) and tax records (50 percent vs. 35 percent) on their computers.

"We were struck by the differences between men and women and between users of different ages," said Carla Pihowich, marketing manager, consumer optical, Imation Corp. "Of equal interest to us was seeing how quickly CD-R/RW technology has been adopted and adapted to be a part of consumers' lives."

Pihowich noted that people are drawn to CDs and DVDs because the amount of valuable files on computers is growing incredibly fast. "One CD can hold hundreds of digital photos, music files and financial records," said Pihowich.

One place men and women find common ground: the need to keep paper records. The survey shows that 78 percent of home PC owners say they keep paper records of important files primarily because they fear losing electronic copies. This isn't surprising, Pihowich notes, since 57 percent of respondents re-

port having lost important electronic files.

"Our survey shows that both men and women understand that backing up is important if they want to protect their files and information-but a significant number aren't getting to it often enough or at all, and remain concerned about loss," said Imation's Pihowich.

According to Pihowich, this battle of the sexes on the computer is one that may be over as soon as people learn more about how to capture, transfer and store their digital photos, music and files onto removable CDs and DVDs. "Both men and women need a better understanding of how to manage their data and the importance of regular backup removable media like CDs or DVDs. Kept free from dust or scratches, people can archive their digital valuables for a century."

The entire report, which contains plenty of insight into the info-gender-gap, can be found at www.imation.com/storagesurvey. □

Notice to All Faculty/ Staff and Students: Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Report.

In 1998, the federal government passed the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, formerly the Student Right to Know and Campus Security act of 1990. This law requires colleges and universities receiving federal funding to disclose the reported instances of criminal activity on their campuses in accordance with the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) criteria. The law specifically requires the reporting of violent crime, bur-

glary, and motor vehicle theft, as well as a summary of arrests and disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations, drug abuse violations and weapons possessions. In compliance with this act, statistics for the previous three years are available on the University Police Web page at <http://police.spsu.edu/> or you can obtain a hard copy of this report by contacting the University Police Department in Norton Dorm (Bldg V). □

Interface 2002

Lecture Series

The Automobile In American Society

Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at 7:30 PM

Burruss Seminar Room (H-200)

"Driven Wild: The Automobile and the Making of Modern Wilderness"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul S. Sutter, Department of History, the University of Georgia

Wednesday, October 30, 2002 at 12 Noon

Student Center Ballroom

"NASCAR and Detroit: Their Changing Relationship"

Keynote Speaker: Ben Shackelford, School of History, Technology, and Society at the Georgia Institute of Technology

Wednesday, November 6, 2002 at 12 Noon

Student Center Ballroom

"The Social Costs of the Automobile"

Keynote Speaker: J. B. Hunt, Former Executive Director, Georgians for Transportation Alternatives

The Computing Women of SPSU

NICHOLAS INGHAM

The Computing Women of SPSU formed last spring in order to engage in activities and projects that aim to improve the working and learning environments for women in computing. This organization is still evolving under the supervision of Chair Person Marlina Compton, Vice Chair

Person Neta Blackwell, Secretary Jennifer Aldred, and Treasurer Melissa Blanchard.

The Computing Women of SPSU is a 'grass roots' effort to help women in the School of Computing feel more comfortable and less intimidated at SPSU through encouragement mentoring. They meet regularly

on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. and both men and women college students are welcome to attend. Also, for further information check out their website at cs.spsu.edu/comwomen. The site has contact information and an extensive link page with information relative to the organization. □

CONDO TO SHARE

Oversized condo near

Powers Ferry and

Terrell Mill. 1 Unfur-

nished suite

w/double closets, prvt

bath and balcony.

Also 1 FURNISHED

room with dresser,

bed and sep bath.

\$350 for each room

plus utils. W/D avail.

\$150 dep for

each. Background

checks required.

House dog on

premissis. Call 770-

953-3339

(press 3).

Architecture

Continued From Page 1

seen the potential of the School," he added. "It's a very diverse faculty community in the Architecture program. And on top of that there is another thing which has happened, which is good., is that collaboration has happened between Civil [Engineering Technology, Construction, and Architecture."

"So they're also seeing these possibilities, too. When we sign off a project, we say we are now partners, they're not just looking purely at Architecture, but they're also looking that we can get from the Civil, we can get help from the Construction, and Architecture can become the flagship for them. There are other aspects for coming in and playing their very important role," Farooq said.

The area in Marietta to be revitalized includes both Franklin Road and Powder Springs Road near the campus. Farooq stated, "The project right now, which we may study, is between South Loop [120] and Delk Road corridor, which these kids may do once they have enough background in terms of some of the fundamental principles of urban design. And then they can be taking that whole existing study and developing design regions as to what they think should happen here."

Farooq explained that this would take some time. "These students are basically coming with backgrounds of architectural design, but they do not have backgrounds in urban design. So I am working right from scratch, because urban revitalization and redevelopment is more planning oriented, and not architecturally design oriented," he said. "So they have to have enough depth before they can take that project and do something about it."

Explaining how such a project is approached, Farooq said, "So that whole design cycle will be then supported by some documentation of the existing conditions, and then

as to how that they approach the whole design, how they will be solving some of the issues that they see there in terms of the physical environment. And definitely the physical environment has a very inherent link with the social conditions over there."

"There will be different pockets within that whole strip between South Loop and Delk Road," Farooq explained. "They will be actually studying in teams of two, and doing the whole thing as a team. Suppose, if there are sixteen students, which I think right now I have, we are coming up with eight different proposals as to how these existing conditions should be addressed, and how we can better the existing environment."

"It's good to talk about these big ideas. But to get to those big ideas you have to have enough background developed among these students, who otherwise have never touched the subject of urban design, is an uphill battle," continued Farooq.

According to Farooq, the new masters program would provide a more holistic approach to urban redevelopment. "Planners would look at the same problem very differently than the urban designers, or the architects, for that matter. So the goals may be the same, but the approach would be very different. The mindsets for designers are different than the mindsets of the planners."

"The planners come more with public policy, citizens' groups, focus groups, politics involved, versus the designer, which is basically looking at a more focused situation. This is what the existing conditions are; what can I do, in terms of physical environment, in terms of making it better, design-wise? And then issues of financing, issues of who are the players involved in urban redevelopment becomes very important," Farooq concluded. □

Barnum Bacon

Continued From Page 2

usability test? And I was looking at the original research and some of the new arguments, and basically using the experience of my students in their graduate course," said Barnum.

"The traditional research is based on software and it came out of the nineties," Barnum explained. "It showed that you could get a maximum cost-benefit ratio with four to five participants in a usability test. What has happened is, with a couple of big usability consultants doing web-testing, is that in their work they've shown that it takes many, many more people than four to five to get any sense that you've done any usability testing of the website."

Barnum added, "My class participated in one of those two projects, in which nine labs looked at Hotmail, which everybody knows. We participated in it, and we knew a lot of flaws with the way the test was set up. And that's how we were able to say, 'Well, from the

inside, the results that they're saying - it takes lots more people than five - are based on some significant flaws in their test strategy."

"My findings are that - if you apply the original principles, and you understand what usability testing shows you, which is not validation of the usability of every aspect of the product, but basically it shows you that where you send your users to perform typical tasks - in four to five users, you'll begin to see the same problems occur," Barnum continued.

"The way the webcasts were set up is that they sent them wherever they wanted to go, which meant that no two users were in the same place on the website," added Barnum. "And so you're really comparing apples to oranges that way."

Barnum also spoke about the difficulty in submitting her paper to the conference. The association

required that papers be submitted in a precise format, with a complete bibliography, well in advance. Judging was accomplished by a double-blind, where neither the judges nor the authors knew each other's identities.

"Well, I considered whether it would be worth the effort to do it," Barnum said. "It's a lot of work, on top of everything else you do. And then, what if it's not accepted on to the program? But I felt that my topic was of sufficient interest that if I didn't make it in this forum, there would be another forum for me to make this presentation."

"And in fact, I have been doing versions of this presentation since the European Usability Professionals Association, most recently at the Atlanta chapter of the Society for Technical Communication, where it was very well received," Barnum added. □

**Rated One of America's Top 13 Haunts
by Hauntworld.com & Rue Morgue Magazine**

NETHERWORLD

Haunted House

ATLANTA'S ULTIMATE HAUNTED HOUSE!!



OPEN EVERY NIGHT

**OCTOBER 1 THRU
NOVEMBER 3**

**THE GEORGIA ANTIQUE CENTER
6624 DAWSON BLVD.
NORCROSS, GA 30093
I-85 ACCESS ROAD - EXIT 99**

HAUNTED HOTLINE: 404/608-2484

WWW.FEARWORLD.COM

China Kitchen

470 Franklin Rd

Marietta

7)429-9020



	x	
s. Marietta Pkwy		Franklin

Students:

Daily \$3.75 Specials
Plus Free Drink with Student ID

Skinning Dogs and Ditching B**ches

BEN LEE

Last weekend, Teddy, my perpetually depressed friend declared that he was \$10,000 in the hole! He had "maxed out" his credit cards on psychiatric treatments.

The story so far: Teddy proposed to TULSA. He placed the ring on a Tiramisu cake and TULSA ate the cake and swallowed the ring. Three days later, the ring surfaced and TULSA was not impressed with the ring (who would be when it's all mixed up with her dinner 3 days ago). She told Teddy to watch "The Crying Game and then to call her if he is still interested...



The Crying Game (1992)

(Action Drama starring Forest Whitaker, Miranda Richardson, Stephen Rea and Jaye Davidson)

Jody (Whitaker), a British soldier on vacation, was abducted by members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). While in captivity, the rookie kidnapper, Fergus, (Rea) befriended Jody and decided to help him go free. Fergus did but Jody got killed anyway. Fergus then changed his name to escape the IRA, went to London to look up Jody's girlfriend, Dil (Davidson), intending to break the news to her about Jody. However, a romantic liaison ensued until Jimmy discovered more about Dil then what he wanted to know!

OK, I'll cut the subtleties here! Dil is a transvestite and in the movie Jimmy (and us) got to see Dil's penis! However, the movie's talking point had distracted the real jewels from the movie and that was Norman Jewison's excellent direction. The story, although interesting, could have been developed at a faster pace, by spending less time dragging its audience through the kidnapping and hostage ordeal, it should divert the time saved to answering unanswered questions like, 'did Jody really know the truth about Dil?; 'If he did would he have reacted the same way Fergus / Jimmy did?' These, I felt, were what the audience preferred to find out. Davidson was excellent as Dil as there was no over-acting on his part as that could easily give his maleness away while dressed up as a woman.

After Teddy viewed "The Crying Game", he was horrified that TULSA was hinting to him that she was actually a he! The ignorant and paranoid Teddy felt his manhood threatened and so he engaged psychiatric treatments!

TULSA has since confided in me and she assured me that she was not a transvestite or ever a

man and she even offered to prove it! "TULSA, your parents named you right!" I refused her offer nicely. As much as I felt relief for poor Teddy, I was crossed with TULSA's cruel frivolity. TULSA then confessed that she was hinting to Teddy that she was some kind of a fighter for and supporter of some clandestine association. In fact, she was the president of 'P.O.A.C.H.E.R.S.' (pronounced as "p'oh-SHARES")

"People of Anti-CHER Society?" I guessed intelligently.

"No! We are not anti-CHER, in fact we are pro-people! P.O.A.C.H.E.R.S.," TULSA explained, "is a group that supports animal poaching! We abduct pets, collect ransoms or rewards and then use the money to fund poaching expeditions! If the pets are unclaimed, we skin them and make coats or rugs out of them and then sell them to fund poaching expeditions!"

TULSA then went on to justify P.O.A.C.H.E.R.S.' existence and other than kidnapping animals and skinning them, they worship Cruella De Vil and abhor Diane Fossey and the likes.



101 Dalmatians (1996)

(Family Comedy starring Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels, Joley Richardson, Joan Plowright)

This movie is based on the Disney's animated classic of the same title. A pair of Dalmatians got "married" and then had a litter of Dalmatians! Cruella De Vil (Close) had a contract with the Dalmatians' owners (Daniels and Richardson) to buy the Dalmatian off-springs. Unbeknownst to the owners, De Vil's intention was to make a coat out of Dalmatian fur! Hence the adventure began, as the Dalmatians, all 101 of them, escape from De Vil and sidekicks' snare in "Home Alone" fashion.

For what this movie is worth, it is entertaining and a perfect adventure to watch with the kids. As always, Close, is brilliant playing an evil character but she is definitely wasted in such juvenile projects! Close has proven the ability to play multi-dimensional evil roles (such as in Fatal Attraction and Dangerous Liaison) and to waste her talent in this 2-dimensional flick is heart-breaking. On top of that to see Close decked in comic style hair-do and dragged through mud was like spotting the President of the United States' open fly while he delivers an important address! Despite that, the digital images of the Dalmatians were realistic and the action sequences were brilliantly presented. 101 Dalmatians is a

special effects movie, where real actors are secondary.



Gorillas in the Mist (1988)

(Drama starring Sigourney Weaver and Bob Campbell)

The movie is based on Diane Fossey's (Weaver) fight to save the endangered mountain gorillas in Congo, Africa. The story traces Fossey's route to successful interaction with them. In the meantime, she fights the Congo authorities for allowing poachers to ensnare these gorillas and then sell them in parts or in wholes. Fossey made a few enemies in the process and the film hinted that that could be a clue to her untimely and unexplained death.

"Gorillas in the Mist" is an unbiased presentation of the case for and against gorilla poaching in Congo, Africa. It wants you to accept by conviction that poaching is wrong and not by brainwashing you. In that regard the movie was effective. The movie was also a vehicle for Sigourney Weaver to cross over to dramatic roles from action flicks. Her Oscar nomination was deservedly earned. On top of that, the movie is a cinematographic gem in that the panorama of the Congo Mountains presented puts the audiences' 5 senses to work overtime!

I called Teddy and relayed what TULSA told me. After a one minute silence (to mourn for Teddy's \$10,000), Teddy, being the sensitive new age guy and animal lover declared war on TULSA with such fervency that he shocked me! He wanted not only to dump TULSA but he wanted to make her pay, big time! Again, it was time to 'spoon-feed the clueless Teddy'!

"Teddy," I started, "there are many ways to skin a dog..." He glared at me.



Spider-Man (2002)

(Action, Fantasy starring Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe, Kirsten Dunst)

Peter Parker (Maguire) was bitten by some genetically altered spider. As a result, he developed spider like abilities and used them to earn some money. Parker witnessed a crime but he did not use his abilities to stop or apprehend the criminal. Unfortunately, that same criminal

later and by coincidence, murdered Parker's beloved uncle. Spurred by his immense guilt, he pledged his wall scaling, web slinging and gravity defying abilities to crime-fighting. At the same time, a new societal menace, the Green Goblin (Dafoe) emerged.

Spider-man fans would be pleased to know that the movie brought Stan Lee's (no relation to me, although I wish there is) comic to life with much correctness. The action sequences were dizzying and the continual transitions between Spiderman and Green Goblin the human and their digital replicas were flawless. Just like any typical crime-fighting hero movies (save for the Batman series), entertainment value and effects are the primary objective. As such, the romantic sub plot was there because it sells, period. Spiderman is nothing more than a glossy and entertaining action flick! As the cliché advises, "sit back and enjoy the ride"!

At the end of the movie, Peter Parker (a.k.a. Spiderman), dumped his girlfriend on the grounds that her life is in danger as long as they are together and that he loved her too much to put her through that. That I felt was a very noble approach of dumping someone.

Teddy agreed but that was "too soft" to apply it on TULSA. Teddy, being a sensitive new age guy expressed: "I want TULSA to suffer after all she that did to those cute puppy dogs, kitty cats, bunny rabbits..."

"Teddy, stop it! You're giving me diabetes!"



Runaway Bride (1999)

(Romantic Comedy starring Julia Roberts, Richard Gere, Joan Cusack and Hector Elizondo)

Maggie Carpenter (Roberts) was to walk down the aisle for the 4th time and that had everyone wondering if she will make it to the pulpit! Ike (Gere) a journalist was out for blood, by proving that what he reported earlier about Maggie was true in order to salvage his journalistic dignity. However, Ike's mission took an unexpected turn when he became the reason for Maggie's 5th attempt to walk down the aisle! Will she run again?

Reuniting the cast and director from Pretty Woman was a great idea. How the producers convinced them to reunite on a lame movie like this defies reasoning. As usual, Julia Roberts looked stunning in the wedding dresses. For Richard Gere, it is time for him to be in Westerns where the more "tore up" the actors look the more

convincing he can be. The only good thing in the movie is the soundtrack, which boasts a diverse music selection, including Coco Lee (again no relation to me and again, I wish there is), Eric Clapton and Hall & Oates. The only time anyone should watch this movie is when the other alternative was to watch the laundry spin.

Teddy liked the idea. He asked if I could loan him \$1million to plan the perfect wedding for TULSA and then run away on a get away FedEx truck and leave TULSA stranded at the altar.

"Do I have \$1 million dollars? Let me poll the audience for the answer to this question!" Then, I dished out the killer idea before he whined again...



HOPE FLOATS (1998)

(Drama starring Sandra Bullock, Harry Connick Jr., Gena Rowlands)

The town's beauty and most promising resident got embarrassed on national TV when both her husband and her best friend admitted to having an affair with each other! Hurt and wanting to regain her ground, Birdie (Bullock) returned to her hometown to recuperate. She not only had to deal with jealous ex-school mates, she had to ward off romantic advances from a childhood admirer (Connick Jr.). On top of that she had to help her obnoxious daughter accept the fact that it was her father's fault that they are divorced.

Admittedly this is a chick flick however it is not the classic woman victim-man culprit-man savior kind of movie. Instead it introduces a new way to get over hurt and that is, allowing hope to float and not keep it suppressed in the abyss of one's hurt. Although seeing Birdie wallow in hurt was a pain because it dragged the movie but the recovery process was uplifting. Bullock tried her best in this dramatic role but her "cuteness", carried over from Speed, was too evident. Despite that, Bullock was able to tug some heart strings and the highlight was when she had to rely on the mercies of a once uncool schoolmate to help her find a job. The lines in this movie are acerbic and inspiring where they are most effective. For example, when the "uncool" schoolmate told Birdie: "surely you have more experiences than ex-homecoming queen, in your resume to help me get you a job!" Priceless!

Teddy arranged for TULSA to meet him in a television studio in Chicago. TULSA was thrilled that

Continued on Next Page

Movie Reviews

Continued From Previous Page

Teddy would propose in such a grand scale! When she arrived there, she was led out to the stage and she discovered that she was going on "The Jerry Springer Show"! By the time she got on stage, the audience jeered at her and she felt like a lamb sent to be slaughtered! Apparently, Teddy had exposed her support for animal poaching on the show. Then, in that pivotal moment, on National TV, Teddy told TULSA: "I...I...I...m..."
 "...ditching you b**ch!" one impatient audience member shouted from the floor and it

developed into a litany of "Ditch b**ch! Ditch b**ch!..."

TULSA was razed!

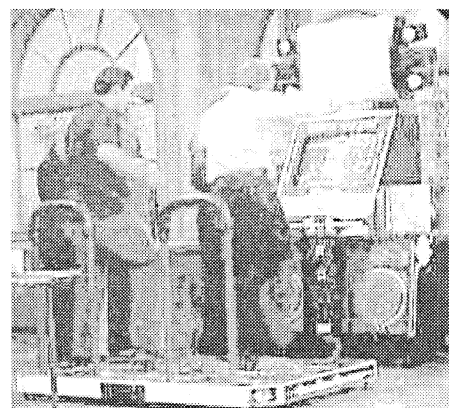
For the first time the cloud of depression over Teddy lifted. However, the victory for the animal kingdom and perpetual depression was short-lived.

A few days after that, Teddy burst into my apartment looking like his soul had left him. In his hand, was a pot of steamy "hot stew."

He stammered: "T-T-T-T-ULSA left this at my door...what's she t-t-t-t-telling me?" □

Care to Dance?

MATT LEVY



Albert: The game costs a good bit, maybe only 25 cents for a bit or free with a fee increase to the wellness center if needed. Free is what I wanted, but costs exist still due to maintenance and cleaning.

STING: Which game or games would you consider to be best suited for the students of SPSU?

Albert: Pump it up, Techno Motion, DDR 3rd Korean, 4th, or 5th, Para Para Paradise, stuff where you really have to move to play. Plus it would be the only way to get me to use the Wellness Center.

STING: How many machines would be needed to supply SPSU?

Albert: Two at most, most likely one. Demand for the games exists but I don't see much of the followers getting out of the dorms to get to it.

STING: In your opinion, would having a training course to teach the mechanics of the game be a good idea or a waste of funding?

Albert: Not good idea. You either learn or not, just like in the arcades. Remember that some, no matter the training, will suck. If you are not sure of your skill that it would be wise to stick to the lower foot settings until your ready.

STING: Do you think the game will benefit any of SPSU's athletes? And if so, how?

Albert: Give more rhythm and endurance. Dancing games are a form of cardio.

STING: How long do you feel it would take an average person to learn how to play? How much would it cost?

Albert: Well, time is varied and cost should be about 3k or so. Just need to check ddrfreak.com for more specific answer. For the cost to learn, it depends of the skill; if you can dance, little since you have to just adapt and if no skill before hand will cost you about \$20. □

Even though it may only be a minority who seeks it, some students of SPSU want dancing games to be brought to this college. One such a student, Albert Cousins, who's spent the last year trying to find a way to bring such games to the students of SPSU, recently spoke to The STING on his reasons for trying to give SPSU another reason to dance.

STING: First off, what makes you want to bring a dancing game to SPSU?

Albert: We need more games and there is an audience for the games at the school. Plus, what better way to get engineers off their collective butt than a game that is good exercise?

STING: In your opinion, do you feel that it would be accepted at SPSU and how hard do you think it would be for people to learn?

Albert: Not hard to learn since everyone does have some rhythm whether they admit it or not. It would be accepted, but time must pass for a bit.

STING: Where would you feel be the best place to put a game like this? And how much would you feel to be a fair price?

Albert: 50 cents or 25 cents. Not much higher if we can help it. The best place would be in Wellness Center.

STING: Most things in the Wellness Center are free, though. Do you feel that the students will accept having to pay for a workout?

Checking Up on Health

WILLIS SMITH

The Health Fair was held in the Student Center Ballroom on Thursday September 26. The Health Fair promoted the WellStar Health Place, a location a few miles from SPSU, as well as topics on how to take care of your own health. Once I entered the ballroom, I had to fill out a health form that described my medical history necessary for a few checkups. The WellStar Health System is a community-owned and operated network that strives to provide reasonable-priced healthcare services. One branch is located on 65 South Medical Drive Marietta GA 30060.

Many services were offered during the Health Fair. Flu shots

were offered for a reduced fee. The representative explained that there are many flu strains and that one flu shot may not remain effective the next year. People at high risk, such as elderly, children, or people with vulnerable immunes systems, are recommended to take an annual flu shot. Cholesterol level checkups were also offered for a reduced fee. Further, five minutes massage sessions were available.

Many brochures explained about nutrition topics from food pyramid to calcium to protein in food. The most humorous brochure I saw was a list of how much energy and calories a person would need to burn off certain fatty foods. For example, one Snickers bar is equal

to having sex for 2.33 hours to burn off the calories and one chocolate chip cookie with a glass of milk is equal to napping for three hours to burn the calories off. A person will need to watch television for two hours to burn off the calories from drinking a 12-ounce beer. However I received many tips on how to gain weight by eating healthy food. The nutritionist advised that having a fast food meal, whether a McDonald meal, Taco Bell or Pizza Hut, once a week is okay but not healthy for more than once a week.

Overall, the Health Fair was a great way for faculty and students to check up on their health and learn more about our bodies. □

5
SIZE SHOE

9
SIZE FEET

1
MALL

They're not weeds. They're feet. But they grow about as fast. Good thing there's one place you can go to cover all your back-to-school needs, from head to toe. Plus during Georgia's Tax-free weekend on August 2nd and 3rd, you'll see something else grow, too. *The savings!*

Town Center at Cobb
What may we do for you today?

EXIT 269, BARRETT PKWY • SHOPPING LINE • 770-424-9486 • SHOPSIMON.COM

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival

WILLIS SMITH

Southern Polytechnic State University hosted a Hispanic Festival in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Former President Gerald R. Ford signed recognition of the Hispanic Heritage Month. September 25 to October 15. Right now, Hispanics are the fastest growing minority, replacing African-Americans as the largest minority in the United States. Many businesses are now training employees to be bilingual, English and Spanish, in order to handle the new growing group.

There were many presentations in Spanish about various Hispanic countries around the world from Argentina to Puerto Rico to Peru. One of the students explained that Hispanic Month is a celebration of many cultures. There were many food samples from alego cookies of Puer to empanadas. This was courtesy of the Hispanic Engineering Society. Painting exhibits were shown from the Manuela Valenti Studios whose

works are also on temporary display at the library. There was a festive band playing music and merrily dancing. Throughout the ballroom, there were displays of famous Hispanics in the world and history.

Several teachers from the International Studies program and other programs helped with the fair by bringing in food, products, and displays from their countries. Dr. Bernice Nuhfer-Halten from the Social and International Studies program was a tremulous help to the fair. She had all her Spanish language courses students design presentations about different Hispanic countries. The presentations were written in Spanish, so many students stood by their presentations to explain their works to the public.

Many universities besides Southern Polytechnic are honoring the month across the nation, including UGA, Georgia State, and Kennesaw. □

Fraternities - Sororities Clubs - Student Groups

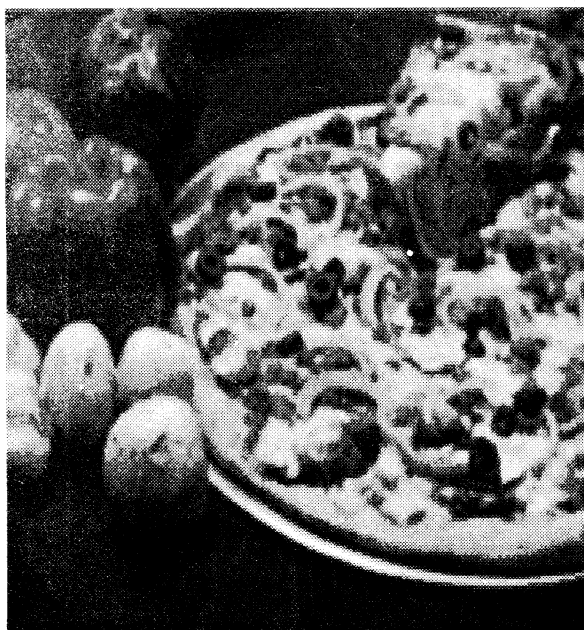
Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser 3 hour fundraiser event. Our programs makes fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact CampusFundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

CLASSIFIED

SMYRNA - 1BR/1BA, furnished. CHA, laundry & Kitchen avail. ND/NS/No Pets. Quiet. \$425/mo. Includes everything—770/436.1135

Salerno Pizza & Pasta

(770) 499 7600



Help Wanted...Call us Immediately

visit us on the Web at <http://www.salernopizza.com>

Bar Now Open

We cater for club parties
Call the manager for the discounted price

10% Off With Student ID

FREE CHICKEN WINGS MONDAYS

Dine In Only
One order of free wings with a valid purchase

DOLLAR DRAUGHT BEER \$1.00 / 12 oz. draught THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS

(Budweiser / Budlite / AmberBock)

\$6.99 LARGE (16") PIZZA

Carry Out only
Not Valid with any other offer

FREE SANDWICH

Buy a Full sandwich for the price of a half sandwich

Dine in & Carry Out
Not Valid with any other offer

I just read the consensus editorial in your September 25th issue. The bells have been turned off. Originally the library was asked to turn them off for the September 11th memorial. Because one bell is broken it was requested that we leave them off until the one bell could be repaired. The remaining bells are not broken.

-Leigh Hall

Dear Editor:

I would like to take a little of your time in asking SPSU staff about the school's academic catalog and school policy and procedure handbook and who adheres to it.

First of all, why does this institution's faculty members break so many of the rules and no one seems to care! To explain an incident which happened to me recently, I had a faculty member who had graded less than 15% of the test, homework, reports, etc. This faculty member barely reviewed for tests and answered very few questions. A day before the finals, he sent answer keys for test unreturned but 3 tests were not graded by the last day of class.

I realize that SPSU is very understaffed and does not have enough full-time instructors, so I tried to convince myself that this faculty member was too busy. I later discovered that other faculty members had more classes and labs than he had to instruct.

If you read the SPSU policy handbook, you will see that each student should be able to receive their assignments graded and returned in a timely manner. Even though a syllabus was passed out at the beginning of the term, this faculty member did not understand that I took this document as a contract for services performed. As far as I am concerned, services were not being produced. Could I get my money back? I talked to this faculty member and could not understand his grading procedures. I have concluded that SPSU must have a "grade assignment of grade fixing" policy in place.

Now, I think that the new transfer and freshmen should be aware of this policy because each state institution shows enrollment increases Fall term. I also have a real serious question to those faculty members who practice this academic demise. We have learned from meeting Life University students on SPSU campus of the results of academic "DON'T CARE," attitude.

I really wonder how these SPSU faculty members feel if this "grade fixing" was used when they attended college?

Secondly, we register at SPSU by picking out a schedule from the course catalog and expect for those course contents to be offered in that course. If this instructor is not using the book, course outline, software, etc. can we get all of our tuition, fees, supplies and time returned? Do not think of this discussion as a "beat down" on SPSU faculty, but I previously attended technical schools and private colleges. After several years of being in the military and in the workforce, I wanted to learn new and supplemental skills.

Now to get back to the issue of new and transfer students, I hope that as many new students and faculty members read this paper because if this does not concern you, it will later affect your stay at SPSU.

Thirdly, it is no secret about the dismal economy, but common decency should tell any person to be fair and respectful of the other person's goal. What does this faculty member have to gain by being uncaring? I am here to gain professional knowledge from staff who have a higher degree than I have. I do not like being offered guest work from undergraduates who think they know the answer. Information is invaluable. For example, I recently attended a workplace investment meeting and was informed that you will have to provide justification for attending an institution for training. Workforce investment information is forwarded to Washington, D.C. This program is federally funded so SPSU and the other state institutions are covered in Georgia.

The next question that concerns me is how can I tell them that I am attending classes which require supplies and materials that are not listed in the school catalog and/or master supply list? This information is important in establishing the real cost of attending SPSU! Everyone knows that SPSU is mostly a commuter state institution which drives up the cost of attendance.

Finally, back to the initial gripe in this letter, any faculty member who is too busy to read school guidelines and follow them should have one of his paychecks held up because if you receive your school funding from former employers, training programs, veterans affairs, etc, you will have your benefits removed if not justified. Now you will see how this feels and remember the lessons that Life University had to learn. I really have faith in SPSU because it is a smaller institution but I think that it could be legally bound later down the road for its little aches and pains.

C.Jones
ECET student

Write Us!

Your letter could be here!

Consensus Editorial

We, *The STING* staff, would like to thank the squirrel in our past issue for not pressing sexual harassment charges against *The STING* for the picture we printed of him on page four. He only demanded that our next consensus editorial include his comments.

"I was completely shocked to see my picture in the paper!" said Stumpy.

On the up side, it has been rumored that Stumpy has very quickly risen to new heights in popularity among campus squirrels. Various full-page spreads have been seen unexplainably scattered around the campus woods.

"I actually thought it was quite funny," said Stumpy. "The last thing I remember after funnelling those beers down was deciding to take a walk around campus and look for some fine looking chipmunks. Then, I see my picture in the paper a week later!"

"I could have been a real b**ch about it, but the *STING* staff are just so fu**ing cool that I just laughed it off. It's not like I was going to go take it before SGA and try to get them to take the paper's funding away or something."

The STING would once again like to thank Stumpy for being such a good sport. □

STING Staff

Zachary Jones, Editor-in-Chief

Zach Biles
Seth Bogo
Mark Campbell
Nicole Beretzcki

Benjamin Lee
Joshua Shannon
Willis Smith
(Many others that slacked!)

The STING is published biweekly for the students, faculty and staff of Southern Polytechnic State University. *The STING* is an official publication of the students of Southern Polytechnic State University. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of students, faculty or staff at Southern Polytechnic State University or the University System of Georgia. All material in *The STING* is property of Southern Polytechnic State University and cannot be reproduced in any manner without the express written consent of *The STING*. No advertisement in *The STING* represents an endorsement of Southern Polytechnic State University or *The STING*, and neither *The STING* nor Southern Polytechnic State University is liable for any claims for products or services made in advertisements herein.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The local advertising rate of *The STING* is \$4.50 per column inch on paper; advertisements online are determined by number of pixels. Advertisements for service and professional organizations on campus are free, but a run-date is not guaranteed on paper. To guarantee one, ad rates are one half the local advertisement rate. Classified advertisements are \$25.00 for the first 25 words on paper; online classifieds are \$12.00 for the first 25 words. Advertisements must be submitted by the deadline printed below. To reserve space or for more information, contact *The STING* at 770.528.7310 or sting@spsu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The STING welcomes letters praising or criticizing editorial policies or opinions. Letters should be typed or neatly printed, double spaced and should not exceed three hundred words. Letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes, but names can be withheld upon request. Unsigned or unverified letters will not be printed. *The STING* reserves the right to edit letters for style, content or size. All letters are run on a space-available basis. Please send all letters to *The STING*, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060, or drop them in the box outside of our office in A252, or email sting@spsu.edu.

ORGANIZATIONS

Articles written by organizations to inform the campus of activities and events are welcome. Articles must be submitted in electronic format (email, disk) by the deadline printed below. Please limit articles to two hundred words. All such articles are subject to editing for style, content and size, and are run on a space-available basis.

JOINING *The STING*

Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join *The STING*, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Friday at noon, or Monday at 3:30pm, in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call 770.528.7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. *The STING*: It's not a job, 'cause a real job pays more.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is October 16, 2002. The issue will be released October 23, 2002.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to *The STING* are \$1,000,000 per semester or \$5,000,000 an academic year. All subscriptions start with the first issue of the succeeding semester. Checks for subscriptions should be made payable to *The STING*.

PRICE

The STING offers to every student, faculty, staff member, alumni, and official visitor of Southern Polytechnic State University copies of each issue numbering up to 0.25% of the print run for the respective issue. Every copy above 0.25% is to be purchased according to a price set by *The STING*. Taking more copies of an issue than constitutes 0.25% of the print run of a particular issue is THEFT and a criminal offense.

Forum For Opinions Open To Everyone

ZACHARY JONES

Creating an ideological environment that is both dynamic and autonomous is the ideal to which any newspaper's editorial or opinion section aspires. Such is the aim of any newspaper that views its own practices through some veil of civic responsibility, not to mention one of journalistic integrity.

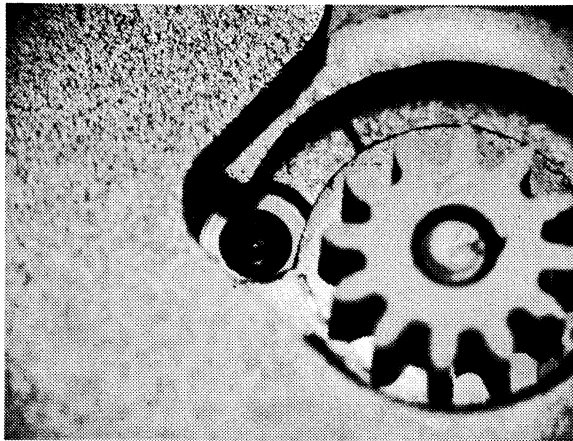
If it is to be of service to the SPSU community, the editorial board of *The STING* feels it must be entrusted with a silent partnership in presenting a political forum for students, faculty and community members. Participants in this forum, unfortunately, at times have felt that their particular agenda was the victim of some antagonistic bias that prevented their cause from getting its just recognition.

For instance, recently *The STING* has heard complaints that the paper "is biased against the

SGA." Further, various complaints have been made regarding the professionalism of *The STING* in past issues. While *The STING* does not offer an endorsement of any variety on any one of these claims, some of these arguments are well-articulated and worthy of consideration.

It is, instead, to the questioning of the wisdom of *The STING* to print various so called "anti-SGA articles" and hence inherent challenging of our integrity as journalists that prompts us to voice a differing opinion.

To think that the content of an editorial section accurately reflects the ideological stances of those that print it is to make a grievous error. What the students and faculty of SPSU will read twice a month in *The STING* is what is submitted



"The squeaky wheel gets the grease..."

to us from our staff, students, and faculty. Any column, regardless of where on the political spectrum its theories fall, will most likely be printed, as long as it is coherent and doesn't masquerade false facts as opinions.

All who have been heard complaining undoubtedly have been more than welcome to use *The STING* as a platform for their opinion. We would have welcomed the

differing voice, but to degrade our commentary with a cliché, the squeaky wheel gets the grease, and those who like to squeak about the SGA are many (much as those who liked to squeak about ABL or the anonymous entity "Administration" were many last year).

To the insinuations that we should not have printed the articles we have, we reply that this forum is for *The STING* staff and readers,

and it will serve as a sounding board for those ideas. There will not be any suppression of ideas nor censoring of opinions, whether they be liberal or conservative, pro-SGA or anti-SGA.

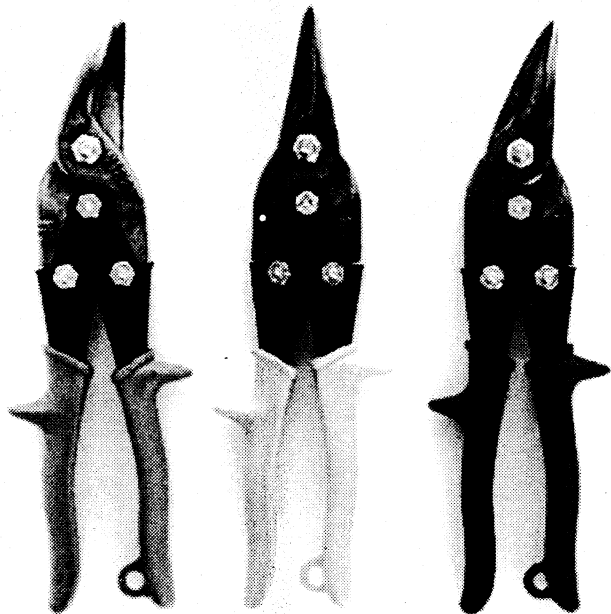
This editorial section is more platform than mirror. The voices heard are those of the members of this community who choose boldly to stand upon it. It is unswayed by guiding ideological influence and stands waiting for all who are willing.

The STING would also like to thank *The Breeze*, of James Madison University, for being a fine role model among student journalists, helping us take a proper view of this situation. □

OUT OF THIS WORLD

By: The Lazy Editorial Staff

New All American Colors
100% Effective

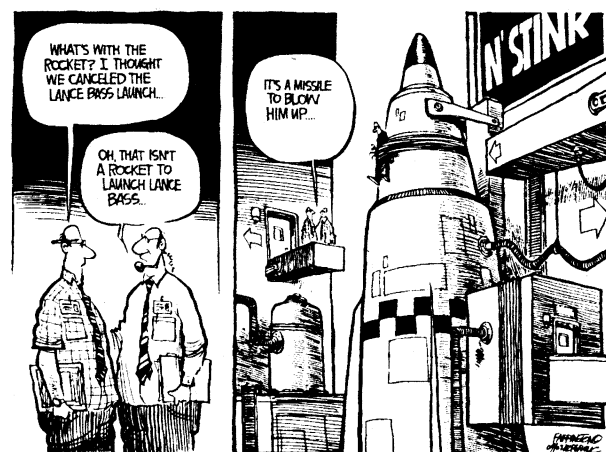


Guaranteed to keep you from squirting out another pie hole to feed.

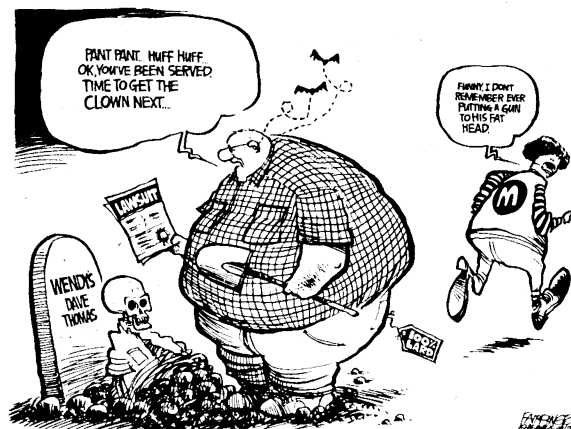
BOBBIT CONTRACEPTIVES
ASK ABOUT STUDENT DISCOUNT



Distributed by Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate



Distributed by Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate



Distributed by Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate

A Consumer's Guide to E-Payments

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

In the Next Issue...
We don't know again. But it will be good, as always.

The Internet has taken its place beside the telephone and television as an important part of people's lives. Consumers use the Internet to shop, bank and invest online. Most consumers use credit or debit cards to pay for online purchases, but other payment methods, like "e-wallets," are becoming more common.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) wants you to know about these new payment technologies and how to make your transactions as safe and secure as possible. Keep these tips in mind as other forms of electronic commerce, like mobile and wireless transactions, become more available.

chases is transferred almost immediately from your bank account to the merchant's account. In addition, your liability limits for a lost or stolen debit card and unauthorized use are different from your liability if your credit card is lost, stolen or used without your authorization.

New electronic payment systems - sometimes referred to as "electronic money" or "e-money" - are also occurring. Their goal is to make purchasing simpler. For example, "stored-value" cards let you transfer cash value to a card. They're commonly used on public transportation, at colleges and universities and at gas stations. Many retailers also sell stored value cards in place of gift certificates. Some stored-value cards work offline, say, to buy a candy bar at a vending machine; others work online, for example, to buy an item from a website; some have both offline and online features. Some cards can be "reloaded" with additional value, at a cash machine; other cards are "disposable" - you can throw them away after you use them. Some stored-value cards contain computer chips that make them "smart" cards: These cards can act like a credit card as well as a debit card, and also can contain stored value.

Some new Internet-based payment systems allow value to be transmitted through computers, sometimes called "e-wallets." You can use "e-wallets" to make

"micropayments" - very small online or offline payments for things like a magazine or fast food. When you buy something using your e-wallet, the balance on your online account decreases by that amount. "E-wallets" may work by using some form of stored value or by automatically accessing an account you've set up through a computer system connected to your credit or debit card account.

"Paying" It Safe

The FTC encourages you to make sure your transactions are secure and your personal information is protected. Although you can't control fraud or deception on the Internet, you can take steps to recognize it, avoid it and report it. Here's how.

Use a secure browser - software that encrypts or scrambles the purchase information you send over the Internet - to guard the security of your online transactions. Be sure your browser has the most up-to-date encryption capabilities by using the latest version available from the manufacturer. You also can download some browsers for free over the Internet. When submitting your purchase information, look for the "lock" icon on the browser's status bar to be sure your information is secure during transmission.

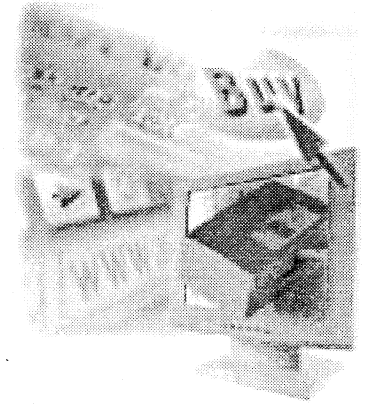
Before you provide any personal financial information to a

website, check the site's privacy policy. In particular, determine how the information will be used or shared with others and what security features are in place so the information cannot be obtained fraudulently. If you're not comfortable with the policy, consider doing business elsewhere.

Read and understand the privacy, refund and shipping policies of the websites you visit, before you make your purchase. Look closely at the disclosures about a website's security, its refund and shipping policies and its privacy policy on collecting and using your personal information. Some websites' disclosures are easier to find than others - look at the bottom of the home page, on order forms or in the "About" or "FAQs" section of a site.

Keep your personal information private. Don't disclose your personal information - your address, telephone number, Social Security number, bank account number or e-mail address - unless you know who's collecting the information, why they're collecting it and how they'll use it.

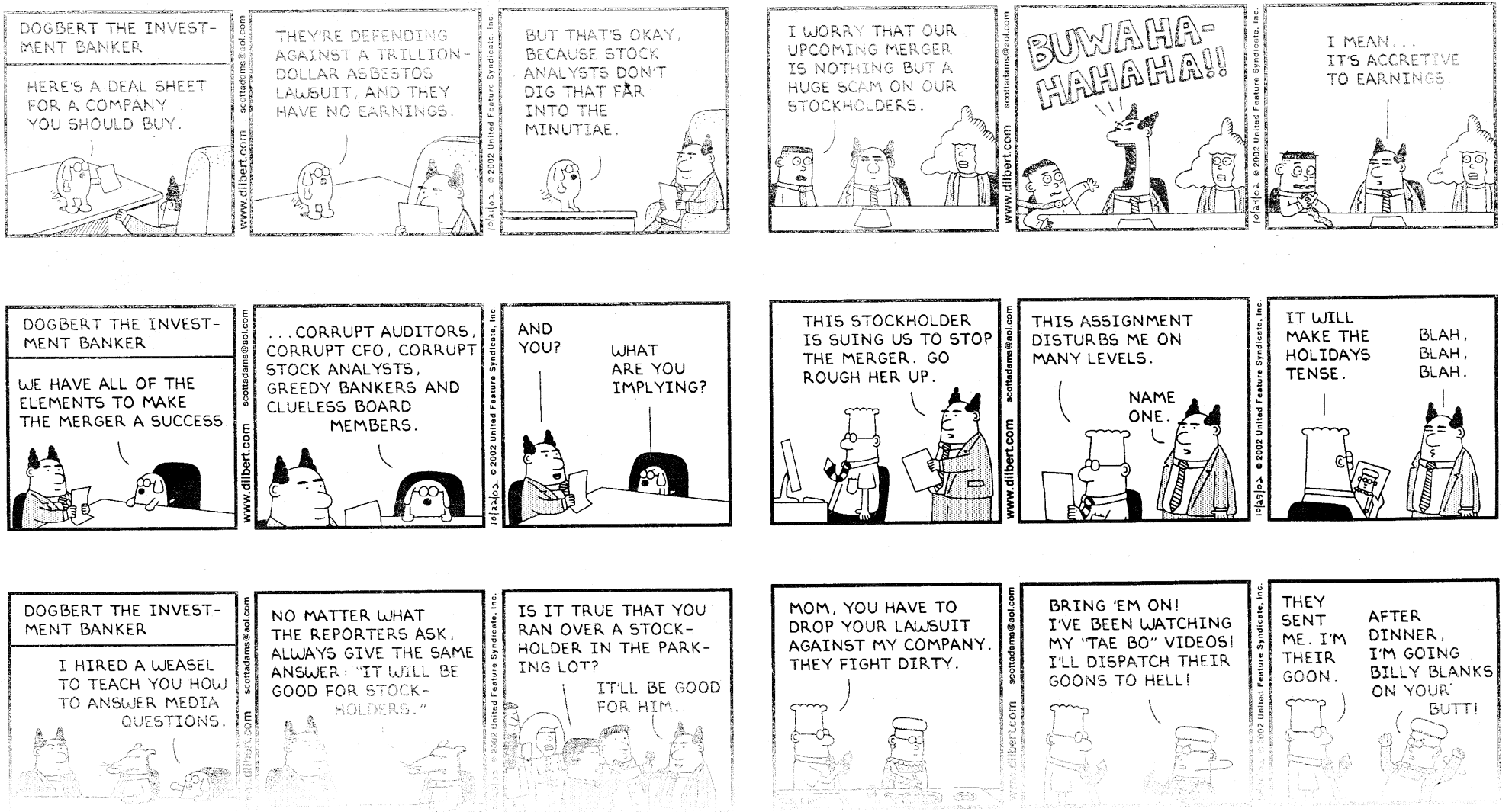
Give payment information only to businesses you know and trust, and only when and where it is ap-



propriate - like an order form. Never give your password to anyone online, even your Internet service provider. Do not download files sent to you by strangers or click on hyperlinks from people you don't know. Opening a file could expose your system to a computer virus or a program that could hijack your modem.

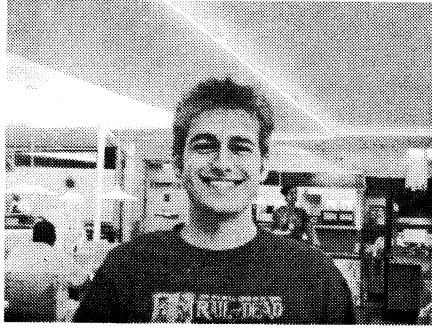
Keep records of your online transactions and read your e-mail. Merchants may send you important information about your purchases.

Review your monthly credit card and bank statements for any errors or unauthorized purchases promptly and thoroughly. Notify your credit or debit card issuer immediately if your credit or debit card or checkbook is lost or stolen, or if you suspect someone is using your accounts without your permission.

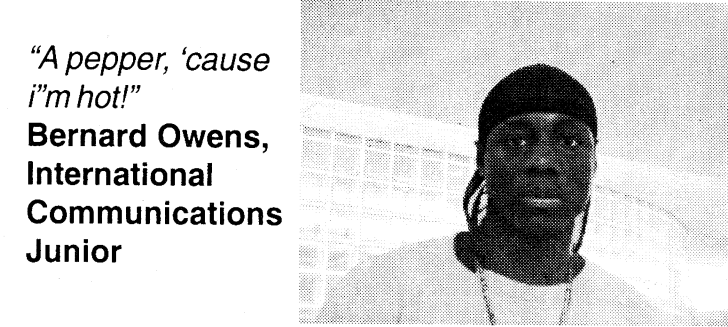


Student Question

What vegetable/fruit do you resemble the most, and why?



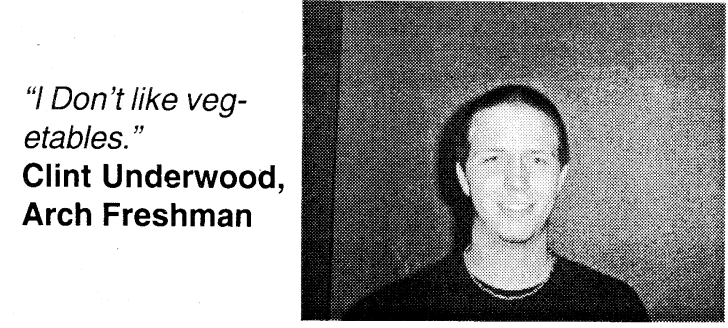
"A peach, because I'm plump and fuzzy all over."
Bailey Humphries,
 Undecided Freshman



"A pepper, 'cause I'm hot!"
Bernard Owens,
 International Communications Junior



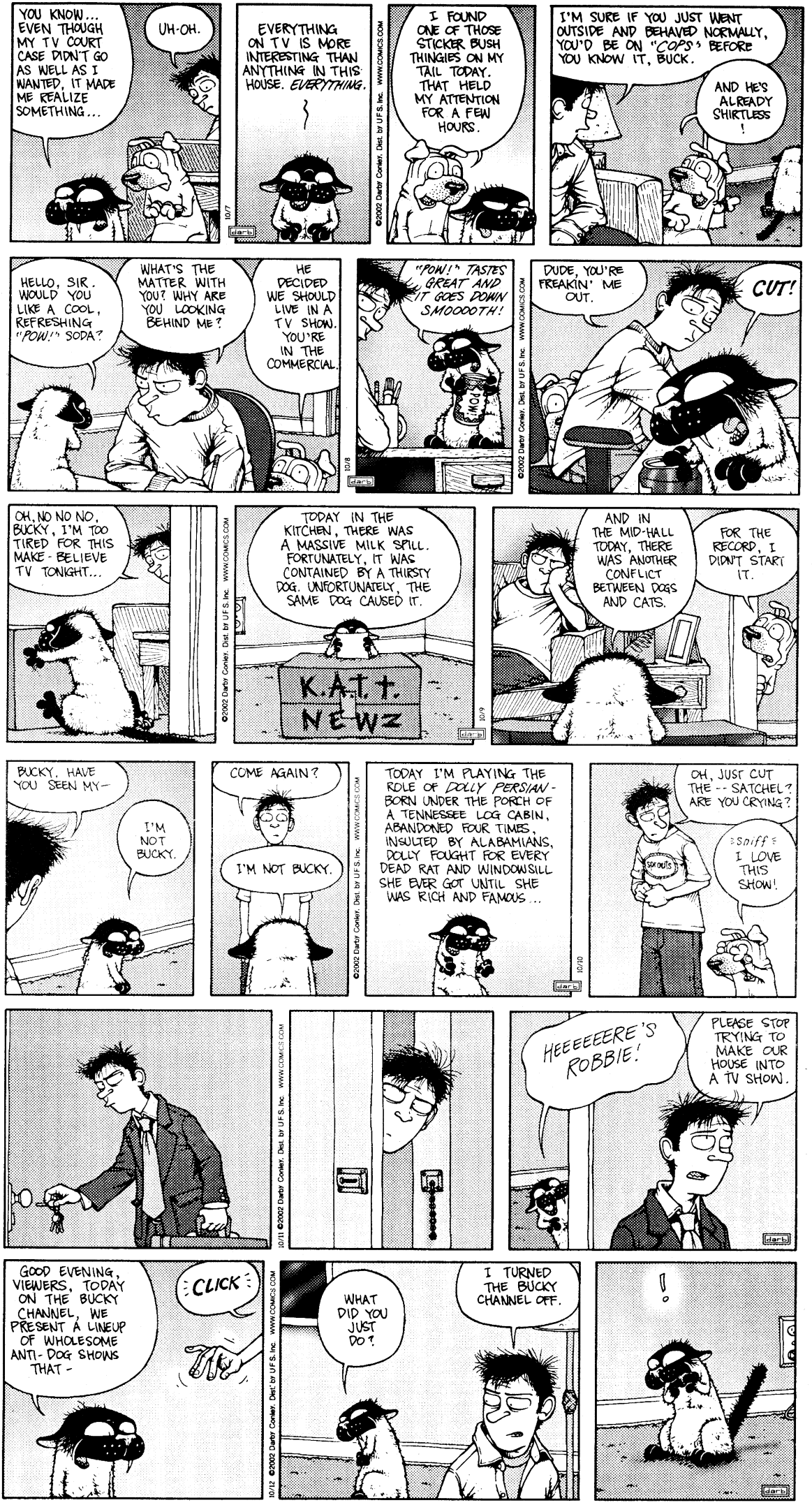
"Pineapple, 'cause I'm tropical."
Chisom Ohiagu,
 CpET Soph



"I Don't like vegetables."
Clint Underwood,
 Arch Freshman



"Spinach, 'cause I make you strong."
Patrick Grier,
 CpET Senior



Peshtigo Burns, 1200 Feared Lost

Fires May Also Have Destroyed Chicago, 300 Rumored Dead There

MARK CAMPBELL

Peshtigo, Wisconsin (October 9, 1871) - A tornado of fire ripped through the heart of Wisconsin's North Woods, killing hundreds in this town of 1,700 souls. Only five hundred individuals survived the firestorm, most by immersing themselves in the waters and marshes of the Peshtigo River in the state's northeastern provinces.

An ominous red glow from the west above the forests signaled the disaster early last evening, and within minutes

Peshtigo was ablaze. Blasts of air ripped roofs from dwellings, and hot sand and live embers rained down upon terrified townspeople. Exploding gasses and crashing timbers rendered the cries of men, women and children mute. Within the hour, both the town and a good many folk were lost.

Volunteer firemen manning Peshtigo's lone hand pumper abandoned their equipment as fire raged above and around them. None were counted among the survivors.

The fire swept through neighboring communities and farms, destroying hundreds of buildings, killing livestock, and leaving many fearful for missing loved ones. With telegraph wires destroyed, it is feared that word of this disaster will be slow to reach representatives at the capitol in Madison. Many in need will no doubt be on their own for the time being.

Prospects of a conflagration, which had been feared, was reported by the local newspaper one day earlier. Northern

Wisconsin, like much of the Midwest, has been under a dreadful drought since late June. High winds were heard racing through the North Woods just hours before the disaster.

A farmhand from neighboring Oconto reported in a wild tale that a similar fate has befallen Chicago, some 250 miles south of here. He said that he had gone to the telegraph station to wire a merchandising friend in the big town, and the gossip at the station was that a fire was raging throughout the city along

the lakeshore. The Chicago Fire Department reportedly was asking for aid from every state and municipality in the region, and that 300 may already be dead there.

It is too early to tell our readers how either fire may have started, or even if Chicago is burning as our sources have claimed. We hope to make this information available to you in our next despatch if circumstances permit. □