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Construction Retains Accreditation

MARK CAMPBELL

The Construction program at Southern Polytechnic State University has retained its accreditation in a yearlong process. The American Council for Construction Education sent a letter to university President Dr. Lisa Rossbacher affirming the program's continued good standing.

"This is the senior accredited [Construction] program of Georgia," explained Siddiqi, explaining the importance of continued accreditation. "We were the first that were accredited by the ACCE, and we are the program that has the largest bachelors and masters program in Georgia."

"The bachelor students are in tremendous demand in this area, and 90% of our students get a job within the construction industry while they are in the program," added Siddiqi. "I've yet to see an undergraduate student who does not have a job - almost every student gets employment before they graduate."

"This is the contribution of SPSU's construction program, which produces students who are market ready and have hands-on experience in construction management areas," added Siddiqi.

The ACCE visiting accreditation team did note some weaknesses and concerns with the program. In particular, the team noted a need to increase the number of Construction-related holdings and databases in the Lawrence V. Johnson Library. Another concern was the lack of follow-up with Construction alumni by the institution.

Strengths of the program included strong leadership by the faculty, and good participation by local and leading construction firms. Khalid Siddiqi, the program head, noted that the department had scored well in its use of information technology, an area that had previously been of some concern.

"We have bought all new computers," Siddiqi stated. "All of our faculty have state-of-the-art computers. All of our classrooms have smart boards, they are equipped with computers, and that makes a tremendous impression."

Siddiqi stated that the Technology Fee has been particularly helpful in moving to new technologies, both for the

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Dr. Khalid Siddiqi, Program Head of the SPSU Construction Department

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Suicide Prompts Counseling Concerns

MARK CAMPBELL

With the suicide at the start of April of a student, attending Southern Polytechnic State University, the Career and Counseling Center emphasizes that they are available to all students. Licensed professional counselor Susan Randall spoke about the warning signs for suicide, and how the counseling center can help students.

"People tend to talk about death, or the fact that the world will be a better place without them, that they wouldn't be missed," explained Randall. "They may start giving away some of their favorite things, not going out as they used to, [or talking about] ways in which to kill themselves. They may be very direct about it."

"People who do complete suicide have often attempted suicide before. So those are all things to take very seriously," Randall added.

The recent death, which occurred off campus, did raise concerns with Randall about the mental health of friends and acquaintances. "We don't actually have a structured program or a group-counseling setting, but we do offer counseling to anyone who is in

need of counseling," Randall said.

"In fact I offered services recently to the Computer Science department, when we learned of the death of one of our students," Randall stressed. "I did not get a call back from the department chair, but I wanted her to know that we are here, should they have any students that are

"The most obvious sign is that people stop going to class...school is not even on their list of worries or priorities."

having difficulties with losing a classmate or a friend."

Randall explained how faculty and staff could help students who seem distressed. "A lot of times professors will call me, or e-mail me, or actually bring a student over themselves," Randall said.

"They will sit down and talk to a student and say, 'You know, we have a licensed professional counselor on campus, whose services are free to you. And she would

really like to work with you and help you.' I can't tell you how valuable that is, to have friends and roommates, and family and professors, refer people to the counseling center," Randall added.

The Career and Counseling Center is located in room A243 of the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center. Students, staff, and faculty may also call the counseling center at (770) 528-7310. In dire emergencies, the campus police are available at (770) 528-5555.

A suicide hotline is also available twenty-four hours at 1-800-SUI-CIDE. Counselors at the hotline provide a warm, fuzzy interface, and can direct students to local resources. In crises, counselors at the Columbus, Ga. Call center can direct emergency personnel to those attempting suicide.

Signs of Suicidal Tendencies

Students in distress may show a variety of signs, from traditional depression, to drug and alcohol abuse, to violence and aggression. Anyone who

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Pipeline Repairs

WILLIS SMITH

Around the Atrium J Building, long wide tunnel holes are in the ground. SPSU Facilities Maintenance/Utilities is replacing a gas pipeline. James Milhollin, the Facilities Maintenance/Utilities director, explained that a gas leak was discovered in the pipeline surrounding Building E. Plumbers use detecting equipment to check for any leaks in the plumbing system. He also described how the gas pipelines worked. Two gas pipelines exist under the campus ground. One goes under Building G and H and leads to the campus library. The second pipeline, under repairs, starts in sections from Building E and F and eventually connects to the Student Center. In six months, that particular pipeline was repaired twice because of its age and its metal corrosion. The pipeline must be either repaired with the gas leak plugged up or the pipeline replaced methodically.

Because that pipeline was repaired twice in two months, the Facilities Maintenance/Utilities department's best option was to replace the pipeline. In replacing the pipeline, the construction crew ran into three problems. The first problem was many undocumented debris or power lines were buried

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Second Annual Outstanding Southern Women Ceremony

WILLIS SMITH

On March 31 in the Student Center Dogwood Room at 5 p.m., the second annual outstanding Southern Polytechnic Women ceremony was in full swing. More women attended this year's event than last year that more women were in the room than chairs. At one point Koger said if the fire marshal comes in here, he could shut the event down for over capability. Rossbacher joked that they should have reserved the ballroom, but next year they will definitely reserve the Student Center Ballroom for sure. As large as the crowd was, people would be too crowded if many students who nominated the Outstanding Women did not had classes during that time.

A loud round of applause erupted as the speakers started their speeches. The first thing Koger commented was that the flower shop messed up on the color flower this year. March was designed as

the National Women Month and Southern Polytechnic honors its women this month.

Rossbacher commented that the school has seen more women applying here. In the past, women's accomplishments or works in literature, science, and engineering usually goes unnoticed. I would like to honor Joyce Mills, Juile Newell, Marlena Compton, for their efforts and time in establishing a section of books about women by women authors in the Library opening on April 21 at noon. Three more women also made a difference this year: the women's basketball coaches. The women basketball team made school history this year on campus with their first home game here and they deserve the awards as part of the first women basketball team here.

Once again, Ron Koger was acknowledged for his recent award for supporting women in the workplace and breaking through

the glass ceiling. Koger explained that we all have supported and created here an environment where women and men are encouraged to success. As we honor you women today with the vision and courage, you would need to ask your mother or grandmother about what the world was like back then. Those women really made a difference to pave the road for today's awards.

Rossbacher reminded the audience that in 1949, the college had 150 men and 1 woman so SPSU has always been co-ed. She congratulated all women while holding the flowers in her arm like the new Miss SPSU. All outstanding women were given a pink rose, an Outstanding Southern Polytechnic Women certificate, a declaration of each accomplishments and a magnet saying that women can do it.



Magnets bearing this popular World War emblem were given to the outstanding women

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50 Years of DNA: A Nobel Prize with a Twist

MARLENA COMPTON

The fields of genetics and molecular biology will celebrate a huge milestone on this Friday. 50 years ago on April 25, 1953, an issue of *Nature* (a scientific research magazine) came out containing a paper by Francis Crick and James Watson of Cambridge University in Cambridge, England. Their paper described the double helix structure of DNA for the first time in history. Several scientists in different countries including England and the United States had been in a cutthroat race to be the first to reveal this molecular structure. While Watson and Crick share the Nobel Prize for this discovery, questions remain about whether or not they alone were responsible for this discovery and whether they should have possibly shared their Nobel Prize with others.

In her new book, *Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA*, Brenda Maddox examines the life of a woman who, it can be argued, should have also received credit for this landmark discovery in science. Who was "The Dark Lady of DNA" and why was her contribution so important that people argue she should have also received a Nobel Prize? In his "Groundbreaking—scientific—research—meets—Catcher in the Rye" account of his work on DNA, *The Double Helix*, James Watson wrote of Rosalind Franklin that, "she was a real problem" and "the thought could not be avoided that the best home for a feminist was in another person's lab."

Brenda Maddox paints quite a different picture of Rosalind Franklin.

Smarter than both of her brothers, she was an embarrassment to her upper middle class Jewish family in London, England. She was raised to be very cautious and reserved in manner, not to draw attention to herself in any way and, above all, not "to take leaps in the dark." In order to understand how she conducted herself in her work, Maddox feels that it is very important to understand these social aspects of her life. Rosalind Franklin found great solace and comfort in science and according to Maddox, probably would have won a Nobel Prize of her own for research she was doing on the Tobacco Mosaic virus. She was not able to complete this research as she died of ovarian cancer at the age of 37.

The role Rosalind Franklin played in the discovery of DNA was in the photographs that led James Watson to his conclusion that DNA has a double helix structure. X-ray crystallography was the method used

London under another scientist named Maurice Wilkins.

Kings College is a religious institution run by the Church of England, and Franklin, being Jewish and female, felt extremely out of place. She did not get along with Wilkins at all and had decided to leave King's College during the period of time in which Watson and Crick were doing their research. In fact, Watson and Crick had been told by their supervisors to quit working on DNA and were getting very desperate for answers. Watson, in particular, felt that the photographs Franklin had made would be very helpful in helping him to make his conclusions. However, instead of drawing Franklin into his research by developing a scholarly relationship with her, he decided that the best tactic he could use to get access to her photos was to tell her that she was incompetent at her work. Franklin took immediate offense to his tactic and chased him off. Her supervisor, Maurice Wilkins heard the yelling and drew Watson off to the side. Since she was leaving King's, Wilkins had been making copies of her work when she wasn't looking. Upon seeing one of the photos, Watson's, "jaw fell open and his pulse began to race." The photograph confirmed his and Crick's idea that DNA was in the form of the Double Helix. Her photograph was the final piece of the puzzle.

Here is where speculation begins about whether Franklin should have received a Nobel Prize along with Watson and Crick. Now considerably more mature than when he wrote *The Double Helix*, James Watson says, in this month's issue of *Scientific*

American, that it would have been best if he and Crick had gotten the Nobel Prize for Biology with Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin getting the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

Brenda Maddox feels differently. In an interview last October on National Public Radio, she said that since only three people are allowed to receive the prize, and because of the misogyny of the times, Watson, Crick and Maurice Wilkins would have probably received the prize had Franklin still been alive. Unfortunately, Franklin was not in the running for a Nobel Prize at all because she died before the award was decided and it is not given out posthumously.

Although he gave Rosalind Franklin sharp criticism in *The Double Helix*, he and his colleague, Francis Crick have come around in their opinions of her. Watson is now of the belief that, "if Rosalind had talked to Francis starting in 1951, she would have solved that structure. And then she would have been the famous one." King's College has honored Franklin by naming a building after her (ironically, shared with Maurice Wilkins...whom she loathed). Watson and Crick both attended the dedication, Watson came in person, and Crick was there through live video feed. They both admitted that

The Secret of Photo 51
Learn About the Legacy of Rosalind Franklin

Available on the Internet at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/photo51/>



Rosalind Franklin

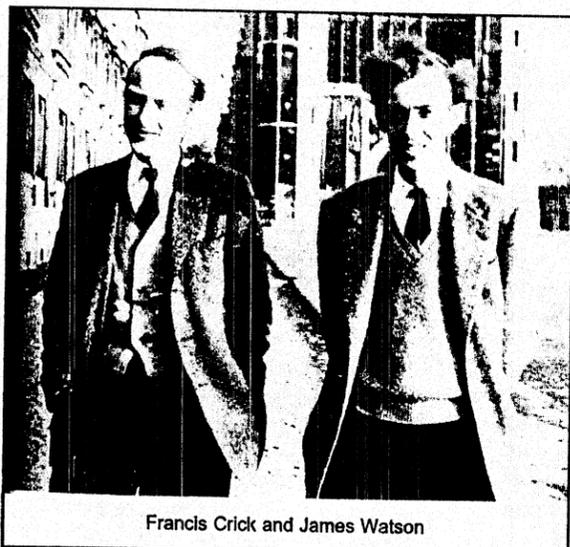
without Rosalind Franklin, they would not have discovered the double helix structure of DNA. The Human Genome Institute still has no plans for honoring her.

Friday is the 50th anniversary of DNA. As this milestone in human achievement is celebrated

on Friday, it should be noted that while Watson and Crick's paper not only revealed an important secret of life, as we know it. It is also a glaring example how women's contributions in science and technology have been ignored.

Sources

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Francis Crick and James Watson

to take pictures of the microscopic molecules of DNA, and Franklin was particularly gifted at capturing these very complex images. She was working in a lab at Kings College in

about whether Franklin should have received a Nobel Prize along with Watson and Crick. Now considerably more mature than when he wrote *The Double Helix*, James Watson says, in this month's issue of *Scientific*

Making Women Visible: An Interview with Dr. Julie Newell

MARLENA COMPTON

On Monday, April 21, the library unveiled a new collection of books that are the beginnings of the Dr. Julie Newell Women's Studies Collection and a web site entitled "The Visibility Project." Dr. Newell began teaching at SPSU in the fall of 1993. She teaches in the Department of Social and International Studies. She has a B.S. in Biology and a double major B.A. in English and Communication from Boise State University and she has an M.A. and Ph.D. in History of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

MC: What first drew you to Women's Studies?

JN: I got interested in women's studies originally because many of my friends and mentors in graduate school were involved in women's history, especially with regard to history of medicine. In the long term, it's about trying to understand American History in an inclusive way, and you can't do that if you're leaving out half the population.

When I came here, Women's Studies chose me. In those first few years, I got mail forwarded from all over campus. For some reason that was never clear to me, it was like many of my colleagues decided I was the "women's studies person." Anything that came across their desk that seemed to deal with women's issues, they forwarded to me. I took this as a challenge—somebody had to "do" women's studies so it might as well be me.

MC: Why is it important for our school to have Women's Studies books?

JN: I don't think of it so much as "Women's Studies" but as making sure our resources reflect the whole range of human experience, endeavor, and achievement. That means being more inclusive across racial and ethnic lines, too, not just gender. Over the years, I've tried to watch for and recommend the purchase of books that cross all those lines.

In a more concrete way, being more inclusive is important because increasing visibility changes attitudes. Science and technology have always been women's work as well as men's, but they've long been *thought of* as "men's" fields because men's endeavors have been more visible. As teachers, mentors, and students we need to know, we literally need to *see* that these are women's fields as well. There's a tremendous amount of strength and

encouragement in having role models and historical precedent to draw on. It's there; we all just need to know more about it.

MC: What is The Visibility Project?

JN: The short answer is that it's a web site, hosted by SPSU, that's supposed to be a starting place for making women more visible in the past, present, and future of science, technology, and medicine. It took me two years to get the current baby-beginning version up, and I couldn't have done that without SPSU student Bee Tong. (The long version of the story is on the site home page at www.spsu.edu/visibility). It needs to grow a LOT but getting it up was the first step.

It's rooted in my belief that women in science, technology, and medicine—and the people who raise and mentor them—draw strength and encouragement from knowing more about others who share their interests and their struggles. Moreover, that one way we get girls and young women interested in—and keep them interested in—science and technology is by literally letting them see that others "like" them have gone before.

It's much harder to visualize ourselves doing and loving things we don't see other people who resemble us loving and doing.

MC: What does it offer the SPSU Community?

JN: It offers our community an opportunity to change the future. It's a concrete manifestation of our commitment to increasing the involvement of women in science and technology and to recognizing their past and present achievements and involvement. If we're serious about increasing the percentage of women students here, and I believe we are, then we need to reflect that commitment in the things on which we spend our time and resources. I'm hoping the Visibility Project will be part of that, and an on-going part of our attempts to make real connections to education at the K-

12 level. The studies show that the critical point at which most girls are "lost" to math and science is 3rd to 5th grade. That's 9-11 year olds. The diversity of our solutions depends on the diversity of our problem solvers; I want this to be one place where girls and their teachers and mentors can begin to visualize themselves as part of that process.

MC: How would you define feminism and why do you think it is important?

JN: My favorite definition of feminism is widely available on a bumper sticker: "feminism is the radical idea that women are human beings." I don't think of myself as a "feminist." The joke in my family has always been that my students seem to think of me as a feminist and a liberal, and if they ever meet a real one they're in for a rude awakening. In 1913, Rebecca West said, "I myself have never known what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat." A lot has changed in the last century, but I love that quotation because it seems to me to reflect my own disconnection from the term. I guess I think of myself as a "personist," not a feminist. Every person matters—we need all the perspectives and all the brainpower we can get to make the world we want our children and our children's children to live in. We're not going to get there by excluding people from participation—or from the education—they need to participate fully.

MC: Men and feminism: do they belong in the same sentence?

JN: They do belong in the same sentence. Especially if a feminist is a person who fully embraces the concept that women are human beings. There have been, and are, many men who certainly fit that description, and they are critical as role models for any among us who still haven't quite caught on.

MC: What is your opinion of men in general?

JN: I'm all for them. I'm married to an excellent one and have another as my eldest child. I have male friends and mentors I don't know what I'd do without. Men are people, which means they can be wonderful, annoying, amazingly kind and understanding, and hopelessly clueless—sometimes all in the same day. They are human beings, so they are always interesting.

MC: What film about women/women and society do you think every person should see?

JN: Fried Green Tomatoes. There's probably some great dramatic or documentary film

I "should" recommend, but for me, this is the one. I think this is a movie about women's hopes and dreams and struggles and fears, about their challenges and their strengths. It is also about how things have changed and not changed across a good hunk of the 20th century. There's a wall in our living room that my husband knows I'm going to take a sledgehammer to some day . . . (If you don't get it, SEE THE MOVIE!)

MC: When will there be a Women's Studies class offered at SPSU?

JN: Just before we went to semesters, when the curriculum still included "free electives," I offered a special topics course looking at American history by reading biographies and autobiographies of women. It was taught at the specific request of a student, and I taught it as a voluntary overload (on top of my full teaching schedule) because we didn't have any idea if anyone else would want to take it. In the end, it was a reading and discussion seminar of about a dozen people and it was a delight to teach.

Now there are two problems: most students have no place where they could count such a course toward graduation (a strong and understandable disincentive). My regular teaching load on semesters is already 4-5 courses, rather than the three I had on quarters.

There ARE some other possibilities, including some of the courses in the new International Studies: Global Technology major, where what might be considered "women's studies" topics make perfect sense.

MC: How do you work women's studies into your classes?

JN: First of all, let me say that I think this is a LOT more important than having separate Women's Studies courses. Those segregate "women's" issues into separate courses and have the disadvantage that they can be avoided by anybody who wants to avoid them. The vast majority of my teaching at SPSU is in core courses, and I love it. I teach primarily *STS 2400: Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society* and *HIST 2111: U.S. History to 1877*.

In the history course, I really try to incorporate some sense of daily life and culture and that would be impossible to do without talking about women. For me, it's not about "how do I include women's studies" but "how do I try to include as much of the diversity of human experience into this story as I can?" You certainly don't do that by leaving out the activities and concerns of half the American population.

In STS 2400, it depends. That's a course about "issues" and any human issue is, by definition, a woman's issue. But again, it's not about "adding" women's studies but about trying to look at the whole story.

Dr. Julie Newell
Associate Professor
Social & International Studies

The Visibility Project
Making Women in Science, Technology and Medicine Visible.
Available on the Internet at:
<http://www.spsu.edu/visibility/>

Laser Tag Anderson-Jones Engagement

KAREN ASAY

On April 3, CAB sponsored Laser Tag, which was held from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For each section, ten people were allowed into the Ballroom to play. These ten players were split into two teams, green and red, and then they played for around five minutes. When the game started, the players had to aim for the other team's players' front sensor, their headsets, or their guns to get them out. During the five minutes they were playing, the manager of the laser tag equipment would play music and fill the room with smoke, which made it harder to see or hear the opposing team.

Laser Tag was unanimously agreed upon to be fun and many of the people that played said that they would play again if CAB did it again. Julene Belle's comment when asked, "What did you think about playing laser tag?" was "It was off the chain!" Actually, the only complaint seemed to be that the red team usually won. This was caused by the emergency exit light making it easier for the red team to see the green team. Since the emergency light cannot be turned off, the green team could only bask in glory only a few times during the event.

Commons Residents Move-In Delayed

WILLIS SMITH

In "Commons Residents Move Back In" of the last issue, *The STING* reported that by the last week of March, student residents might be permitted to move back into the Commons Apartments after the building inspection. Now, the move-in date is in question.

The original plan was for the building inspector to approve the building as safe enough for students to live in the bottom two floors of the apartment complex. Those residents would move back in while the seven-man crew continued repairing the third floor.

The building inspector recently decided, however, it would not permit any student to move back in until the whole apartment complex, all three floors, and the roof, was completed repaired.

The crew currently is working on replacing the third floor apartments' ceilings and the rest of the roof. All residents on all three floors will be permitted to move back in their apartments once the building inspection is finished.

MARK CAMPBELL

Gary and Lynn Anderson of Sharpsburg, Ga., announce the engagement of their daughter Betsy Madeleine Anderson to Zachary James Jones, the only son of Stephen and Cheryl Jones of Douglasville.

The couple will wed on July 26 in Lovejoy, Ga., with a reception following afterwards.

The wedding will be attended by Anderson's older sister, Elissa Light and her husband Zach, and younger brother Jonathon. The groom will have his sister Guinevere in attendance.

Anderson earned an Associates Science degree at West Central Technical College in Carrollton, Ga., and is employed as a bookkeeper at Vinyl Craft, Inc., in Coweta County. Jones will be graduating from Southern Polytechnic State University on May 10 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Science.

Jones proposed to Anderson at the Food Studio, a restaurant in downtown Atlanta on April 8. Jones, who chose the locale for its romantic memories, said, "It's where we went on one of the best dates we ever had."

"Once I wanted to marry her," explained Jones, "I was going to buy a ring. But then I found out from my mom that my grandma had this ring that was in my family from my grandfather's mother. So they gave me that one, and I used that one."

"My grandfather is 94 years old," added Jones. "So the ring is way old – probably 150 years old."

The bride and groom will honeymoon at the 'Hostel in the Forest' in Brunswick, Ga., followed by a brief stay in Savannah at the Catherine Ward House. Afterwards, the couple will move to the Dominican Republic, where Jones will be employed as a teacher with the

International School of Santo Domingo.

Jones served the student body as the Editor-in-Chief of *The STING*, the official publication of the students of Southern Polytechnic State University.

Anderson and Jones got the hook-up through *The STING*, when she noticed Jones at his house decked out in tight jeans and a plethora of concert press passes. The pair dated for two and one-half years before Jones proposed.

"Basically what I thought of at the time was that his butt looked really good – wait, you can't put that, because my mom is going to read this," said Anderson. "And that he could get me into concerts and stuff."

"So she used me for my pass and for my –" added Jones. Anderson concurred, "It was all because of *The STING*."



Betsy Anderson (on top) and Zachary Jones

Students Smash Balls In Student Center

MARK CAMPBELL

Southern Polytechnic student Rocky Myers, assisted by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and *The Ladies of Beauty and Grace*, hosted a table tennis tournament at the Student Center on Fri., April 18. Prizes awarded during the single-elimination tournament included gift certificates to Longhorn Steak House and Red Lobster.

"A lot of people, when I was talking about putting on the pool tournament, they asked if I could do it in conjunction with a table tennis tournament," explained SPSU student Rocky Myers. "But I decided that would be too much in one space at a time."

Myers added, "I'm pleased with the response – we got a lot of people playing out here. It's mostly for bragging rights. We've got prizes for the winner, and for most entertaining, and for the most wicked serve."

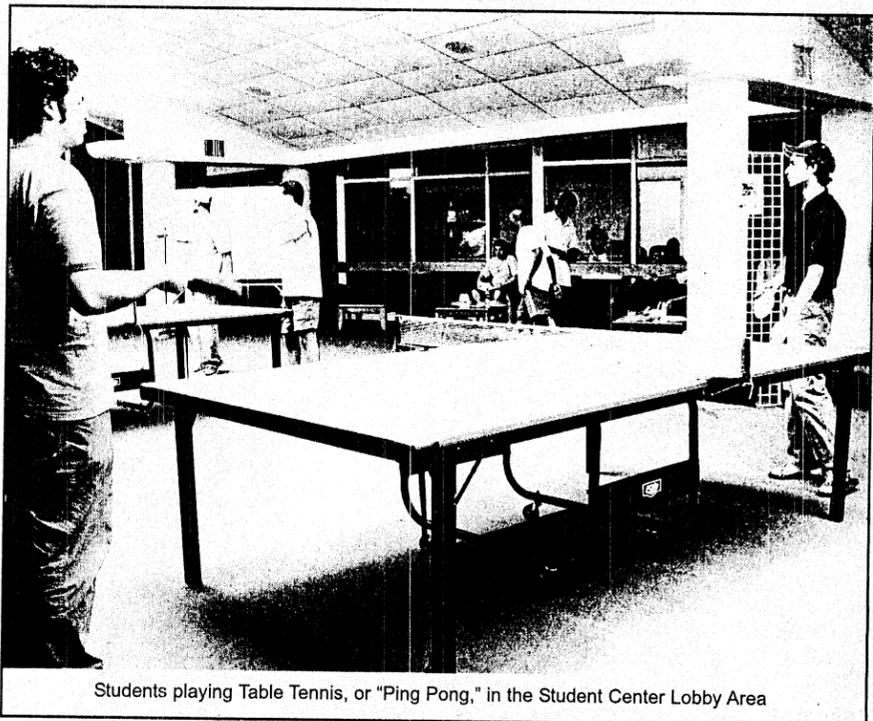
"We got a lot of people on campus that play," said Myers. "But I only see it because I work at the Information Desk [in the Student Center]. They come in and out, and play religiously."

"The table tennis tournament was originally the idea of Rocky Myers," said Carlos Neal, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity president. "He brought it to me, and I told him that we were interested in helping him, because we like to do things for the campus."

"I asked him how he was going to pay for it – he was like, out of his pocket. I said 'Don't worry about it – Alpha Phi Alpha [fraternity] will help you financially, and we'll also help you out with manpower.' We want to get some stuff on campus – increase life, increase our service on campus, get students involved."

Alpha Phi Alpha is the first intercollegiate black fraternity for African-American men. It was founded back in 1906 with seven members.

"This wasn't an impromptu event," explained Neal. "But it was



Students playing Table Tennis, or "Ping Pong," in the Student Center Lobby Area

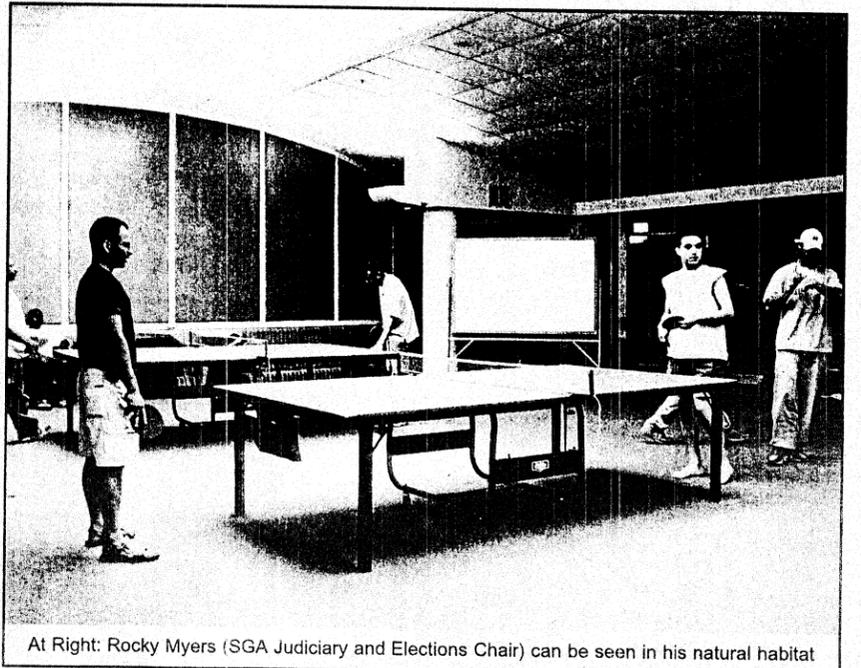
impromptu in Alpha's participation, because we were looking to go get some people to donate some items. Due to the time constraints – since we had just done a step-show, and we raised a little money on campus – we put that money back into the school."

"So we were able to purchase some gift certificates – Longhorn Steak House, Red Lobster," added Neal. He emphasized that the tournament was held to help students relieve a little stress.

"Pretty much everyone's a winner," Neal said. "Basically we just want to make it fun."

"We do service," explained Neal. "We try to get [high school] seniors to go to college. We also have a Project Alpha,

headed by Rochelle 'Shelly' Jones, and had just received student government recognition on Tues., April 15.



At Right: Rocky Myers (SGA Judiciary and Elections Chair) can be seen in his natural habitat

where we teach people about safe sex, abstinence, and such."

Neal explained that both Alpha Phi Alpha and Myers were assisted in hosting the table tennis tournament by *The Ladies of Beauty and Grace*. Neal added that the group, an auxiliary of Alpha Phi Alpha, was

Vibrant New Recreation Center

HEATHER GIROUX

On March 19, the recreation room in the Student Center received a few new accouterments. There are now six new pool tables, a new air hockey table, four ping-pong tables, and a variety of video games. These new tables were acquired by the SGA headed by Randall Ware. The new tables are very colorful having blue, purple, red, tan brown, or green felt. The green table in the center is adorned with the school seal along with the names and positions of the SGA members that made these new tables possible. To help with the upkeep of the pool tables, there is now an array of colored chalk to be matched up with the table you are playing on; no more blue chalk here.

One SPSU student feels that "the different colors (felt) are a waste of money and colored chalk is not as good as blue chalk." Though he/she feels that way, there were also some positive comments such as "the tables are fast

compared to the old ones" and "these new tables are a hundred times better than the ones before." When asked what he thought of the new set up in the recreation room, Aaron Killen replied, "The new cues are good, they're better than the last ones." Killen also added, "It's nice to have full tournament size tables, but why are there fewer of them?"

It seems that though most students are happy with the addition or rather revamp of the recreation center, there are still some things left to be desired.

The hours of the recreation center in the Student Center are Monday - Friday 7am-11pm, Saturday 11am-11pm, and Sunday 1pm-11pm. It is \$2.00 an hour to play pool and \$1.00 an hour to play ping-pong. If you can't seem to afford those prices, come out on Tuesday, April 22 to take advantage of Free Student Center Game Room Night from 6pm-10pm.

Did Somebody Say Party?

BRANDON TUTMAN

That's right folks, on Thursday, April 24, from 5-10pm, Campus Activities Board will be hosting their Spring Fling for all SPSU students. This event will be held between the dorms near the Atrium (J building) and the Amphitheater. As one of CAB's biggest events of the year, the evening soiree is composed of jousting, bungee races, big chair photos, a movie that will be shown at dusk, and the CAB signature offering, FREE FOOD. With the end of the spring semester rapidly approaching, CAB's president, Marvin L. Broaddus, Jr., encourages the student body to come out because, "this is a way to alleviate some of the stress and pressures students are suffering from final projects, final test, and most importantly; final exams!"

Speaking of endings, CAB's last

event of the year, the Finals Breakfast, will be held May 1, at 9 p.m. This is the last opportunity for students to take advantage of CAB's gatherings and fun for the spring semester. The Finals Breakfast primarily is to promote and enhance late night / all night studying sessions before finals. Once again, all SPSU students are encouraged to come.

A note from CAB's President, Marvin L. Broaddus, Jr.:

I would like to thank personally all the students who came out and supported the CAB events, and took advantage of all the free food, fun, and good times, I would like to thank my CAB committees for all of their hard work and dedication to ensuring a good time for all students at all events.



Norton Dorm Building V

Construction Retains Accreditation

Continued from Front Page

department and for Construction-related student organizations. "Without the Technology Fee funds, we would not have been able to accomplish what we have been able to accomplish in this program," Siddiqi said.

The most significant weakness involved outcomes assessment, a means of evaluating how recent alumni are doing on the job. "Apparently we need to work a little harder on the areas of keeping track of our alumni, finding out what they are doing, and getting responses from them on a longer term basis, so that we can identify those areas in which they feel we need to improve," Siddiqi admitted.

Siddiqi added, "I must confess it is not only the Technology Fee funds. We have been able to solicit

substantial industry support. The industry has been very kind and generous to us." Siddiqi cited Batson-Cook, Fortson, Kajima, Winter, and Flagler as construction firms supporting SPSU's program.

Another weakness was the lack of resources for professional development. "We have faculty who write papers, but are unable to visit [conferences], because of lack of financial support," said Siddiqi.

"We all know that the institution relies heavily on the state and the appropriations made," Siddiqi said. "We have to work within the constraints that are given to us, and we'll continue to work, and we'll continue to utilize private resources to supplement the shortfalls that we have for faculty development needs."

"They also commented on the library hours. Since most of our classes are held in the evening, the library should remain open in the evening, up to at least 10 P.M., on all days including Saturdays," stated Siddiqi. "That would be helpful for our program's students, and students in general, also. I know that there are lots of evening classes at our institution."

Siddiqi did note the benefits of the newly established Center for Teaching Excellence on the campus. "I personally think it's an informal mentoring program for the tenure track faculty, and even for other faculty," Siddiqi said. "Because they can participate in those sessions, and learn from each other. I think that's a very good effort on the part of the institution."

Pipeline Repairs

Continued from Front Page

underground. Each time the crew reached a line, they had to dig around and under the line to reach the target pipeline. The weather gave unexpected complications. When it rains, the tunnel holes become drainages that water runs through. During rainy days, the ground transform into mud and "we have to let it dried out before digging any further." The third problem is the pipes themselves. The original new gas pipelines were plastic but instead the crew had to

switch to steel pipes with large diameters. Because of the steel diameters' design, the crew needs to weld the pipeline in sections, each connecting to the two buildings' various gas resource supplies.

Milhollin hopes for more sunny days so the pipelines can be welded and reinstalled into the ground. He expected the project to be completed last week and anxiously waits for the job to be over.



Building J's gas pipe is long and hard. Really long and really hard.

Tuition Update

BRANDON TUTMAN

It was presented earlier in the semester that Southern Polytechnic could possibly experience a 20% increase in tuition starting fall semester, 2003. In order for that to occur, the proposal must go through an elaborate review and approval stage by the Board of Regents. Currently the proposal stands in place until some greater decisions and procedures are handled. However, Board of Regents cannot set tuition until legislature administers the budget for the next year. That has yet to take place. It is anticipated, according to Dr. Rossbacher, that the General Assembly will finish the budgeting for the fiscal year 2004 (which runs from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004) before it adjourns later this week. If not accomplished, legislators will have to be called back for a special session. Once the budget is approved and signed off by the Governor, then tuition increases will be discussed in the upcoming May meeting to occur on the 20-21.

The tuition raise of 20% is being considered because the restriction of 11% put on by the Board of Regents on allotted money to the school has caused a hindrance on the quality of Southern Poly's class / lab equipment and technology. The recommended increase is planned to make up for the loss suffered from the previous 11% cut.

As a parting tribute to our beloved Editor-in-Chief, *The STING* Staff presents an "intellectual" immature joke:

The 'Comma' Sutra



The Conch



The Black Bee



The Churning



The Splitting of Bamboo

Troy Pacheco, 30, Passes On

MARK CAMPBELL

Troy Pacheco, a student from Rome, Ga., passed away on Tues., April 1. Pacheco had recently started on a Masters in Information Technology at Southern Polytechnic State University.

The funeral was held at the Jennings, Oak and Knowles Funeral Home in Rome on Sat., April 5.

"He was an entrepreneur," explained Dr. Rebecca Rutherford, Information Technology Program Coordinator. "He had his own company, so he thought this degree would really help him. We were all shocked, certainly."

Stuart Phillips, a friend of Pacheco's, explained that the two of

them had just discussed going on a scuba-dive trip to Panama City Beach, Fla. Pacheco, a certified scuba instructor, had taught Phillips and his wife how to dive.

According to Phillips, Troy Pacheco, his wife and daughter all came to Rome from Montana. "That was his life," Phillips said, speaking of diving. "Ever since he was little, he was in the water – in the rivers and streams of Montana, snorkeling."

"His enthusiasm was almost catching," said Phillips. "He just loved life; he was so full of energy. Troy definitely left an impression on all the students in class. He had a

way bringing life to whatever situation."

Phillips added that Pacheco had a bubbling sense of humor, amusing friends and colleagues alike with Jim Carey impersonations.

Rutherford explained that Pacheco had just started his own web-development company. "He also worked at Coosa Valley Technical College as a career planner," Rutherford added. "He was doing this [web-development] on the side with the idea of being able to expand that."

Phillips explained that Pacheco had developed admissions test software at Coosa Valley Technical College. "It had some sample tests

in it and it had some diagnostics, complete with test-taking tips and strategies," said Phillips.

Donna Hutchinson, a friend and fellow student, said, "He was very personable." Hutchinson, who had only recently met Pacheco, added, "It felt like you had known him for a very long time."

Rutherford added, "He was a very energetic guy. He seemed to be very interested in pursuing the Masters in Information Technology."

Pacheco, who had taken his own life on the night of April 1, left behind no explanation.

"None of us saw any signs," said Phillips. "Obviously, deep down,

he may have thought about it. Or it may have been a rash decision."

Phillips explained that Pacheco's wife, and his daughter Isabella Hope, had left for Montana three weeks earlier. Phillips added that he didn't know if that was a factor.

Pacheco, age 30, had already earned an Associates Degree from Central Alabama Community College, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Shorter College in Rome. He is survived by his parents, Christopher Raymond Pacheco and Judy Williams Pacheco Camp of Belgrade, Mont.

Second Annual Outstanding Southern Women Ceremony

Continued from Page 2

Outstanding Women: Shirley Adrien, Kim Aragon, Edna Arnold, Sara Atkison, Melanie Barclay, Carol Barnum, Ann Bartone, Carol Beharie-Ware, Julene Bell, Rosemary Brannen, Jessica Brown, Kim Brownlow-Bell, Bridget Cantrell, Pat Carden, Virginia Carden, Jasmin Chadha, Nancy Chang, Jocelyn Clark, LaJuana Cochrane, Marlena Compton, Allison Cutler, Regenia Doyle, Sheryl Duggins, Theseia Edmonds, Teresa Ellison, Jennifer Fleming, Nancy Ford, Pat Garrett, Norma Gonzalez, Kerry Gordon, Pam Grunke, Kamisha Hammond, Fredia Hardin, Jennifer Hart, Elizabeth Haynie, Virginia Head, Kelly Heard, Quint Hill, Sharon Hodges, Leigh Ann Holton, Elisha Howell, Jackie Isaacson, Stefanie Ivy, Carol Jelks, Christy Johnson, Sandy Jones, Yolanda Jones, Kellie Judge, Jaimi Koehler, Chanti Lawrence, Ann Lay, L. Carol Lively, Chastity Lowery, Yang Lu, Yongli Ma, Dottie Maiuro, Alma Manga, Meg Mbugua, Kay McClure, Melissa McGarity, Vicky McIntosh, Sarah Milligan, Joyce Mills, Briana Morrison, Julie Newell, Bernice Nuhfer-Halten, Aderonke Oderinde, Chisom Ohiagu, Amy Oldt, JaMesha Osborne, Sandra Patterson, Laura Payan, Mary Phillips, Devyani Pujari, Gloria Pursell, Trina Queen, Dawn Ramsey, Susan Randall, Kathy Roddy, Peggy Romanowski, Lisa Rossbacher, Pat Roth, Moushume Roy, Becky Rutherford, Dorthy Savoy, Julie Scala, Alexandra Scott, Madhari Sethna, Deb Shaw-Wingate, Pam Smith, Pat Smith, Suzette Smith, Helen Spivak, Stacy Stackpole, Paula Stadnicki, Alisa Staude, Denise Stover, Marie Stresing, Latashia Taylor, Barbara Thomas, Valerie Thomas, Anna Thornhill, Kristie Todd, Terry Trip, Tammie Turley, Sandra Vasa-Sideris, Judy Waits, Laura Wallace, Tabatha Washington, Sandy Weaver, Esta Weiland, Becki Wheatley, Betty Wootton, Naomi Yoshitani, Adrianna Zambrano.

Suicide Prompts Counseling Concerns

Continued from Front Page

attempts suicide, or speaks of it, is at risk. Giving away their most valued possessions or putting their affairs in order may also indicate students at risk.

Randall said, "The most obvious sign is that people stop going to class. Many times students are just kind of holed up in their dorm rooms, or in their residence hall rooms. They're not coming out, they're not attending class, and school is not even on their list of worries or priorities. They're just not able to function enough to go to class."

"They don't even seem to worry that they will fail the class if they don't show up again," Randall added. "They don't want to go out with people anymore. They isolate themselves. They may just stay in their room and work on their computer, or they may not even have the energy to do that."

"Their joy for life is just gone, and they sleep a whole lot. They may gain weight, they may lose weight – it just depends on the individual," said Randall. Distressed students may also seem 'out of it,' forgetting or losing things, misperceiving fact or reality, or rambling when they speak.

Timeline of Risk

A common misconception is that people tend to commit suicide when they are most depressed. However, research has shown that suicides often occur as depression starts to lift.

Randall explained, "Many times when a person is extremely depressed, they do not have the energy to kill themselves. That sounds a little odd, but the most dangerous time for a person is after they have begun taking medication, and the medication is taking effect in their body."

The rise from depression isn't always due to medication. Students who suffer from depression, especially during winter months, may find their depression lift as spring approaches. Others may find

Misconceptions about Suicide

1. People who threaten suicide will not usually do it.
Over 70% of those who threaten suicide make an attempt.
2. An unsuccessful attempt means the person was not serious about it.
Some people are naïve about how to kill themselves.
3. People don't give clues.
They give many clues and warnings.
4. Questioning a depressed person about suicide puts the idea into their head or makes it more likely.
The opposite occurs. People usually feel a sense of relief or understanding and are glad to talk about it.
5. Suicidal people clearly want to die.
No – most are ambivalent.
6. Only people of a certain class or a certain personality commit suicide.
All classes and all types of people commit suicide.
7. Membership in a particular religious group is a good predictor that a person will not consider suicide.
A person's formal religious identification is not an accurate index of true beliefs. Suicide does occur in religious people.
8. The motives for suicide are easily established.
Many times, we do not know the true motives.
9. To commit suicide is insane, or one must be mentally ill.
Most people who attempt suicide are rational and in touch with reality.
10. A person with a terminal illness or chronic pain is unlikely to commit suicide.
Just the opposite is true.
11. Suicide is influenced by the moon, stars, sunspots, etc.
No evidence supports this.
12. An improvement in emotional state or lessening of depressed mood means a lessened risk of suicide.
Not always. When depression lifts, a person may then have enough energy to commit suicide. Factors contributing to the suicidal state need to be modified. Most suicides occur three months after a previous attempt.
13. Once a person is suicidal, he or she is suicidal forever.
Research has shown that the period in which suicide attempts are critical to occur is brief.

Information from Mark S. Freeman, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla.

their spirits lifting somewhat as their circumstances change.

"Then they have the energy to actually complete suicide. So that is the time when friends, and counselors, and doctors have to keep a very close watch on the person," said Randall.

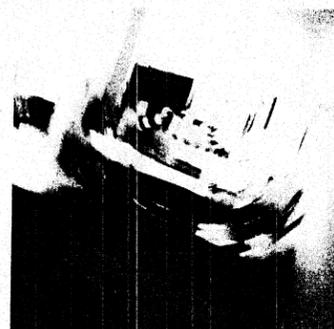
Talking About Suicide

Talking about suicide can actually be beneficial, said Randall. "There are a lot of people who are afraid to even bring up the word 'suicide' to a person. They're thinking, 'Oh, if I mention this, that's going to cause them to go ahead and complete suicide, or attempt suicide.' That's absolutely incorrect," Randall said.

"The person is probably crying out for help – they want someone to intervene," Randall explained. "That is the time when you should sit down directly and say, 'What are you thinking about? Let's get you to some help – this is not normal for you.' And get them to some help."

Others may be uncomfortable talking about suicide just because they are uncomfortable with death. Moreover, while professional counseling is most helpful, direct intervention by friends and faculty is often an important first step.

Randall added that the subject of suicide is not taboo to the individual considering it. "It's not going to put the idea into their head, or give them ideas," said Randall. "The idea is already there, and they would really welcome the opportunity to talk to someone about it very directly."



IRREVERSIBLY UNRELENTING

RICH MERRITT

Irreversible is not an easy movie to swallow. Take the nastiest medicine you can possibly think you've ever had, followed by some bittersweet lemonade and you would have just about the same sort of feeling from watching this movie. It's that strong.

Director Gaspar Noe takes us on a journey that begins with the credits, in bloody red, moving downward instead of upward, tilted sideways. If you have seen 'Memento,' then I'm sure you are familiar with the whole idea of a movie starting at the end of a story and ending at the beginning of a story. This idea is used by Gaspar Noe to an extreme I doubt has ever, or will ever, be matched.

The main characters are Alex, a beautiful Italian woman; Marcus, her boyfriend; and Pierre,

her ex-husband, together taking a grand trip down the recesses of carnal human nature. But this is in no way like the movie 'Threesome.'

Indeed, we begin with Marcus and Pierre in a gay club called Rectum, where the scene is very dark and we find the cameraman to be quite mad, as the camera is spinning like a whirling dervish into the underworld of hell. We then find the duo caving in someone's head with a fire extinguisher. The blows come swiftly, and with a precision that is rather gruesome. But this is the milder of two scenes that define the word 'profane.'

We follow as time goes backwards, backward to find out why these two were drawn into such action. Eventually we find from bits and pieces that Alex has been raped. As the clock is rewound we

regress to those scenes where one realizes, and hopes, that such a rape is not shown.

But this is not a movie that undercuts the potential perversity of human nature. Noe does not compromise. What is witnessed at that point in time is a nine minute take of rape.

It is at this point that previous films that have pushed the envelope for violence step to the wayside. 'Requiem for a Dream' is a fairytale compared to this level of realism. Indeed, I would conclude that if one walked out right then and there, one would declare this film a contemptible and profane attempt to create art, and indeed should be classified as nothing more than a snuff film. However, this is not where the story ends.

After this point we finally get to know the characters a little. Finding out about them makes one feel a bit closer to them, as the rather cheerful and playful acting is done mostly without a script, and thus all dialogue is improvised.

Overall, witnessing the end at the beginning creates a burden on the soul, of connection with that which we mostly choose to keep far away, at bay. I feel this is an important work that is worthy of an audience. However, the raw vividness makes me doubt I will ever want to see it again.

Rape has irreversible consequences.



A Mighty Wind Blows True

BAILEY HUMPHRIES

A *Mighty Wind* is one interesting 'documentary.' Documentary filmmaker Christopher Guest, who has brought us other documentaries, such as *This Is Spinal Tap* now brings us the story of a group of has-been folk singer/songwriters.

They are all called to attention to come pay respect to their ex-manager who dies shortly before the documentary begins. Three groups get together, the *Folksmen*, the *Main Street Players*, and *Mitch and Mickey* to pay homage and play one last time in front of a large audience.

My favorite aspect of the

film was the large array of characters which made for a very colorful canvas. Characters included a folk singer named Mitch, who had a nervous breakdown which ended his career; a couple which believes in the idea that God is color and started their own cult; and the son of the deceased, with all of his efforts in honoring his father while keeping his two siblings from fighting with each other.

I enjoyed this movie a lot as I thought the rest of the audience did. As I was leaving though I overheard somebody say "That was the best comedy I've seen in a long time." Comedy?



The Main Street Players aren't a real band.

High Exhibits 'Paris in the Impression Age'

WILL SMITH

An exhibit at the Atlanta High Museum shows many forms of arts, from paintings to architectural designs to photographs, reflecting life in Paris during the Impressionist Age. As one walks through the whole floor, he or she may learn about Paris in the late nineteenth century. The exhibit shows every aspect of Paris, the good and the bad, the citizens who lived there and how 'Paris in the Age of Impressionism' influenced the world. Intertwined, one finds the history of Paris itself and Impressionistic art style.

Observing the paintings, one can glean much about the city of Paris. Some paintings reflected how Paris was, before and during Napoleon the III's rule, prior his downfall at Sedan during the Franco-Prussian War. In 1850, Haussmann proposed tearing down the medieval town and redesign Paris, from an early medieval city to

“ The Eiffel Tower unintentionally became the world's largest radio antenna to serve the latest technology achievement, the radio. ”

a future city entering the 20th century. At that time, the railroad was finally established in Paris to show the latest technology. Now that very railroad station is a museum

displaying the arts from the Impressionist Age.

It is impressive to see how the 1889 World Fair promoted the Eiffel Tower by using promotional gimmicks. Those gimmicks were beautiful and gave an idea what marketing and publicity were like back then. Some gimmicks were hand-drawn posters and others were little matchbooks promoting the 1889 World Fair event. Art students can examine the numerous art paintings and sculptures by famous artists.

In the early twenty century, the Eiffel Tower was once again saved from the scrap yard by a stroke of luck. The Eiffel Tower unintentionally became the world's largest radio antenna to serve the latest technology achievement, the radio. Now visitors tour the tower every year as one of Paris's landmarks.

There are various works, for there were many artists and architects living in Paris during the Impressionistic period. One can see works by Monet, Van Gogh, Degas, Puissant and many more. The exhibit demonstrates how the Impressionistic Age influenced future artists, starting with Pointillism to the Wild Lion artists.

Several works reflected Paris's lifeblood, from the rich elite to the common workers, from the opera festivals to the slum games. Some influenced Paris itself - for example, one painting had such an effect that the city mayor declared

all homeless people hauled off the street, out of the public's view.

Architecture students can examine the different architectural drawings and designs for the Eiffel Tower, the Opera House, and other structures never built. Amazing, different architectural blueprints and studio designs for various buildings were available for viewing. Contests were held where many architects each designed their version of the Grand Opera House, which serves as the background of the Phantom of the Opera, and the Eiffel Tower. Many designs can

take your breathe away as you ponder, 'How is that design possible to construct?' It is like a peek into the architects' minds.

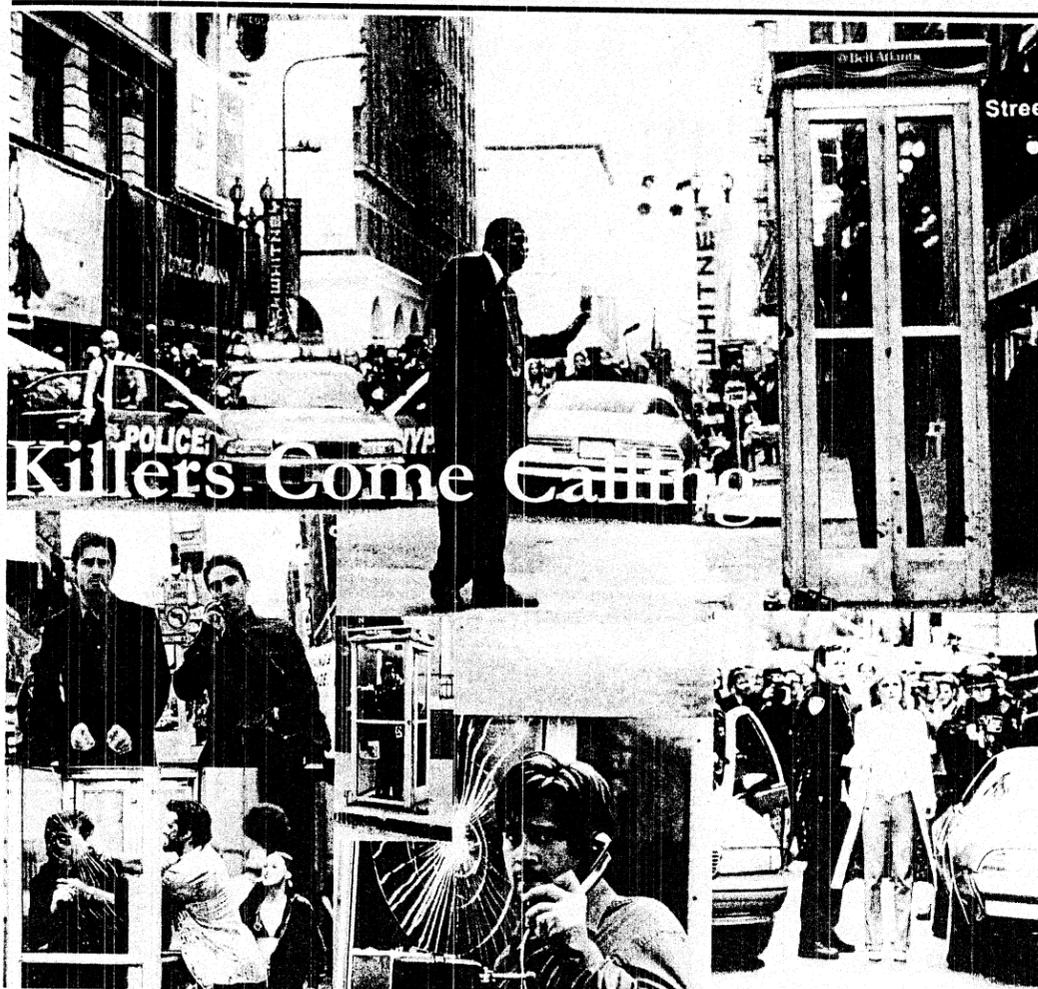
In a way, 'Paris in the Impressionism Age' had everything for the SPSU campus. Business and Management majors could learn about the many methods and gimmicks Paris used to promote itself and the Eiffel Tower. Architecture students could study and examine the numerous blueprints for buildings, some built and some never meant to be built at all, and the design structures of numerous land-

mark buildings like the Opera House or the Eiffel Tower. Any civil engineering student could study the various plans to improve Paris, from redesigning the water sewer system, to improving transportation around Paris, to transforming a early medieval town into a city hosting the 1889 World Fair, showing the world what the twenty century may look like. All campus students could have benefited from attending the show.

The next High Museum exhibit in April will be about paintings from the Moscow Museum, to be shown in the West for the first time.



Chagall Painter Double



RICH MERRITT

Pay phones still exist, but for me at least, since I have a cell phone, I rarely use them. And I have never, ever picked up a ringing pay phone. Stu, a publicist played by Colin Farrell, decides offhandedly to answer a call... and makes for a beginning of an intriguing and suspenseful 81 minute thriller called 'Phone Booth.'

Stu and the sniper, voiced by Kiefer Sutherland, make this movie stay afloat. Without their constant emotional and charged performances, this movie would get

very boring very fast. When the sniper kills a bouncer, things start to heat up as all hands point to Stu as the killer.

In steps actor Forest Whitaker, who plays the good cop trying to figure out why Stu would kill someone, all the while the Sniper is venomously demanding that Stu make the cop get back, or he dies as well.

At no point does the movie feel like it's dragging on it's feet. Everything is quite to the point, as the shortness of the movie suggests. But that is exactly what this movie is

trying to be. It doesn't want to try to make you think.

The director Joel Schumacher wants you inside that phone booth, feeling every bead of sweat on Stu's back as we get closer and closer to the denouement. The acting, camera work, sound, in general everything gels together to make this movie work. If you can suspend your disbelief that this could happen just a bit then this movie will take you on quite a thrilling ride. An excellent, if short, movie on all accounts.

5/5 squirrel nuts.

Poets Read For Peace

SUBMITTED PRESS RELEASE

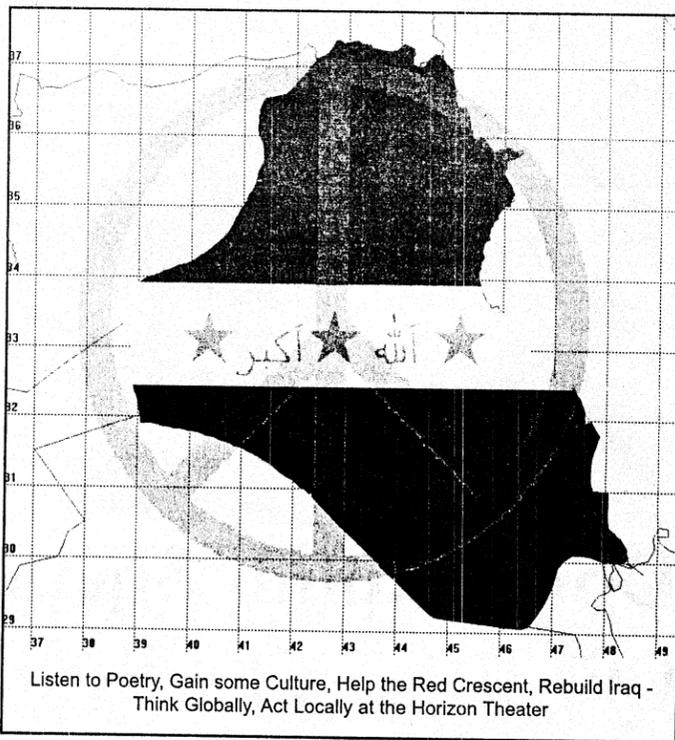
The Atlanta Peace Poets will be holding a reading entitled "Mayday: America Why Are Your Libraries Full of Tears?" at the Horizon Theater on Monday, May 5th at 8:00. "Mayday" will be a showcase of poetry that voices opposition to war and calls for peaceful resolution to current political struggles.

A suggested donation of \$5-\$20 is recommended. All proceeds will go to benefit the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies humanitarian relief in Iraq.

Performers include a variety of talented poets from through-

out the Atlanta area, as well as poet, national commentator and founder of the humanitarian organization Conscience International Jim Jennings, recently returned from Iraq. The program will also include one half hour session of open-mike, and poets everywhere are invited to bring relevant poetry to share. The open-mike will be first-come, first serve.

Doors open at 7:30 and interested readers are encouraged to arrive early to sign up. For more information, contact the Horizon Theater at (404) 584-8815 or e-mail atlpoets4peace@yahoo.com.



Only Jesus Knows the Secret of Origami

VINCENT MIGLIORE

Another unsatisfying dinner at the student center meant another late night trip to the grocery store for some Howell Hall residents on a recent Tuesday night. Going to the supermarket is an exciting thing that must be experienced together, with as many people as possible. Wanting to have a larger group than just my roommate and myself, I urged my neighbor Josh to accompany us to the grocery store.

Not wanting to go to the grocery store so he could read his fashion magazines, Josh declined the offer. Not taking 'no' for an answer, I informed Josh if he didn't come under his own free will, I would carry him to the car. Josh then cockily stated that he would go to the store if I did so.

In an effort of pure brute strength, my roommate and I carried the huge 700 lbf. frame of Josh to the parking lot while he was sitting in his computer chair. Our neighbor CJ was impressed with the feat so much that he joined us in the car on our journey to the grocery store.

What happened to the computer chair, you might ask? Well, let's just say that Josh became even more familiar with CJ's lap in the car, even more so than that time on

Spring Break after the Indigo Girls concert.

So the four of us made it to Kroger and the fun began. CJ picked out a shopping cart, and as he swung it around in the direction of the door, he knocked down an elderly woman, who spilled her groceries all over the floor, which, might I add, included eggs. All the evil CJ could say was "What was that old woman doing out at midnight anyway?"

The shopping continued until it reached the soft drink aisle where more misfortune for the young CJ took place. CJ haphazardly picked up a case of Pepsi by the flimsy cardboard handles, and the entire package broke open spilling Pepsi cans all over the aisle floor.

In a feat never before seen by myself, or any other people in our party, Josh took one of these Pepsi cans and proceeded to throw it straight up in the air as high as he possible could. In a surreal moment, the can landed perfectly in the cup holder on the shopping cart. We had no time to be in awe because we had more shopping to do, but we were definitely impressed that Josh had a better talent

than that trick he does with his stomach and the can of tuna fish.

We finished our shopping without any further incidents and made it to the parking lot, only for my roommate Tyler to realize he didn't have his keys and had to go back into the store to find them. Josh, CJ,

and I then



and I then proceeded to sit on the shopping cart return barrier. Feeling the need to get exercise I hoisted Josh on my back and gave him a harmless piggyback ride, but little did I know it was the piggyback ride that was going to send me to the depths of hell.

As our mindless fun commenced, we were approached by a middle-aged man in a Papa John's uniform who asked, "Hey, can I show you something?" Expecting either a penis or gun, I was tentative to say 'Yes,' but what the hell.

The man proceeded to take out a piece of paper and fold it in the shape of Nevada. He talked about how gambling and prostitution run rampant in Nevada. He then began to tear the paper and spell something out on the ground. The first two letters he puts down are both 'L', and I am expecting this crazy son-of-a-bitch to spell 'KILL,' and then waste all three of us.

Of course, something worse happens, and it turns out we are being solicited by an evangelist. The next two letters are an 'H' and an 'E'. He informs us that not only is Hell real, but it's really hot too!

The 'miracle' continues as

he rearranges the letters to spell JESU. According to him, this is how they pronounce Jesus in Spanish. Now I'm no Spaniard, but I thought it was pronounced "hay-zeus." If he said Latin then I would agree, but this bastard said Spanish, and he was wrong.

He started going on about how no skeptic can explain how this paper trick works, and it's another mysterious work of Jesus. Hell, no one can explain how so many frat boys' penises can fit inside a goat, but no one calls it a work of Jesus, now do they? He went on to say that he used to be wild and crazy like us, but Jesus saved him.

What I didn't understand was how could one of the most innocent acts, like giving a piggyback ride, gave the impression that we are heathens that are going to hell? I thought we already live in Hell - it just goes by the name of Howell Hall.

If there is one thing worse than the threat of being mugged, it's the threat of having someone else's beliefs pushed on you at I am in a Kroger parking lot. We are good kids and we didn't deserve that at all. We are role models for kids, and live our lives on the right side of the tracks.

Oh well, at least the fake ID worked and it was 'Miller Time' for the rest of the night.

The Circus is Alive!

RICH MERRITT

Well, at least one circus is alive! That would be Cirque du Soliel. Think of a circus with actors and actresses intermixed with musicians and acrobats. Oh, and they also happen to be wearing some of the most elaborate and colorful costumes ever to be designed. Then you would have a rough picture of what it means to go to a Cirque du Soliel show.

The one that I went to see was called Varekai, which means 'Wherever' in gypsy language. What one is subject to experience, however, is not a systematic plotline which is easily digested, but a crash course of acts which have a dynamic combination of Olympic quality acrobatics, with an artistic precision that is simply breathtaking to behold.

The way six performers position can position themselves on a trapeze creates symmetry and patterns that simply are astounding, and they differ from one to another with both elegance and grace. The acting is quite exemplary in and of itself.

One character, a gadget-loving, somewhat-crazed wise man, is both funny and conveys his character well, considering that his language is incomprehensible to most of the audience. Then there's the

'comic relief,' with a wannabe magician and his dimly bright assistant. Their antics are highly amusing, and at one point they even take a member from the audience onto the stage for one hilarious trick.

The technology at work is interesting as well, with fiber-optics being used to look like fireflies and a blimp being used as a huge television screen that goes off the stage and floats over the audience. Overall, I highly recommend this show to everyone, the acting and acrobatics are simply amazing, indeed, all aspects of the production are top notch.



Cats, HAH!!!

Summer On the Bricks

SUBMITTED BY TARA MURPHY, 360 MEDIA

Mad Booking President Marcie Allen Cardwell has announced the dates for the 3rd annual Vanilla Coke's 'On the Bricks' concert series. Returning Fri., May 30th and continuing through Fri., August 22nd, with no show on July 4th, 'On The Bricks' will once again find its home in downtown Atlanta landmark Centennial Olympic Park.

The weekly summer music tradition, presented by STAR 94 radio, will launch the implementation of a \$3.00 ticket charge for all patrons to attend this season.

Vanilla Coke's 'On the Bricks' also announced that Shaggy, Arrested Development, Jason Mraz and Jennifer Love Hewitt will kick the series off on May 30th with Hootie & the Blowfish to follow on August 8th and George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic on August 15th.

In a move to cover the growth of the event, Cardwell explained that it was no longer feasible for any of her events to be free due to an economic slowdown. A \$3.00 ticket charge will help cover increased costs of the ever-popular event.

All of Mad Booking's weekly series, which include Coca-Cola's 'Dancin' In The District' in Nashville and 'Memphis Jam' in Memphis, will have a \$3.00 ticket surcharge this season.

"We had a tremendous

amount of growth with all our series last year, so much so that we needed to take a look at the big picture and figure out what steps we could make to support that growth," explained Cardwell. "Increasing the level of talent was one aspect that we wanted to work on."

Vanilla Coke's 'On the Bricks' celebrated its 2nd season last year and hosted nearly 500,000 people who headed out to listen to multiple artists week after week. Last year's line-up included Alanis Morissette, India.Arie, John Mayer, and Avril Lavigne.

Tickets will be available for each show at \$3.00 each or in sets of 12 tickets for \$25.00. Children age 5 and under are free. Gates will open weekly at 5:30 with music from 6-11pm. Tickets for Vanilla Coke's 'On the Bricks' concerts are not dated



The only reason that you might throw a brick at hot Avril Lavigne is that she is a Canadian.

and will be good for any show. Further information can be found at www.onthebricks.com or at www.madbooking.com

Dorm Room Shenanigans: Cheating The System

VINCENT MIGLIORE

Video games play a huge role in keeping everyone entertained here in Howell Hall. Not a day goes by where you won't see a bunch of guys huddled up in front of their television, smashing away at their PS2 controllers buttons, and yelling obscenities at the top of their lungs. Well, maybe my room is the only one that you will pass by and hear obscenities yelled everyday, but nevertheless everyone loves video games here in Howell Hall.

It was a rough day for a certain somebody who lives on Howell. (I won't say his name but let's just say it starts with a C and ends in a J.) He went to turn on his PS2 and realized that something was wrong. Evidentially his years of misuse and disrespect for the system had finally caught up with him, and he found himself weeping in front of a broken PS2.

While sitting in his room upset and looking for a solution, in came his strapping Italian neighbor with an answer. "All you have to do is buy another one, switch it out, and then bring it back to where you bought it and get your money back."

The desperate young man took the sage-like advice and proceeded to a major electronics retailer where he purchased a brand new PS2. He did this, fully knowing that

the smiling sales clerk who thought he was going to be able to feed his kids with the commission gained from the sale, would actually be fired later in the week when our desperate young man would bring the PS2 back, and he wouldn't meet his sales quota.

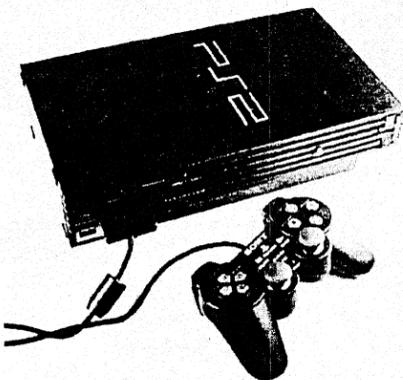
Upon returning to SPSU the young man thought that he was in the clear, and it was as easy as his brilliant neighbor had suggested. Everything went well until this young man realized that the serial number on the receipt and the serial number on the PS2's matched exactly, therefore making it seemingly impossible to return.

Now stuck with a broken PS2 and out \$200 for the new one, this young man thought he was just going to cut his losses and move on, but his extremely masculine neighbor came back again with another ingenious idea. "Why don't you just change the covers of the two units, and then the broken one will have the new one's serial number?" The young man began to weep at the intelligence of his neighbor, and proceeded to meticulously switch the two

systems' covers.

The young man returned the PS2 the same day and received his money back, but upon returning to the dorms he realized that he had left his copy of 'Lord of the Rings' inside his broken PS2. Going back again would be like a suicide mission. The young man decided to forget the game, and just enjoy the fact that he got away with everything...or so he thought.

In an ideal world, the sales clerk would have located the young man five days later with the address from the boy's credit card, and dismembered his body with a ginsu knife. No doubt his extremely handsome and extremely intelligent neighbor would have had this to say "I told the idiot he shouldn't have paid with credit card." But the world isn't ideal, and the PS2 works great.



Never Judge a PS2 by its cover...

Hail To The Thief

MARK CAMPBELL AND RICH MERRITT

The band *Radiohead* will release their sixth album, 'Hail To The Thief,' on the Capitol Records' label June 10th. 'Hail To The Thief' features 14 tracks. Produced by Nigel Godrich and Radiohead, and mixed by Nigel Godrich, the album was recorded in Oxfordshire, England, and Los Angeles.

Track titles include '2 + 2 = 5,' 'Backdrifts,' 'Go To Sleep,' and 'Where I End And You Begin.' Radiohead will start a short of Ireland and the UK in Dublin on May 17th. The seven announced dates, in Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Manchester and London are already sold out.

The group intends to continue touring over the summer to help debut the new album. Radiohead is scheduled to appear at Glastonbury in the UK on Sat., June 28th, and at other dates in Europe. A late summer and fall tour in North America is also in the works.



George listens to Radiohead at 4:20 pm.



The Histories That Matter – Alcohol and a Little Something Extra

CJ SHRADER

"Beer beer beer beer beer bed bed bed bed bed!" – Homer Simpson.

I think this famous line sums up college life as finals begin their approach. And since everyone will probably be out partying and having a good time, this issue's history will cover three of the most popular alcoholic beverages: beer, wine, and whiskey. Also, if you read through and be good boys and girls, there might be a little bonus history near the end.

Beer

Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy. — Benjamin Franklin.

Before I get into the history of beer, let me take a moment to explain how it is made. Almost all beer consists of four basic ingredients: barley, water, hops, and yeast. They put the ingredients through four various stages which I won't go into too deeply. If you're really interested, check out www.history-of-beer.com, which has lots of information.



Beer, in some form or another, has been around for a long, long time. Historians actually believe that beer was being brewed as early as 10,000 B.C. by the Mesopotamians and the Sumerians. Naturally, it probably didn't taste the same as today's beer, but it was still beer.

Both the ancient Egyptians and the Chinese brewed beer as well. Even the civilizations that lived in the Americas before Columbus arrived had their own form of beer, though they used corn instead of the traditional barley.

During the middle ages, monasteries were places of literature, science, and beer. Monks refined the, dare I say, art of beer-making to a near perfect level. It was the monks of the middle ages that decided hops should be used as a flavoring and preservative.

One problem still existed, however. The monks relied on a wild, airborne yeast for fermentation of the beer. It wasn't until Louis Pasteur (Yeah, the milk guy) came along and discovered that yeast was a living micro-organism. Because of his research, it became possible to control the conversion of alcohol to sugar.

I would suspect that after Pasteur came along, beer began to taste like it does today. Since then, beer has gone through a few troubles, like Prohibition in the

United States. Nowadays, beer has developed into many different varieties, such as dark, lager, amber, bitter, fruit, pilsner and stout. All of these are developed using different brewing techniques, yet all have the same basic ingredients: barley, water, hops, and yeast.

Wine



Although not as old as beer, wine has also been around for quite some time. Wine was developed as early as the 6000's B.C. by the Mesopotamians. Those Mesopotamians

had their nose in all the alcoholic beverages, didn't they?

The Egyptians were the first to record the value of wine and how they would make it. According to their records, wine was mainly drunk by the upper class, while the lower classes drank mainly beer. Some Egyptian pharaohs were even buried with wine to make their trip to the afterlife more bearable.

Wine in ancient Greece and Rome was a lot similar to wine in Egypt. It was consumed by mainly the upper class, while the lower class couldn't afford the very sweet liquid. The Greeks and the Romans were so infatuated with wine that they both had an individual god or goddess for it - Dionysus and Bacchus, respectively.

Later, during the Dark Ages, it was the king Charlemagne

who began to reorganize the way wine was created. Charlemagne was said to be very picky about his wine, and he made rules to make the wine more hygienic. He said that grapes for wine could no longer be crushed by foot, and that they could no longer be stored in animal skins.

Wine today isn't wholly changed from the wine of the past. Multiple inventions, such as the cork and improved bottling techniques, have helped wine become more long-lived. Today, the ability to refrigerate entire vineries makes it possible to grow wine all over the world, instead of solely in cooler climates where grapes grow better. Wines can come in all sorts of flavors, from the sweeter varieties of the past to the more bitter varieties of today. Today, however, wine is still a favorite of the upper classes, though the lower classes do enjoy the occasional draught as well.

Whiskey



Compared to beer and wine, whiskey is a very young drink and hasn't been around for an

exceptionally long amount of time. Because of this, it doesn't have a lot of history behind it, but there's still a little to be told.

It is generally accepted that the Celts, who include the Scots, Irish, Cornish, and Welsh, were the first to make whiskey around 800 B.C. Since they didn't have a suitable climate for growing grapes, but were able to grow bar-

ley and rye, whiskey became a natural choice to brew.

The Celts who invented whiskey believed it was a gift from their gods. They believed that whiskey had the power to bring the dead to life and to warm the coldest body. In Gaelic, the language of the Celts, whiskey is actually called "uisge beatha", or the water of life.

Since then, whiskey has spread all over the world. It can be found in Scotland, Ireland, the U.S., Canada, and practically everywhere else in the world where alcohol is served. Each country which has adopted whiskey as its own has created their own unique way of brewing it, making it possible for you to order whiskey in two different countries and get very different tastes for each country.

Bonus: Why Don't Applejacks Taste Like Apples?



When I first began research for this seemingly impossible question, I had an assumption. I figured that

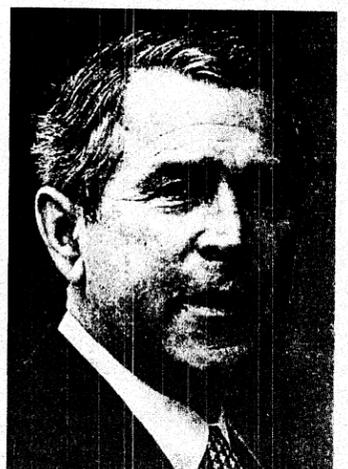
Applejacks must not taste like apples because there were no apples in them. Turns out I was wrong. Applejacks actually have dried apples and apple juice concentrate listed in the ingredients.

I continued my search, but could only find one answer for this question which has plagued great minds for generations. The answer

was supplied by Gandalf the White at www.stupididring.com.

About Applejacks, Gandalf the White said, "...[A]pplejacks were once real apples, until the dark lord Sauron - or was it Melkor? Ah, who cares, those Dark Lords are all the same - anyway, he took the apples and mutilated them into a horrible mockery of apples. Luckily, they can only be eaten for breakfast, but I hear Saruman's trying to breed applejacks with milk to create an army that can be eaten for an afternoon snack as well! All of Middle-Earth must work together to defeat Sauron and his Applejacks!"

There ends another "History that Matters." I hope everyone enjoyed it (especially my attempt at copping out of the Applejacks questions). Like always, feel free to send me an e-mail if you have a burning question that you just need answered. The address is rshrader@spsu.edu.



"Alcohol will not kill your college career!"

Zwan Zounds Zweet

Rich Merritt



This band is really well put together. Paz and Corgan's vocals harmonize well, The atmosphere and emotion



Billy Corgan

wan. What an interesting name for Billy Corgan's newest musical entourage. They were here in Atlanta on April 7th, and quite a show it was. They didn't play any material from Smashing Pumpkins, but then again, this isn't that band.

Instead, they have their own songs, which are surprisingly similar yet rather different from Corgan's previous band. Ok, enough focus on Corgan.

behind the music rings rather true, instead of a "Oh, let's

make radio-friendly superhits and cash out" style. The music is genuine both on the CD and onstage. I'd say both the live show and CD are equal in musical quality.

Onstage, everything was present and accounted for - whether you can handle the sappiness and bright mood of the songs is the only hurdle to enjoying this band. As for myself, I enjoyed this show and look forward to seeing them at Music Midtown, which is May 3rd through May 5th.



Write Your Own Article Here

YOUR NAME HERE:



Now that's an exciting article!

Def Jam Vendetta Kicks Ass

BAILEY HUMPHRIES

Back in the day, you used to earn respect by having 10 minute wrestling matches in underground clubs with high-impact moves, devastating attacks, humiliating taunts, and rap stars.

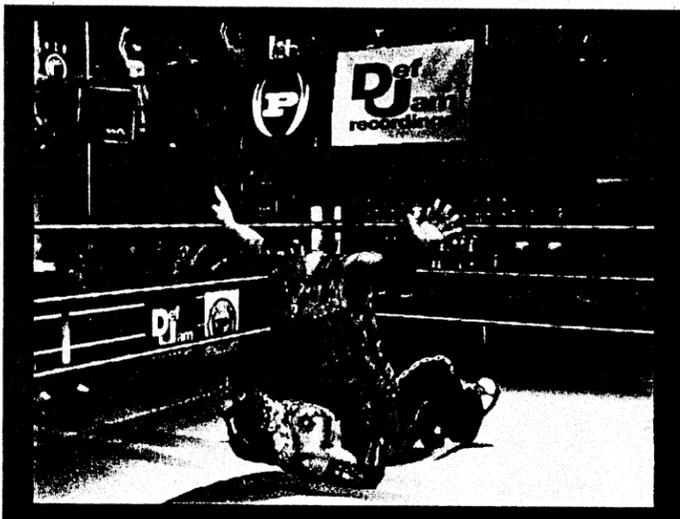
EA Big has released Def Jam Vendetta and it proves to be one of the most addicting games to come out as of late. It's an almost clone of the EA's wrestling game on the Nintendo 64, but with people like Ludacris, Method Man, Redman, and the Ghostface Killah.

Single Player mode allows you to buy girlfriends and fight with them, and also buy stat points for your characters as they're working their way through the ranks. Multiplayer mode offers different possibilities including tag team matches with four characters, one-on-one fights, and even one-versus-many, amongst others. The game has incredible replay value,

and due to its addictive nature, that's good.

Despite being a game made by a rap label and starring rappers, the game barely has any songs. Most of the songs get old real quick, and when you're actually participating in a fight, the songs are all instrumentals. I guess Russell Simmons had a vision of people sitting around their PS2 and having a freestyle battle as they get it on in the ring.

What I enjoy most about this game is the humiliating and chauvinistic way in which women are portrayed. As you progress in the Story Mode, you earn girlfriends who get in bitch-fights with other girls who also want to be your girlfriend. You can later use the girls to fight. I like to get Method Man and lay down some of the old wife-beating.



When you're a wimpy-assed geek without a girlfriend, you can always do a little virtual wrasslin'

Rock Stone Age Style

RICH MERRITT

Some music makes you happy. Some songs make your feet start tapping. Some bands make you rock out, headbanging and everything else. Such is the case of *Queens of the Stone Age*.

Josh Homme and Nick Oliveri, the leaders and the only two permanent members of the band, have created an experimental rock ensemble, drawing talent from *Screaming Trees* with Mark Lanegan, *Nirvana/Foo Fighters* with Dave Grohl, and *A Perfect Circle* with Troy Van Leeuwen.

At the 40 Watt in Athens on March 15th a certain band with five words starting with 'Queens,' played. For the next 2 hours, 19 songs featured three different lead singers. The songs that were played varied in attitude and mood, from 'Millionaire' starting off the show with its shrill vocals, then switching gears into a vocally slower but just

as rapidly paced guitar ballad called 'Go With the Flow.'

The evening was filled with a nice light show as well, as the guys seem to have their own custom lights welded in the shapes of symbols important to them. 'No One Knows' marked a defiant roar of rock music,



Queens of the Stone Age



declaring in no meager voice that Rock Lives.

Just when one thinks music has gone the way of me-tooisms, here comes another heartbeat that reminds us that awesome music has been made, and more will come, and that you just have to be patient.

5/5 squirrel nuts.



summer movies cool cars

bailey humphries

x-men 2

The follow-up to the hit summer movie is due out, and on the set fights and a 100 million dollar budget have helped build the tension for the movie's release. I could care less about the special effects and high impact action scenes - all I care about is seeing Anna Paquin in a skin tight leather outfit.



the lizzie mcguire movie

You loved the show on the Disney channel with three middle school-aged kids growing up in a suburban town with real problems. Now you'll love the movie with three middle school-aged kids growing up in a suburban town with real problems. Except the setting in the movie is Rome, and they aren't in middle school anymore, and the other two friends aren't there.

buffalo soldiers

A druggy subculture operates among US soldiers stationed in West Germany shortly before the fall of the Berlin wall. This movie also stars Anna Paquin and co-stars Ed Harris. But what I'm really looking forward to is Joaquin Phoenix's sexy little lip scar.



matrix reloaded

Man I don't know what happened in the first movie really but it was cool so the second Matrix should be just as cool or cooler and this time with what I saw on the trailer and stuff like Keanu Reeves who was all jumping around on cars and now he doesn't even have to dodge bullets he can just control them and he is invincible and this movie is going to be so awesome I can't wait I think I just peed myself! Mmm...warm.



down with love

Ewan McGregor and Renee Zellweger are a journalist and an advice columnist, respectively. Love blooms in this romantic comedy set in New York during 1963. Can we say Bridget Jones' Diary meets Moulin Rouge meets Trainspotting meets Reality Bites? No, I don't think we can.

the in-laws

I don't even know what this movie is about except that it's a remake. So I'm just going to assume it's going to suck.

brandon tutman

With summer just right around the corner, many Georgians are anxious to cruise Atlanta's streets and soak up the sun. But why not look your best while doing so? This past March, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution presented the hottest and latest cars at its International Auto Show.

bruce almighty

Jim Carrey becomes God and uses his power to make his girlfriend's boobs bigger and train his dog to use the toilet like peoples. The only idea more ludicrous is Chris Rock becoming President. Wait, no, the only idea more ludicrous is Bernie Mac becoming Vice-President.

Held at the World Congress Center downtown, the planet's biggest names in the biz, from Oldsmobile to Ferrari, waxed and groomed their newest roadsters alongside their classic sedans for rollout onto the showroom floor. It could be seen that many automobile companies are beginning to take new risks in the design of cars, putting them on a modern day edge.

finding nemo

The story about a little fish who has moved from his home to a far, far away place where he's separated from his father. A dangerous journey ensues as his father tries to search all over the place for him. I liked this movie better when it was about mice and when it was called An American Tale.

Many car companies are taking their expensive signature cars and producing smaller, more affordable versions of them, like the Hummer H4 and the Lincoln Aviator. Nissan is redesigning their classic, the Maxima, giving it a more sporty look similar to that of the Altima. One of the new grounds that Nissan is breaking is their linear, car-splitting sunroof that runs straight down the middle. Pontiac is returning it's GTO and Chrysler is introducing the new Pacifica, which is a sport utility vehicle, and the Crossfire, a sport car.

the italian job

Charlie Croker, played by Mark Wahlberg, and his group of thieves attempt to drive a car full of gold out of Los Angeles after they try to rig all the stop lights to provide a swift getaway. Good work guys, another fine film plot.

Something that just keeps getting bigger and bigger are the rims. Butler Tire displayed the latest 26" rims that makes one wonder, how do they fit? Most of the cars were open for sitting in and wishing for, except the exotic cars such as the Aston-Martin Vanquish and the Ferrari 360 Spider.

2 fast 2 furious

Vin Diesel isn't in this one, but Tyrese is. That's all I'm saying.

The car show, which represented millions of dollars worth of cars, proved that this summer will bring many new and newly designed vehicles to the roads. Just keep your eyes on them to see what new for you.

dumb and dumber: when harry met lloyd

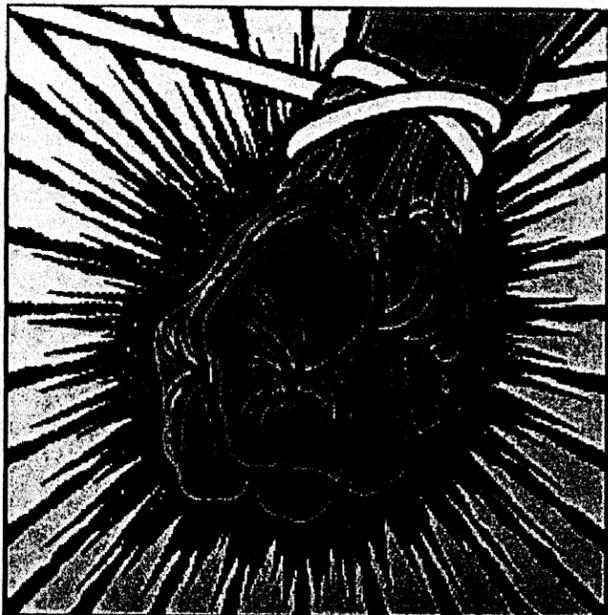
I don't know what to expect from this sequel. I hope that there will be at least one dead animal joke, three diarrhea jokes, one hot sauce joke, and I would like to see them fight at some point. Let's hope it happens.

get your warp on

vincent migliore

Punk fans will unite at the all-day mosh fest called the Vans Warped Tour on July 23rd at the Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheater. A whopping 30 bands will take the stage, and all for the low price of \$25 which has to be the best deal out of any of this year's Summer tours.

summer sanitarium insanitarium



vincent migliore

If there is one show that you simply can't miss this summer, it has to be the 'Summer Sanitarium' tour. Headlining is Metallica who will release their new album, 'St. Anger,' on June 10th. The new album is promising to be old-school 'Metal Up Your Ass' Metallica, and is their first completely original album since the band released 'Reload' in 1997. The album will also be packaged with a free DVD of live rehearsal recordings of all eleven songs.

Joining Metallica on July 11th at Turner Field will be Linkin Park, Limp Bizkit, Deftones, and Mudvayne. Linkin Park has already seen their new album, 'Metora,' jump to the top of the sales chart, and has been well received thus far. Limp Bizkit plans to release their attempt at a new album, 'The Search for Teddy Swoes,' sometime in June. Mudvayne and Deftones also have new albums on the horizon.

The show begins at 3 p.m. and looks to go to about 11 p.m. Turner Field plays host to the enormous concert, with the stage and general admission standing section (mosh pit) on the actual field of the ballpark.

While the general admission tickets are sold out there are still safe seats available in the stands, but no promises will be made as to how safe they will actually be. The show will go on rain or shine, so bring an umbrella just in case.

The list of bands includes A-F-I, All-American Rejects, The Ataris, Andrew W-K, Atmosphere, Brand New, Dropkick Murphys, Face To Face, Finch, From Autumn To Ashes, Glassjaw, Less Than Jake, Mad Caddies, Mest, One Man Army, Plain White Ts, Poison The Well, S-T-U-N, Simple Plan, Slick Shoes, The Starting Line, Story Of The Year, Suicide Machines, Taking Back Sunday, Thrice, Tsunami Bomb, The Used, Western Waste, Yellow Card.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$22.50. If you visit 99X's website and then go to the concert section, they have the username and password you need in order to get your advance tickets.

Otherwise, tickets go on sale to everyone else on Fri., May 30th. If previous years' tours are any indication, this should be one hell of a day. If you don't have a lot of money, enjoy 'punk' music, and want to go to a concert this summer, then the Warped Tour is the show for you.

Critical Failure Disappoints Robotics Team

MIRANDA BENNETT

Some brave design choices led to disappointment for the Robotics team when their robot suffered critical failure only hours before the IEEE Southeastcon 2003 Competition. According to Robotics Chair Todd Pish, the operating system failed on power up upon the team's arrival at the venue. The team worked furiously throughout the night and early morning before their first trial to repair the damaged software, but had little success.

The team attempted to ping the robot through an Ethernet connection with a laptop. When pinging failed, they found themselves at a dead end. They did not have a keyboard and monitor to connect directly with the robot, which would have allowed them to diagnose and troubleshoot the problem. By 4:30 a.m., the day of the competition, the team had made only minimal progress. The robot had its BIOS and an operating system that would load, but not compile.

"It's almost impossible to recreate an OS on the fly, especially when it is Mandrake 9.0," said Pish. Mandrake 9.0 is a Linux operating system. Pish explained that the robot depended heavily on its software to operate. During design, the team chose to build a software-intensive robot for greater speed and accuracy.

The team speculates that the 256 MB Flash Card, which they used as the robot's hard drive, was erased at Hartsfield International Airport's security checkpoint. The case containing the robot was CAT scanned twice by airport security workers.

Before the first heat, the team made a tactical decision not to turn off the robot and avoid losing points. Competing teams must put their inside a maze while still in a container box. The robots must leave their container box and autonomously navigate the maze to find and place a cup over an LED simulated candle. Knowing that the ro-

bot could not compete for time and suspecting that their robot's crippled OS would cause the robot to hit the walls of its container box when it tried to find center, the team decided to play conservatively. The team gained points for fitting within the competitions measurement guidelines and the minimum points for putting the robot in the maze.

Despite the disappointment, the team is remaining positive. "Next year we should win," said Pish. Pish explained that the team had braved new ground by choosing their platform, a PC104 computer. He stated that this year the team was "trying to learn how it works for future teams." Pish also stated that he expected to benefit greatly next year from this year's competition because the performance objectives of the 2004 competition will require robots with more advanced platforms.

The team programmed their platform in C++. In contrast, many of the other competing schools used Basic Stamp or Stamp 2 platforms that are programmed with Basic. Pish expressed pride in the comments of some of the top scoring teams, who, according to Pish, stated they were glad the SPSU robot's OS was wiped clean.

"We had a really good team. We put in a lot of hours—some very sleepless nights," said Kipp van Shooten. He voiced his disappointment with the damage to the compact flash memory card. However, he expressed high hopes for the 2004 competition, stating intentions to begin working over the summer on next year's robot.

Team members who attended the competition were Todd Pish, Louis Patmore, Richard Brown, and Daniel Von Volkenburg. Todd Pish served as Robotics Chair. Louis Patmore was the lead programmer for the team. Richard Brown dealt with hardware and mechanical issues such as the cup deployment design. Von Volkenburg designed and built the powerbus and wiring harness.

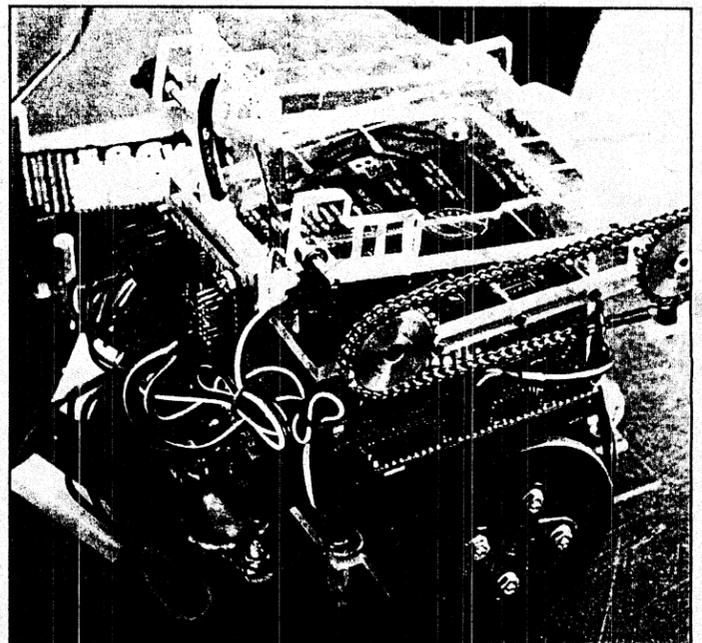


L to R: Todd Pish, Richard Brown, and Daniel Von Volkenburg, and Louis Patmore recently flew to Jamaica to compete in the IEEE Southeastcon 2003 competition.

Team members who did not attend the actual competition were Scott Robertson, Kipp van Shooten, and Igbal Ahmed. These members worked on the robot's hardware and software. Robertson built the parts for the Lexan (bullet-proof plastic) power supply.

The team scored 10 points for each of the three trials, giving them a total score of 30 points. The competition's winner was Mississippi State University with 265.1 points. There was an approximate 155 point spread between the top four teams who scored in the triple digits. The SPSU Robotics Team competed against 24 other universities.

To learn more about this year's competition you may visit <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/jamaica/southeastcon/> or type southeastcon in any search engine to find a link.



This robot has a PC104 platform; essentially a very small 300MHz Pentium class computer.

Discology

SUBMITTED BY ULTIMATE

It has recently been brought to the attention of the SPSU Ultimate Team that some people do not believe Ultimate Frisbee is a "real sport." Therefore, we would like to take this time to help explain the sport and provide you with an in-depth explanation of Ultimate.

Ultimate was created in 1967 by a group of New Jersey high-school students. It is a fun, athletic sport that places equal importance on sportsmanship and skill. "The game requires the speed and endurance of a soccer midfielder, the quickness and defensive savvy of a basketball point guard, and the hands of a football receiver." It has also been documented that the average Ultimate player runs approximately 10 kilometers per game. These numbers alone may help suggest that Ultimate is a very "real sport."

Let me tell you a little about how the game is played. Two teams with

seven players on a side compete on a field that is 70 yards long and 40 yards wide (about the size of a football field). Games are usually played to 15 points, and a point is achieved by completing a pass to a teammate in the end zone. Each point begins with a "pull" which is equivalent to a kickoff in football. If the disc (Frisbee) hits the ground or is intercepted by the defense, it is a turnover. This means the team that was on defense is now on offense, and vice-versa. When a player catches the disc, he or she must establish a pivot foot and has ten seconds to pass the disc or their team loses possession.

An interesting aspect of Ultimate is that there are no referees. The players, who are motivated by something called "Spirit of the Game," referee themselves. Spirit of the Game is what makes Ultimate such a unique and special game. It

allows and encourages highly competitive play where athletes strive for victory, but never at the expense of mutual respect between players.

Ultimate is the fastest growing college sport in the nation. Over 300 men's college teams currently compete on the national level (including your very own SPSU "Pure Bliss!") as well as over 100 women's teams. The Ultimate Players Association recently reported that the number of tournament-bound men's teams is up 73% from last year, and the number of tournament-bound women's teams is up 50%. In the United States, it has been estimated that at least 100,000 people play Ultimate as a form of recreation or on a club team. It is an international sport and an event in the World Games.

Pure Bliss has officially been providing the men and women of SPSU with an opportunity to play

Ultimate against teams from across the country for three years now. In fact, SPSU has recently played against such teams as Princeton, Brown University, USC, Florida State, Emory, Georgia Tech, University of Tennessee, Georgia Southern, Duke, UNC Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Berry, Georgia State, and UGA to name a few. Ultimate is the only sport at SPSU that allows its students to compete with universities of

this renown and size on a regular basis. In fact, SPSU "Pure Bliss" is gaining some renown for itself by starting this season with a national ranking of 77. Every student of SPSU is more than welcome and is encouraged to play with the team. We practice four nights a week and are always looking for new players! So grab your cleats and come play a "real sport."

For more information on SPSU "Pure Bliss" and practice times check the web-page at <http://ultimate.spsu.edu>.

Will Juras, Ultimate's team captain, says, "I play this game for the same reason you breath - if you don't, you'll die."



Frats Face Off for Greek Week

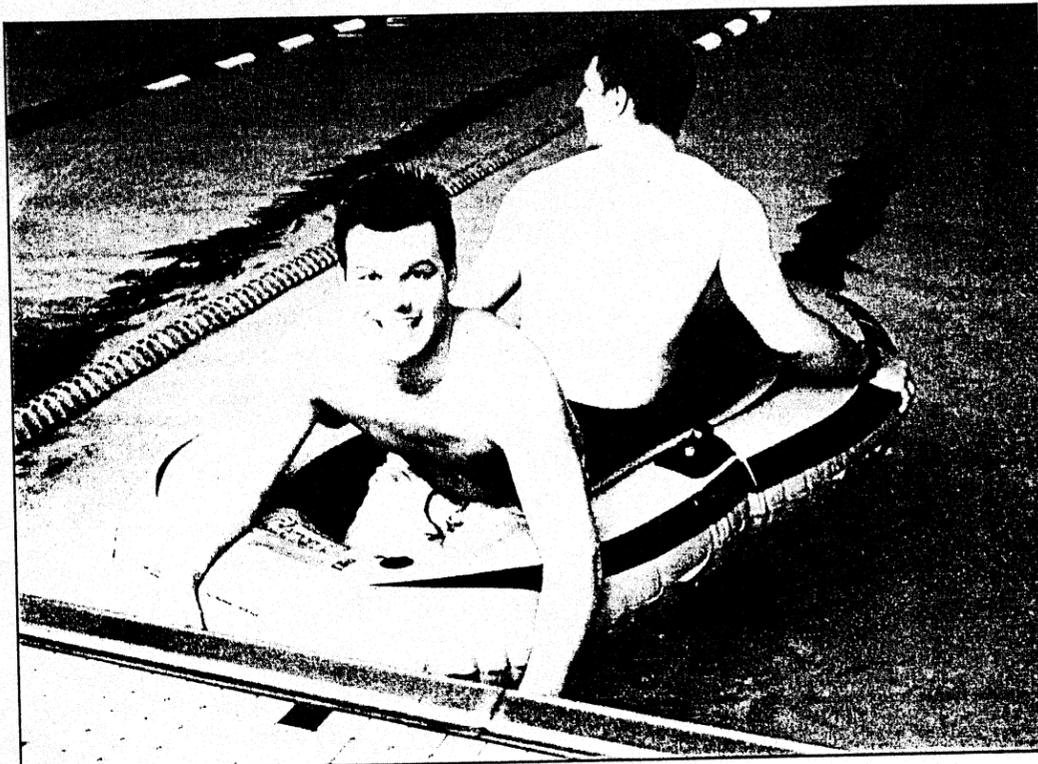
SUBMITTED BY SIGMA NU

It has been a long time since Southern Poly's Greek organizations have seen such close competition. It came down to the wire this year with Sigma Nu tying the point totals with their win at basketball. But the seven year old fraternity Beta Sigma Chi, who has never won Greek Week, just had too much heart to accept a second place fin-

ish again. With the tie breaker event chosen the Beta's and Sigma Nu squared off for a 100m rubber canoe race. Gaining a half a lap lead on Sigma Nu it was clear who was to be victorious. For the first time in their existence at Southern Poly, Beta Sigma Chi took first in Greek Week adding to their win in the fall of Goat night.



Amanda Brookshire (left) and Stephanie Warner (right) represented Gamma Phi Beta in the Rubber Canoe competition.



Jeremie Beaudry and Shane Martin from Beta Sigma Chi finish a race in the Rubber Canoe event.



Pi Kappa Phi won the most points for the Tug o' War event this year.

Greek Week 2003 Results

| Event | ΠΚΦ | ΒΣΧ | ΓΦΒ | ΣΝ | TKE | ΕΠ |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 4Legged Race | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Keg Toss | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Chipping | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Tug o' War | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 on 4 Halo | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Racquetball | 6 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Wiffleball | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Quiz Bowl | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Street Bob Sled | 4 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Dodge ball | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Bat Race | 4 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Swim 4x50m | 4 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Rubber Canoe | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Basketball | 5 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Rubber Canoe Tie breaker | x | 1 | x | 0 | x | x |
| Total | 60 | 68 | 23 | 67 | 11 | 0 |

2003 ASCE Southeast Regional Competition

WILLIS SMITH

Designing opportunity, building equality, and engineering hope are what Southern Polytechnic State University accomplished in the 2003 American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) Southeast Regional Competition on March 20-22, 2003. In Miami, at Florida International University, Southern Polytechnic State University's own ASCE competed and won in some categories against 24 other universities and colleges. Where SPSU placed in the overall regional competition will not be known until after April 4th.

The Concrete Canoe division is an interesting event. A team builds a concrete canoe then tests it by paddling in the lake. How concrete materials can float on water is a mystery to many people. SPSU's concrete canoe team built their own concrete canoe, but did not place

in any of the top five overall places. However the canoe team performed extremely well in the canoe race competition by paddling harder and faster. Josh Boling and Jeff Vandiver won fourth place in the Men's Concrete Canoe Sprint event. In the Women's Concrete Canoe Sprint, Ceci Bell and Jessica Gattenby finished fifth place out of 24 schools. These people are strong sprinters in canoe paddling.

Ceci Bell, Josh Boling, Amit Khatri, and Michael Shelton, as the surveying team, all finished fourth place in the Surveying division. The ASCE team also assembled a glueless balsa wood bridge and designed a tee-shirt. The team also competed in categories in geotechnical, water resources, transportation, and mystery. The "mystery" event is a contest to see what any school ASCE team can do—

something only the judges know on competition day.

In the Steel Bridge Constructing division, teams construct a steel bridge from scratch following certain measurements and welding metal together. The Steel Bridge Team won second place overall in the southeast regional competition and will attend the national American Society Civil Engineering competition in May.

Congratulations to the Steel Bridge Team and wish them luck in the national competition. The members are the following students: Kevin Fielder, Josh Kerch, Jeremy Baker, Jason Steger, Barkley Richey, Brent Moseley, Lucas Navarro, Chad Wilhoit, Rachel York, Trey Thomas, David Aldrich, and Josh Cronan.

Club Soccer

CONTRIBUTED BY
R.A. HAHN

The Southern Poly club soccer program was started in the fall of 2001. Our mission is two-fold: to offer serious soccer players an opportunity to play on a regular basis in a structured environment and to represent the university against other college club teams in matches and tournaments.

The team holds two-hour practices on campus three evenings a week. Although we welcome serious players (men or women) at any practice, players who wish to play in intercollegiate matches must be able to attend at least twice a week.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, more than 60 students participated in some of the training ses-

sions. Of those, 24 actually represented the university in matches and tournaments. We participated in tournaments at Kennesaw State, the University of Florida, and Clemson University. In those tournaments and in individual matches, we competed against Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Furman, Georgia Tech, Kennesaw State, Loyola, Miami, Morehouse, Ohio State, and Tennessee.

Club President - Matt Leavell
m_leavell@hotmail.com
Faculty advisor - R.A. Hahn
rhahn@spsu.edu
Phone - 770-528-7330
Office - J316

Concrete Canoe Places High at Regional Competition

MIRANDA BENNETT

The 2003 Concrete Canoe team won 6th place overall at the 2003 ASCE Southeast Regional Concrete Canoe Competition with their canoe, *The Extinguisher*. The Concrete Canoe team competed with 24 teams including teams from universities throughout the southeast and national teams from the Netherlands and Puerto Rico.

The team faced several challenges this year, according to Team Captain Sara Atkison. From the beginning, the team had trouble deciding on the most effective design. Atkison explained that the design decision pushed the construction schedule into fall semester. Further, the yearly competition was pushed back two weeks. Facing a tight deadline, the team constructed the canoe in less than 10 weeks. Past teams usually spent 14 weeks in construction.

According to Atkison, the members' intense willingness to be team players contributed to their ability to successfully make tough decisions and meet deadline. Atkison also partly attributes the team's success to the support of CET faculty, who she said encour-

aged the team in difficult times of development.

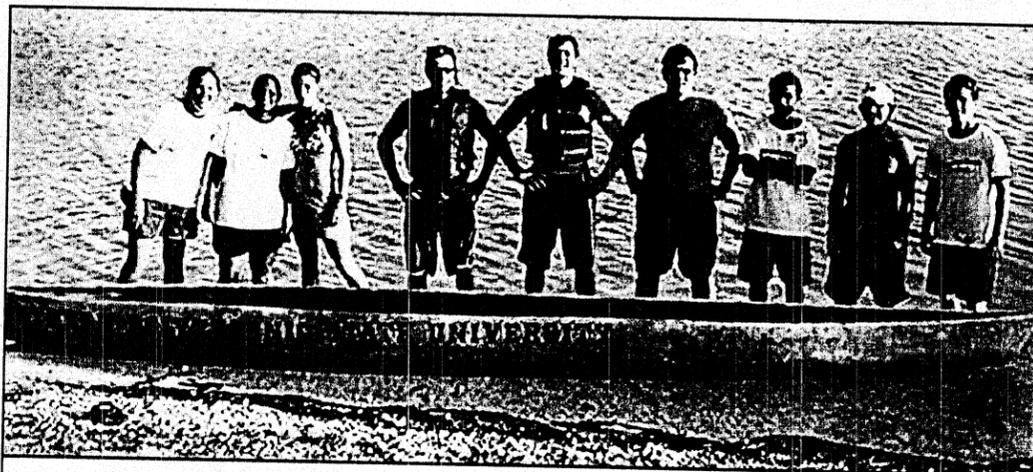
Other challenges for the team were limited finances and membership levels, which Atkison emphasized have always been issues for the team.

The team improved from previous years in all four areas of the competition: Design Paper, Presentation, Final Product, and Races. The team won 6th place in Design Paper, 8th in Presentation, 4th in Final Product, and 6th in Races.

Race teams won three places higher than past teams. In the men's sprint race, Josh Boling and Jeff Vandiver received 4th place. Ceci Bell and Jessica Gattenby received 5th place in the women's sprint.

The team's biggest improvement in placement was their 4th place win for Final Product. "The judges were impressed with the design. We had several innovative features for *The Extinguisher* that no other school has used," Atkison explained.

The Extinguisher's innovative features include a Tumblehome design—a rounded side on the canoe. The team also used pre-



The 2003 Concrete Canoe team shows off *The Extinguisher* on the banks of the largest of four lakes in The Tropical Park. L to R: Sara Atkison, Meg Mbugua, Ceci Bell, Josh Boling, Jeff Vandiver, Stephen Callies, Amit Khatria, Erick Garcia, Brad Fermanich.

stressed gunwales, railing around the top edge of the canoe. This feature was a continuation from previous SPSU concrete canoe designs, but is still a trademark innovation for the team at competition. The gunwales reinforce the sides of the canoe where it receives the most stress from paddlers climbing in and out.

"Other teams had to pick up their team members to put them in the canoe because they were afraid

the sides would crack," said Atkison, emphasizing the gunwales' importance.

The canoe's weight or lack thereof, was impressive. After a final coat of clear coat, *The Extinguisher* weighed approximately 100 pounds. The team achieved this low weight by using glass microspheres as the main aggregate in their concrete mix.

Team members are Sara Atkison,

Meg Mbugua, Ceci Bell, Josh Boling, Jeff Vandiver, Jessica Gattenby, Stephen Callies, Amit Khatria, Erick Garcia, Brad Fermanich and Vivian Knight.

The 2003 ASCE Southeast Regional Concrete Canoe Competition was held at the Florida International University March 20-22 in Miami, Florida. For more information about Concrete Canoe, contact spsucanoe@yahoo.com.

Formula Teams Revs Up for National Competition

MIRANDA BENNETT

The 2003 Formula SAE Team is revving up for their competition in May. According to Advisor Orren Williams, the team will compete against 140 teams at the Formula SAE (Society for Automotive Engineers) Competition held in Detroit, Michigan. Williams stated that the competition attracts teams from all over the world. The majority of competitors come from North America but, some teams from as far away as Great Britain ship their car over in pieces to participate in the yearly event.

SPSU's 2003 Formula SAE team currently has their car in its final stage, painting the chassis—a task that requires the car be taken apart and reassembled. The team has already sent in their cost report and is working on their presentation. The team intends to conduct further testing and trial runs after the car's final assembly.

For the 2003 competition, the team was faced with new competition guidelines for the main roll hoop, front roll hoop, roll hoop bracing, side impact structure, and front bulkhead. The team improved their engine bracing and included a removable rear suspension structure. They also designed an integrated throttle body and restrictor as well as a carbon fiber intake runner for

the 2003 car. The car has a Suzuki GSX-R, 4-cylinder engine, which they assert provides them with "better average torque across the power band for better acceleration" and is 35 pounds lighter than engines used in previous cars.

The concept behind the Formula SAE Competition is to design a prototype formula car to be sold to amateur racers. Teams must consider performance, cost, required maintenance, reliability, and marketability. Additionally, the team must keep production costs below \$25,000 with a minimum four car per day production run.

The Formulas SAE Competition consists of three static events: Presentation, Cost, and Engineering and four dynamic events: Acceleration Run, Skid-Pad, Autocross, and Endurance/Fuel Economy.

Teams are judged on a 1000 point system. The team can get up to 325 combined points for Presentation, Cost, and Engineering Design. However the bulk of points are awarded on the track, where a whopping 400 points can be had for Endurance/ Fuel Economy. Williams pointed out that the focus in this particular event is really on endurance saying "You don't try to save fuel when you are trying to go fast."



"Let's see how long it takes you to put it back together," the Formula Team's advisor, Orren Williams, jokes while holding a stop-watch. L to R: Adam Ambrecht (SMV member), Orren Williams, Andrew Mengwasser, John Gwinn (SMV member), Wade Keeton, Jeremy Krieger, Jeff Chan (in car, SMV member), Henry Ashton, Ryan McCarthy

This will be the first SPSU team in four years to attend the competition. The last competition attended by a SPSU team was in 1998. Williams explained that the majority of the 1998 team graduated and the

team has been rebuilding membership since that time.

The Formula SAE Competition will be held May 14-18 at the Silver Dome in Detroit, Michigan. For more information about the 2003

Formula SAE Team, please contact team member Ryan McCarthy at rmccarth@spsu.edu. To learn more about SAE student competitions visit their student section at <http://www.sae.org/students/student.htm>.

THE STING NUTRITION FACTS

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Servings per semester about 6

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Ingredients: wood pulp, carbon-49 radioactive ink, bunnies, sugar, spice, everything nice, yellow 5, puppy dog tails, canadians, Bogo's methane, propane, butane, All-Star BBQ pizza, unfermented goat cheese, used car stereo parts, the "bad" pillow, 18-month old Lucky Charms cereal, a busted piñata, yellow 5, cheap wine in the blues, lettuce, d-lysergic acid diethylamide, piña coladas and making love at midnight, dead baby seals (we do what we want), dixie cup turned out, natural juices, yellow 7, K's sultry mayonnaise, weapons grade plutonium, C4, contact triggers, guidance systems, very yummy bananas, cucumbers, kiibasa sausages, platanos, ropa vieja, tequila, cerveza, limones, pantalones bajados, tu mamá tambien, amarillo cinco, uvas, huevos, Queco Jones, une grande piece de mairde, une foque, le fac, des canadiennes, et jaune cinq.

Supermileage® Team on the Road to Competition



The Supermileage Team shows off their 2003 car, which will be complete with the installation of the front wind guard. L to R: Adam Ambrecht, Carl Weber, John Gwinn, Aaron Willson, Trevor Williams, Jeff Chan, Orren Williams, and Sandra Wooten

MIRANDA BENNETT

SPSU's 2003 Supermileage® Team will compete against 25 university teams in SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Supermileage® Competition on May 30 and 31 at the Eaton Proving Ground in Marshall, Michigan.

Traditionally, the SPSU Supermileage® Team has made awesome progress from one year to the next. During their first competition in 2000, the team achieved 136.39 MPG (miles per gallon). The following year, the team more than doubled their previous mileage, achieving 472.23 MPG. Then, the 2002 team ranked 9th out of 21 competing teams with 742.42 MPG.

Adding to the team's tradition of making huge leaps in mileage, the SPSU Supermileage® Team has won best Design Proposal

for three consecutive years.

Goals for this year's team were to double the fuel mileage from the 2001 car, improve ride quality, dynamics, and engine efficiency. They also aimed at increasing frame rigidity and decreasing weight.

Rather than approaching their objectives for this year's competition by improving on old vehicles, the team chose to start from scratch. They used only the knowledge gained from previous competitions.

With prior year's lessons in mind, the team paid close attention to frame design. They decided to incorporate suspension by placing a single shock between two triangles of the frame. They also chose to design a drive train that could work at peak efficiency on

any engine with the change of a sprocket. Additionally, the team designed an innovative steering assembly for the 2003 car, which they believe will give them an unexpected edge over their competition.

SAE annually holds the Supermileage® Competition under their Collegiate Design Series. The competition serves dual purposes, providing a practical design and fabrication challenge to students and raising public awareness about fuel economy.

To learn more about SAE student competitions visit their student section at <http://www.sae.org/students/student.htm>. For more information about SPSU's Supermileage® Team, email team member Jonathan Gwinn at flobee7818@aol.com.

Campus Event Calendar

April 25

DFN 1002/Architecture Program, 12:30 p.m. in Buruss Auditorium (H203)

SPSU Soccer Team Practice, 5:00 p.m. at Multipurpose Field.

April 26

Open House/V.P. for Student and Enrollment Services, 8:00 a.m. in SC.

Soccer Gamers/YMCA of Cobb County, 8:30 a.m. at the Multipurpose Field.

April 27

Company Meeting/Lenscrafter, 2:00 p.m. in the SC Theater.

SPSU Soccer Team Practice, 5:00 p.m. at Multipurpose Field.

Flag Football Game/Club Sport Ventures, 10:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Field.

Softball Practice/Sigma Pi Fraternity, 2:00 p.m. at Softball Field #1.

April 28

Underage Drinking Task Force Event/Facilities Services, 8:00 a.m. in the SC Theater.

Financial Strategies Course/Extended University, 6:00 p.m. in room 216 of SC.

DFN 1002/Architecture Program, 12:30 p.m. in Buruss Auditorium (H203)

Intramural Games/Recreational Sports, 3:00 p.m. at Softball Field #1 and #3.

Softball Practice/Sigma Pi Fraternity, 7:00 p.m. at Softball Field #1.

April 29

Teacher of the Year Lecture/President's Office, 10:00 a.m. in the SC Ballroom.

Committee of 100 Meeting/Cobb County Public Schools, 9:00 a.m. in rooms 213, 214, 215, and 216 of SC.

Rehearsal/Prima Ballet School and Company, 5:00 p.m. in the Theater, Theater Lobby, and Dressing Rooms of SC.

Committee of 100 Meeting/Cobb County Public Schools, 9:00 a.m. in Buruss Auditorium (H203)
Intramural Games/Recreational Sports, 3:00 p.m. at Softball #1 and #3.

Frisbee Practice/Ulimate Frisbee Club, 7:00 p.m. at Softball Field #1.

April 30

Financial Strategies Course/Extended University, 6:00 p.m. in room 216 of SC.

Herff Jones Yearbook Products Meeting, 8:00 a.m. in rooms 214 and 215 of SC.

DFN 1002/Architecture Program, 12:30. in Buruss Auditorium (H203)

Basketball Practice/USA Stars, 6:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium.
Intramural Games/Recreational Sports, 3:00 p.m. at Softball #1 and #3.

SPSU Soccer Team Practice, 5:00 p.m. at Multipurpose Field.
Softball Practice/Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, 7:00 p.m. at Softball #1.

Beach Party

Friends of Internationals will be celebrating the end of the school year at their beach party on Saturday, May 3. The beach party will include games, dancing, volleyball, and food. Friends of Internationals will be holding the event outside behind the North Metro Church in Marietta. SPSU students will meet at the bookstore at 6 p.m. Interested students are asked to sign up at the ISA meeting or contact BeNette Ragan at BCRagan@aol.com, Nancy Freud at JHFreud@juno.com, or Don Carver at dcarver@bellsouth.net.

Gospel Celebration

Phi Sigma Fraternity invites you to a gospel celebration to be held in the Student Center Theater on

April 25, 2003. The event will begin at 8:00pm. They will also be celebrating the return of our Alumni POW Ronald Young Jr.

greek 101.com

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End of the Year Stress

KAREN ASAY

Wouldn't it be great if the world stopped during finals? If all our problems, relationships, obligations, etc. could just be put on hold for the week or so it takes to do finals? It would be wonderful if all students had to think about during the last week of school were finals, but unfortunately, finals are only one part of the many obstacles students have to deal with during this time of year. Some of the items that students have to deal with during this time are jobs, relationships, and school work. All of these items can cause a student a lot of stress and with the stress added by finals, that student is probably going to be stressed out.

Stress is not always bad, because it give us extra energy to meet physical challenges, solve problems, and reach goals. Some examples of good stress are moving to a new area, graduating, and getting married. Unfortunately, when it comes to finals, most of the time, they are going to be in the category for bad stress. Stress caused by finals normally lasts a long time, which will eventually cause headaches, backaches, loss of appetite, depression, and an assortment of other physical problems.

When it comes to finals, one of the best ways to cut down on stress is to study. Studying should be done in a place you feel comfortable and where it is quiet so you can concentrate. If you study in a room with a lot of noise, you are probably going to get distracted.

Also, if you aren't comfortable, you will probably spend a lot of your time trying to get comfortable. The Library is normally a good choice. Another tip would be to try to manage your time wisely for your studying. The general rule for time is that you study two hours for each hour you are in class. The last tip is to take a break every hour to hour and a half. This break gives you time to stretch and lets the information sink in.

Since studying for finals can help relieve your stress, you should not do anything that gets in the way of your studies. Some students do have obligations that really have to come before studying, like going to work, taking care of their kids, etc., but they should leave as much time as possible open for studying. Four things that students should not do are go out with friends when they should be studying, skip classes, rely on cramming, and hesitate to seek help. The main reason students are at college is to get an education, not to hang out with friends, so study, then party. If you skip class, you are going to miss some of the material you might need for your final, so go to class. Cramming is the worst way to learn material because you are stressed and you do not have enough time to really understand the material. If you don't understand something, go seek help. The ATTIC is a great place to find help, along with your professors and classmates. There are plenty of people out there that would be



Four things that students should not do are go out with friends when they should be studying, skip classes, rely on cramming, and hesitate to seek help.

willing to help you.

Relieving stress is very important. A few ways to reduce stress are to talk to a friend, take a walk, take a break, and laugh. When you are studying or in a situation where you are really stressed out, take a second, stop what you are doing, and take a big breath. Taking a second away from your work can be enough to refresh you and help you calm down.

This information came from the Career and Counseling Office. If you would like more information about relieving stress, the staff in Career and Counseling would be more than willing to assist you.

Dear Marie,

Dear Marie,

I don't even know how to say this, I mean, I have a girlfriend for Godsakes! Well, basically, I was hanging out in the apartments and i had WAY too much to drink. One thing led to another, and I woke up naked in bed with a brother in my fraternity. He told me that I, well... and he was pissed and would never talk to me again. But whatever it was that I felt that night.....felt...good. Please help me!

~Frightened in Fulton

Dear Frightened in Fulton,

First of all, do you actually remember all of this happening, or do you think that your fraternity brother is just playing a really bad joke on you? I have heard some pretty bad things happen to some kids when they are so drunk and they don't remember anything because they basically blacked out. So if this was true with you, then someone could have taken your clothes off and made it seem like you did it. I know it sounds harsh, but some people are just mean like that. As for the "feeling good" part, you were drunk and you don't really know what happened so it could be anything. But if something like this was to happen again and you weren't drunk then I would say that you need to search within yourself to figure out if it is the right thing or not.

~Marie

Dear Marie,

I've been going out with this guy for over a year and I used to love him. But, after we broke up for the fourth time on my very birthday, I've never felt the same. He says that he needs his own time and I can respect that, but whenever I try to go and see him, he is always "busy" or unavailable. There is this one guy that commutes to school and is one of my best friends. He recently told me that he was falling in love with me. I've always thought of him as a friend though, so I don't know what to tell him given my current issues with my boyfriend. I think that I have three choices: go out with this friend of mine, stay with my boyfriend, or just be by myself for a while. What should I do?

~Heart-Broken in Howell

Dear Heart-Broken in Howell,

The three choices that you have narrowed yourself down to seem pretty reasonable to me. I think that first of all, you should sit down and take the time to think about all of the consequences of each choice. This way you can make the best decision on your own after you have thoroughly analyzed all of your choices. One question that I have to ask is, are you in any way attracted to your best friend? If so, maybe you should try something new and different and date him. Just forget about what most people say, "You should never date a friend!" In all of the cases I know about, the whole dating a friend thing has

worked out quite well. But you can only see for yourself by taking the chance. I hope that whatever you choose to do, it works out. Good Luck!

~Marie

Dear Marie,

I don't even know why I'm writing this damn letter. My life is going to shit because I just can't get myself to go to class. I feel like I don't want to go before class, but then I feel so guilty and wrong afterwards. I am in a shame spiral. Can you help me get out?

~Depressed in Daluth

Dear Depressed in Daluth,

Well you seem to have the same virus that everyone else has who goes to this school. I am assuming that you don't live on campus and that might have a lot to do with why you don't have the motivation to go to class. I know that I wouldn't either if I had to drive a long way in all of this Atlanta traffic. Seeing as how it is close to the end of the semester I think that it would be best to go to all of your classes, regardless if you feel like it or not—Especially since you might miss an exam or major test which could possibly make you fail. As for the summer, if you are signed up for classes, I would consider not taking those to give yourself a break. Then when the fall semester rolls around you will be ready to take some classes. Maybe you should also look into staying on campus, that way you wouldn't have to commute to school everyday. I hope that I have been some help in solving your problem.

~Marie

Dear Marie,

I have been smoking for about two years since an untimely death that was close to me. I couldn't get over the stress, and cigarettes made me feel better. The pain of my aunt passing has long since left me, but I can't seem to quit smoking. Others have told me that there are ways to quit smoking using mental disciplines and various psychological methods. Ideas?

~Nicotine addict in Norton

Dear Nicotine addict in Norton,

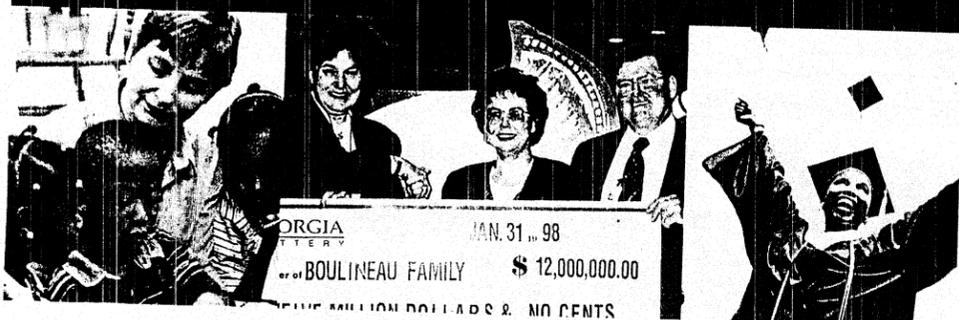
My cousin was having the same problem with not being able to quit like you. Her reason for starting wasn't the same though. Anyway, she just finally got in the mind set that she was going to quit no matter what. So one day, she just quit, cold turkey, as they say. She has never wanted a cigarette since. Maybe you should try the whole "cold turkey thing." Something that also might help is if you have friends that smoke, try not to be around them when they are smoking, because it will only enhance your craving for a cigarette even more. Good luck!

~Marie

Please submit questions for Dear Marie to The STING at sting@spsu.edu

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Faculty Interview – Dr. Carter

VINCENT MIGLIORE

VM: What department do you work in?

DC: Humanities and Technical Communication

VM: What courses are you currently teaching?

DC: English Composition I and II

VM: Will that be the same for next semester?

DC: I will also be teaching Writers Workshop in addition to those two courses in the fall.

VM: Where did you go college and what degree did you attain?

DC: I attended the University Of South Carolina and received my doctorate in Philosophy in English.

VM: What was your favorite course in college and why?

DC: I would have to say my graduate level African American History class. I was able to learn about relevant issues related to African Americans in the USA, and because I had never had such a course before. I also got to write about African American historical events, which allowed me to have a better understanding of what my own identity is in the United States as an African American.

VM: How did you know that you wanted to be a teacher?

DC: Well firstly, I don't really consider myself a teacher, but more of a facilitator in a learning environment. I see myself as a professor that asks difficult questions to get students to think critically about issues we discuss, not a teacher in the normal sense. I help teachers learn about themselves.

VM: So if you had to briefly describe the way you teach, what would you say?

DC: I ask good questions to promote thinking and writing critically.

VM: So what were some reasons as to why you chose SPSU?

DC: The people in my department are great people and have sincere commitment to help students think critically. So the first thing was the individuals in the department. My second reason is because of the fact that SPSU surrounds a growing city like Atlanta. I love its multicultural population and the fact that there is much culture to be found in the city. To sum it up I enjoy being surrounded by culture, arts, diverse people, and a strong international flavor.

VM: Besides the food *wink wink* what do you like most about SPSU?

DC: The camaraderie between the faculty and thus far the students I've encountered that are committed to doing excellent work in my classroom.

VM: What should students expect when they sign up for one of your classes?

DC: Students who take my class should be ready to engage in conversations about assigned reading and be prepared to write critically. They will need to stretch themselves and be willing to experience what it's like to be in a student-centered classroom.

VM: What were some of your goals when preparing for this semester?

DC: Promote genuine conversation among reading and assignments, and to get signs of student engagement with extra emphasis on student engagement.

VM: What do you think is the

hardest part for students who take on of your classes?

DC: Responsibility! It's hard for some to accept responsibility for their own willingness to learn or lack thereof. They need to play an active role in their learning.

VM: Time for word association.

DC: *chuckles* Oh no...

VM: SPSU

DC: Excellent faculty

VM: Squirrel

DC: The STING

VM: Iraq

DC: Uncertainty

VM: Your stuck on a desert island. You may take one person with you. One movie. One Book, and one item of your choice... what do you pick?

DC: I would take my best friend with me, the movie *The Color Purple*, the book *The Invisible Man*, and my dog.

VM: Do you have a hidden talent?

DC: I'm pretty good at roller blading

VM: Would you do anything to help your students learn?

DC: Yes of course.

VM: So you would club a baby seal to death in order to get some punk kids to learn? You sick bastard!

DC: (Laughing hysterically) No I wouldn't...I couldn't live with myself. This is really getting bizarre!

VM: You haven't seen bizarre yet

DC: (put face in hands and shakes head back and forth)

VM: Okay, so most importantly what do you think of *The STING*?



"I don't really consider myself a teacher, but more of a facilitator in a learning environment," Dr. Terry Carter.

DC: It definitely grabs your attention and is very engaging. I'd say the humor stands out very much. I like to read it.

VM: You're a doctor...can I get you to look at this rash I have?

DC: My little nephew asked me to listen to his heart once, and I even diagnosed him. That was cute, and this is just disturbing.

VM: Wait until I tell you where the rash is

DC: Next question

VM: All right, to close the interview, what advice would you give the students here at SPSU?

DC: Finish what you start and honor your commitment to be your best in all of your classes. Invest in

a weekly calendar to manager your time. Recognize professors are real people. Its hard not to be influenced by students who have a lack of commitment in terms of completing work for the course. Be aware of your academic image. Realize that GOD granted you serenity to accept the things you cannot change, courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Finally students should do their part because learning is a two-way street, and you must give something to get something.

VM: Thank you very much for your time Dr. Carter

DC: Thank you I enjoyed it.

Alcoholic Awareness

NICOLE BEREZKI

Enjoy alcoholic beverages responsibly... a few pointers

1. Eat a banana with a glass of water about a half hour to 45 minutes before you guzzle. Bananas are high in potassium. Potassium helps you retain water; thus, you don't really get a horrible hangover (hangovers are really just a case of dehydration mixed with sugar overload)

2. The myth "liquor before beer, never fear," is a rule to live by... I think it has something to do with the tiny bubbles.

3. If you like wine, you might also want to extend the list above and consume in this exact order: liquor, wine, beer

4. As for wine, some folks get bigger headaches from consuming lots of dark reds (Merlots,

Cabernets, Zins, etc.) and swear by the blushes, Chablis, whites, Blancs, etc. due to the tannins; but as for myself, I've never really had a problem with reds of any sort unless it was the \$1.99 special at Big A's.

5. Do not drink *Golden Grain* strait, no matter how good of an idea it seems to be. It will eat your esophagus lining. Just trust me, I know what I'm <cough> talking about.

6. And speaking of *Golden Grain* and such, if you're hunchpunchin' it, only eat the fruit if you wanna get really f'd up, or if you just like to vomit.

7. After you're done consuming and before you pass out, chug a big glass of water.

Now you have been warned. I will not be held responsible for anyone pissing themselves, eating pennies or having moon pies on their walls and/or ceiling. I've done all I can. A last and final reminder: DO NOT start the above 7-step program without eating a nice balanced meal beforehand. I would think that would be common sense, but since some individuals may not possess a whole lot of the aforementioned, I must tell you all *exac-tic-al-ly* what to do, common sense or no.

A Northwestern College Student Wants to Know...

I recently had sex with my girlfriend on the first day of her period. After a few "in and outs" I decided to put on a condom. I don't know if I had pre-cum, but now I am worried about pregnancy. I would like to know your thoughts about this.

Male, Senior

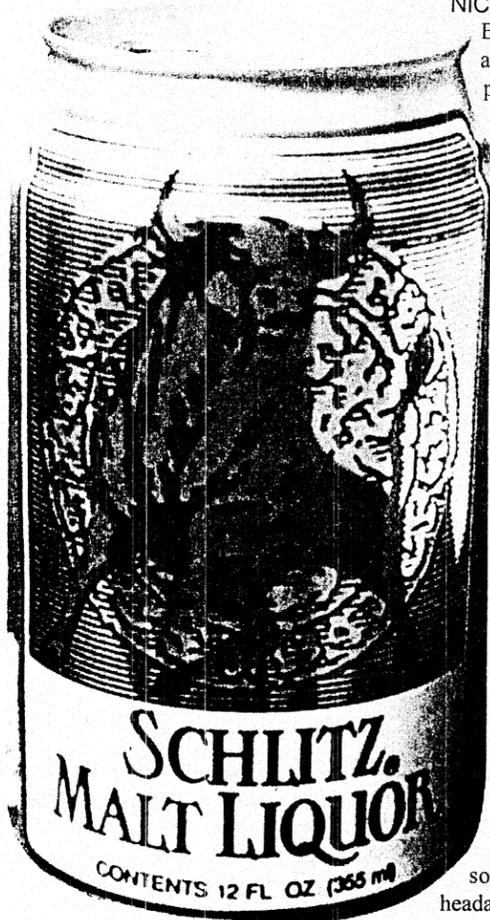
Dr. Caron's response: Thank you for your question. I want to start by saying you have a right to have concerns, but the risk of pregnancy as you describe the situation is quite small. The first part of your question has to do with whether or not unprotected intercourse on the first day of a woman's period is risky — in other words, could she be ovulating? Please know that most women ovulate and then later (days or weeks later) have their period. Knowing this was the first day of her period would mean that most likely no egg was available to meet your sperm. The second part of your question relates to the discussion of pre-cum and possible presence of sperm in this fluid —

which some have suggested could contain sperm if the male had ejaculated just a few hours before and not urinated in between sessions. The presence of sperm in the pre-cum is a remote possibility. Many people have been told that pre-cum might contain sperm - but the new studies show that there is no sperm in pre-cum. The risk of pregnancy with withdrawal has to do with not pulling out in time...not the pre-cum. While we can say anything is possible - in this case, it is unlikely that there was a risk of pregnancy. Best wishes.

Dr. Sandra L. Caron, Ph.D.
sandy@collegesextalk.com
www.collegesextalk.com

Dr. Sandra L. Caron is a professor of human sexuality at the University of Maine.

To submit a question to Dr. Caron or chat with your peers visit www.CollegeSexTalk.com
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Getting Rich with Due Diligence

ZACHARY BILES

Another semester down and yet another step closer to graduating and joining the real world and getting a real job that pays real money. Hey, that's great, right? For some it is. As for myself, I'm not sure if where I'm heading is where I want to go.

We are all, for the most part, brought up with the idea that we should go to college and get a decent education. We all want to be able to get nice jobs that have great salaries so that we can provide for a family of our own. I'll be the first to say that there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Millions have followed this exact same path and have gotten along just fine. I am certain that after I graduate, or even before, I will be able to find a great job. But, the question isn't whether or not I can get a good job, it's whether or not there is a better way to make a living.

Given the time of the year, I'm sure many of you are well aware of the taxes taken out of your income. Think about it for a second, the money you work the hardest for is the money that gets taxed the most. It's like a punishment for being successful.

You: "Woohoo, with this new job I'm finally a member of the rich!"

Government: "Good, now give us 50%!"

You: "Say wha...?"

As you move up the corporate ladder in a regular job, your income will undoubtedly increase (well, at least I hope so, if it doesn't then you've definitely got problems :), you'll soon realize that in this job, all your doing is working harder and paying more and more to the government.

So, what should you do? Rob a bank? I suppose you could, but that's a little TOO RISKY and VERY ILLEGAL. However, risk does play a part into becoming rich. But, the main things are to minimize your risk and be able to change your perspective on how you make a living.

Ok, I know at this point your saying "WTF? He sounds like a late night infomercial. YOU TOO CAN BECOME RICH WITH 30 INSTALLMENTS OF \$29.95!" But, hear me out, at least you're not paying anything to read my column.

What I mean by changing your perspective is that you should get into the mindset of making money work for you. Most people spend their whole lives working hard for money just to have a huge chunk of it taken by the government. They work harder and harder for jobs that pay more money so they can take on more responsibility and more work. What people should be doing is looking for investments that allow their money to work for them. They should be looking for a way to generate passive income.

Passive income is basically any income that you don't have to work for. Sit down and think for a moment of how much of the money you spend was gotten from passive

income. Chances are, every penny you spend was also a penny earned working hard at your job. "Big deal Zach, tell us where our passive income is supposed to come from."

Throughout history most successful people (note that I said "most" and not all) become rich in three distinct areas: Real Estate, Stock Market, and Business.

"Real Estate? Wasn't that an 80's thing?" Yes, indeed it was an 80's thing. Back then it didn't matter if you bought a house at or above current market value; it was almost guaranteed to go up in a few years. However, that doesn't mean that you can't become rich from real estate anymore. Donald Trump is proof that riches can be made from real estate, albeit most of his money WAS made back then. Nevertheless, the only difference between now and then is that you can't go and buy any house on the market and wait a few years to resell. It takes some effort to find the right houses. You might have to search through HUD (Housing and Urban Development) home listings or take a look at bank-owned properties (bank-owned properties are recommended for the newbie in real estate investing). But, as with all things in life, you'll have to do your homework if you are to succeed in this field. That's something that you're going to hear a lot of; no matter which of the three areas you choose, you have to do your due diligence.

Numero dos, es el mercado de accion or in english, the Stock Market. Actually, what I really mean is paper assets, but to keep it simple, I'm just going to say Stock Market. I know that upon reading that

riches

could be made in the stock market I probably lost some readers. Most are quick to retort that "the stock market is risky." That is true, but only if you go into it unprepared. Remember when you were learning to ride a bike? First you started off with training wheels

and became comfortable with that. Then, when it became time to take off the training wheels, you became nervous again and considered it to be too risky. Well, unfortunately some people don't have that little voice in their head that says "Whoa! You don't know anything about that company that you about to put your life savings in!! STOP! Danger! Danger Will Robinson!" Most people will go into stocks looking for their favorite companies and invest in them without doing the slightest bit of research into the company. They invest in those because it doesn't seem risky because they are usually fairly large companies (i.e. IBM, Home Depot, Microsoft, etc.) and their stock couldn't possibly go down right? Wrong!

After they get burned and see their investment lose money, they say "As soon as I'm even, I'm getting out." I bet many of you have said that too, be honest now.

People need to realize that the stock market isn't something you can dive right into and make money. If that was the case, then everybody would be driving around in their brand new Maybachs. As I said before, you have to minimize your risk. For example, if I were to go outside and take apart the engine of my truck, I would be taking a huge risk because I probably couldn't get it back together. However, if I went to my local AutoZone or Advanced Auto Parts and purchased a book on the subject, I could probably do it.

The same goes for the stock market and real estate; if you don't take the time to learn the ins and outs, then you're not going to make it. Also, you need to realize that you can insure yourself when you go into the stock market. How, you ask? I'm not going to spend a great deal of time explaining them (you can do



Get rich with real estate, like Trump did in the '80s.

Call Options, and Put Options. These three items can help minimize your losses and maximize your gains.

A simple definition of a Call Option is that it gives a trader the opportunity to buy a certain amount of some stock at a certain price should it reach it. Thus, if you have a Call option to buy a stock at \$50 and it goes up to \$60, you can still buy the stock at \$50 and resell at \$60 just as long as the Call Option has not expired. A Put Option is similar; however, it's geared towards selling a stock. A put option says that if a stock goes below a certain price, you can still sell it at the amount agreed to. An example would be that same stock at \$50. Your put option says that you can sell it for \$48, should it drop that low. And let's say that it drops down to \$40, well you're in luck because your put option just saved you some money by letting you still sell it at \$48.

Of course, as with all things, you do have to pay for having a Call or a Put option. Nevertheless, they can become very valuable and save you quite a bit of money.

And finally, number three: businesses.

Hundreds of thousands of people try to start up businesses every year. Of those businesses, very few survive. Of course that's common knowledge. What may not be is why those businesses fail. A lot of the times people will go into business thinking they need to know everything. They want to

control every dime and penny. This can be part of the problem for a business. When starting your own company, it's helpful to realize that you can't do everything. The success of a company doesn't rely on one person, but the teamwork of many. Accountants, marketing, customer service, etc. etc. Ok, so maybe you can't afford to hire all of those people right off, but getting a financial advisor should be one of the first things to do. A financial advisor will be able to look at your financial situation without having any emotional ties to it. They will also be able to organize your finances so that should you need to borrow money from the bank, the bank will be more willing to lend to you since it sees you can handle you're your finances.

Getting a financial advisor isn't only just a good idea if you're starting up your own business, but for any investing area. If you're going to become rich, you need to get into the habits of the rich. The dumbest thing you can do is act like you know it all; they are just able to surround themselves with the right people.

I know that I haven't provided a ton of detail in this article. However, I hope that perhaps I've sparked your interest enough that you'll do some research of your own.

Note: Neither the author of this article, nor The STING, is a professional investor. The advice contained herein should not be taken over the advice given by a Professional Investor. We do not take responsibility for any loss or damage incurred through action taken from this article. Use at your own risk. Remember, do your own due diligence.



your own due diligence), but if your thinking of investing in the stock market you should research Stop Orders,

Letter from the Editor – Final Farewell

ZACHARY JONES

I am in a quandary as to where to start this final farewell. My mind is cluttered with many major developments in my life, including graduation, getting married, moving, and starting a new career. The amount of joy that I currently am experiencing is at a lifetime high. Not surprisingly, so is my amount of stress (something that I hope my professors will take into consideration during finals, wink wink nudge nudge). But, it is a very good stress, one full of inner satisfaction and contentment. The Editor in me is demanding that I write this final goodbye in reverse pyramid style, but it's not going to happen. So, please bear with me as perhaps I slip into a James Joyce-esque stream of consciousness.

Five years of education and fun have brought me to graduation. I only had one mental breakdown! You know what? Surprisingly, it has flown by. Sure, sometimes it seemed excruciatingly slow, but here I am. Hours of studying, sleepless nights, and sacrifice during the first three years of my academic career here at SPSU allowed me certain luxuries (aka slacking rights) during

my last two (Don't try that process in reverse). I remember taking 20 hours one semester and not being able to remember where my car was during finals week. On the reverse end, I also remember attending one class only 6 times in the entire semester (of 30 classes).

Further, making personal friends with my professors and administrators early on helped me through it as well. Have you ever just chilled with your professor in his/her office? It is a bonding experience. My first year here, I made friends with Mark Stevens, Richard Bennett, Barry Flannery, Meg Dillon, Bernice Nuhfer-Halten, Ron Koger, Steve Hamrick, and Cristine Jenkins, among others. Five years later, and many classes later, we are still good friends (even though me and Dr. Nuhfer-Halten have gone through love-hate relationships, you know I love you). Some people that are no longer here (due to retirement and other reasons) also helped me, including Lee Tucker, Robert Fischer, Paulette Crider, and Maggie McGugh-Parrish. Thank you all! Keep in touch!

And now for something completely different...

I'm getting married! This comment has recently caused various responses. "Congratulations!" "To a girl?" "I didn't know you had started that whole girl thing." "Does she know you?!" "How much did the shipping cost put you back?" "Why the hell would you do something stupid like that?" Thank you all.

Now's the part when you say, "Don't bore me with the mushy details," and I say, "It's my last issue. Humor me." She is the love of my life. I cannot wait to spend an eternity with her. She is beautiful both in and out. For all you *STING* aficionados, Betsy (my fiancé) reads every issue. Sometimes she rolls her eyes, but she laughs at most of my jokes. Ok, some. Ok, so a select few, but she still loves me (hehe).

And now for something completely the same...

I'm getting married. Yes, I know. I just felt like repeating it. We are now up to our necks in wedding preparation, but we are happy. Let me know if you'd like to meet her!

The good news doesn't stop there! With my beautiful wife-to-be, I am getting to do two things

that I always thought were good ideas, but rarely thought I could implement: Moving to the Dominican Republic and teaching. But, now they are a reality. Though the beauty of the internet, I found, applied for, and received a job teaching at the International School of Santo Domingo. Why Dominican Republic? Over the summers of the past five years, through various trips, I have come to love the people and culture of the country. Why teaching? I have always loved to teach. And I think I'll be a good teacher. Plus, I won't have to be some cubicle somewhere programming or networking, and I can avoid the commute (hehe).

I can't wait to have an office, a desk, and lots of kids that are my own minus the whole multiple pregnancy thing. Too, since I'm so young, I can't wait to walk into the high school classroom and sit down as if I were a normal student. Then, I'll start some conversation up like, "Have you heard about this new teacher? I heard he was terrible." Then, when everyone is good and convinced, I'll get up and start teaching. It's either that or grab my heart and scream "My pacemaker!" the first time I turn on

an over-head projector (hehe). Plus, the school has a newspaper. I'll be demanding for more squirrel representation and they will respond, "We don't have any squirrels on this island!" Oh well, maybe lizards. They told me that I could be the advisor, too (so I'll finally get to feel Barry's heat! haha).

So, I know I've bored you up to this point of the article with my self-reflection and rambling. But you didn't think that I could skip this final opportunity to drop a bomb in the last *STING* that I will ever edit, did you?! Mark Stevens once told me about the stories written during the cold war in which a complete story would be written with character development and the whole works—only to end abruptly with "And then the bomb dropped." Previous editors have done that—drop a bomb and then leave the country (hehe). But, not me. My issues here at SPSU are few and unimportant in light of the many joyful events soon to occur in my life. Thank you all for a great five years. Keep in touch on the forum (forum.thesting.org, shameless self-promotion; my alias is Big_Z!)

Consensus Editorial- Good Riddance to that Mother #%!\$* Zach

STING STAFF

The totalitarian reign of Editor-in-Chief Zachary Jones is officially over and a new and brighter day for The *STING* and its staff has begun. No longer will we be subjected to his torturous ways. No more Thursday night sessions of sushi being eaten off of our naked bodies by this villain. Never again will a lame joke like "Kiss My Glass" be seen in another issue of The *STING*! No longer will we prowl the streets in a van with tinted windows and a bag of candy luring children to be our office slaves. (okay so we will probably still do that, but we definitely aren't going to be putting roofies inside the snickers bars...alright we are still going to put the roofies inside the snickers bars, but not in the Baby Ruths dammit!) Our asses will be able to shrink back down to normal size, although the mental

scars will probably last forever. Most importantly out of all of this, he will no longer subject us to his conservative, Midwestern Soccer Mom, Mormonesque censorship! To quote All-Star shortstop for the New York Yankees Derek Jeter, "Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty we are free at last!"

In all seriousness Zachary Jones has taken this newspaper and actually made it into something people want to read. A lot of you have no idea how much work it takes to put out this Newspaper for you. We will never forget how much Zach has meant to us and how much he has done for this newspaper. He is more than just an editor to us - he is also a friend. We only can hope that in the years to come we can maintain your level of excellence. Thank you and good luck in the future.

Hello,

I just wanted to mention that the online voting system used in last year's elections does not use the built-in Banner voting mechanism. When approached to accommodate online voting we did examine the capabilities native to Banner and found them lacking.

Unfortunately, Banner saves each voter's selections with their student record, raising the issue of anonymity. To address this, our programmers created a dedicated voting system that goes to

great lengths to ensure a single anonymous vote per student. The software pulls only enough data from Banner to verify that a voter is eligible to participate in the election.

If in the future the student community feels they would benefit from our services, just ask — we will be happy to assist in any way we can!

Sincerely,
Ron Skopitz
Director of IT

The *STING* Online

CAMPUS FORUM

Hate Crimes

"Just to get things kicking again, what is the general feeling toward hate crimes? Are they justified?"

I do not want to state an opinion yet because I don't want to start the discussion off slanted"

-dave

Transition from related topic of a Day of Silence to promote awareness for the gay community.

General Discussion

Topic: Day of Silence

Why Post to the Forum?

"Top questions..and if yall can answer this then you'll get two cookies!"

What encourages me to join a list where no one takes the time to learn things on their own?

What encourages me to participate in the *Sting*'s newspaper forum, where most of the articles are idiotic, immature, and the only people who find them of interest are the campus outcast students and the Squirrels?

What encourages me to serve students where most of them are too dumb to see any real changes that their SGA makes (like the ones in here posting)?

What stops me from lowering my standards and posting the truth about some of you all on here (big dan)?

omie—When you are man enough to say something in my facing and to learn something about your school then i'll reply to you. Other then that you can keep posting your punk a\$# comments on here...

A TrueLeader

(Not Randall, but the other guy)"

-TruLeader

Comment made after SGA election in response to negative remarks about election slogans.

Student Government

Topic: Favorite Propaganda Quotes

Microsoft Vs. Linux: Rail Gun

"Great, are those really the only two choices? Powered by Microsoft the thing would probably backfire and self destruct. Powered by Linux you would have to spend an hour figuring out how to mount the stupid thing. What about OS X...oh I think I know this one too. We would build it out of old cell phone parts then claim that it is the fastest most powerful rail gun ever built. Then Europe would label it as a super gun and we could use it as a marketing tool."

-Paladin

Discussing what company should be contracted to build a rail gun.

General Discussion

Topic: Electrokinetic Propulsion

Editor Seeking Asylum?

"I think it's customary that editors leave the country once they turn over the title of editor to somebody else.

Mercedes - I think she went to Cambodia for a little while?

Zach - Dominican Republic

Those are the only editors I know about, but I'm sure it's tradition."

-Zach

Comment made after Big_Z, Zach Jones, announced his engagement on the forum.

General Discussion

Topic: I'm getting married!!!!!!!

Voice your opinions! Write the Campus Forum by email at sting@spsu.edu or join us on the Online Campus Forum at <http://forum.thesting.org>!

Letter to the Editor - Thank you Randall Ware

I feel the need to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Randall Ware for all that he has done for us as his term as SGA President comes to an end. After all, I think it a good idea to acknowledge all that he has done. So let me present my list of things that I feel I must thank Mr. Ware for.

Thank you for the renovation of the SGA office:

How much money was spent to renovate an office used by a handful of people? Meanwhile the rest of us get to use old chairs, some of which are falling apart, and have to try to write on tables that are a foot and a half off the ground.

Thank you for the new pool tables:

Again how much money did you spend? Granted the old pool tables were not of the highest quality they were still functional. You are proud of your new tables aren't you? I have heard, but cannot verify, that you wanted the game room to stay closed longer so that all the tables could have the SPSU logo on them. Well, the room is open now and only one table has the logo. Maybe because it's the only table with green felt. Irregardless of the color scheme, I have to wonder where the money could have gone to that would have actually benefited students. Does it really matter what our pool tables are like? After all, I know that when I was looking at schools in Georgia I was damn sure to check out the quality of the pool tables at every school. Come on, we have academic buildings that need to get renovated but obviously we can't do anything about them until we have a nice game room.

Thank you for demonstrating arrogance:

It may have never been inten-

tional, but I hope you realize how arrogant some of your election fliers made you look. I am referring to a nice big picture of you and all of your election messages in what must have been at least size forty font — so clear that you could read the poster from across the room. Then down at the very bottom of the page in somewhere between size four and six font in black ink is your endorsement for your vice-president. Could you have spared the room for the endorsement? You made it look like an after thought. It looked like the fine print of a car advertisement. Personally with treatment like that I don't think anyone would want to be your VP.

Thank you for your quote of the day:

I guess no one ever bothered to tell you that we could really care less about your quote of the day. Quite frankly it's a waste of your time. The PA system doesn't even work right, so your voice comes out garbled. Oh, and if you still want to bore people with your quotes, it works better when the quote is no more than two sentences. People might actually remember or pay attention.

Thank you for barging in and spouting your views:

Several times since I have been at SPSU you have come barging into a room to loudly announce to any who will listen about some trivial little thing that is of no concern to the majority of the people present. To compensate for the lack of attention you just get louder. Let me offer you a few thoughts. Rooms like the computer lab in J263 are usually full of people trying to do this thing called WORK. When someone is doing work they don't need somebody walking around yelling about things of no concern to them

and demanding that they fill out a survey for you. They are trying to get their work done. All you accomplished is to make people angry.

The same thing goes for trying to sell you political agenda. You approached a group of my friends and me, trying to convince us to vote for you. We told you we didn't have time to listen to you that we were on our way to class. But that's not going to stop you. No obviously you think it's more important to let us know that you paid for the new pool tables with the change from the cushions of the new leather SGA office chairs. After all those new pool tables are much more important than academics aren't they?

Thank you for spending money to travel to California:

How much of the school's money did you spend to fly out to California for a conference? How much of the school's money did you spend in hotel bills? And the sad truth of the matter is that the very same conference you wasted money to attend was traveling across the country and later came to Atlanta. That's right, you spent money on hotels and airfare when all you had to do was wait and save the school money. Thank you very much.

In the end I am sure you have done some of the things you did with the best intentions for the students you say you serve, and I am sure you are able to justify your actions to yourself. I hope this serves as an eye-opener to you, maybe now you can see why some of us are not happy with your presidency.

Sincerely,
Nom de Plume

Letter to the Editor- Greeting from the New SGA President

Hello fellow students,

Thanks one more time for electing the 2003-2004 SGA. We have promised and still promising to deliver a very interesting year to you all. Our mission for the upcoming year is very easy: STUDENT LIFE. We have promised the student transparency and sincerity.

The process of communication will be improved between us all. We plead with you all to communicate with us with whatever means possible. During the year, we will guar-

antee the availability of SGA members in the SGA office from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. The schedule will be posted at the beginning of every semester.

The SGA duties will be increasing in the coming year. Our aim will be issues and idea that affect the general student body. We plead with every one to help us in achieving our goals and objectives. As the new SGA takes office, we realize we are not perfect, but we guarantee

that perfection will be our goal in everything we do.

Together, our goals can be achieved easily. However, individually, it will be everything but easy. For more information, you may contact us via email at sga@spsu.edu.

Thanks again for your support. We look forward to the honor of serving you in the upcoming year. Your Fellow Student,
Adefolarin O. Adeleye
SGA President

Dear Sting Staff,

I wanted to make the comment about the Sting Editor being a man. Here's the truth, Zach wishes to be a woman.

It was last summer when I was snooping through his backpack to find a bottle labeled "estrogen." Shortly thereafter, Zach started getting tits, softer face hair and his leg hair disappeared. Soon he had hips and bigger tits. He is having his trans-gender operation in roughly a year- This secret is the main reason he will graduate early. This way, he can finish his voice training and leave SPSU behind.

As to why Zach feels he is a woman inside, I do not know. It appears to be a problem with more men than women due to the X and Y chromosomes. It's a birth defect. You can find more information about Zach's transformation through the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders.

Zach also has one more secret, that he feels he is a lesbian inside. This means although he looks like a male right now, he is attracted to women. Once he is post-transition, he will still be attracted to females. I

urge you to accept him the way he is and will become as gender transformation is not an easy obstacle to overcome due to lack of psychological well-being and self-fulfillment. Persons who have difficulties accepting Zach, should use the SOC (Society of Care) to understand the current thinking of professionals. Thank You,
Beignet le'donut Proofreader

P.S. Kudos on a great April Fools online edition!
Renee Martinez
Coordinating Editor, Imedia

STING Staff

Zachary Jones, Editor-in-Chief

| | | |
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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 when we wake up from this one. The issue will be released after that.

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.

Cobb Democratic Women Install New Officers

April 17, 2003 - MARIETTA, GA - The Cobb Democratic Women (CDW) installed new officers for 2003 and presented a variety of awards for outstanding service during the organization's Awards and Installation Luncheon on Saturday, April 5, at Grazie A Bistro in Marietta. "More than 40 people attended this year's luncheon," said event chairperson Karen Murstig. "Outgoing CDW President Brenda Jones welcomed our guests and Dorothy Garrett said grace prior to the meal." "State Representative Pat

Dooley and State Representative Alisha Thomas did us the honor of installing our new officers," said Beverly McMurray who chaired the awards activities. Martha Dennis will serve as the CDW's First Vice President in 2003. Vann Worthy will serve as Second Vice President, with Debbie Teilhet serving as Recording Secretary and Beverly McMurray serving as Treasurer. The office of CDW President remains vacant at this time. Susan Plaster chaired the nominating committee for the officers. During the awards portion of the program, the CDW honored State Representative Pat Dooley and State Representative Alisha Thomas as Outstanding Woman Leg-

islators of the Year.

Linda Collins received the CDW's award as Business Woman of the Year. Beth Cooper received the organization's Educator of the Year award. The CDW honored Susan Plaster as its Volunteer of the Year. Carol Stephens received the award for Labor Woman of the Year. Each award winner was nominated by the CDW Awards Committee, which consisted of Beverly McMurray, Lita DiPetro, and Connie McManus. The CDW membership then selected the winners.

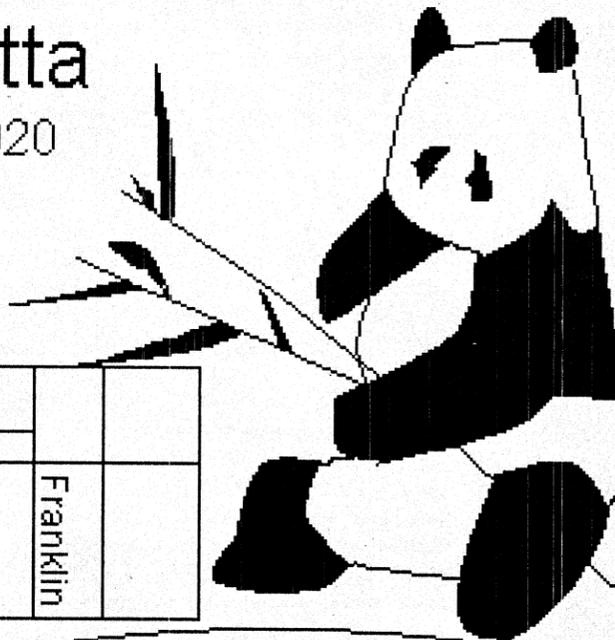
The Cobb Democratic Women is an organization committed to the growth of the Democratic Party in Cobb County and works with the Cobb County Democratic Committee to get Democratic candidates elected to public office. For more than 50 years, the Cobb County Democratic Committee has worked to promote Democratic Party ideals in our community. The party's membership currently includes such state party luminaries as State Senator Steve Thompson of Powder Springs and State Representatives Don Wix of Mableton, Doug Stoner of Smyrna, Rob Teilhet of Smyrna, Pat Dooley of Marietta, Alisha Thomas of Austell, and John Noel of Atlanta.

China Kitchen

470 Franklin Rd

Marietta

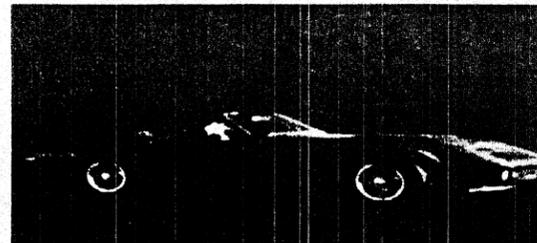
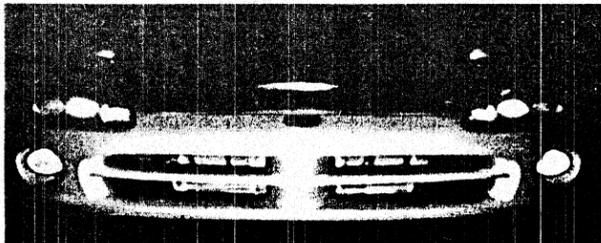
7)429-9020



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| | s. Marietta Pkwy | Franklin | |

Students:
Daily \$3.75 Specials
Plus Free Drink with Student ID

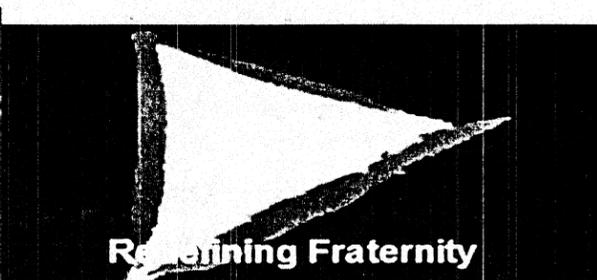
CRUZ'N



Car Show TEKE '03

An Event For...

Sponsored by...



The first annual Cruz'n Teke Car Show will be held on the campus of Southern Polytechnic State University Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More than 200 motor vehicles of all types and year models will be on display. Entertainment for the event will feature 3 live bands (Dwayne & Justin, Six Ways, and PushButton), contests and prizes. The event is open to the public. Persons interested in entering a vehicle or operating a vendor stand should contact

Persons interested in entering a car or operating a vendor stand contact: cruznteke@hotmail.com

Alex Hilliard - Cruz'n Teke Promotions Director - @ - (678) 427-3104

Travis Hudson - WGHR Promotions Director - @ - (770) 713-9462

All campus, local, and state traffic laws apply at this event



ECONOMICS 101: FREE IS GOOD!

YOUR CHOICE FREE EVERYDAY!

2-LITER PEPSI® OR 5 BREADSTICKS

When you buy a large 1-topping pizza for just

**EVERYDAY
FREE
FOR ALL!**

\$9.99
LARGE
1-TOPPING

Tuesday Carryout Special

1 Medium 1-Topping Pizza for **\$5.99**

Offer Valid for Carryout Only

Valid on Pan, Thin 'N Crispy® and Hand-Tossed Style Pizza (where available). Valid only with Student ID.

One coupon per party per visit. Participating area only. Limited delivery area. 175¢ cash redemption value. ©2003 Pizza Hut, Inc. Expires 7/31/03.

Extra Large 1-Topping \$7.99

Cheese or 1-Topping 16" EXTRA LARGE

Choose your favorite topping. Additional toppings extra.

Delivery charges may apply. Limited delivery area. 175¢ cash redemption value. ©2003 Pizza Hut, Inc. Expires 7/31/03.

Everyday FREE For All!

Your choice of FREE Breadsticks or a 2-liter Pepsi® When you buy a Large 1-Topping Pizza for just **\$9.99**

Valid on single order of breadsticks only. Valid on Pan, Thin 'N Crispy® and Hand-Tossed Style Pizza (where available).

Delivery charges may apply. Limited delivery area. 175¢ cash redemption value. ©2003 Pizza Hut, Inc. Limited time offer. Offer ends 4/13/03. No Coupon Required.

Anthony's Pizza & Pasta

(770)509-7757

1323 Roswell Road
Marietta - 30062
1/2 mile East of the Big Chicken

Tuesday Southern Polytechnic Night
Large Cheese Pizza \$4.99
(1.25 per Topping)
1.00 Drafts with Student I.D.

Thursday Karaoke by "Spirit"
Singing, Dancing and Prizes
8 p.m. till midnight .25 WINGS
1.00 Drafts with student I.D.

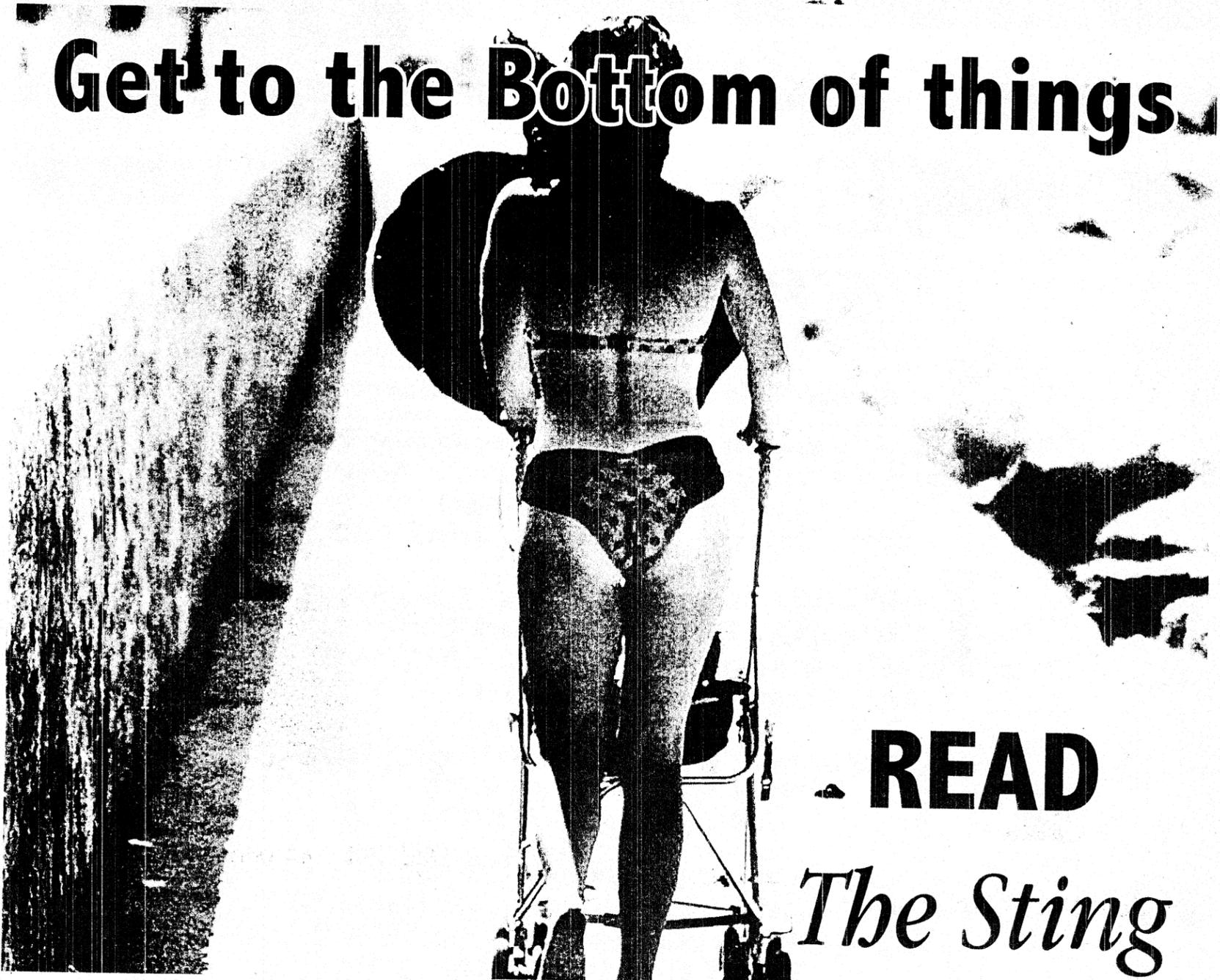
Every Saturday Brazilian Night
Live Brazilian Music
11:00 till 2:30am

Sunday NASCAR Fans
1.00 Drafts .25 WINGS
Large Cheese Pizza \$4.99
With Student I.D.



“We like nuts in our mouth.”
 — The STING Squirrels

Get to the Bottom of things.



READ
The Sting

Congratulations!

Top 10 Things to Do Before You Graduate

10. Talk to a girl
9. Buy alcohol for the underage kids and then right as you are about to hand it to them pour it out in front of their faces
8. Burn the rock
7. Order a subscription to *The STING* so you can enjoy its greatness even after your SPSU career
6. Use the gym, fatty
5. Knock out the power to Howell and teach those Freshman a lesson
4. Spray paint frat names up and down Howell Hall so the blame will be put on them.
3. Take a crap on the salad bar inside the dining hall
2. Sleep inside the globe
1. Learn to read

Top 10 Graduation Songs

10. 50 Cent – In Da Club
9. Avril Lavigne – Sk8r Boy
8. Ween – Push the Li'l Daisies and Make Them Come UP
7. Weezer – Island in the Sun
6. Soul Coughing – Rolling
5. Phish – Chalk Dust Torture
4. American Nightmare – Farewell
3. Barry Manilow – I Write the Songs
2. Dan the Automator – 4:17
1. Alice Cooper – Schools Out for the Summer



“Son, I’m so proud of you.”



“Thanks, Dad, but your penis is showing.”



Who Should the U.S. Invade Next?

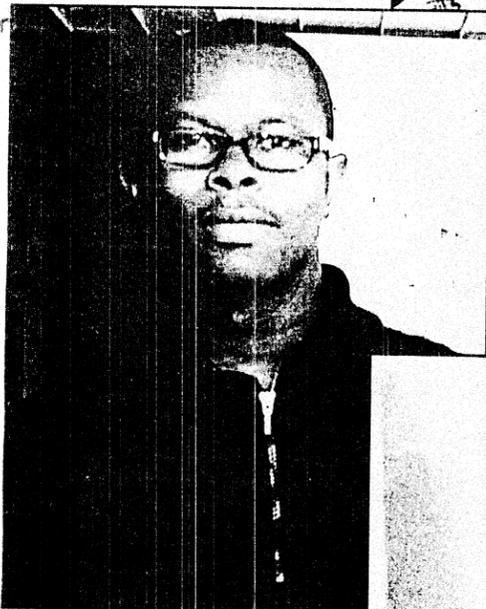
"I'd Leave it up to the Bush Administration. They Know a lot more than I do."

-John Heusinger



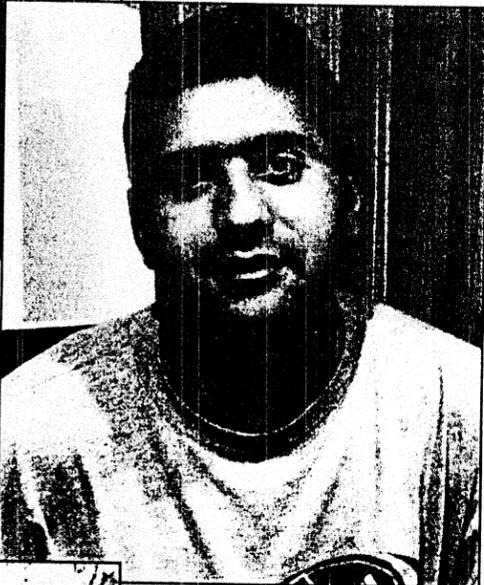
"Dr. Rossbacher's Office."

-Amy Oldf



"I think they should stay home and rebuild the military and fix the economy."

-Daniel Francois



"The USA should not invade any country. They should concentrate on their own domestic business and make friendship with all other countries."

-Amin Bilal



"The cafeteria, I'm sure they have biological weapons."

-Kerron Evans

