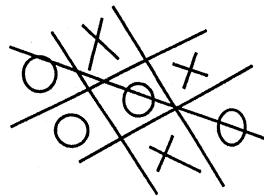




July 2, 2003

# THE STING

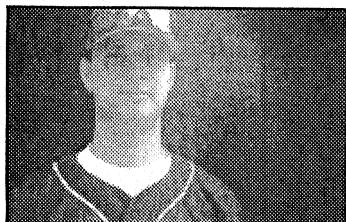
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SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 57, Edition 7

## QUICK NEWS



Matt Griffen named as Interim Head Coach for SPSU baseball program (pg 2).

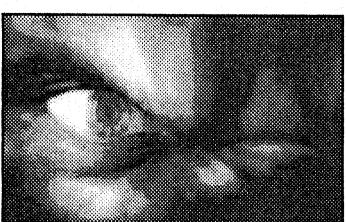


Gospel Celebration held in honor of former P.O.W. Ron Young, Jr. (pg 2).

## QUICK FEATURES



Sting critic names 28 Days Later the best mainstream horror film this year (pg 9).



"This movie is smart," says Sting critic, praising its insight into the psychology of the Hulk (pg 8).



American and Canadian brews face off in *The Sting's* beer review (pg 10).

## QUICK OPINION

Sting Staff Writer Willis Smith bids farewell. (pg 3).

"Have black folks lost their soul?" asks Micah Rowland (pg 3).

Mark Campbell asks "Whom would jesus tax?" (pg 3).

President Bush gets clever advice for upcoming campaign (pg 5).

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# President Outlines Budget Plans

### MIRANDA BENNETT

Southern Polytechnic State University's priority continues to be protecting positions, said President Lisa Rossbacher during a budget meeting she held on Wednesday, June 25. However, her focus quickly shifted to the 15% tuition increase recently approved by the Board of Education.

Rossbacher warned that there would be no increases in salaries in the upcoming year. However, she stated that the raises put in place for FY03 and deferred for three months would show up in staffer's checks. In other words, there will be no increases this year but the bottom line will be higher.

According to Rossbacher, the 15% tuition increase sets a powerful precedence by aligning SPSU with research universities—most state universities only received a 10% tuition increase. This alignment with research universities will insure that special treatment given to them will be afforded to SPSU in the future. Additionally, Rossbacher asserted that the increase gives official recognition in BOR minutes to SPSU's focused mission and costly curriculum.

The additional 5%, which will approximate \$390,000 this year, is

slated for instructional equipment and academic programs. Of the other 10%, 5% (between \$300,000 and \$400,000) will be allocated rapidly according to priorities set by the departments and 5% will be held back to compensate for future budget cuts by the state. According to Rossbacher, she expects SPSU to take a 2% hit in FY04. SPSU has traditionally held back a percentage of their budget to deal with decreases in state allocated budgets.

In related news, Rossbacher announced that she is serving on the President's Advisory Committee for FY05 budget planning. The priority for the committee is to encourage full funding of the state formula. The committee is also working towards re-establishing funding for maintenance, repairs and renovations. Another concern has risen at the prospect of no salary increases for FY05. Rossbacher asserted that the committee is trying to make the case that not allowing salary increases affects recruitment and retention. The committee is calling for cases from department heads that illustrate this point to the state legislature.



"If you think I'm not taking flak from my colleagues for this, you're wrong," joked President Lisa Rossbacher while explaining how SPSU was recently aligned with research universities in Georgia. (Photo from Who's Who@SPSU—Staff and Faculty Photo Directory)

In further discussion, Rossbacher revealed SPSU plans to argue for tuition increases and fee increases for FY05 to send the message that SPSU is a special

purpose university. However, she acknowledged that SPSU would have to shoulder the responsibility for generating more scholarships.

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## SGA Upgrades Cyber Café

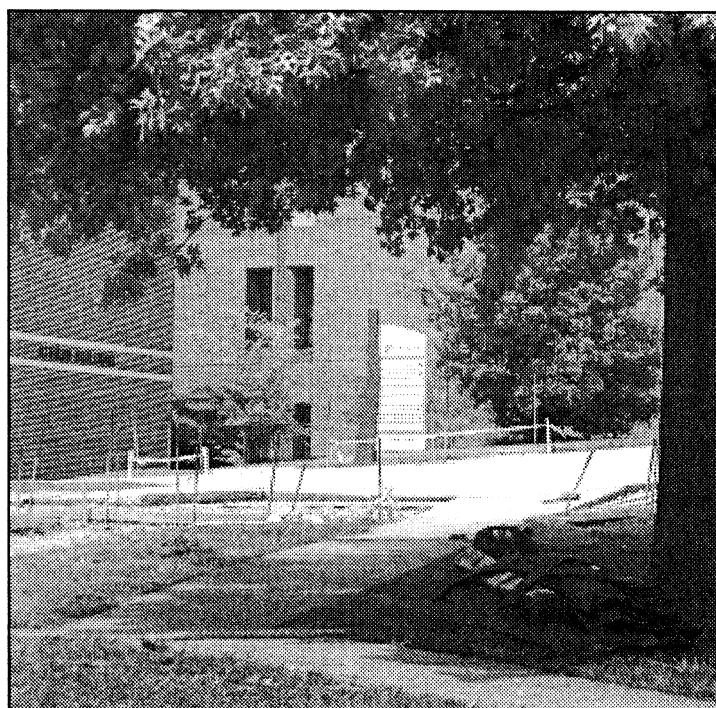
### JESSIE DANIEL

During their June 17 meeting, SGA officials highlighted their computer proposal as well as the replacement of SPSU's Student Activities Director, Jackie Isaacson.

Ten new computers will grace the campus of SPSU in the near future. The SGA will be receiving two for their executive offices. Two more will be given to the *Sting*. The remaining eight computers will be replacing the existing computers in the student center's cyber café. In addition, the SGA is currently pending a proposal regarding the computers in H Building. Alleged e-mails from concerned students regarding the computers in H building have caused the organization to look into possible upgrades.

As we at SPSU all know, the campus is now in need of a new Student Activities director. SGA's advisor, Dean Barry Birkhead, addressed this issue in the meeting. The university had a total of sixty-one applicants for the position. These applicants were narrowed down to a top five. From these five, three were interviewed. The interviews were held June 18, 19 and 23. All students were welcome to attend the interviewing and decision-making process. Students were also permitted to view the applicants' resumes.

## Campus Sidewalks to be ADA Compliant



### MIRANDA BENNETT

Sidewalks campus-wide are being renovated for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). According to Anton Kashiri, administrative director of Facilities Management, the renovations will also eliminate some problems such as "trippers," areas where slabs have heaved up causing a tripping hazard for pedestrians. Kashiri admitted that some may look odd but, will likely be used as shortcuts.

In addition, rails will be installed on some sidewalks to make them more accessible. Funding for the project came from the Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission. Kashiri explained that there is ADA funding was not awarded from the Georgia Board of Education this year.

Weather permitting, work is expected to be completed by the end of this week. More complicated components of the campus-wide project, such as the ramps for Continuing Education (building F), are expected to take longer.

## Apartment Complex Back to Normal . . . At Last

### WILLIS SMITH

After six months of repairs following the December 2002 apartment complex fire (first reported in Volume LVII, Issue 1), the restored facility is once again capable of supporting residents. Many students moved their belongings into the newly reinstated "Building One" during the first and second week of June. When asked how he felt about the apartment complex finally being repaired, the University Commons Apartments manager joked, "Use whatever word that describes elated and excited."

The manager explained, "because of the fire incident in December, many college residents were released from their apartment lease contracts with no penalty. For those remaining residents," he explained with a smile, "they may get a gift certificate or something for still staying with us after the long delay."

Only three of the building's previous residents returned. The new residents who live in six apartments are mostly students transferring from the dorms into the apartments for the summer. "There

*Continued on Page 2*

## Ambling Wins Bid for Housing

Ambling Companies won their bid to construct new housing and renovate existing dormitories on June 16. "Based on three companies that submitted Requests for Proposals, they had the plan and a very reputable contractor on their team," said Anton Kashiri, administrative director of Facilities Management. According to Kashiri, the driving force for the Housing Committee and the Foundation was to make sure that students received the best product at the best price. The housing project is scheduled for completion by fall 2004.

## SPSU Gains National Rankings

**PRESS RELEASE**—June 25, 2003....The American Society for Engineering Education has ranked Southern Polytechnic State University in its top ten in a number of categories. The rankings appeared in the organization's "2003 edition of Profiles of Engineering and Engineering Technology Colleges for 2002. Nationally, there are 125 colleges and universities offering ABET-accredited engineering technology programs.

The university ranked #2 in the U.S. for the number of bachelor's degrees in engineering technology awarded to African American students. SPSU was ranked #4 in the U.S. for the number of bachelor's degrees in engineering technology awarded to women.

Southern Polytechnic also placed 7th in the nation for the number of bachelor's degrees in engineering technology awarded overall; number of bachelor's degrees in engineering technology awarded to Asian American students; and for the number of bachelor's degrees in engineering technology awarded to international students. The university ranked #8 in the U.S. for the number of students enrolled in engineering technology programs.

## Griffen Named Interim Head Coach

**MIRANDA BENNETT**

On June 25 Matt Griffen was named interim head coach for the SPSU baseball program. Griffen has been shouldering the responsibilities of head coach since mid May. He served as the assistant coach for the program for four years. "It's something I've been looking forward to for a long time and the opportunity finally came about. I'm looking forward to it," said Griffen.

So far, Griffen and his new assistant coach, Gary Bohannon, have brought in 19 new players: 8 from junior colleges and 11 freshmen. Although Griffen admits that he sometimes looks for specific positions, he concentrates on finding good athletes who can adjust to different positions. More importantly, he stressed that his players must be good students. "Good students, good people, and good players. I believe if you find those three things, they're going to fit into my system by being an unselfish player."

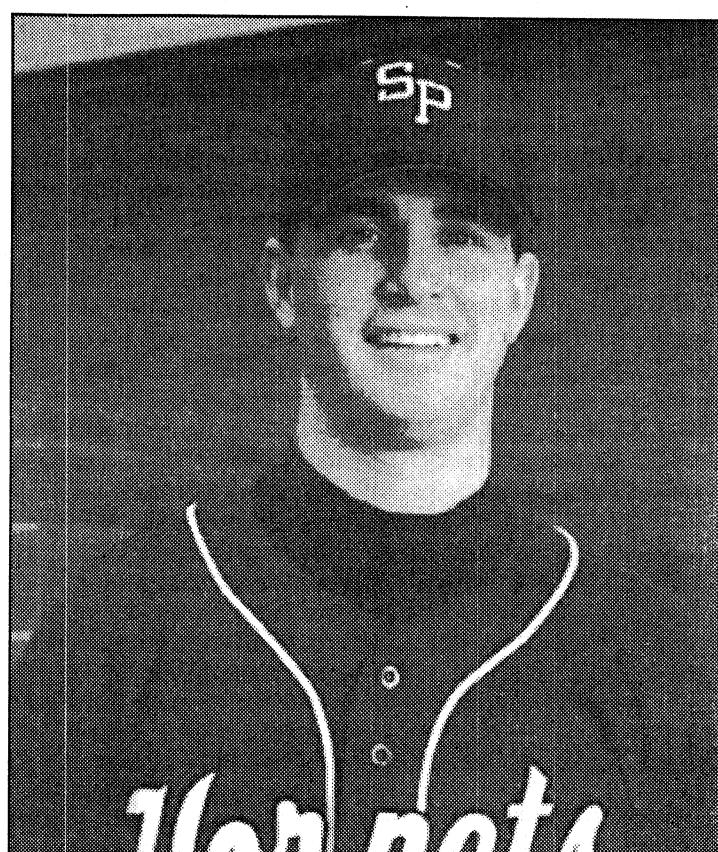
The main difference Griffen has noticed between being an assistant

coach and head coach is his ability to recruit. According to Griffen, he can influence players to sign on because he is talking about *his* program. He is also now enjoys making the final decision on new recruits.

Gary Bohannon came on board as the new assistant coach June 1. Bohannon's main focus will be on pitching. He plans to encourage pitchers to throw strikes and pitch consistently. So far, Bohannon has 11 pitchers, 3 left-handed and 8 right-handed. Bohannon stated that he wants to keep players involved and relaxed.

Griffen played short-stop for the SPSU Hornets and graduated from SPSU with a Bachelor of Science in Management in 1998. He played for the Chicago Cubs prior to returning to SPSU as assistant coach.

Bohannon played actually against Griffen when he attended and played for Kennesaw State University. After college, Bohannon played for the St. Louis Mets for four years, attending two World Series.



Head Coach Matt Griffen. Photo taken from the Runnin' Hornet Athletics website: <http://www.spsu.edu/recreation/Athletics.htm>.

## Ron Young Jr. Homecoming Celebration

**WILLIS SMITH**

On April 23, the "Almighty" Alpha Beta Theta Chapter and Southern Polytechnic State University presented the first annual Gospel Celebration in honor of the homecoming of Ron Young Jr. First, the praise team came in and sang about praise. Minister Calvin Ward, Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C., started with opening prayers. Gary Brooks, Vice President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, was the master of the ceremony. Kelly Heard of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Monica Wand sang many uplifting songs.

The first step exhibition was performed by the Harmony Leland Elementary team. The children were swirling the batons on the floors. They started clapping their hands with each other and even clapped their hands behind their legs up in the air. Then the surprise started. The children moved their headbands over their eyes and process to repeat the step show again, blindfolded. Then the little girls came on as the boys came off stage. The girls were dressed in

colorful dresses and performed their step show resembling very much like butterflies mating or two butterflies discovering each other for the first time.

"Dancers On Point" from Georgia State College performed the next dance tribute. They danced in rhyme in strong motion and singing, "We are defiant, we are proud, we are strong." Soon at the end of the performance, the dancers came to the edge and began break dancing.

Attorney Joan Davis gave the first words of inspiration. "He has done a wonderful job and he came back here. She explained she served three years as JAG, Justice Advocate General, working with officers in the military. Most officers usual meet with JAG to get their affairs in orders, which means sitting down and writing out their wills for their family to be taken care of if they are killed in action." She concluded, "Let the ones who come back know how much we appreciate them for I am more than happy to appreciate all they (soldiers) have done for

us."

Judge Stephen Schuster of Cobb County Juvenile Court provided a few words of inspiration as well, "I am sure he appreciates the prayers for Young and that we still pray for all the soldiers stationed over there and the families who have lost their own."

Phi Beta Sigma Step Team from SPSU and KSU performed the last step exhibition. Phi Beta Sigma Step team from SPSU and KSU started their show by singing to "Set you aflame and not to be afraid, Just do it, Just do it" as a homage to the military services performing their duties in the middle of war, to just do their missions. They sang, "Just do it" as they stepped around, turning around, clapping and stepping, concluding with "You can do it, we can do it."

Maurio Starks, President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, provided the closing remarks by presenting a certificate. "We from SPSU and the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity have a certificate for your brother and

brother in-law, a certificate dedicating the bravery and courage he has shown beyond the line of duty in the US Army. When we heard about Young Jr., a former SPSU student, now a prisoner of war, his safety was kept in prayer every night. We appreciate you coming here for him to accept this certificate from us."

Although Ron Young Jr. was not able to attend, Kelly Young Jr., his sister, and Stephanie, his sister-in-law, came in his place to watch the event. They offered some words about the certificate. "We are so happy so many people here are more than we expected. He wants us to remember the fallen and their families, the President, and the country whether or not you agree with the war. Be strong for them. We want everyone to be there for them and also a copy of that video tape recording this event."

As a side note to this article, Ron Young Jr., was named as one of America's 25 Most Eligible Bachelors by this year's special edition People for the June 30, 2003 issue.

## Amateur Radio Club and SPSU Hold Joint Field Day

### KENNEHOOCHIE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**Marietta Georgia – Members of the Kennehoochie Amateur Radio Club (KARC) and the Southern Poly Tech Amateur Radio Club put their emergency communication skills to the test when they participated in "Field Day" June 28 and 29. The annual preparedness exercise brings together Amateur Radio operators from throughout North and South America who are committed to assisting their communities in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.**

"Amateur Radio is a lot of fun,

but the serious side can't be stressed enough," says Elliott Kanter, Public Information Coordinator for K.A.R.C. "We can play a vital communications role during emergencies, and events such as Field Day ensure that we're ready to handle any type of disaster."

Field Day is designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate stations in the field under emergency conditions, such as the loss of commercial electricity. During the weekend, radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating the fast on-air skills needed to assist town officials and served agencies during an emergency. Approximately 35,000 Amateur Radio operators across

the country participated in last year's event. The first Field Day was held in 1933.

Ham radio operators typically help with communication during weather-related emergencies such as the devastating tornadoes in the Midwest earlier this spring. But, the need for their services doesn't stop there. A federal grant awarded for emergency communications training in 2002 emphasizes support for ham radio's role in homeland defense.

The two clubs set up their Field Day station(s) at the Southern Poly Tech Campus, Marietta Georgia and operated from June 28, 2003 at noon, through June 29, 2003, ending at noon.

### Apartment Complex

*Continue from Front Page*  
is not much demand for campus apartments during the summer. However beginning the school year in the fall, all apartment complexes will be full."

He said that the process to get the apartment complex back into living condition was lengthy. The first step was dealing with the insurance for the complex. Getting building permits to repair the damage, from the apartment roof to broken doors, took about a month and a half. Unexpected delays came in pouring rainstorms preventing construction work from finishing on time. He praised the workers for staying during the nights, repainting the apartment rooms and cleaning the apartments

before the building inspector came by to give his approval.

He concluded the interview by stating University Commons is continuing to enforce the smoking policy. If management find any lying cigarette butts on the grounds, residents will receive fines instead warnings.

### Budget

*Continue from Front Page*

Rossbacher named the athletic fee and technology fee for future increases. In addition, she forwarded the idea of instituting a special fee that would specifically recognize SPSU's special purpose but admitted that the idea was "dangerous territory."

# Last Call for This Staff Writer

**WILLIS SMITH**

For this little newspaper, I wrote numerous articles and witnessed many changes both on campus and within *The Sting* itself. I feel privileged to witness and record many changes affecting the university. I merely started writing movie reviews and previews, and before I knew it, I was writing for every section of the newspaper from Travel to Editorial to Organizations. I wish I could spend more time with the Entertainment section, but most new writers start out in Entertain-

ment and then write for other sections. Out with the old school reporters and in with the new blood.

Yet, as I prepare to enter the 'world after college degree,' I feel a little hesitant about leaving the newspaper. I covered many events most students did not know until afterward, and I wonder who will cover the next Southern Polytechnic State Outstanding Women or the Annual Black History Stepshow. As I search outward for any job opening with my new degree, many fraternities often referred to me as

'the reporter.' To that I said, recruit your own writers from within your organization to help report on this campus's activities.

Farewell to all here, and remember this campus is not dead but merely playing possum for most campus events are not promoted or publicized well enough in advance. Until the campus organizations can organize their events well in advance, may the school newspaper be there to report the facts of the events afterward.

# Whom Would Jesus Tax?

**MARK CAMPBELL**

There is a debate raging in the neighboring state of Alabama, and the question is, "Whom would Jesus Tax?"

Alabama probably serves as the closest model to study for those interested in a flat federal sales tax, instead of property and income taxes. To be sure, Alabama does have an income tax – and those wealthy enough to have to pay federal income taxes do get a state income tax deduction. But in Alabama, ten times the amount is raised through sales taxes than property taxes.

In Alabama, the poorest pay a disproportionate share of their income in taxes. To be sure, it is less in absolute value than what the wealthier pay, but for the poor it is necessities that are foregone, not luxuries.

Professor Susan Pace Hamill, an instructor at the University of

Alabama Law School, has argued that the current tax system in Alabama violates the Judeo-Christian ethic of taking care of the least among us by economically oppressing the poor. Her theological master's thesis has pitted laissez-faire, no tax conservatives against others from the Christian Right.

It becomes a matter of ethics for us in Georgia, too. True, our tax system is more progressive, but for those advocating a flat tax, the argument for a Christian sense of fairness may be uncomfortable.

And then there is Georgia-Pacific, a large timber and paper concern headquartered in Atlanta. One can argue that the company is looking out for the best interest of its stockholders in taking advantage of the property tax breaks in Alabama, where tax on timber tracts is one-sixth the rate typically found in Georgia.

Does the tax break that timber companies receive in Alabama generate more than enough economic activity and jobs in Alabama to justify the breaks in the first place? The same can be asked of many of the incentives states offer to lure manufacturers – for years Georgia passed on auto plants moving here. Georgia computed, correctly, that the incentives offered exceeded the benefits received.

As future engineers and managers, we should keep in mind ethics on the job. Just because a course of action is legally permissible does not mean it is right. And we should be careful in applying the intellectual arguments of social Darwinism and purely capitalistic economics – do the right thing.

And doing the right thing can mean asking ourselves, "Whom would Jesus tax?"

# Have Black Folks Lost Their Soul?

**MICAH ROWLAND**

What's up My Nig, Holla at me, and one luv, and all those types of things. I want to talk to you about this thing we call soul. As in if we still got it? I know I got soul! We call ourselves brothers and homies, family cousin but when was the last time you truly spoke to your brotha. Remember back in the days when you saw that cool cat walking up the street, it didn't matter who he was but, you could always look a real brotha in the eyes and expect that free-form handshake, a pound, and the usual brotherly love to let the next man know that "I always got your back and you can count on me." But, over the last few decades black men have gotten out of touch, so the speak, amongst ourselves. I can recall a brief conversation that I had with a professor a few weeks ago; he said to me "encouragement is one of the key components of helping one another to help strength to goals and beliefs of our young black youth. Other groups encourage one another and stick together to overcome difficult obstacles. When we face challenges such as does like studies for difficult courses if we group together and go places and study for instance a library, together we can

grasp a better understanding and focus on what we need to get done." I agree with this completely.

One major component of redefining ourselves as a people is to support one another so that we may achieve the goals which we once felt was unattainable. Encouragement is defined as:

"n 1: the expression of approval and support [ant: discouragement] 2: the act of giving hope or support to someone [syn: boost]" [Dictionary.com]

It is our responsibility to distill those attributes which are the by-product of encouragement in our young black youth. They need a feeling of pride and hope to become our future. We have strayed away from these ideals and place merit on material possessions and appearances. We have let down our youth and have taught the wrong examples by becoming successful and investing in material wealth rather than strengthen our communities. Rather than given back, we gain fame and fortune then move away and neglect the very communities which define who we are.

African American have allowed material possessions and financial wealth to lead us to mistrust, hate, envy, and misconceive one another

and use these misconceptions and excuses to cause harm and misfortune to our friends, families, and others. We have allowed those amongst us who thrive off of our ignorance to disillusion and mislead us. We have created gangs and sets created to drive fear in and hope out of the hearts of our children.

These children see that these mislead groups of thugs and vandals as our only means of getting out of the slums and hoods which breed crime and destruction of some scale everyday. But, I am telling you that it is not your fault. You will always have a chance. The environment around you creates atmospheres which have so many paths many of which lead to disaster and despair but, you can find a way. Never give up, never quit. Others are looking for the same exit you are to escape this same life-mare (never-ending disillusion like dream of hopeless) that brothers like ourselves experience everyday. That person may be closer to you than you have ever thought.

The next time you are with your homie or best friend talk about what's going on in your life and what you want for your future, think of how you can help each other reach those goals.

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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](mailto: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 June 25, 2003. The issue will be released July 2, 2003.

## 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

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# The Free Speech Follies

STANLEY FISH

SUBMITTED: The modern American version of crying wolf is crying First Amendment. If you want to burn a cross on a black family's lawn or buy an election by contributing millions to a candidate or vilify Jerry Falwell and his mother in a scurrilous "parody," and someone or some government agency tries to stop you, just yell "First Amendment rights" and you will stand a good chance of getting to do what you want to do.

Frederick Schauer, a scholar of the First Amendment at Harvard University's Kennedy School, names this strategy "First Amendment opportunism" and describes it thus: "Political, social, cultural, ideological, economic and moral claims ... that appear to have no special philosophical or historical affinity with the First Amendment, find themselves transmogrified into First Amendment arguments."

In the academy, the case is even worse: Not only is the First Amendment pressed into service at the drop of a hat (especially whenever anyone is disciplined for anything), it is invoked ritually when there are no First Amendment issues in sight.

Take the case of the editors of college newspapers who will always cry First Amendment when something they've published turns out to be the cause of outrage and controversy. These days the offending piece or editorial or advertisement usually involves (what is at least perceived to be) an attack on Jews. In January of this year, the *Daily Illini*, an independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, printed a letter from a resident of Seattle with no university affiliation. The letter ran under the headline, "Jews Manipulate America," and argued that because their true allegiance is to the state of Israel, the president should "separate Jews from all government advisory positions"; otherwise, the writer warned, "the Jews might face another Holocaust."

When the predictable firestorm of outrage erupted, the newspaper's editor responded by declaring, first, that "we are committed to giving all people a voice"; second, that, given this commitment, "we print the opinions of others with whom we do not agree"; third, that to do otherwise would involve the newspaper in the dangerous acts of "silencing" and "self-censorship"; and, fourth, that "what is hate speech to one member of a society is free speech to another."

Wrong four times.

I'll bet the *Daily Illini* is not committed to giving all people a voice — the KKK? man-boy love? advocates of slavery? would-be Unabombers? Nor do I believe that the editors sift through submissions looking for the ones they disagree with and then print those. No doubt they apply some principles of selection, asking questions like, Is it relevant, or Is it timely, or Does it get the facts right, or Does it

present a coherent argument?

That is, they exercise judgment, which is quite a different thing from silencing or self-censorship. No one is silenced because a single outlet declines to publish him; silencing occurs when that outlet (or any other) is forbidden by the state to publish him on pain of legal action; and that is also what censorship is.

As for self-censoring, if it is anything, it is what we all do whenever we decide it would be better not to say something or cut a sentence that went just a little bit too far or leave a manuscript in the bottom drawer because it is not yet ready. Self-censorship, in short, is not a crime or a moral failing; it is a responsibility.

And, finally, whatever the merits of the argument by which all assertions are relativised — your hate speech is my free speech — this incident has nothing to do with either hate speech or free speech and everything to do with whether the editors are discharging or defaulting on their obligations when they foist them off on an inapplicable doctrine, saying in effect, "The First Amendment made us do it."

More recently, the same scenario played itself out at Santa Rosa Junior College, in California. This time it was a student who wrote the offending article. Titled "Is Anti-Semitism Ever the Result of Jewish Behavior?", it answered the question in the affirmative, creating an uproar that included death threats (to parties on all sides), an avalanche of hate mail (some of it protesting hate-speech), and demands for just about everyone's resignation. The faculty adviser who had approved the piece cited the newspaper's commitment to free speech and said, "The First Amendment isn't there to protect agreeable stories."

He was alluding to the old saw that the First Amendment protects unpopular as well as popular speech. But what it protects unpopular speech *from* is abridgement by the government of its free expression; it does not protect unpopular speech from being rejected by a newspaper, and it confers no positive obligation to give your pages over to unpopular speech, or popular speech, or any speech.

Once again, there is no First Amendment issue here, just an issue of editorial judgment and the consequences of exercising it. (You can print anything you like; but if the heat comes, it's yours, not the Constitution's.)

In these controversies, student editors are sometimes portrayed, or portray themselves, as First Amendment heroes who bravely risk criticism and censure in order to uphold a cherished American value. But they are not heroes; they are merely confused, and, in terms of their understanding of the doctrine they invoke, rather hapless.

Not as hapless, however, as the Harvard English department, which made a collective fool of itself three times when it invited, disinvited and

then reinvited poet Tom Paulin to be the Morris Gray Lecturer. Again the flash point was anti-Semitism.

In his poetry and in public comments, Paulin had said that Israel had no right to exist, that settlers on the West Bank "should be shot dead," and that Israeli police and military forces were the equivalent of the Nazi SS. When these and other statements came to light shortly before Paulin was to give his lecture, the department voted to rescind the invitation. When the inevitable cry of "censorship, censorship" was heard in the land, the department flipped-flopped again, and a professor-spokesman declared, "This was a clear affirmation that the department stood strongly by the First Amendment."

It was of course nothing of the kind; it was a transparent effort of a bunch that had already put its foot in its mouth twice to wriggle out of trouble and regain the moral high ground by striking the pose of First Amendment defender. But, in fact, the department and its members were not First Amendment defenders (a religion they converted to a little late), but serial bunglers.

What should they have done? Well, it depends on what they wanted to do. If they wanted to invite this particular poet because they admired his poetry, they had a perfect right to do so. If they were aware ahead of time of Paulin's public pronouncements, they could have chosen either to say something by way of explanation or to remain silent and let the event speak for itself; either course of action would have been at once defensible and productive of risk. If they knew nothing of Paulin's anti-Israel sentiments (difficult to believe of a gang of world-class researchers) but found out about them after the fact, they might have said, "Ooops, never mind" or toughed it out, again alternatives not without risk.

But at each stage, whatever they did or didn't do would have had no relationship whatsoever to any First Amendment right — Paulin had no right to be invited — or obligation — there was no obligation either to invite or disinvite him, and certainly no obligation to reinvoke him, unless you count the obligations imposed on yourself by a succession of ill-thought-through decisions. Whatever the successes or failures here, they were once again failures of judgment, not doctrine.

In another case, it looked for a moment that judgment of an appropriate kind was in fact being exercised. The University of California at Berkeley houses the Emma Goldman Papers Project, and each year the director sends out a fund-raising mailer that always features quotations from Goldman's work. But this January an associate vice chancellor edited the mailer and removed two quotations that in context read as a criticism of the Bush administration's plans for a war in Iraq. He explained that the quotations were not randomly chosen and were clearly intended to make

a "political point, and that is inappropriate in an official university situation."

The project director (who acknowledged that the quotes were selected for their contemporary relevance) objected to what she saw as an act of censorship and a particularly egregious one given Goldman's strong advocacy of free expression.

But no one's expression was being censored. The Goldman quotations are readily available and had they appeared in the project's literature in a setting that did not mark them as political, no concerns would have been raised. It is just, said the associate vice chancellor, that they are inappropriate in this context, and, he added, "It is not a matter of the First Amendment."

Right, it's a matter of whether or not there is even the appearance of the university's taking sides on a partisan issue; that is, it is an empirical matter that requires just the exercise of judgment that associate vice chancellors are paid to perform. Of course he was pilloried by members of the Berkeley faculty and others across the country who saw First Amendment violations everywhere.

But there were none. Goldman still speaks freely through her words. The project director can still make her political opinions known by writing letters to the editor or to everyone in the country, even if she cannot use the vehicle of a university flier to do so. Everyone's integrity is preserved. The project goes on unimpeded, and the university goes about its proper academic business. Or so it would have been had the administration stayed firm. But it folded and countermanded the associate vice chancellor's decision.

At least the chancellor had sense enough to acknowledge that no one's speech had been abridged. It was just, he said, an "error in judgment." Aren't they all?

Are there then no free-speech issues on campuses? Sure there are; there just aren't very many. When Toni Smith, a basketball player at Manhattanville College, turned her back to the flag during the playing of the national anthem in protest against her government's policies, she was truly exercising her First Amendment rights, rights that ensure that she cannot be compelled to an affirmation she does not endorse (see *West Virginia v. Barnette*). And as she stood by her principles in the face of hostility, she truly was (and is) a First Amendment hero, as the college newspaper editors, the members of the Harvard English department, and the head of the Emma Goldman Project are not. The category is a real one, and it would be good if it were occupied only by those who belong in it.

This piece first appeared on The Chronicle of Higher Education's Career Network, an online site on faculty and administrative careers.  
<http://chronicle.com>

## See SPSU as a College with Town Connections

WILLIS SMITH

As indicated in the last issue, Southern Polytechnic State University has not done much to motivate Alumni to donate money to the school. As a full time student here on campus for two years, I must confess I really prefer donating money to my first college than SPSU. Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, New York, was a hard school, but they provided many ways to entertain the students during the evenings and weekends whereas the campus here is dead with no sign of life on the weekends and summer semesters. The problem is SPSU is usually seen as a college campus by itself.

Southern Polytechnic State University is located in Marietta so, the school should help promote the town itself and its sights. Downtown Marietta is within walking distance from the campus itself on South Marietta Pkwy. However, when I say "walking distance," my idea of walking distance may be a length for other people. For three years at RIT, a friend and I would walk to the closest mall and theater to catch the weekend matinee. Neither of us had a car and did not really want to pay bus fare so we would walk forty-five minutes one way to the theater. It was a long walk, but we found topics from politics to our majors while walking on sidewalks leading to the closest theater. I estimate it would be a fifty mintues walk to downtown Marietta but, what exercise a student would get from all that walking!

The last college I transferred from often had many sponsored events or publicized many exhibits within Rochester itself. I remember three organizations would travel into the town itself to help the local community organize the spring conventions or the local charity events. A few fraternities drove to the local theater to watch community or high school plays and many associations traveled to the town civil center to check out displays from the recent conventions.

Most colleges usually associate themselves with the cities they are located in. RIT promote the city's events for all and any student to visit. New and transfer students should know more about the city beside the university they are enrolling in. SPSU should promote more about Marietta events, whether it is a community play or a museum's new exhibits. Those events are usually very cheap. Students may see a school play event for less than \$20 when the Fox Theater seat average ticket costs at least \$30. The Marietta History Museum's entrance fee is much lower than Atlanta's High Mu-

Continued on page 5

# Start Operation Persian Crusade

**MARK CAMPBELL**

Dear President Bush:

Invade Iran.

Since you are running for re-election, let me point out that you're in a bit of a jam. The economy is, at best, making a slow recovery, but could suffer from deflation. Recent 2003 graduates have joined 2002 graduates in seeking employment in a tough labor market, and 2004 graduates may really suffer under the backlog – right as you seek the presidency again.

You are causing a great deal of harm to the presidential aspirations of many Republican governors. Your tax cuts do nothing for state governments whose budgets are being cut beyond the bone, inasmuch as they cannot run deficits. And while you may note that California, whose governor Gray Davis is a Democrat, runs the largest deficit, let us not forget that California had to pay exorbitant prices for electricity while the Texas-based energy marketers colluded to rob that state in what was supposed to be a free market economy.

Not that your administration would help. Instead, your energy task force met in secret with industry leaders, and mapped out strategies for exploiting oil in the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge, relaxing pollution laws and undermining efforts to curb global warming. Perhaps you also mapped out ways to procure the rights to the most cheaply produced oil on earth – too bad it belonged to Persian Gulf nations.

Meanwhile, state and local governments are absorbing the costs of protecting vital American

infrastructure. Perhaps that is for the best – it was, after all, a local cop that found Eric Robert Rudolph rummaging through a dumpster in Murphy, NC.

Usama bin Laden is still on the loose, and al-Qaeda is actively recruiting amongst Moslems irate at the new American foreign policy of conquest. Saddam Hussein apparently has escaped your clutches, despite the best efforts of American intelligence and airpower to bomb his hiding places during your recent war against Iraqis. I would say that you hit a dry hole with that one, since you are familiar with oil industry terminology – except that “dry hole” might remind you that the palace you clobbered in downtown Baghdad on March 20<sup>th</sup> not only didn’t have Saddam, it didn’t even have an underground bunker. I guess you’ll blame that on bad intelligence.

Speaking of bad intelligence, I think we both know that the hysterics you used to justify the war in Iraq will result in another regime change – in Britain. Alistair Campbell, who handles communication for Prime Minister Tony Blair, is now to be sacrificed for the “dodgy dossier,” the white paper plagiarized from a ten-year old doctoral thesis from an Iraqi émigré studying here in the States. It was that famous “white paper” of fresh British intelligence from which Colin Powell so eloquently quoted before the United Nations. Campbell’s sacrifice will not be sufficient to slake the British thirst for righteousness – count on Blair to go as well.

Of course, there were your own

absurd statements that Iraq was attempting to buy yellowcake, or uranium dioxide, from Niger, despite the fact that the State department expert you sent to track the story down found the documents to be third-rate forgeries. And as Hans Blix, the U.N.’s chief weapons inspector said recently, it seems odd that the American government is 100% certain Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction, and has absolutely no idea where to find them.

On the WMD front, other things also don’t add up. Why was securing the Rumaila oil field so high on the military’s priority list, while securing known former WMD sites so low? How is it that the Iraqi Ministry of Oil ranks an *immediate* perimeter guard of U. S. troops, but that known former nuclear sites in Iraq are left unguarded to be looted? Do you actually *want* low-grade nuclear material to make it to the black market or into the hands of terrorists?

And why, when Tony Blair pleads with you to offer amnesty to those Iraqi scientists who may know of WMDs in exchange for information, do you refuse to do so? Are you afraid that, when they tell you they stopped the WMD programs long ago, that they’ll stick to the story despite all the incentives to say otherwise?

As for your “Roadmap for Peace” in the Mideast, far better presidents than you have tried and failed at that very goal. In truth, it seems that you have set up your administration to fail at achieving that peace – at least by the means

you publicly espouse.

Personally, I believe you are savvy enough to recognize that at some point, during the “peace process,” some atrocity is likely to occur. With luck, the act of barbarity can be laid at the feet of Hamas, and with the right spin from Ari Fleischer’s successor, you can pin the wholesale failure of your roadmap upon that Axis of Evil, Iran.

Frankly, Mr. Bush, you lied to the American public, and by all rights you ought to be impeached for your conduct. But rest assured that in America, you only have to fool most of the people at the critical moment. You managed to do so in the build-up to seize Iraq – and with the election coming up, perhaps it is time to do so again.

So I am recommending to you that you invade Iran. Never mind that students in Iran are already clamoring for a more democratic society. Never mind that Iranian émigrés are broadcasting National Iranian TV from Los Angeles in an effort to bring about a democratic regime – with no help from your administration. Never mind that a sovereign democratic Iran is just as likely to want to retain a nuclear program.

By invading Iran, you can deflect attention away from the growing indigenous hostility towards the American troops occupying Iraq. And just as the American people pretty much forgot about the occupation of Afghanistan, you can count on a war with Iran to fog their memories about your last *causus belli*, the hue and cry about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Certainly Iran is constructing nuclear reactors, and you can make a far better case to the public for going after the mullahs. Even better, you can bring up the failure of a former Democratic president, Jimmy Carter, in permitting that evil regime to seize and hold hostage those in the American embassy. Why, you can even mention it was the Gipper, Ronald Reagan, as the Republican president who took care of the problem. After all, you like to be thought of as plain spoken like the old actor.

By invading Iran, if successful, you can ensure that the taps of cheap Persian Gulf crude will flow unhindered for years to come. Americans will be grateful for cheaper gasoline, although the main expense of rebuilding the conquered countries falls to them as taxpayers. Remember, cheap energy can revive the sluggish economy.

And lower crude oil prices can drive marginal producers such as Venezuela, Indonesia and Nigeria out of the market. You can deny them the opportunity to move their state oil companies into the downstream side of the industry, where the real profits are made. Think of the Pax Americana you can create, albeit through theft by taking.

No one wants to question a President in a time of grave national crisis, such as a war – to do so is deemed “unpatriotic.” So to forestall your opposition, who may question your motives in pursuing the conquest of Iraq, please heed my advice. Invade Iran – and soon.

## WANTED!!



The SPSU Police - The Only Posse you will see on campus

## POLICE DISPATCHER WANTED PART-TIME DEAD OR ALIVE? (PREFERABLY ALIVE)

Tell the Police Where They Can Go! (Except to Hell - That is on the Adjoining Campus, and They Have Their Own Police)

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## Campus Forum

**The place to get your inane ramblings heard**

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## Student Government Association

**SGA  
2003 – 2004**

### Southern Polytechnic State University

\*Advisor  
*Dean Barry Birkhead,  
Dean of Students*

Adefolarin O. Adeleye – President  
 Laura Payan - Vice-President  
 Kamisha Hammond - Secretary/Treasurer  
 Aakash Shah – Chief Judge  
 Marvin L. Broaddus Jr. - Council Member  
 Kimberly Aragon - Council Member  
 Shelly Jones - Council Member  
 EJ Campbell - Council Member  
 Brandon Tutman - Council Member  
 Angelia Johnson- Council Member  
 Shane Martin- Council Member  
 David Marriaga - Council Member  
 Karen Asay- Council Member  
 Robert Bledsoe - Council Member  
 Virginia Carden - Judge  
 James Hester - Judge  
 Athir Jassim - Judge  
 Teniola Onafowokan - Judge  
 Lisa Rodriguez-Seda - Judge  
 Raja Sibai – Judge

**"The freshmen are coming,  
the freshmen are coming!"**

#### DEBORAH WINGATE

Yes, it's that time of the year and the class of 2003 will soon be gracing the grounds of SPSU.

The First Year Residential Experience Program would like to invite your organization to meet and greet the freshmen. The residence hall freshmen will be moving into Howell Residence Hall beginning on August 14, 2003 between 10:00-5:00pm. They also have the day of August 15, 2003 between 9:00-12noon. I would invite you to come out on either of these days to help the freshmen move-in, meet the families and market your organizations. Water is a good thing to bring!

I have programs planned for the days of Thursday and Friday, but Saturday I have left open and would like your participation in this area. One organization has already taken the time slot between 1-3pm to sponsor a fun event for the students. I invite your organization to

join us on this day and sponsor an ultimate Frisbee game, volleyball game, football, basketball, presentations on getting involved at SPSU, etc... You bring the idea to me, we will discuss, and if everything works out, you can sponsor your program. The day will begin at 9:00am for the freshmen and go until 12:00 midnight. There will be an hour break for lunch. The students will have to provide their own lunch this day, so any organization that would like this time slot (plus a little longer) for a cook-out let me know.

There is one hitch to participation and that is that I need a response from your organizations ASAP. I must have the schedule ready by July 14, 2003. Please contact me at dshaw@spsu.edu or 770-528-4108. I look forward to working with you.

\*\* Remember if the event is going to be outside, please provide water for participants and your organization. \*\*

## SGA Liaisons 2002 - 2003 Organizations & Departments

### Shelly Jones

ACM  
GAMES  
HMV/SMV  
SME  
Phi Psi Prof. Textile  
Delta Sigma Theta

### Shane Martin

ASCE  
Sigma Pi  
IGC  
SPSU Soccer  
Sigma Nu  
Tau Kappa Epsilon

### David Marriaga

Phi Beta Sigma  
Japanese Friendship Association  
Knight of Realm  
SHPE  
Chinese Friendship Assoc.  
Aerial Robotics

### Marvin Broaddus

Ambassadors  
Residence Hall Association  
Steel Bridge Team  
NSBE  
IIE  
IEEE

### Fola Adeleye

ECET  
Construction  
HTC  
Physics  
IET  
MET  
Math  
Computer  
Alumni  
University Roundtable

### Karen Asay

Alpha Phi Alpha  
The Sting  
Kappa Alpha Psi  
ISA  
WGHR  
CAB

### Brandon Tutman

ACI  
AIAS  
AIC  
NAHB  
ITE  
Women In Architecture

### Laura Payán

ATTIC  
University Police  
Housing  
Chemistry  
Career Services  
Public Relations  
Architecture  
IT Dept.  
Cultural Series

### EJ Campbell

Constructor's Guild  
Pi Kappa Phi  
SAE  
GSPE  
Ultimate Frisbee Club  
Specialty Contractors

### Kamisha Hammond

CET  
Biology  
Management  
SIS  
Development  
ATET  
Admissions  
Recruit

### Kimberly Aragon

Muslim Student Assoc.  
ASQ  
ASCE Concrete Canoe  
Tau Alpha Phi  
Gamma Phi Beta  
Mathematics Association

### Angelia Johnson

GEAR  
General Builders  
Indian Club  
Sigma Lambda Chi  
Delta Mu Delta  
Computing Women of SPSU

# THE STING

Get the word out about your organization!





## Comic Movie Tries Some Sinew

DANIEL GRANT

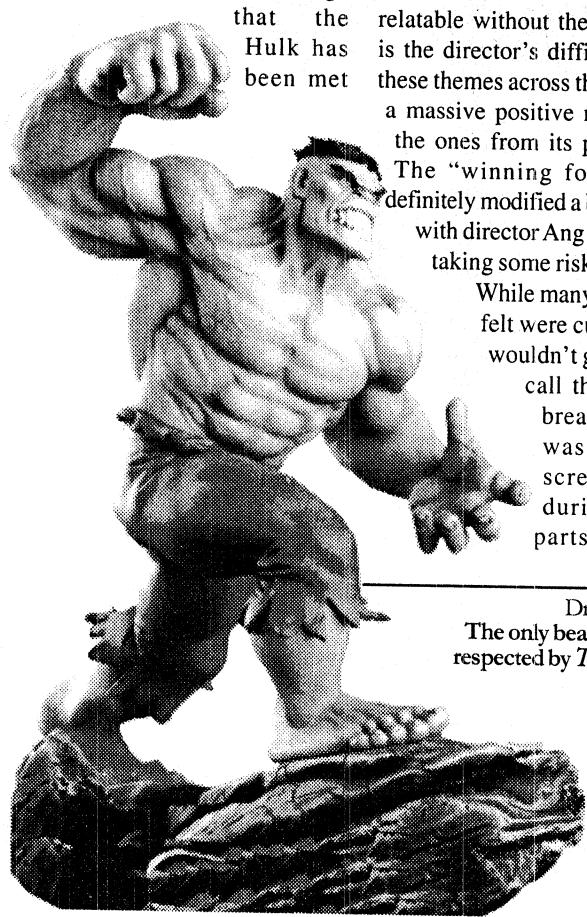
Ever since I saw the Hulk teaser-trailer in May of 2002, before the Spider-Man premiere, I was pumped up for its release. As time began to draw nearer, I started wondering why I cared. Of all the famous comic book superheroes I grew up with, the Hulk was one I'd never had any interest in or childhood memories of. Also, Hulk was never much of a role model, or had much of a personality. In fact, upon further thought, it seems almost strange

that the Hulk has been met

This movie is definitely not a simple one, in any way, shape or form. Don't go expecting a "feel good" movie such as Spider-Man or X2. Many complained Daredevil was too dark. Those that scorned Daredevil for that reason may have beefs with this movie as well. There are many darker themes that the Hulk explores, but I find that the character wouldn't have been relatable without these themes. It is the director's difficulty getting these themes across that may delay a massive positive response like the ones from its predecessors. The "winning formula" was definitely modified a bit in this one, with director Ang Lee certainly taking some risks.

While many of his risks I felt were cutting edge, I wouldn't go as far as to call them groundbreaking. There was a "multi-screen" theme during certain parts, and

Dr. Bruce Banner  
The only bearer of a Ph.D.  
respected by *The Sting* Staff



## FBI Issues Internal Advisory

MARK CAMPBELL

Washington, DC (July 2, 2001) - Following an interview Sunday with U.S. Senators Diane Feinstein (D-Ca) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala) on CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer," the Federal Bureau of Investigation has sent an advisory to its field offices throughout the country. Feinstein and Shelby spoke of an emerging threat of terrorism from Al-Qaeda, a terrorist organization led by exiled Saudi Arabian millionaire, Usama bin Laden.

The organization is believed to have been linked to the attempted bombing of the World Trade Center in 1994, and later for destroying a U.S. military barracks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The warning stated that "there are threats to be worried about overseas. While we cannot foresee attacks domestically, we cannot rule them out."

The warning follows on a Reuters report on June 23rd about an imminent Al-Qaeda attack "in the next two weeks."

Feinstein told CNN's Blitzer that, "One of the things that has begun to concern me very much, as to whether we really have our house in order - intelligence staff have told me that there is a major probability of a terrorist incident within the next three months."

Both Feinstein and Shelby serve on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The U.S. State Department issued a world-wide travel advisory for Americans on June 26th.

Sources within the Bush Administration have said that National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice was informed of the pending threat in an intelligence summary provided by the Central Intelligence Agency. According to the source, "It is highly likely that a

significant al-Qaeda attack is in the near future, within several weeks."



Senator Diane Feinstein spoke Sunday, July 1, with CNN's Wolf Blitzer over her concerns about terrorism against American interests overseas.

STARDATE: 2003 JUNE 29 / 2300 HOURS. SITTING IN THE OFFICE RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TWO BAGS OF GRASS, SEVENTY-FIVE PELLETS OF MECALINE, FIVE SHEETS OF HIGH-POWERED BLOTTER ACID, A SALTSHAKER HALF-FULL OF COCAINE, AND A WHOLE GALAXY OF UPERS, DOWNS, LAUGHERS, SCREAMERS... ALSO, A QUART OF TEQUILA, A QUART OF RUM, A CASE OF BEER, A PINT OF RAW ETHER, AND TWO DOZEN AMYL'S. NOT THAT WE NEED ALL THAT FOR LAYING OUT THE PAPER, BUT ONCE YOU GET INTO A SERIOUS DRUG COLLECTION, THE TENDENCY IS TO PUSH IT AS FAR AS YOU CAN. THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY WORRIES ME IS THE ENTIRE NIGHT OF LAYOUT AHEAD. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD MORE HELPLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE AND DEPRAVED THAN A WOMAN IN THE DEPTHS OF A LAYOUT BINGE, AND I KNEW WE'D GET INTO THAT ROTTEN PIZZA ACROSS THE OFFICE PRETTY SOON.

**THE  
STING  
EDITOR'S  
'LOG'**

## Honoring Great Women Through Books Event

WILLIS SMITH

On April 21st, SPSU unveiled a new collection to the library through a grand opening event titled 'Honoring Great Women Through Books', the last SPSU Women's Month Event for this year. Just like the 2nd Annual Black History Stepshow was held a month later in March because of delays, the book ceremony was held a month later in April instead in March when the Library Rotunda was available.

Dean Barry Birckhead opened the ceremony by with a comment on the promotional flyer, "This is the coolest flyer I even seen here!" He continued his speech by describing how long women have come on campus and in general. "More women are applying here; women have more opportunities and adventures here on campus than before. The school has had a woman president (Dr. Lisa Rossacher), a new women basketball team, and an organization, Computing Women of SPSU. Today is a good time to be a young lady on campus. (Recently, SPSU is named as the 4th top school for women to get engineering technology degrees according to the Profile of Engineer and Engineering Technology Colleges of 2003 of American Society of Civil Engineering Society) We are here to honor the donors to the new collection here behind this curtain," concluded Birckhead.

Marlena Compton spoke a few words as the representative from Computing Women of SPSU. "We (Computing Women of SPSU) worked hard to collect many books as possible. We encourage more books to be donated for the collection and I do not know any single person who handle gender issues as much as Dr. Newell, who is being honored today. She is wonderful." Dr. Julie Newell Collection is assembled with many titles by women authors, about women's issues from 'International Women in Science' to 'Woman Warriors' to 'Gender Troubles.'

Joyce Mills, the school librarian, spoke next, thanking for making this contribution to the library. "This collection recognizes most women in science, technology, and literature. Also the new collection is not just a display within the library, but many of these books will

go into circulation and can be checked out of the library soon (all books now available for checkout). Many of these books covered issues in history, politics, cultures beside science, technology, and engineering." Some books titles range from 'Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl' and 'Why So Slow: Advancements of Women' to 'Making Technology Masculine.' She joking reminded the audience to gasp and awe when the dark tablecloth is lifted which the audience complied.

Dr. Julie Newell took central stage and described her efforts to make the new collection a reality. "It took two years of work, work to get the visibility web site up and running. The web site serves as a referral to women, past, present, and future. I am afraid there is not many sources here now. If any of you in the future happen to find a website about famous women or woman, please send us an email with that particular web link for us to include in the visibility website.

"The idea started over two years ago at a Campus Roundtable on a Women History Month lecture. Many of my students often asked me more about Women History Month and I felt this recognition of women was something that needed to be done. By having this collection, we make the women heroes visible, to give us, women and girls, role models to look up to." She admitted that there are not enough women role models for little girls to look up to and not enough successful female role models for young women to see themselves as prosperous. Many women who leave their marks in science and technology are not well known, but that may change with this book collection and Women History's Month.

The first donors who contributed books to the new Dr. Julie Newell Book Collection are listed as: Barry Birckhead, Marlena Compton, Computing Women of SPSU, Jim Cooper, Dr. Michael and Mrs. Marlene Gilpin, Leigh Ann Holton, Jackie Isaacson, Dr. Ron Koger, Dr. Nancy Reichert, Dr. Becky Rutherford and the Social and International Studies. Also if anyone would like to make a donation to the Dr. Julie Newell Book Collection, please speak to Dr. Joyce Mills.

## The Sting's Fabulously Fab Fabric Tip

**MARK CAMPBELL**

With the recent apprehension of alleged Centennial Park bomber Eric Robert Rudolph, and subsequent photographs of the purported assailant in local media, *The Sting* feels it is important to share with our fellow students the following fabric tip.

Unbeknownst to many (ok, both) of our readers, the famed Federal Bureau of Investigation retains the services of at least four forensic expert witnesses who, potentially, can identify you by your jeans. That's right—jeans, as in Levi Strauss or Wrangler—not genes, as in organic molecular arrangements of adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine.

Evidently, these experts are able to compare photographs of people in their jeans, and identify one particular pair of pants by the alternating dark and washed-out bands along the outside seams. Of course, they can also work with the actual pair of jeans themselves, should they happen to fall into the hands of law enforcement.

Apparently the thickness and spacing of the alternating bands can uniquely identify your jeans. And with the plethora of cameras pervading society, there's a significant probability, if you have a perpetrating sort of bent, that you will be photographed in the

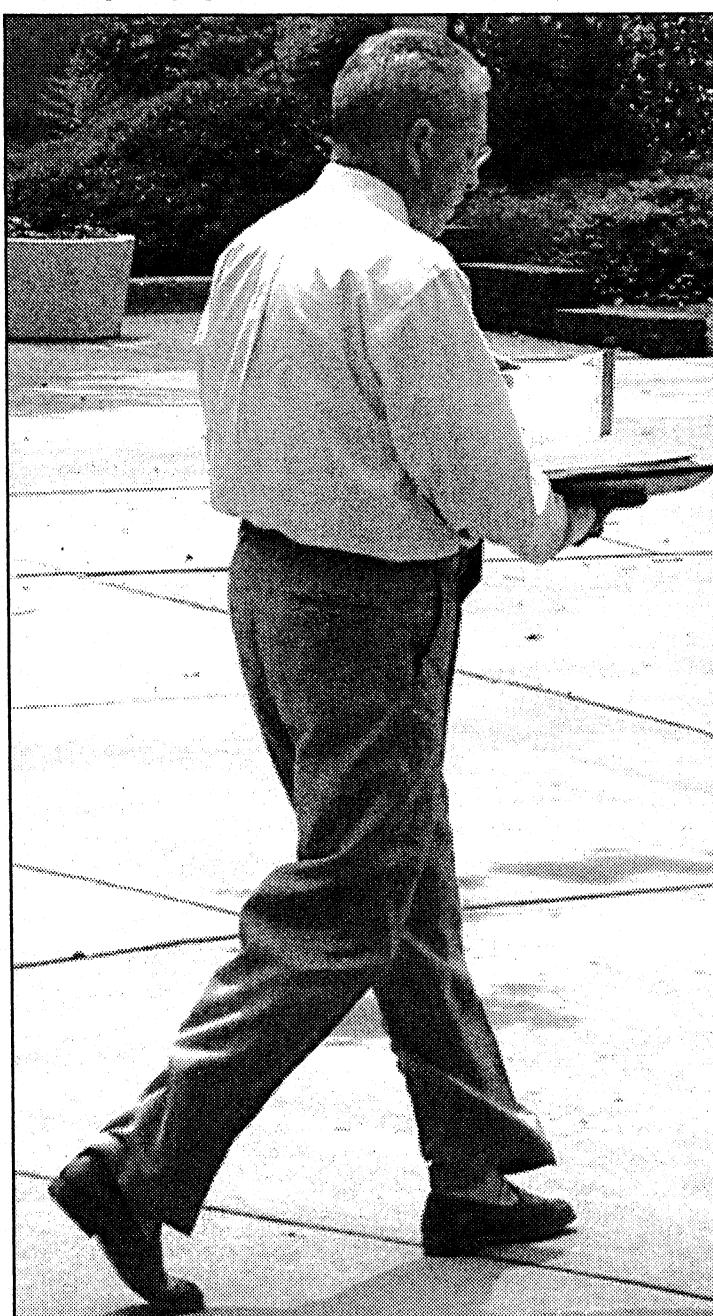
proximity of the commission of your crime.

So *The Sting*, in light of these facts, only wishes to advise you not to wear jeans when committing felonies, either on or off campus.

The recommended attire, for the homegrown terrorist out and about on the town, should be a set of loafers, with dark socks, some light khaki slacks, and either a polo or long-sleeve shirt, depending on the weather and the milieu. The gentle reader should avoid shirts with any identifying corporate logos, imprinted patterns, or emblems embossed upon the pockets. Keep in mind that after the commission of your felony, it is advisable to dispose of the clothing—our recommended solution is to make contributions of each garment to different and dispersed local charities.

We hope that you take the advice we offer, so that you may live long and prosper. Should the long arm of the law catch up with you, then we offer our deepest condolences, for we know what awaits you within the confines of Cobb County. Yes, our dear readers, alas it is true...

ABL Management, that purveyor of fine foods at Southern Polytechnic State University, is the food service provider of the Cobb County Adult Detention Center.



Dr. Ron Koger, SPSU's Vice President of Student Enrollment and Services, demonstrates the advantages of wearing khaki slacks, instead of jeans, when committing acts of terrorism.

## 28 Days Later



### DANIEL HENRY

This film is a little bit everything—horror, science fiction, romance, comedy, drama—and something fresh to the American movie scene. The obviously European-inspired *28 Days Later* is the first film I have ever seen from director Danny Boyle.

### The Short Synopsis

A powerful virus is unleashed on the British public following a raid on a primate research facility by animal rights activists. Transmitted in a drop of blood and devastating within seconds, the virus locks those infected into a permanent state of murderous rage. Within 28 days the country is overwhelmed and a handful of survivors begin their attempts to salvage a future, little realizing that the deadly virus is not the only thing that threatens them.

### The Plot

This movie does not really have a plot. There is no ultimate goal except to figure out what happened and why, and that is revealed to the audience quickly. The only thing left to do is watch Jim stumble through his adventure in Great Britain, all the while waiting for some bulky red-eyed maniacs to jump through windows to scare the shit out of you. You start to see some semblance of a goal towards the end, when Jim finds the soldiers holding a position in Manchester. Nevertheless, once that concludes, the ending is just too damn easy and hardly bought.

### The Characters

Jim (CILLIAN MURPHY) was a bike courier or something like that before the infection hit. Fortunately, he was run down by a motorist and promptly placed in the hospital. He wakes up very naked in a hospital bed. This was the down part of the film. They actually show it. It was very European and very disgusting. Jim is the most dynamic character (which is understandable) as we follow him around Britain as he searches for his family, searches for help, and then runs away from aforementioned "help."

Selena (NAOMIE HARRIS) is a lovely, young British tart that Jim

meets up with in the beginning. She is what I would call the love interest of the story, although her first major conflict with another character results in her beating him to death with a baseball bat. She seems to switch between rough, careless bitch to soft and sweet princess after she does not have the heart to beat the shit out of Jim with her bat. I guess anyone should think twice about approaching Naomie Harris in any capacity.

Mark (NOAH HUNTLEY) is hardly worth mentioning because he gets his ass kicked about seven minutes after we first see him. Mark is the first person Jim sees after he wakes up. He explains to Jim what happened, and takes him back to his crib in the local mall where Pepsi and candy are strewn about everywhere (like my dorm room). He is hanging out with Selena in the very beginning, which, as I have said, can be dangerous.

Frank (BRENDAN GLEESON) and Hannah (MEGAN BURNS) are staked out up at the top of an apartment building. Frank is a cab driver and Hannah is his daughter. Frank is hard-core because the first time you see him, he is in police riot gear kicking the asses of infected people. Don't worry, they started it. Little Hannah is sweet and adorable, and a horrible driver.

Finally, Major Henry West (CHRISTOPHER ECCLESTON) is the person that you hear on the radio about a third of the way through the film. He claims he has an answer to the infection and that any survivors should come to his cool military base up in Manchester. He turns out to have some messed up priorities, but you will have to see that whole thing unfold for yourself.

### The Setting

I hate few things more than England. This film was completely set in England, though, so you will have to see the drab old background of Great bloody Britain throughout the entire film. The cities are totally messed up and deserted, and there all these infected freaks running around that want to scare and/or bite the shit out of you. It totally reminded me of *Life College*.

### The Opinion

This film is by no means a conventional horror movie. I recommend seeing it, though, even if you are into conventional horror films because *28 Days Later* incorporates many features from horror. The idea of waking up in a world occupied by no one (even if only at first) is also intriguing to me. In the beginning of the film, it has a likeness to Steven King's *The Langoliers*, a film in which a select few aboard an airplane pass mystically into the past one day into a world in which no other people are. We have all had the fantasy of being able to walk around amongst all of societies many amenities (grocery stores, liquor stores, porno stores) and taking whatever we wished. It will also remind you, a bit, of *Jeremiah*, a television drama about the end of the world brought about by a terrible virus, on Showtime's Sci-Friday.

I only wish that it could have been set in a more familiar, American environment. It would have been great to see what New York City or Los Angeles looked like deserted of people. The characters also seem a little more distant from us than needed given their different native land. However, that does not steal too much from the fantasy of being alone in a world where you could literally do anything you wanted: a world without government, without universities, and without their petty student newspapers.

What does steal from the fantasy of all that, for me, is the fact that every once and a while you run into a drooling, blood-vomiting human monster than wants to, as I said, scare and/or bite the shit out of you. On many occasions, these bastards launch through windows, doors and other thresholds at our heroes and are not exactly as hospitable as we tend to think of the Brits as being. Still, I've never been one for horror, per say, so if you like horror movies this part will be appealing. Just keep in mind, the most provocative possible message from the movie is that the most terrible of all the "human monsters" in this post-apocalyptic nightmare are the ones that are not infected at all.

# Look What We've Been Brewing Mom (or Mum, eh?)!!

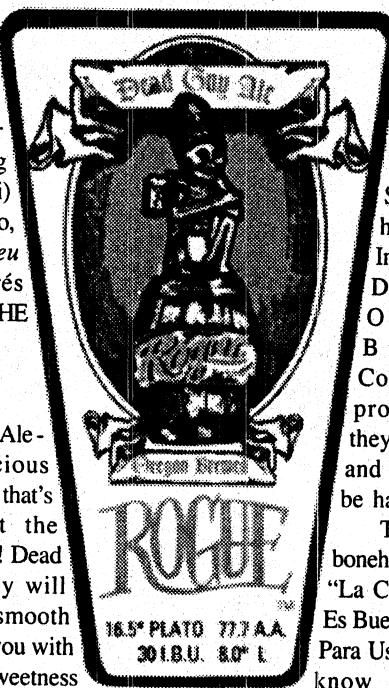
JESSIE DANIEL & MARK CAMPBELL

Holy shnikes (chniceaux) Batman, (eh?)!! July is "American" (yeah, right...) Beer Month, so to honor the Great (yeah, right...) Dominion of Canada, (et aussi) Uncle Sam and Old Glory (c'est comical), we have decided to call this little ditty (ditto) - *The (La) Beer (Bière) Review (Revue)*.

Oh, yeah - that's right! We, at the *Sting* are sacrificing ourselves (and our livers) for the better beer-drinking experiences (c'est vrai) of our loyal readers. So, with no further *adieu* (that's French! Trés bien!)—BRING ON THE BREWS(KIS, EH?)!!

#### Jessie's Brew

Rogue Dead Guy Ale - Magically delicious American micro-brew that's sure to bring out the necrophiliac in us all! Dead Guy's medium body will smack you with a smooth beginning and leave you with an after thought of sweetness



in the finish. YOU'LL LOVE THIS ONE!

Who says drinking can't be educational? For you crazy beer-trivia buffs: "Dedicated to the Rogue in each of us, Dead Guy Ale's image depicting a skeleton with a beehive hat is in honor of the Mayan Day of The Dead." Joke's on you though, this stuff is brewed here in the U.S.A. - Newport, Oregon to be precise. So pay homage this Independence Day to the Oregon Brewing Company for proving that they love us all and want us to be happy.

The bonehead's motto: "La Cerveza Que Es Buena Y Buena Para Usted." Don't know what this

means because you slept through Spanish class? Me too. But I looked it up and it means — 'the beer that is good and good for you.' It's always nice to know that your beer doesn't discriminate against lulus and health nuts.

Never fear! If this one's not enough for you, there are twenty-eight other Rogue brews you can try! Check out their website at [www.rogue.com](http://www.rogue.com). You might learn something useful instead of sitting around working calculus problems.

Ya'NERD!

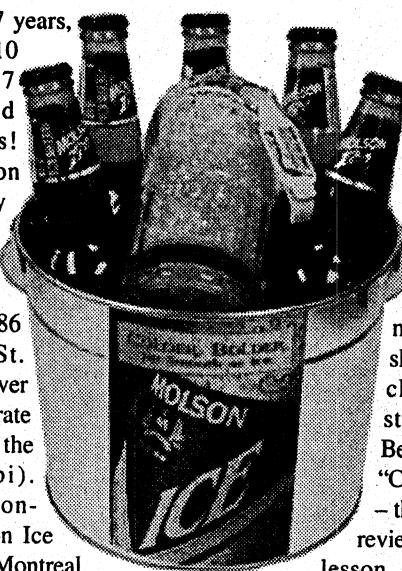
#### Mark's Brew

Molson Ice - Moderately intoxicating Canadian industro-brew that's sure to bring out the Canuck in us all! Molson Ice's light body is easily quaffed at the ice rink or on a beach at your Florida winter vacation home, yet the 5.6% alcohol kick will leave you with a warm nose and a warm belly at the finish. YOU'LL LIKE THIS AFFABLE BEER, JUST LIKE YOU LIKE EVERYTHING CANADIAN!

Who says drinking can't be historical, eh? For you crazy beer-history buffs, at the time of this review, Molson's had been brewing

beer for 217 years, 178 days, 10 hours, 57 minutes and 46 seconds!

John Molson actually started his brewery in Montreal on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1786 on the St. Lawrence River (with a flow rate greater than the Mississippi). Now union-made Molson Ice is brewed in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver across the Great White North. So after you've enjoyed Canadian Independence Day (which was *peaceably* negotiated, July 1, 1867), hand your *other* "American" buddies a cold Molson Ice this 4<sup>th</sup> of July and regale them with tales of how the good Molson steamship "Swiftsure" ferried British troops and arms in 1812 in a war that saw Washington put to the torch. Smugly ask them why they bothered to rebuild...



The Molson Breweries' mottos are: "What Beer's All About!" for English Canada, and "La Bière comme on l'aime" for French Canada. Don't know what this means because you slept through French class for twelve straight years, eh? Better ask one of those "Canadiens," mon ami — this is a beer (bière) review, not a language lesson. But it is good to know that Molson's has the wherewithal to cater to two very distinct and sophisticated cultures, plus those in the United States.

Never fear! If this one is not enough for you, there are at least forty different labels of beer brewed by this Canadian industrial giant all over the world. Check out their website at [www.molson.com](http://www.molson.com). You might learn something useful between stints of working calculus problems, eh?

Ya' HOSER!

# The Histories That Matter – Siskel, Ebert, and That New Guy

#### CJ SCHRADER

So my roommate and I were driving down the road today, admiring the movie "Mortal Kombat," which we had just rented. We were discussing the stupid little critic comments that are on the front and back of just about every movie in existence, when my roommate popped the big question. I promptly agreed to marry him, and, within the next five minutes or so, we were back to discussing critics.

"I wonder what it takes to be a movie critic. I wonder how much education people like Siskel and Ebert had in order to get their careers started."

I thought to myself, hey, that sounds like a good "Histories that Matter" article. And it was so.

For your reading pleasure, I give you the life and times of Siskel, Ebert, and that new guy that no one really cares about.

#### Gene Siskel (The tall guy)

Eugene Kal Siskel was orphaned at the age of 10. Then, a bunch of stuff happened and suddenly he was older and in college! He attended Culver Military Academy in Indiana where he majored in philosophy. Now...he wanted to be a lawyer. I'm sure he had some very good logic, but, personally, if I wanted to be a lawyer I would try going to law school and major

in some law-related degree. I don't think I'd go to a military academy and major in philosophy.

Siskel's dreams of lawyer-dom didn't work out very well either. Maybe because of the reasons I just mentioned. Instead, Siskel received a public-affairs fellowship for the Army Reserve and began to write press releases for the US Department of Defense Information School.

Writing all of these press releases gave Siskel an interest in journalism. After moving to Chicago, he found a job with "The Chicago Tribune" as a news reporter and staff writer for the Sunday issue. It wasn't long, however, until he wrote his very first movie review and was shortly thereafter named the Tribune's film critic.

#### Roger Ebert (The fat guy)

I've checked every source I can find, and it simply seems to me that Roger Ebert didn't exist before Gene Siskel became famous. I mean, honestly, does a man really have to be dead in order to have a biography written on him?

In any case, I got as much information as I could find about him, and I shall share it here. With you. The reader(s). Of my articles. Which should be about none after all of those sentence fragments.

Roger Ebert has degrees from the Universities of Illinois, Cape Town, and Chicago. I wish I could tell you what he has those degrees in, but I've not been able to find that information anywhere and Ebert won't accept my calls.

From the age of 15, Ebert was a sports writer for the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette. In the University of Illinois, he was editor of the Daily Illini. In 1966, Ebert was hired by the Chicago Sun-Times and was appointed the official film critic six months later.

As an interesting side note, Ebert was the first critic ever to be awarded a Pulitzer for criticizing movies. Before then, a Pulitzer had never been awarded to anyone for criticizing movies.

#### Siskel AND Ebert

As you may have noticed, Siskel and Ebert wrote for two separate newspapers and had a bit of a rivalry in their day. Taking advantage of this, some enterprising young producer put them together in a show called *Opening Soon...at a Theater Near You*.

This show went through

three incarnations, each new one more popular than the last, until finally settling with the now-familiar *Siskel & Ebert & the Movies*, a nationally syndicated television program.

Sadly, as we all know, Siskel died on February 20, 1999, thereby ending the glory days of Siskel and Ebert.

#### Richard Roeper (The new guy)

After the death of Siskel, the men in charge of *Siskel & Ebert & the Movies* decided to choose the new co-host the same way they choose the Pope: Russian Roulette. Unfortunately, some idiot didn't know the exact rules to the game, and so all six candidates were killed.

That idiot was Richard Roeper, a fellow writer for the Chicago Sun-Times. Essentially, he did not really exist before Siskel died. I think he was created by Microsoft or some other large, diabolical corporation, but that's really all there is to that story.

Let us return to the original question: the amount of education Siskel and Ebert had in order to get to where they are today. It seems that Siskel had a measly major in philosophy from a military academy, while Ebert had three separate diplomas and a Pulitzer.

Conclusion? I have absolutely no idea. Apparently any Joe off the street can be a critic, as well as people with years upon years of education. I suppose all you really need is an opinion.

Ah, and my community service is over once again this issue. As always, if you have a question you'd like answered, send me an ol' e-mail at [rshradar@spsu.edu](mailto:rshradar@spsu.edu).



# Worst Movies Ever: Plan 9 from Outer Space

## DANIEL PERRY

The past couple of weeks have been rather slow in the movie industry, with the newest releases being *The Hulk* and *2 Fast 2 Furious*, both movies scarcely worth a review. Therefore, if I am to write a movie review of a bad movie, why not choose one of the worst ever, the 1958 classic "Plan 9 from Outer Space."

"Plan 9 from Outer Space" is Written-Produced-Directed (as is said in the credits) by Ed Wood, director of such other horrid tales as *Glen or Glenda*, *Bride of the Monster*, and *Orgy of the Dead*. The film reeks of stock footage, plot inconsistencies, and special effects pulled out of a cereal box.

Plan 9 opens with an announcer who, only a minute and a half into the movie, reveals most of the movie's plot, which is a cross between a stereotypical zombie flick and *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. Aliens from outer space, who look surprisingly human, and who can communicate with us because of the conveniently placed "language computer", have landed on Earth and are raising our dead in an attempt to take over or destroy

Earth - to save the universe from the destruction we might cause in the future.

The film was originally supposed to include horror star Bela Lugosi, but he died very early in the filming. As a result, we only see him in a couple of stock scenes which are repeated at least twice in which he's fanning out his cape as if he were a vampire. For the rest of the film, his character is portrayed by a man who keeps his cape held up so all we see are his eyes.

Stock footage, such as that of Lugosi, runs rampant in this film, and much of it seems to have been plucked from other sources and just thrown haphazardly together. One striking case of this is a scene in which the army is firing upon the flying saucers. Stock footage of artillery in various places, including a desert, a large military encampment, and a forest, is shown firing on the same three saucers. All the while, a general watches from his point, which can be guessed as a hill, because all that is behind him is a completely blank grey backdrop of a set.

The low budget or perhaps just low directing skill involved in the

film can be seen in many scenes of the movie, where night miraculously becomes day and vice versa several times. Funerals are held in the dark of night, or perhaps that's just a black wall of the set. When the mourners leave the cemetery to their cars it is daylight again.

The hits just keep coming in the special effects department, with flying saucers on visible strings or wires that even though supposedly made of some futuristic metal, catch on fire whenever evil earthlings destroy consoles inside. Aboard these wondrous ships of such an advanced culture are 1950's era radio equipment, some of the same signage seen in an airplane cockpit earlier in the film, and even a Jacob's ladder, the hallmark of science fiction props of that day. The space people command their zombie slaves through the use of electrode guns, which on at least one occasion, jam as

if they had the moving parts of conventional firearms, causing a zombie to almost kill Space Commander Eros.

Eros had the one line that stuck with me the most from the movie. As he explained why Earth must be destroyed, and why the space people were so superior in intellect he said, "You see, your stupid minds, stupid, stupid, stupid," taunting as a child would.

Truly, *Plan 9 from Outer Space* is one of the worst movies ever. However, it isn't bad in the sense of just having a weak plot, poor acting, or cheesy special effects. It's all those rolled into a substandard mass of sci-fi horror madness that has become a cult classic. The sheer humor value of the film is worth the dollar or two it would cost to rent, and would make a prime target for a Dorm Theater 3000.



Bela Lugosi is dead  
I mean really dead. Toe-tagged, Food for Worms, Tits Up, Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust dead. If you see him walking around the SPSU campus, call us immediately at (770) 528-7310, 'cause that would be one hell of a news story.

# Grand Theft Auto: Vice City

## DANIEL HENRY

The latest installment of the Grand Theft Auto series takes us to sunny Vice City (Miami, FL). The year is 1986 and there are all kinds of wonderful new felonious activities in store for you! From distributing flyers for your own porno throughout the city, to running from the VCPD, selling drugs to children, setting government buildings on fire, killing countless innocent bystanders, to bank robbery, the virtual world of Grand Theft Auto: Vice City is your oyster.

### The Game Play

This game is remarkably similar to *Grand Theft Auto 3*. A budding computer science student would even venture to say that it is, in fact, the same engine with new abilities tacked on to it. You control Tommy Vercetti, a notoriously dangerous mafia hit man that just got done serving time for "the family." Vercetti is sent to Vice City to begin placing the mafia's foothold on the crime-infested Vice City. Available to you are a variety of weapons, such as your fist, several handguns, an assortment of high-powered rifles, sub-machine guns and other toys. You also have a full array of vehicles that were available in the mid-80's (all with different names, of course), including cars, trucks and motorcycles, as well as cool stuff like remote controlled toys, boats, planes and helicopters.

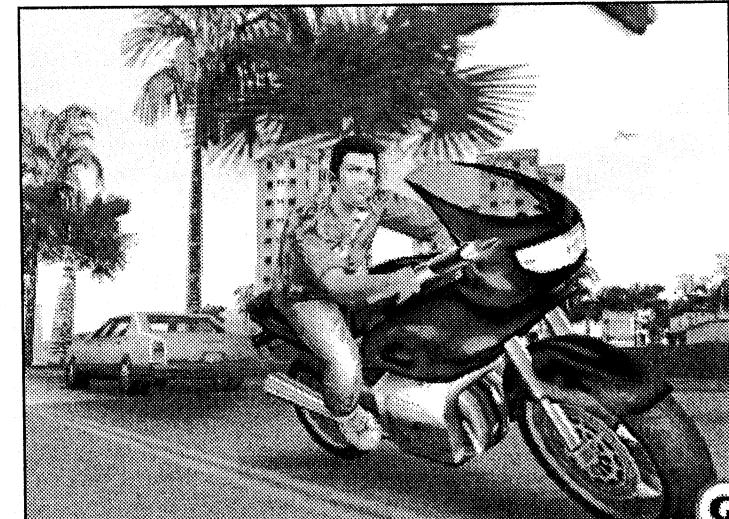
The most fun of all the new additions, I think, are the motorcycles. There is one mission where you actually get to drive one around in a crowded office building. It reminded me of the time Zachary Jones was warned not to ever drive his tricked-out Kawasaki. The game creates a

large, diverse and systematic city, swarming with people, cars, police, fire and hospital services, buildings, bridges and varying terrain. The best part is that if your computer can handle it to begin with, it can probably handle the game for the long haul because of how well written the game is. Every facet of the city is detailed and unique. There is no annoying repetition or blandness to be found. Had they been able to render every blade of grass, I am convinced they would have. You probably need at least a GeForce3 or better to play this game at a decent speed and resolution.

### The Sound & Music

This game still does not support full surround sound, which is a little annoying. However, all the sound and music in the game is crisp and clear and nothing to complain about. What is worth mentioning are the Radio Stations (music) available while riding along in your ganked car. They absolutely kick ass, as always—full of ridiculous, morally and mentally challenged hooligans that seem to make you gasp in amazement every few minutes with some random nugget of irrefutable lunacy. It would not be *GTA* without them.

Overall, this game is definitely worth playing for a while. It is worth playing because it has fantastic graphics and good game play. It's worth playing because it is well written, has some good music in it, and it absolutely hilarious. Moreover, and most importantly, it is worth playing because random acts of violence and terror make you feel better about yourself. And in my world, that's all that matters.



# student question: where are all the weapons of mass destruction?

