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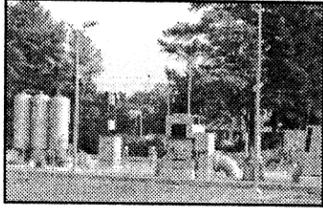


December 3, 2003

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

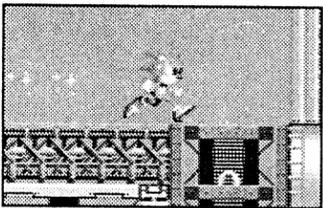
Volume 58, Edition 5

QUICK NEWS



Pipeline pums lie exposed and unguarded. (pg 2).

QUICK FEATURES



Sting critic gives Sonic the Hedgehog 87.5% in this issues Epic Gaming. (pag 12).



Sting critic gives "The Last Samurai" all available Squirrel Nuts. (pg 14).



Histories that Matter is back for the holidays. (pg 14).

QUICK OPINION



Ben Lee compares his life at SPSU to a romantic film- obviously a must read! (pg 4).



Consensus Editorial: The Closing of The Year (pg 8).

Open Letter to SPSU Students (pg 5).

Regime Change: Cabinet Recommendations for 2004 (pg 6).

Section	Page
News	1
Opinion	3
Entertainment	10

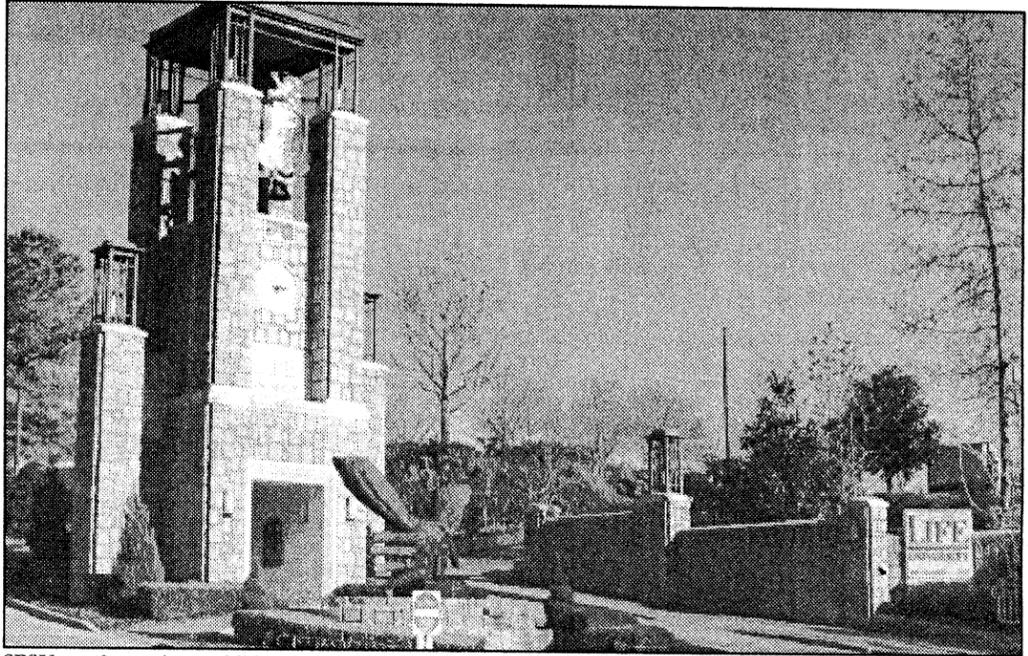
SPSU & Life University Combine

KAREN ASAY

Life's lost its accreditation in June 2002 and has since suffered a huge decrease in enrollment. Life got their accreditation back, but due to bad public relations their image was hurt and enrollment has remained low. With so few students, the university can no longer pay back its debts, totaling \$30.7 million. The SPSU foundation plans to take on Life's debt, buying the campus for a fraction of it's appraised worth.

The foundation plans to take on Life's \$30.7 million debt, which comes out to be a \$2.7 million annual payment. This is a great deal since the campus was appraised for \$52 million. The foundation intends to pay the debt with bonds, which they will subsequently pay off with monies from rent to be paid by Life University, SPSU, and possibly the Georgia Public Library Service. Life will rent back 50% to 60% of the campus (four or five buildings). SPSU will also pay the rent for the portions of campus they use.

Since SPSU's budget is already tight, Dr. Rossbacher is trying to get the Board of Regents (BoR) to take over SPSU's rental costs. On November 18, the BoR approved the foundations proposal to begin planning for the purchase of the land. Early next semester,



SPSU stands to gain an additional 89 acres of land, including 12 buildings (433,000 extra square feet of space) when the University acquires Life's campus as soon as July 2004..

when planning is finished, Dr. Rossbacher will give the formal proposal requesting that the BoR take on SPSU's rental costs. Unfortunately, even if the BoR does approve the proposal, they cannot legally guarantee that the money will be available every year. Dr. Rossbacher commented that the BoR does not make rash investments so if they approve the money, she asserted that they will

most likely make the money available every year.

Along with the acquisition of the campus, the foundation will also buy the apartments located on Life's campus. The foundation plans to finance these apartments in the same way as the University Courtyard on SPSU's campus - the foundation will sell bonds to pay for the apartments up front and use rent for the apartments to pay off the bonds. Unlike the Uni-

versity Courtyard, Life's apartments are going to be used for married couples that attend SPSU, Life, and possibly Kennesaw State University. The apartments will add 128 units with some apartments having 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms.

The merging of the SPSU and Life's campuses will add a lot of space to SPSU. SPSU is 226 acres

Continued on Page 3

SPSU Gathers for Annual Town Hall Meeting

DAN PERRY

On November 5, many of SPSU's faculty and administrators turned out for the annual Town Hall meeting held in the Student Center Theater. There, they addressed several key concerns such as housing, the car break-ins, and an array of questions presented by the few students in attendance.

Student turnout for the meeting was extremely low, perhaps less than 20. As a result, rather than its scheduled time of 11:00 a.m., the meeting began 20 minutes late. Barry Birkhead performed the welcome and was followed by Ron Koger.

Koger noted that enrollment and registration for the Spring 2004 semester was up 20% from last year. He also mentioned that in a university system press release on the added value of a college education over high school alone, SPSU ranked fourth, at \$17,000. The average value found by the study was only \$14,000.

Bill Gruszka, Chief Information Officer, spoke about this year's technology fee increase to \$75 per semester. Gruszka addressed the concern that the fee increase was unnecessary early in his speech. He explained that as SPSU carries technology as its focus, it needs more resources devoted to technology than the average four year school. He went on to discuss the fee's purpose - enhancing the educational experience through upgrades to lab

equipment, infrastructure enhancements, and developing the wireless network on campus.

After Gruszka, Patrick McCord, Vice President of Business and Finance, and Ed Klein, Director of Residence Life and Judicial Programs, spoke on the University Courtyard apartments and the development of current housing. Over the next two years, Norton and Howell dormitories will be renovated to offer a full capacity of 433 beds between the two buildings.

McCord and Klein commented that the purchase of the University Commons from the Piedmont foundation is still moving as planned. Klein stated that there would be no great changes at the point when the ownership of the Commons does change and that the current management will be maintained until at least July 1, 2004.

The University Courtyard will support 1200 new beds. The \$38 million facility will feature 4-bed, 4-bath apartments and a new community building as well as a fountain to act as a focal point for the complex. Klein expressed great pride in the planned facility, claiming it to be the best in the country and "the top of the line college housing."

As the freshman population rises, Klein explained that Residence Life will shift upperclassmen into the apartments and freshmen into the residence halls. As of next

year, freshmen will be allowed to live only in the dorms, a decision which Klein bases on research that states that freshmen perform better academically when they live in dorms. Since both apartment complexes will be equipped with kitchens, ABL meal plans will not be mandatory for apartment residents.

Klein's segue into Campus Police Chief Gary Chasteen's part of the meeting included the changes to parking and the campus roads, brought on by the University Courtyard's construction. A new loop road will be built to encompass the Courtyard and replace the current section on the east side of campus. The new road will be installed before the old one is removed, making the effect on traffic less of a concern.

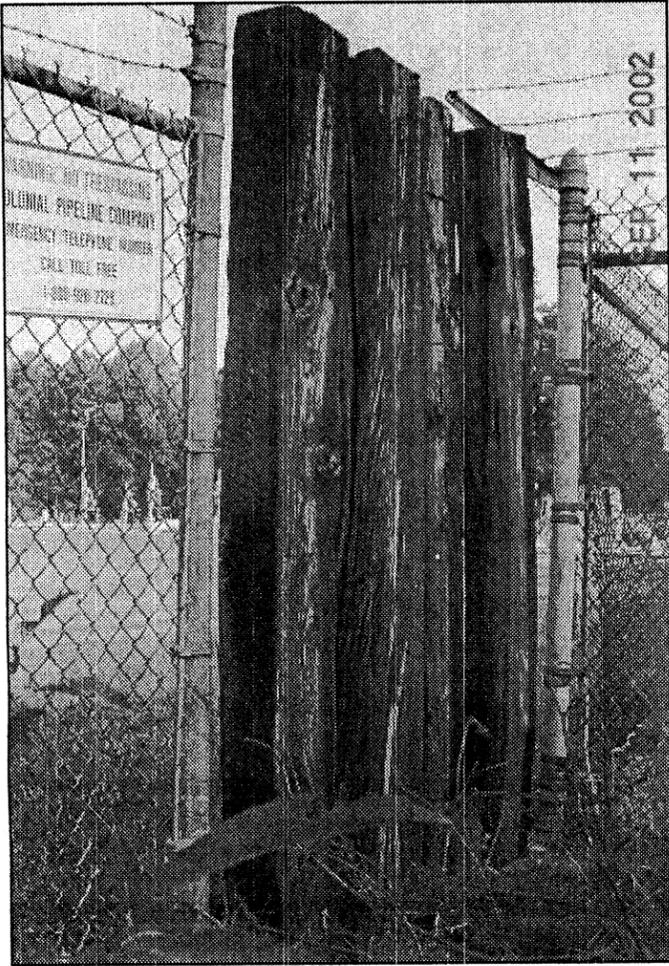
The "Ocean" parking lot, the old drive-in theater, will be demolished in preparation for the University Courtyard, causing the loss of 930 parking spaces which are of particular interest to residents of Howell Hall, as the Ocean is the closest parking to their homes. Chasteen noted that there is plenty of parking on SPSU's campus, although much of it is in locations undesirable to residents. For that, he stated a new class of parking was in the works - resident parking. Residents were recently issued a special parking decal marking them as such and will be allowed to park in areas designated for residents. One such resident zone would have been a parking lot slated for construction between Howell Hall and the Architecture building. The Board of Regents deleted this lot from the school's plans in the

interest of preserving green space.

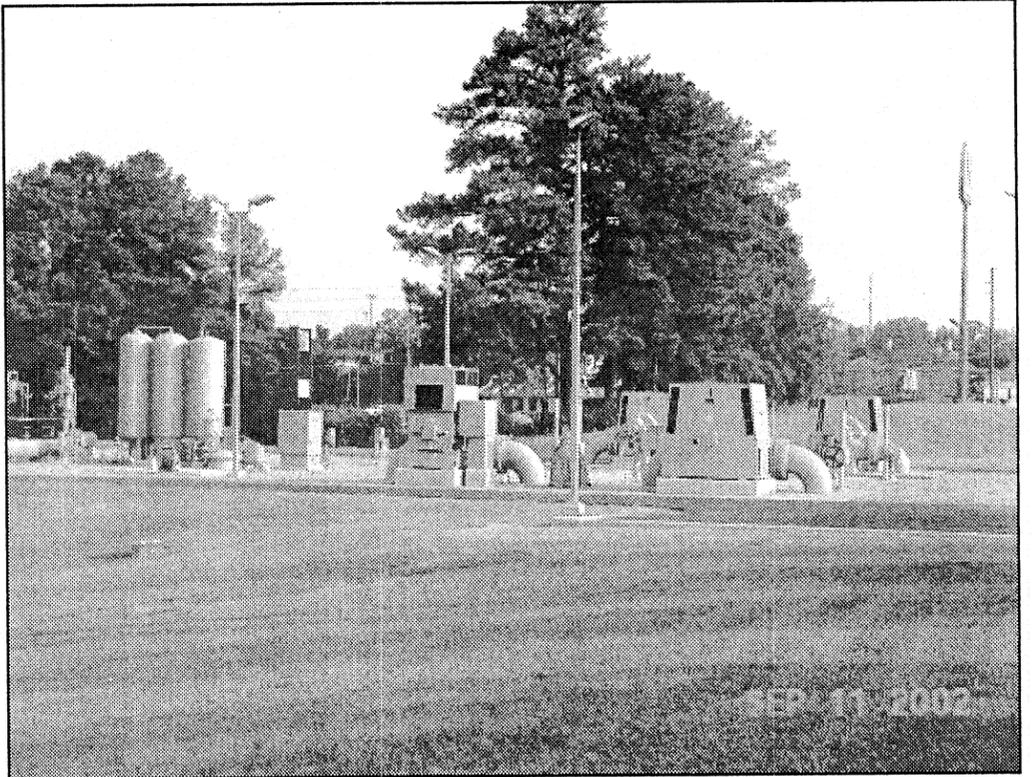
Chasteen also answered many student questions with regard to safety on campus. With the recent wave of car break-ins on campus, this was an understandably hot topic. At the moment, campus police are working with plant operations for additional fencing and brush cleaning around the parking lots. The police are also reviewing possible camera systems; however Chasteen did not act hopeful. He reminded students of the limitations of cameras in identifying suspects, especially when they wear hats and glasses. The other major problem with maintaining a camera system is monitoring, as it is difficult to afford to pay someone to sit at a desk and watch the monitors and keep their attention focused when very little is happening.

The meeting was very informative, although there were very few students present. This raised the important question of student awareness and their information. Email was cited by many students to be ineffective due to the sheer number of messages pouring into student inboxes from SPSU addresses. Students further complained that fliers quickly disappear in the forests of them which seem to cover almost any viable surface on campus. The faculty and administration responded that the students should assume their responsibilities in staying informed, such as taking the time to find out what's going on.

Two Years Since 9/11, U.S. Oil Still Vulnerable



ABOVE: Old wooden posts sunk into the red Georgia clay are what the federal government and the pipeline industry still consider a sufficient deterrent to terrorism almost 2½ years after the 9/11 attacks. This pump station in Smyrna, Georgia serving two parallel 40-in. diameter pipelines is adjacent to both one of the South's busiest rail lines and an electrical substation, with two malls and two interstates within a half mile. It is vital to supplying the eastern seaboard with 40% of its liquid fuel requirements. *Photo By Sting Staff. All Rights Reserved., 8:46 a.m. Eastern Time, September 11, 2002.*



TOP RIGHT: Four difficult-to-replace liquid petroleum pipeline pumps lie exposed and unguarded at Colonial Pipeline's Smyrna Pump Station in the early morning light in metro Atlanta. This photo, taken at 8:46 AM on September 11, 2002, demonstrates that much remains to be done to deter terrorists, starting with surveillance and improved fencing to concrete vehicle barriers and Kevlar shielding of exposed pipes and pumps. Two years after the World Trade Center attacks, little has been done. *Photo By Sting Staff. All Rights Reserved.*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Security hasn't changed at this pumping station in Dacula, Georgia since before September 11, 2001. The station helps move 40% of the eastern seaboard's gasoline supply at a rate of 65,000 gallons per minute. It underlies the approach to Gwinnett County's Briscoe Airport, where 9/11 mastermind Mohammed Atta practiced takeoffs and landings two years earlier. We trust Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ), as the next Director of Homeland Security, would do a better job securing facilities like these. *Photo By Sting Staff. All Rights Reserved.*



New Study Places Southern Polytechnic in Top Ranks for Economic Value of Higher-Education

November 5, 2003.....Southern Polytechnic State University ranks among the top four University System of Georgia institutions in the additional annual earning power its graduates can attribute to their college degree. This finding is documented in a newly-released report on higher education in Georgia, a comprehensive study commissioned by the University System of Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership program (ICAPP).

The "Value of a University System of Georgia Education" study was conducted by researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology and analyzes the earnings of nearly 90,000 University System students who graduated between 1993 and 1997. Findings indicate that a college degree from a University System of Georgia institu-

tion is worth an average of \$14,000 a year more than a high school graduate could expect to make; this is an increase that equates to nearly \$1 million additional earned income in the course of a working career for those with a college degree.

In the findings, issued statewide by the Board of Regents of Georgia today, additional annual earning power for college graduates compared to high school graduates ranged from \$5,706 for graduates of a two-year college up to \$19,362 for graduates of the Medical College of Georgia. Southern Polytechnic State University ranked in the top tier of public institutions in average additional annual earning power. The top four in this category are Medical College of Georgia, \$19,362; Georgia Institute of Technology, \$18,621; Georgia State University,

\$18,513; and Southern Polytechnic, \$17,034.

Overall, the study reports that increased earnings resulting from college degrees issued by the University System added \$1.25 billion to the state's economy during 1998, the most recent year for which data was available. The additional economic impact brought at least a million dollars per year to more than half of Georgia's 159 counties. The top two counties listed as gaining the most educational value through the employment of University System graduates were Fulton County with an impact of \$276.1 million and Cobb County with an impact of \$102.6 million.

Previous studies of the economic impact of the University System concentrated on expenditure data such as cost of construction,

employing workers and purchasing power. The methodology used for this report statistically compares the annual earnings of higher education graduates to the annual earnings of high school graduates.

"The report's predictions on occupational demand for the future validates that Southern Polytechnic is on the right track with degree programs that enhance career opportunity and contribute to economic development and growth in Georgia," says Dr. Ron Koger, SPSU's vice president for student and enrollment services and advancement.

Among the shortages of labor existing in 12 specialties, the report points to scarcities continuing in software engineering and computer systems occupations, and selected information technology fields. Says Koger, "We feel we are ahead

of the educational curve in these areas, having introduced new degree programs less than two years ago in Software Engineering at both the bachelor's and master's level; the only such degree available in the University System of Georgia. Koger states that this bachelor degree program has seen enrollment double in the past year. "At the same time," he adds, "SPSU introduced a Master of Science in Software Engineering."

There have also been enrollment increases in Southern Polytechnic's Computer Science and Information Technology degree programs and Koger says "these are the kinds of degree programs that meet industry demand for a highly-educated workforce."

The full report on the "Value of Education" and the University System of Georgia's press release

Spammers Using Viruses to Peddle Their Wares

DOUG LACHER

A solid link between spam and computer viruses has been found. The two are closely related in the way a chicken is related to an egg. Starting November 1, 2003 a virus code-named W32.Mimail.E was released in the form of a self-propagating worm that sends itself out via email. Once the virus lands on a Windows-powered computer, it installs a malicious program which copies the computer owner's Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express contact list and sends it back to the spammers who sent the virus. Then, the virus emails itself out to those people in said contact list. Later, the virus attempts a distributed denial of service (DDOS) attack against the anti-spam organizations known as Spamhaus, SpamCop and SPEWS. Spamhaus is a database of known spammers and the locations of these spammers. Spamhaus provides a service to ISPs and network administrators by sharing that da-

tabase, so the ISPs and administrators can block the spammers before their spam hits the mail servers. Spamhaus also reports spammers as they are discovered to the spammers' ISPs. This usually will result in Internet connectivity to be suspended for the spammers, and the spammers' ISP accounts will be revoked and blacklisted. SpamCop and SPEWS provide similar services. A DDOS attack basically swamps an Internet server with so many bogus service requests that the server can't respond to the legitimate requests. This effectively knocks the victimized server off the Internet.

Just two days later, another variant of the same virus was released on the Internet. W32.Mimail.H performed the same basic tasks as the E variant. It was probably released solely to get around anti-virus scanners that already were attempting to block the E variant from performing its appointed task. The main

difference in the H variant is that it did not attack the SpamCop web servers. The H variant, like the E variant, spammed itself to the computer owner's contact list. It doesn't take very long to swamp a network with this kind of traffic.

The Mimail variants are not the only viruses with this kind of relation to spam. The SoBig email virus from earlier this year was a Trojan horse that installed a proxy server on infected computers. This proxy server allowed spammers to send their spam through the victims' computers. A victim could possibly end up sending spam to their own inbox and unknowingly spam themselves!

A similar virus code-named Fizzer was released in May of 2003. The Fizzer virus took the idea of using the victims' computers for the spammers' profit one step further by actually installing a small web server on the victims' machines. The web server would host the web page content for the spammers. Fizzer spread

itself through the Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express contact list, just like the previously mentioned viruses. Fizzer also installed an IRC server on the victims' machines, so the spammers could control the victims' computers. However, this control application was for more than just the web server. Fizzer has one more card up its sleeve. It also comes with a denial of service (DOS) attack tool, just like MiMail, for attacking anti-spam organizations, such as Spamhaus, SpamCop, and SPEWS. Using their armies of "zombie" computers, spammers attempted to knock the anti-spam organizations off the Internet with DOS attacks. The larger and better equipped organizations, such as Spamhaus, SpamCop and SPEWS, managed to survive the denial of service attacks of this past year, but some of the smaller organizations aren't as well prepared and funded. Four anti-spam organizations were forced to close their doors between

August and September.

In the past, spam was simply an inbox nuisance. Now, spam has escalated to a source of viruses that are attempting to steal our personal contact lists by exploiting vulnerabilities in two of the most widely used email programs, Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express. To add insult to injury, these viruses are trying to prevent us from reporting the spammers' abuse of the email system by attacking the anti-spam organizations. War is afoot!

If you're interested in helping to stop spam by reporting it to any of the above mentioned anti-spam organizations, their web sites are www.spamhaus.org, www.spamcop.net and www.spews.org. It's usually free to sign up for an account to report spam with. Most spam reporting services are as simple as forwarding the spam you receive to the anti-spam organization you subscribe to.

Sting Forum Highlights: Car Break-ins & a Lamp Timer

DOUG "AYREHTEK" LACHER

With all the ups and downs of The Sting's server lately, it's amazing we have such dedicated people posting at the forum. Please feel free to join any of these conversations at <http://campusforum.thesting.org>. Here's what's been going on over in this little corner of the Internet lately.

The resident anonymous one, AnonymousX, has been pondering over song lyrics lately. Let's see what he has to say.

Topic: Oddest song lyrics ever?

"Late night, doin' math, figured I'd listen to some music right. So I queue up Bonerusher's music video along with Shakira's. I like 'em both, but for the love of crikey they say some retarded things (on the off chance you can UNDERSTAND Shakira.) So I'm posting this for you to submit the oddest, dumbest, or just plain most far out song lyrics you've heard.

Shakira: "Lucky I have strong legs like my mother so that I can run for cover if I need it." (...uh..yeah, you do that...)

Michael shinoda (linkin Park): "I've mastered numerology and big-bang theology, performed lobotomies with telekinetic psychology!" (WHAT?!)"

That's deep, man. That's deep. Chrisd responds with his input.

"It's a small world after all"

I'll leave it at that.

This next thread has to be the fastest growing thread I've seen since the debates about Randall Ware's activities on the SGA last year. Forum newcomer, __jason posts the following question about Chrisd and the forum logo.

Topic: Chrisd

"I was just wondering if the forum image, 'Haxord By ChrisD' is a joke or real. Either way it is very funny. And I agree, it is amazing. Decoding query strings is one of the few things I haven't mastered yet.

I look up to you chrisd, whoever you are!"

It looks like we may have a hacker-wannabe. This thread grew to 4 pages, with 68 replies and over 360 views in just 9 days. The colonel responds to __jason's question with the following remark.

"OMG - you're new here, aren't you."

__jason's reply: "yes. so do you know the answer to my question?"

The colonel's reply: "Yes. Yes I do."

It gets better. This could be part of the script to a Monty Python movie. It goes back and forth with this kind of banter for the whole thread. No answer to the original question has been posted yet.

On a slightly more serious topic, Chrisd posts about his idea for "neighborhood watch" for SPSU to help with the car theft problem.

Topic: volunteers needed for car break ins

"Can the SGA organize some student volunteers with walkie talkies to sit in their cars in the parking lots to catch the car crooks? Or perhaps have volunteers bicycle around campus and radio the police at any sign of trouble?"

See crooks.... Radio the Kampus Kops... Easy.

Maybe the Kops even already have a spare radio or two?

Since they krooks are breaking in twice a week now, it should only take a couple weeks to catch them."

Paladin adds his input.

"Good idea chrisd. Perhaps though we could take it a step further by having the SGA post a bounty on the crooks heads. Any information leading to the arrest or decapitation of the individuals responsible for the break-ins would allow someone to collect let's say \$500. I would think some individuals with axes and other sharp objects would immediately capitalize on such an offer. Well maybe they would just keep a closer look on what is going on around them and

report suspicious activity more readily if they knew there was a chance of getting some money."

I'm eager to see an arrest or two and an end to the car thieving.

At least someone seems to like The Sting as a newspaper. Omie posts his compliments.

Topic: The Sting is getting better. "just my humble opinion. keep up the good work. there is a noticeable shortage of inside jokes and fluff. grats from me. the last issue was very pleasing.

oh yeh, and some great articles from mark campbell."

No, the jokes were so inside that you can't find them. First, take the first letter of every word from each article. Then, unscramble them to form a message from The Sting. If you've gotten that far, then you've accomplished two great feats. You've wasted a lot of time and found something that doesn't exist. Congratulations! Although, we'll have to do something about those inside jokes for the future...

Paladin comments on the missing sidewalk article by Vincent in one of the last issues.

Topic: Missing Sidewalk

"What is even more stunning about Vincent's article on page 12 of The Sting (specifically the photo associated with it) is that there appears to be a fire hydrant located in close proximity to....well nothing. I guess the architecture building was far too trendy to have an old fashioned hydrant near the new building and decided to put it out back? Or perhaps this was a concession to the powerful squirrel mafia. Since some of the trees were removed they petitioned to have a hydrant placed close enough to the remaining trees in case of a forest fire. Maybe, as the article suggests, it was for the ghosts...and their dogs. Really wtf were they thinking?"

You never know when you're going to need a fire hydrant out in the middle of nowhere.

I like Chrisd's suggestion for

how to properly manage The Sting's server. I'll have to try to fit one of these gadgets into the budget.

Topic: lamp timer

"Could ya's get a lamp timer to plug the server into so it'll turn it off and back on every night so that when it crashes it'll restart that nite automatically?"

don't worry about the "unplanned shutdowns" the timer will cause. scandisk will make everything ok."

Brilliant idea! Now the server will be on when we it on. We can make a movie out of this too. *The Sting: Rebooted*. Look for it in 2050!

SPSU & Life Combine

Continued from Front Page

now and the addition of the Life campus will add another 89 acres, plus a few more with the apartments. There would be an additional 12 buildings with a total of 433,000 square feet of space.

One of the buildings SPSU will be getting is the "Tree House," which was built before the 1900's and was the house of the old caretaker of Marietta's water supply. This building has a big commercial kitchen, a dining room, and many meeting rooms. Dr. Rossbacher hopes that it can be used as a fundraising tool and for campus events since the student center has become very popular and SPSU organizations and faculty sometimes cannot get space for events.

The 1415 building on the far end of Life campus would be used for classrooms if the Georgia Public Library Service doesn't rent it. Most of the other space on campus is good for seminars rather than classrooms, except for in the gymnasium. The gym has classroom space along with basketball courts and athletic facilities. Another addition is going to be a well-manicured soccer stadium and two rugby fields.

The foundation, in addition to the purchase of Life's campus, plans to give SPSU \$5 million to renovate both campuses. Two plans for this money are to convert the old gym on SPSU's campus into studio space and tear down the I-building. The two campuses will

also be connected with a road. The road that runs in front of the utilities buildings, which almost connects the campuses, most likely will be extended to unite SPSU and Life. Another place for suitable for a road has not been identified. Walkways, foot bridges, and maybe bike paths will be put in. Further, the fence that now separates the campuses will be taken down.

Right now, Life is under Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation review. On December 6-9, Life is sending a delegate to represent them at the annual meeting of the SACS board in Nashville, TN, where the board will reveal its decision on Life's accreditation. Dr. Rossbacher is confident that even if Life is unable to rent the property from the foundation, SPSU will figure out a way to keep the campus. Rossbacher stated that there are other parties that are interested in renting parts of the campus and added that the foundation has been looking at Life campus for a long time, which she emphasized makes her confident that they would look at all situations seriously in hopes of acquiring the property.

Life University will be added to SPSU by July 2004 if everything goes as planned. The BoR must approve the proposal for final planning and financing of the acquisition. This means that by fall semester next year, Life will likely be part of the campus.

I Can't Wait to Wear that Dress!

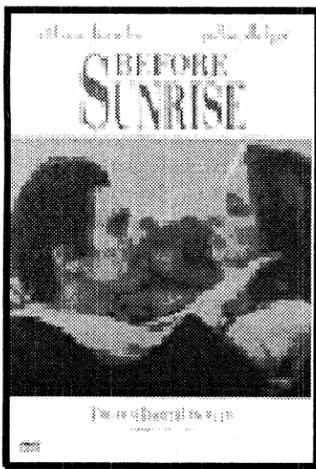
BENJAMIN LEE

This is not a dare... I am really going to wear a dress, when I graduate! Not "the dress" dress, but a graduation gown! Sometimes I wonder why they have to punish male graduates by making them wear a dress... but I digress. YIPPEE!!! My graduation is at hand! How do I feel? Well, my emotions are generally mixed but the primary one is HAPPINESS! However, I'm a very sentimental person (I don't have to want to wear a dress to be that way!) and so, what are my thoughts about having been in SPSU and then leaving it in just 18 months?

I liken my stay at the SPSU to the movie "Before Sunrise". Indulge me, I love movies and they have been good to me, by the way - I won the Georgia Press Association Best Review Award in 2002 by reviewing movies, so there...

Jesse (Hawke) and Celine (Delpy) were two complete strangers when they met on the train. They connected and had a great time that they are not ready to stop. On impulse, they suspended their respective journeys, got off the train in Vienna and spent a night with each other, wrapped in exploratory conversations and perhaps, fell in love. Set in the backdrop of historical and ornate Vienna, the attraction intensified (yes, they made out) but when morning came, reality returned and time to resume their journeys. They made a pact to meet exactly six months later, to the hour, at the same train platform in Vienna. Only then, could they confirm if what they developed over night was love.

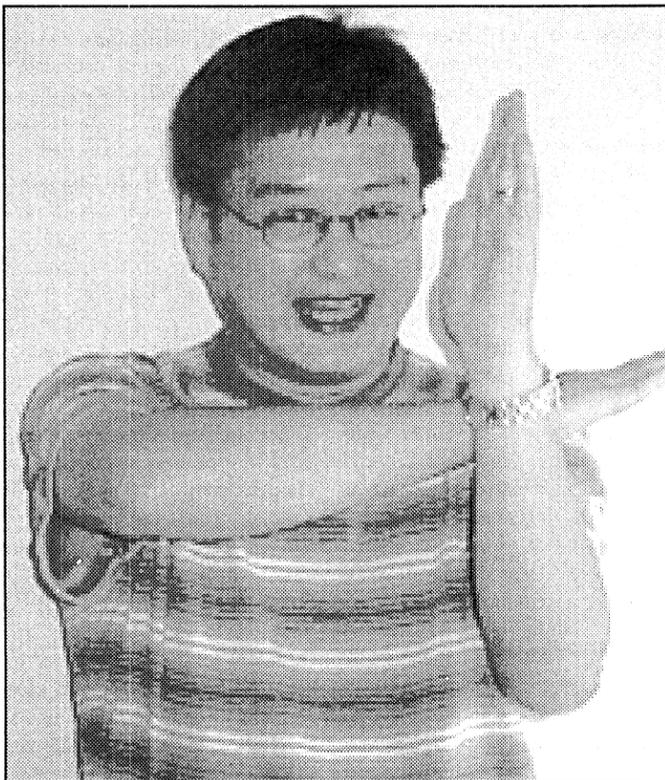
This movie is one of my favor-



"Before Sunrise" (1995)
(Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy)

ites especially the way the relationship built with such intensity and it helped that the chemistry between Hawke and Delpy was constantly brewing at the seams. It was effectively scripted as the build up was gradual and intense. At the end, it made me feel their pain of having to part and at the same time applaud them for being realistic and responsible. It left me at the edge of the cliff, wondering if they would meet on that appointed moment.

My relationship with SPSU is this way - short and intense. I got here in summer 2002 and immediately packed it with a 16 hour load and followed up with three 7-class semesters. So, I'm masochistic, but when the fees cost me about \$4,500 per semester, I guess I have to forgo the luxury of pursuing and expanding my interests. I would have loved



Ben Lee makes plans to escape (abandon) *The Sting* with the clever use of a dress.

to take more management classes, get a second major in Math (instead of a minor), and to continue with, where certain classes like, U.S. History and Spanish, left off.

So, am I in love with SPSU? One of the reasons I am is that SPSU comprises beautiful people whom I consider the pulse of this university. It helped that SPSU is relatively small (in size) and this facilitates building deeper rapport, with the people here, - faculty members, staff and students - because you tend to meet the same people almost all the time! Most faculty members and staff in SPSU, whom I have come into contact with, are genuinely concerned and are interested in knowing me as a person. This is a culture shock because back in Singapore, the faculty (teachers) and staff generally see themselves as superiors. As such, they would keep a distance from the students. What is more shocking is that if they want to know me better, they take the initiative! In Singapore everyone waits for each other to make that first move. Maybe that's why people are marrying later in life (in their late 20s, for most). I am not surprised that if it wasn't for the Internet, Singapore will be a "very frustrated" country (you know what I mean!), again I digress.

I wish I could be in SPSU longer and have more time to get to know the faculty and staff better and then hopefully build a stronger friendship with them. Similarly for students, those I met and got to know are awesome! As I was too focused with my classes, opportunities for interaction were limited. Still, I am too much a people person to just bury myself behind the books all the time. So, I got involved with The Sting, ISA, Math Help Sessions, and SIFE and that paid off, big time! I have met a myriad of students - from internationals to locals; fresh from high school to fifty plus year-old grandmothers; rejects from hell to angels from heaven; party mongers to bookworms - you all have broadened my horizons and helped me see things in bigger and more varied perspectives. So to the SPSU fac-

ulty members and staff, who are genuine people; and to the students, whom I have the privilege to know, all of you added value to my life. So, if on this account alone, I am in love with SPSU.

For me to be in love with SPSU I need to know more than its heart (the people), I need to know its dreams and for it to be the best that it wants to be so that I can actively help it achieve its dreams and so that I can be proud of it. In that regard, I wish I could meet with the President of SPSU, Dr Rossbacher, the mother of SPSU, spend some time over tea (and some cookies) and learn of her vision for her child - what does she hope for her child to blossom into? Does she want her to produce extraordinary offspring who become Nobel Prize winners, or just decent people who contribute positively to society? I love my primary and secondary school not only because it is an elite one in Singapore but because its vision is explicitly spelt out in the school's motto - "The Best Is Yet To Be". Having been in an elite school made my resumé look superior; it allowed me to form better first impressions with other people who believed in the school's quality. I have a reasonable amount of nationalistic pride because Singapore has made phenomenal progress in the world arena. I am convinced that I have received a quality education from SPSU but what about its vision? Is it going to be far-reaching or is it going to remain small? When I am in love, I want to be able to proudly declare it! Likewise, I want to be able to proudly declare that I graduated from Southern Polytechnic State University but at this point, I will say it, but I am not sure if I will holler it.

So, like "Before Sunrise" will I return to the train platform six months later? I would on the account of the people and the ability to get quality education. So, if SPSU has room for me, I just might return for the MBA program. Am I in love with SPSU? Well, let's just say that I'm still open...



BY DOUG LACHER

It's no secret that the network has been very slow lately. Sometimes loading a simple web page takes several tries, each try as much as two to five minutes, and even then the images don't load. The IT department is as well aware of this as everyone else is. It's not a problem that's isolated to the dorms. The rest of the campus is suffering as well. Let's start with explaining the source of the problem.

The problem lies with the computer viruses that have been plaguing the Internet over the last several months. The way these viruses propagate themselves is to exploit a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows NT, 2000 and XP's Remote Procedure Call (RPC) service. The virus, or more accurately "worm," sends a ping to the host it wants to try to infect. If the host responds to the ping, the worm will attempt to connect to the host via RPC. The code for the worm is then "injected" into the computer, and the cycle starts over. The worm seems to be using a Network Time Protocol (NTP) server to synchronize its clocks, so all the worms attempt to infect other computers simultaneously. Each worm will attempt to ping and connect to hundreds of computers on the network at the specified time or times each day. With several infected computers on the network attempting this simultaneously, the network is being bogged down with connection requests. It's not so much the bandwidth being used as it is the processor time being used on the network's router. All the network traffic flows through one central router. The router has a backplane capacity of 32 Gigabits per second of switched bandwidth, and that's more than enough to support the bandwidth demands of this school. This is over 500,000 times more bandwidth than a 56k dialup modem and over 20,000 times faster than the average home cable modem or ADSL connection (1.5 Mbps). The router's software must perform a few tasks for every connection attempt. First, it must verify that the connection's destination exists. If the destination computer exists, then the router must setup the "flow" for the traffic by establishing the physical route from computer A to computer B. After that is done, the rest is handed over to the super-fast hardware, the 32 Gbps switched backplane of the router. This doesn't take much time for the software to do, but when you have hundreds of requests like that happening simultaneously (which is what happens when the worms try to propagate), the time taken up by all the worm activity swamps the router. This makes legitimate network usage, such as email and web surfing, unable to get through the router and to the Internet.

When this started a few months ago, IT contacted Enterasys, the vendor that supplies our network hardware, to ask them

if there were any solutions for the router that was being crippled by the swarm of worm activity. The constant extreme spikes in network traffic were causing the router to crash and then a manual reboot was required. Enterasys installed some new BETA software on the router. The new software for the router gave it the capacity to "throttle" specific physical interfaces that were causing trouble. The router has several blades connected to it, and each blade has 2, 4, 8 or 16 interfaces on it. Each building on campus is connected to the router via one of those interfaces. The idea was that if a particular building was causing the network traffic spikes, then that one building would have its connection cut back, so the other buildings would not suffer. The only problem was a bug in the software. Instead of throttling just the specific interface, the router would throttle the whole blade and subsequently all interfaces connected to that blade. The Atrium (J) building, MET (K) building, IT Lab (H), and Math (D) building used to all be on the same blade. The J building was causing all four of these buildings on that one blade to be throttled. IT has moved the J building off that blade and onto its own blade now, but J is still causing problems.

The most problems come from three buildings, and you can probably guess which they are. I've already mentioned the J building. The remaining two are Howell Hall and Norton Hall. J building houses over half of the "campus" (non-student owned) computers. That's because of all the computer science labs in there. The J building is on the top of the priority list for being cleaned up. Professors are trying to teach classes but can't because of the lack of decent network access. Once the J building is cleaned up and fully functional again, IT will focus on the dorms.

There is hope on the horizon. IT has requested a special project from the school President to allocate the necessary funding to purchase additional hardware to augment the network's capacity, so the IT department can then deal with the problem. A Dragon Intrusion Detection System (IDS) has been purchased, and the IT department is working on setting it up. IT is throwing in every available resource, all the available time and personnel they can to work on this issue. Using the Dragon IDS combined with the already-present, managed switches and network management software, IT will be able to pinpoint exactly what computers on the network are causing problems. Once the trouble makers are identified, steps can be taken to fix the computers. IT is going to be working very diligently on this task, but it will take a while to completely resolve the issue. There's no estimate as to when it'll all be done. IT

Open Letter to SPSU Students

The State of Georgia's budget situation has been very much in the news recently, and I want to share with you the information that I have about the possible impacts for Southern Polytechnic State University.

As a state agency, the University System of Georgia has been instructed by the Office of Planning and Budget to prepare for several potential budget cuts over the next 7 months. The basic reason is the poor performance of the state and national economy, which resulted (in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003) in two consecutive years of declining tax revenues for the State of Georgia.

Like all state agencies, the University System of Georgia has been asked to plan for a "probable" 2.5% budget cut in the current fiscal year. (A 2.5% reduction in SPSU's state-allocated budget is \$470,700.) Here at SPSU, we planned ahead, and we set those funds aside when we established the budget for our current fiscal year, which runs from last July 1 (2003) to next June 30 (2004).

In addition, all state agencies have been asked to plan for a "possible" further 5% cut in the next fiscal year (which starts July 1, 2004), as well as for the possibility that we could have to transfer an additional 3% of our state-allocated budget. For SPSU, that total additional cut of 8% — a worst-case scenario. I hope — would be a further reduction in our state-allocated budget of \$1,468,700.

The funds in the overall University budget at SPSU include both those allocated by the state, which make up about 70-75% of the total, and tuition dollars, which make up the rest of the budget for the University. More than 60% of these overall funds are invested directly in the academic programs, and the remainder constitutes various forms of support for instruction. Together, the state allocation and tuition must cover all the costs of your education: faculty and staff costs, scholarships, library, utilities, instructional equipment, computing facilities and internet access, custodial services, physical plant maintenance, etc.

Over the last few years, SPSU's budget has been cut multiple times — since November of 2001, our budget has been reduced by \$2,150,000. This recent history makes facing a new round of reductions even more challenging. This is a compelling reason for us to be starting our planning now, so that we will fully understand the impact of any budget cuts we may decide to make.

On November 20, the vice presidents and CIO presented budget-planning scenarios in an open meeting to the University community, describing what they see as the expected impacts if they had to address an 8% cut in their budget for the next fiscal year. If SPSU has to cut our budget by that amount, I can guarantee this will not happen "across the board," so these 8% scenarios are for discussion purposes only. However, this exercise is a useful planning tool. In developing these scenarios, the



President Lisa Rossbacher addresses possibility of cuts in state budget monies as steep as 8%.

University's senior staff were guided by a set of principles that were developed earlier this fall and which were posted on the University's web site for comments. These "guiding principles" will continue to be helpful as we plan for

Guiding Principles for Developing the FY05 Budget

Protect the quality of instruction.

Support student access to education.

Strengthen the sense of place and people.

Create and invest resources.

the next academic — and fiscal — year.

A total reduction of 8% in the state-appropriated budget for SPSU would have serious consequences. We will not know for months what the actual budget for next year will look like, but an 8% cut is likely to bring some of the following impacts: warmer rooms in the summer and cooler spaces in the winter; reduced custodial service in public spaces; fewer classes being offered and larger class sizes; users paying for printing in computer labs; reduction in hours for open computer labs; increased use of part-time faculty in summer school; and a reduction in staff positions. I very much hope that any reduction in personnel can be accomplished through attrition (not filling vacant positions), but there is no guarantee that we will be able to do this without layoffs.

This bleak scenario must be viewed in the context of all the budget questions whose answers are still unknown: Will state revenues increase? Will the overall economy improve? Will the Board of Regents approve any tuition increases for 2004-05? Will SPSU enrollment continue to increase? Will the Georgia General Assembly continue to fund

the University System in the traditional ways? Will any raises be authorized for faculty and staff, after there were no raises this year? All I can say is: Stay tuned. The budget for fiscal year 2005 (starting July 1, 2004) is still very much a work in progress.

Clear communication is vital in this challenging environment. As we continue to develop the University's budget, members of the University community, including students, will have multiple opportunities to hear about our progress, to ask questions, and to offer suggestions. Upcoming opportunities include the following:

December 9, 2003: Open meetings on fee requests and enrollment targets for fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005) (Please note that two times are scheduled, in the hope that students attending classes in the daytime and the evening will find a convenient time to attend)

12:00 (noon) – 12:50 p.m. – Student Center Ballroom
5:00 – 5:50 p.m. – Building M, Room 100

January 2004: Open meeting for preview of SPSU budget presentation to USG staff

March/April 2004: Open meeting(s) on status of fiscal year 2005 state allocation

This budget planning process is difficult, but we share a commitment to a quality instructional program, to ensuring student access to educational opportunities, to building our "sense of place" and our support for the people who are part of this community, and to finding innovative ways to create and invest resources that will put us in an even stronger position when the economy turns around. By working together, by communicating clearly and opening, and by maintaining our commitment to the community, we'll survive this budget process as a stronger, better University.

With very best wishes,
President Lisa A. Rossbacher

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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 2 p.m. 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.

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Regime Change: Cabinet Recommendations for 2004

WILLIAM BURKE & MARK CAMPBELL

It's one thing to offer you Howard Dean, M.D., and Gen. Wesley Clark as commonsense, populist alternatives to the neo-conservative corporate special-interest cabal of Bush-Cheney. We feel, however, that any administration's approach to topics such as corporate mis-governance and malfeasance, foreign relations, health and public safety, infrastructure, national defense, economic growth and trade, human rights and our place in the environment lie with the leadership it chooses for the executive bureaucracy. There are functions which can only be performed by government for the good of all Americans, and it is a matter of philosophy as to what is considered best.

Rather than abstractly expound on what we feel the next administration should do, we have opted to cull the political landscape for effective leaders for a White House Cabinet too. We introduce our choices, state why we selected them, and contrast them with those currently serving the present administration.

You may not like our choices, or our attitude. That's ok by us, as long as you participate in the debate as to where our country stands, and where it should be going. We encourage you to write a letter to the editor, and if you have a recommendation for the next White House, explain who or what, and why you feel that your recommendation should be considered. America will be better off if you participate, not merely by voting, but by encouraging your fellow Americans to back your position with debate.

One thing we aren't going to do is make your arguments for you. These are our choices, our reasons, and our observations. *The Sting* will give you equal time, but what you make of it is up to you.

Secretary of Agriculture: Neil E. Harl

As a professor at Iowa State University in Economics and a sitting member of the Iowa Bar, Neil Harl does not immediately stand out as someone who would be a good head of the Department of Agriculture. What Harl does have that sets him apart is numerous agricultural economic studies under his belt. With over 27 books and over 300 publications, he can be considered an expert on the subject of Agriculture.

He is not just an academic expert on American agricultural studies, but he has also spoken in over 17 countries on various subtopics in the discipline. He has participated in debates over the merits of small farming, entrepreneurship, and on the economy as a whole.

His opposition is Ann M. Veneman, the current Secretary and sponsor of the "Farm Bill," which even the (p)resident does not believe will work. Neil E. Harl also believes in labeling genetically modified food differently in

line with international standards, as opposed to the closed-door methods of the White House. Veneman, on the other hand, was once on the board of directors of Calgene, which brought the first genetically-modified food item, the Flavr Savr tomato, to American grocers.

Secretary of Commerce: Charles A. Gonzalez

We're picking a former Texas trial lawyer to head the Department of Commerce. Charlie Gonzalez is in his third term as a democratic congressman from San Antonio. He's a member of the House Financial Services Committee and the House Small Business Committee. Gonzalez is also a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, an educational institution that rejected the current (p)resident as unworthy of entering its law school.

Gonzalez serves on subcommittees involving capital markets, insurance, government-sponsored enterprises, financial institutions and consumer credit, domestic monetary policy technology and economic growth. He is also on a subcommittee on regulatory reform and oversight as well as workforce, empowerment, and government programs. Gonzalez has also served on Congressional Task Forces for Business and Economic Development and also for Financial Services.

Also of note, Charlie's father, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, exposed the fact that the (p)resident's father, George Bush, Sr., was instrumental in the conspiracy to use agricultural credits through the Banco Nazionale Lavoro in Atlanta to funnel funds to Saddam Hussein for weaponry, at the behest of Bush's close friend, Prince Bandar bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia. It's a small world, after all.

His opposition is Don Evans, who also graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA in 1973. Evans spent 25 years with Tom Brown, Inc., an interstate oil company, before becoming the (p)resident's campaign chairman, raising \$191 million. We're guessing that in the Bush camp, if you become a \$100K fund-raising "pioneer" 1,910 times over, you get to be Commerce Secretary, quid pro quo.

Secretary of Defense: Colin Powell

That's right, *Republican* Colin Powell, the Bush Administration's Secretary of State, is our pick for the Dean-Clark ticket's Secretary of Defense. We believe that Powell's refusal to include the yellowcake claim in his speech before the United Nations is a strong willingness to stand up for the United States and against the neo-conservatives allied with the current (p)resident.

As a general and a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Best of enemies Rumsfeld meets Saddam back in 1983



America's leading hawk, the defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, meets his arch foe, Saddam Hussein, in Baghdad in 1983. This photograph was taken during the Iran Iraq war, when Mr. Rumsfeld was an envoy of President Reagan and the US was more sympathetic to Iraq. Photograph: Getty Images

Staff, we believe Powell has the requisite military experience to serve as a good Defense Secretary. His unwillingness to cave in to the Bush hawks demonstrates a faithfulness to the nation first, the Armed forces second, and to his party a distant third. Besides, this will give our dear Dr. Dean *two* top-level military experts in the cabinet.

His opposition is Donald Rumsfeld – in fact, that's been true inside the Bush administration for a long time. To put it mildly, Rumsfeld is incompetent, and the professionals in the Pentagon are sick of making that neo-con blowhard look good.

Secretary of Education: Mary Sue Coleman

For this one, we'll go with Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of North Carolina, and completed *postdoctoral* work at UNC and the University of Texas at Austin.

As U. Mich. president she has had to stand up against the current administration to argue that diversity in a student body is both good for universities and for society as a whole. Add to that her leadership on the American Council on Education's Task Force on Teacher Education and Commission on Minorities in Higher Education, and you have a clear educational winner.

Her opposition is Rod Paige, who earned a doctorate at the University of Indiana and was once the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. For a decade prior to becoming Education Secretary, Paige was the Dean of the College of Educa-

tion at Texas Southern University, where he was also head football coach and athletic director. We'll be the first to admit that Dr. Coleman has never coached football.

Secretary of Energy: Martha Marks

Sometimes a leader isn't the person with the most influential credentials, but a person with the ability to lead. That is why we're picking Dr. Martha Marks – but don't be fooled by the Ph.D., as it is in Spanish literature and linguistics from Northwestern University. We chose Marks because she is the President of Republicans for Environmental Protection America, and has taken the (p)resident on about his pork-barrel energy bill.

Marks has correctly pointed out that we're driving bigger vehicles, heating and cooling bigger homes, hooking up more computers and appliances, and yet, except for occasional outage-induced spikes, our energy costs are lower than in most industrial nations. She advocates very strongly that we pursue energy efficiency and conservation, hybrid vehicles, and renewable energy before we buy into the fictional Bush "energy crisis" that would despoil nature and increase greenhouse gasses. And yes, she is our second (known) Republican for the Dean-Clark Democratic ticket.

Her opposition is Spencer Abraham, who has an impressive sounding name. However, under his watch, Enron et al manipulated the California electricity market, then Enron folded, Unocal finally got the US Army to oust the Taliban and install Unocal func-

tionary Hamid Karzai as Afghani president, Halliburton et al got the US Army to oust Saddam Hussein and install Philip Carroll of Shell to oversee the Iraqi oil industry, a gasoline pipeline serving Phoenix blew up, the Northeastern electrical grid failed, and major oil companies may yet get immunity from MTBE lawsuits, subsidies for a natural gas pipeline from Alaska to Chicago, and huge tax breaks, which also included complete write-offs for any "businessman" who wants a 6000+ SUV like the Hummer H2, which ought to make Abraham's former bosses at General Motors very happy indeed. But let's not forget that on his White House bio, he is *so* proud of his Government Paperwork Elimination Act. We understand that if you hold his mouth up to your ear, you can actually hear the ocean.

Secretary of Health & Human Services: Dr. Jeffrey Koplan

Jeffrey Koplan, M.D., is currently Vice-President for academic health affairs at Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, which he had joined here in Atlanta in 1972. Koplan resigned abruptly in March of 2002, after disagreements with the current HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson over the role the CDC would play in future bio-terrorism incidents after the anthrax mailings.

Koplan was part of the medical team that eradicated smallpox as well as tackling the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India, that killed at least 1600 and injured tens of thousands, maiming many.

Get a Doctor to Carve the Turkey

WILLIAM BURKE & MARK CAMPBELL

Suppose, for a moment, that a fiscally conservative governor who established rainy day reserves and managed to maintain a surplus during a recession opted to run for the presidency. Suppose, as a three-term governor, that he had supported fully funded educational initiatives, from pre-kindergarten through college, during that time. Suppose he had led his state to the highest childhood immunization rate in the country. And, suppose he had graduated from the prestigious Albert Einstein School of Medicine in just three, instead of the traditional four years, before becoming board certified to practice medicine.

Now suppose that his running mate was a retired 4-star army general who had served his country as the NATO Supreme Allied Commander and had successfully put an end to genocide in the Balkans. Suppose this general had earned a Masters degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics as a Rhodes Scholar at the prestigious Oxford University. And yes, suppose this general, near the start of his 34-year army career, had been wounded in Vietnam while leading his platoon in combat, earning a bronze star, a silver star, and a Purple Heart.

Now suppose that their opposition was an incumbent (p)resident who had misled the American people. Suppose the (p)residential deceit led not to a scandal about a blowjob, but to two concurrent wars on the other side of the world, the largest public deficits in the history of the nation, and economic doldrums not seen since Franklin Delano Roosevelt inherited a Republican cluster-futz from Herbert Hoover. Suppose the incumbent was not an eminent scholar, but a mediocre MBA graduate from Harvard and a reject of the University of Texas School of Law.

And suppose the (p)resident had gone AWOL in Alabama during his stint in the National Guard

during the Vietnam War. Further, suppose he had lost the popular vote for President in his first campaign, and may have likely lost the electoral vote too if a conservative Supreme Court, some of whose members had been selected by his father, hadn't stepped in to stop the recounts in a state governed by his brother.

Suppose his running mate had managed to earn a Masters in Political Science at the University of Wyoming, having failed out of Yale. And suppose the vice-(p)resident had served as the Chief Executive Officer of Halliburton, which has received numerous no-bid contracts from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers during the present administration's tenure.

And suppose the vice-(p)resident had chaired secret Energy Task Force meetings to decide on global energy strategies, in which CEO's like Enron's Kenneth Lay, had participated. Suppose this happened while energy marketers, like Enron, manipulated the California energy market, plunging the state into record deficits, then Enron declaring bankruptcy, leading to the crash and burn of the once-prestigious Arthur Anderson accounting firm, all the while CEOs like Lay escape a perp walk.

Suppose both of these incumbents, with close ties to the oil industry and the House of Saud, withheld intelligence assessments indicating ties between influential people in Saudi Arabia and al-Qaeda from a commission investigating the 9/11 attacks. Suppose the current administration had redacted 27 pages about Saudi Arabian connections to the attack. Suppose the (p)resident had once headed a company (CaterAir) owned by the Carlyle Group, amongst whose investors were the family members of Abdullah bin Laden, whose half-brother Osama is widely held responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

Suppose the (p)resident had

arranged for over a dozen bin Laden kin to fly in private jets around the United States in the days after 9/11, when commercial air travel was grounded. Suppose he had done this at the behest of a close family friend, after sharing a drink and cigars on the Truman balcony of the White House on the evening of September 13, 2003. Suppose that close personal friend was Prince Bandar bin Sultan, a member of the Saudi royal family, whose wife Haifa had written a personal check that had aided two of the fifteen Saudi Arabian hijackers responsible for the attack.

You might think the 2004 Presidential race wouldn't even be a close contest. Certainly Governor Howard Dean, M.D. (D-VT) and General Wesley K. Clark (U.S.A., Ret.) should walk all over the current pretzel-choking and heart-attack/stroking incumbents, George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney, respectively.

Yet Dean is hated by the pill-popping, democracy-hating radio talk-show fascists for the very things for which they praised former President Ronald Reagan. Dean sticks to his guns, standing by his principles no matter what people say to, or about, him.

Unlike Reagan, Dean hasn't covered up lies that killed American soldiers. It was Reagan who put American soldiers' lives at risk during the Iran-Contra crimes of the mid-1980s. At least one of those talk-show fascists (Oliver North) was a key figure in that scandal — though his pardon by George Bush, Sr., kept him from serving time like another right-wing talk show host, G. Gordon Liddy of Watergate fame.

Clark, on the other hand, is supposedly too much like Al Gore to be voted into office. He signed up for the military (like Gore), and is compared to being a model boy scout (as was Gore). Clark seems to have his head on his shoulders and is precise when he needs to be, just like Gore. Fortunately for Clark, he does not have the stig-

mata Gore bore by being closely associated with President Clinton, whom right-wing nuts still castigate for Monica Lewinsky and a blowjob.

But this is America, where those radio talk-show demagogues accuse Democrats of "politicizing" the 9/11 investigation for looking into what the (p)resident knew, and when he knew it, with an eye towards "using" it against the (p)resident in the upcoming election.

In the meanwhile, political operatives in the administration have not only exposed the name of a deep cover CIA officer (Valerie Plame), but also the CIA front company (Brewster-Jennings & Associates) established as cover for Plame and other intelligence officers — all for the political purpose of retaliating against her husband, former Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV. After months of listening to White House deceit, Wilson finally spoke out and revealed that he was sent to investigate the alleged attempt of Iraq to purchase uranium dioxide from Niger. He easily established that the documents (acquired by Italian intelligence) were forgeries over a year before Bush launched the war, and the (p)resident knows it.

Bush, knowing his own intelligence agencies would not endorse the yellowcake claim, stated instead in his 2003 State of the Union address that, "The British Government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." Like allegations that aluminum tubes were meant for centrifuges instead of short-range missiles, or mobile hydrogen-producing trailers were mobile biological weapons labs, or that Saddam supported Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, or that Iraq was an imminent weapons of mass destruction threat, it simply wasn't true.

The current regime in the White House is a clear and present danger to Americans, at home and

abroad, in securing for themselves their unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our present "war against terror" has apprehended neither Osama bin Laden nor Saddam Hussein, but has inflamed Islamist sentiments even more strongly against us. It has, however, made serious inroads into our civil liberties, making even the writing (and reading) of this editorial a suspicious activity worthy of investigation under the U. S. Patriot Act.

According to the Bush administration, the ever-increasing number and severity of attacks against our troops in Iraq is "a sign of desperation" by the insurgents, and thus an indicator of U. S. success. We hope that the (p)resident doesn't mean that a cessation of attacks against U.S. forces would be a strong indication of failure. With logic such as this, the words "Mission Accomplished" sound more like an ominous clarion call for more body bags.

There are seven other Democratic contenders for the Presidency — renowned individuals like Dick Gephardt, Joseph Lieberman, Carol Moseley Braun, John Kerry, Rev. Al Sharpton, John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich. In any typical campaign season, it would be reasonable to let the state primaries winnow the field of candidates down.

But these are not ordinary times. We need effective leadership to get this country out of the many jams the current administration has blundered into, and to get back to a platform of common sense and rationality. It is time for the above seven to put aside their own aspirations and unite early behind Dean and Clark.

So to these seven Democratic contenders, we say that this is what America needs, though the country may not yet recognize the fact. Be the leaders you are, and recognize it for her.

Regime Change

Continued From Page 6

Koplan has worked on chronic diseases, HIV/AIDS, and the health effects of tobacco.

His opposition is his former boss, former governor Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin. Thompson opposed necessary renovations at the CDC in Atlanta, encouraging the building of a new CDC center in Fort Collins instead. Thompson advocates a hysterical emphasis on bio-terrorism, ignoring the more mundane, persistent and actual threats posed by natural outbreaks and chronic diseases. Thompson has advocated privatizing Medicare by insisting seniors participate in Health Maintenance Organizations at a huge increase of costs to taxpayers, while pursuing efforts to make it difficult to fill prescriptions from less expensive Canadian sources.

Department of Homeland Security: Jon Corzine

Although we were loath to raid the United States Senate, where Jon Corzine's leadership is vital, the demands of Homeland Security compel us to do so. The Democrat from New Jersey has been at the forefront of efforts to increase security at the nation's chemical plants, in the hopes of forestalling terrorists from using our own industries as weapons of mass destruction against us.

The Sting has published a series of articles about refined petroleum pipeline security in the Atlanta area, where some 2.2 million barrels of gasoline and other products flow daily to the Northeast, serving 40% of the demand on the east coast. Like Corzine, we have been frustrated at the lack of responsiveness of the indus-

try, Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to address these vulnerabilities.

Corzine's opposition is the aforementioned Ridge (and a \$450 billion chemical industry). Ridge's predominant accomplishment has been the establishment of the Transportation Security Administration. Unfortunately, Guilford College (NC) student Nathan Heatwole, in planting box cutters onboard a Southwest Airlines jet this fall, proved that Ridge can't even close the proverbial barn door after the horses have left. But as a Bush 2000 "pioneer," he did raise a ton of money for the (p)resident.

Secretary of Housing & Urban Development: Sheila Crowley

As the president of the National

Low Income Housing Coalition, Sheila Crowley has worked in Washington D.C. with many different agencies to pursue affordable housing for the poor, elderly, and disabled. She has, with the help of her constituents, worked to increase the budget to HUD. The reason she pushes for a federal program to cover housing is the current state budget crunch. Following the advice of many different organizations, she and the NLIHC have taken great leaps and strides toward the fair pricing of housing in the United States.

Crowley has argued against the tendency of this administration to pursue block grants for housing to be administered at the state level. She has reasoned that such a move encourages the growth of 50 different bureaucracies at the state level. Furthermore, she recognizes that the current anti-American position of the (p)resident also would result

in cuts of those very block grants at a time when more Americans find themselves unable to meet their rent or mortgage obligations. She has argued that permitting HUD to pay landlords electronically, and the consistency of the federal government in encouraging Section 8 housing, provides the housing construction sector incentives to build more, not less, affordable housing.

Her opposition, Mel Martinez, is the (p)resident's champion of faith-based initiatives, arguing that Christian charities should be supported by the federal government to take on more and more of the burden of feeding and sheltering the homeless. Martinez left Cuba as a child in 1962 under the protection of the Catholic Church, which placed him with two different foster families. The former banker and lawyer previously served as Orange County chairman in Orlando, as well

Continued on Page 8

Regime Change

Continued on Page 8

as the Orlando Housing Authority Continued on Page 5 and president of the Orlando Utilities Commission. He was also the Vice-President of the Board of Catholic Charities of the Orlando Diocese.

Secretary of Interior: John Echohawk

We dare our Republican opposition to call John Echohawk a backwards, backwoods savage. He's been practicing law, both for Native American rights and for environmental defense, for over thirty years. Echohawk heads the Native American Rights Fund, and is also a board member of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Echohawk earned an undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico in 1967, then graduated from the Albuquerque campus's law school in 1970. A member of the Pawnee Tribe, Echohawk was a key member of the legal team that sued the Department of the Interior to recover monies owed for grazing, mining, and oil and gas drilling on Native American lands.

His opposition is Gale A. Norton, who is currently in contempt of court for failing to produce the accounting of the very monies for which Echohawk successfully sued. Norton was previously the head of the Coalition of Republican Environmental Advocates, an organization hastily thrown together in late 1998 in a pre-emptive attempt to counter charges that Republicans were anti-environmental in the buildup to the 2000 presidential campaign. That "coalition" was supported by Ford and BP Amoco, among others. There are *real* environmental Republicans, though – we've recommended one of them for Secretary of Energy...

Attorney General: Eliot Spitzer

Eliot Spitzer. That's right, you've never heard of him. That's because while the Bush administration has been screaming about all the good things we're supposedly doing in Iraq, Spitzer has been going after the baddies at home.

We're not talking about terrorists, but thieves and swindlers. Spitzer is the New York State Attorney General, and his office has done more to prosecute CEOs, their companies, mutual funds and board members of the New York Stock Exchange than the Bush administration's Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission combined.

His opposition is John Ashcroft – the oddball who has stripped most Americans and foreigners of their rights is a powerbroker behind John Poindexter's (of Watergate fame) Total Information Awareness Program, yet he stopped the FBI from investigating whether any 9/11 hijackers had purchased weapons. One of Ashcroft's first acts was to have some drapery hung to obscure the semi-nude Statue of Justice – we guess he wanted to be the only

boob seen on television.

Secretary of Labor: Carol Moseley Braun

There is still a glass ceiling, even in presidential campaigns, and we're going to admit it and call upon Carol Moseley Braun to help America fix it. From what we've observed in our own small corner of America, there are still too many bigots for a black woman from Chicago to have a realistic chance of becoming President of the United States. And that's a damned shame, since Carol Moseley Braun is highly qualified for that position.

We're asking Moseley Braun to be a pioneer (which does *not* mean raising \$100K for the (re)-election of the (p)resident) and set the groundwork for a future Ms. President. Opportunity in the American economy is best served by this former Senator promoting a trickle down of fair chances to participate from women and minorities, to women and minorities, much as the current white male segment has ensured that empowerment trickles down primarily to itself.

Her opposition is Elaine Chao, a critic of affirmative action (not to mention overtime pay) and a fellow of the conservative Heritage Foundation. Chao promotes trade with communist China, known for its sweatshops and imprisonment of dissenters. Chao is also a pioneer, but in this case, we mean that she raised at least \$100,000 for the 2000 (p)residential campaign of George W. Bush, and then, with all her Department of Transportation experience, becomes his Secretary of Labor. What's up with *that*, boy King George?

Secretary of State: Joseph C. Wilson IV

Actually, we aren't all too pleased that Ambassador Wilson spoke up about the current administration's Iraqi-Niger yellowcake claims until *after* a war had been launched. In this respect, former UN Special Commission member Scott Ritter, also involved in the hunt for alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, stands on firmer moral ground for opposing an unjust war *before* it started. But Ritter hasn't got sufficient credentials to lead the State Department, so we'll go with Wilson.

Wilson has served as a Special Assistant to the President and also as Senior Director on African Affairs on the National Security Council, where he was responsible for U.S. policy vis-à-vis 48 nations. He served as the political advisor to Gen. Wesley Clark's predecessor as NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Gen. George Joulwan during the crisis in Bosnia. And Wilson successfully negotiated the release of several hundred Americans and other nationals from Baghdad prior to the start of the air campaign in the first Gulf War.

Wilson's opposition is Gen. Colin Powell, whose credibility amongst statesmen has been sabotaged by the (p)resident and his neo-conservative cabal. We actually think Powell did the right thing by staying on as Secretary of State, mitigating some of the damage done

to America's standing with the rest of the world. But damaged goods are damaged goods, and we hope Powell will consider his country first and accept a posting as Secretary of Defense.

Secretary of Transportation: Frank R. Moretti

Of all the things to talk about in transportation, from gas taxes, to Amtrak, to airlines, and to public transit subsidies, you seldom hear about bridges. But bridges matter – most of our roadways were started right after WWII, and corrosion problems, age, heavy use and ever-increasing traffic and vehicle loads, are making more and more bridges dangerous. Frank R. Moretti, while not an engineer, has written much about the policies this nation needs to adopt to take care of deficient bridges.

As Director of Research at the Road Information Program, a non-profit think-tank, he has also written about suburban sprawl and practical road-building programs to accommodate the growth that Americans seek. He may butt heads with some environmentalists in encouraging more roads, but he is conceding what the market already knows – given a choice, Americans choose to live in suburbs with their own park in the backyard, rather than in apartments like Parisians.

His opposition is Norman Mineta, who served as Bill Clinton's Secretary of Commerce before being selected by the (p)resident for Secretary of Transportation. Mineta has good credentials, having chaired the House Public Works and Transportation committee between 1992 and 1994. But the bridges just grew older under his watch, and so Mineta

is growing old for us. So we pick Moretti for the most unglamorous, but necessary of reasons – your safety.

Secretary of the Treasury: Carolyn B Maloney

Carolyn Maloney, the current Ranking Member on the House Key Economics Subcommittee, has been helping fight for the consumer for many years. The reorganization and restructuring of many consumer focused groups has been the goal of her congressional tenure. She has also been a leader in the movement for government financial reform. While standing up for the fair treatment of the consumer, she has also been a vocal proponent for the proper handling of recent scandals including Enron, Global Crossing, Tyco, and others.

In her 11 years as a congresswoman, she has never lost an election, having been voted back into office in landslide proportions. She has helped eliminate fraud and waste in government organizations since 1986. We believe that Maloney is the perfect choice to clean up after the profligate spending policies of the current (p)residency.

Her opposition is John Snow, former CEO and Chairman of the CSX Corporation. Snow of course is the replacement of Paul O'Neill, the former Secretary of Treasury,

who was ejected after publicly denouncing the (p)resident's beloved budget-busting tax cuts. The key differences between Snow and O'Neill are their stances on debt. Snow feels that federal debt does not matter in the long run. Heck, even Robert Hormats, the vice chairman of Goldman-Sachs International, has deplored the ballooning deficits in a speech before the National Association of State Treasurers.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Jim Marshall

We're recommending one of our own (adopted) sons, Rep. Jim Marshall of Georgia's 3rd Congressional district, as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The son and grandson of generals, Marshall *volunteered* for infantry duty as an Airborne Ranger in Vietnam out of a sense of duty and moral obligation, disrupting his academic career at Princeton University. He received two bronze stars and a Purple Heart before going on to earn his degree, then graduating Law School at Boston University, and eventually becoming the mayor of Macon.

The first-term congressman serves on the House Armed Services Committee, and has spoken at the American Foreign Legion's national convention about what is commonly called the Disabled Veterans Tax. Marshall advocates that disabled military veterans should not have their military pensions reduced, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, for compensation they receive for their disabilities. The 1891 and 1994 rulings by the Veterans Administration's predecessors unfairly penalize the veterans who have given their health and well-being for their country.

His opposition is Anthony Principi, who graduated from the Naval Academy and commanded a River Patrol Unit in Vietnam's Mekong delta. Principi headed the VA during the Bush, Sr. administration, when that administration began denials to the newest batch of veterans over the Gulf War Syndrome in a manner reminiscent of Agent Orange and Vietnam. The current (p)resident's administration, while in favor of cutting taxes for the wealthiest of Americans, has opposed cutting any such break for disabled veterans, and veterans-to-be.

Environmental Protection Agency: Erin Brockovich-Ellis

That's right. Will the *real* Erin Brockovich please stand up? Much as we love Julia Roberts, Brockovich-Ellis has both the balls (yes, she's a woman – so was Margaret Thatcher) and the intelligence to go after the heavy polluters. And she isn't likely to be bought off, either. On the other hand, *because* she is principled, it's likely that a Republican-dominated Senate would block her confirmation – which would show where they stand.

Aside from helping attorney Edward Masry reach settlements on behalf of ordinary people against polluters such as Pacific Gas & Electric, Lockheed-Martin and Aerojet

General, Brockovich-Ellis is currently going after the major oil companies for methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) groundwater contamination from leaking gas station tanks.

Her opposition is nameless – that's because under the Bush administration, the position has remained vacant since Christie Todd Whitman quit. However, the current "environmental" (p)resident, with the blessing of Dick Cheney's secretive Energy Task Force, has put forth a comprehensive energy bill that gives the major oil companies (Republican donors) immunity from MTBE-related lawsuits. So we'll say that her opposition is really George W. Bush.

Office of Management and Budget Director: Sean Campbell

This is one post where we're going to recommend reaching deep into state government for a budget manager, and one already familiar to our next President, Dr. Howard Dean. The gentleman we trust to keep the government's books on track is Sean Campbell, who served Dean as the Budget Director for the state of Vermont.

There's something to be said about a penny-pinching, fiscally-conservative yet responsible New Englander, and with a Scottish surname like Campbell (hell, he's probably a Presbyterian to boot), we think Sean is the man. Vermont has been in a phenomenal situation fiscally, retaining a rainy day surplus during a national recession, and subsequently languid economic recovery.

Campbell's opposition is Joshua B. Bolten, both a co-equal and boss to Karl Rove in crafting the new "social" agenda of the Bush administration. Bolten is the architect of the nearly one trillion dollar tax cut (over a number of years) and responsible for the most massive deficit in US history. You should remember Bolten's name – not only will you be paying for his dispensations to the already wealthy, so will your grandchildren. And perhaps it is Bolten, not Rove, who should be frog-marched out of the present administration.

President's Chief of Staff: Julie Peterson

If Dean has one flaw, it's that he *is* a doctor. We recognize that he has a tendency to diagnose a situation and issue a prescription, no ifs, ands, or buts. The details, however, are left to the nursing staff to carry out and follow through. Although she's not a registered nurse, Julie Peterson headed the team that carried out the doctor's orders in Vermont. We're asking her to do it again.

Peterson held the team together after Vermont's Republican Governor Richard Snelling passed away in 1991, when Howard Dean assumed the governorship. Peterson continued on as chief of staff for the new governor's subsequent two elected terms. She has more than proven her worth in working across party lines and keeping an effective team together. Peterson

Continued on Page 9

Life Is Great. Owning Life – Priceless...

MARK CAMPBELL

Opportunities to buy a large parcel of land adjacent to a campus in a well-developed area like Marietta are very rare indeed. Thus the announcement that the SPSU Foundation intends to pull out all the stops, take some big risks, and put together some innovative financing to purchase Life University's 89 acres is welcome news indeed.

That might seem to be an odd paragraph written by one who just last month recommended that UGA establish an engineering college in Lawrenceville and the closing of Southern Polytechnic. But there is a method to my madness...

Without a ready buyer and bailout partner like Southern Polytechnic, Life University was going to have a very difficult time proving financial solvency to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Life University was put on probation by that accrediting board last December, at the same time that Morris Brown lost their accreditation for many of the same reasons.

The upshot is that an editorial in the works about the loss of Life University, and the recommendation that the Board of Regents move quickly to purchase the soon-to-be vacant property, has

been overtaken by events. Instead, the Foundation, which can act far quicker than the state, is moving to acquire the property now.

It remains to be seen as to whether Life University will survive this December with general accreditation intact. If it doesn't, the anticipated revenue stream from Life's leasing of a portion of their old campus may instead be a dry draw. If Life University goes bankrupt, that may be the deal-breaker that keeps Life's campus out of the Foundation's, and ultimately the state's, hands.

That would be a tragedy – although a great many of us would take glee at Life's demise. However, owning their campus is the far better deal for Georgia (and gives us significant bragging rights).

The combined 315 acres of contiguous campuses of SPSU and Life can always be put to good use by the Board of Regents. If SPSU should ever become a full-fledged engineering college, the additional space will prove useful indeed. Conversely, if the Regents establish an engineering college in Lawrenceville instead, this greater combined campus will prove useful as the west Atlanta campus of Georgia Perimeter College, with additional housing for Kennesaw State

students.

In fact, the possibility of hosting married KSU students in Life's apartments is another anticipated source of revenue. SPSU also intends to lease some space at Life to the Georgia Public Library Service.

What would happen if Life goes kaput, and the Foundation can't secure the property. Developers would most likely move in after foreclosure. Sure, SPSU might be able to outbid those who would rather parcel out Life's campus in pieces, but that's even riskier than trying to move now on the deal.

So here we are – backing our university president, Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, as she makes her pitch to the Regents in January for funds so that SPSU can rent some of Life's campus to clinch the deal. And we're waiting with Life to hear the final decision on whether they retain accreditation, a matter of great importance to us now, too.

To our readers on the Higher Education and Appropriations committees in both houses of the Georgia General Assembly, let's be clear. This is one deal where the state should be pound-wise, not penny-foolish. Show us the money.

Regime Change

Continued on Page 8

and Dean are best qualified to pass judgement on our choices for the next cabinet. We hope we served them well...

Her opposition is Andrew Card, Chairman of the 2000 Republican National Convention. Prior to that, Card was General Motors Vice-President of Government Relations. And before that, he was the President of the now-defunct American Automobile Manufacturers Association. Prior to that, he wrapped up Daddy Bush's presidential tenure as Secretary of Transportation. We're guessing that John F. Kennedy must have been turning over in his grave at the nearby Arlington National Cemetery faster than the tires on a speeding Hummer H2 the night GM threw a going-away party for Card on the roof of the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Of course, we would be remiss as journalists if we failed to point out that now, if you own a small business, you can write off the entire purchase cost of the 6000+ pound Hummer H2 on your taxes. See Card for details...

United States Trade Representative: David Wu

Third term congressman David Wu of Oregon is our choice for U. S. Trade Representative. The Taiwanese-born naturalized American is a strong proponent of a well-educated, highly technical workforce, and trade with other nations in bordering the Pacific Ocean. He cur-

rently represents the "Silicon Forest," the cluster of high technology jobs centered on Portland in the Pacific Northwest.

Yet Wu is not impervious to human rights abuses on the western shores of the Pacific. He voted against permanent normal trade relations with communist China, citing concern over well-documented human rights abuses. It wasn't a position popular with businesses in his district like Nike, who purchase from China. Nor was it popular with many in the Chinese-American and Chinese immigrant communities, who were more accepting of human rights violations than many other Americans. Wu voted his conscience, though it imperiled his reelection chances.

Wu's opposition is Robert Zoellick, who served under George H. W. Bush's Secretary of State, James A. Baker, III. Zoellick also served under Reagan's Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Baker, III. Presumably Zoellick, as Trade Representative, might have some say in how to conduct trade with Iraq, which was outlined in a post-conflict U.S.-occupied Iraq policy report co-published in December 2002 by the Council on Foreign Relations, and the James A. Baker, III Institute. You have to wonder why the (p)resident didn't just appoint James A. Baker, III. Maybe he was unduly impressed by the fact that Zoellick served on the Advisory Council of Enron, a fact proclaimed on Zoellick's White House biographical web page.

Office of National Drug Control Policy: Jack Blum

We're going with an attorney with a load of experience in going after the serious drug-dealers, which apparently may have included U.S. presidents. We are uncertain about his attitude to the small fry and the addicts who get hooked on drugs, but we like his persistence in tracing the major money flows.

Blum served as the Special Counsel to Senator John Kerry's Foreign Relations Committee between 1987 and 1989, where he was responsible for investigating such scandals as Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega's government connections to drug-smuggling. Blum also tackled the Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandal and was a key player in tracing the money flow in the Iran-Contra-cocaine racketeering organized by Oliver North and others, against the law, at the behest of President Reagan.

His opposition is John P. Walters, who was also the Deputy Director for Supply Reduction from 1991 to 1993. Walters spent the Clinton years as president of the Philanthropy Roundtable, where he advocated faith-based initiatives to cure America's social ills. Perhaps Blum should first investigate the charge leveled at Walters on the Internet that Walters cut a deal back then with Noriega to allow the Panamanian a bigger cut of the drug trade. And eventually Blum can "trickle down" the money trails to, say, Rush Limbaugh, money launderer.

British Intelligence?

JIM HILL

The British Intelligence Agency analyzed a mysterious transmission for days before they finally concluded that it was caused by a ram rubbing up against an aerial mast, a government agency spokesman said. Scientist at Government Communication Headquarters in Cheltenham, west England, where an intelligent-gathering station is located, were quite confused by a high-frequency noises coming from Scarborough signal station in Yorkshire, northeastern England.

The daily observer, GCHQ's in-house paper, reported the noises were unlike anything their staff had ever encountered before; therefore, an investigation team was put together. After some investiga-

tion, the team initially thought the unusual noises were coming from spies or aliens. Their investigation found that the noises only happened during the day light hours, and went across all the high-frequency bands and only the Scarborough aerial could pick it up. Eventually, the investigating team discovered that a ram was rubbing its horns against the aerial masts, in between servicing a few ewes, the paper said, revealing the answer—a horny ram!" It is possible the ram was attracted to the mast which may have given off some kind of tingling sensation, but it was probably just a post to rub up against," said a Government Communications Headquarters spokesman Bob McNally.



Baaahhh!!!

Walk the Fish...

MARK CAMPBELL

It was over a year ago that the Cobb County Board of Education passed a resolution permitting teachers in the state's second largest school district to teach alternatives to biological evolution. The Board's rationale was that alternatives to evolution were "a necessary balance of providing a balanced education."

There's nothing fair and balanced about permitting those alternatives to creep into a public education.

Thankfully, the twenty-one members of the University System of Georgia's Biology Academic Advisory Committee agree. In a statement adopted Nov. 7th, they clearly stated that all students entering the university system must have a clear and accurate understanding of the basic tenets of biological evolution.

Those professors and scientists also stated their opposition to the teaching of creationism (or "scientific creationism" or "intelligent design") taught as science because the ideas are those "alternatives" espouse are outside the realm

of science. And they offer their services to any educators or school board that needs advice on how to best teach biological evolution.

We're glad that one of those signatories is Southern Polytechnic's own Dr. Bill Burnett. At a time when we've got a (p)resident spouting on about faith-based initiatives, local boards of commissioners advocating the Ten Commandments be on display in courthouses, and Georgia school boards advocating alternatives to evolution, it is a brave and necessary stand that Burnett has taken.

We're all for religion being taught in Sunday school and Bible studies, and it would do a whole lot of folks some good to give it a try. But science strives for factual truths, not beliefs, and creationism just isn't science.

So to the Cobb County School Board, get a spine and strictly advocate teaching biological evolution in your science classes. It's the 21st century in a technological age, and time to walk the fish.



Consensus Editorial:

The year 2003 is about to end, and if you are a freshman, then you have had your first bittersweet taste of college. We hope that you have done very well, but if not, garner experience from this semester and keep the memory of it and you will be almost as well off if you apply yourself next year. If this is not your first time, you should be about thirty hours closer to that degree. Keep on trucking; despite the popular opinion, degrees from this school ARE worth more than the cost of ink and paper to make them.

For those of you that are now exiting the ride, whether by way of success or not, you have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on some of those that you have worked with and they will miss you. May fortune, luck or God (whichever in which you believe), smile upon you and bring you continued joy. Be sure to drop back in some time to stroll down memory lane with old friends and professors.

The paper has been printing continuously since the beginning of the year. For a technical institution of this size and enrollment, let alone not having a journalism degree, regular and frequent publications are not a luxury the students, faculty and staff of this institution are often afforded. Even though we have made some of you angry, agitated or confused, be thankful that this paper is so strong and that the voice of the students of this fine university is so "loud" and well enunciated in ink and byte. Even though it is almost destined to lay in dormancy, again one day as it has so many times in the past, let us hope that new people come to join the paper, and readers keep writing to the editor, and that the steam lasts as long as it can.

We would like to take this opportunity to take you back on a journey through this last year. We have laughed, cried, shouted, argued and vomited, both literally and figuratively. If you are standing and reading, take a seat, this will only be a few minutes. We promise it will be a provocative and interesting look through the past; and hey, who says newspapers cannot have the equivalent of sitcom clip shows?

This year has seen so many shenanigans, so much tomfoolery and so much ballyhoo.

From Vincent Migliore's "Car Attacked Between Dorms" (Vol. LVII, Issue 1a, Entertainment)

"In order to help fellow SPSUers relieve stress during finals week, fraternity Alpha Omega Bi Theta Epsilon Chitty Chitty Bang Bang sponsored a Car Smashing event between the dorms. For a small sum of money the



frat handed over your choice of a sledgehammer or baseball bat to take out your end of the semester aggression... SPSU Freshman Josh Paley definitely showed this side of the argument when he told me 'That car got what it had coming to it.' Is that a strong enough case for this type of carnage?"

From Cristina Wilson's "Single Girl (yea, that's right...GIRL) on Campus" (Vol. LVII, Issue 2, Editorial)

"So guys...if you ever want to approach a woman, the best thing to do is be the knight in shining armor...This will put her in the mood for some good times later on. Alpha males are always hot, so grab her by her hair and drag her back to your dorm room. A girl likes a man who is domineering, and hey, you can't be a REAL man unless you're showing the 'little lady' who's boss. Anyway, if she loses some of that sex appeal with the bloody scalp, just put a bag over her head and go about your business."

From Mark Campbell's "BSU Re-dedicated to Satan" (Vol. LVII, Issue 4, April Fools)

"Dave Stewart, a former Baptist minister, announced that the Baptist Student Union will change its mission, and its name, in a re-dedication this Saturday. The center will now honor Satan, and has chosen to adopt the name 'Brotherhood of Satanic Unity.' ... 'It's a Godless society,' stated Stewart, 'And we felt that to cater to our students at Kennesaw [State University] and Southern Polytechnic, we needed to make a change. Our new motto sums it up best - all your base belongs to us.'"

From Mark Campbell's "The Sting's Fabulously Fab Fabric Tip" (Vol. LVII, Issue 7, Entertainment)

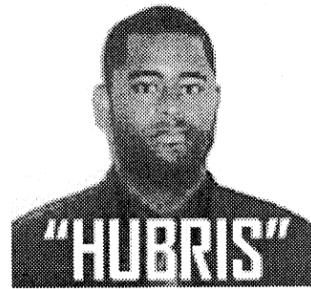
"Unbeknownst to many (ok, both) of our readers, the famed Federal Bureau of Investigation retains the services of at least four forensic expert witnesses who, potentially, can identify you by your jeans. That's right—jeans, as in Levi Strauss or Wrangler—not genes, as in organic molecular arrangements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

From The Sting's "Consensus Editorial" (Vol. LVIII, Issue 2, Opinion)

"Now it takes an astute student to realize this, but the light bar is missing. Do you remember the light bar? It was like a beacon in the dark, gently guiding all the faithful students of spoosueland to the 5 star restaurant located near this pop icon, the light bar. However, a while back it seems that this light bar was removed. Exactly where did it go? ... Several members of The Sting have already fallen a

good 93 times each since the light bar was taken out... We'd like to know the real reason, but we'd like to know this reason without doing any research whatsoever."

Spring semester had only one real thorn in its side.



From Randall Ware's "Letter to the Editor—Request for Apology" (Vol. LVII, Issue 2, Campus Forum)

"Since I am a very procedural person, I again recommend a full retraction of your editorial with an apology. Since I am also by default somewhat of a 'public figure' there is a process I must take before filing a lawsuit. I will follow the process and because you have stated in the Student Life Meeting to Dr. Rutherford that that editorial was a personal attack on me, you have made it much easier for me to prove 'malice intent.'"

Despite this year's confusing SGA Election, convoluted by parties on all sides, we all learned that "it's all about the process" and that things work themselves out in the end.

From Adefolarin O. Adeleye's "Letter to the Editor - Greeting from the New SGA President" (Vol. LVII, Issue 5, Campus Forum)

"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... The process of communication will be improved between us all. We plead with you all to communicate with us with whatever means possible... Together, our goals can be achieved easily... Thanks again for your support. We look forward to the honor of serving you in the upcoming year."

Southern Polytechnic State University has shown it is capable of accomplishing some beautiful dreams.

From Daniel Henry's "The Road to Accreditation: The Capstone Project" (Vol. LVIII, Issue 2, News)

"The School of Computing and Software Engineering has begun moving towards gaining accreditation for its Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree program. At the leading edge of that initiative is Professor Briana Morrison, a full-time faculty member of the

Computer Science Department. This semester, she begins teaching the Computer Science Capstone Project course, incorporating a large-scale, team-based project into the required curriculum. The addition of this project course will significantly strengthen the C.S. program's chances for passing an accreditation evaluation."

From Benjamin Lee's "Management Accredited Till 2012" (Vol. LVIII, Issue 3, News)

"On June 30, 2003, SPSU's Management program, including the Masters of Business Administration (MBA), had its accreditation reaffirmed by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). SPSU's Management program chair and professor, Dr. Muhammad

A. Obeidat, was at the ACBSP's annual conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to receive the certificate. Dr. Obeidat was delighted by the reaffirmation and stated he was not surprised by it because the department had been consistently exceeding the required standards of the ACBSP. According to Dr. Obeidat, the President of SPSU, Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, was also delighted by the news and she sent her congratulations to the department for the reaffirmation."

From Mark Campbell's "Construction Retains Accreditation" (Vol. LVII, Issue 5, News)

"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.'"

Moreover, SPSU has also proven it is capable of conjuring equally horrible nightmares.

From Benjamin Lee's "Highest Fee Increase in 18 Years" (Vol. LVII, Issue 6, News)

"SPSU students will face a 15% tuition fee increase in Fall 2003. The much-anticipated approval by the Georgia Board of Regents was announced on May 21, 2003. According to the report in the May 22, 2003 edition of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, this is the highest fee hike in 18 years. Colleges allowed the 15%

increase include Southern Polytechnic State University, Georgia State, Georgia Tech and Georgia College & State University."

From Miranda Bennett's "SPSU Loses Funding to GA Tech" (Vol. LVIII, Issue 1, News)

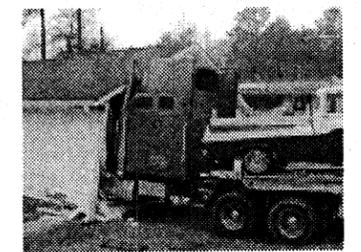
"Following failed negotiations between SPSU's administration and the Textile and Apparel Advisory Board (TAAB), industry leaders have shifted their focus and funding to Georgia Tech. Their decision was in response to plans made by the SPSU administration to restructure the Apparel/Textile Engineering Technology (ATET) program — moving the Textile degree to Industrial Engineering Technology (IET) and the Apparel degree to the School of Management. Industry leaders warned that they could not support degree programs in both schools."

From Daniel Henry's "The New Web Site Sucks" (Vol. LVII, Issue 1a, Opinion)

"Before anything else, I would like to say that the school's investment of time and money in a new web site was admirable and is appreciated. Effort and consid-

eration aside, the site sucks. It looks more like a pamphlet than a web site, and an ugly pamphlet at that... It's unclear and useless for many practical purposes. However, on the positive side of things, I don't associate it to our school...I say just change a few things, and sell it to Kennesaw. Make your money back and fix the bells in the library for God's sake."

Some particularly weird things have happened.



From Mark Campbell's "Runaway Rig Rolls Over SPSU, Wrecks House" (Vol. LVII, Issue 1b, News)

"According to Marietta Police, the parked truck had slipped out of gear while the owner was in an auto dealership office, waiting to collect a sports utility vehicle. The unmanned truck rolled across South Marietta Parkway, climbing the curb near SPSU's east main entrance sign. The slope on the campus redirected the big rig back across the busy four-lane road. The runaway truck then struck a mailbox, careening across two front lawns before crossing Lockheed Avenue and coming to rest inside the Campbell Residence."

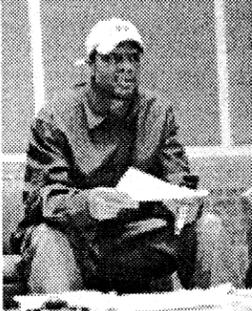
From Zachary Jones' "Debates Spark Mixed Reactions" (Vol. LVII, Issue 3, News)

"It was unorganized and unethical. There were personal attacks made, specifically when Rocky made the comment to

The Closing of the Year



Miranda on interrupting,' said Jenni Hart. The comment, namely, 'I'm talking,' was made by Rocky Myers as Presidential Candidate Miranda Bennett responded to a question regarding possible student center changes. Following Myer's repeated questioning of Bennett, Adeleye spoke aloud without Myer's acknowledgment, saying, "I think the candidate should be allowed to choose which questions they want to answer."



From Daniel Henry's "Voters Miraculously Flood STING Online Pool" (Vol. LVII, Issue 3, Editorial)

"Over the course of just an hour or so, Randall Ware went from zero votes to a whopping 63 votes, taking 55% and a majority in the poll. This is indeed one of the most staggering statistical anomalies I have seen in all my years of working with Sting polls. Never has such a public outcry been expressed here in The Sting's humble on-line voting system... Some may argue that this activity is suspect of foul play, but to be fair, IT IS POSSIBLE that every one of Randall's supporters all got together and decided to vote in The STING's on-line poll, all within an hour of each other, and all using the same AOL dial-up number. And besides, Mr. Ware is a fine, up-standing member of the SPSU community. I am of the opinion that he would never so dramatically distort a news organization's public poll, stuff a ballot box, throw out votes or influence an Election Committee in any other way to win a Student Government Election. It's just not in his character."

This year has seen its share of tragedy and loss.

From Lisa A. Rossbacher's "The Cost of Exploration" (Vol. LVII, Issue 2, Editorial)

"On February 1, we were reminded how routine space exploration had become... Education is all about learning from mistakes—benefiting from the lessons of history, and developing the common sense not to make the same mistake twice. What we cannot do is allow the Columbia loss to stop our exploration of space... The American public needs to support these ef-

forts. Exploration carries risk—hazard is the price of knowledge. In a world full of traffic, carcinogens, food allergies, and crime, the riskiest thing any of us do is get out of bed in the morning."

From The Sting's "Consensus Editorial" (Vol. LVII, Issue 4, Campus Forum)

"By the time you read this, we'll all have had a couple of tough weeks. Word came to the campus last week that Ronald D. Young, Jr. had been captured by Iraqi forces near Karbala on Sun., March 23rd. Young went to Southern Polytechnic from 1995 to 1998... Breaking news like that is never fun and games. For those of us on the staff at The Sting, this was compounded by the fact that we were already hard at work on this April Fools' Day issue. We did a lot of soul searching, asking ourselves if it was appropriate to print this issue, in light of the seriousness of the news. You hold our answer in your hands. We printed this issue the way we did—because we can... That may sound cold, but it actually is a reason to rejoice. Fellow citizen-soldiers like Captain Ron (actually a Chief Warrant Officer) defend the US constitution, the American way of life, and try to extend the freedoms we enjoy to others. As upset as some people may be with this April Fool's joke of an issue, I think we can all agree that we on The Sting would never be free to write this way in Iraq. And you wouldn't be free to read this. We're free to live our lives in America. And living means loving, crying, and laughing. We learned a lot about Captain Ron and his crowd at Southern Tech. If we didn't miss our mark, it's fair to say that Captain Ron would have gotten a hoot out of this issue."

Some of us have had to part ways, but will never be forgotten.

From Daniel Henry's "Jackie Isaacson Leaves SPSU" (Vol. LVII, Issue 6, News)

"After six years of dedicated service to the students of Southern Polytechnic State University, Jackie G. Isaacson has resigned her position of Assistant Director of Student Activities. Jackie

Isaacson's last day as Assistant Director of Student Activities was Friday, May 30, 2003. Isaacson will be leaving for Pittsburg, PA because her husband recently acquired a new position there... The Sting bids a fond farewell to Jackie Isaacson, former Assistant Director of Student Activities."

From Willis Smith's "Last Call for this Staff Writer" (Vol. LVII, Issue 7, Opinion)

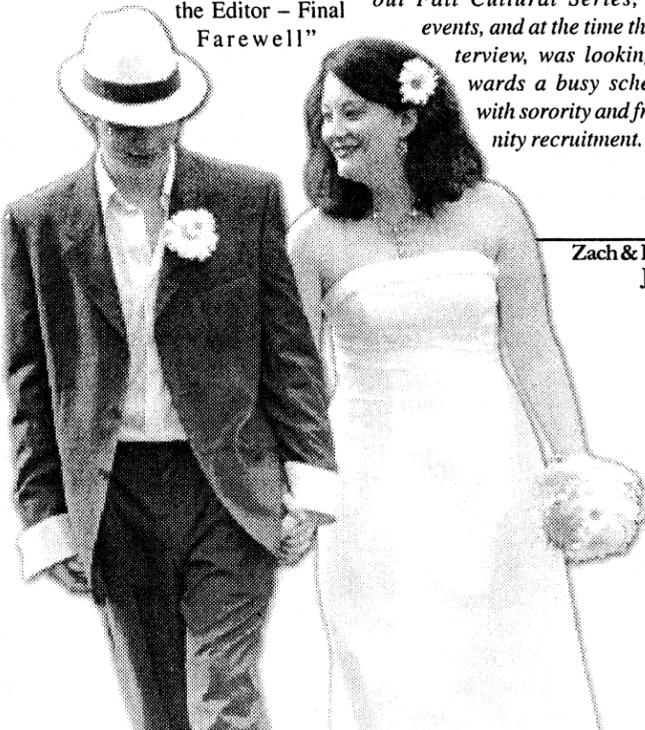
"For this little newspaper, I wrote numerous articles and witnessed many changes both on campus and within The Sting itself. I feel privileged to witness and record many changes affecting the university... Farewell to all here, and remember this campus is not dead but merely playing possum for most campus 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."



From Rich Merritt's "All Good Things" (Vol. LVII, Issue 5, Editorial)

"This is a goodbye, I guess. Back in 1999, "the empty blank slate" that came to SPSU looking for some sort of answer, as far as who he should be or what he should stand for, has grown and with that growth has come realization that my talents perhaps are better put to use in a more artistic setting. ... I wish you all the very best and my gratitude for being a part of my experience here. You are all wonderful. Really. Thanks."

From Zach Jones' "Letter from the Editor - Final Farewell"



Zach & Betsy Jones

(Vol. LVII, Issue 5, Campus Forum)

"The Editor in me is demanding that I write this final goodbye in reverse pyramid style, but it's not going to happen... 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... 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... 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)... 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."

However, the passing of the old, as in all things, sets the stage for new beginnings.

From Miranda Bennett's "SPSU Welcomes Sean Thomas" (Vol. LVIII, Issue 1, News)

"The new Assistant Director of Student Activities, Sean P. Thomas, admits that he has been pretty busy meeting new people and ironing out Fall Cultural Series, Cab events, and at the time this interview, was looking towards a busy schedule with sorority and fraternity recruitment. Sean

says that the people he's met so far have been great about giving him a feel for SPSU's culture, bringing him up to date, and making him feel at home (especially Dean of Students Barry Birkhead)... The Sting (as I'm sure many other faculty, staff, student organizations, and students) welcome Mr. Sean Thomas as our new Assistant Director of Student Activities and congratulate him on his recent wedding."

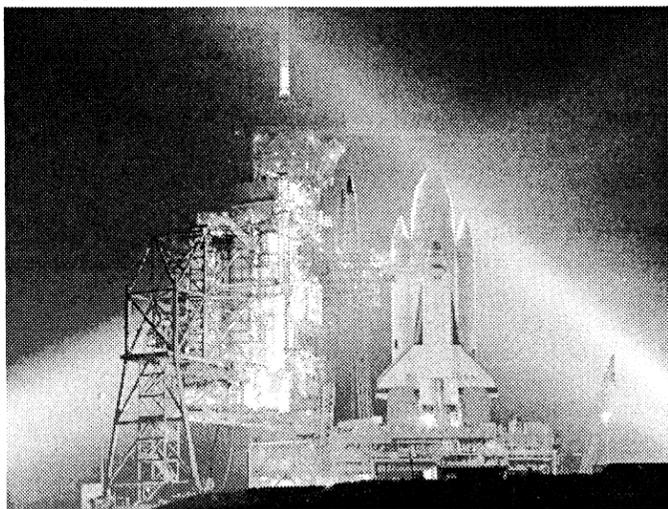
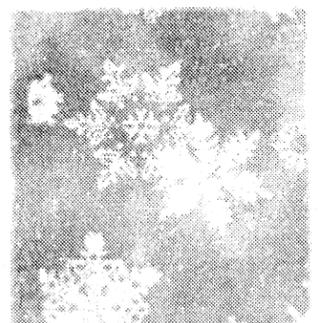
From Miranda Bennett's "Letter from the Editor" (Vol. LVII, Issue 6, Opinion)

"Well, I survived my first issue as the new Editor-in-Chief. The last few weeks have been a whirlwind and, to be honest, my web manager just advised me to rant about how I've been up all night getting this issue ready. Yeah, it's been a little rough, but fun... Thank you Zach for giving me this opportunity. I cannot tell you how much this experience means to me. Thank you to my staff for allowing me some growing pains with this first issue... For all the staffers that are taking a hiatus from classes over the summer, I can't wait to see you in the fall. It's going to be a great year!"

In summation, the year is over.

We can only hope that next year you will be here with us again. The Sting will be here, ready to inform, entertain and outrage the general populace with our brand of hard-hitting investigative journalism and harebrained creative writing. You can and should add to that, even if in the form of a small contribution of a single article or comment, and see what its like to become a part of history. If there is just one thing we have left to say, it would be lyrics from the soundtrack of Toys:

If I cannot bring you comfort, then at least I bring you home
For nothing is more precious than the time we have and so
We all must learn from small misfortune
Count the blessings that are real
Let the bells ring out for Christmas and the closing of the year



The Histories that Matter – Holiday Grab Bag

CJ SHRADER

Hello Freshmen! I know it's the end of the semester, but I haven't had a chance to properly introduce myself. My name is Roy Charles Shrader III, but you can call me CJ (Like everyone, you're probably asking where the 'C' comes from. Well, that's a history in itself). I write this little feature here called "The Histories that Matter," where I do my best to explain the origins or reasons behind just about anything you can imagine. In this issue, I'll explain the origins behind the "12 Days of Christmas," fruit cake, mistletoe, and everyone's favorite holiday, the Canadian Thanksgiving.

The 12 Days of Christmas

"The 12 Days of Christmas," believe it or not, isn't as straightforward as one might believe. The song first came about when the Church of England (The Anglican Church) was rising to power in England. As the Catholic Church was being pushed out of England, it became illegal to be a practicing Catholic and sometimes punishments could be as severe as death.

In order to protect small children from these severe punishments, Catholic parents in England taught their children "The 12 Days of Christmas," and informed them that the "true love" in the song actually stands for God. Following this, the true meaning of the song follows:

"On the first day of Christmas my true love (God) gave to me a partridge (Jesus) in a pear tree."

"On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me two turtle doves (The Old and New Testaments)."

"On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three French hens (Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues).

"On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me four calling birds (the four Gospels)."

"On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me five golden rings (The first five books of the Old Testament)."

"On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me six geese a-laying (the six days of creation)."

"On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me seven swans a-swimming (the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit)."

"On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me eight maids a-milking (the eight beatitudes)."

"On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me nine ladies dancing (the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit)."

"On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me ten lords a-leaping (the ten commandments)."

"On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me eleven pipers piping (the eleven faithful apostles)."

"On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me twelve

drummers drumming (the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's)."

Fruit Cake

The hated fruit cake, something I honestly have never had in my life, has only been around for about 200 years. The current incarnation of fruit cake is generally made up of a waxy, preserved fruit mixture called citron along with nuts and rum or whiskey.

The most original form of the fruit cake was actually a sort of plum pudding which was occasionally referred to as fruit cake. The early form of fruit cake was made of flour, sugar, and eggs, with plums, raisins, and nuts. All of the ingredients were then preserved in alcohol.

At first, fruit cakes were only used during weddings. Preparations for weddings had to be done way in advance, so making the cake the day before the wedding was a very unfeasible idea. Since fruit cakes could last for very long times, they began to be used at many weddings and very special events.

As time progressed, fruit cakes began to be given at Christmas and had the plums replaced by citron and other fruit. Other fruit was soon processed in the same manner to ensure a long-lasting taste, and the modern incarnation of the fruit cake was formed.

Mistletoe

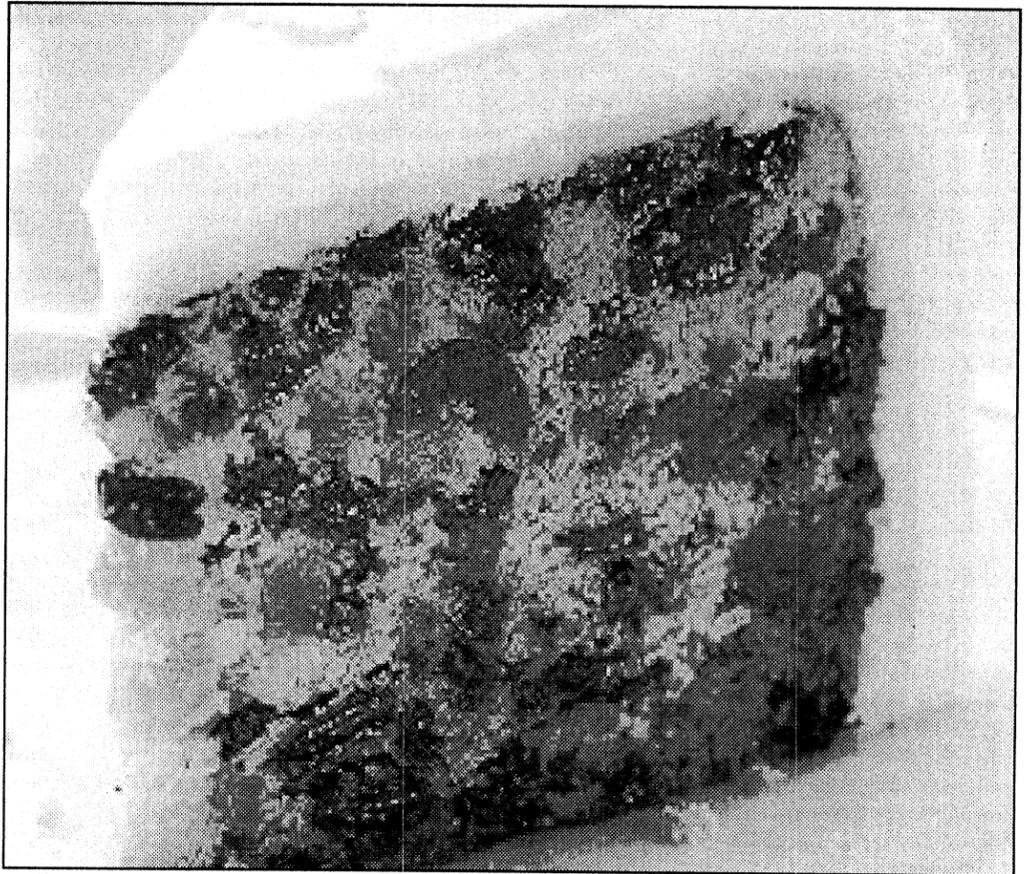
From Christmas.com: "Mistletoe is an aerial parasite that has no roots of its own and lives off the tree that it attaches itself to. Without the tree it would die." Make you feel like kissing?

In ancient Europe, mistletoe was thought to be sacred. Druids would use it with sacrifices to their gods while the Celts believed that it possessed magical healing powers. Mistletoe, in the Celtic language, actually means "all-heal." It was supposed to cure diseases, make poisons harmless, protect from witchcraft, and protect the house from ghosts. Naturally, it was thought of as a bit of good luck.

A long story goes behind the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe. It all started with a few Norsemen and their goddess of love, Frigga, and her son, Balder, the god of the summer sun. Balder dreamt of dying, which worried Frigga, since the death of the sun god would naturally kill every being on the Earth. So Frigga, being the good mother she is, went to every animal and plant on and under the earth to ask that it not harm her son.

Sadly enough for Balder, she forgot one lowly plant which grew off of other trees and so did not technically fall under the category of "on and under the earth." The mistletoe. Loki, the god of Evil, made an arrow with a mistletoe tip and gave it to the blind god of winter who shot Balder dead.

After much sadness, Frigga was eventually able to bring Balder back to life. It is said that her tears



The sad part is there are people who like fruit cake.

became the white berries that can be seen on the mistletoe plant, and that in her joy she kissed everyone who walked under the tree that held the mistletoe.

The story ends with a decree that whoever should stand under the mistletoe should not be harmed and only be given a kiss, a token of love.

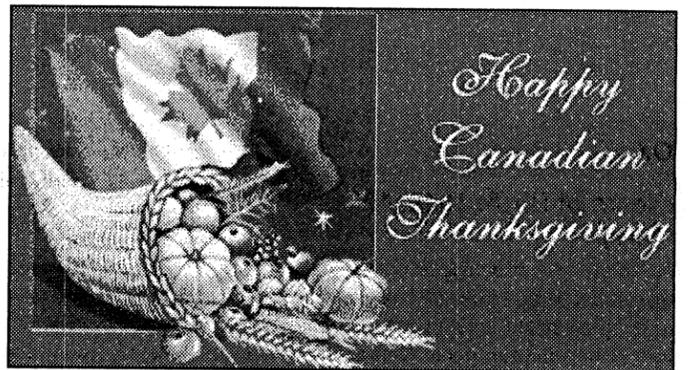
In the eighteenth-century, the tradition was pushed a little further. It was said that a young lady standing under the mistletoe cannot refuse to be kissed. Such a kiss could mean anything from a deep, lasting relationship to a lasting friendship. If the young lady was not kissed, she could not expect to be married the following year.

Canadian Thanksgiving

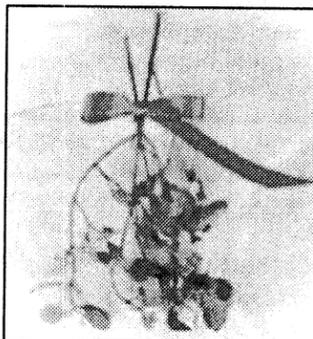
The Canadian Thanksgiving, allegedly, is celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October. The Canadian Thanksgiving, once again, allegedly, is meant to give thanks for a successful harvest, which naturally falls a little earlier in Canada than it does in America.

It is said that the first Canadian Thanksgiving dates back to the English explorer Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Orient. Sucker. Since he couldn't do that, he instead established a colony in North America in what is now called Newfoundland. In 1578, he held an official ceremony to give thanks for a successful journey. This ceremony is considered the first Canadian Thanksgiving.

Other givings of thanks were held in Canada as well. At the same time, French settlers would hold huge feasts for surviving the long journey. After the Seven Year's War ended in 1763, the citizens of Halifax held a special day of Thanksgiving as well.



Did you know that you can spell "Canada" with three letters? "C, eh, N, eh, D, eh?"

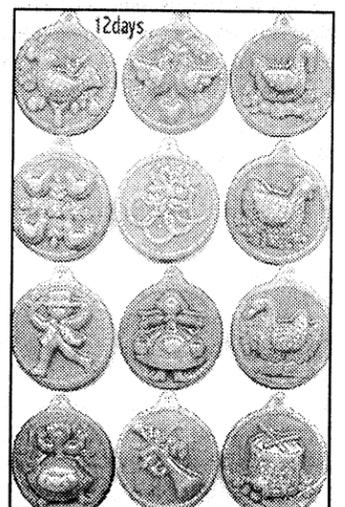


Despite what your roommate says, hanging mistletoe from your belt buckle will not get you a date.

The Canadian Thanksgiving got its boost of American charm when, during the American Revolution, Americans loyal to England would move to Canada. These Americans would bring their ideals and traditions with them...the traitors.

In 1879, the Canadian Thanksgiving was declared to be November 6th. Later, it was changed to the 3rd Monday in October. After World War I, both Armistice Day and Thanksgiving were celebrated on the Monday of the week in which November 11th occurred. A decade later, the holidays were separated again.

Finally, the Canadians made up their mind and declared "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed...to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."



And, on the 13th day of Christmas, the mint realized they had the wrong die for the first twelve state quarters.

And that's what's happening in the news today. Now let's take a look at what's going on in your neck of the woods.

Or not. In any case, as always, if you ever have a burning question or ever ask "I wonder where [insert item here] comes from?" or "I wonder why we do [this or that]?" Feel free to drop me an e-mail at rshrader@spsu.edu. No question is too big nor too trivial. Don't worry, I can handle it. I'll do my best to answer your question and get it printed. I might even give you credit.

Festive Fun, Folly or Flop. Your Horror-Scope Advice

BENJAMIN LEE

Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Eve and semester break, these are excuses for throwing or attending parties. Unless you have three eyes and two noses, you will surely be invited to at least one. If not, well, you can always have one and invite all the people with three eyes and two noses. So, will you be the perennial wallflower or will you be the party's sensation, whichever the case, you can always use some advise, especially from the good old Chinese Horror-scope...to get your reading...oh, you know the drill, just read them all!



Rat

RAT

(Years of birth: 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996)

Rat people, you are very well-liked by people because you are witty and a live-wire at parties! So, you are going to party yourself senseless! You are also a very curious person and so use it to your advantage, especially with the drinks. Make sure you find out what's in the punch before drinking it. In a party, when people say they like you, it is different, when they say it on a regular day. So, if you are careless, you will spend the next morning in a Best Western or a hospital wondering what hit you.



OX

(Years of Birth: 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997)

Ox people you are born leaders and you are passionate about organizing parties. You are also too cheap to engage professional party planners to run the show for you. As such, you have to rely on your friends, who are more than glad to help you, for free drinks, even if they are served in plastic cups. However, you really need to lighten up and stop micro-managing your friends, otherwise you will have to put out the fire on your Christmas tree yourself and no firemen will want to help you because you are just too notoriously and unbearably bossy!



TIGER

(Years of Birth: 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998)

Purr...with a wink of an eye, you can make many deep dark desires come true. If you are older than 21 and you are out prowling the parties, go easy on the bottles (or paper cups, if the host is an ox person). I hope you know that alcohol impairs judgment and getting out of bed with your best friend is a mess you don't want to get into. If you are younger than 21 and you are out prowling the parties, just know that ALCOHOL KILLS and by the way, aren't people like you supposed to have gone caroling or be that ungrateful brat, stay home and rant and rave over the pair of socks, which grandma has knitted for you for Christmas/Hanukah/Graduation/just the joy of watching you yell like a baby!



RABBIT

(Years of Birth: 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999)

Rabbit people, you all are hopeless wallpaper. You just love to stand around and smile sweetly, waiting for someone to come by and talk with you. Well most of the time you get lucky but this doesn't mean that he/she wants you at their coat tails the whole night! You need to understand that at a party, when someone talks with you, he/she either knows

you well, or wants to "know you well" (in a sleazy motel), or is too "into the party" to care who he/she is talking to. So don't misconstrue that they want you around them all the time! This is stalking and it is a crime!



Dragon

DRAGON

(Years of Birth: 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000)

Dragon people, any ground you walk on is the red carpet! You have this insatiable desire to want to make your presence a showcase. Well, that is good because your "magnetism" will draw people to you. It is bad because your entourage sees you as their free booze fountain, their meal ticket, their bait for chick/dudes, and their wheels for party hopping. What did you think? They like you because of you? GET REAL! You really have no friends outside of your flashiness. The sad thing is you are lapping it all up! Go spend the holidays forming Conga or Limbo Rock lines in retirement homes; they will be genuinely grateful to you.



Snake

SNAKE

(Years of Birth: 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001)

Snake people, you all are bipolar people; isn't that an earthworm trait? Anyway, you swing both ways (I swear earthworms do that) emotionally, that is. One moment you can be the live wire of the party and the next moment you can just sob uncontrollably over a chipped fingernail. It's not the mysterious stuff in the punch bowl; it's just you. This is very tiring for people around you and at a party; they just don't have the time for you! So, either enjoy the party or stay home and string some popcorn!



Horse

HORSE

(Years of Birth: 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002)

Horse people, it's amazing that you get invited to parties at all! Indeed you are irresistible, good looking and charismatic. However, your nomadic nature sees you party-hopping indiscriminately. Your *modus operandi* - trot to a party, scoop up an enormous wad of Horse-Devers (Hors-d'oeuvres), "air-kiss" with some people, turn around and gallop off to the next party! You are such a flash in the pan that you don't know that certain pastures are worth grazing. A fact of life - when everything starts to sag and you find doors slammed in your face, this is when you wish you have someone who loves you for who you are. It's a dismal future for party hoppers and that is why your grandma learns how to knit stockings and your granddad loves watching "The Man Show".



Goat

GOAT

(Years of Birth: 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003)

Goat people, the pick up line of any party evening is not "How do I look?" You are way too insecure about the way you present yourself and if that doesn't drive you crazy first, it will surely do that for all the people around you. What's worse is that you expect superlatively outstanding remarks and when you meet people like the roosters, who cannot wait to nit-pick, you will dash into the bath-room and hold up the line! Then everyone will wonder what's in the

punch bowl. So don't set yourself up for a miserable time. If you cannot help it, you are better off at home watching the "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" marathon on TV.



Monkey

MONKEY

(Years of Birth: 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992)

Monkey people, if you have a partner, have a heart, stick close to them. If you don't have a partner, THANK GOD! Unlike the horse, you tend to stay in one place and really live it up at just one party. You enjoy swinging from one group to another group and this usually upsets your partner who fails to get your attention and who fails to understand your nature. As such, you are often conflicted and you become torn. You need to be true to your nature, so ditch the partner and SWING! Parties are boring without you!



Rooster

ROOSTER

(Years of Birth: 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993)

Rooster people, you have to understand that the people who invite you to parties are being gracious to you. So, watch that nit-picking and tactless beak of yours! Most of these parties you attend do not have party planners for the hosts to sue when things don't turn out perfect. So, stop scrutinizing for imperfections and then have you tell the whole world that you found an ant swimming in the punch bowl. If you really can't help it, nit-pick people who look hopelessly sloshed. You will have a better audience with them but stay away from those who are extremely quiet because these are psychopaths when they are sloshed and they can break your scrawny neck in a flash!



Dog

DOG

(Years of Birth: 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994)

Dog people, at a party not all drinks are spiked and not all foods have salmonella. Also, unless you're partying at a retirement home, all the hair you see is real. As such, stop snooping around, messing with people's hair and collecting samples of food and drinks for analysis. You are just way too suspicious for your own good. To stamp out the problem first you have to believe that there is nothing plugged up in your behind - so stop running around in circles trying to see if there is. Instead just drink the drinks and what do you have to lose if its spike - perhaps this is the only time you are actually having some fun.



Pig

PIG

(Years of Birth: 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995)

Pig people, your generosity will be your downfall! It is appropriate to buy your host a little gift, buying presents for his/her family is really sweet, but buying gifts for all the guests is utter insanity! Worse is, you have very expensive taste and your spending habits can bankrupt the entire nation! So, be careful not to spend yourself into a debt. If that happens, just know that Christmas stockings are too small for you to go rob a bank with!

Happy Holidays!

Epic Gaming: Sonic the Hedgehog 2 for SEGA Genesis

DEVEN GALLO

Welcome to this issue's installment of Epic Gaming. Today I'll be reviewing one of the most eagerly anticipated games of all time, Sonic the Hedgehog 2 for the Sega Genesis.

Graphics: For their time, fantastic. For the Genesis, nearly the best. Everything is detailed and realistic. There are tiny, minute details and great lighting effects. Thanks to the multiple layers of backgrounds, that move individually, the background and foreground scroll by as you run, as they would in real life. This game does a great job of being 2D, and looking 3D at the same time. I find the graphics in this game great even today, next to all the newer 2D games coming out for the Game Boy Advance and other systems.

- SCORE: 9/10 -

Sound: Very, very good! Music is well-composed and doesn't sound like a sequence of beeps - it sounds like real instruments playing the music. A big 'gracias' to the Genesis sound chip for this, but the tunes themselves are awesome. However, halfway through they get more and more boring. Sound effects are good and match the action well.

- SCORE: 8/10 -

Gameplay: This game is all about speed. Zones like Emerald Hill and Chemical Plant push the system to the limits. Sonic even comes close to running off the edge of the screen- the game can scarcely keep up with him! You can clear the levels quickly by running full throttle toward the end of each

stage, but to get the 'good ending' and get to become 'Super Sonic', you must collect 50 rings or more in each level, and find a Star Post to enter the 3D 'Special Stages'. So, run through TOO fast and you'll miss a great part of the game! Trying to get the 7 Chaos Emeralds alone gives this game lots of replay value.

Levels are varied, creative, and are each based around a theme. Chemical Plant is a roller-coaster of ramps and pipes, Oil Ocean is a bizarre city floating in a lake of oil, Hill Top is an active volcano, Wing Fortress is a flying battleship . . . and so on. At the end of the game you'll even find yourself in space. . . unfortunately, some of the levels just aren't fun to play, and are a chore to get through.

- SCORE: 8/10 -

Difficulty: This game is quite long, even for an experienced player. There are nine zones, most of them with two acts. Metropolis zone has three, and is probably the

toughest zone in the game. Death Egg, Wing Fortress, and Sky Chase are one-act runs, unique from the other zones. You're encouraged to go fast, but you'll need to react quickly to enemies, grab rings, and unlock secrets as you go, so you can't pass everything by. You might even- gasp- need to back-track a bit.

- OVERALL -

Sonic 2 is a worthy addition to the Sonic series, and anyone's game collection. Its unique mix of speed, action, and reflexes make it both addictive and easy to pick up and play.

OVERALL SCORE: 35/40 Points (87.5%)

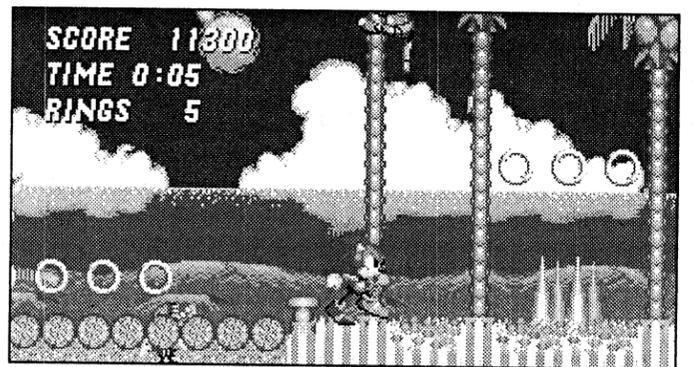
Formula: Graphics + Sound + 2xGameplay -> Overall

Epic Gaming needs your input! Send game suggestions, comments, criticism, or items with the word 'pillage' printed neatly across them to:

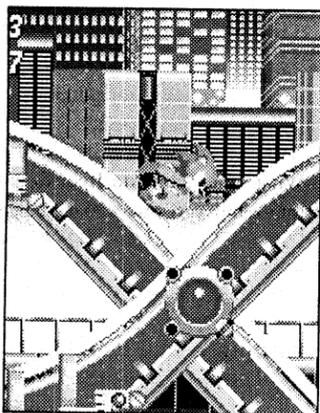
epicenter@adelphia.net
AIM: Epicenter713



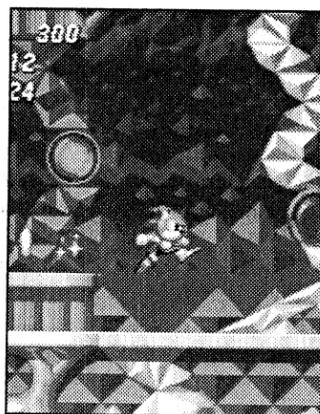
The Alpha title screen. Note the lack of any options.



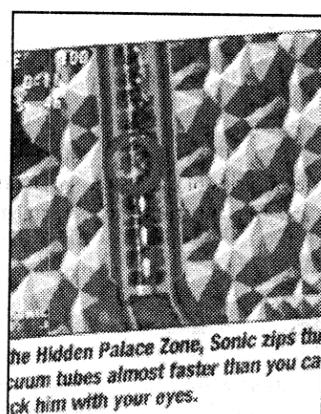
Green Hill Zone-ADVANCED.



Chemical plant sets the standard for what is 'fast' on the Genesis.

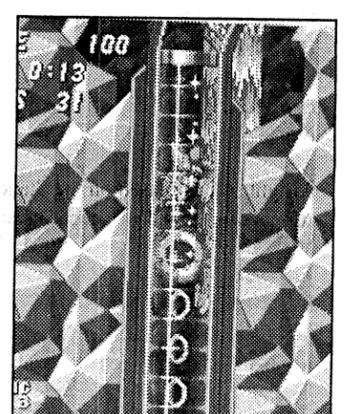


The Long-Lost Hidden Palace Zone.



The Hidden Palace Zone, Sonic zips through vacuum tubes almost faster than you can blink him with your eyes.

Look familiar...?



ding ding ding!

Internet Idiocy 101

DEVEN GALLO

Welcome to Internet Idiocy, a look into my collection of stupid people and stupid things you can find on the Internet. Well, actually, they just tend to find me. I'm lucky that way. Let's kick things off with some of my horrendous spam mail.

- BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES!

- PURPLE-SPOKE PERSONALLY WITH?

- BIGGER PENIS IS BETTER SAILBOAT

I was checking a user's feed-back on EBay... needless to say, it's pretty, um, interesting.

dmb_sportscards(5321)

Complaint: did not honor bid, never sent payment

Response by earlsr2002 - I had bid first time and didnt know what to do afterward, that has now changed

dreamcapital(111) May-06-03 03:38:51 PDT 3021823982 B

Praise: Thanks so much for a perfect transaction, Great ebayer, couldn't be better! A++

Response by earlsr2002 - if anyone ever happens to need a cable descrambler come to this guy, he knows!!!

dfray1(25) Oct-02-02 06:41:46 PST 2057461063 B

Complaint: Claimed bankruptcy and didn't pay.

Response by earlsr2002 - sure I did

houseofhentai(120) Oct-13-02 08:27:27 PST 1565673846B

Complaint: Said "sorry, as of 24:00, I have gone bankrupt." And did not pay What's a BS

Response by earlsr2002 - EAT SHIT MAGOT, YOUR PRODUCTS WERE OBVIOUSLY MISLEADING

And some good ol' instant message spam ..

SexxyJulie3971: omg im so drunk right now im gonna strip on my webcam if you wanna watch come here

Huh, when drunk, you can set up a webcam and declare to the world that you have selected this precise moment to tear your clothes off? Well, damn, that makes PERFECT sense.

— THE ULTIMATE SPAM PROJECT—

Sign up my new e-mail address for all the crappy services you can, and plug it in chat rooms, on forums, etc. to get me as much spam as possible. we'll print the best ones

here. I need your help, I can only do so much by myself.

epic_cantar@hotmail.com

Yes, Epic Cantar. cantar as in, 'to sing'. Epic Singing .. yeah.

Until next time, I'm Epicenter, and 'loam' is a really awesome word.

CAUTION



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PLAYING LIVE
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Nov. 32, 2003 - 2pm

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GRANDMA ON THE HIGHWAY

Green Review: Tom's Top 5: Anime & Games

JASON CORLEY (A.K.A. TOM GREEN)
For the first installment of the Green Review we will look at Tom's Favorites and a couple of new things.

Tom's Top 5

Anime Series

Noir
Escarflowne
Robotech
Infinite Ryvius
Ranma 1/2

Stand-Alone Anime

Princess Mononoke
Spirited Away
Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind
Kiki's Delivery Service
Castle in the Sky

Games

DDR (Dance Dance Revolution)
Halo
Armor Core 2
Alien vs. Predator
Zelda Ocarina of Time

New Anime

Full Metal Alchemist
Full Metal Panic: Fumoffu
Naruto

Alright so I'm biased on the Stand Alone Anime, but I'm a huge Hayao Miyazaki fan. How could my top 5 not consist of his work? Ok, time to review these.

Noir

The 7th DVD has just recently been release in the US completing the series. Noir is about two assassins, Kirika and Mireilla, trying to discover what really is Soldats. Noir has a great plot and terrific graphics. And, even if it didn't have a story line and quality going for it, where else would you get to see two girls with guns kick ass? Kirika is a cute and deadly assassin with amnesia who has teamed up with the hot Mireilla whose parents were assassinated and seeks revenge.

Escarflowne

This series has been out in the US for a couple of years now. This anime has an excellent blend of modern and medieval technology. It is about a girl, Hitomi, who has

been teleported from earth to another world, Giya, and her adventure to get home. The Mecha in this anime is awesome but they just don't show enough of it.

Robotech

This is a classic anime. This anime was revolutionary for its time and inspired most other mech anime. With variable fighters, transforming airplanes, the defenders of earth stand a chance against the invading forces of the Zentraedi, a race of giants, the Masters, rulers of the Zentraedi, and the Invid.

The graphics of this one aren't that great compared to today's standards but they are still decent. The plot line might seem a bit confusing at points but that is to be expected when three different series have been combined into one. It is easiest to look at each season as a different series. The dubbing on this one is a little cheesy but it's still ok.

Infinite Ryvius

I saw this one before it was license for release in the US. I haven't seen the US release yet so I can't comment about the dubbing in it. This one takes place in the future where space stations are common and children are even taught on them. After a series of events the survivors are stranded aboard an experimental ship called the Ryvius. The survivors must then find a way home.

Ranma 1/2

This is a story about a boy that turns into a girl, a man that turns into a panda, and all the chaos that goes along with it. Ranma Soatome has been cursed with turning into a girl whenever he is splashed with cold water and he returns to normal when he is splashed with hot water. This Anime is very funny but has no plot to speak of and it never ends even after 7 seasons.

Princess Mononoke

This anime is about a boy, Ashitake, who has been cursed by one of the boar gods. The curse will gradually spread from his arm to the rest of his body and kill him. He chooses to go in search of a cure and then finds himself in the middle of a war between the animal gods and the humans.

Spirited Away

Chihiro, a 10 year old girl, has entered a world inhabited with spirits and her parents have been turned into pigs. Chihiro must find a way to turn her parents back to normal and find a way home. This film is actually aimed towards children but it is still a great film, and aren't we all children at heart?

Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind

This anime was released in the 80's as Warriors of the Wind. It was much shorter than the original and the story was altered a bit but I still loved it since it was the first anime I ever saw. The original, which is planned to be released in the US in the future, is very good. It takes place 1000 years in the future. After the seven days of fire, the poisoned forest started to spread across the lands. With giant bugs that will swarm the humans don't have a chance to stop the spread of the forest and they fight with each other over what little clean land there is. Nausicaa, a princess, must find a way to put an end to the war.

Kiki's Delivery Service

It is the custom that whenever a witch turns 12 she must spend a year training on her own away from home. This anime is about the different problems that arise for Kiki and how she handles them. Again this anime is aimed towards children but it's a great film. Really it is.

Castle in the Sky

This anime is about a girl named Sheeta who has a crystal, which is the key to Laputa, a floating castle in the sky. Sheeta is being chased by the military because they want the floating castle. Sheeta gets help from a boy named Pazu and they try to get to the castle before anyone else.

Now on to the Game reviews.

DDR (Dance Dance Revolution)

This game is awesome. You get exercise while playing a game. The point of the game is to step on the arrows on the dance pad when the scrolling arrows on the screen cross the stationary arrows. I know it

sounds lame but it really is a good game. It's addictive. Everyone looks at it and says that easy until they have tried it. Then they know better.

Everyone at the start sucks at playing it. But, you learn extremely quickly. Unfortunately for this game you have to have the dance pad. And if you want to do two player you have to have two dance pads. That jacks the price up. Of course if you want to go to the arcade to play you can. If you are going to play it a lot then it is better just to buy your own. This game is for the Playstation but it is also scheduled to be released for the Xbox.

Halo

It's the best coop game out there. You get to play thru the whole game with two people. You can also get up to 16 players battling it out if you have four Xboxes networked together. The AI of the enemy in the game is exceptional. Unfortunately the AI of your team isn't that great. But if it were, then you wouldn't get as many aliens to blow apart, now would you?

Armor Core 2

What can I say about this one? What other game do I get to customize my very own personal mech and then go on a rampage and destroy things? This one can be a little annoying because you have to worry about your cash. If you don't have enough you don't get the nice goodies. And to get cash you have to be good. The controls for it are simple. Well, as simple as you can get for a mech game. This game is for the Playstation 2.

Alien vs. Predator

This game is for the computer. Well, it is also for some of the gaming consoles but don't waste your time with them. In this game you get to play one of three races. The Colonial Marines (URAH!) with all the weapons they had in the movie Aliens and then some to take down aliens and predators alike. The Predators, which are insanely fast. The Aliens, which are insanely fast. The Predators, which can cloak and can see in infrared. It's a fast paced game and there is no easy. It goes from hard to insanely hard.

Zelda Ocarina of Time

This is an excellent adventure game. The graphics are decent but not great. Overall this isn't an exceptional game, but I like it.

Now that I am thru reviewing my favorites I can move on to some new stuff.

Full Metal Alchemist

This anime is about two brothers, both of whom are alchemists and they have learned that you cannot gain something without losing something of equal value. The first couple of episodes are about them trying to get the philosopher's stone and then a couple are of a flashback to when they were kids. The next few are of them working towards becoming national alchemists. This is up to the point that has been released. It's a really good story and I am trying not to give away too much.

Full Metal Panic: Fumoffu

This is the second season of Full Metal Panic. The first season was serious but this one is defiantly comedic. Sousuke is a sergeant in the first season and is now an average high school student. Well, as average as you can get when you carry around guns and explosives. It's a situation of a teenager with the mindset of a boot camp drill instructor dealing with high school life. Throw in a bonta-kun battle armor to liven things up and you have a hilarious show.

Naruto

This anime is about a ninja, Naruto, that's had the nine-tails demon sealed away inside of him. Naruto wishes to be the best ninja. The anime shows his training and trials on his way to his goal. This one has funny moments and it also has serious moments in it. It has some very creative fight scenes in it. Quite a few have been released and it appears to still be going strong so it will probably be awhile before this one ends.

Help Fight Diseases with Your Computer

DEVEN GALLO

I recently discovered the Folding@home project, thanks to a friend of mine, and it's quite impressive. It is a large-scale distributed computing project to understand protein folding (assembly), and the diseases 'mis-folding' can cause. This is a project to understand, and cure, diseases including Alzheimer's, Mad Cow Disease (BSE), CJD, ALS, and Parkinson's disease, in addition to various types of cancer.

How does this work? Millions of people around the world download the software and run it on their

computer. It doesn't slow down the machine—it just uses extra processing time in the background when you aren't doing anything. This time is used to perform simulations of protein folding, and send the results back to the server - it then receives more data to process, and so on. So, here's how to get started!

Put this address into your web browser: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/pandegroup/folding/download.html>

Click the Windows logo next to "Recommended client for all Windows versions" to begin downloading. Once it finishes, run the pro-

gram and let it install.

You'll be asked to configure the program. Enter your name or alias, and the Team #32407. This is the team used by most SPSU Students, for the HotHardware group (<http://www.hothardware.com>) . . . and you're all set.

Just let the program run at all times - it won't slow anything down. It only uses processing time you aren't. If you have more than one computer, run it on your fastest one, or all of them (even better!) Remember, the more people help, the sooner a cure can be found.

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movies to get you in the spirit

vincent migliore

Some years the calendar will say December, it will be cold outside, and the malls will be decorated, but it just doesn't feel like Christmas. For times like this, there isn't any better way to get in the mood than to watch some great Christmas movies. Here is a list of some of my favorite Christmas classics that have always worked for me.

SCROOGED

Billy Murray takes Charles Dickens's immortal classic Scrooge, and makes it his own. In this movie Murray plays a TV executive that has lost touch with reality and only cares about making money. Because of Murray's greed, three ghosts, that ultimately show him the error, in his ways visit him. Besides this movie being hilarious, it teaches us all a great lesson. You aren't as nice as you might think you are, and if you look back at the past year you've actually been a huge asshole. This movie will definitely get you in the spirit for Christmas, and entertain you all at the same time.

MALLRATS

I know what you're thinking and let me just go ahead and stop you right there. While Mallrats isn't technically a Christmas movie, it can still do its part to get you in the mood for the holidays. Where do a majority of people do their Christmas shopping? The mall of course. Where does a majority of the movie Mallrats take place? The mall of course. The connection between this movie and Christmas is quite apparent. Mallrats is one of those Kevin Smith cult classics that will have you rolling on the floor whether you've never seen it or if you've seen it so much that you've committed it to memory and recite lines unconsciously throughout your day. So enjoy Mallrats, and then go out and buy some presents.

ERNEST SAVES CHRISTMAS

If you're ever feeling down just pop in an Ernest movie, and your day will surely be brighter. The same thing goes if you

aren't in the Christmas spirit, just pop in Ernest Saves Christmas and you'll definitely be feeling it for sure. In the movie, Santa must find someone to take his place, and to do that it means he must leave the North Pole. Of course craziness ensues, and it's up to Ernest, with his wild faces, to save Christmas for us all. Unfortunately Jim Varney who plays Ernest has passed on, but don't let that get you down because Ernest SAVES Christmas.

NATIONAL LAMPOONS CHRISTMAS VACATION

Arguably the funniest Christmas movie of all time, this Chevy Chase classic will definitely get you in the right mood. Written by 80's teen movie king, John Hughes, Christmas Vacation tells the story of the Griswold's who are having the entire family over for Christmas. Much like other chapters in the vacation series, this family function does not go off smoothly and the results are hilarious.

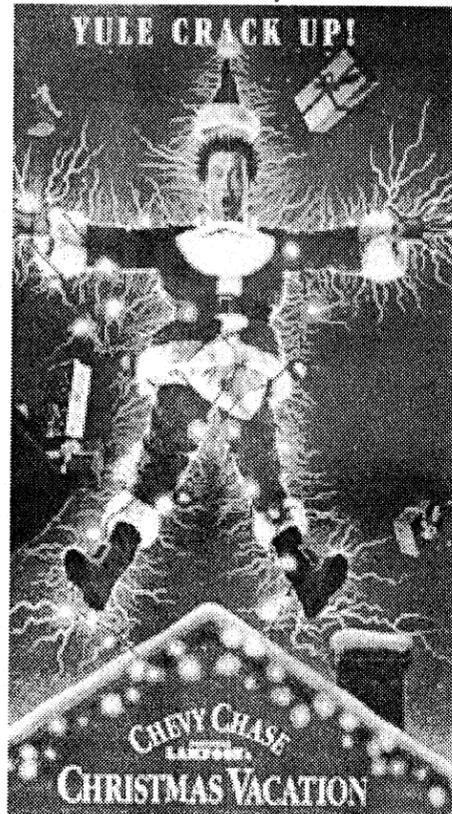
DIE HARD

Once again I'm sure you are going to tell me that this isn't a Christmas movie, but once again you will be wrong. Die Hard takes place on Christmas Eve, so therefore it is a Christmas movie. No Christmas is complete for me without watching this movie. Not only is Die Hard a great holiday movie, but also it gave birth to the modern action movie. The movie revolves around cop John McClane, played by Bruce Willis, and his wife Holly. The couple is separated and living in different states, but are trying to reconcile their difference so they can be together for their kids on Christmas. Unexpectedly, terrorists take over the building where Holly works and it's up to John to take this group of terrorists down. Gather the family around the tube tonight, and enjoy this classic that is suitable for all ages.

Of course there are other movies out there that can get you in the holiday spirit. Some other favorites of mine are

Gremlins, Home Alone, and Die Hard 2. After watching one or all of these movies you definitely will be in the right frame of mind for the holidays.

• Chevy Chase was in Fletch you know.



a cheap christmas

bailey humphries

As we all know, times are tight this holiday season. While our local and federal governments work to better the economy, we as a group of people need to learn to conserve money. So whether you don't have a lot of cash left in the Christmas fund or you're just plain cheap, just remember that it's the thought that counts.

For your friends that enjoy music, vintage music flyers are great. Yet, the problem is that vintage music flyers can get pretty pricey. So what should you do? Well, when you think about it vintage just means old, right? So if you could find some flyers that are old you'd be set, and who defines what old is? As a solution, I recommend going to the local coffee shop and asking if there are any "old" flyers that you could have. Most of the time the employees

are willing to give you a lot, and now you have all of these great vintage flyers to give as gifts. But, what kind of presents should you buy for those friends of yours that prefer movies over music?

The answer is simple; memorabilia! DVDs average at about 20 dollars or something, and that's way out of our price range for gifts. Memorabilia on the other hand, is a great gift that can be priceless, literally. Now you're probably saying "Whoah whoah whoah Mr. Bailey, where am I supposed to get movie memorabilia?" Well I have an answer for you—right in your pocket! That's right, ticket stubs are movie memorabilia, and they make a great gift for friends and family. Memorabilia is any object or objects valued for their connection with historical events, culture, or entertainment. And, a ticket

stub is just that - it helps preserve the memory of an event, right? It's also a nice touch to use a ticket stub for a movie that you saw with the person, to help remember when you shared it together. You could even write a nice little message on it to the person for when they look at it five or six years from now. Trust me; they'll think it's special.

Don't think I left out the ladies either! Most men don't know how to shop for those special lady friends, or special friends who are ladies, or just plain lady friends. Flowers are very expensive and they die quickly, plus who wants flowers in this day and age, undertakers? Chocolates can go bad and make your special lady friend fat if she eats too many, so that's a bad idea. So what's left? I'll tell you; Romance. It is the perfect gift for that lady in your life, except diamonds. I can tell what you're thinking and no, romance is not expensive, it is in fact very cheap. Just set away some time that you can spend with your best gal, maybe go for an inexpensive walk, a miserly make out session, take a bath together, whatever, just let her know you're making an effort to be romantic. If you're worried she doesn't understand the gift, tell her that you made plans weeks prior and that this moment means a lot to you. If she insists on complaining, forget the bitch, she wouldn't know a good present if it was awesome! Make sure she gives you your gift first.

• Arnold's having a baby!



haiku

bailey humphries

christmas is a time
of giving and of loving
and to go shopping

I used to be made
out of paper and cardboard
now I'm made of socks

a menorah stays
lit for eight days and you
get to eat latkes

a latke is a
pancake especially made
out of potatoes

the holiday time
is a time for holidays
winter holidays

an open letter to the big guy

vincent migliore



• Santa got married on account of the Misses Clause

Dear Santa,
My name is Vincent Migliore, and I attend Southern Polytechnic State University. I'll go ahead and take this opportunity to accept your apologies Santa, but honestly they aren't necessary because I've come to cope with my mistakes. The reason I am writing you is because I think SPSU has been good this year and deserves some nice gifts under the tree. I know that over the years the cookies that were left out for you by ABL were a bit hard and gave you the shits, but we had good intentions. Sure the milk left out for you was warm and had chunks in it, but it's the thought that counts Santa. Besides if salad can be messed up, then how can you expect a good cookie?

I see that you let SPSU open an early Christmas gift this year with the ground breaking of the new on-campus housing. I think its great that we are getting new places to live because of how horrible the other dorms are. I also want to thank you for making the freshman residents lives that much more hellish by taking away their parking spots. Now they have to walk long distances in cold weather from their cars. It always makes my day that much better when I see a freshman

feeling the all too familiar feeling of misery that comes with being accepted to SPSU.

This year Santa I was thinking maybe you could change the registration process we have here at school. I'm tired of there only being one time allotted to a class that I need, and not being able to take it because it conflicts with another class that I need. Maybe you can not only increase the amount of times a course is offered over the span of a semester, but maybe, just maybe, you could increase the different types of courses offered as well. I was looking forward to taking the astronomy lab class my freshman year only to see it vanish the next semester. This year it was anthropology, sociology, and journalism that vanished. I'm not being selfish either Santa because I am transferring after next semester and won't be able to reap the benefits. I simply want others to benefit from your gifts.

Santa I hope everything is going great with Mrs. Clause. It must be great to have a significant other Santa. You see us guys at Southern Polytechnic don't really have any chance of ever getting married thanks to the small population of females that attend this school. They say that a majority of people in this country will meet their

future spouse the first two years of college. Count out all of the defective girls, and the bitches and that leaves us with -12 females for a few thousand males. This sets almost all of us back from ever finding that special someone. Santa I know your elves can't make a woman, but they can make magic powder that will erase their memory. You'd be helping a lot of people out big guy.

Finally Santa it would be great if you gave accreditation to the Computer Science department. Those people work really hard, and deserve to have a future. I know you don't really think about work too much because you only do it once a year, but these students are thinking about it everyday. They don't have the luxury of sitting back and playing slave driver to a bunch of midgets 364 days a year. So Santa please give these kids some hope, and give them accreditation so that maybe one day they can provide for their family.

Sincerely,
Vincent Migliore

P.S. An Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle would kick some serious ass!

connecting the dots

1. 4. lift the pen



6.



7.



3.



2.



5.



8. lift the pen

Final Fantasy Tactics Advance



CJ SHRADER AND "KITTY"

Are you a die-hard Final Fantasy fanatic? Well, I'll be honest with you up front and say that I am not. In fact, Tactics is the first Final Fantasy game I've ever played. A reliable source tells me that it's quite different from its predecessors in that the characters in the game actually know that Final Fantasy exists, and the main character (you) controls a small army (clan). They're basically your own little robots. You pick what kind of jobs they have, which abilities they use, what equipment they wear, and you completely control them on the battle field. I really appreciate this change because it eliminates the chance of a character doing something completely stupid and ruining everything.

Now let's get to the characters. You play the main character in this game, Marche (although you can type in any name you want). The beginning of the game takes place in the real world with a snowball fight at Marche's new school. Its

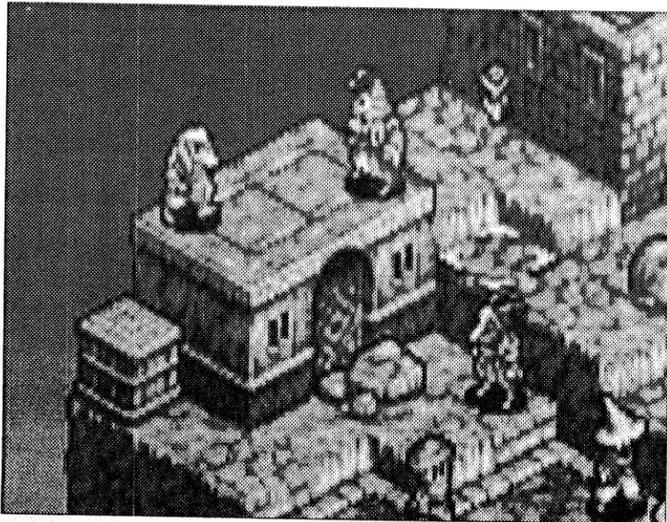
only purpose is to teach you how to play the game, the basic strategies you'll need and all that. After school, Marche invites some friends from school, Ritz and Mewt, over to his house. You'll also catch a glimpse of the unhappy life Mewt leads (this will be more important later on). Mewt brings an ancient-looking book with him and when he reads some of the words aloud, suddenly their world is forever transformed. No longer is Marche just a regular little boy sitting in his room with his little brother and friends. Now he has been transported into the Final Fantasy game.

It's a world of clans, battles, missions, judges, and magic. To get home, Marche must first discover

the source of the transformation, and then somehow find a way to undo it. However, things are not just that simple. In the real world, Marche is the new kid, an outcast from his schoolmates. In this new world, he lives a fantasy life. He's a powerful warrior, with friends and fame and happiness... Is he willing to sacrifice it all to go back home? What of his friends, Ritz and Mewt, both outcasts themselves? Will they be willing to give up their new lives, or will Marche find them standing between him and the way home?

For all you first time players out there, let me give you a few helpful hints:

-Read your instruction manual,



it'll save you a world of trouble later on.

-Even though it's annoying to go through them, read the rumors in all the pubs. They can be very helpful.

-Don't skip the snowball fight in the beginning of the game. It may seem useless, but if you do you'll have little or no idea of what to do later on.

-Save your game, and save often. That way if you screw up really badly and want to turn off the game and erase it all, everything else you've accomplished won't get erased as well.

-For your second mission to the Jagds, make sure at least three members in your clan have access to a Totema. (I know I'm speaking Greek now, but you'll see what I mean later on)

If you're wondering how long

all this takes, I've been playing the game for about 42 hours (No, not all at once, do you really think I'm *that* obsessed?) and I'm 4/5 of the way through. When my boyfriend first bought this game, I thought it looked pretty stupid. I mean, how much fun could a game in which all you do is go around battling people be? I'll concede and say I was wrong (Don't look so shocked, I *can* admit it sometimes, yanno). This game is awesome, so much so that even after I've beaten it, I'll still go around battling people, unlocking secrets, and forming the most powerful clan that any Final Fantasy game has ever known. Ok, so I'm a little bit of a braggart when it comes to my clan, but if you ever wanna challenge me, you'll find out why I think I'm fairly justified in that respect. Oh, and buy the game too.

Looney Tunes: Back in Action

CJ SHRADER

The world is in peril. Daffy Duck has been fired from Warner Bros. studios by Vice President of Comedy, Kate Houghton (Jenna Elfman. You know, Dharma). The evil ACME Corporation's Chairman (Steve Martin) plans to find and steal the mystical Blue Monkey Diamond. With the Diamond, the Chairman plans to turn the entire world into monkeys, train

them to build cheap, inferior products for ACME, then turn them back into humans and sell the products to them. It's up to DJ Drake, a security guard/wanna-be stuntman to stop the evil Chairman.

I think what surprised me most about this movie is that it actually has a plot. A plot with monkeys. Small ones. I expected a movie geared towards children, but there were actually plenty of jokes and bits aimed

towards adults as well. It makes sense, since Looney Tunes was never truly meant for children in the first place.

You can expect a lot of nostalgia by seeing this movie. You'll see all your favorite Looney Tunes characters: Bugs, Daffy, Yosemite Sam, Wile E. Coyote, Elmer Fudd, Road Runner, Tweety Bird, Sylvester, Granny, and yes, even Marvin the Martian. Also, expect some cameos from other Warner Bros. franchises, like Batman or a particularly good scene where the cartoon versions of Scooby Doo and Shaggy are chewing out the live-action version of Shaggy (Matthew Lillard) for making the cartoon version look flaky.

Speaking of cameos, plenty are to be found in this movie. You'll see Michael Jordan, Joan Cusack, Bill Goldberg, Ron Perlman, Heather Locklear, John Cleese, the "Danger, Will Robinson, Danger!" robot from "Lost in Space," and Robert Picardo (For Star Trek fans: The EMH from Voyager. For Star Wars fans: EMH stands for Emergency Medical Hologram. For non-CS majors: The doctor from the crap show).

Also expect a brief cameo appearance from my Philips Magnavox 5-in-1 remote control (with learn feature).

The animation in "Back in Action" is very smooth and seamless. I think you'll have a hard time accepting that the actors aren't really talking to Bugs and Daffy and that Bugs and Daffy aren't really sitting in chairs or driving cars. The movie makes it look and feel like these car-



toon characters really belong in our world.

I'll wrap things up by answering the questions on your mind right now. Is it better than "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" No. Is it better than "Space Jam?" Maybe. Boxers or briefs? Both.

My final recommendation is, even though I found this movie to be

very entertaining and gaining more than a few laughs from me, it probably isn't worth more than a rent. There are simply too many significantly better movies out and coming out in the near future. Go see one of those, then, on a rainy evening, rent Looney Tunes and have a simple, good time.



In love with "Love Actually"

MIRANDA BENNETT

It is, hands down, the best damn movie I've seen since before I was born... wait, before you write me off as crazy, let me explain. I am a huge fan of classic movies, particularly love stories: "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "Barefoot in the Park," "Pillow Talk," and so on. And, for me these movies have an extra something that more modern movies miss, but not "Love Actually." The creators hit it square on the head when they made this destined-to-be-a-classic masterpiece.

"Love Actually" interweaves a stellar cast into a collage of great love stories. Some of these romances are new, some old. Some are full of hope. Some are just silly. Some of the romances are tragic,



even forbidden, and at least one thumbs its nose at convention altogether. However, none of these romances leave you apathetic. The characters are so well-developed that you can't help but fall in love a little yourself and wish for their happiness (or unhappiness, as the case may be). And you're bound to connect on some level to almost every scenario presented in the film.

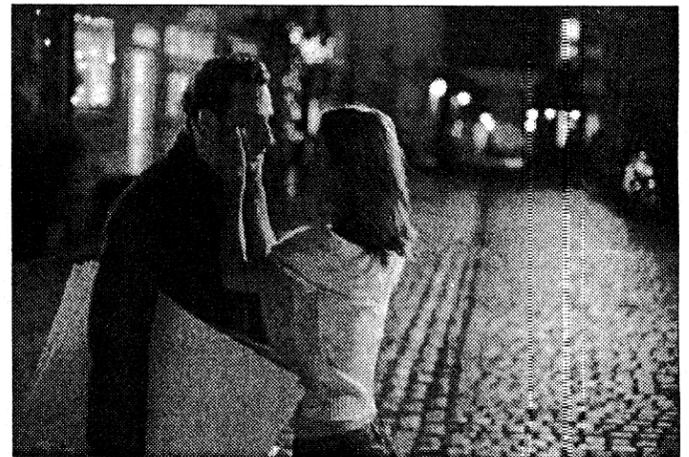
There are 10 romances in all. Hugh Grant is the new British prime minister who falls for Martine McCutcheon, a house worker whose primary job is apparently fetching tea and biscuits for the prime minister. Emma Thompson is married to Alan Rickman, who has a wicked secretary that is encouraging wicked

thoughts for her married boss. Liarn Neeson must bury the love of his life and then care for her son, his stepson. That care includes nursing the boy through his first real bout with love sickness. Colin Firth runs away to France when he discovers his wife and brother romping around one faithless afternoon and falls for his maid...who he can't even communicate with! Laura Linney has the hots for a hottie at work and spends the movie working on asking him over. Bill Nighy plays the part of an old, washed up rock star fighting for one last time in the spotlight. I know it may seem as though I'm giving the movie away here, and I left off four of the romances, but trust me, this paragraph says practically nothing. There is a lot going on in this movie! And...it's set around Christmas time, so it's a perfect holiday movie.

This isn't just a "chic flick." I have it on the authority of two males who saw the film on the same weekend as I that they thought it was a great movie, so guys, don't cringe when your

sweetheart ask you to take her to see "Love Actually." You'll probably enjoy it as well. The film is set in London, so there's a liberal helping of smartass dialogue and good ole fashioned raunchy humor to entertain the most jaded soul. But, I doubt anyone can leave the theatre without some restored faith in love or feelings of reminiscence.

I give this movie however many Squirrel Nuts it takes to draw a big, nutty heart around The Globe. It's that good. Go see it!



The Last Samurai

MIRANDA BENNETT

On the insistence of his superior officer, Col. Bagley (Tony Goldwyn), Captain Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) takes on the task of training Japan's first modern army. The agreement is partly at the behest of the young Emperor, who is eager to embrace all things western and partly a foothold for the Americans who hope to sell the Japanese on a weapons contract.

Early on, Algren has to face Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe), the last leader of the Samurai, who is rebelling against the encroachment of western ways into Japan. It is Algren's job to quash this rebellion. However, Algren is apparently tied to the last leader of the Samurai, which is revealed by a dream Katsumoto has early in the film. Algren falls in battle, and rather than kill him, Katsumoto chooses to heed his dream as an omen of sorts and take Algren prisoner instead.

Algren soon becomes immersed in Katsumoto's world and begins to understand the ways of the ancient line of warriors. With the help of his newly found eastern understanding, Algren begins to come to grips with a past event that

has haunted him since its occurrence on the plains near the banks of the Washita River. Tom Cruise does a fine job playing the part of a troubled Civil War soldier who fought on the right side in the wrong way and ends up seeking redemption for his sins in a far away land among a people he knows nothing about.

While Algren faces his inner demons and Katsumoto ponders the purpose of Algren, the Emperor's advisors continue to take a free hand in arranging military matters, with



close attention to the task of eliminating the 1000-year-old line of warriors, the Samurai.

Katsumoto fights to save the traditions of his country while Algren fights to save himself. However, later, both find something greater to fight for and a greater enemy to face.

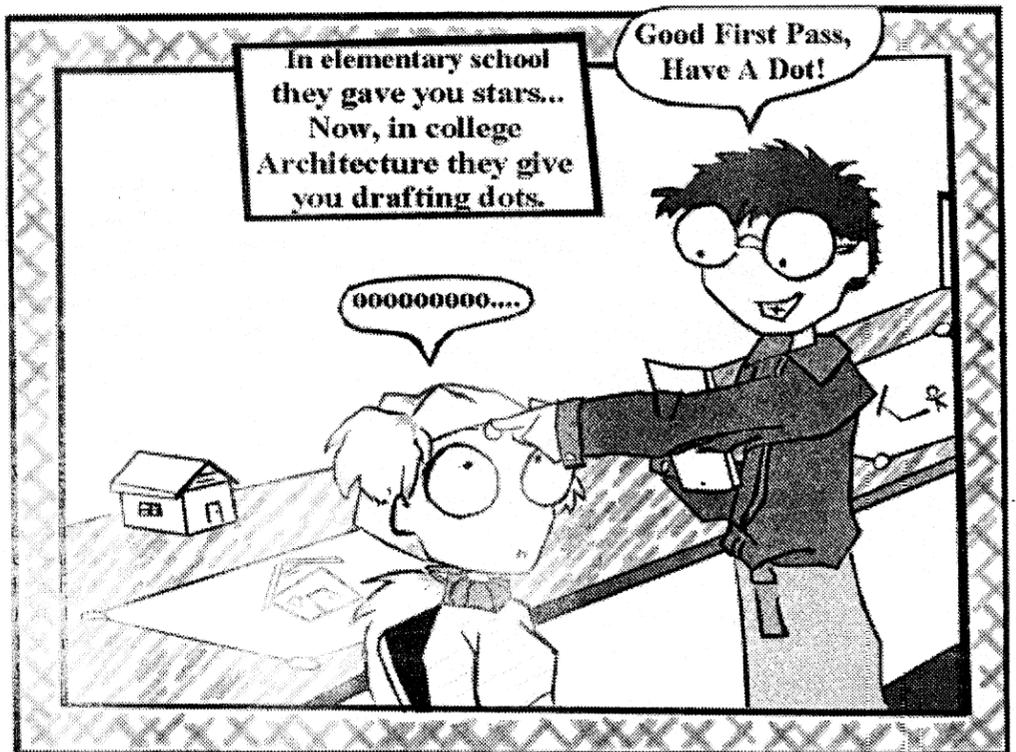
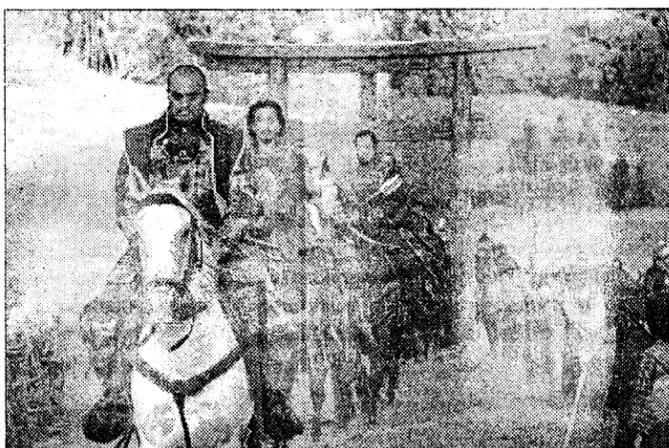
The film is anchored with a strong cast of supporting characters, the plot is reasonable, the characters are well developed, and the film's overall pace is good. It is "Hollywood," so some movie buffs may



be disappointed by its lack of film-school realism or incredibly insightful portrayal of (insert chosen social problem here). But, personally, I think it's great a great movie.

The Last Samurai comes to theatres on December 5. I give The Last

Samurai 3 out of 3 Squirrel Nuts and would offer more if I could find the nut sack. For goodness sake, I leave the office for one minute and I can't find anything when I get back...



COLLEGE SEX TALK

A student From Georgia Southern Wants To Know....

I have been in a relationship with a girl I have known for almost a year now. Our sex life is healthy but she says that I am not creative. She wants me to think up new ideas, but I need help. Suggestions? Male, First-Year

Dr. Caron's Response:

Let me begin by saying that since your sex life involves her, I guess I would ask her to participate in the creativity process.... and not expect you to be the one who initiates or creates the new experience. And what exactly does she mean by "creative?" If she means she would like to try new positions, well... the Kama Sutra suggests there are 529 possible positions... so this may be a resource for you. My guess would be that your relationship has fallen into a pattern or routine where the newness has worn off... if it is the same old thing time after time, it's going to get boring. That's true with many things in life... for example, if you get excited about a new flavor of Ben & Jerry's ice-cream and then proceed to eat it every day, the excitement will wear off and it will become boring. I imagine that whoever said, "variety is the spice of life" may have been referring to our sex life. I think expanding one's definition of sex beyond penis-in-vagina is a good place to start. What else do you do in terms of touching and caressing

one another? Varying the time and place of your sexual interaction can help add to the excitement and sense of newness. But, as I said in the beginning, I think this task of being more creative involves both of you... can you talk to her about ideas she may have to spice things up? Perhaps asking her what turns her on and where she likes to be touched would help....maybe when you are in bed together you could ask her to show you. I believe that by communicating with each other, you will be better able to meet each other's needs. Best wishes.

Dr. Sandra L. Caron, Ph.D.
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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 Copyright Sandra L. Caron, 2003

Got a question for Dr. Caron?

Visit: <http://www.collegesextalk.com/questions.htm> and ask away! Get a guaranteed personal and confidential response to your question: <https://www.my-secure-site.com/collegesextalk/>
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College Bear Break-in

JIM HILL

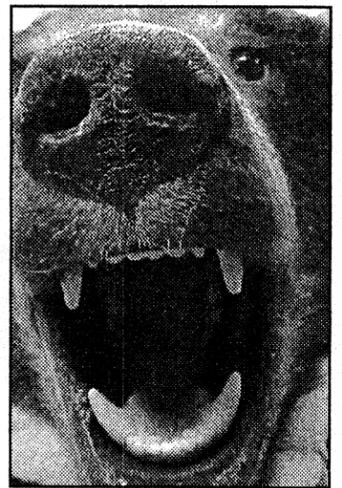
It was not your usual breaking-and-entering crime this week at Appalachian University, said college police spokesman.

Monday night a police dispatcher listen as a student described the scene outside his apartment window. The suspect, they said, was knocking in the door at the Holmes Convocation Center. When officers arrived, they saw where a brown bear had pushed out the glass of a ground-level door and was making its way down the hallway of the Center. "Spooked by the police, the bear then turned and headed out," said

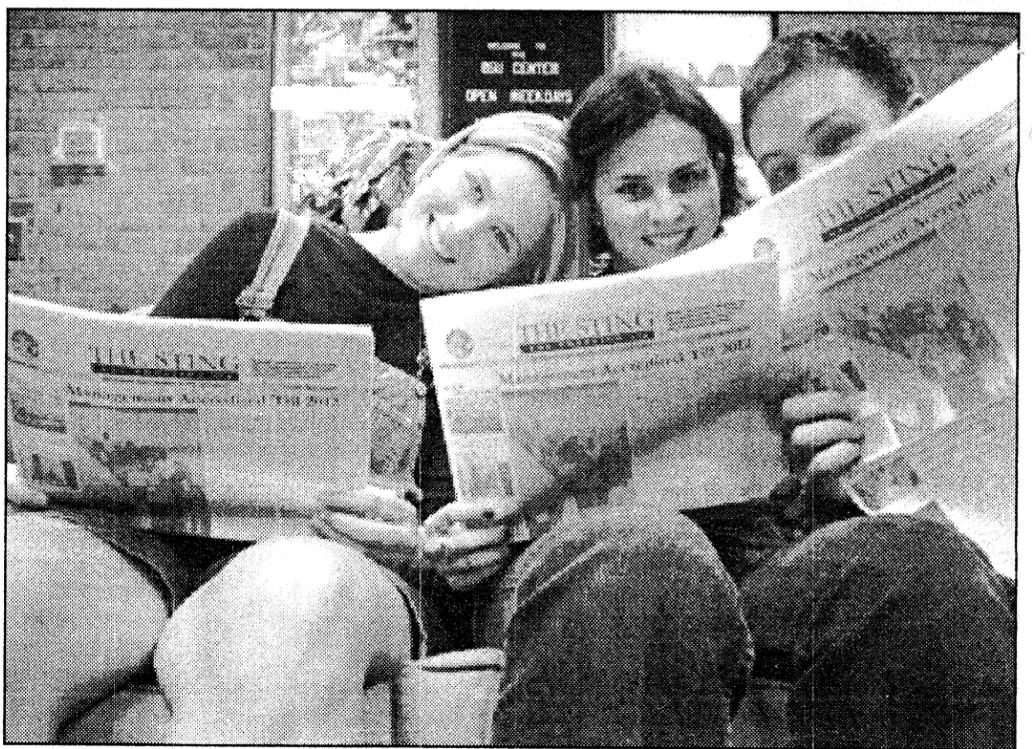
Police Chief Gunther Doerr.

The bear then fled across campus and ran headfirst into an office building, "ouch!" where it bloodied its nose on a window. Then it ran into the near by woods. For about an hour, officers searched for a 150 to 200 pound brown bear, but did not find it. "No one else was injured in the incident," said Doerr. He estimated that the damage was in the range of \$150 to \$200.

"The Holmes Convocation Center is used for sporting events and has concession stands on the second floor, but no other food to speak of," said Doerr.



It's a bear...not a dog TOM! Period.



This guy is with 2 girls...at SPSU...and he's reading The Sting. Coincidence? We think not. Read The Sting.

Merry CHRISTMAS & Happy New Year

Sting Squirrel

