

THE STING

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September 15, 2004

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 59, Edition 2

Big Soccer News on Campus

CHRISTOPHER AIKEN

The 2005 school year will be a very exciting one for Southern Polytechnic State University. Fall 2005 will mark the inaugural season of the men's Southern Poly Collegiate Soccer Team. The soccer hornets will join our other varsity teams competing in the NAIA as part of the Southern States Athletic Conference (recently renamed on July 8, 2004 from the Georgia Alabama Carolina Conference).

The team has been under discussion for several semesters, but was accepted to begin in 2005. The Southern Polytechnic Athletic Department will hire a full time coach to manage the men's team before Fall 2005. Currently three candidates have been interviewed, but no decisions have been made. Additionally, the athletic department will also begin filling the team with outside players and internal players from our own existing club team.

A women's soccer program will also begin in 2006, as the program becomes better structured and developed. Our university budget only allows for one team at this time, but when the women's team begins, the hired coach for the men's team will coach both.

The dawn of a varsity soccer team has come through the advent of our very own successful club team. Spearheaded by SPSU students for three years, and under the guidance of the very dedicated coach Richard Hahn (a Southern Poly speech professor who gains no extra compensation for coaching the team during

his free time), the Southern Poly Club team has competed successfully in club tournaments in Clemson and Florida. Reaching the athletic department, the club team's success has exposed the need and a high interest for a varsity soccer team on campus.

Winning the Kennesaw State invitational spring soccer tournament multiple times, and rising above other well known college club teams (Tennessee, Auburn, and Clemson to name a few), the existing club team has plenty to boast of as well. With its rising stature in the club team community, the team has been invited to and has accepted membership into the Northeast Division of the Southern Collegiate Soccer League, a club level organization with set matches finalized in a post season weekend tournament.

The club team has been under training for a few weeks in preparation for their opening away match against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) on Sunday September 12, 2004 at 1 pm. The team will then play in alternating home and away games through Sunday October 17, 2004, concluding with a tournament appearance in Tupelo, Mississippi on the weekend of October 22-24. Between matches, the club team will also host open practices on the recreation fields every Tuesday,

Wednesday, and Friday from 5 to 7 pm until the end of the season.

Southern Poly's first club soccer home game for the Fall 2004 Season will be on Sunday September 19, at 1:30 pm on the recreational fields at the rear campus nearby to South

Cobb Drive. Support will greatly enhance the experience, and watching soccer is fun, so go and cheer. (It's something that will be happening on the weekends on campus, so don't complain that it's Sunday afternoon with nothing to do at Southern Poly).



QUICK NEWS

Obituary for Dalton Lee Stewart and Grady Sizemore, Jr. (pg 2).

QUICK FEATURES



Planning on a one-night stand. Read Dominique's advice before hand. (pg 9).



Ever wanted to know which North American country makes the best beer. Read and find out. (pg 9).



Doom 3 has finally been released. Read and find out if it met the hype (pg 10).



The top eight movie scenes for geek. (pg 11).



DragonCon! The Geek party of the year. (pg 16).

QUICK OPINION

Calling A Spade a Spade: My Intemperate Thoughts (pg 7).

Complaints about the Financial Aid Office. (pg 8).

Students family embarrassed that she went to college. (pg 8).

Section	Page
News	1
Opinion	7
Departments	3
Organizations	4
Entertainment	9

Lost Newspapers

THE ANONYMOUSX

This article is for those of you that subscribe to a daily newspaper, but find that a lot of them come up missing. For reasons beyond my understanding, a lot of the daily newspapers the residents of the University Courtyard and University Commons receive end up getting routed to the campus library. The best guess for this misdirection is that the distributors of these newspapers do not know the location of particular apartments and drop off these lost newspapers at the post office. The vast majority of misplaced newspapers the post office receives find their way to the library, where they are usually recycled. The worst perpetrator of this cycle is the Atlanta-Journal Constitution, which actively hunts for student business on a regular basis on the campus without informing the student of possibly delivery problems. So, if you have missed several papers, you should contact the AJC and inform them of your location or ensure that they actually do deliver to your actual room.

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
ajc.com

Hornet's New Image

KAREN ASAY

Southern Polytechnic has a new image for its mascot. During the first couple weeks of this semester, there was a table set up in the Student Center and in J-Building, where students voted on their favorite image for the Hornet. There were three designs to choose from, which were created by Brainstorm Design Works. The image that won, "won by a landslide," stated Melissa McGarity.

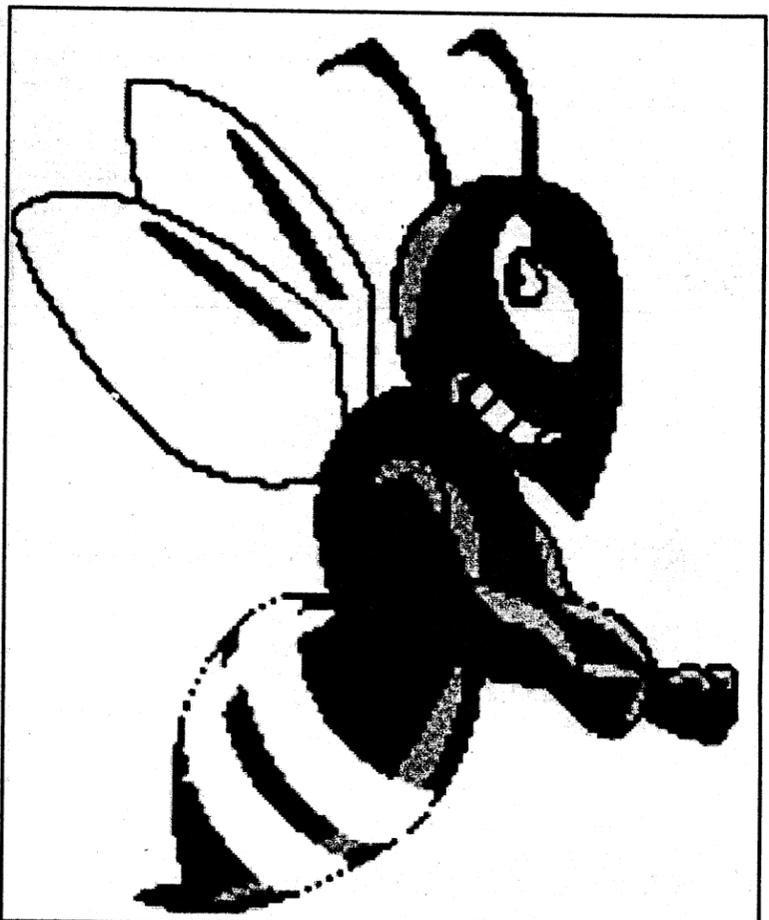
The whole process started when SPSU received a letter from a law office asking the school if they were going to renew their trademark. This letter came as a surprise since most people at SPSU didn't know we had a trademark image of the Hornet. The Hornet's image that was trademarked, many people didn't like, so the process started to design a new image the school would want to use. They wanted an image that students and people off-campus would recognize. Now that the image has been picked, the next step is for the school to trademark it.

Karl Staber and Melissa McGarity are trying to make the new Hornet image an university image, not just an image used for

athletics. McGarity encourages student organizations to contact her by email, mmcgarit@spsu.edu, or by coming to her office, B-172, to get a digital copy of the Hornet's image so they can use it on their signs, flyers, etc. "I hope students embrace [the Hornet]," said

McGarity.

SPSU's mascot finally has an image. However, the Hornet now has an image but it still does not have an official name. Students can look for more information about the naming the mascot in the future.



Grady Sizemore, Jr.

Grady Sizemore, Jr., age 72, passed away at home in Lilburn on Tues., Sept. 7th, from complications from a stroke. He is survived by his wife, Mary Frances (Canuth) Sizemore, his son Steve Sizemore of Lawrenceville, and two daughters, Kathy Munson and Tori McCubbin, both of Snellville, and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial Woods Baptist Church in Lawrenceville on Thurs., Sept. 9th, and was followed by burial at the Giles and Hardigree Cemetery in Watkinsville.

Mr. Sizemore graduated in 1952 from Southern Tech with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He first worked for Honeywell, but a fascination with automobiles soon found him working for the Ford Motor Company for 27 years. While there, he often testified in court against customer complaints filed against the company, being a man of unimpeachable reputation.

Grady Sizemore also restored two 1929 Model A Ford automobiles, and won show awards numerous times at regional car shows. Upon retirement, he took up making stained glass windows as a hobby, finally opening a business named Grady's Glass, since renamed Glass Expression, of Norcross. He was responsible for many stained glass windows in local homes, restaurants, and churches, including Colonial Woods Baptist Church.

Dalton Lee Stewart

Following a ten-month battle with pancreatic cancer, Dalton Lee Stewart, age 66, of Mansfield, Ohio passed away on Thurs., Sept. 2nd. The funeral was held on Sun., Sept. 5th at the Snyder Funeral Home in Mansfield, with interment at the Oak Grove Memorial Park in Lexington.

Mr. Stewart leaves behind his eldest son, Rev. David L. and Judy Stewart of Kennesaw, Georgia. Rev. David Stewart is the minister for the Baptist Student Union adjacent to Southern Polytechnic State University, serving the students of Southern Tech, Kennesaw State University, Chattahoochee Tech and North Metro Tech.

Other bereaved family members include Mr. Stewart's wife of 47 years, Mary Jane (Ewers) Stewart, son Gary A. and Nancy Stewart of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, daughter Rebecca L. (Stewart) and Rick Crowl of Mansfield, Ohio, and Robert J. and Robin Stewart of Centerville. Mr. Stewart is survived by eight grandchildren, his brother Arvin G. Stewart of Mansfield, a niece and two nephews and brother-in-law and sister-in law James and Hester Ewers of Mt. Gilead.

Mr. Stewart was a machinist with Ideal Electric in Mansfield, Ohio, for nearly forty-five years, where he was involved in manufacturing electric motors and motor controllers. Although he had served as a shop foreman for four years, he

preferred to work with his hands. His son David recalled, "He liked being a machinist better than being in charge, or dealing with personnel issues."

This past July first, Mr. Stewart was helping his son Gary re-roof the farmhouse on the 7th generation family farm, shortly before his battle with cancer took a turn for the worst. "If he could get up, and get going, it would take his mind off his pain," said Rev. Stewart. "He took a lot of pleasure in his work."

Mr. Stewart enjoyed tending to his vegetables on the family's 155 acre farm. He liked cutting firewood from the 60 acres that were forested, and also collected miniature die-cast John Deere tractors. Rev. Stewart recalled that while his father was a John Deere aficionado, the family always farmed with Farmall brand tractors, manufactured by International Harvester.

Dalton Stewart was also known for his dry wit. "He told us he had the funereal home on speed dial," his son David said. "Up until the end, when he could not talk anymore, it was at that point that the one-liners were silenced."

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The local advertising rate of *The STING* is \$5 per column inch on paper; advertisements online are determined by frequency. Advertisements for service and professional organizations on campus are free, but a run-date is not guaranteed on paper. To guarantee one, ad rates are one half the local advertisement rate. Classified advertisements are \$12.50 for the first 25 words on paper. Advertisements must be submitted by the deadline printed below. To reserve space or for more information, contact *The Sting* at 770.528.7310 or sting@spsu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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

JOINING *The STING*

Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join *The STING*, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Friday at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 pm in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call 770.528.7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. *The Sting*: It's not a job, 'cause a real job pays more.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is Sept. 29, 2004. The issue will be released Oct. 6, 2004.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

PRICE

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

Technology Lost its Luster? How About Law?

Does it seem like your ambitions in the technology field have faded? Have your major classes caused you to lose interest in what was once your dream? Are you interested in taking on a new major or minor? Well how about a major or minor in International Studies: Global Technology?

The Social and International Studies department is looking for motivated students who want to go far in their careers. If you want to study something that will allow you to keep your options very open and still allow you to maintain your interesting in technology the IS: Global Technology could be for you.

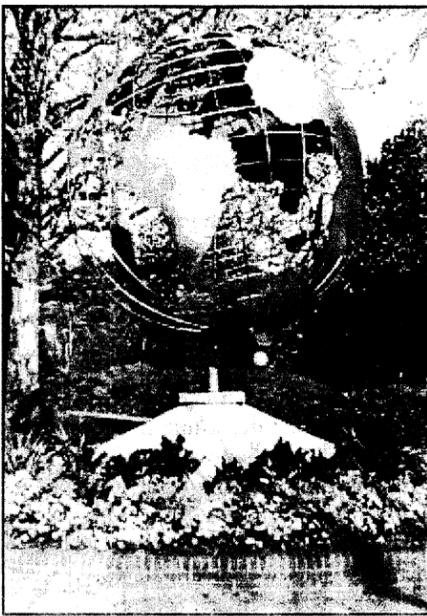
So what can you study in IS: Global Technology? Well, you can concentrate in a variety of studies including Computer Sci-

ence, Management, Electrical Engineering Technology, Construction, Biology, and more (For a complete list contact the Social and International Studies department). The newest addition to the concentrations in IS: Global Technology is Technology and the Law.

So what does the IS: Global Technology major or minor have to offer you? Well, among the possibilities are getting adequate preparation for going to law school. You can work in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Because the focus is on global issues, you develop an

understanding of not just how things work in the United States but how things work around the world. This gives you a tremendous edge when it comes to working for an international company. It is much easier to conduct business with a foreign company or country when you understand the culture.

Of course, you are not limited to international job prospects. Because there is also a focus on technology, you can apply what you learn to technology is-



sues in business. You can apply your interests in technology combined with law and specialize in intellectual property issues. That's just one of countless possibilities; you are only limited by your creativity and ambition.

If you are at all interested in IS: Global Technology contact the Social and International Studies department on the third floor of the J-Building, or email Dr. Thomas Rotnem, trotnem@spsu.edu. The department will gladly provide you with information regarding all of the concentrations and answer any questions you might have.

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Career & Counseling Center

Welcome to SPSU and the Career and Counseling Center.

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Career and Counseling Center at Southern Poly. We share in the educational mission of the university by assisting students in realizing their personal, educational and career goals. Resources and opportunities are provided to assist students in developing personally and professionally. The Center assists baccalaureate and masters students in evaluating and implementing career and life decisions. Services and programs are available to assist each student within the University community in identifying and realizing his or her full potential.

Located in the Student Center, suite 243, next door to the Student Activity office, we open weekdays at 8:00 a.m. Come by and meet our staff and learn about the resources and services available for you.

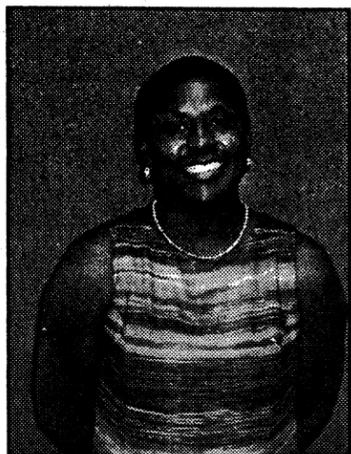
The Director, Regenia Doyle, invites you to use the many services provided by our office. In addition to the daily services and



programs, we promote and sponsor many workshops and Career Fairs.

When visiting the Center you will be greeted by our friendly Receptionist, Cressia Callahan. She will assist you and provide information about our services, registering in CAREER LANE our web-based job and resume database, part time and miscellaneous jobs, make appointments and/or direct you to our other staff members for assistance as needed. *Be sure to get a piece of candy at the counter when you come in!*

When the Receptionist is away from her desk, our Secretary, Diana Harmon-Smith will assist you. In addition to providing forms and helping maintain the records of students in the Co-op and Internship Programs, she also makes resume referrals to hiring companies of those candidates



seeking experiential work opportunities.

The Coordinator for our Co-op and Internship Programs is Bridgette McDonald. Plan to come to the Internship orientation on Wednesday, September 15 and/or the Co-op orientation on Thursday, September 16 at 3 p.m., in the Student Center room 215 and learn more about these programs. Ms. McDonald is always happy to assist you in finding a job in your career field that will give you valuable degree-related experience before you graduate.

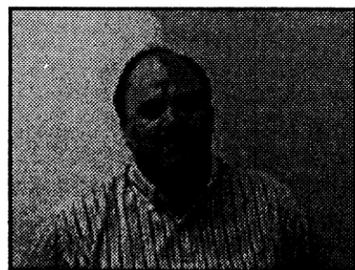
Co-op jobs are full time jobs with rotating work and school semesters. During your work semester you are considered as a full time student for insurance and school loan purposes. Internships may be full time temporary jobs or an on-going part time job. It is required that these jobs be career related to your major.

On campus interviewing is available for students seeking Co-op, Internships, and full time career jobs for Grads. Turner Construction, Shaw Industries, and Western Summit Constructors have already scheduled to come on campus this fall. Companies interviewing on campus and upcoming career fairs can be viewed on the web at: www.spsu.edu/cccenter/events

If you are getting close to graduation Glenda Shipp, the Coordinator for Career Services, can assist you in your search for a career job. She works with the employers that advertise jobs for students and alumni of SPSU and with graduating seniors and alumni. Contact her for assistance and information about using the CAREER LANE web database.

Come to the Graduate Orientation "Boot Camp for Career Services" on Wednesday, September 15 at 12 noon or on Thursday, September 16 at 5 p.m., in the Student Center room 215, and learn how to use our services to help you achieve success in your job search.

You will see our Career Counselor, Jeff Hughes, at many of the



university's sports event. However, to insure your success here at SPSU, be sure to see him at the various academic and career-related workshops this semester. To get started on the right foot this year, consider attending the trio of free academic workshops: "Grounded For Life? Study Skills That Work" on Monday, August 30, "Fear Factor Or Not? Beating Test Anxiety To A Pulp!" on Tuesday, August 31, "Time Bandits: Making Every Minute Count Util-

ADVERTISEMENT

College student tries to return uneaten food for partial refund

Andy Perustein, above, cautiously approaches counter with chicken bone and a few peas.

By POLLY BROWN

Checking his dignity at the cash register, college student Andy Perustein recently presented a local diner cashier with a plate of pickled-over food, demanding money for the vittles he didn't ingest. The cashier—who wishes to remain anonymous—was flabbergasted by the whole incident. "It was both sick and sad at the same time," she said. Perustein had a different take: "I didn't eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?" Pete Woychick—a childhood friend of Perustein's—said it was mostly fees tacked on to his friend's checking account that drove him to the shameless act. "Andy has been pounded for months by fees on his checking account. He's pathetic. I never really liked him when we were kids either." Woychick—who says he personally was financially saved by Washington Mutual's Free Checking Deluxe—thought his childhood friend needed to get his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com. Then he, too, could sign up for Free Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay. "Until Andy decides to get Free Checking," said Woychick, "I'm never eating out with him again. I'm pretty sure I won't return his phone calls either. I might even change my name."

"I didn't eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?"

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lizing Time Management" on Wednesday, September 1. All of these workshops are in room 215 of the Student Center at 3 p.m.

Contact Mr. Hughes for assistance in choosing a major or career that best fits you and your



goals, resume and/or interviewing preparation, and job search assistance. Additionally, Jeff is available for career, academic, and personal counseling. Drop in or contact our office to schedule an appointment.

For Personal Counseling, meet Susan Ristau, our Licensed Professional Counselor. Confidential counseling available for any student experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, addiction, anger management, problems with relationships, sexual issues, and social skills / assertiveness training. All of this at no cost to the student. Make an appointment or walk-in and Susan will be glad to help you.

Career and Counseling Center
Suite 243, Student Center
678-915-7391

Visit our web site for more information about the services we provide, and to register in CAREER LANE: www.spsu.edu/cccenter



Workshop & Orientation Schedule

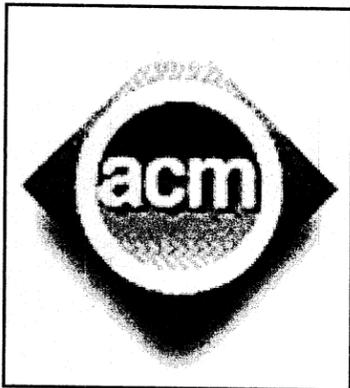
Extreme Makeover Creating A Marketable Resume	Sept. 28 3:00pm – 4:30pm Oct. 13 4:30pm – 6:00pm
King Of The Hill Mastering Your First Interview	Oct. 6 3:00pm – 4:30pm Oct. 21 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Survivor: Conquering A Career Fair	Nov. 2 4:30pm – 6:00pm
The Amazing Race: Navigating The Job Search!	Nov. 3 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Career Eye For The Girl & Guy Learning To Dress For Success	Nov. 9 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Boot Camp For Career Services (Recommended for seniors and anyone looking for work)	Oct. 20 Noon
Resume Critique Day Bldg "J" Lobby Student Center Lobby	Oct. 26 4:00pm – 7:00pm Nov. 10 3:00pm – 6:00pm

All workshops and orientations are in the Student Center room 215.

Join ACM

POP K

The Association of Computing and Machinery (ACM) is one of the largest international computer organizations. The ACM student chapter at Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) concentrates on advancing computer knowledge among students by offering computing-related activities throughout the year. These activities include workshops that advance students' knowledge and interest in the computing field and help them with their current academic courses.



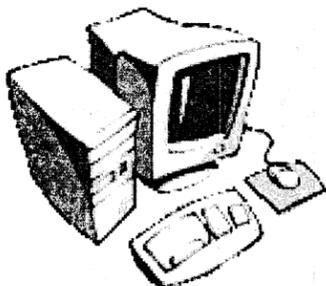
Furthermore, the student chapter of ACM at SPSU engages in volunteer works; this year we are volunteering in the SIGAda computer conferences. We have members with different backgrounds in many fields that could offer tutoring to help advance students' learning.

Many of our members also join the national chapter of ACM. The National ACM chapter pro-

vides access to online literature and classes that further their learning as well as an online database listing internships and co-op positions that can open up a world of networking for their future careers.

Please visit our website <http://acm.spsu.edu> for news update and upcoming events.

If you have any question please email acm@spsu.edu.



LAN PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER

17TH

12:30 - 6:00 PM

J-213

FREE REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS

Beth Wolfe named SAFE Advisor

ANTHONY SHIELDS

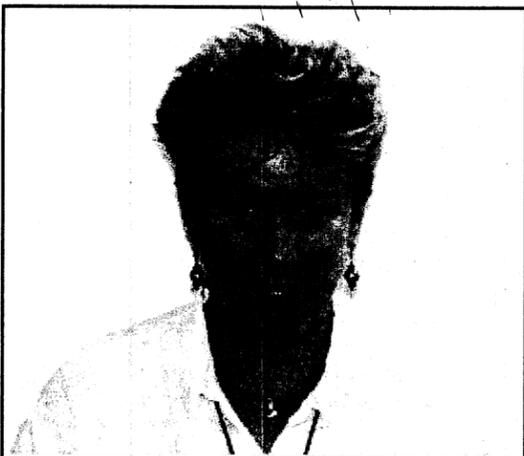
Dr. Wolfe has recently become the advisor for the SAFE program, and is enthusiastic about the members' plans for programs, retreats, and a Spring Break vacation to an exotic location. "This is a very well organized and cohesive group. Gay or non gay students alike will enjoy the camaraderie of being involved in SAFE."

Beth Wolfe is an Educational Programming Specialist in the Housing Office. She works specifically with Deb Shaw and the FYRE program. This is her second year in this part-time position.

Beth received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education from Ohio University and is also a Licensed Professional Counselor. She enjoys working for SPSU because she gets to use her

higher education background. She also works as a counselor part-time seeing individuals, couples, families, and children. "I have the best of both worlds. I never thought I would be able to combine my unique interests into a job I enjoy so much."

SAFE meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30p.m. in room 213 of the Student Center. She invites all students to stop by a meeting. "We welcome all interested students."

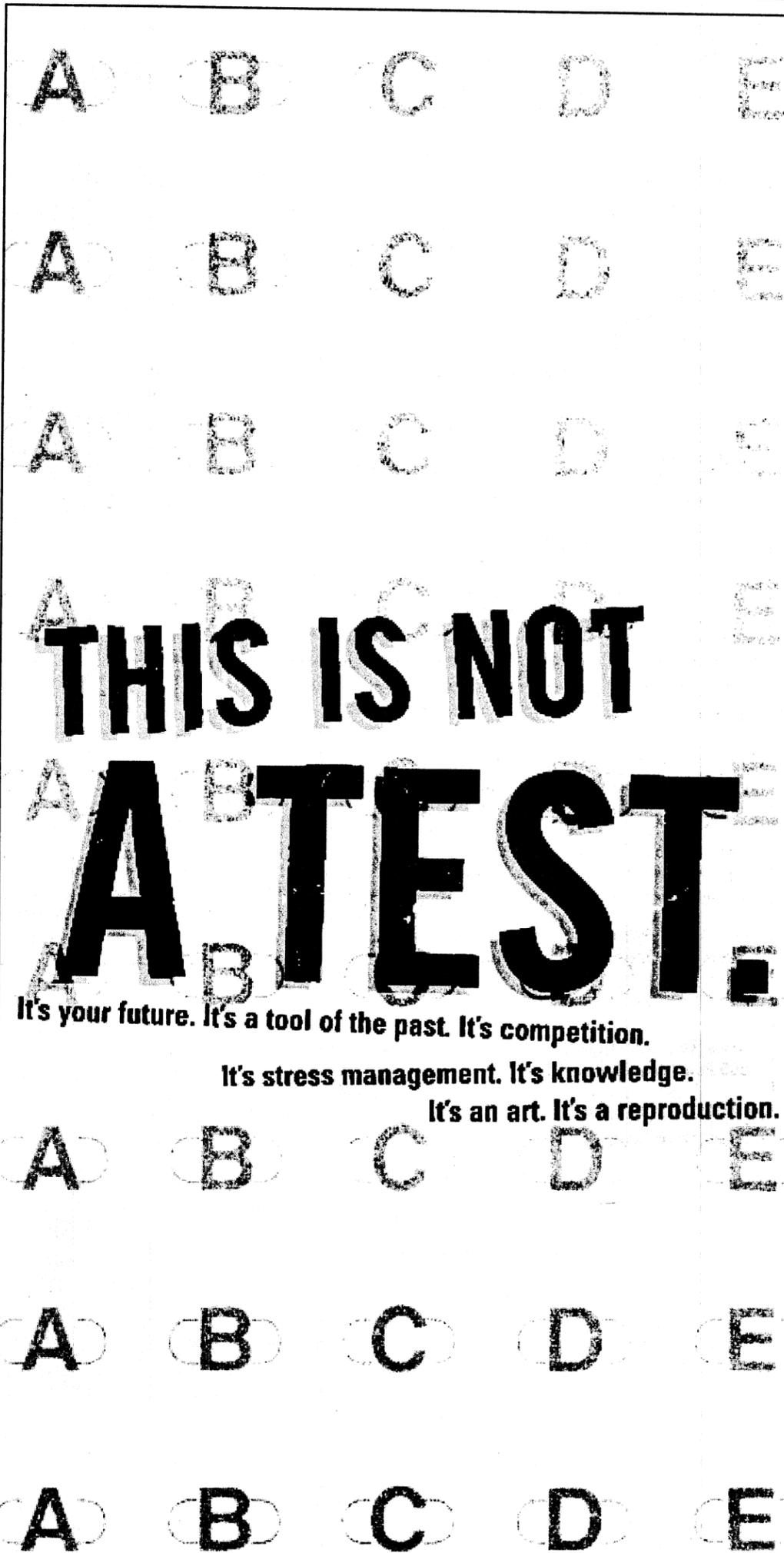


SAFE MEETINGS TUESDAYS

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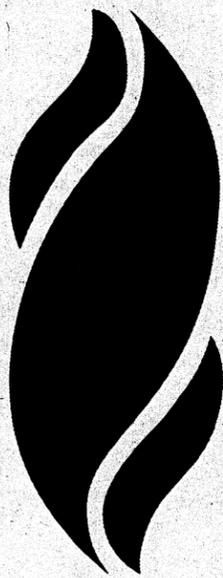
The New York Times KNOWLEDGE NETWORK
INSPIRING THOUGHT

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Calling a Spade a Spade: My Intemperate Thoughts

ERIK HADLEY

As I write this I find my head filled with ideas for possible topics but I do not have enough on any one topic at this time to produce an editorial of any substantial length. So this time I will treat you to some of the goings on in my brain. Hang on you are in for quite a ride!

For starters, why am I the only person in Georgia that knows how to drive a car? Is it really that difficult to turn your lights on when it rains? You are supposed to turn your lights when you have your windshield wipers going by Georgia law, you know. You did know that, right? You also know how to use a turn signal, right? Try using your turn signal before you go to change lanes. That way I know you are coming and won't have to hit my breaks because all of a sudden a car is coming into my lane right in front of me.

Switching gears now as I write this I heard the breaking story today that Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that genocide is occurring in Sudan. This means that the United States recognizes that genocide is occurring in the Sudan and therefore is obligated to intervene. Post Second World War the

US along with many other nations signed treaties stating that each nation would intervene in cases of genocide to prevent another holocaust. That was why the Clinton administration called the situation in Rwanda "acts of genocide". Acts are apparently not the same as genocide and so we didn't have to get involved while millions died. Well if

the United States now recognizes genocide how long before the United States intervenes? By the time this is printed, we should know more.

Next topic. Is it just me or does it seem that from this point on all of the political statements and advertisements by both major candidates seem irrelevant? I am willing to bet

that a good ninety percent of the people that are going to vote in this election have already made up their minds as to which candidate they are going to vote for. Most probably already made their decision months ago. All of the pomp and fanfare for both parties really doesn't accomplish anything in the minds of most voters. Makes me wonder what's the point?

While we are talking about political parties, am I the only one that is annoyed that besides the two major parties (Republican and Democrat) none of the third parties get any real attention? Let's face it, in the next four years the President of the United States will be either a Republican or a Democrat. One of the two parties is going to win. Third parties can't get enough coverage or support to even take a respectable percentage of the vote. I guess people aren't going to vote for you if they never find out you exist.

Well I think I have journeyed enough through my mind for now. I hope I sparked a few thoughts in your own mind.



Given today's two party political layout a vote for the libertarian party has become a vote for irrelevance.



Secretary of State Colin Powell has declared that genocide is going on in Sudan.

Helen Spivak Sets The Record Strait

HELEN SPIVAK

Being a student who lives on a very strict budget, contrary to popular belief, I know what it's like when things don't go right in the financial aid office. And after experiencing first hand, what our financial aid office is capable of I decided to get to the bottom line when I spoke to Helen Spivak this afternoon.

So why can't you direct deposit my credit checks?

Financial aid is NOT over the business office. Mr. Patrick McCord is VP of Business and Finance which is in charge of the business office. A lot of students think I have control over issues that I don't but I do what I can when I can.

What is your BIGGEST issue with students on campus?

My biggest pet peeve is that students think I'm this person who deserves to have a house dropped on me [you know a witch]. But some students who know me better look at me as "Campus Mom". I am one person. So I can't, as much as I like to, see EVERYBODY personally but I have a great staff that wants to do the same thing as me. Some people think that I don't see students and I've tried to keep an open door. But sometimes students just wander in with an issue that's not even my department's responsibility but I do what I can to help them anyway. Sometimes I just go out [into the financial aid lobby] and try to help but I have other responsibilities.

Like what???

I'm supposed to be providing for my employees, my department [ie. Making sure we have what we need to function - supplies and stuff], while dealing with budget constraints. I also deal with the federal government more than most people think. If the student calls in a com-

plaint, I have to address that immediately because that could take away our ability to provide tuition assistance. And there are a LOT of students who depend on me to survive as well as in some cases provide for their families. In a perfect world, I would be able to look for additional resources to give the students more of what they need and are asking for but the reality is I don't have the staff or the resources to do that at this time.



What about the textbook voucher issue? Does this department get kickbacks? Is that why we can only use our account on campus instead of being advanced the money?

There's a basic difference from 5 - 10 years ago. Dr. Koger started giving book vouchers to people in DIRE straights. Once the word spread on campus it became expected. The way it used to be was the student had to save money from the previous semester. Bottom line is the STUDENT was responsible. What started out as a hardship solution became an expected standard and we just aren't equipped to handle the issue any differently. I understand about people who are living on a wing and a prayer but, the best thing to do would be to try and figure out how

the student, not the administration can set aside money so that you [the student] can buy your books wherever you choose.

So far as kick backs to the bookstore, I haven't heard about that and my department wouldn't be involved.

What other services do you provide the students we may not realize?

We [the financial aid staff] have to be an emotional support for our students. The main thing I deal with students about is overcoming fears. I care about the students, TOO MUCH sometimes. This is my life. I started here as a student just taking one blueprint class so the contractor I'd hired to add-on my deck didn't take me to the cleaners. Eventually, I took this job, because I care about the students. But I have to account for the budget as well or I can help no one. I have to balance the books and weigh the options. I have to reconcile to the school, the state and the federal government. I thank goodness for Edna who can audit those things for me. Edna mainly deals with HOPE, but she does help me with problems in other areas or clarifies what the feds *really* mean. :-)

State aid has to be in the proper codes for the specific budgets and that has to balance or it comes back until its right. The first time it was within \$6 and we are talking about millions of dollars and hundreds of changes over the course of the reporting period.

Fore example last year this is what this school did in aid:

Offered amount was \$16,299,116.81
What we actually paid out was \$11,227,204.11 due to being rejected by the student or us having to cancel it out. We're talking about a LOT

of different programs, with different restrictions, and that's all got to balance out.

I had to make that work for everyone and some people I couldn't get to. Not because I didn't want to but because the constraints I work under didn't allow me to.

What would you like to see happen at SPSU in the future?

I'd like to see this school have 5,000 students. Where people just accept each other's diversity, where you feel like you [the student] can succeed. Where you look forward to coming to school and will have fond memories after you leave. Now I have a question for you?

Shoot.

I know you had a rough summer and encountered some issues

with aid. Do you think I, do you think my staff deserves the reputation you were told, the impression you were given about us?

The short answer is NO. The long answer is the article you just read. I took the time to find out the truth for myself. I asked questions and listened, followed directions, remained patient and discovered the truth. This school has a LOT of administrative support that cares about the students. You just have to take the time to invest in your future enough to look. So if you have work study and need a job, why don't you stop by Helen Spivak's office and see how you can help yourself. You'll be glad you did.

Financial Aid

MIKE

This is an attempt to express my total and complete outrage concerning the Office of Financial Aid. My intent is for the President of Southern Polytechnic to read this article and make some serious and sweeping changes.

I, like many people who attend SPSU, applied for financial aid for the 2004 fall semester. During the extremely unorganized process of applying for financial aid, I was told that I would receive the assistance that I have applied for during the second week of classes. I wish I could say that it was a surprise to me when financial aid told me no, your check is not here. They should be in sometime in the first two weeks of September. As I expected and par for the course, the financial aid office has completely dropped the ball. Their incompetence is becoming legendary.



This is not the only time that the financial aid office has seriously failed the competence test. I have had paperwork lost, more than once. The entire financial aid office is disorganized, getting financial aid advice is extremely difficult, friendly customer service is almost nonexistent, there

is no sign in sheet, there is no set flowchart or instruction set to apply for financial aid. Their web site is inconsistent, deadlines are not being met, office hours are extremely irregular, and long lunches are common. They are short staffed, and INCOMPETANT!

I would not be so critical, if I did not have a solution to propose. So, if you are reading this Dr. Rossbacher, here are my proposed solutions:

1. Perform a serious investigation on the practices of the financial aid office, to include random and anonymous inspections.
2. Conduct a search for qualified employees that meet professional standards. (Please emphasize customer service)
3. Conduct a survey of successful financial aid offices from other Universities, and combine their successful policies and attributes into a successful financial aid office here at SPSU.
4. Wait till the middle of the fall semester when the financial aid office is quiet, and fire the entire department.
5. Bring on all new employees.

A successful and efficient financial aid office will attract new students as well as keep attending students here at Southern Polytechnic. Thank you,

Mike

P.S. I am withholding my last name to protect any future financial aid that I may receive.

Is your family embarrassed by their college student?

LUCY LAMENT

I know I am not the only one who has been embarrassed by my parents and family. I know at least everyone has been at least once, even if it was when you were about twelve and entering that 'I am too cool to be seen with my parents' stage, as was the case with me. But I suspect that I am one of the few who has done well, and yet my family is embarrassed by me.

Let me give you a little background, I am the only one in my immediate family to go to college, the second on the maternal side of the family and third on the paternal side of the family, the only one out of my siblings to graduate high school, and the fourth on the entire maternal side of my family to graduate high school, ever. Now, in most families graduating from high school and going on to college is a good thing. Also, because of my high school diploma and some computer training, I was able to obtain a nice paying job to help me work through college. That is also, normally, a good thing. But not in my family. Even within my immediate family, it has distanced me from them.

My immediate family consists of my mom, my dad, my oldest brother, who is in and out of jail/prison, my other brother, who has been married twice and has a child from both marriages, my sister, who at the age of nineteen has a live in baby's daddy

and a two and a half year old, and me. My parents seem to have more to do with my other siblings than they do to me. But it is not just my immediate family that it seems this way with. I recently went to a funeral of a family member, and if you have been to many funerals, and sadly to say I have, you can tell who is the family and friends of the deceased and who is just there for someone they know. The family and friends gather in clumps, have inside jokes, and talk about the last time they were together being a happier occasion, or the last family reunion. The people who are just there for someone they know stand near who ever they are there for, take children who are crying loudly out during the service, and do not really talk to anyone. At the funeral I attended, there was a third group, those of us in the family who had graduated and went on to college and our respective spouses.

I moved away from home. Once was to demand who I was, as he was living with my parents and had called back my number on the caller ID, not recognizing it, and once to offer to sale to me the ATV he had just wrecked and torn to pieces at the bargain price of four thousand dollars (the amount still owed on it). I have not spoken to or seen the brother that is in and out of jail since my maternal grandfather's funeral in late 1998. That, of course, is partially due to his incarceration. My sister, on the other hand, I spoke to a lot, up until the point she got her license, and I have not seen her except on special occasions since.

When ever I do get together for holidays with my family, my brother always tries to one up me on the car I am driving or how much his credit limit on his credit card is, something I try to avoid. The family as a whole makes cracks about, oh give Lucy the bill, she can pay for it, she's rich. I have gone to dinner with my family for my birthday and paid for my dinner and even other family members, while my parents have continued to support my sisters live in (they were both living in with my parents) boyfriend, because they did not want to upset my sister. I find it a times think, man I wish my parents would buy me dinner for my birthday, after having heard that a friend's parents took her out for her birthday. Because of this, I generally have been spending holidays with my husband's family.

My conclusion is this, I think when parents tell you that you can do anything, and be anything you want to be, and that they want you to be successful, they really mean, they want you to be successful but not more so than they are.



The Elements of Style

CJ SHRADER

"Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences."

The above sentences, from *The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition*, perfectly sum up the manner in which the book was written. The book is a mere 105 pages long, including the index and glossary, and full of important information that anyone who writes (including students writing a paper for class) needs to know.

The authors, Professor William Strunk Jr. and his student, E.B. White, the author of *Charlotte's Web*, have



Learn to be just as anal retentive as your teacher in only a few hours!

written *The Elements of Style* in such a clear, concise way that writers of all skill levels can pick the book up and learn from it.

The book is split into five short sections. The first four sections, all written by Strunk, detail the primary rules of grammar, the principles of composition, proper form in writing, and a list of commonly misused words and phrases.

"Form the possessive singular of nouns by adding 's,'" Strunk writes as his very first rule. He explains that a writer should do this in any situation, regardless of whether or not the final letter in the word is s (With just one exception for ancient proper names like Moses or Isis). After each rule, Strunk gives easy-to-understand examples.

The fifth section, added by White more than thirty years after the book was first published, focuses on a writer's style. Some of White's suggestions are not to use fancy words, and to write in a way that comes naturally.

The Elements of Style retails for \$7.95, and can be found at nearly every major bookstore or cheaper online. The entire book is an amazingly quick and easy read, but is so full of information that you may want to always keep it near as a helpful reference whenever you may not remember where to use a colon, or how best to phrase that one particularly tricky sentence. I'm confident that any student truly wanting to improve their writing grades could learn a lot just by reading and paying attention to this short book.

Battle of the Beers

HEATHER GIROUX

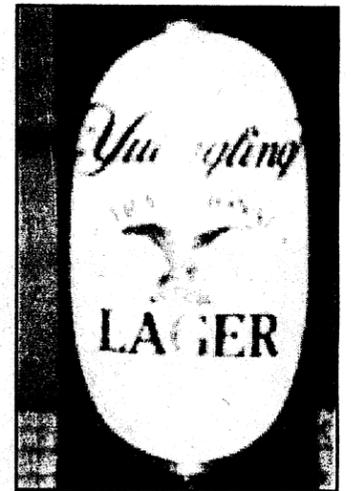
My friend, Vincent, helped me come up with this brilliant idea of having a North American Sampler to ultimately decide which country really is the best. I have chosen one beer from each country: Moosehead for Canada, Yuengling for the United States, and Tecate for Mexico. Why did we choose these specific beers to represent? Well, honestly, it was completely random and mostly based on a matter of convenience.

Up first, our friendly neighbor to the north, Canada. The company itself describes Moosehead as "a 5% alcohol by volume golden lager that is light in body and highly refreshing, offering a fine balance between malt sweetness and hop bitterness. Made from an age-old yeast culture, Moosehead Lager is brewed longer to impart its unique flavour." My observations were that it was, indeed, a golden lager which resembled apple juice when poured in a glass. I didn't think it smelled very good and it actually burned my nose a little to try and observe the aroma. At first, I felt that the beer was watery with a lot of carbonation. The aftertaste I was left with was nonexistent. Once I had swallowed the beverage, the taste was already gone. I'd definitely recommend this to someone who wants to look cool and drink beer, but doesn't necessarily enjoy drinking beer.

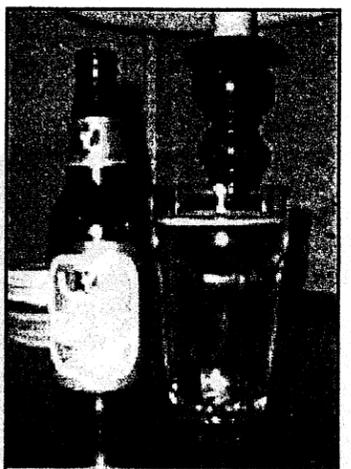


Next, lets move south a bit to the good ole U S of A. The Yuengling Lager was decided upon since that's the beer my grandfather was having me try when I went to visit him last month. This was actually an excellent choice to stumble upon considering it's 'America's Oldest Brewery' dating back to 1829. Pronounced "Ying-ling," which means 'Young Man' in German, this company describes their lager as having a "deep amber color and mild hop character. Traditional Lager is a classic brew, reminiscent of turn of the century beers." It contains 3.5% alcohol by volume which is a bit on the low side, but that just means you have to drink more. I would consider the color to be a very clear and pale amber. It smelled sweet and a bit hoppy to me. As for the taste, at first it was a bit watery with a slight bite to it. The after-

taste left me with the feeling of a coating on back of my tongue and little tingling sensation of it going down. One huge plus, in my opinion, is that it was not a bitter beer at all.



Finally, we'll travel south of the border to Mexico. Tecate was the cerveza of choice this time. This company had quite a lot to say about their product. Tecate is "a lager beer with a delicious aroma of malt and hops, Tecate has a delicate balance in its subtle, refreshing and thirst quenching taste." The company went on to suggest, "It should be served chilled (38 degrees)(3°C) with a squeeze of lime and a sprinkle of salt to create a refreshing taste that can quench your thirst on the hottest day of the year." I definitely thought that this was the worst of the beers...maybe it was because I didn't drink it "properly" or maybe just because it tasted like ass. The 4.55% alcohol by volume beverage was very light in color, much like a liquid honey. It had a subtle scent with just a hint of sweetness. The taste was bitter at first and just didn't go away, not my kind of beer. The first thing that came out of my friend Vinny's mouth was "Queasco!" He says it means 'that's disgusting' in Spanish but I couldn't find that translation anywhere; we'll just take his word for it.



None of these beers were too spectacular, but at least we had an excuse to drink last night. I'd be hard pressed to pick a superior of the three but I'm going to go with Yuengling of the United States. It was a smooth beer that was easy on the taste buds. Plus, it was obviously the home favorite...how could I not side with the mother country?

If you have any beers you'd like to see reviewed please let me know at hgiroux@spsu.edu. Cheers!

10 easy rules to a one night stand

DOMINIQUE DEVEREAUX

1. Responsible partners are upfront about their intentions with their date for the evening, making sure that the recipient has no delusions of grandeur about a future together.

2. That being said, it is uncivilized to beat off a dead horse. Let's say the conversation is stimulating and the sex is even more so. Let's go on to say your bedmate suggests doing it again sometime as they head for the door. It would be tasteless to begin hyperventilating and gasp, between breaths, "I...am...not...looking...for...a...relationship," as if you had just completed a marathon and they had suggested a brisk walk in the country to blow away the cobwebs. More than likely, they would simply like to be your booty call.

3. While it's not necessary to actually like your one-night stand as a person; you must respect them as one. To invite a new friend back to one's house and then seem to find his/her presence unwelcome is in poor taste.



4. Conversation should be kept light and airy. The subjects of life goals and family dysfunction should be avoided.

5. While a thick, foreign accent is a delightful accessory to a one-night stand, it is rude to fake a foreign accent in order to get laid.

6. It is perfectly acceptable to use the encounter as a way to experiment with acts that you consider out of character - Why? You have only just met! Partners who fail to talk a little dirtier or get it on a little kinkier are missing out on half the fun! However, this is NOT a prerequisite and should not be forced!

7. Because this act is not the beginning of a beautiful relationship, it would be inappropriate to rely on the niceties found in a committed relationship such as love-dovey eye contact, mushy make-out sessions, and deep penetrating eye contact while attaining bliss, unless you want to give your partner in crime the wrong idea and in that case the need for a TRO is your fault.

8. Discretion is always the word for this act of adulthood. Just because this person is a complete stranger to you does not guarantee they're a stranger to everyone in your social circle. (You should log on to Friendster.com if you doubt the reality of this statement.) Therefore, if you must brag, avoid mentioning any distinguishing birthmarks or names. Assuming, of course, that you exchanged names,

real ones that is, in the first place.

9. The question, better known as a panic attack, so familiar to persons not versed in the etiquette of the one-night stand is: What will they expect of me in the morning? While just leaving the scene of the crime without a word to say seems like the simplest thing to do, it leaves the impression that the previous night's performance was sub par, or that they had buyer's regret. Therefore, the well-mannered partner always makes a graceful exit from a one-

night stand.

10. Last, but certainly not least, is the part that no one likes to talk about. If you enjoy sex and you want to remain alive to enjoy it, you have to practice it safely. If the person that you are trying to bed does not want to use protection, then alarm bells should be ringing in your head. Yet, many stubborn people refuse to protect themselves just to enjoy those hours of extra sexual delight.



Doom 3

STEVEN MERRITT

Bottom line: No amazing innovations but good game play amazing graphics.

Saying Doom 3 was a highly anticipated game would be an understatement. The only way this thing could have lived up to the hype would have been for it to include the second coming in the box and even then there would be a lot of disappointed fans. So, how did it turn out? Read below to find out.

The Mars base that went to hell

in a hand basket has finally made it's return and is much different than what you might expect. Doom 3 is a fairly faithful re-creation of the old Doom with more than a few additions to America's favorite family from hell.

The visuals in this game, while amazing, are not very scary. For the most part, you will spend your time in very dark rooms. Don't let this fool you though. This game does have its fair share of some pretty

big places to run around in. In some places, you will get to walk out onto the Martian soil to shoot up a few guys, but these areas are short lived. The visuals are decidedly gloomy and well done. The sound is also well done and helps to make the game fairly immersive.

It should be stated that Doom 3 does have a good story. As you progress through the game, the story will be told through some cut scenes as well as some audio files that can be found on your PDA. Your PDA will also contain E-mails and video files which will allow you to get into locked storage boxes and such.

Doom 3's real emphasis is on the action and believe me, there is plenty of it. Through out the game, you will be able to acquire all the weapons that made the original Doom so great. Doom 3 does start out fairly slow but does get better as you play along. At first you will just be squaring off with imps and possessed guards but you will later encounter much bigger enemies. Fighting in close quarters makes the action fairly intense and a lot of fun.

In the end, Doom 3 is more of tech demo than an actual game that will likely wow you for a couple of hours and then leave you feeling rather empty. Unless, you're a REAL graphics whore, this game just isn't going to be worth the \$54 price tag that comes with it.



Transformers

STEVEN MERRITT

About as fun as sex with: The average-looking girl next door. It sounds like a good enough idea, but the end result is just rather... bleh.

Length: Several years, or at least that's what it seems like due to the scull crushing boredom induced by the game.



Avoid me at all costs!

The Transformers game is based on the latest animated reincarnation rather than the original comic I remember from years gone by. Rather than bringing back memories of the old animated cartoon, this game brings back memories of old games with rather clunky controls. It's a stroll down memory lane, but it's the wrong memory lane.

At first the game seems amusing enough. You get to change be-

tween car and robot form which is fairly amusing at first. It does have the old sound effect and the animation for this is well done. Problem is it's a one trick pony. After you get over the novelty of being able to change to a car when you want, you realize it's a well below average third person shooter.

The one thing this game does have going for it is the cut scenes. They look excellent and are fairly fun to watch. They are short enough that they don't get annoying and often include enough action going on to make it worth while.

Overall, the game is well under average and really isn't worth your time. Especially not when there are so many better games on every platform. If you are a huge transformer fan, the ability to change into a car should be fun for a while... but that's about it.



Switching between blasing foes with your regular character and running over them with your car is fun... for about twenty mintues. Then the mind numbing boardom sets in.

Primal

STEVEN MERRITT

Length: 35 Hours. The length of this game is solid, the fighting mechanics are not.

Primal is a fairly old PS2, which follows the adventures of a stone gargoyle named Scree and woman named Jen that can change into a demon. Primal excels when it comes to the adventure portion of the game. The environments are cool enough to make one want to move on just to see what is up ahead. Scree and Jen

have different abilities for getting around in Primal's 4 worlds. These different abilities make up for the bulk of the puzzles of Primal which revolve around switching between Scree and Jen to take advantage of their unique abilities to travel through the worlds.

Scree's main ability is to climb up walls that are made of stone. This is the most original feature in Primal. Because Scree is made out of stone, he isn't of interest to enemies as even

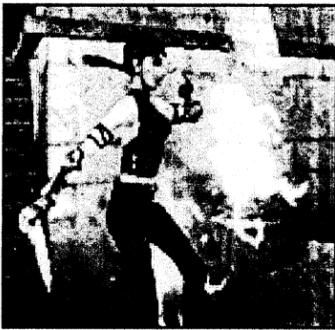
demons don't find stone to be very tasty. Jen, on the other hand, has the ability to shift along narrow ledges and when in demon form the ability to jump much higher than Scree.

While Primal's adventure portion is very well done and entertaining, I can't say as much about the fighting. The fighting mechanics seem rather clunky. While Jen does have a fair number of moves, so it is difficult to make her do the move you want her to do and it doesn't exactly seem to matter which one you chose. Fighting in Primal seems similar to playing a game of chess... without the thinking or the depth, only the slow pace and turn based nature of the game. (Note: combat is in real time... but you still pretty much take turns hitting).

Overall, Primal is great for anyone who likes a good puzzle-ish adventure game and who is willing to sit through some rather crappy fighting.



Primal allows players to change between Jen's human and demon form. The demon form of jen can jump higher.



Red Dead Revolver

STEVEN MERRITT

Red Dead Revolver can be split up into three different parts: run and gun, duals, and shopping in town.

The biggest section of the game by far is the run and gun section. These parts of the game revolve around shooting tons of generic western characters before meeting up with a boss character. Automatic save points are fairly common so you don't have to re-do a lot of the stuff, which is a good thing. On the down side, however, most of the action in the game is generic. About the most interesting section of the game was shooting bad guys on a train. It's probably worth noting that characters can take an inordinate amount of damage before they will die and for the most part, the boss battles aren't very memorable.

After each run and gun section, you come back to the town where you can talk to the town's folk and buy stuff. You can get your usual guns, of course, but there are also unlockable bonuses like sections of your diary and duals that you can fight in. Problem is this isn't too fun as the towns folk don't have anything really interesting to say so you're probably best just going to the sheriff's department or bank to start the next mission unless you want to get a new gun or something.

The duals, while short, is the most innovative feature of the game.

In duals, you pull out your gun and in slow motion use the retical (cursor) to select where you will shoot the bad guy(s). You have a limited amount of time so the objective is to select a few key points as quickly as possible. It's not amazing, but it's pretty amusing for a while.

Overall, this game feels pretty average. It's good for a rental primarily because the duals are good for something new to try and the action isn't bad. In the end, it's just not god enough in it to make it worth buying. The story line isn't very interesting and the shooting is only average.



Showdowns are Red Dead Revolver's most inovative feature. During these sceens time slows down and you have a limited amount of time to move the cursor to the places you want to shoot.

The Eight Greatest Movie Moments: Geek Style

THEANONYMOUSX

If any of you were to spend time hanging around certain groups in the Student Center during any given day, you'd probably hear myriad discussions about the "coolest scene EVER" in a particular movie. Upon hearing this type of conversation, most of you roll your eyes, yell the word "GEEKS!", and back away slowly hoping none of the aforementioned geeks makes chase. Well, I AM one of those geeks, and I would have chased you had I not been stuck in a chair at the time. However, you will not get away that easily, on this page you will find a list of the eight greatest movie moments of the last twelve years (or so). Why did I only go back twelve years? To prevent all of you from picking cinema classics that the movies here don't stand a chance against. I mean come on, how many geeks would nominate a *Citizen Kane* over a *Drunken Master* anyway? You'll also notice that the movies here are in the realm of Science Fiction, action, comedy, or suspense as no geek worth his salt would even begin to classify a "romantic comedy" or "love story" as anything more than two hours of solid nap time. Once you've read this article, and been horribly disgusted by my choices, I implore you to go to the Sting Forum and submit your own ideas in the official follow-up thread for this article. The best entries will be presented in the next issue of the STING, the worst entries will be mocked and berated by a constipated clown named Leroy. Post your replies, hate-mongering, and all other fun stuff to: <http://forum.thesting.org> then proceed to The STING, Respond, and Your Choices, Greatest Movie Moments. Those who want a direct link can visit: http://forum.thesting.org/display_topic_threads.asp?ForumID=8&TopicID=582&PagePosition=1

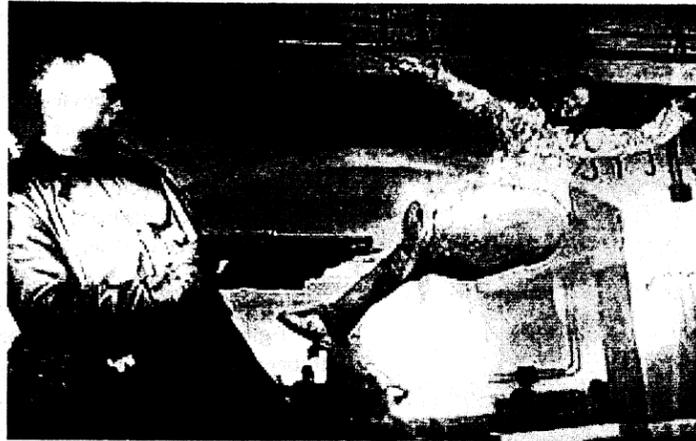
8. Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace (1999)

The Scene: Jedi Beat-Down

The lowdown on the movie: This movie was complete and total garbage, I won't deny that. In fact, the movie was so bad that most Star Wars fans refuse to acknowledge that it even exists. On

a scale of 1-10, 1 being a 40-hour Carrot Top documentary and 10 being an awesome tour-de-force of cinematic film making, this movie is about a 3.

Scene description: The three people that managed to stay awake the duration of the movie were treated to Sith bad-a\$\$, Darth Maul



(played with startling agility by Australian actor/stuntman, Ray Park), beating the hell out of a couple of hubristic Jedi. The scene opened with Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson) and Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) leading Princess Amidala (Natalie Portman) and her entourage back into the palace. The entire group approaches a couple of broad doors, and a shadowy figure draped in a dark cloak reveals a head with frighteningly bad dandruff and horrible sunburn. That figure was none other than Darth Maul, whose appearance was made all the more dramatic by John Williams' rousing *Duel of the Fates* starting in the background. This weighty fight scene took a reported two weeks to film, and although its interrupted by annoying bastiges like Jake Lloyd and Jar Jar Binks far too frequently, viewers can still leave the scene feeling pumped (if you have the "Geek" gene).

Why's it #8?: As mentioned above, this movie was roughly as entertaining as having a root canal performed on you by a great-white shark during a feeding frenzy. Had the scene played out with JUST Darth Maul beatin' the hell out of the Jedi, or at least no freakin' Jar Jar or Jake Lloyd, viewers could've walked away from the movie feeling a little invigorated.



7. Blade (1998)

The Scene: Blade tears apart the night club

The lowdown on the movie: One of the first really good comic book movies. This movie featured a third (maybe fourth?) string comic book hero whom is usually regarded somewhere between Robin (the

Jason Todd one) and Powdered Toast-Man in terms of superhero credibility. However, Wesley Snipes played the role with sincerity, opting not to "ham it up" and the result was bringing an underrated character into the spotlight (for a month or so). For those of you not in the know, Blade is a half-man, half-vampire creature. Meaning, he has all the strengths of a vampire, but none of the weaknesses.

Scene description: Near the beginning of the movie, a hapless young man is lead into a nightclub that is crawling with vampires that REALLY like techno music. The music gets louder, the dancers more frenzied, and blood pours upon the crowd from the sprinklers in one of the more unsettling scenes one can find in a comic book movie. All at once, the music and the blood stop, and all of the attention is drawn to one armor clad, sunglasses-wearing figure entering the room. A couple of really stupid vampires make the mistake of attacking said figure, and the fun begins as Blade acts as a one man wrecking crew disposing of every creature in his path with silver stakes, machine guns (with silver bullets), and a sleek silver sword. The action is fast, the fighting brutal, but the final result is one of the best one-man-against-a-LOT fight scenes one can find in a movie.

Why's it #7?: As with a lot of one-man-against-everyone fight sequences, the people fighting against the protagonist don't stand a chance. You know the vampires are going to get beat the hell down by Blade, and they may as well have the phrase "cannon-fodder" printed across their foreheads.

6. Independence Day (1996)

The Scene: The aliens launch their initial attack

The lowdown on the movie: ID4 was one of the first modern movies to successfully meld computer generated images and models into

one otherwise decent Sci-Fi summer flick. There were a lot of scenes that caused the entire audience to do a collective eye roll, and a few scenes that made everyone in the theater shout "OH COME ON, THAT'S JUST FREAKIN' RIDICULOUS" (let it be known, that a laptop circa 1996 and a cable repairman can hack into a sophisticated alien mothership's central computer to upload a virus that disables the mothership and its network).

Scene description: Alien vessels roughly the size of a large city took their positions over almost every major city in the United States (and all over the world, but they were of little concern to filmmakers) and hovered above them casting a menacing shadow over the city's denizens. David Levinson (Jeff Goldblum, acting as nervous as ever) is the movie's "person-who-knows-what's-about-to-happen" and after he finally convinces the President of the impending doom, an escape plan is formed. Levinson, his father, and the President board Air Force One just as Levinson's timer ticks to zero and the first alien vessel opens to reveal a massive energy weapon. Instantly, a wide, arching beam of incandescent bluish energy rains down upon the nearest buildings and creates a fireball of epic proportions that levels entire cities in seconds.



During this scene, movie goers were treated to some of the deepest bass one can find in movie, bass so deep, that the theater at which I was gainfully employed at the time blew a speaker almost once a week.

Why's it #6?: The freakin' dog! During the final part of the alien attack, Jasmine (Vivica Fox) hides from a planet destroying fireball in a FREAKIN' CLOSET! A fireball just destroyed half the planet and she hides from it in a closet! To make matters even more ludicrous, Jasmine calls for her dog who stayed behind in her vehicle. The dog prances happily towards the closet and makes it, right as the fireball passes his tail. The only result of the impossibly large fireball coming that close to Jasmine and the dog in the closet is a freakin' light bulb blew.

5. Star Trek: First Contact (1996)

The scene: The destruction of the Borg Cube

The lowdown on the movie: By far the best of the *Star Trek* movies featuring the *Next Generation* crew. The movie takes place after the

series went off the air, and the original vessel was destroyed (in *Star Trek: Generations*). *First Contact* opens with captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) and the Enterprise-E crew startled to learn that they will NOT be involved in a major skirmish taking place near Earth against the dreaded bio-mechanical world-destroying Borg (think Rosie O' Donnell without her morning make-up). The crew disobeys their orders, and arrive on the scene to find out that that the Borg are up to something much more involved than a simple attack on a planet.

Scene description: Fans of *Star Trek* know that the Borg are feared because of their nearly indestructible nature. This is a race of beings that exist solely to assimilate other beings into their collective at the destruction of the race being assimilated, and typically one Cube (the large, intimidating vessel the Borg travel/live in) is capable of wiping out an entire fleet of vessels. This scene opens with the gargantuan Sovereign-class starship (the Enterprise-E herself) cruising into the battle, dwarfing the smaller ships that are adrift after taking a severe beating from the Cube. The audience quickly learns that the admiral leading the fleet was in one of the first vessels destroyed, and in a moment's notice Picard takes control of the

remaining fleet and informs them to focus their attack on a few seemingly non-critical areas of the Borg Cube. The fleet responds, and in mere seconds the concentrated attack on the Borg vessel's pressure points causes the Borg Cube to explode in a graphically stunning light display. The positional audio in this scene is amazing, as starships and weapons fire dance across all five (or seven) of your speakers simultaneously creating the illusion of being in the middle of the action.

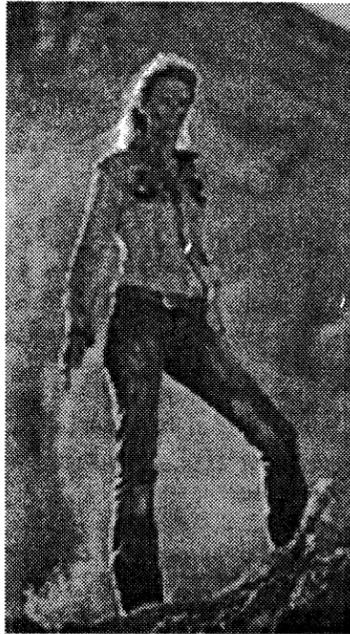


Why's it #5?: This entire battle lasted about 2 minutes, but this final assault on the Borg Cube only lasted about 20 seconds or so. Chances are, if you sneezed really hard, you not only missed the

Continued on Next Page

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entire assault, but dropped your popcorn. Never a good combination of events.

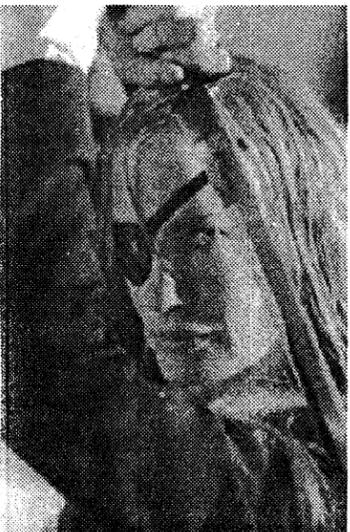


4. Kill Bill Vol. 2 (2004)

The Scene: The Bride vs. Elle Driver

The lowdown on the movie: Quentin Tarantino's latest work is in homage to the old Chinese/Japanese martial-arts movies he grew up watching. This second volume features an extremely ticked off Bride (Uma Thurman) getting revenge on the deadly assassin squad that violently eliminated everyone she cared for during a wedding rehearsal.

Scene description: This scene does just about everything right in terms of what viewers want to see in a fight. The Bride and Elle square off in VERY close quarters (a freakin' trailer) and use everything within their disposal (spit cups full of *ahem* "used" tobacco, lamps, TV antennas) to attempt to assist one another in shuffling off their mortal coils. Each impact from a kick or a punch resounds throughout the theater (or your system) with a thunderous *thump* so that you can practically FEEL each strike and just when it appears the scene cannot get better, it does. The two manage to pull off a dazzling sword fight in the claustrophobic environment which ends with one



of the warriors unable to buy contact lenses in pairs anymore.

Why's it #4?: The action here may be a bit too brutal for some people, as is the entire movie. Also, this fight is played for levity at some points, and most action enthusiasts can't stand comedy in their action.

3. The Matrix (1999)

The Scene: The lobby shoot-out

The lowdown on the movie: One of the most often copied and spoofed movies of the past 10 years, The Matrix is going to go down as a cult favorite and mainstream delight. Keanu Reeves proved he's not the most annoying actor in the world (that'd be Jake Lloyd from Episode I) by making Neo smart and cool in his own way.

Scene Description: So many scenes to choose from in this movie. Everything from the bullet-time dodging, to Carrie-Anne Moss' mid-air pause jump kick, to Neo putting the smack down on some overconfident agent is worthy of a place here. However, the one that I've chosen to present is the amazing lobby shoot-out, a scene used by almost everyone to show off or test their speakers. Neo (Keanu Reeves) and Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) walk into the lobby of an office building and set off the building's metal detectors. Neo opens his coat to reveal an arsenal that'd make Charlton Heston blush, and seconds later, the fight is on. Neo and Trinity pull off amazing acrobatics while gunning down armed guards, disarm the same guards with violent counter-



attacks, and wreak general havoc. As mentioned above, people with great sound systems love this scene in the movie simply because it feels like you're IN the lobby with bullets zipping past your face (if you actually FEEL or SEE a bullet zipping past your face, then it's probably time to pause the movie and run) as each of your speakers get a full workout from some of the best positional audio one can find in a movie.

Why's it #3?: The movie was great, and this sequence was so well choreographed that it had to be seen to be believed. The lobby shoot-out featured gunplay at its best, even though the players are actors and not highly trained martial artists.

2. Spider-Man 2 (2004)

The Scene: Spider-Man stops the train

The lowdown on the movie: This was, as the name would indicate, the follow-up to Sam Raimi's awesome 2002 Spider-Man movie. Here, ol' Petey is in full spider mode, as he dons the red and blues early on to confront his most deadly enemy of all time: the hotel receptionist whom doesn't want to pay for a late pizza delivery (yeah, I was scared too). The movie...who am I kidding, if you haven't seen it



by now, you probably don't plan to or are trapped under a large rock of some sort.

Scene Description: After fighting Doctor Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina) atop the fast movie subway train, Spider-Man watches aghast as Doc Ock pulls and breaks a lever, putting the train in the highest gear without the ability to slow down or stop. To make matters worse, Spider-Man's sixth sense (Spidey sense... if you will) warns him that the train's track ends soon, dropping into oblivion. Spidey rips off his mask (which had the eye-pieces singed to disuse by an electrical shock) and jumps to the front of the train to attempt to stop it with his body. Seeing how ineffective this was, Spider-Man leaps back onto the front of the train and shoots a few thin strands of webbing on nearby apartment complexes. The weight of the train proves too much, as the webbing rips apart the old apartment buildings without doing a thing for the vessel's speed. In a last ditch effort, Spidey fires several dozen strands of webbing onto several of the nearby buildings and braces himself on the train's front end. With his muscles near the breaking point, and his suit tearing, Spider-Man hangs on while grimacing in obvious pain to bring the vessel to a screeching halt before reaching the end of the tracks. This could go down as one of the best saves a comic book hero has ever pulled off in a comic movie.

Why's it #2?: Spider-Man's diminutive size makes most people assume he has all the strength of a sick chipmunk. Performing this feat proved to the unwashed masses that Spidey has the chops to be a real hero, without having the money of a bat or the strength of an alien.

1. Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (2003)



The Scene: The Battle of Pelennor Fields

The lowdown on the movie: The final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's stunning Lord of the Ring's trilogy is brought to the screen with the same dazzling cinematography and pacing that director Peter Jackson brought to the first two movies. Will Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) take his rightful place as heir to the throne; will the fateful ring finally meet its end in the cracks of Mt. Doom? You can guess the answer to all of these I'm sure, but go watch the freakin' movie anyway. It's not like it's a LONG movie or anything.

Scene description: The massive battle at Helm's Deep in the preceding movie looked as though it could not be topped. However, Peter Jackson had not even begun to show off what he can do with a large, epic battle sequence. During this incredible battle, legions of soldiers square off against masses of orcs, Oliphaunts (large, elephant-like creatures), and wraiths, while we await the arrival of our heroes. In the heat of battle, a sea going vessel slowly pulls up to the battlefield, and Aragorn confidently steps out, approaching a pack of smirking orcs that assume they have a decided advantage over this one man. However, from the ship emerge dozens of not-quite-dead warriors that decimate the enemy without fear of being touched. As if all of that weren't enough, viewers are treated to hirsute (and effeminate) elf Legolas single-handedly taking down an Oliphaunt. You can search, but you will not find a better epic

battle scene in a fantasy movie.

Why's it #1?: The battle is long, the fighting fast and brutal, and the acting solid. One literally can't ask for much more from a battle sequence than that.

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Tony Hawks Underground

STEVEN MERRITT

Despite my lack of familiarity with the Tony Hawk franchise, this game was easy to pick up and fun to play. In Tony Hawks Underground, you play as an unknown skater trying to get out of Jersey. To do this, you must get sponsored by a skating shop and turn pro. This is done by the completion of many missions, but the real fun of Underground is simply skating around this environment.

Underground's missions are

drive into something 4) collect items. While these missions are often fun to play, they don't seem very well balanced. Missions in the game don't always have that clear increase in difficulty. In many cases, a mission early on in the game can be unduly difficult while some of the later on missions can be extremely easy.

Underground's trick system seems well designed. Tricks are accomplished by pressing only a few

on one jump if he can perform two or three tricks at a time. The problem here, like in the missions, is balancing issues. In Underground, there are tricks which revolve around teetering on the edge of things sometimes while sliding. This trick will give you thousands and thousands of points and is really easy to do. At the same time, you can pull off a three trick combo and only get a few thousand points.

The real entertainment of Underground is really to be found in just skating around. While the missions are fun for a while, they can feel like a chore but this isn't a problem because you can always just skate around. Grinding ledges and wires and such is one of the most fun things. The game has hidden gaps, which are hard to find wires and other things you can grind on, and has hard to find areas where you can jump directly from one object to grind on to another.

Over all, Underground is an outstanding game that I would advise to anyone interested in trying something different or anyone who is familiar with staking games and wants another one.



some of the most varied that I've seen in any game. Missions can typically be categorized as one of the following: 1) perform a set trick 2) get a set number of points 3)

buttons and can be strung together for much higher totals. When you string different tricks together, you will get a multiplier allowing a player to get a lot of points

Riddick

STEVEN MERRITT

Length: 25 hours. It's pretty short, but it's still pretty.

The first thing you notice about Riddick is, obviously, the graphics. The graphics in Riddick are without a doubt the best in console gaming. However, Riddick is more than just a pretty face.



Riddick features more detail than any other console game out there!

It's hard to decide what genre to call the game exactly. For portions of the game, you have a clear cut first person shooter. However, the game also includes missions that are a little more akin to something you might find in Morrowind. The blend is about 50-50 and it's well done in both cases but what is even more impressive is that the two styles of play combine seamlessly in the game.

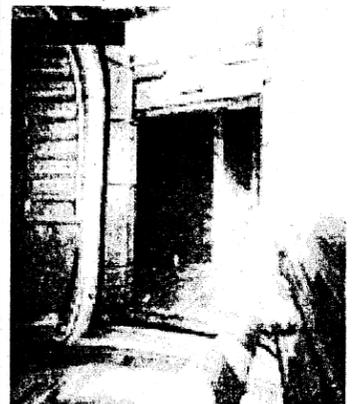
Riddick's FPS sections differ from those of other FPS sections in that in

many cases it is about finding the correct door or switch rather than just mowing down the enemies in your path. You often don't have a gun so you find yourself constantly trying to take down guys as stealthily as possible in many parts of the game. However, the game doesn't contain as much stealth as a game like Splinter Cell. In many cases, you will find yourself charging after a guy with your fists and trying to lure guys into the shadows so you can sneak up behind them. A lot of the action in Riddick involves you and your opponent having guns and the game does well here, though the controls aren't as fluid as some other FPS games.

The other part of Riddick is very much like the game play of Morrowind. In certain sections of the game, characters will give you tasks to complete that mostly revolve around finding some guy or beating the crap out of some guy with either your fists or some blunt object.

The only area where Riddick really does not do well is in plot line. The game seems to make reference to some destiny without really saying anything about this destiny, where you came from, why you are in prison or what you are supposed to do when you get out of prison. There does seem to be some supernatural reason for the strength that Riddick has, but the game just doesn't say much about it.

Riddick is the best game the Xbox has to offer and should be at the top of your list if you like action games. If you don't have an Xbox, then you'll have to wait but it will come to the PC. Vin Diesel is expecting the PC version to be done some time this holiday season. Vin Diesel has also talked about the possibility of a PS2 port, but that's still up in the air.



Escape From Butcher Bay's use of Riddick's eye shine is one of the coolest things you will find in this game. At any point in the game you can use this to see in the dark. Below: Riddick's gun flash special effect.



What it means to be a HERO

DOMINIQUE DEVEREAUX

<http://www.heromovie.com/>

Cast
Jet Li (Wu Ming - No Name), Maggie Cheung (Flying Snow), Tony Leung Chiu-wai (Broken Sword), Cheng Daoming (First Emperor), Zhang Ziyi (Ru Yue - like Moon), Bai Shiqian (Six Finger Iron Hand), Zheng Tianyong (butler of Flying Snow)

Genre Historical/Martial Arts/Period Film

Budget \$31M

WARNING! This movie is in Chinese. You **MUST** read subtitles throughout the **ENTIRE** movie or take Chinese lessons. Funny thing is by the time the movie is over you may actually learn a little...Chinese that is.

Synopsis: At the height of China's Warring States period, the country was divided into seven kingdoms: Qin, Zhao, Han Wei, Yan, Chu and Qi. For years, the separate kingdoms fought ruthlessly for supremacy.

The Kingdom of Qin was the most determined of all. The Qin King was obsessed with conquering all of China and becoming her first Emperor. Having long been the target of assassins throughout the other six states, only three legendary assassins, Broken Sword, Flying Snow and Sky, inspired the greatest fear to the Qin King.

Therefore, the King of Qin promised great power, mountains of gold and a private audience with the King himself to anyone who defeated the three assassins. For ten



years no one even came close to claiming the prize, until Nameless, an enigmatic county sheriff, came to the palace bearing the legendary weapons of the slain assassins. Sitting in the palace, only ten paces from the King, Nameless told his extraordinary tale.

The King hung on every detail of this curious story. But then the King has a different story to tell of how Nameless really came to sit there, face to face with him!

Apparently, everything is not

so simple. In the centre of the intrigue sits Nameless - a solitary ranger and the King of Qin - the ruler of the Kingdom, with only ten steps between them. Within those ten steps holds an earth-shattering tale of love, honor and duty, and a story that moves beyond the reaches of history, legend or myth.

HERO is based on events in China during the Third Century BC. So for all of you history buffs, International Studies majors,

Western Literature geeks and Kung-Fu enthusiasts, I'd highly recommend taking the afternoon off and going to see this movie. While some may find the subtitles frustrating, the pace and nuances of imagery and subdued emotion painfully evasive to the point of it all, well...all I have to say is grow-up! Becoming an adult is about using the higher level of your imagination, not the lower part of shoot em' up bang-bang action and self-explanatory ideals. This movie is meant to open up your mind to the ideals of spiritual growth, ethics and principles - in harmony with the universe while showing us all, our place in this life and what your actions [or inactions] in it may sometimes mean.

Speaking of misconceptions, "Hero" is a Jet Li movie, produced by Bill Kong. The United States appears to be the LAST country to have seen it [meaning it's actually a couple of years old]. And the reason I mention it is because Miramax is promoting the movie by making it 'presented by Quentin Tarantino' - in some lame attempt to capitalize on the vague similarities of this film with "Kill Bill".

Frankly, I'm glad the creators kept it in its original Chinese. Now that the walls are beginning to come down, if you count all the people in the Chinese culture that are about to enter into this weak globally expanding economy - you'd see that Spanish is not the language to be reckoned with.

Think about that and then go see this movie.

Get to Know Your Library

THEANONYMOUSX

This article is one of many that were supposed to appear in the Freshman Issue of The STING. I sat down and wrote the entire thing, I looked at the article, smiled at my handy-work and promptly accidentally hit the Delete key. I further went on to accidentally empty the Recycle Bin and toss my computer out a nearby window only to have it land on a passing family of ducks. When I informed the paper's EIC of this turn of events, she politely informed me that I would be soon fired from my position if I did not eventually turn something in. That brings us to this point. What you'll find here is an FAQ style article listing some of the most important facts about the Lawrence V. Johnson Library and some quick tips on library use.

How Do I Find Books?

In the early days of man, before the Internet, people used libraries to do their school work. These odd buildings contained what primitive man referred to as "books" and every book located in this library was catalogued in what is called a "Card Catalogue." Checking for a book is easier than ever now, as you can view the library's ONLINE card catalogue from anywhere. Just point your browser to <http://gil.spsu.edu> and you can view every book/CD/magazine etc. located within the building. You can do a keyword search on (get this) important keywords on articles or books you need, or you can do an exact search for a title, author, or ISBN of a particular item. From this page, you can also check your requests, renew your books, and get the password for Galileo every semester.

Quick References:

Card Catalogue: <http://gil.spsu.edu>

How do I Read the Catalogue?

From left to right. Seriously though, you may not be familiar with some of the terminology used on the catalogue. Here's a quick reference to assist you.

Book Status (these appear next to the book's CALL number):

Discharged – This book was recently returned to the library. If you cannot find it on the shelf, you may have to ask a student assistant to help you find the book, as it may be waiting to be returned to the shelves.

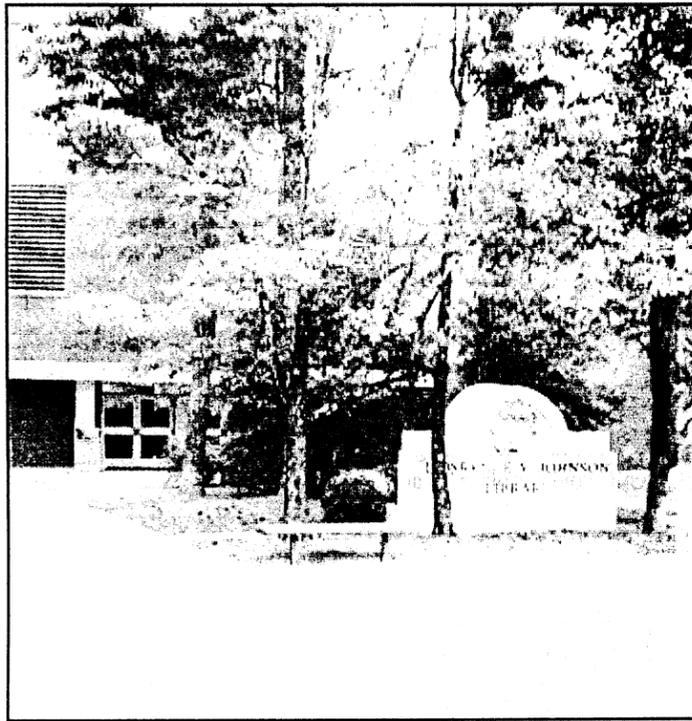
Not Checked Out – This book is (follow me now) not checked out. It is available.

Checked Out – I have no idea what this means. My best guess is that it references a book that someone already has checked out.

Call Number – The library uses the Library of Congress filing system, which means the sequence of numbers and letters on the spine (or front of the book depending on the book's size) indicate the location of the book within the building. The library does NOT file books in the General Collection alphabetically or with the Dewey Decimal System. The only items that are filled by title are periodicals (magazines located on the middle level) and bound periodicals (second floor).

Location – This indicates the actual location in the library of the item. Use this to get to the general

area and then the Call Number to get to the exact location. Books can usually be found in: General Collection (1st, 2nd floor) - the main areas of the library that house most of the books, GALILEO (netlibrary) – online and able to be viewed by following the provided link and Reference (mezzanine) – located on the middle level in the back right-most corner of the building. If an item is listed as being "Temporarily shelved at Reserves (Circ Desk)" then the item is on "Reserve." Traditionally, these are items that are available for only two hours at a time and CANNOT leave the library. These items usually consist of textbooks for the current semesters, solutions manuals, or tests from your professors. On some very rare occasions, a professor will allow his or her Reserve materials to be removed from the building, but, do



NOT leave the building with any Reserve material unless a librarian or student assistant tells you that the item is due back later in the week.

How Do I Check Out Books?

This question is frequently asked, and I will address it here: YOU NEED A VALID PHOTO ID TO CHECK OUT BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY! You cannot provide your social security number, you cannot provide your name and you cannot provide some collateral (keys, a cell phone, a watch, a friend, etc.). On your initial visit to the library, you should bring your SPSU Student ID and ask a librarian or student assistant at the Circulation Desk to apply a Library barcode to the back of the ID. This is completely free and usually takes no more than a few minutes, and allows the library to file contact information (a mailing address) should you have to be contacted with requested materials or other concerns.

I Can't Find the Book I Want at SPSU, but it IS at Georgia Tech, may I still get this book?

The University System of Georgia (USG) has a fairly new system in place that allows any student registered for classes in a public school to check out books from any library in the USG using a student ID. This system is called Universal Borrow-

ing, and it allows you to browse the Universal Catalogue to search every public university library in Georgia simultaneously for your desired item. The interface is exactly the same as the SPSU card catalogue. You can browse the Universal Catalogue by pointing your web browser to <http://giluc.usg.edu>

Quick References: Universal Catalogue – <http://giluc.usg.edu>

The Item I Want is in a Library too Far to Drive. How Can I Receive this Item?

Lucky you, another system is in place that addresses this issue. Recently, a little system known as GIL (Galileo Interconnected Libraries) Express was opened to the public. This system allows you to browse the universal catalogue for your desired item, request the item, and have the item MAILED to your

on you Bob) for his Botany class at SPSU, and he discovered that the book was on two-hour Reserve at SPSU, he could place a request for it to be sent from Georgia Tech if Tech did NOT also have the book on Reserve. However, if Bob attempted to get the Botany textbook in a semester in which the book was readily available on the shelves of the SPSU library, then the system would prohibit Bob from requesting the book.

Quick References: Universal Catalogue – <http://giluc.usg.edu>

The Item I want is at Emory or a Library Outside of the USG!

Just gotta make things difficult don't you? For these materials, you must use a wonderful system known as Inter-Library Loan (ILL). To apply for this, you must come to the library and speak to a librarian in the Reference department and request the ILL form.

I Want a Book that is Currently Checked to Another Student!

I bet you do. This is normal, and the only method for making sure you actually get the book sometime in the next 5 months is to place a request on it. This is done in a method similar to the one described above, with the difference being that it would be done from the library's card catalogue at <http://gil.spsu.edu>. To place a request a book checked out to another person, find the book with a search, click on "request" (top of the screen), enter either your barcode or SSN and last name, and click "OK." Be forewarned that putting a request on an item does NOT guarantee its return. Requesting the item simply means that the person with the item cannot renew anymore without incurring late fees.

How can I Renew My Books?

You can renew books on the website up to three times from either the library's card catalogue at <http://gil.spsu.edu> or from the universal catalogue at <http://giluc.usg.edu>. Once you've used all of your online renewals, you are allowed to renew books from the SPSU library four more times by walking to the Circulation Desk and asking a librarian or student assistant to renew your materials. You do NOT need to bring your books to renew them, all you need is a valid photo ID (preferably your student ID).

Quick References: Renew your books online at <http://gil.spsu.edu>

What is the Loan Period? How Long Can I Check out Books?

The loan period is 28 days.

What are the Library's Hours of Operation and Phone Number?

Library Phone Number: 678-915-7276

Monday-Thursday: 8am-10pm

Friday: 8am-6pm

Saturday: 11am-6pm

Sunday: 2pm-9pm

On holidays, these hours vary. You can get holiday hours from inquiring at the Circulation Desk or viewing signs posted around the library near the holiday in question.

I Need Items from Galileo or E-Reserves, How do I Access Them?

Every semester, the Galileo password and the password to the E-reserves changes. This is attainable from the library's online card catalogue at <http://gil.spsu.edu>. Click on the "Get Galileo Password" link.

You talk about Galileo and E-Re-

serves, but What Are They?

Galileo is a huge database of information (understatement of the year). Galileo is a good first stop for your assignments that involve finding magazine articles. You can browse to the Galileo homepage by visiting the library card catalogue and clicking on "Galileo" or by browsing directly to <http://www.galileo.usg.edu/>.

E-Reserves are the electronic counterpart of the Reserve materials some professors provide for students. This usually takes the form of old tests and sometimes notes or important reading materials and these are usually backed up by hard copies at the Circulation Desk.

I Need to find X Reserve Materials for X class. How Do I Find Them?

If the item is indeed on Reserve, there are a few methods available to you to find it. You may browse to the library's online card catalogue, click on "exact search" and then do a "Course Reserve" search, or you may ask a student assistant at the Circulation Desk. If you ask a student assistant for help in finding the material, provide one of the following to speed the process:

Course and Course Record Number – Such as CS 1302 for Computer Science 2. These are located on your syllabus and in the current semester Bulletin.

The EXACT name of the book along with the edition or year.

The name of the professor teaching the class (this may be a long shot)

Anything Else?

-There is a laptop available for check-out at the Circulation Desk. To use this item, you must agree to sign a contract that will be given to you by the librarian or student assistant at the front desk. YOU MAY NOT LEAVE THE LIBRARY WITH THE LAPTOP.

-For those of you with your own laptops, the library has wireless access. You must visit the Workshop in the H (Burruss) building before accessing the library's wireless LAN.

-Study rooms are available throughout the library and are available on a first-come first-served basis. These rooms are meant for study groups of two or more people.

-Do not reshelve books. If you are finished using a book that you do not want to return, you may bring this book to the Circulation Desk or place it on a Return Shelf.

-Food and drink are **STRICTLY** prohibited in the library. Yes, this DOES include water.

-There are (currently) three copiers in the library. Each one accepts loose change (nickels, dimes, quarters) or 1 dollar bills. Copy cards are also available Reference. Copies with a copy card are eight cents a page, while copies with loose change or bills are ten cents a page.

-There is a printer available. A printer is located behind the computers in Reference, and printed pages are ten cents each. You MUST have a copy card to use the printer.

Frenzied Fat Freak, Fanatical Food Finder: Fine Freshman Feasting

THEANONYMOUSX

This article was originally slated to appear in the Freshman Issue of the Sting, but circumstances beyond my control (read: my being fat and lazy) prevented that from happening. Presented in this article are the eight best places you'll find to eat in and around Marietta, along with the two worst places. On this list, you will not find such oddities as fast food "restaurants" or places that require their employees to wear nametags. Just good ol' fashioned "come and strap on your feedbag" style eateries will be found on this list and others to come. As with all things, I invite you all to send me feedback on these places after you've tried them or to submit ideas for places you've been that should be on this list. The good ideas will appear in a future issue of the Sting, the bad ideas will be used as toilet paper. Submit your ideas to my Sting staff page at <http://thesting.org> or on the Campus Forum at <http://forum.thesting.org>.

NEW CHINA BUFFET KENNESAW

What is it? Good ol' fashioned buffet style Chinese food with seafood and pizza (!?) for those of you that don't like Chinese food.

Pricing: At over 12 dollars for the buffet and a soda, this place is freakin' expensive. This price is only for the dinner buffet, which includes crab legs, the most insanely delectable delicacy on the planet (next to cake).

The Service: Beyond awesome, the servers materialize from thin air and fill your beverage requests or remove plates. It's scary at first, then you realize that the servers here are all actually androids and you settle down a little.

Location: You may drive along Roswell road past the Big Chicken and see a New China Buffet. Do NOT go to this one. This knock off serves food that tastes roughly as good as deep fried cardboard with a tasty side of packing peanuts coated with plaster. No, the best one is in Kennesaw, Georgia, across from Town Center Mall, in front of Toys "R" Us. It's in the same shopping center with Ru San's and Olive Garden (it's next to Ippolito's).

CHRISTO'S PIZZA

What is it? A Greek style restaurant with the world's best gyro. For the uninformed, the word "gyro" is pronounced as "euro" or "year-o" and not "Jiyerow." If you say it wrong, the owners of the restaurant are legally entitled to punch you in the eye.

Pricing: Pretty reasonable. The aforementioned gyro plate with fries and a soda runs you about 8 dollars (as of this writing) and it's more than enough to fill up even the heartiest of appetites. If that's not what you're into, Christo's has pizza, pasta, and calzones all in the 6-12 dollar range.

The Service: When the place is packed (which is sort of often) the service can become a minor problem. However, if you want to get

your food to go, then your meal will be ready in usually less than 10 minutes or so.

Location: Located in the Publix shopping center at the end of Delk Road (2900 Delk Road SE). The easiest (but probably longest) way to reach this place is to make a right turn down Power's Ferry Road (exit the school from the front and turn right, you'll see Power's Ferry about 3 lights down, turn right onto Power's Ferry) and hang a left at the traffic light facing WellStar. You'll see the shopping center on your right with Christo's in the corner to the right of Publix (opposite direction of the Blockbuster on the OTHER corner).

CICI'S PIZZA

What is it? A whole lotta pizza on a buffet! Not the world's best pizza, but really good pizza for the price.

Pricing: Extremely reasonable. The dinner buffet is only \$3.99 (as of this writing) and you can purchase a beverage for about 1.50 more with free refills.

The Service: This is a "get your own food" style eatery. However, if there is some pizza that you want that is not on the line, the cooks will make it at your request. If you're lucky, they'll even bring it to ya. Ask for the "Bacon-Cheddar" pizza. It's good, but you can actually HEAR your arteries slamming shut.

Location: The nearest one is located at 1455 Terrell Mill Road. The easiest way to reach this location is to exit towards 41 (exit from the back of the school, near McDonald's) and make a right. Proceed about a mile and a half down 41 and make a left turn at the first light past Wal-Mart (Terrell Mill Road). Take this road until you pass under a bridge and you'll notice Cici's on the corner in a shopping center on your right.



CHINA KITCHEN

What is it? Really good, really inexpensive, really close Chinese food that caters to SPSU students. Bring your student ID for a free soda (yeet!) with your meal.

Pricing: Again, this place caters to students, so the pricing is very student friendly. You can get very filling meals from their dinner/lunch specials for as low as \$3.75. If you're craving something fancier or larger, you can jump all the way up to paying about \$8 for a plate of

food that'll last you until winter. When you go, tell 'em TheAnonymousX sent you, and you'll get absolutely nothing.

The Service: It's a walk up and order style eatery. Unless you get something intricate, you'll be in and out in about 5-10 minutes. Order the Salt and Pepper chicken to experience the swankiest of the swanky (I have no idea what that means).

Location: 470 Franklin Road SE. You've seen it a thousand times I'm sure. Exit the school from the front, turn right and proceed to the second light (near AppleBee's) and turn left. China Kitchen is in that shopping center next to Havelli's.

LOS REYES

What is it? Low-priced, well-cooked Mexican food that won't make your stomach feel like you just ate a big bowl of flaming bricks.

Pricing: About what one would expect from a Mexican restaurant, with appetizers that can serve as meals costing about \$4 or \$5 and full meals (dinner) ranging from about \$5 to \$12.

The Service: Varies more than any other restaurant on the planet. I literally have been in and out of this place in under half an hour. Other times, the servers seemed to be playing a rousing game of "ignore the broke-a\$\$ college student," and they all seemed to be REALLY good at it. Don't avoid this place because of the inconsistent service, but do be wary of going when it's far too crowded.

Location: 1018 Roswell Street. Across from the Big Chicken. Turn left at the light, and you'll see Los Reyes on your left.

FUDDRUCKER'S [Kennesaw]

What is it? Home of the one-pound hamburger and other gigantic portions of cooked meat by-products wrestled between two pieces of bread.

Pricing: If you're coming to this place, then chances are you're going to face the one-pounder, which I've only seen a select few people eat. Each display of gluttony managed to both disgust and impress me simultaneously, yet I return to witness the horrible spectacle again and again. The behemoth hamburger comes in several variations such as Three Cheese, Swiss Melt, Bacon Cheddar, or Heart Popper (okay, I made that one up) and prices range from about \$7 and up. Fudd's fries taste like granite that's been lightly breaded and fried, and should be avoided by everyone.

The Service: You walk up to the front counter, order, and then serve yourself drinks. You get your own toppings from the topping bar and have to venture back to the dessert counter to get your own final course (if you're tough enough to handle dessert, then you're probably not human). In other words, the service is fairly well non-existent and you can expect to spend about 10-15 minutes waiting on your

gigantic hamburger.

Location: DO NOT visit the location on Windy Hill Road. Simple things like "cooking the red out" of the hamburger or not burning a hole in the bread manage to both elude and confuse the hell out of the employees. I once made the mistake of ordering a hamburger and fries, only to end up with a pizza (yeah, I don't know how it happened either) covered in anchovies and dirt. You want to visit the location at 2708 Town Center Drive, which is located directly in front of Town Center Mall.

WILLY'S MEXICANA GRILL

What is it? Tex-Mex is usually roughly as appetizing as a big plate of baked pig snout. However, this place does it right, serving burritos that weigh somewhere around a metric ton.

Pricing: Depending on your tastes, the gigantic burrito could run anywhere from \$5.25 to about \$6.00. The former being the price of a regular burrito with pleasant-ies such as cheese and beans and desired veggie topics, the latter being a burrito with the horrid creation known as guacamole with its evil friend sour crème.

The Service: You walk through the line and tell the servers what you want on your burrito or salad, taco, etc.. Getting the servers to understand such difficult statements as "CHEESE!! I



WANT FREAKIN' CHEESE, NOT ...OH FOR THE LOVE OF..!" is the difficult/fun part.

Location(s): There are several, and they're actually about the same in terms of taste and service. You're best off either just going to the one behind WellStar off Delk Road (near Christo's, next to Publix and to the left of Blockbuster Video), or using Yahoo Maps/Yellow Pages to find a location close to your desired location.

Marietta Diner

What is it? Greek owned diner that serves a little bit of everything and caters to Southern Tech students. They're opened 24 hours a day, so you can stumble in after your *ahem* late night study sessions.

Pricing: Varies greatly depending on what you order. You want fresh, in season seafood? You can expect to pay around \$15! You want a hamburger

that is satisfying and filling? You can expect to pay around \$5. Oh, and if you want a piece of cake roughly the size of an oil tanker, you can expect to pay in the 4 to 5 dollar range.

The Service: Even on crowded days (IE, any day that ends in "day" or any time that ends in "o'clock") the service will be pretty decent. Chances are, if you experience bad service, someone put out a hit on one of the servers and getting your food will be the least of your worries (wait, can I take that back?).

Location: If you can't find this place, then chances are you don't need to eat there. Anyway, exit from the front entrance and turn left towards Dong Bang (stop snickering) grocery store. Turn left at the light and you'll see Marietta Diner on your left. It's a freakin' 10 minute walk.

THE WORST

Avoid these places like you'd avoid a rabid dolphin driving an out of control fire truck.

SHONEY'S

What is it? Food poisoning taking the shape of edible food in a restaurant. I had no idea that germs actually met somewhere for lunch and dinner every night until I ate a meal here.

Pricing: Although the food is cheap, you're gonna have to spend a few thousand bucks getting your stomach replaced when the bacteria and round/flat worms tear through your body like Rosie O'Donnel at a buffet.

The Service: The waiters/waitresses at Shoney's are awesome, as long as you don't ask them for anything or expect them to bring you anything. Oh, and don't expect any of your food or beverages to arrive in a clean plate/glass either. You're better off just grabbing a cup from a nearby dumpster and using it for both food and drink.

Location: The 7th layer of Hell. Well, that's what it feels like but it's actually on Cobb Parkway across from Sam's Club. Don't go here unless you want to destroy your body and mind.

ABL

What is it? Big, heaping servings of death served lukewarm in our school's cafeteria.

Pricing: Your eternal soul. Or the insane lump of change you've gotta fork over to get on the meal plan if you live in the dorms. Those of you insane

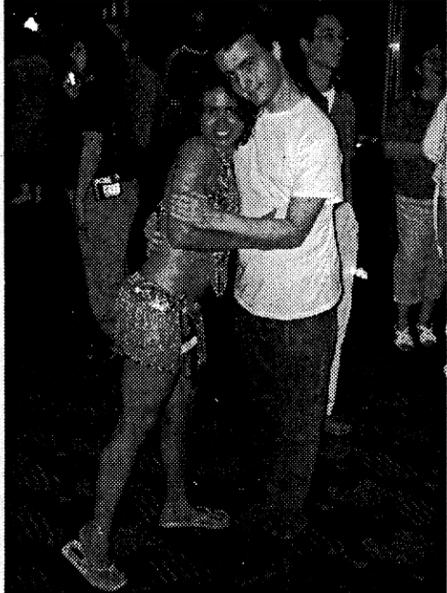
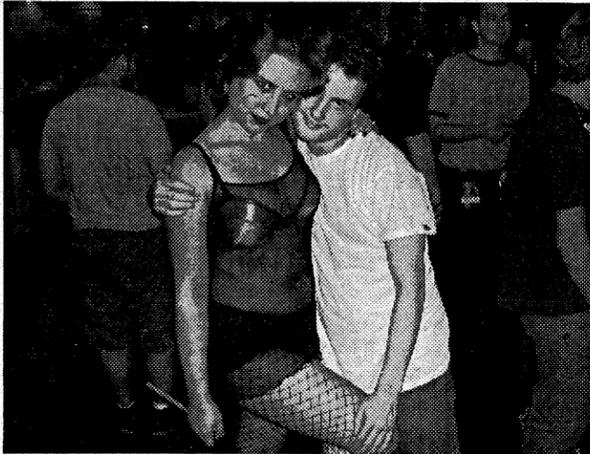
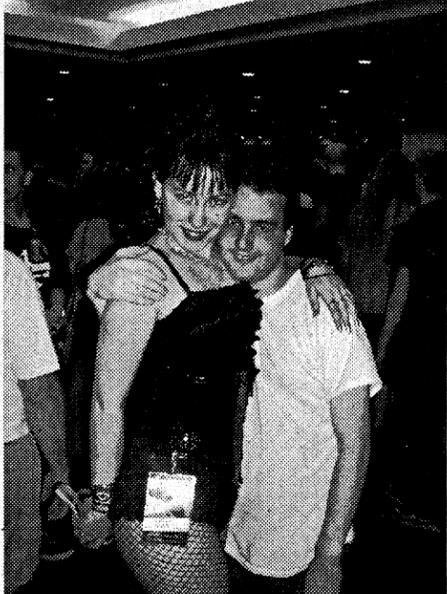
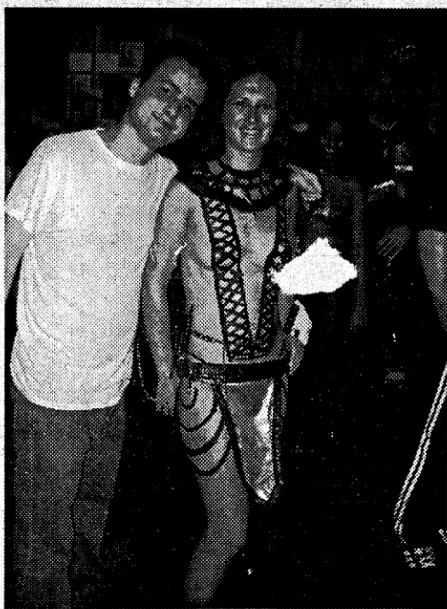
enough to purchase ABL meals are paying \$5.25 or something of that nature. It doesn't matter, your stomachs will explode in a month anyway.

The Service: They all hate you. **Location:** At the corner of Food Poison Lane and Montezuma's Revenge Court.



This could be YOU! IN THESE CREEPY PICTURES. DRAGON*CON 2004

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in these pages do not represent the views of people. They do not represent the views of the Sting or its staff. They do not represent the views of Southern Polytechnic State University or its students, staff, or faculty. The views represented in these next few pages are the views of imaginary people postulating on an imaginary event. None of the things described or shown in these pictures ever happened and it never happens on a yearly basis in Atlanta in September. Nerds, geeks, and dorks do not get together for a convention called Dragon*CON, but if you would like more information visit <http://www.dragoncon.com/>



AN INTRODUCTION TO DRAGON*CON

BY A FICTITIOUS PERSON

First of all I am a nerd, dork, and geek. I wouldn't have even bothered going to dragoncon if I wasn't. After that being said, I was a complete outsider.

If you don't know what Dragoncon is, it is a giant party. Dragoncon is a parade of sex and obesity, the likes of which nerds and geeks alike look forward to all year long. It is a weekend where even the dorkiest of people can dress up in sexy outfits they worked on for four weeks and drink a beer, all the while in a social atmosphere where they can be themselves. Meanwhile everybody is on a constant mission to take advan-

tage of everybody else. I realized this going in.

Parking at Dragoncon causes all the local Atlanta parking Nazi's to emerge from their holes in the ground and charge people more than the everyday \$3.25 for parking. A guy with no uniform or ticket to hand you will charge you \$5 bucks, you are actually paying for him to NOT break into your car, you are not actually paying for parking. This thought occurs to most people after they've already given him the money or just before they're about to hand him the cash. Yet, rather than arguing with the man it's much safer to give the man

the money as you stand on a pile of shattered glass from people who made the mistake of not paying.

As you near the hotels where the event is held you quickly begin spotting hobbits, elves, storm troopers, starfleet control uniforms, and don't forget the goths. One out of every five girls is amazingly hot and dressed with about as much clothing as Lelu in the beginning of the Fifth Element. Two out of those girls are dangerously overweight and dressed about the same. This is about the time you realize that you are not in Atlanta anymore.



A FRIDAY NIGHT TETH AT DRAGON*CON

BY THE SAME FICTITIOUS PERSON



!! STARTING WITH THE UPPERMOST PICTURE. I asked a Darth Vader to force choke me and he did, for real! People dressed as Star Wars characters get around on offroad scooters.

I arrived at Dragoncon with nothing but a tie, a blazer, and an e-mail that told me I was eligible for a press badge and to pick it up in the Lennox room of the Hyatt. As I entered the hotel on the main floor I was greeted by a sea of people, most of which donned a costume or black clothes with black boots. Immediately my eyes met the eyes of a young brown haired girl, whom a split second later I realized she was not only wearing assless pants, but she was wearing a thong and fishnet stockings. It was about this time my entire vision of Dragoncon was changed. As I looked around and took in the costumes and outfits that the people were wearing I had the most important epiphany of the entire weekend. Before where I thought Dragoncon was a place where nerds and geeks alike could attend panels of discussion on various topics. Now I knew the truth: Dragoncon was a party, and more importantly it was the only party that many of them would get to go to in the entire year.

After getting lost on the

elevator for 20 minutes and almost fainting because some girl touched me I made my way to the Lennox room to pick up my pass. All the people in charge of the press room seemed helpful and friendly. They had cookies and water available for us and I took solace in the fact that if Dragoncon got to be too real, got to be too much for me I would be able to duck into one of these rooms with cookies and water and let my brain rest for a moment. Leaving the press room a tall poorly shaved man in a kilt told me to take off my tie because it was "scaring" him. It was then I first felt out of place, and the comment would serve as an evil omen for the rest of the weekend.

I spent most of Friday night lost and staring wide-eyed at the costumes. Some costumes were good, some costumes weren't. Pushing my way through the crowds of people posing for pictures and people taking pictures I tried to find something to distract my attention. I needed a panel to attend and rest for a while. After being stabbed by the swords people casually

carried as I walked around I barged into the Learning Center, which was the room where all the film discussions would take place. There was a panel about building zombies and it was here I had my first encounter with the infamous Tom Savini.

I entered believing Tom Savini to be a sort of Zombie genius, and a veteran filmmaker. I left concluding that in actuality, he was a bitter zombie genius, who seemed completely oblivious to how terrible and hilarious movies like "Dawn of the Dead" (the original) are. When he spoke about "Dawn" specifically it seemed as though he deemed it great and revolutionary, when in all fairness "Night of the Living Dead" was great and revolutionary and "Dawn" only pales in comparison. I was appreciative that Savini attended though, as Romero (creator of "Night") did not. Attendance was the only admirable action Savini took part in, the rest of the event he was completely unapproachable and always in a hurry. This was my first true disappointment.

A while after the panel I re-

turned to the Learning Center room to see the world premiere of a Horror movie. I had to sit on the floor for the lack of chairs. While the movie wasn't necessarily a bad movie, it was certainly painful to watch. I tried to think of a way to make the following day more successful and more entertaining, I began to plot my course of action for the rest of the weekend in the pocket program I had taken from the press room.

The bulk of Friday night was spent looking out over the crowd in the entrance of the hotel and watching the people in costumes have their pictures taken by the people without costumes. I left Dragoncon Friday night feeling unfulfilled and very depressed.

Saturday afternoon I woke up depressed and pulled myself out of bed and dragged myself to Atlanta for Dragoncon. Less people were dressed in makeup intensive costumes on account of it wasn't the opening night and the costume party was happening Sunday.

Again most of my time was spent in the Learning Center but this time I got to meet Lloyd Kaufman (one of the creators of Troma). Of all the guests Mr. Kaufman seemed by far the most personable and approachable. More than a handful of times I saw him talking with fans for at least two minutes which is proof he wasn't just involving himself in the stop and chat.

I was roped into watching a bunch of short films in the comedy genre and in the horror genre. Most of the horror films were bad but there were a few gems amidst the whole ordeal. It was during this panel that Tom Savini didn't bother to show up until an hour into it. When he showed up he carried a super skinny redheaded chick by his side. Sitting down he almost fell out

of his chair, which I believe was either an act of horror to scare us, or an act of a person added by the benefits of cocaine.

He pulled himself out of the hole he dug for himself by showing the never-before-seen pilot of his upcoming television show, which wasn't good, but it was a surprise. Keep in mind this still did not cover for him charging 30 dollars for autographs.

Saturday was a repeat of Friday basically.

Sunday came and I was eager to see all the costumes that people were planning to wear to the Masquerade Party. We took a bus to the Atlanta Civic Center, I had two complimentary cups of water that acquired with the powers of my press ribbon. In the end, the costume contest was a total bust and the Masquerade Party was just that, a costume contest, and not a party. After watching a child in a bear costume win best costume in his age group for being an ewok we left to go stand in line for an hour.

We waited in line for an hour to watch these two Japanese horror films, Ju-On & Ju-On 2. To make a long story short they were terrible and the remake of the 3rd Ju-On film called The Grudge starring Sarah Michelle Gellar will be just as bad as the first two or worse. It would do you well to see none of these films as they are depressingly mediocre and typically predictable.

Sunday was a total bust and I couldn't even bring myself to get out of bed before five on Monday, so I missed all the closing ceremonies. I don't feel bad about this.

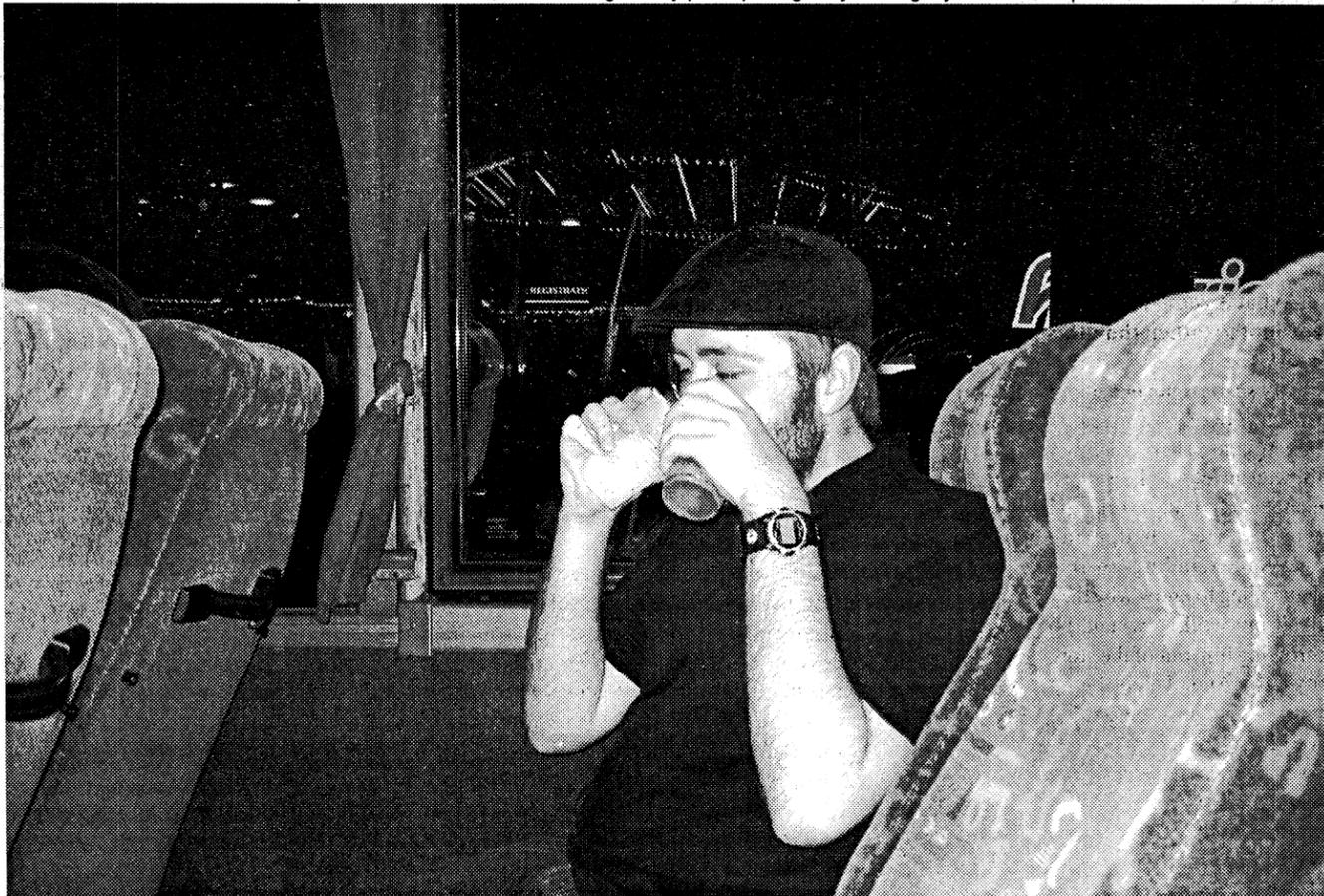
Another comment I should make is that I bought over 25 dollars worth of merchandise from the WizKids booth and I did not receive my free "Stick horse and coconut halves or the free spider-man." This was another disappointment.

AN OUTRODUCTION TO DRAGON*CON

BY A FICTITIOUS PERSON

!! Both those cups have water in them; I was testing out my press privileges by treating myself to two cups of water.

In the end Dragoncon is the biggest party all year round that most of these people attend regularly. I have been told that girls feel even more awkward than I felt being that they're costumes or just regular clothes are under such scrutinizing eyes. It is not uncommon to see Men taking pictures of young (quite young) girls' costumes in a sexual pose. It is also not uncommon to see Men taking pictures of young (quite young) girls' outfits when they're just in normal clothes. I was glad I was not a girl at Dragoncon. Overall I may seem bitter and disheartened by the whole thing, and yes I probably am. But next year when I return, and I WILL RETURN!, I am sure I will be more prepared for the coming ins and I am sure I will have a great time. It was definitely worth the drive to Atlanta, and definitely worth the free my press badge costed.



A CONVERSATION WITH PETER DAVID

THEANONYMOUSX

Dragon Con, for those of you that do not know, is a geek's dream come true. Why? Because a comic/scifi/goth/role-playing geek can go to meet his or her favorite stars of stage and screen and even annoy the hell out of said star with a series of asinine and often pointless questions. That, my friends, is exactly what we have here. About ten years ago I picked up an issue of Marvel comic's *The Incredible Hulk* and noticed that scribe of said issue was none other than one Peter Alan David (PAD). The issue was so well written and humorous that I had to read it again and look for more work by this prolific author. Not only did Peter helm the Hulk series for twelve years, he also wrote some of the wittiest and most entertaining *Star Trek* novels including: *Imzadi*, *Q Squared*, *The Siege* and *Q-in-Law*. PAD was gracious enough to grant me an interview, which I've painstakingly (read: lazily) transcribed here for you. Sit back, relax, and mock me for having the interviewing skills of a marmoset.

What could've been done to improve the *Hulk* movie?

Okay, the big problem to my mind with the *Hulk* movie was that they over-thought it. You see, a lot of hard thinking goes into the origin of the character, the character origins in the 1960s stem from the notion that radiation was this wonderful magic thing that could do incredible transformations on you instead of just kill you. When

[Sam Raimi] did the Spider-Man movie, notice [Spider-Man] was no longer bitten by a radioactive spider; he was bitten by a genetically mutated spider. Which is pretty much just as much bullsh*t as radioactive, but it wasn't radioactive. I think, from what I saw, that the movie guys were concerned that the audience would not accept the notion that Bruce Banner gets hit by radiation and turns into the Hulk so they had to rationalize it and explain it six ways from Sunday. As to how he was able to survive this, "oh his father did experiments on him when he was a kid," "oh wait it was nano-meds", "Oh wait it was nano-meds combined with gamma radiation." The thing that [Ang Lee and the writers] didn't give any thought to, is that if people are plunking down eight bucks to put their asses in the seats and watch this movie, they are willing to have it be a given that Bruce Banner gets hit by gamma radiation and turns into the Hulk. It's the "mugafit", it's the thing the audience is willing to buy into. If anyone is sitting in this movie and watches [Banner] get hit by gamma radiation and transform into the Hulk, and the person says "whoa dude, that's not just believable he should just die from gamma radiation," this person is too stupid to live, much less [should] you have to tailor the whole movie to accommodate [that person]. So that's what I think the big problem was, that they just put way too much thought

into it [Peter stops to address his assistant]

Your thoughts about the current *Hulk* run

Keep in mind two things: number one, I haven't read everything that [current writer] Bruce [Jones] did. Number two, I openly admit that I am the worst person to answer this kinda question because my thoughts about the Hulk are so set in stone that (answers phone)...my thoughts of the Hulk are so set in stone from 12 years of working on the character that I can't pretend that I can read someone else's work on the book with an unbiased eye. So, with that understanding, my perception is that to a certain degree, Bruce wrote himself into a corner. He came up with the notion of essentially writing the Hulk outta the book and just focusing on Banner. Well that's a nifty idea at first, but the problem is that sooner or later you're gonna come back to the Hulk and the thing that the Hulk is always going to be. What is [this] "new interesting take have you got for the Hulk, what are you doing with the Big Guy that's going to be new and different that we haven't seen before?" Which meant that the longer Bruce [Jones] took the Hulk out of the book, the more he built up reader anticipation of his new and interesting different take. And the problem is, that you eventually have to do the reveal, and when he did the reveal, the reveal was "hmmm ummm no, nothing different," it's the same guy, which

means it's a built in let down. And the disenchantment with Bruce's Hulk began to set in, I think, when people realized that there was nothing new and different there with the Hulk himself. That's a problem, that's a problem.

What is your favorite/least favorite *Star Trek* movie, series?

Uh, my favorite *Star Trek* series has gotta be Original *Trek*. Original, just, ya know, the mission was so clear, the characters were so clear, the colors so vivid, the music so memorable. Do you see it 35-40 years later and see a certain amount of cheese? Yes. But on the other hand you go back to [an] episode like *Doomsday Machine* or *City on the Edge of Forever* against the best that they've got to offer for any subsequent series and [the original] holds up.

My favorite *Trek* movie? *The Wrath of Khan*. [I comment I haven't seen this movie yet] Oh my god, it saved the franchise, it saved the franchise.

My least favorite *Trek* movie? Probably the first one. It was just so freakin' dull, so freakin' dull.

My least favorite *Star Trek* series? Probably *Voyager*, because I felt like they have tremendous potential and they wasted it. The concept that they had a ship there with a crew that was in opposition to itself seemed like they had a potential for drama. Within six issues, they were indistinguishable from any other crew.

You've written several "Q"-centric novels. What draws you back to the character?

I just thought he was a kick, I mean I really did. He just seemed to be a lot of fun, and what happened was I came up with the notion to do *Q-in-Law*. To have Q meet Lawaxanna Troi, the two most obnoxious characters in the *Next Gen* universe, [and have them] go head to head. And what happened was, I proposed that to Pocket Books and they really didn't want to do it because the editors didn't really like the characters. But I finally talked them into it, I did *Q-in-Law*, and the book came out and it sold through the roof. The editors came back to me and went "Peter, Q novels, we're there, we're hip, we're happening, let's do it." And that's where it came from.

What are your upcoming projects, be they comics or novels?

The next [*Star Trek*] *New Frontier* novel will be out in November. I'm working on a new series that I'm doing for *Tore* books called *The Hidden Earth* [and] I just signed a contract to do a third King Arthur book for Penguin Puntan, so that'll be kinda cool. I do a series for DC comics called *Fallen Angel*, I'm doing the Hulk again starting in January for Marvel comics, and a new limited series called *Madrox* about the Multiple Man.

!! This conversation continues on the next page! Isn't that fun?!

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES...

THEANONYMOUSX

You're a common figure at "cons." What brings you back annually?

They invite me, at this con in particular. I don't go to all of them annually, I go to the ones that invite me that I have a good time at.

What is your scariest fan encounter (other than this one)?

My scariest fan encounter was at a book store signing in England where this guy showed up told me how much he hated all of my work, and then started badgering everyone standing on-line demanding to know why they liked my work. I wound up throwing him out of the store myself. And, I kept being worried, because he got his weird grin on his face, and I've never encountered a fan who I was so convinced was gonna be standing outside with a gun waiting on me. [Looks at the remaining pages in the interview]

Humor is a big part of your work. *Young Justice*, *The Hulk*, your *Trek* novels. What inspires your comedy writing?

The thing is that, life is humorous. I mean, we find humor in even the most depressing things. I mean, you can't think of anything more serious and tragic than the destruction of the Challenger say, right? But what were people saying after that "hey, what does NASA stand for, Need Another Seven Astronauts"? You'll find that comedy is simply tragedy plus time, and I can't claim that I came up with that [joke], I forget who said that, but that's what really comedy is. And I will always put humorous moments in even the most dramatic of my material because it serves to lighten it. You wanna try and mix things up, you wanna try and keep a brisk tone, you want to try and keep a variant tone to it.

Your run on the Hulk brought the character back from obscurity. You created "Banner-Hulk," how do you respond to criticism that this Hulk isn't very "Hulk-like" because of the lack of conflict?

How do I respond to the conflict? I extend my middle

finger thusly [pantomimes giving the middle finger action] that's how I respond to the criticism. I think it is idiotic for people to say this ignores what the basics of the Hulk are. Especially when you go back to the first six issues of the Hulk, the very first six issues, you find there are four different variations of the Hulk. He changes night, he's perfectly articulate, oh wait, now he's changing during the day, oh wait now he's going in front of a gamma radiation machine and he talks with perfect English as a matter of fact he talks like the Thing. There's so many variations in the Hulk in the beginning that all you have to do is go back to that and do something evocative of that and to a certain degree...[stops to sign a book] all the elements that I did of the Hulk were there that were there in those first six issues. To think that I just stopped having the conflict between the Hulk and Banner is to totally misread what I wrote. The conflict was still there, it was just internalized, instead of having him go "Arrrrggghhh I'm

transforming," I made it more psychological and it was all internal.

Other than the Hulk, which characters do you enjoy writing?

I really enjoy writing *Fallen Angel*, which is what I do for DC. I like writing *Madrox* which works out since [Marvel has] me doing this limited series so I'm doing all the characters that I did in *X-factor*. I'd love to write *Batman*, that'd be cool, [because] I haven't written *Batman*. I've dialogued him when I was doing *Young Justice* but I've never written *Batman* specific. And *Spider-Man*, he's just one of the greats.

In the Sci-Fi novel realm, which properties do you enjoy working with the most?

The only sci-fi property I really write is *Star Trek* with any regularity. There are some that I specifically avoid because I want to avoid problems, like *Star Wars*. Ya know, I really enjoy writing *Star Trek*, the only other property that I've done to

any degree is *Babylon 5*. The great thing about doing *Babylon 5* novels is that, with *Star Trek* I'm working with people in the licensing department, [but] with *Babylon 5* I'm working with Joe Straczynski. So, there's just that sense of immediacy that you're going to the source. So, that really does elevate the *Babylon 5* novels in my way of thinking

What caused your split from the Hulk series, ending your 12-year run?

Oh, they didn't want me on the book anymore. They wanted me to write the Hulk as brainless and green a big smashing machine. And I did not want to write that because my attitude was that was going to be death to the book, people don't want to read that, they want the psychological drama and I don't want to write that and Marvel responded with "Don't let the door hit you on the way out." And all the people who were involved with firing me off the book are gone from Marvel and I'm back on the Hulk, so what goes around comes around.

!! The people in this photograph do not represent the views of Peter David. They are not Peter David, one of them is a Spaceball.



STUDENT QUESTION

What should our new mascot really be?



Aakash Shah
IET
"The Falcons"



Anthony Shields
IT
"Cougars"



Opal Ramocan
Math
"A Trojan"



Michael Fox
Math & MET
"An Octopus"



Jullian Joseph
SWE
"Timber Wolves"



Jay Stewart
Physics
"Ball Weevils"



Stefanie and Valerie
Management & IET
"Southern Poly Sooners"



William Burke
IET
"The Geeks (holding up a pocket protector)"



Patrick Davis
EET
"A Trojan"