What is happening with tuition?

KAREN ASAY

On October 12, the Board of Regents will decide whether or not tuition will increase for Spring semester. This possible increase, caused by Governor Perdue’s $64 million budget cut from the University System of Georgia (USG), would need to be laid off. The tuition increase has caused concern among students and faculty. Governor Perdue has stated that the USG budget cut should not get around 11% of the state budget. The state-wide budget cuts were made to adjust for the decreases in state revenue. Governor Perdue explains Georgia is still feeling the effects of 9-11 since tourism and employment is still low. Low revenue would cause the state to run on a deficit without the budget cuts, and the Governor stated that it is against the Constitution to run on a state on a deficit.

The rumor going around Southern Poly is that there will be a 10% increase in tuition for Spring semester. However, there is more to this plan and there are more suggestions being made. First, for a 10% tuition increase over the budget cut, 1,100 people would need to be laid off. The second solution would be a 22% increase and lay off 300 people. The last idea is to either raise tuition by 27% or eliminate 1,700 jobs. A 10% increase would raise tuition by $121.40, 22% would raise it by $267.08, and a 27% would raise tuition by $327.78.

The Student Government Association (SGA) at the 34 state campuses started to organize when they heard about the increases. The SGA at the University of Georgia wrote a fact sheet on the increases and why the increases were being made. There is a copy of this in the Organizations section of this paper. Also, the SGA at Georgia Tech wrote a petition and sent it along with the fact sheet to the rest of the USG campuses. The petition did not say that the SGA was against the tuition increase but that they are against a tuition increase in the middle of the academic year. Southern Poly’s SGA helped with the petitions by posting copies for students to sign at the Information Desk at the Student Center and passing them out to the departments.

For a 10% tuition increase to cover the budget cut, 1,100 people would need to be laid off.

SPSU Looses Life

HEATHER GIBoux

This past spring, the SPSU Foundation was attempting to purchase the Life University campus. This acquisition would have been helpful towards both parties. With our school growing every year and the addition of a new soccer team, SPSU could use the extra facilities to spread its wings. This exchange would have also helped Life University get out of debt. It was supposed to be a win-win situation. According to President Rossbacher, “The SPSU Foundation would have acquired the campus, and the Board of Regents would have agreed to lease it from the foundation. Part of the campus would then have been leased back to Life, so that the school could continue to function and serve students, and the rest would have been leased to Southern Polytechnic.”

The Board of Regents, however, decided against the lease agreement because of the current financial state of affairs here in Georgia. When asked if this decision will hinder the growth of SPSU, Dr. Rossbacher replied, “SPSU will simply grow in different ways, without the ability to utilize the Life University campus.” One of those “different ways” will be pets on soon. The Board of Regents has just recently (this past June) approved the construction of a new Math and Engineering building.

 anarchy

This semester, the School of Engineering Technology and Management has a new dean, Dr. Wayne Unsell. He is taking over for the Interim Dean, Dr. Perdue. Dr. Unsell is a Civil Engineering graduate and has both his Bachelor and Master degrees in the field. He also has a Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the University of Toledo. He taught at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma and at the University of Santa Clara in California. At Purdue University in Indiana, he went beyond teaching. He started there as an assistant professor, but worked his way up the latter to department chair and eventually to associate dean. After being an associate dean, Dr. Unsell decided he enjoyed the position and started looking for a position opening for a dean. This is what brought his attention to Southern Polytechnic.

When asked what appealed to him about Southern Poly, he had a couple of reasons. First, SPSU’s mission statement and relevant, rigorous programs drew his attention. Second, the management program being mixed in with the engineering technology program created a welcome challenge for him in both his career and personal life. The tightened up of the school’s budget is a definite problem. Dr. Unsell will be talking with people from industries and their advisory boards to try and get support from them. He is also looking at how to attract new students with a very minimal budget.

Since Dr. Wayne Unsell is new to the campus, he has held meetings with the chairs of the different departments in the school of Engineering Technology and Management. Dr. Unsell wants to get an idea of the needs of the different engineering technology departments and the management department. He states that his primary concern is student education, which means that he is keeping the programs updated and making sure students have the skills and basic understanding gig another job. Another part of his student’s education is the organizations on campus. Specifically concerning Dr. Unsell is some of the competitive teams. Dr. Unsell was really impressed with how competitive Southern Poly’s competition teams are and how high they rank, even though they are competing with big engineering colleges. Because of these facts, Dr. Unsell plans to eventually meet with the competition teams.
### Residence Life’s New Staff Members

**KAREN ASAY**

There are two new members on the Residence Life staff: Ashley Schenck and Pierrette Maillet. The students living on campus have already met them during check-in week before classes started. Ashley Schenck is the Area Coordinator of the apartments and Pierrette Maillet is the Area Coordinator of the residence halls. They are in charge of training and supervising the CA’s, RA’s, and RII’s.

Both of them have master’s degrees and have made their careers in the Residence Life area. Ashley Schenck has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Appalachian State University and a Master of Education with an emphasis in College Personnel Counseling from Wesleyan University to get Bachelor of Science and Master of Education with an emphasis in College Personnel Counseling degrees and have made their careers in the Residence Life area. Ashley Schenck has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Appalachian State University and a Master of Education with an emphasis in College Personnel Counseling.

After four years working in the Residence Life area, Ashley Schenck was hired as an Associate Director of Residence Life at Wingate University in Southern Mississippi. She has spent the last four years working in the Residence Life field, and has been practicing the latter. She worked as a Graduate Hall Director at University of Southern Mississippi, an Associate Dean of Residence Life at Wingate College, and a Residence Assistant at Valdosta State University.

Pierrette Maillet went to Wesleyan University to get a Bachelor of Art in Religion and to the University of Colorado for a Master of Art in Religious Studies with a focus on Women and Religion and Feminist Theology. She has spent eight years working in the Religious Life, field, most of which was spent as the Residential Life Coordinator for the South Campus of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. She has also worked as a Resident Advisor, a Residence Hall Director, and an Assistant Residence Hall Director, and an Associate Director.

### Breakfast at the Governor’s

This past Tuesday Heather Giroux received an email from Chris Young, the Governor’s Personal Aide, inviting her to have breakfast Saturday, October 5, at the Governor’s Mansion, in response to the petition and fact sheet that the SGAs at UGA and Georgia Tech got together to create. Since it was sent out to all of the other University System of Georgia colleges, Governor Pudue wanted to have a face-to-face meeting with the recipients to discuss the issues surrounding the proposed budget cuts and how they may affect spring tuition.

All 10 of a brief PowerPoint presentation, Governor Pudue asked for solutions from the students but didn’t seem interested in the students’ ideas. As a matter of opinion, Heather stated that he was completely trying to cover his ass. Blaming the events of 9/11 on Georgia’s poor performance in telecommunication, tourism and employment, the Governor stressed, “Constitutionally you can’t do a defi- cit budget.” If the breakfast was supposed to raise the spirits of its invitees, but the meeting did little for them.

“He seemed more interested in the football game than he did in the issues,” stated Heather Giroux.

### STING Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Karen Asay</th>
<th>Editor-in-Chief</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug Lacher</td>
<td>Web Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The local advertising rate of The Sting is $3 per column inch on paper; advertisements online are determined by frequency. Advertisements for service and professional organizations on campus are free, but run a date is not guaranteed on paper. To guarantee one ad rate is one half the local advertisement rate. Classified advertisements are $25.00 for the first 25 words on paper; online classifieds are $12.00 for the first 25 words. Advertisements must be submitted by the deadline printed below. To reserve space or for more information, contact The Sting at 770-528-7310 or sting@spsu.edu.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### ORGANIZATIONS

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

### JOINING THE STING

Any student paying Activity Fees is eligible to join The Sting, though final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief. We prefer creative students who have passed English 1101. Come to our meetings Fridays at 12:00 p.m. in A252, upstairs in the student center, or call 770-528-7310. This includes YOU, all you so-called members that never attend. The Sting: "It’s not a job, cause a real job pays more.

### DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue and its release date will be determined by the incoming Editor-in-Chief. Please contact the incoming Editor-in-Chief at sting@spsu.edu for further details.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to The Sting are $10.00 per semester or $50.00 per 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.
College Math Club President Dumps Supermodel

He crunched the numbers, then crushed her heart

By JAMIE MURPHY

Admitting that there was a good 0-0.75 percent chance that he made the wrong move, college math club president Brady Burns recently called it quits with longtime supermodel girlfriend Elena. Burns, who claimed he carefully calculated the breakup, said his alleged free checking account had monthly fees that just didn’t add up. The kid was quick to add that had he known about Washington Mutual’s Free Checking—an account with optional Delnce services like free online bill pay available at wanna.com—a lot of stress was added. “He could have just gone to a Washington Mutual Financial Center or wanna.com,” she said. “We were totally soul mates, but I guess he didn’t see that either.”

“I loved her like a quadratic formula...”

College sophomore Brady Burns, left, almost ended a six-month torrid love affair with a heartbroken Elena, right.

Calling a Spade a Spade

ERIK HADLEY

I have been asked to write something about the upcoming presidential election, but have been reluctant to do so. I do not want to get into a comparison of the two major candidates. In my opinion, you have yours, and the odds are good that you will not change your mind. Besides there probably is no need for me to change your mind because let’s face it, America just does not care about the election.

“Now how do you think that possible be?” you ask. After all we are electing the leader of our country. This is of major importance. This could affect us for many years beyond the potential four to eight years either candidate could potentially have ahead of them. This is a big deal, how could America not care?

Simple, voter turnout. Every election we have a very small percentage of the registered voters actually show up at the polls and cast a ballot. Beyond that the total number of registered voters in this country versus the number of people that are eligible but not registered to vote is lopsided. Plenty of people who could vote never register because they just don’t care.

So why do we not care? I guess that depends on who you talk to. The most probable reason is that someone thinks that there one vote means nothing. What could one vote possibly do? Well that one vote can do a lot of things.

By casting that one vote, you may change an election. We all remember that Florida was very close between the major candidates in 2000. If just a small number of people, perhaps one thousand, had decided to go out and vote the election would have been far more decisive and America would not have gone through dragged out arguments over how to count ballots. But there is a greater power to casting that ballot. You do not have to vote for one of the two major parties. You can vote for who ever you feel is really represents you. There are third parties, and some of them are a great alternative to the Democrat and Republican parties. Problem is that we never hear about them because they never get enough of a vote to be a factor in an election. Instead of voting for one of the two major parties and quite possi-

bly a candidate that you don’t really agree with by looking into the third parties. You just might find a party that you agree with and a candidate that really represents you. The third parties will never get coverage if they do not draw votes, if you cast your ballots for them people will start to take notice.

It will only happen if you actually go out and vote. That’s probably asking a lot because after all when it comes to elections in America, we just done care.

Sincerely,

Karen Asay

“If you don’t vote, you don’t have the right to bitch.”

- Karen Asay
Better Than Oil

CAIN
Southern Polytechnic is sitting on an untapped resource that is more valuable than one can imagine. That resource is the students themselves. With current budget cuts, decreases in enrollment and higher work standards, SPSU can use their students to resolve gaps caused by wavier factors. A system, which will be referred to here as SPSU interns, can be set up within the school to benefit work in a team to finish an objective thus building team abilities. What student would not brag about the work they did at SPSU? If it is actually used? Everyone can even credit the students that worked on it as another tool you for their work. SPSU has hesitation under stood. Some of the projects might put students in place where they may, for example, be able to access other student records. This can be handled with careful planning and waivers explaining the consequences of breaking any rules. Another issue may be the fear that students may not finish a project. As with any other “class,” the parameters for a grade can be set in the beginning and the student will be informed that all work that is done will become property of SPSU. This is how the real world works and the experience will be good for the student. As long as it relates to the students major, every department at SPSU should be able to tap into the resources of student interns. The President’s office, Plant Operations and everyone else here at SPSU has a process to do a project that they need help on. The need for continuous improvement is great and students should be used whenever they can. These students should not be used for bookkeeping work or anything outside of their major. The project these students’ work on should be things that, in the end, are point worthy and how the students’ achievements. Is it not being suggested in any way that SPSU will be forced to hire these students. The student workers that already exist in the departments will be treated as Co-Op students, and receive benefits according, such as pay. The interns on the other hand can use the time worked as credit hours and resume building experience. The potential is great if SPSU will just be willing to just use students.

Music Censorship?

CHRISTIANA FUNHouser

The lyrics in today’s music have steadily become more graphic in their depiction of sex and violence; with pornography running rampant throughout it especially rap. Stricter guidelines should be in place that limit who can and cannot purchase CDs with explicit content. Censorship is not the answer. Minor cannot buy tickets to a rated R movie because of content. Why should CDs, with the same content, be any different? It wouldn’t be silencing the artist. It would simply give Parents a say in what their children can and cannot listen to. Ask any minor, who listens to music with explicit content, if they would have those CDs if their parents had to buy the CD’s for them and they would probably say no. Suggest the idea that a law be enacted that restricts the buying age for explicit content and they will, most likely, get angry. The record companies and “artists” would probably have the same reaction. “Artists” and record companies believe that if one were to have a law that restricted the buying age for music with explicit content it would be a serious violation of the “artist’s” right of expression as guaranteed by the First Amendment. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), according to Eric Nuzum on his website Ericnuzum.com, crossed the line when they fined a radio station for playing a song with objectionable content. In an editorial entitled “Rap Suckers: The FCC’s Arbitrary Attack on Rap” he states that, “The song contains lyrics such as “Your revolution will not find me in the back seat of a jeep .... doing it and doing it and doing it well. Think I’m going to put it in my mouth just because you make a few bucks? Please, brother, please.” By any thing except the most literal inter pretation of the questionable phrases, the song is a political protest. When things like this happen, it is censorship at its most explicit. Wendy Wright speaking for the Concerned Women for America gives a very fair definition of what censorship is, in her interview on exsessment.com when she said, “We favor music censorship? No, that’s not true. Censorship means that the government restrains speech. We are in favor of those in the music industry using common sense.” In the First Amendment, we are given the right to free speech. We are given the right to express our selves as we please. Whether that be by singing Christian lyrics or satanic lyrics. No one wants to take that away. Here are some examples of lyrics that are used to sell music. azlyrics.com from Ludacris and Slip knot. Ludacris illustrates a very mild rap song with explicit sexual content, “I want to get you in the back seat windows up. That’s the way you like to *$@*#*, chugged fog breath, flip the pants and rip the shirt, run sex make it hurt. In the garden all the dirt.” Slip knot illustrates a very mild rock song with explicit violent lyrics, “I wanna slit your throat and *$@*% the wound. I wanna push my face in and feel the swoon, I want dig inside, find a bit of me.... Cut the line gets crossed when you don’t come clean.” Children of any age are welcome to purchase these CD’s. All we want is for parents to purchase the CD so that they have at least a small idea as to what their child is listening to. In order to go into a rated R movie, you have to be 17 or older. Adult porn sits with only text and no graphics still require you to be 18 or older. The music has the same message as one of these restricted websites and movies. Why not have consistencies with ages and restrictions? Is this an ideal World idea, absolutely not! All that would be required is a picture ID if the CD has a Parent Advisory Warning sticker on the CD. It’s no different than having to show your ID before purchasing a ticket; to see the latest slasher film.

The music industry’s excuse that, by having a law like that in place would be violating their First Amendment right is ridiculous. No one explained to me again, why I need a man.

Music Censorship?

CHRISTIANA FUNHouser

The lyrics in today’s music have steadily become more graphic in their depiction of sex and violence; with pornography running rampant throughout it especially rap. Stricter guidelines should be in place that limit who can and cannot purchase CDs with explicit content. Censorship is not the answer. Minor cannot buy tickets to a rated R movie because of content. Why should CDs, with the same content, be any different? It wouldn’t be silencing the artist. It would simply give Parents a say in what their children can and cannot listen to. Ask any minor, who listens to music with explicit content, if they would have those CDs if their parents had to buy the CD’s for them and they would probably say no. Suggest the idea that a law be enacted that restricts the buying age for explicit content and they will, most likely, get angry. The record companies and “artists” would probably have the same reaction. “Artists” and record companies believe that if one were to have a law that restricted the buying age for music with explicit content it would be a serious violation of the “artist’s” right of expression as guaranteed by the First Amendment. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), according to Eric Nuzum on his website Ericnuzum.com, crossed the line when they fined a radio station for playing a song with objectionable content. In an editorial entitled “Rap Suckers: The FCC’s Arbitrary Attack on Rap” he states that, “The song contains lyrics such as “Your revolution will not find me in the back seat of a jeep .... doing it and doing it and doing it well. Think I’m going to put it in my mouth just because you make a few bucks? Please, brother, please.” By any thing except the most literal interpretation of the questionable phrases, the song is a political protest. When things like this happen, it is censorship at its most explicit. Wendy Wright speaking for the Concerned Women for America gives a very fair definition of what censorship is, in her interview on exsessment.com when she said, “We favor music censorship? No, that’s not true. Censorship means that the government restrains speech. We are in favor of those in the music industry using common sense.” In the First Amendment, we are given the right to free speech. We are given the right to express our selves as we please. Whether that be by singing Christian lyrics or satanic lyrics. No one wants to take that away. Here are some examples of lyrics that are used to sell music. azlyrics.com from Ludacris and Slip knot. Ludacris illustrates a very mild rap song with explicit sexual content, “I want to get you in the back seat windows up. That’s the way you like to *$@*#*, chugged fog breath, flip the pants and rip the shirt, run sex make it hurt. In the garden all the dirt.” Slip knot illustrates a very mild rock song with explicit violent lyrics, “I wanna slit your throat and *$@*% the wound. I wanna push my face in and feel the swoon, I want dig inside, find a bit of me.... Cut the line gets crossed when you don’t come clean.” Children of any age are welcome to purchase these CD’s. All we want is for parents to purchase the CD so that they have at least a small idea as to what their child is listening to. In order to go into a rated R movie, you have to be 17 or older. Adult porn sits with only text and no graphics still require you to be 18 or older. The music has the same message as one of these restricted websites and movies. Why not have consistencies with ages and restrictions? Is this an ideal World idea, absolutely not! All that would be required is a picture ID if the CD has a Parent Advisory Warning sticker on the CD. It’s no different than having to show your ID before purchasing a ticket; to see the latest slasher film.

The music industry’s excuse that, by having a law like that in place would be violating their First Amendment right is ridiculous. No one
SAFE
Sexual Acceptance for Everyone
Celebrate Your Coming Out Day

Yeah, October 11th was National Coming Out Day... but it was cancelled because you didn’t come Out.

Make Today Your Coming Out Day.

Tuesdays @ 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays @ 12:00 p.m.
Room A-213 SC

For more information: safe@spsu.edu
http:\\safe.spsu.edu
Dear Editor,

Perhaps the Financial Aid Office does have problems: Interactions with the government and money do tend to be stressful, perhaps temporar y help is not an option, and this most recent year, the office was temporarily moved for construction. Still it seems that student concerns have been avoided. I, too, stood in line and have a suggestion or two to add.

While I was standing in line, some folks pushed past. I found later that they had gone to the payment line, which was why I was waiting. The payment line needs to be well marked including the expectation that the line for financial aid will extend well beyond the building’s doors at the beginning of the year. No one wants to stand in the wrong line or cut ahead and be embarrassed in case things have changed and the lines for financial aid and payment have been combined.

Students want to know that efficient employees. The three employees present when I arrived were deputizing the counter work of the same box. By the time, I arrived at the front of the line, there was only one employee and he waited on me while helping another student in line at the same time. While we understand that mistakes are traced back to the originating employee, we want to know that helpful employees are noted too.

Finally, I’d like to know if the admissions and registrations offices offer web access, why the financial aid office doesn’t offer it too.

Mike

China Kitchen
470 Franklin Rd, Marietta
(770) 429-9209
3205 Acworth Oaks Dr, Suite 700
Acworth
(678) 574-0848
(678) 574-0864

Students
Daily 3.75 Specials
Plus Free Drink with Student ID

Tau Kappa Epsilon Xi Chi Chapter
It’s fall, again; new freshmen become accustomed to their newly found college life, new classes, new school, and most importantly, new friends. These were once factors that impacted us all, now fully proficient individuals assimilated into the daily grind of studying and attending classes for another fun and eventful fall semester. Along with the five fraternities at Southern Poly, the Xi Chi chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity has proved resilient and relentless during the beginning of this new semester in an effort to promote Greek life. Our rush was held the first two weeks of this fall semester and could not have been more fun. TKE served free food including sodas, pizza, Subway sandwiches, and even Willison Bros. Barbeque each morning to our SPSU student center. Evening events included: great times playing football, ultimate Frisbee on a make-shift basketball court, and home-style grilling between the new University Village apartment. We would like to congratulate the new candidate members of Tau Kappa Epsilon: Chris Brown, David Chair, Brian Craig, Destin Cleveland, Rich McDonald, Peter Miller, Steve Ngo, Charlee Song, and Jonathan Weber. The Xi Chi chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon wishes these candidates the best of luck as they embark on their journey to join the four hundred and ninety five brothers that have initiated since 1973. The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon are looking forward to the rest of this exciting semester with these dedicated, great guys.

CAB’s Battle of the Bands
THE ANONYMOUS
On September 20th, SPSU’s Campus Activities Board (CAB) presented their Battle of the Bands competition. This event took place in the Atrium next to Norton dormitory and featured four bands and one solo artist in one downhill entertaining for one winner or another music throw-down. For those of you that didn’t come in person due to an acoustic fear of having to venture outside and converse with other human beings without the use of an avatar, I’ve provided a play-by-play of the night’s events ending with the winner of the competition. The overall prize the winner received? Five hundred big ones! With that kind of money you’d think the audience would have left and owned the stage a good rock n roll band should. Their set may have only been a few songs deep, but what a ride those few songs were.

Mark of the Least - I’d admit some bias in favor of this band before they even took the stage, as the band’s lead singer is SPSU alumnus and former RA from my hall and all around good guy, Kevin Todd. I was prepared to at least accept this band, but what I and the rest of the audience received was nearly mind-boggling. Mark of the Least performed like a band should, with a high energy performance that got the audience involved and on its collective feet. Todd bounced and strutted across the amphitheater stage as a lead singer should, but certainly not on a regular basis. I’ve seen Mark of the Least perform like a band should, getting even the most nonchalant of attendees to nod their heads in tune with the music. Drummer and anchor of the band, Blake Glaze showed his talent, but at the same time the guitar was nearly mind-boggling. Mark of the Least performed like a band should, but certainly not on a regular basis.

First Place: Mark of the Least (no surprise here)

Second Place: (tied) Dwayne and Flashbulb Memory. Dwayne was technically a “band,” but he definitely should be awarded a first or second place prize.

Third Place: Triple A.

Seventh Place: Vital Signs (surprise, I’m very afraid)

Room for Rent: Large Master Bedroom w/Private Bath & Walk-In Closet

HOUSE IN AREA IS FULLY FURNISHED WITH ALL SIZE WASHER/DRYER, BIG SCREEN TV, fire/Place, desk in backyard, etc. JUST BRING YOUR BEDROOM SUITE.

EXCELLENT HIGHWAY ACCESS LOCATED 1/4 MILE EAST OF L-75 SOUTH OF 120 LOOP AND APPROX 1 MILE FROM SPSU AND MILES FROM KSU.

ALSO WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF SEVERAL BUS, RESTAURANTS, STORES AND SHOPS. I AM A STRAIGHT WM PROFESSIONAL WHO WORKS LONG HOURS AND TRAVELS OFTEN (YOU WILL SEE ME LITTLE OF ME) SEEKING A RESPONSIBLE AND FEET AT HOME. DISCUSS AND NUMBERS.
URGENT!! PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY!!

Dear Students,

I am sure most of you are aware of the budget cut that the Governor asked all universities in the Board of Regents to make. This will include a increase in tuition of at least 10% for Spring. The Financial Aid office will reevaluate all financial aid packages.

Therefore, we have started a petition to ask the Governor to decrease the amount of the budget cut. It is important to know that we are not against an increase in tuition, but we do not want one in the Spring semester because that does not give us enough time to prepare.

In addition, reevaluating our financial aid packages in the middle of the year is unfair. The petitions are at the Student Center information desk. Please sign the petition to help us maintain the quality and cost of our education.

We will be taking all of the petition and forwarding it to the Georgia State Board of Education so that they can reevaluate all financial aid budget. It is unclear at this time if the university will reevaluate all financial aid packages.

The petitions are at the Student Center information desk. Please sign the petition to help us maintain the quality and cost of our education. We will be taking all of the petitions and forwarding it to the Georgia State Board of Education so that they can reevaluate all financial aid packages.

Your SGA

HEATHER GIROUX

New Band Director

HEATHER GIROUX

The SPSU Band program is now in the beginning of its second year here on campus. Last year’s director, Jim Wright, was replaced by a Mrs. Beth Farber. Dr. Gabrielli, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and other members of the SPSU community decided to make the band director a full-time position. This prompted the school to begin looking for a new band director since Mr. Wright was not hired in a competitive search and was hired only as a part-time teacher.

In a letter dated July 13, 2004, Mr. Wright partially explained the change of hands of the band program: “I anticipate that you all will accomplish many great things in the coming year; however, after careful consideration, I have concluded that I need to pursue further educational opportunities towards my doctorate for the 2004-05 academic year. I urge all of you to continue your participation in the program and to support your new director.”

The school was looking for a person who held the best qualifications and the right type of experience for the job. That person was Mrs. Beth Farber. Mrs. Farber worked to develop a band that would be competitive both financially and in the area of technical performance.

The SPSU Band is still looking for members. It is open to all students, faculty, and staff with musical experience. If you are interested in joining, please contact Professor Farber at 678-915-4222 or email her at bfarber@spsu.edu.

Background—Budget and Tuition

In late August, Governor Sonny Perdue ordered the University System of Georgia, which runs public higher education in the state, to cut $68.7 million from the 2005 budget. That’s unclear at this time with which this cut is being ordered. How many of YOU have time to pick up a second job or dive into savings accounts to pay the January increase, without any warning? How many of YOUR parents want to pony up the extra funds with a couple of months’ notice?

Also, the $68 million he has asked to cut is roughly 28% of the total cuts he is asking of all state agencies combined ($179 million). We only make up 11% of the state budget, which means our portion of the cut is more than three-and-a-half times what we SHOULD be asked to cut.

Governor Perdue’s action is disappointing, disproportionate, and disrespectful to students and families across the state.

Student Action

In response, we’ve initiated a statewide petition drive. The Georgia Tech student government, in addition to other students around the state, and ourselves are petitioning the Governor to re-evaluate his decision. We need your help.

Please sign the petition to help us make this reality. The petition is online at www.spsu.edu/SGA.

In addition to other students around the state, and ourselves are petitioning the Governor to re-evaluate his decision. We need your help. Please sign the petition to help us make this reality.

Kamisha Peters
Khammond30058@yahoo.com

Thanks.

Your SGA

HEATHER GIROUX

As a new organization on campus, the Association of Information Technology Professionals is a nationwide organization which offers opportunities for Information Technology (IT) leadership and education through partnerships with industry, government, and academia. AITP provides quality IT related information, information on relevant IT issues and forums for networking and with experienced peers and other IT professionals.

For current members the task of becoming officially recognized as an organization by SGA, the students of AITP still need to be recognized by AITP National Headquarters. At the second meeting of the semester on September 28th, all necessary paperwork was completed and submitted to headquarters to make this a reality.

Because it is a brand new organization on campus, AITP is looking for any suggestions from other students on possible activities, fundraisers, etc. AITP needs your help in making this a successful, educational, and fun experience.

If you are interested in joining AITP and would like to become involved on campus, please come check us out. Our meetings are held every other Tuesday at 4:30pm in room J-381 (Atrium Building, 3rd floor).

New Band Director

HEATHER GIROUX

The SPSU Band program is now in the beginning of its second year here on campus. Last year’s director, Jim Wright, was replaced by a Mrs. Beth Farber. Dr. Gabrielli, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and other members of the SPSU community decided to make the band director a full-time position. This prompted the school to begin looking for a new band director since Mr. Wright was not hired in a competitive search and was hired only as a part-time teacher.

In a letter dated July 13, 2004, Mr. Wright partially explained the change of hands of the band program: “I anticipate that you all will accomplish many great things in the coming year; however, after careful consideration, I have concluded that I need to pursue further educational opportunities towards my doctorate for the 2004-05 academic year. I urge all of you to continue your participation in the program and to support your new director.”

The school was looking for a person who held the best qualifications and the right type of experience for the job. That person was Mrs. Beth Farber. Mrs. Farber worked to develop a band that would be competitive both financially and in the area of technical performance.

The SPSU Band is still looking for members. It is open to all students, faculty, and staff with musical experience. If you are interested in joining, please contact Professor Farber at 678-915-4222 or email her at bfarber@spsu.edu.

Band rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30 in the Student Center Theater.

ATEP

As a new organization on campus, the Association of Information Technology Professionals is a nationwide organization which offers opportunities for Information Technology (IT) leadership and education through partnerships with industry, government, and academia. AITP provides quality IT related information, information on relevant IT issues and forums for networking and with experienced peers and other IT professionals.

For current members the task of becoming officially recognized as an organization by SGA, the students of AITP still need to be recognized by AITP National Headquarters. At the second meeting of the semester on September 28th, all necessary paperwork was completed and submitted to headquarters to make this a reality.

Because it is a brand new organization on campus, AITP is looking for any suggestions from other students on possible activities, fundraisers, etc. AITP needs your help in making this a successful, educational, and fun experience.

If you are interested in joining AITP and would like to become involved on campus, please come check us out. Our meetings are held every other Tuesday at 4:30pm in room J-381 (Atrium Building, 3rd floor).

The next meeting is on October 12th. Once we get more input from students who are unable to attend meetings at the given time, a second permanent meeting time will be scheduled as well (Lunchtime, late evenings, etc), so there will be two meetings during the week each other week. We need YOUR input before making that decision.

National dues are only $35.00 per year. This fee gives you access to numerous IT-related products, news, and information. At this time, there are NO local dues. AITP is an excellent way to get real world experience outside of the classroom, including a possible visit to a company’s IT department to learn how they operate. More information on that will be available at our October 12th meeting. AITP is also all about networking. If you’re a student who is close to graduating, AITP might be what you need in order to network with people in your field about possible job opportunities. Even if you’re a freshman, getting involved now will benefit you in the upcoming years until you begin looking for that perfect job.

If you have any questions, please visit www.aitp.org or email aitp@spsu.edu

We would also like to congratulate our newly elected Executive Board:

Amanda Benson - President
Gina DeRose - Vice President
Kate DeVore - Secretary
Doug Lacher - Treasurer
Ayo Olutunji - Membership Chair
Jan Rawn - Program Chair
**Hit By Pitch: Mr. 3000**

RATED: PG-13
RUNNING TIME: 104 minutes
SPORTS fans are all too familiar with the concept of a superstar athlete retiring and then returning to the spotlight WAY past his prime. The world's best example is Chicago Bulls turned Washington Wizards über-star Michael Jordan, who retired for the first time in 1995 but made a huge splash upon his return to the Bulls only to retire again and return AGAIN at the age of 40 and play for the aforementioned Wizards. When Jordan retired this second time, he slowed, and nowhere near as good as he was before he left the game and that's exactly what this movie seems to take after. In this film, Bernie Mac stars as Stan Ross, a Milwaukee Brewers superstar whom careers effortlessly to 3000 major league hits and retires in the hopes that he would someday be assured into the baseball Hall of Fame. However, Stan is a bit full of himself and makes a lot of enemies in the league and amongst sports writers. This begins his slide into the wilderness for several years after he has left the game. Finally, when the Brewer's owner and general manager notice a sharp decline in fan fervor, they decide to retire Ross' number in a public ceremony. This spurs a search through Ross' records that reveals that Ross had three of his hits not count due to a clerical error at a game that resulted in several extra innings. The Hall of Fame once again refuses to admit Ross, whose decision to return to the game at the age of 47 to get his last three hits, reclaim the title of Mr. 3000 and stride into the MLB Hall of Fame.

This movie is a lot better than anyone (including myself) more than likely gave it any credit for. This is comedian Bernie Mac (The Bernie Mac Show, The Original Kings of Comedy) doing his best in his first starring role, and he does a great job of carrying the film. Sometimes, the humor can feel a bit too Major League-ish, such as when a Japanese player frequently mispeaks, swears and slang but somehow this movie slipped by me with a PG-13 rating. I will grant that there is nothing here so jarring that viewers will be put off by talent people like the always convincing Angela Bassett (as sports writer Mo) and the Mac man himself. People who have a great dislike for sports may find the movie a bit plodding, but baseball fans will get a kick out of this.

**What's Good:** The actors all perform fairly well, the movie doesn't patronize you or make you feel like you're watching an after school special, sports fans will enjoy it.

**What's Bad:** Anti-sports people will probably dislike the film, a little predictable, makes you think the Brewers could actually win their division.

**Final Score:** 3.5 RBIs out of 5.

---

**So Little Money, So Much To Do**

HEATHER GRIoux

So you've decided to further your professional career at this fine establishment known as Southern Polytechnic State University. It's a nice, small campus located just outside of the big ATL. You're young, you're excited about leaving home for the first time; the world is your oyster. What's the problem with oysters? They're...they're expensive! So is finding entertainment here. Hopefully this article will steer you in the right, or at least inexpensive, way to have fun these next four years or so.

**Food/Drink**

The thought of living in the suburb of a big city is there's always somewhere to eat. There is an array of choices from fancy to fast food. Two places right here in Marietta that will be kind to your wallet are Subway and Wild Wing. Subway is not that expensive to begin with, but on Tuesdays after 5:00pm you can buy any sub and receive double stamps. Wild Wing's special, also on Tuesday nights, is two platters of wings for the price of one. This is an incredible deal considering the smallest platter is ten wings so you and your buddy can have ten wings a piece for only $3.00 a piece.

Another aspect of eating in the Atlanta area is team trivia. There are four great places near our school to go and try and win a few bucks while getting full at the same time. On Monday nights there is Simpsons trivia at Anthony’s Three Fifty (1323 Roswell Road), Simpsons trivia at Rocky Mountain Pizza Company located 1005 Hemphill Avenue. On Tuesday nights (it must be a slow night for restaurants) there is team trivia at Anthony’s Three-Fifty Pizza (1323 Roswell Road, Sidelines at 1206 Roswell Road), and Mellow Mushroom (2000 Powers Ferry Road).

**Bowling**

For some reason my friends and I have become obsessed with bowling as of late. Lucky for us there are two places here in Marietta that are easy on the wallet so we can become as addicted as we want. AMF Marietta Lanes, which is just across the street on Cobb Parkway, has a number of weekly specials. The best offers they have are: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday bowls for 5 games for $3 before 5pm, College Night on Thursday night is $1.50 per game, and on Sunday mornings from 9am-noon free bowl. Those prices are all good, but I’ve found one that’s even better. The Brunswick Zone has 2700 Delk Road has Dollar Days on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm where games, shoes, hoggies, and small sodas are all only $1 a piece! Basically any day of the week can be a bowling day without a huge impact to your wallet.

Over 21

I know that this article was geared mostly towards freshman who don’t know their way around town and don’t know the “things to do,” but we older students need to have some cheap fun too, right? There are two breweries here in Atlanta that you can take tours of (translate into “you can drink a lot of their beer for a very low price”) Sweetwater and the Atlanta Brewing Company. Going to Sweetwater is one of my personal favorite weekly events. Located at 195 Otley Dr. in Atlanta, the brewery is open for tours every Monday and Thursday beginning at 4:20. It is only $5 for a kegspace glass (14 oz) and four beer tickets, how about you beat a price like that? All six of their beers are ready and waiting for you to line up to have a taste. You bet get there early though; favorites such as Blue and Sweet Georgia Brown have been known to be “tapped” by the end of the afternoon.

Another local brewery is aptly named the Atlanta Brewing Company. Located at 1219 Williams Street downtown Atlanta, this brewery offers seven different beers (including seasonal brews) for your enjoyment. They too have a weekly tour offered on Fridays starting at 5:30. This tour includes a full tasting session and live music. I’ve never personally gone on this tour, but I’m sure it’s a great way to wind down from the week and get ready for the weekend.

---

**Shark Tale Tells Tales, Details Detailed**

CJ SHRADER

Believe it or not, fish all live in harmony in a large city under the ocean, where they go about their day-to-day lives much like we do. They wake up, go to work, eat dinner with their families, and party. The only difference, of course, is that they have to worry about sharks which bear (bare?) a strange resemblance to the Maelstrom.

Shark Tale is about a fish named Oscar (Will Smith), who wants to be somebody in the world. Instead, he works as a Whale Wash as a tongue scraper. Long story short, some things happen, people believe that Oscar killed a shark, and he rises to the top. Working with the vegetarian shark Lenny (Jack Black), he perpetuates the lie that he kills sharks. Following the standard storyline, Oscar then has to deal with lying to his one true friend, Angie (Renee Zellweger) while falling for the guiles of the money-loving Lola (Angelina Jolie). Also, in the movie you’ll find familiar voices of Robert De Niro, Martin Scorcese, and Katie Couric (77). The movie opens with so many fish puns you’ll be floundering for words. After the beginning, like Will Smith movie these days, make sure to look for shameless advertising from Burger King, Coca Cola, and especially Krispy Kreme. The graphics in the movie are what we’d expect from Dreamworks (the makers of Shrek). The seascapes looks real, while the fish look very cartoonish, as for some reason, the creators wanted Will Smith’s face on fish. Although some people may prefer this, I personally prefer a realistic image of finding Nemo.

To rate the movie along the lines of other computer-animated movies, I’d say that it’s no Toy Story. The movie certainly has quite a few good jokes, and Maltz was an enjoyable experience, but I wouldn’t recommend paying the money to see it in theaters. Might make a good rental, though.
**Rice-o-Rama: 2004 Nopi Nationals**

**E.P. SKILES**

Every year during the third week-end of September, tuners, motorists, and fans from all across the nation make the long journey to Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Georgia, to take part in what has become the largest motor sports supershow in the world. What started as a local car show eighteen years ago has blossomed into a virtual Mecca for diehard fans of the import and domestic tuning scene. This year the show welcomed a crowd that was over 90,000 strong who came to view over 7,000 show cars.

Most of the show cars are imports, with an entire section of the infield alone dedicated to Honda Civics. Two other sections are dedicated to full size and sport trucks, one to car clubs, and several other sections to GM cars, Fords, and front wheel drive Japanese imports (also known as rice). While it may be difficult to be offended by some of the spectacularly awful automobiles that are brought to the show, there is one center section that is solely dedicated to worthwhile performance cars such as Nissans, BMW’s, Toyotas, Porsches, and some highly tuned Mazda RX7’s and Acura NSX’s. These cars are driven and trailered to the show by contestents who are competing in seven different divisions and over three hundred different classes for over $100,000 in total prize money.

The display featured an underpowered Miata, several Dyno contest contestants run their cars on a dynometer that measures the maximum horsepower and torque of their car. In the Hydraulic contest, contestants compete against each other by hopping their cars with hydraulic systems they have installed to see who can get their car’s wheels highest off the ground or stand their car on end (or rip it completely over, for that matter). Most of the cars and trucks in this division usually end up severely damaged or on fire, which never ceases to please the crowd. Interior and exterior customization, lowriders, and mobile audio/video were also contests.

One of the main draws of this year’s event was the professional drifting exhibition. Drifting is a relatively new motor sport that involves negotiating a short, curvy course with your car as sideways as possible. The display featured an underpowered Miata, several SCirocDET powered 24GXS’s, and an RB25DET powered R33 Skyline.

Unfortunately, on the first day, one of the drivers lost control and slammed into a concrete barrier that caved in a safety fence, which in turn collapsed on two spectators. Neither of them sustained serious injuries.

Visitors also had the chance to watch the swimsuit contest (always a crowd favorite) and had the unique opportunity to drive a 350Z, WRX, or RSX on a makeshift autocross track. Vendors were also out in force and were handing out free promotional items such as hats, shirts, lanyards, and stickers. One company was letting people race RC cars in a contest to win a highly tuned NSX valued at over $120,000. Between the sharp cars, beautiful women, and action packed events, there was really a dull moment the entire weekend. No matter what your experience level in the tuning scene, the Nopi Nationals offers something for everyone to enjoy.

---

**Frenzied Fat Freak: Fanatical Food Finder**

**THE ANONYMOUS X**

Once again my fellow SPSUsers, it’s time to visit your pal X to get the lowdown on the swankiest of the swanky when it comes to dining out in Marietta. In the very first appearance of this column, I highlighted New China Buffet in Kennesaw and went into a little bit of depth about some of the spectacularly awful sauce and waiting 23 minutes while sort of shaved simian排lacklustearto those who don’t want the barbecue, sometimes this place won’t agree with your bupp digestive system may not appeal to those whom dislike Chinese food.

The Location: 2647 Cobb Pkwy SE

The Place: Jade Palace (I see a pattern forming here)
The Histories that Matter - Soda

Please hold for the standard Fair greeting.

Welcome Freshmen! This little article of mine, which I've been doing for over five years, I've told you where I explain the histories behind many of the things we use every day. I've told you the histories behind Twinkies, Taco Bell, lesbians, beer, potato chips, and even attempted to explain why Jack Daniels doesn't taste like apples. I've described why we use phrases like "dead as a door nail" and "three sheets to the wind."

Today, I'm going to go over the histories of all your favorite sodas. Please understand, though, that I know this is Atlanta and we've all had enough of the history of Coke, so I'll just breeze through it quickly for those of you who might be new.

Coke

In early May, 1886, a man by the name of John Pemberton created the first Coca-Cola formula. He mixed his syrup with carbonated water, which was sold as a tonic at little place called Jacob's Pickle. Pemberton's original idea was to make a product that would not release New Coke with the usual taste. However, Pemberton did release new Coke with the name Caleb Bradham. Like all sodas, Pemberton's soda was created to be sold in a fountain. Interestingly enough, the drink was originally called "Dr. Pemb's" drink, but was renamed to Pepsi-Cola. The name refers to the peep and cola nuts used in the recipe. I have no idea what "Dr. Pemb" was, but like this name comes from Caleb Bradham's last name.

In 1923, due to a failed stock market gamble, the Pepsi Cola Company went bankrupt. The Pepsi trademark and business was sold to a man named Roy C. Megargee for $35,000.

In 1934, Pepsi began to sell 12-ounce bottles for a nickel. Its competitors were selling 6-ounce bottles for the same price. I thought the move was pretty boring, but until I learned in 1939 that they released a newspaper cartoon strip called "Pepsi & Pete" which is the story of the "Twice as much for a nickel." The point is to increase awareness, but I find it to be quite silly. Silly indeed.

Further silliness ensued when Pepsi introduced the first advertising jingle broadcast nationally in 1940. The jingle was called "Nickel, Nickel," and went a little something like this:

"Pepsi-Cola hits the spot/With a zest that's just right/It's the drink for you/"

The silliness reached a maximum when "Nickel, Nickel" became a hit record and was translated into 35 languages.

The history of Pepsi is pretty boring after that point. The company continued to grow, releasing new slogans and increasing profits as it goes. Pepsi is released. The usual.

Until I came upon this little gem. It seems that in 1975, Pepsi released a drink called Pepsi Light. Pepsi Light, according to pepsi.com, was introduced as a "distinctive lemon taste." A lemon taste? Over 25 years before the lemon craze happened between Coke and Pepsi? Now that is a story that makes Pepsi the first of the three major soft drink companies to add lemon flavor to their drink. Score one for Pepsi.

In 1988, Michael Jackson's hair caught on fire while filming a Pepsi commercial. Score two for Pepsi.

Dr Pepper

Dr Pepper was first brewed in 1885. For those of you paying attention, that's a year before Coca-Cola. The drink was invented by Charles Alderton, an employee of Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store. At the time, it was a little something like this: Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store was located in Waco, Texas. Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store (OK, I'm just using the name of Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store to fill up space. I admit it.) named the drink "Dr. Pepper" after his friend Dr. Charles Pepper. Later, a move that the country was probably apathetic towards, the period was dropped and the name became "Dr. Pepper." Sales raised, the drink was displayed at the 1904 World's Fair, and the popular soda story occurred. Although I don't think a Cherry Dr Pepper was ever made.

Dr Pepper merged with the Seven-Up Corporation and in 1995 was acquired by Cadbury Schweppes plc.

Drinks released by the Cadbury Schweppes plc include: 7-Up, Canada Dry, Dr Pepper, Hawaiian Punch, Mott's, Orangina, Schweppes, and Snapple.

Well, that was longer than I expected. And the mini-Tup history is just as big as the Dr Pepper history.

Oh well, nothing can be done about it now.

Have you ever wondered where we get certain phrases or products? Have you ever wondered anything? At all? Ever? Then send me an e-mail at rshrad@spsu.edu, and I'll do my best to include it in an upcoming issue of The Histories that Matter. Thanks for reading, and look for some explanations on why the buildings on campus have the names like Lawrence V. Johnson Library, Joe Mack Wilson Student Center, and Barrows Auditorium in the next issue of The STING.

Join SAFE as we go to
Six Flag's Fright Fest
October 29th.

For more details ask a SAFE member, attend a meeting, or email safe@spsu.edu

SAFE meets every Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday @ 12:00 p.m. in room A-213 SC
Message Board Mayhem

THEANONYMOUSX

You've all been there before. It's late; you can't leave the house/dorm/apartment because you've got to finish that painfully long report or write those last few lines of code to make the CPU work on Bobbie's OS project, but you just NEED a break. So what do you do? You hop on a message board and cause some trouble. You decide to be as much of a troll as humanly possible just to get a reaction from people and amuse yourself for a few seconds before returning to the project you won't finish. While the message board is nothing new; I felt it was high time to view a few of the ones I've frequented the most and give a few thoughts/opinions on them. Recently, one of the administrators of a board invited me to the board she (yah...she's a girl at the school, go figure) enraged over and I scoured that board for some quotes to share with you, the loyal denizens of SPSU. I invite you all to submit your own favorite message boards using the Sting forum (mentioned below) or visiting the http://maximumpc.com and clicking on the "our staff" link.

Maximun PC Message Boards http://www.maximumpc.com

The Background: For those of you that don't into reading magazines for your hardware/software news or reviews, Maximun PC is a monthly periodical that brings unbiased and informative articles presented at the "geek level." The magazine caters to people that get downright giddy when new gear is readily available, regardless of lack of funds.

The Forum: The magazine's forum is rife with people who live, eat, breathe, and excite the PC (that sounds unbelievably painful). Nearly every topic concerning the hardware or software side of the PC world is covered in some way shape or form here, and if it isn't, then you can start a thread and create a discussion of your choosing. I, personally, have used the "Free Clinic" and "Overclocker's Corner" topics on several occasions to pick the brains of everyone from the hardware junkie (you know him, he's the guy that purchased 3 Radeon 1080s last week) to Maximun PC staff.

Lows: Most of the time, the users here get a little too full of themselves and may suggest a fix to a problem that may cause serious system damage if the person taking the advice doesn't know what he/she is doing.

Highs: Tech news and assistance are readily available 24 hours a day with magazine staff and trained industry personnel that haunt the boards frequently. Chances are, if you are having difficulties with hardware conflicts, software malfunctions, or PSI inadequacies then the boards have some possible solutions or quick fixes.

Ops Ages http://ops-ages.com

The Background: A hapless young AnonymounsX ventured to this little board when nicely prodded (read: forced at gunpoint) by a group member in a Software Engineering class. This forum is basically a strong following of people that split from the Gaming Age forum (which takes about 27 years to authorize an account) and vented to a place where they could discuss topics relating to anything, gaming or otherwise. The rivalry between Op and Gaming Ages is often a running theme on the boards and often the center of more than enough threads.

The Forum: During my first few days on this forum, an incredibly disturbing joke was made, in which the person who invited me to the forum viciously stabbed me, which led to the subsequent chopping up and consuming of X pieces by board members. After being thoroughly freaked out for about a week, I returned to the forum and found out that, save a few psychos, this was actually a fairly fun place with people scarily similar to the average SPSU student (read: bewildered and confused).

Lows: There are several joke characters and trolls that exist solely to disrupt the flow of the message board. On top of that, it's RARE to go three threads and not see at least 170 racists/sexists re-murals within one flesh/irl post!

Highs: Once you get past the block-headed slugs, the rest of the people here are a lot of fun to hang out with and post amongst. These are the most part gamers looking for a place to hang their hats and talk about the things that concern them. Also, it's not rare to troll through the boards and stumble across some news you'd otherwise have had no access to.

Campus Forum http://forum.sting.org

The Background: I ventured upon this forum last spring when I had to air some grievances about a class I was currently enrolled in. Lo and behold, I found a decent sized sampling of SPSUers whom could actually form coherent sentences and maintain thoughts that didn't involve the "lack of females at SPSU." This is a fairly dandy forum serves as a supplement to The STING Print and Online editions (http://www.sting.org).

The Forum: Recently all of the political rignirdale has steered this forum into a series of old and tired political debates. Even though enrollment is not nearly as high as it is at other schools, a lot still happens at SPSU that manages to pass most students by, and the STING only comes out weekly thus making keeping up-to-date difficult. The best solution is to use the Forum here to keep up-to-date on news, on-campus happenings, and who is dating whom (okay, not really, but you could update on this if I wanted me to make up buncha bunkie stories).

Lows: The forum has degenerated into a horrid monitory that makes me want to fling myself into traffic just to make some sort of last statement. This is typical of any forum with a user base of about five-six posters that actually post actively.

Highs: When truly and fully active, the forum is a great place to meet people that ARE usually people you've talked to or shared a class with. In fact, there is a good chance that the person you've become so familiar with on the forum is a person you've got regular contact with (depending on your persona, that may be a bad thing).

The new forum is open for beta testing at http://forum.sting.org. Join, so that we may start this thing out on the right foot (by destroying it...in a good way?).

What do you see? Every day, The New York Times helps you see the world around you in whole new ways. Pick up your copy of The Times today. And to subscribe at a very special student rate of more than 50% off, call 1-888-NYT-COLI and mention media code S84A1. Or visit nytimes.com/student, THE NEW YORK TIMES. INSPIRING THOUGHT. DAILY.
Anime Weekend Atlanta, in its 10th incarnation, has come and gone again. It took place at the Cobb Galleria and Renaissance Waverly Hotel (adjacent to the Galleria) Friday, September 24th through Sunday the 26th. For those of you who aren't familiar with AWA, it's a convention for fans of Japanese animation. AWA offers many events ranging from showing episodes from dozens of various anime series to an art auction to panels with anime and manga (graphic novels, the Japanese equivalent of U.S. comic books) artists to the annual costume contest and many more. I'm just covering the costume contest in this article, but more information about AWA can be found at www.awa-con.com.

There's really not a whole lot to write about as the costume contest is, of course, all about the costumes. I'll let the pictures do the talking.