

THE STING

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SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 59, Edition 3

QUICK NEWS



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QUICK FEATURES



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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 was caused by Governor Perdue's \$64 million budget cut from the University System of Georgia (USG). The tuition increase has many students wondering how they are going to pay for next semester, and many staff and faculty members are wondering if they have a job next semester.

The \$64 million was a fraction of the \$179 million budget cut state-wide. The USG budget cut was going to be \$68.7 million, but the administration convinced the Governor the USG should not get 38% of the budget cut when it only gets around 11% of the state budget. The state-wide budget cuts were made to adjust for the decrease in state revenue. Governor Perdue explains Georgia is still feeling the affects of 9-11 since tourism and employment is still low. The 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 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 to cover 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

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

jobs. A 10% increase would raise Southern Poly's tuition by \$121.40, 22% would raise it by \$267.08, and a 27% would raise tuition by \$327.78.

The Student Governments (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 petition by posting copies for students to sign at the Information Desk at the Student Center and passing

them out to the departments. After the petition was posted and passed out, however, Dr. Hornbeck sent an email to the faculty which stated that the petition was not to be discussed in the classroom. In response to this email, the SGA sent out a mass email alerting the students about the petition. Unfortunately, many students may not have read this email since it came from a Yahoo email address and not a SPSU address.

In response to the petition, the Governor invited members of all the USG's Student Governments to a breakfast at his mansion. Heather

Giroux, SGA's Election Committee Chair, was Southern Poly's SGA representative. The breakfast was held on Saturday, October 2, and was meant to explain the tuition increase and calm students down. Governor Perdue did explain the tuition increase but failed to calm the students. The article "Breakfast at the Governor's" on page 2 explains what happened at this breakfast a bit more.

The SGA's of the University System also planned a protest for Friday, October 8 at 10:00 A.M. Students that wanted to participate in the protest are to meet at Georgia State, and Southern Poly students could email Heather Giroux or Kamisha Peters if they needed a ride or information on where to meet. There were 150 students that rallied at the capital to deliver the petition to the Governor. The petition was signed by 35,000 students, which is 14% of the students enrolled in the USG. Some members of SGA gave speeches on how the budget cuts will affect their university. Heather Giroux spoke on Southern Poly's behalf.

On Tuesday, October 12, the decision will be made whether to increase tuition or not.

SPSU Loses Life

HEATHER GIROUX

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 space for various facilities to spread its hornets' 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 upon us soon. The Board of Regents has just recently (this past June) approved the construction of a new Math and Engineering building.

New Dean of Engineering Technology and Management

KAREN ASAY

This semester, the School of Engineering Technology and Management has a new dean, Dr. Wayne Unsell. He is taking over for the Interim Dean, Britt Pearce.

Dr. Unsell is a Civil Engineering major with 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

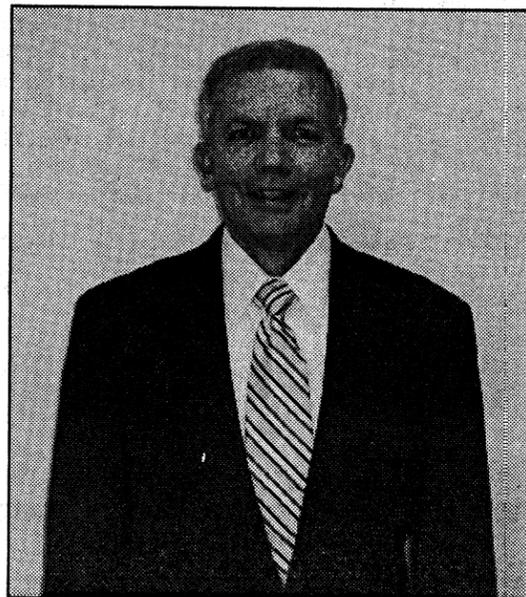
the engineering technology programs created a welcome challenge for him in both his career and personal life.

The tightening of the schools 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 to him, keeping the programs updated and making sure students have

the skills and basic understanding get a job. Another part of a student's education is the organizations on campus. Specifically concerning Dr. Unsell is some of the competition 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.



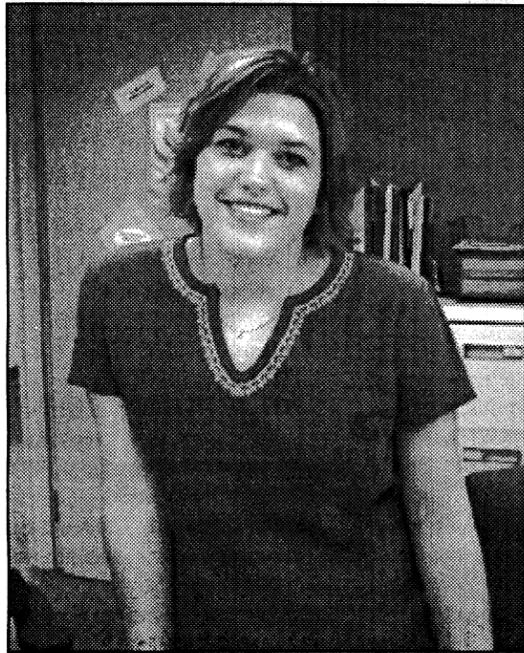
Residence Life's New Staff Members

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 the 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 RL's.

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 ResLife 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 Assistant, a Residence Hall Director, and an Associate Director.

Both agreed that the location is desirable. Ms. Maillet wanted to move closer to her sister, and Mrs. Schenck wanted to move closer to Atlanta because her husband's career was taking him there. They also both said that the people that interviewed them were influential in their decision to join the SPSU staff. Maillet commented that the administration was very current in student affairs and education. Schenck said that the interviewers were welcoming and made her feel at home.



Why did they make Residence Life their career? Maillet and Schenck both stated that they fell in to the field. Maillet realized after college that her favorite part of college was the activities she did outside the classroom. After experiencing working for Residence Life, she decided to continue with it. She enjoys the relationships and seeing the development in the stu-

They both said that working at Southern Poly might be challenging because of how different it is to the college they have been at. Pierrette Maillet worked at an art and design college for four years, where the average student was a 25 year old woman that was continuing her education. Ashley Schenck was at a music and education college with the majority of the students being female. Obviously, these colleges are different from Southern Poly's majority male and traditional student population; however, Maillet did mention that both colleges are the same in the aspect that both sets of students are very focus on there studies.

They were hired this July and you can find them in the new Residence Life Office. Stop by and welcome them to our community.

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 Student Personnel Counseling from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has spent the last four years working in the Residence Life field, and has been climbing the latter. She worked as a Graduate Hall Director at University of Southern Mississippi, an Associate Director of Residence Life at Wingate College, and as a Residence Hall Director at Valdosta State University.

Why did they choose Southern Poly? Schenck was an RA in college and was surprised and happy to find out that she could make that her career. She also says the job keeps her young (not that she is old, because she is not) and there is never a dull moment.



Pierrette Maillet went to Wesleyan University to get a Bachelor of Art in Religion and to the

Why did they choose Southern Poly?

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 2, 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 Purdue 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.

After a brief PowerPoint presentation, Governor Purdue

asked for solutions from the audience 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 911 on Georgia's poor performance in telecommunication, tourism and employment, the Governor stressed, "Constitutionally you can not run the state on a deficit budget." If the breakfast was supposed to raise the spirits of its invitees, but the meeting did little raising.

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

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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. 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 it's release date will be determined by and announced by the incoming Editor-in-Chief. Please contact the incoming Editor-in-Chief at sting@spsu.edu for further details.

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Lt. Governor Mark Taylor
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
September 24, 2004

Southern Polytechnic State University Students:

The potential 10 percent mid-year tuition increase is an abomination. The reason that this has never happened before is because it is blatantly unfair to students and families. It's no different than getting to the fourth quarter of the game and having the referee determine that a fourth down now takes 30 yards instead of ten. I'd even go so far as to say this is like taxing the students simply for enrolling in college. Car payments and house payments don't go up in the middle of the year, why should tuition?

It is estimated that this increase will have a \$10 million impact on the HOPE Scholarship Program, hurting the program for future generations. \$10 million is no small cut; it could pay for at least 1,700 students to go to Southern Polytechnic State University for one year. And, for those not on HOPE, many will be denied the very education they need to succeed because they will be forced to pay \$15 million out of their own pockets. That is not the Georgia I grew up in, nor is it the Georgia I think we should strive to be.

Beyond unfairness, this represents a policy shift that abandons decades of commitment to higher education. Historically, Governors in Georgia have put a strong emphasis on education at all levels. Education is critical for everyone's future success. HOPE was brought to Georgians specifically to provide a chance for a quality, affordable education. After all, having only high-priced options for education is like having no options at all. The vision of HOPE was about affordability, self reliance and equal opportunity. Anything is possible if you work hard enough for it. Therefore, HOPE was Georgia's way of making that dream possible for everyone.

The most disturbing part about this increase is that the blame does lie at the door of the Capitol. However, not at every door. The 2005 budget included a \$179 million payroll shift, proposed by Gov. Perdue. Essentially, the shift moved one period of pay (two weeks or one month, depending on the agency) for every agency into the next fiscal year. Essentially, it was putting off the inevitable. Many argued that this smelled a lot like Enron accounting and cooking the books. A budget that included the gimmick passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor in April. A couple of weeks ago, the Governor changed his mind and automatically created the

\$179 million hole in the current operating budget, \$68 million of which must be absorbed by the University System. While I do not think our state should be borrowing chapters out of Enron's accounting manual, this is an enormous financial bait-and-switch that will be devastating. It's hard on students, and it also creates a huge dilemma for university administration because many professors are hired on a contract basis. Those contracts have been signed, sealed and delivered; classes have begun and exams have been taken.

So what's the solution?

I have been a fighter for both HOPE and affordable education because I personally believe this is the right thing to do – for our state and our families. During the last legislative session, when we debated HOPE, we discussed the high tuition increases that you are paying right now. At the time, I suggested holding the line on tuition in exchange for stabilizing the Regents' budget. This was met with no response.

As a system and a network of concerned students, you have the ability to make change happen. You can do this by signing the petition that is circulating among all Georgia students. You can do this with your vote in November. You can do this by calling and engaging your legislator. You can do this by calling and engaging Gov. Perdue. He needs to hear from students and families and he needs to be told that car payments and house payments don't go up in the middle of the year and neither should tuition. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call my office at 404-656-5030.

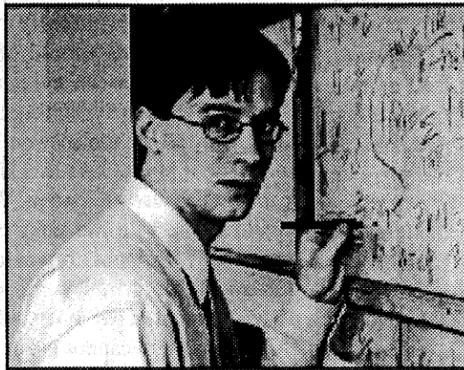
Sincerely,



ADVERTISEMENT

College Math Club President Dumps Supermodel

He crunched the numbers, then crushed her heart



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

By JAMIE MURRY

Admitting that there was a good (9-13) percent chance that he made the wrong move, college math club president Brady Burns recently called it quits with longtime supermodel girlfriend Elene. Burns, who claimed he carefully calculated the breakup, said his alleged free checking account had monthly fees that just didn't add up. The whiz kid was

"I loved her like a quadratic formula..."

quick to admit that had he known about Washington Mutual's Free Checking Deluxe, the relationship's longevity may have had better odds.

"I loved her like a quadratic formula, but the off-campus lunches were killing me financially," said Burns. "I felt like a real abacus for breaking things off." The fact that he was unaware of Washington Mutual's Free Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay available at wamu.com—left Elene at a total loss. "He could have just gone to a Washington Mutual Financial Center or wamu.com," she said. "We were totally soul mates, but I guess he didn't see that. As far as I'm concerned, he can go jump off a logarithm. Whatever that is."

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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. I have my opinion, you have yours, and the odds are good that I will not change your mind. Besides there probably is no need for me to change your mind because let's face the fact, America just does not care about the election.

"Now how can that possibly 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.

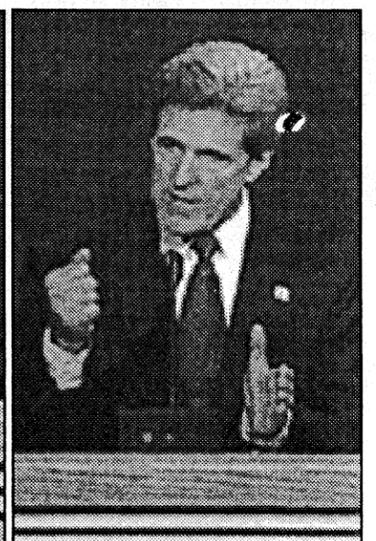
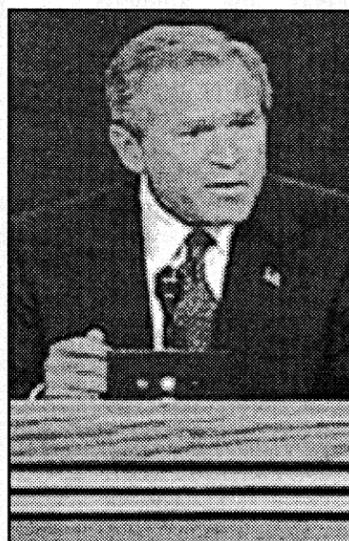
By casting that one vote, you may change an election. We all remember that Florida was very close between the major candidates in 2000. If just a small number of people, perhaps one thousand, had decided to go out and vote the election would have been far more decisive and America would not have gone through dragged out argu-

ments 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 the best candidate. 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 try 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.



"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 the students to fill the gaps caused by wavering factors. A system, which will be referred to here as SPSU interns, can be set up within the school to benefit

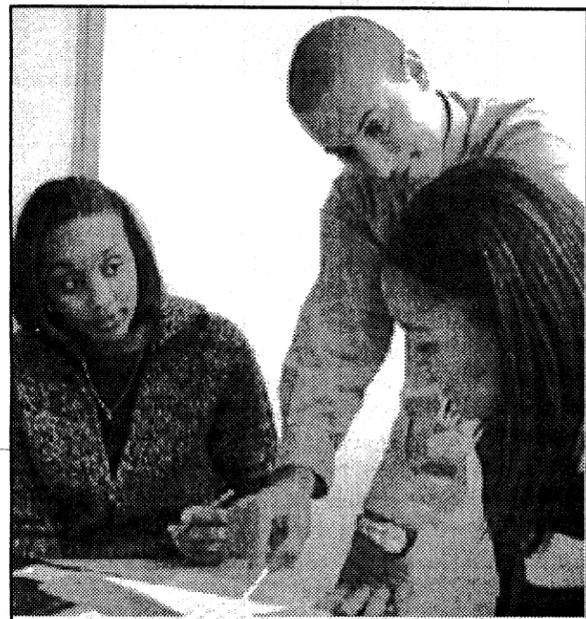
work in a team to finish an objective thus building team working abilities. What student would not brag about the work they did at their school and how it is actually used? Everything can even credit the students that worked on it as another thank you for their work.

SPSU hesitation is easily understood. Some of the projects might put students in a 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 or 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, be pointed out to show the students' achievements. It is not being suggested in any way that SPSU 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 accordingly, 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.



the school in a big way, yet also help the students.

The benefits to the SPSU as a whole will be magnificent. SPSU will have a group of workers that will be able to work on special projects that would normally pull people from their normal duties. Systems will be improved before they fall apart saving money and turmoil. The school will have boasting rights, in part from lowering cost, but mostly from improving student involvement. The alumni will appreciate SPSU finally paying attention to the desire of students. Outside contractors will not have to be used as frequently, again helping the pocketbook of SPSU.

An example of a need for SPSU interns is easily shown; Southern Poly's IT department is swamped. They are one of the most important departments in the school and are also one of the most complained about. They are doing all that they can, with what they have, and they are always slammed with work. We, here at SPSU, have an IT program, both graduate and undergraduate, that should be tapped. The student will benefit from the ability to work on projects related to classroom material, thus furthering their learning experience. Pride will be had in the school since SPSU interns also have a deeper stake in its survival. Many of the most complained about aspects of the school can be addressed by the people complaining, deepening their understanding of the subject and allowing their experiences to be used to improve process for the student. If the student is allowed to use this time worked as credit hours, they will have a place to "work", which is central to other classes thus convenient for travel. Students might have to

Music Censorship?

CHRISTIAAN FUNKHOUSER

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. Minors cannot buy tickets to a rated R movie because of content. Why should CD's, 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 CD's 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 "Radio 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 anything except the most literal interpretations 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 *essortment.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 ourselves as we please. Whether that be by singing Christian lyrics or satanic lyrics. No one wants to take that away.

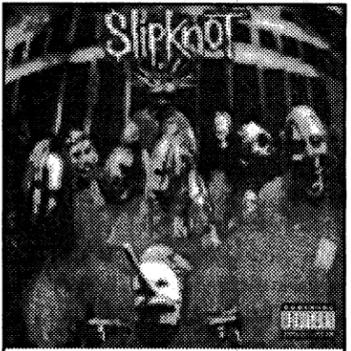
Here are some samples of lyrics supplied to us from *azlyrics.com* from Ludacris and Slipknot. Ludacris illustrates a very mild rap song with explicit sexual content, "I want to get you in the back seat windows up. That's the way you like to \$*#@, clogged up fog alert. Rip the pants and rip the shirt, ruff sex make it hurt. In the garden all in the dirt" Slipknot 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 wanna dig inside, find a little bit of me... Cuz 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 some of these restricted websites and movies. Why not have consistencies with ages and restrictions?

Is this idea 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



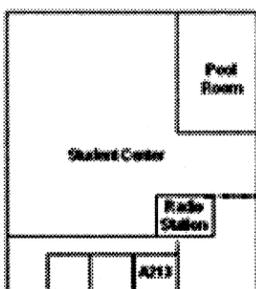
SAFE
Sexual Acceptance for Everyone

Explain to me again,
why I need a man.

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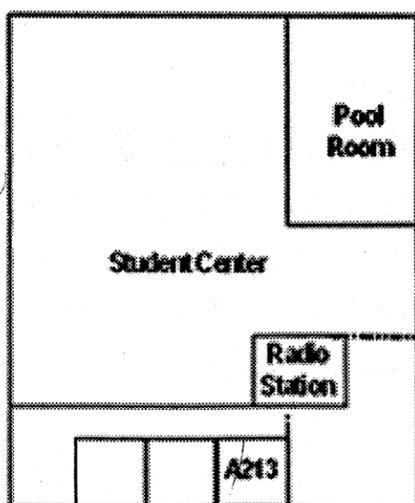
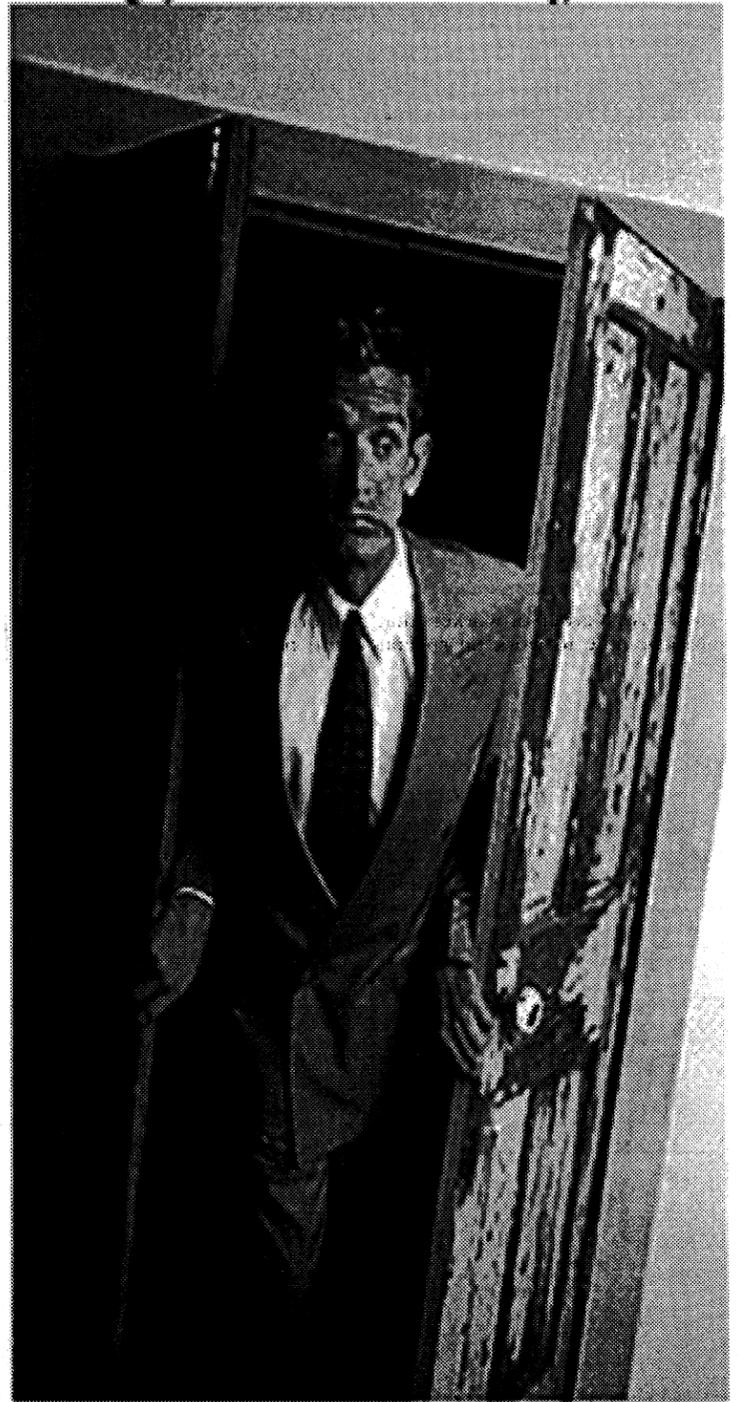
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Dear Editor,

Perhaps the Financial Aid Office does have problems: Interactions with the government and money do tend to be stressful, perhaps temporary 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 I have a suggestion or two to add.

While I was standing in line some folks pushed past. I found out 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 dropping their completed forms into 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 office doesn't offer it, too? If I had the opportunity to come better prepared or avoid the line entirely, I'm sure I would do what I could and perhaps, this would even help with accounting. I'm sure one or two of those Master's students would find it a helpful addition to their resume.

Mike

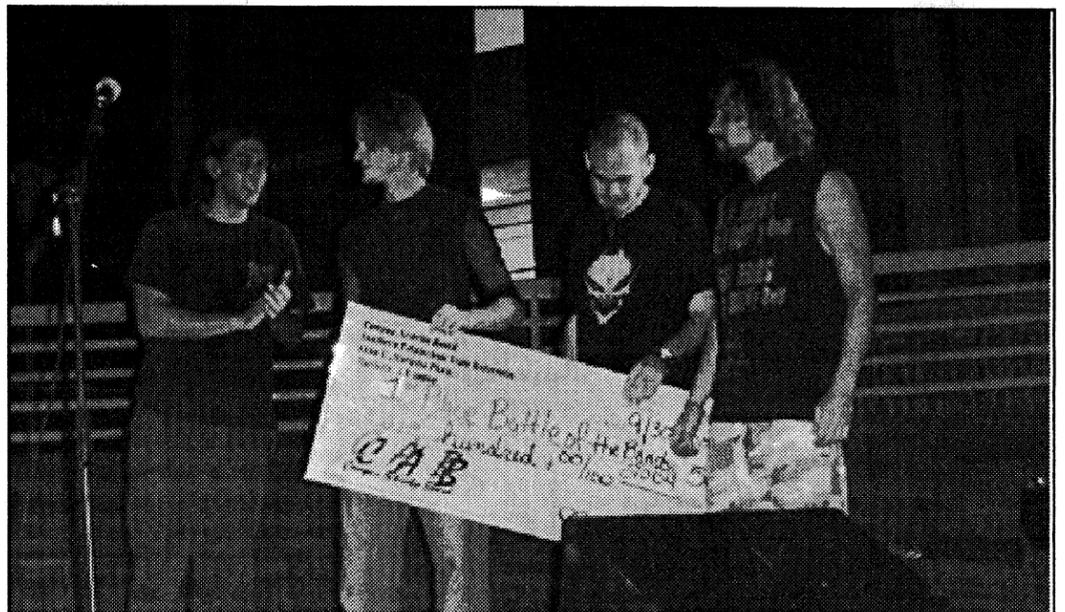
CAB's Battle of the Bands

THEANONYMOUSX

On September 30th, SPSU's Campus Activities Board (CAB) presented their Battle of the Bands competition. This event took place in the Amphitheater next to Norton dormitory and featured four bands and one solo artist in one downright entertaining (for one reason or another) music throw-down. For those of you that didn't come to the event due to an acute 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 on the table, I'll gladly enter the competition next year and hop on stage with my cowbell and triangle and belt out some of the phattest beats you've ever heard! ... Okay, no I won't. ["I gotta have more cowbells!!"]

Triple A – The first band to take the stage. Due to a last second cancellation, this band went on first rather than second and they were none too pleased. It showed, as I was talking to friends and hanging out before I even realized the band was actually playing! Maybe that's a good thing, as the sounds emanating from the instruments were reminiscent of a group of sick cats with laryngitis coughing up flaming hairballs. My first reaction was that the band was just tuning their instruments and practicing some purposefully out of tune vocals, since no one should sound like that (unless it's on purpose). I turned to the CAB president and asked when the band would actually start, only to have him respond "They just finished." Later in the night when everyone was tired and filthy, Triple A took the stage again and did a much better job, sounding instead like a pack of wild buzzards chewing on concrete.

Dwayne – The next act to take center stage was a solo artist with an acoustic guitar. Dwayne took the stage with the commanding gravitas of a person whom knows he is about to shock the audience with his sheer talent, and there was ample talent. Dwayne played that acoustic guitar and belted out smooth lyrics from his own songs (that'd he written, natch) with a one-



man army talent that would make even Jack White blush. At the end of his set, Dwayne was the first artist of the night to receive a rousing and sincere round of applause. Heavy, quick, guitar thrashing infused with true singing ability, you really can't go wrong, can you?

Vital Signs – No no no no NO! BAD FRESHMEN, BAD! I'm not really sure where things went so horribly wrong with this SPSU freshman comprised band, but I'm pretty sure it was around the time the lead singer said "We're Vital Signs." The saddest thing about this band is that the guitarist seemed talented, as did the drummer, but the vocalist sounded like he'd just spent a solid week gargling with a big bowl of flaming thumbtacks coated in termite. At some point, I managed to block out the music and chat with another STING staffer about random stuff, and this proved far more entertaining than anything this band did. Well, that's not completely true, it was quite funny to watch as the band turned and looked in horror as their drum set fell apart about six times. Maybe with more time to practice, and better material, and songs that end, Vital Signs could... Nah... nevermind.

Flashbulb Memory – From the opening chords, it was obvious that this band was something serious, and going to entertain the crowd far more

than anyone else had this night other than the venerable Dwayne. I'm a true fan of a good bass line from a good bass guitarist, and that was one of the most distinctive things about F.M. These guys played like they knew the audience would leave happy and they Owned the stage the way a good rock/alt 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 will 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 the very 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, getting even the most nonchalant of attendants to nod their heads in tune with the music. Drummer (and architecture major) Blake laid down a serious percussive beat that reverberated throughout the audience, despite the location's lack of true acoustics, while the guitarist and bassist throttled listeners into a willing submission with staggeringly quick thrashing. When MOTL

finished their set, there was no doubt in my mind that they'd not only won the competition but run away with it. This was confirmed when the M.C. coaxed the audience for their votes and received an almost overwhelming vote for Mark. The scariest thing? After talking to several people in attendance that listen to MOTL on a regular basis, it seems that entire band was having a "very off night." If that was them on a bad night, I'm almost afraid to view them when they're actually "on."

There you have it, this year's Battle of the Bands at a glance. Despite an occasional snafu, the event went on without too much trouble and the next one should be just as much fun. However, late cancellations and myriad other events prevented CAB from having anything other than one first place grand prize. So here, I will present my own picks. See you all next year!

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

Second Place: (tied) Dwayne and Flashbulb Memory (Dwayne wasn't technically a "band", but he definitely should be honored with a first or second place prize).

Third Place: Triple A (yeah, they weren't that great, but they didn't make my ears burst into flames like...)

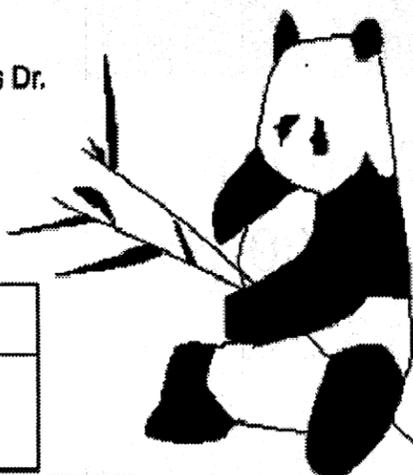
Seventieth Place: Vital Signs (suddenly, I'm very afraid)

China Kitchen

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Acworth
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(678) 574-0864

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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 restless 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 Williamson Bros. Barbecue each morning in front of the 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 apartments.

We would like to congratulate the new candidate members of Tau Kappa Epsilon: Chris Brown, David Clasen, Bryan Corazzini, Daniel Martin, Richard McDonald, Peter Miller, Steve Ngo, Charlie Song, and Jonathon Webler. 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 who have initiated since 1973. The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon are looking forward to the rest of this exciting semester with these dedicated, great young men. We cannot wait to see them succeed not only in our fraternity, but in their collegiate careers alike. Go TEKE !!!

ROOM FOR RENT: LARGE MASTER BEDROOM w/PRIVATE BATH & WALK-IN CLOSET. House in nice area is fully furnished w/full size washer/dryer, big screen TV, fireplace, deck in backyard, etc; just bring your bedroom suite. Excellent highway access. Located 1/4 mile east of I-75 off South 120 Loop and approx 1 mile from SPSU and minutes from KSU. Also within walking distance of several bars, restaurants, stores and shops. I am a straight SWM professional who works long hours and travels often (you will see very little of me) seeking a responsible and trustworthy roommate. \$425/month obo. Call (404) 512-2355 to discuss; leave name and number

URGENT!! PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY!!

Dear Students,

I am sure most of you are aware of the budget cut that the Governor has 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.

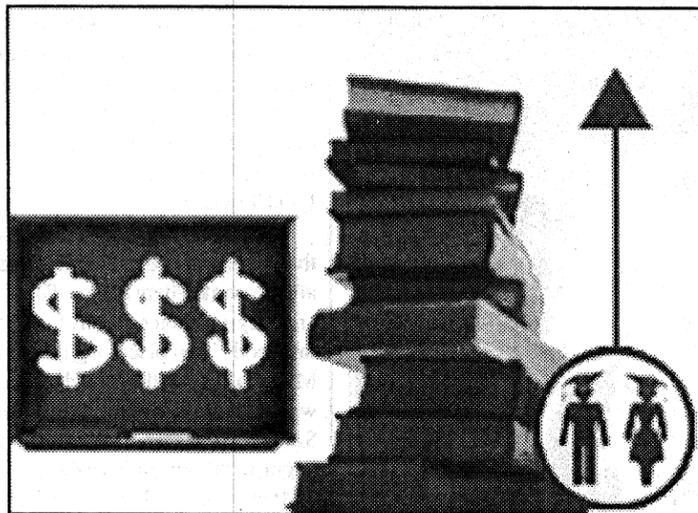
We will be taking all of the petitions to the capital on Friday, October 8, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. All students are invited. If you want to go to the capital and need a ride or more information, please contact Heather Giroux at hgiroux@spsu.edu or Kamisha Peters at khammond30058@yahoo.com.

Thanks,

Your SGA

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.



—Out of the \$68 million, \$16.4 million of it will come from the UGA budget, nearly \$13 million of that coming from the primary budget in Athens.

—Since the cuts happened after the beginning of the fiscal year, AFTER all the hiring was done, the only real options for complying with the Governor's orders are raising tuition immediately or laying off

staff (not tenured faculty).

—The Chancellor of the System, sort of like the CEO, asked the Board of Regents to raise tuition effective THIS COMING JANUARY to help cover the budget cuts, anywhere from 5% to 27%.

—It'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 us to cut is roughly 38% 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.

—Talk is cheap, but your name isn't. We hope you'll sign the petition coming out on Wednesday, and strongly encourage all of your friends and classmates to do so as well. For more information, please contact Heather Giroux at hgiroux@spsu.edu or Kamisha Peters at khammond30058@yahoo.com.

whether the tuition increase will occur inside or outside of the HOPE Scholarship. That means an increase of anywhere between \$152 and \$468 could be covered by the HOPE Scholarship for in-state students—or not.

CONCERNS

—While raising tuition concerns us, the real issue is the timing

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 received her undergraduate degree in music education from The Boston Conservatory of Music. After graduation, she went from house to house giving private lessons for all instruments for four years. Mrs. Farber then went on to graduate school on a full scholarship at Oklahoma City University where she graduated early with a Master's Degree in Horn Performance and became a public school director in Massachusetts. In 1998, she began her doctoral program at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. She has finished all of her coursework and is awaiting acceptance of her dissertation proposal.

Mrs. Farber is aware that this band program has to start small and hopefully keep growing over the years. She would like to see an actual music department here on campus one day with classes such as theory, beginning guitar and keyboard, and pri-

private lessons concluding with a recital. She also hopes to create a program large enough to compete with other schools. Professor Farber is very excited that there is a way for students to be able to "feed their soul" at this otherwise strictly technical university.

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.



AITP

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 education, information on relevant IT issues and forums for networking with experienced peers and other IT professionals.

After conquering the task of becoming officially recognized as an organization by SGA, the students of AITP still needed 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 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 every 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 aitpspsu@hotmail.com

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

Amanda Benson - President
Gina DeRose - Vice President
Katie DeVore - Secretary
Doug Lacher - Treasurer
Ayo Olatunji - Membership Chair
Ian Rawn - Programs Chair



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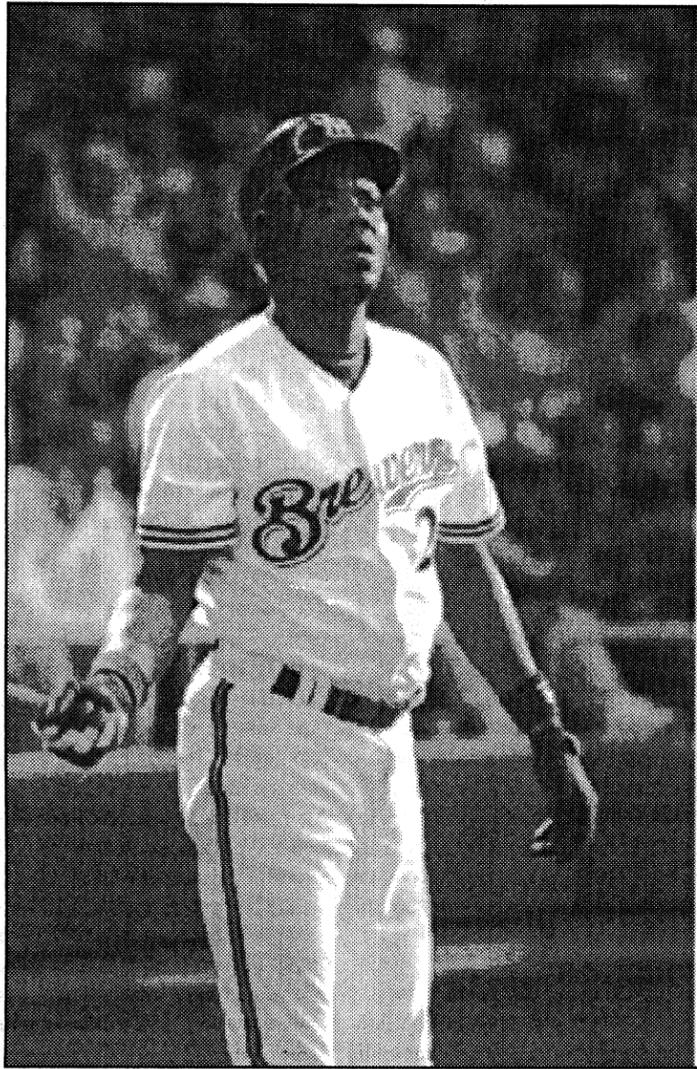
Rated: PG-13

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 uber-star Michael Jordan, whom 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 returned this second time, he was older, slower, 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 cruises effortlessly to 3000 major league hits and retires in the hopes that he will 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, thus causing him to be shunned 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 stretched several extra innings. The Hall of Fame once again refuses to admit Ross, whom decides 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 misspeaks swears and slang, but everything else feels fairly natural and funny. Before going into this movie, you know that Ross is go-

ing to discover something about himself, since the opening seconds of the movie show how much of an arrogant malcontent he is. The re-



sult: viewers sit through the movie knowing that the main character will slowly develop into the saccharine softy that permeates sports movies and that he will eventually fall from grace temporarily only to make a lifestyle change for the "better." Keeping this in mind will help you to enjoy the movie, and maybe even earn it a place in your memory with such comedic sports films as *Unnecessary Roughness* or *Major League*.

Somehow, this movie slipped by with a PG-13 rating. I will grant that there is nothing here so jarring that you'll have to rush little Timmy out of the theater, but chances are there will be some awkward moments if you use this movie as a family out-

ing. However, if everyone is of age, then your clan will more than likely be treated to an hour and four minutes of decent entertainment backed

up by talented people like the always convincing Angela Bassett (as sports writer Mo) and the Mac man himself. People that 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 GIROUX

So you've decided to further your educational 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. The problem with oysters is...they're expensive! So is finding entertainment here. Hopefully this article will steer you in the free, or at least inexpensive, way to have fun these next four years or so.

Food/Trivia

The good thing about 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 a 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 try and win a few bucks while getting full at the same time. On Monday nights there is 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 (1440 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 Thursdays bowl 5 games for \$5 before 5pm, College Night on Thursday night is \$1.50 per game, and on Sunday mornings from 9am-noon games are 99¢ a piece. Those prices are all good, but I've found one that's even better. The Brunswick Zone at 2749 Delk Road has Dollar Days on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm where games, shoes, hotdogs, and small sodas are all only \$1 a piece! Basically any day of the week can be a bowling day without a huge impact on your wallet.

Over 21

I know that this article was geared mostly towards freshman who don't know their way around yet 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 Ottley Dr. in Atlanta, the brewery is open for tours every Monday and Thursday beginning at 4:20. It is only \$5 for a keepsake glass (14 oz) and four beer tickets, how can you beat a price like that? All six of their brews are ready and waiting for you to line up to have a taste. You better 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 in 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 Mafia.

Shark Tale is about a fish named Oscar (Will Smith), who wants to be somebody in the world. Instead, he works at 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 (Renée Zellweger) while falling for the guiles of the money-loving Lola (Angelina Jolie). Also, in the movie, you'll find the voice talents of Robert De Niro, Martin Scorsese, and Katie Couric (!!).

The movie opens with so many fish puns you'll be floundering for words. After the beginning, like any 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 seascape looks real, while the fish look very cartoonish, as, for

some reason, the creators wanted Will Smith's face on a fish. Although some people may prefer this, I personally preferred the pseudo-realism of movies like *Finding Nemo*.

To rate the movie along the lines of other computer-ly animated movies, I'd say that it's no *Toy Story*. The movie certainly has quite a few good jokes, and it was an enjoyable experience, but I wouldn't recommend paying the money to see it in theatres. Might make a good rental, though.

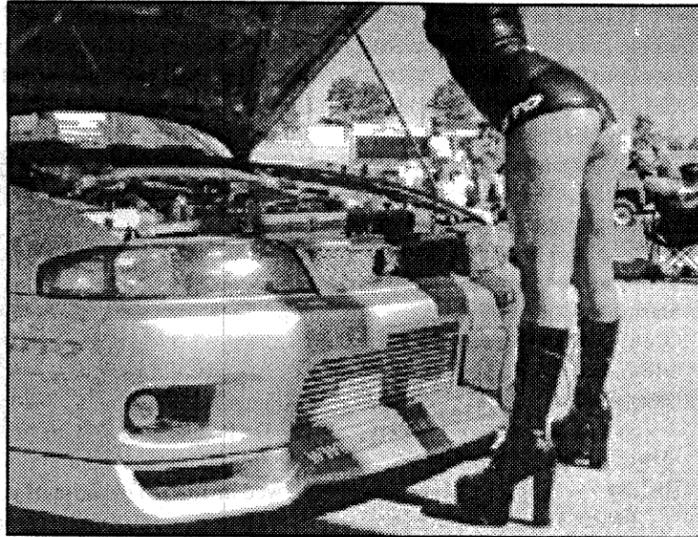
Rice-o-Rama: 2004 Nopi Nationals

E.P. SKILES

Every year during the third weekend of September, tuners, motorheads, and ricers 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 not 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 trailed to the show by contestants

who are competing in seven different divisions and over three hundred different classes for over \$100,000 in total prize money. Per-

haps the most popular division is the Burnout competition, where contestants try to make the most smoke by spinning their tires while

stationary on the pavement. In the Dyno contest, contestants run their cars on a dynamometer 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 tip 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. Exterior and interior 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

SR20DET powered 240SX's, and an RB25DETT powered R33 Skyline. Unfortunately, on the first day, one of the drivers lost control and slammed into a concrete barrier that careened into 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 rarely 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

THEANONYMOUSX

Once again my fellow SPSUsers, it's time to visit your ol' 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 why it was chosen. The next issue in which this column appeared featured a longer list of eight eateries that were prime spots for people entering the campus and wanting

proceed right (towards Wal-Mart) and continue about four miles. You will see Jade Palace on your left, before Steak and Shake and long before Cumberland Mall.

The Price: As of this writing, you'll run about eight bucks for the buffet, with another dollar fifty for your beverage.

The Hours: Mon-Sat: 11am-10pm; Sun: noon-10pm

The Service: Pretty good. My best guess is that this place is a

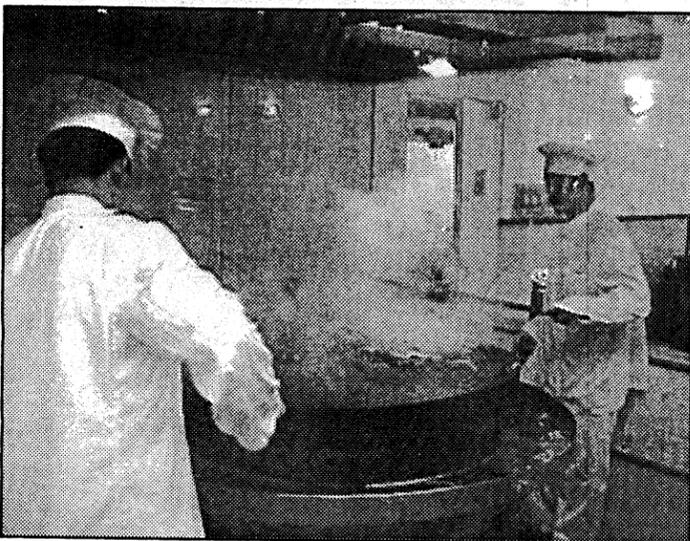
meats (pork, chicken, beef) along with either Lo Mein noodles or white rice. You then move on to filling your bowl with your choice of a sauce and handing this bowl to the chef and waiting 2-3 minutes while your meal cooks. You are free to return as many times as you wish, but even the person with the heartiest of an appetite cannot usually

consume more than one plate. If you DO eat more than one plate, then you may want to avoid visiting the Zoo any time in the near future because you're probably some sort of shaved simian.

The Verdict: On a scale of 1-10, "1" being a mystery meat that has yet to stop moving at an ABL dinner and "10" being food so good

that you'd fight a rabid polar bear, this place gets a 7.

Bottom Line: A lot of food for the money, Mongolian barbecue is worth the price alone, the buffet may prove lackluster to those who don't want the barbecue, sometimes this place won't agree with your *burp* digestive system, may not appeal to those whom dislike Chinese food.



to get the 'ell away from the filth ABL serves. Well, it seems as though reviewing EIGHT eateries at once was a bit of a bad idea, as I sort of shot myself in the proverbial foot by eliminating all of the places I regularly dine at in one fell swoop. The result, I had to venture outside of my regular dining locales to find that new place that didn't turn my stomach into a quivering mass of pink goo (like the "spaghetti" at ABL). As per the usual, send feedback to The STING's forum at <http://forum.thesting.org>.

The Place: Jade Palace (...I see a pattern forming here)

The Location: 2647 Cobb Pkwy SE. Head out of the rear entrance of the School onto Cobb Parkway and

"little known secret" and that most people just haven't discovered it yet. The reason for this assumption is that on my trips, there has not been more than a dozen or so people in attendance at any one time. The result is good service that is almost typical of Chinese eateries.

The Food: Although buffet style, the main draw to this place is NOT the food served on the buffet line itself. Instead, the big lure is the Mongolian Barbecue. You are free to browse the buffet line and pick from their extensive and often tasty array of Chinese foods, but you'd be remiss to not try the Mongolian. Basically, you will chose a bowl and some raw veggies and raw

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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/quotes from them. Recently, one of the administrators of a board invited me to the board she (yeah...she there's a girl at the school, go figure) reigned 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://www.thesting.org> and clicking on the "our staff" link.

Maximum PC Message Boards
<http://www.maximumpc.com>

The Background: For those of you that aren't into reading magazines for your hardware/software news or reviews, *Maximum 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 excrete 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 x800s last week) to *Maximum 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 PS inadequacies then the boards have some possible solutions or quick fixes.

Opa Ages
<http://www.opa-ages.com>

The Background: A hapless young AnonymousX 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 ventured to a place where they could discuss topics relating to anything, gaming or otherwise. The rivalry between Opa 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 racist/sexist remarks within one freakin' 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 (for 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.thesting.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 li'l handy dandy forum serves as a supplement to The STING Print and Online editions (<http://www.thesting.org>).

The Forum: Recently all of the political rigmarole 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 so often 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 get updates on this if wanted me to make up a buncha stories).

Lows: The forum has degenerated into a horrid monotony that makes me want to fling myself into traffic just to experience some variety. 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://newforum.thesting.org>. Join, so that we may start this thing out on the right foot (by destroying it...in a good way?).

**THIS IS NOT
A TEST.**

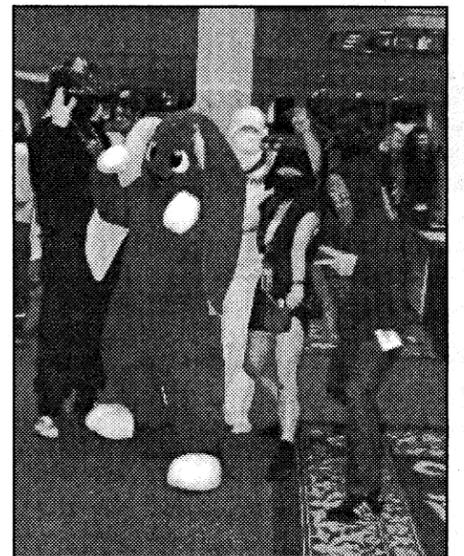
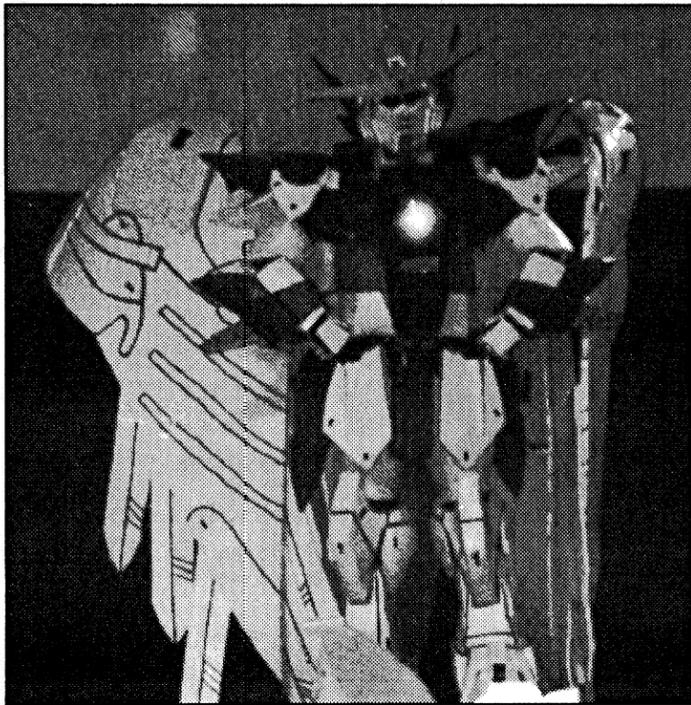
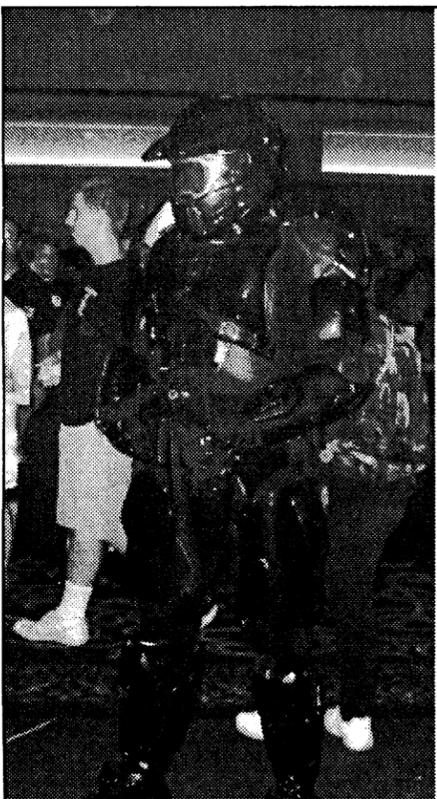
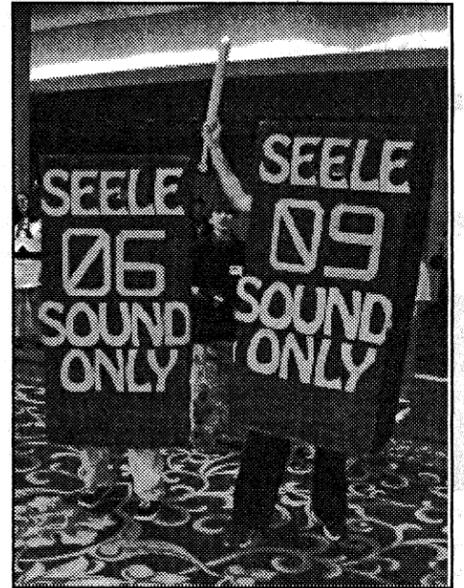
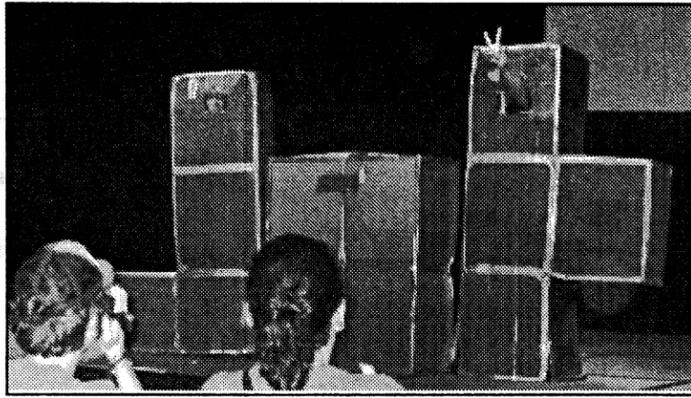
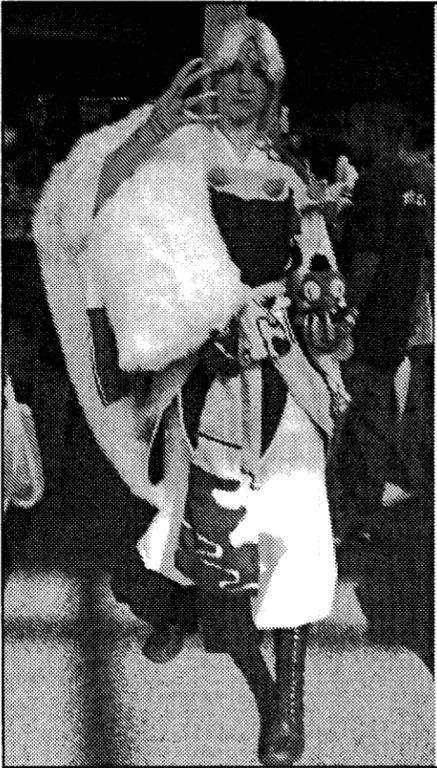
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AWA 10: Cosplay Costumes

DOUGLACHER

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.

